

# Swindon 97-98 SEASON

# town

F.C.

£1.80 **matchday magazine**

**Sunday 7th  
September 1997**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE  
DIVISION ONE



**Nottingham  
Forest**



**Kick-Off 3pm**

**Today's  
Matchday  
Sponsors**

**ClubCall**

**Action** pages 14-15  
All the best shots  
from the win  
against Stoke City

**Today's visitors**  
pages 6-9

**Profile** page 44  
Interview with  
Alan McDonald



**FREE!** Darren  
Bullock  
**INSIDE** Poster

**NEXT** Saturday 13th  
September vs  
Tranmere Rovers

**QUICK  
QUIZ** pages  
36 - 37

ISSUE No.3



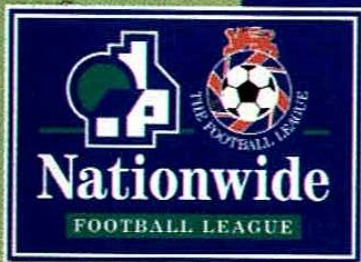
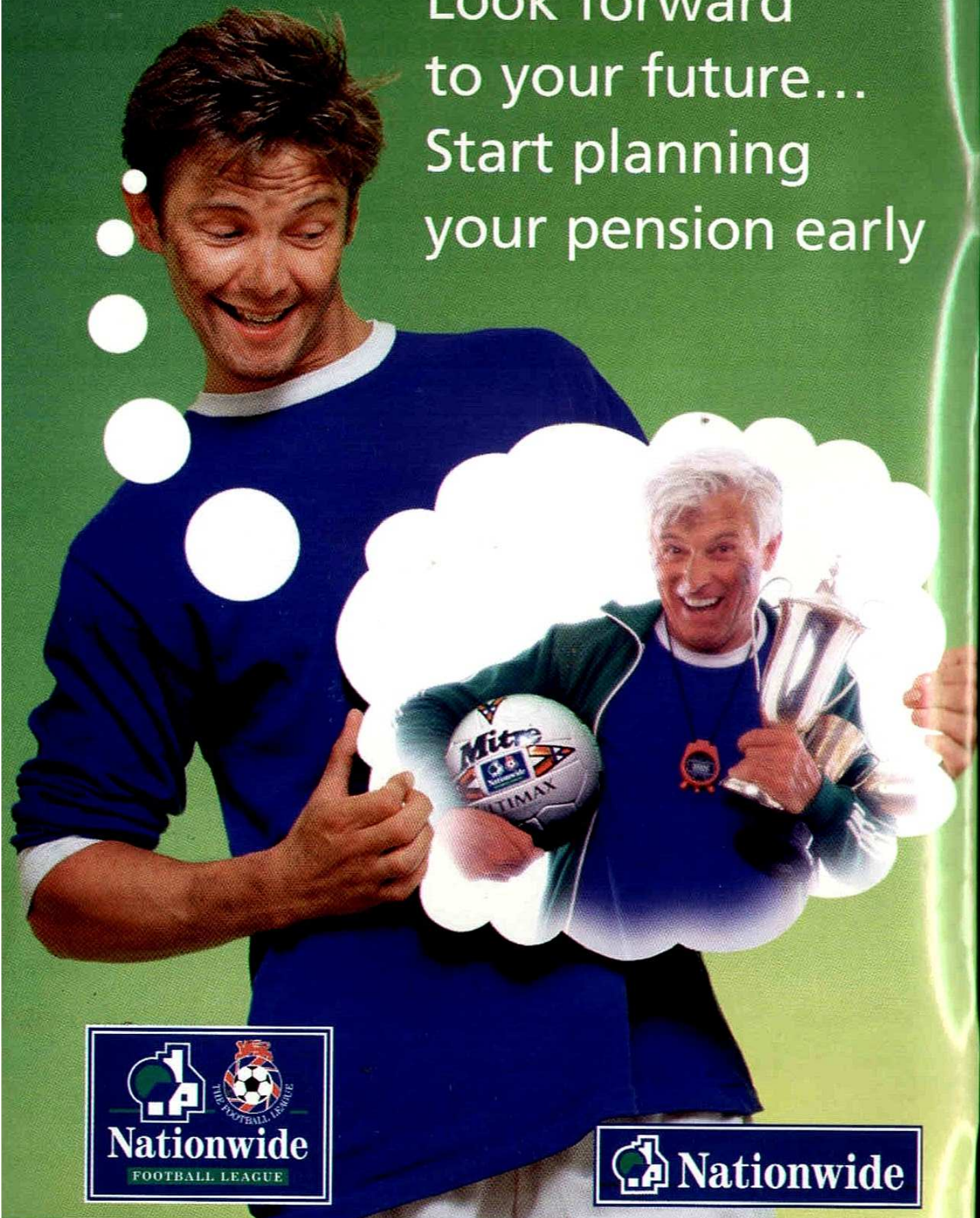
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# welcome to today's game

*As you will all be aware today's fixture was due to take place yesterday but was put back 24 hours as a mark of respect for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.*

*Before kick-off we would like everyone to observe a minutes silence in memory of Diana and everyone associated with Swindon Town and Nottingham Forest would like to pass on their condolences to the family and friends of the Princess. Our thoughts are with you.*

Today we attempt to chop Forest down to size after their storming start to the new season.

Dave Bassett's boys have been in fine form as they bid to make an immediate return to the top flight and there is no doubt that we will have our work cut out for us this afternoon.

Saying that we have enjoyed a great first month in Division One and were unbeaten in the league until Tuesday night's 2-1

reverse at Ipswich Town.

Wayne Allison's third goal of the season gave Town a 23rd minute lead and although Ipswich equalised from a free kick, the Chief thought he had restored Swindon's advantage only to see his effort harshly ruled out for a foul on the defender.

It just wasn't to be our night as the home team grabbed a late winner for their first maximum point haul - and our first defeat.

Having enjoyed mixed fortunes on our travels with a superb success at Stoke followed by Tuesday's set-back, we now have two home games in a row with Forest today and then John Aldridge's Tranmere Rovers the visitors next Saturday (3pm).

Last season we ran out winners by the odd goal in three here at the County Ground, so here's hoping for a similar story next week.

Don't forget that on Wednesday the Reserves take on Charlton Athletic at the County Ground, kick-off 7.15pm, see page 26 for more details.

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**NEXT MATCH** Saturday 13th  
September vs  
Tranmere Rovers

Next Saturday my old mate John Aldridge comes to the County Ground with his Tranmere Rovers team.

With home advantage I'm expecting us to come out on top and it is important that we do because after that we face two very tough away games.

First of all we take on a West Brom side who have been in good form so far and then it's off to my former club Manchester City.

I hope you will once again be out in force for all these matches and in return we will be doing our utmost to keep in touch at the top end of the table.



# Steve McMahon says

Sponsored by



**Our unbeaten start to the season came to an end at Ipswich on Tuesday but in all honesty I felt we deserved at least a point out of the game.**

In my opinion it was a shambles of a decision by the referee to disallow Wayne Allison's second goal because there was no push, it was just the Chief's sheer strength which put him through on goal.

Overall I was bitterly disappointed with the way the referee handled the game but I have to be careful what I say and I only hope some action is taken after the powers that be have read the report I have written.

## Two sloppy goals

After taking the lead I thought we would go on to win the game but we lacked a bit of discipline in certain areas which allowed them to score two goals and sneak the points.

Our cause wasn't helped with Scott Leitch and Mark Seagraves coming off through injury and having to reorganise unsettled us a little. But we still created enough chances to have come away with something so I wasn't too downhearted.

## Stoke are silenced

It was a big day for Stoke City last Saturday as they officially

opened their brand new stadium but there was no way we were going to let them make a winning start and it was great to spoil their party.

Despite falling behind we stuck to our task and came out on top with excellent goals by the Chief and Chris Hay.

Again some of the refereeing decisions puzzled me because I thought we had two blatant penalties turned down but at least this time it didn't cost us any points.

## Biggest test so far

This afternoon we welcome Nottingham Forest to the County Ground for what promises to be our toughest test so far this season.

Dave Bassett's side have made a superb start and on current form look good bets to make it back into the top flight.

Although we've made a reasonable start to the season, today we will see just how we match up to one of the best sides in Division One.

They have got lots of quality players and have been banging goals in left right and centre, so we will have to be at our very best to stop them.

## So far so good

As far as our start to the season has gone, well it's still very early days and although it is a nice feeling to be up among the pace-makers - I'm not going to get too carried away.

I'll reserve judgement until we've played a dozen or so games because by then we will have a clearer picture of the situation.

# today's visitors *Forest*



# nottingham forest

***This afternoon we extend a warm County Ground welcome to the players, supporters and staff of Nottingham Forest Football Club for this Nationwide League Division One match.***

We hope you all enjoy your trip to Wiltshire and wish you a safe journey home after the match.

Forest come to Swindon today riding high on the crest of a wave which has carried them to the summit of the First Division table and given them the best playing record in England so far this season.

With ten goals scored in just four League games - an average of 2.5 goals a game - they certainly provide a huge threat going forward.

But it is at the back that Forest look arguably their most ominous. In the course of those

four straight victories they have conceded just one goal - a record bettered only by Premiership Manchester United, who have conceded none, but have scored just eight and played a game more.

Last Saturday saw the City Ground slickers record a crushing 4-0 victory over fellow promotion hopefuls QPR, with big money buy Pierre van Hooijdonk scoring a hat-trick.

It's a far cry from the shattering disappointment of last season, when a poor start saw the club slump to 20th place in the Premiership before the hammer blow of manager Frank Clark leaving to take over the reigns at another struggling club, in a lower division, Manchester City.

City Ground legend Stuart Pearce stepped into the breach - as so often before for Forest - and took on the dual

responsibilities of playing for and managing this famous club.

A natural leader, Pearce brought about an immediate change of fortune, and in his first match in charge Forest beat Arsenal 2-1 and shortly afterwards embarked on a four match unbeaten run which pulled them out of the relegation zone.

With Pearce feeling the pressure of his dual role, and off-the-field activities in the boardroom also causing unrest, Forest prised the experienced Dave Bassett away from Crystal Palace to act as the club's General Manager and a mentor for the England defender.

But, despite Bassett's legendary phoenix-like qualities, Forest failed to rise from the flames and a disastrous run of 11 games with out a victory at the end of the season saw them relegated firmly bottom of the table.



**Nottingham Forest Football Club 1997/98**

**Back Row:** *(left to right)*

Steve Stone, Colin Cooper, Paul McGregor, Kevin Campbell, Andy Johnson, Geoff Thomas, Paul Smith, Chris Allen, Thierry Benabib

**Middle Row:** *(left to right)*

Liam O'Kane (Coach), Des Lyttle, Steve Gettle, Marco Pascola, Mark Crossley, Alan Fettes, Chris Bart - Williams, Alan Rogers, John Haselden (Physio), Mike Kelly (Coach)

**Front Row:** *(left to right)*

Ian Woan, Scot Gemmill, David Phillips, Bobby Houghton (Asst Manager), Dave Bassett (Manager), Pierre Van Hooijdonk, Dean Saunders, Ian Moore



# nottingham forest

## Goalkeepers

### Mark Crossley

Forest's first choice keeper for several years - and with the unusual distinction of having U21 caps for England and Full recognition with Wales - Mark faces stiff competition for his jersey from Marco Pascolo in 1997/98.

**Born:** Barnsley, 16.06.69

**Height:** 6ft

**Weight:** 16st

**League record last season:**

33 games, 0 goals

**Honours:** England U21 caps;

Wales Full cap

Era	Club	Games
89/90	Nottm For	10
89/90	Man Utd	-
96/97	Nottm For	261

### Marco Pascolo

Switzerland's number one keeper who invoked a clause in his contract to move from Italian club Cagliari when they were relegated to Serie B at the end of 1996/97. Hugely experienced, he represented his country at World Cup 94 and Euro 96. From Cagliari, Italy £750,000

**Born:** Basle, Switzerland

**League record last season:**

0 games, 0 goals

**Honours:** Switzerland Full caps

**Other goalkeepers include:**

Alan Fettis

## Defenders

### Thierry Bonalair

Former French international

who spent most of his career in midfield but in the last couple of seasons has adapted expertly to the wing-back role on either flank. On a one-year contract with Forest. From Neuchatel Xamax, Switzerland

**Born:** Paris, France, 14.06.66

**League record last season:**

0 goals, 0 games

**Honours:** France Full caps

### Steve Chettle

Local lad born and bred whose central defensive partnership with Colin Cooper is very solid for Forest. Hasn't scored a League goal for three full seasons prior to 1997/98.

**Born:** Nottingham, 27.09.68

**Height:** 6ft 1in

**Weight:** 13st 1lb

**League record last season:**

32 games, 0 goals

**Honours:** Simod Cup 1989;

League Cup 1990; ZDS Trophy

1992; England U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Nottm For	325

### Colin Cooper

Former England international who was voted Forest's 'Player of the Year' for 1996/97 after a consistent campaign. Tough, uncompromising defender with a great will to win.

**Born:** Sedgfield, 28.02.67

**Height:** 5ft 9in

**Weight:** 11st 9lb

**League record last season:**

36 games, 2 goals

**Honours:** England U21, Full caps

Era	Club	Games
90/91	Middlesbrough	188
92/93	Millwall	77
96/97	Nottm For	145

### Des Lyttle

An accomplished man-marker who is most comfortable at full-back, but can also operate as a wing-back or midfielder.

**Born:** Wolverhampton, 26.09.71

**Height:** 5ft 8in

**Weight:** 12st 13lb

**League record last season:**

32 games, 1 goal

**Honours:** None

Era	Club	Games
90/91	Leicester	-
92/93	Swansea	46
96/97	Nottm For	140

### Alan Rogers

Highly-rated young full-back or wing-back who won rave reviews at Prenton Park last season and was the target for several big money bids during the summer.

**Born:** Liverpool, 03.01.77

**Height:** 5ft 10in

**Weight:** 11st 8lb

**League record last season:**

31 games, 0 goals

**Honours:**

Football League U21 XI

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Tranmere	57

**Other defenders include:**

Vance Warner (ex-YTS)

## Midfielders

### Chris Bart-Williams

Often used in the 'holding role' at the City Ground, Chris missed a huge chunk of last season through injury. When fit he is a powerful central midfielder with great stamina and good passing ability.

Alan Rogers

Born: Freetown, Sierra Leone, 16.06.74

Height: 5ft 11in

Weight: 11st

League record last season:

16 games, 1 goal

Honours: England Youth, U21, 'B' caps

Era	Club	Games
91/92	L.Orient	36
94/95	Sheff Wed	124
96/97	Nottm For	49

### Scot Gemmill

Former YTS at the City Ground who had an indifferent season in 1996/97. Hard-working and tenacious, with an eye for goal and good ball skills.

Born: Paisley, 02.01.71

Height: 5ft 11in

Weight: 11st.6lb

League record last season:

24 games, 0 goals

Honours: ZDS Trophy 1992; Scotland U21, 'B', Full caps

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Nottm For	181

### Andy Johnson

Very highly-rated all-action midfielder who was the target of many top clubs last season, but finally plumped for a move to the City Ground during the summer. Can also play in defence or up front.

Born: Bristol, 02.05.74

Height: 6ft 1in

Weight: 12st 2lb

League record last season:

27 games, 5 goals

(all for Norwich)

Honours: England Youth caps

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Norwich	66

Chris Bart-Williams

### Dave Phillips

Hugely experienced and versatile performer whose know-how could prove vital as Forest bid for a return to the top flight at the first attempt.

Born: Wegberg, Germany, 29.07.63

Height: 5ft 9in

Weight: 12st 5lb

League record last season:

27 games, 0 goals

Honours: FA Cup 1987; Wales Youth, U21, Full caps

Era	Club	Games
83/84	Plymouth	73
85/86	Man City	81
88/89	Coventry	100
92/93	Norwich	142
96/97	Nottm For	126

### Steve Stone

Having already suffered three broken legs in his career, inspirational midfield man Steve suffered a bad knee injury last term which ruled him out for much of the campaign.

Born: Gateshead, 20.08.71

Height: 5ft 8in

Weight: 12st 5lb

League record last season:

5 games, 0 goals

Honours: England Full caps

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Nottm For	138

### Geoff Thomas

Former England player and the captain of the Crystal Palace side which reached the FA Cup Final in 1990 and finished third in the League the following season. Released by Wolves at the end of 1996/97 this

combative, goalscoring midfielder has shaken off a series of injuries and been a revelation for Forest so far this term.

Born: Manchester, 05.08.64

Height: 6ft 1in

Weight: 13st 7lb

League record last season:

22 games, 3 goals (all for Wolves)

Honours: ZDS Trophy 1991; England 'B', Full caps

Era	Club	Games
83/84	Rochdale	11
86/87	Crewe	125
92/93	C.Palace	195
96/97	Wolves	46

### Ian Woan

Happiest playing wide on the left of midfield, Ian is a tricky ball player with a fierce shot and an eye for goal. Had a spell in central midfield last season, to accommodate Chris Allen outside him.

Born: Wirrall, 14.12.67

Height: 5ft 10in

Weight: 12st 2lb

League record last season:

32 games, 1 goal

Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Nottm For	187

Other midfielders include:

Paul McGregor (ex-YTS)

## Forwards

### Chris Allen

Livewire left-sided wide-man who uses his tremendous pace to good effect when taking on defenders.





**Born:** Oxford, 18.11.72  
**Height:** 5ft 11in  
**Weight:** 12st 4lb  
**League record last season:** 24 games, 0 goals  
**Honours:** England U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
95/96	Oxford	150
95/96	Nottm For	3
96/97	Nottm For	24

**Pierre van Hooijdonk**

One of the stars of the season so far for Forest, Pierre scored a hat-trick v QPR last Saturday. Was last week called up for the Holland squad for the World Cup Qualifier against Belgium on Saturday (6th Sept). Forest's record signing.

**Born:** Steenbergen, Holland, 29.11.69  
**Height:** 6ft 4in  
**Weight:** 13st 13lb  
**League record last season:** 29 games, 15 goals (including 21 games, 14 goals for Celtic)  
**Honours:** Holland Full caps

Era	Club	Games
90/91	RBC, Holland	69
93/94	NAC Breda, Holland	99
96/97	Celtic	69
96/97	Nottm For	8

**Dean Saunders**

Scored at QPR last weekend just days after rejecting a possible £400,000 move to Premiership Everton. Struggled to make much of an impact back in England last season, but is likely to be a major threat in the First Division.

**Born:** Swansea, 21.06.64  
**Height:** 5ft 8in  
**Weight:** 10st 6lb  
**League record last season:** 34 games, 3 goals  
**Honours:** FA Cup 1992; League Cup 1994; Wales Full caps

Era	Club	Games
84/85	Swansea	49
84/85	Cardiff 4	-
86/87	Brighton	72
88/89	Oxford 59	
90/91	Derby	106
92/93	Liverpool	42
94/95	Aston Villa	112
95/96	Galatasaray, Turkey	27
96/97	Nottm For	34

**Other forwards include:** Steve Guinan (ex-YTS), Kevin Campbell, Ian Moore.

# Dave Bassett the manager

**Originally brought in as General Manager at Forest, helping player-caretaker manager Stuart Pearce, Dave Bassett succeeded Pearce as Forest's first-team boss in May 1997.**

He has transformed the City Ground outfit from the shattered side that was relegated, to early pace-setters in the race for a return to the Premier.

With his unique brand of man-management the chirpy Bassett has also made his side the Division's leading scorers, as well as an attractive side to watch.

Bassett moved to the City Ground in December 1996, from his second spell as manager at Crystal Palace - where his first stay lasted just four days! Appointed to the post in May 1984 by his former Wimbledon chairman Ron Noades, Bassett soon changed his mind and returned to Plough Lane where he led the club into the promised land of the top division before departing in May 1987 for a brief and unhappy spell in charge at Watford.

After less than a year in the Vicarage Road hot-seat he was appointed boss at Sheffield United - and the Bassett magic was soon there for all to see once more.

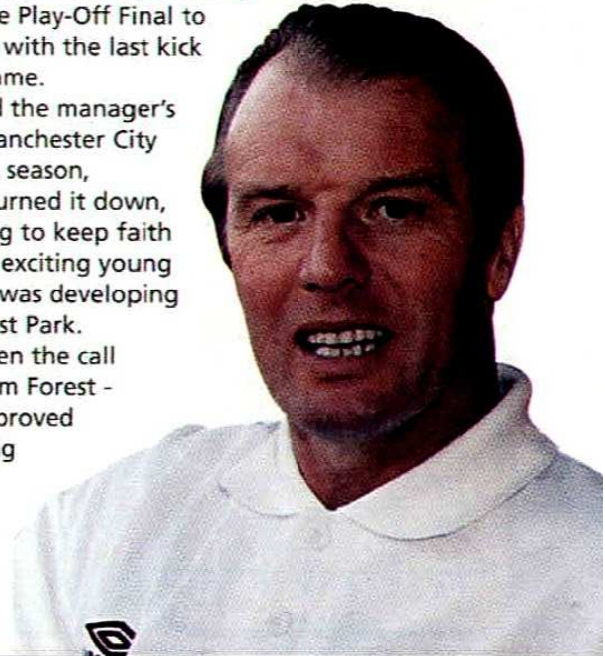
Arriving too late to prevent the Blades' relegation to the Third Division, 'Harry' turned the side around and led them straight back at the first attempt in 1988/89, and then went one better by taking them

into the top flight the following season. But after eight years at Bramall Lane, Bassett felt it was time to move on and shortly before last Christmas he resigned, being appointed to the Palace post in February 1996.

True to form he supervised a remarkable change in fortunes that saw Palace lose just four times in their final 26 League games to finish in third place in the First Division, eventually losing the Play-Off Final to Leicester with the last kick of the game.

Offered the manager's job at Manchester City early last season, Bassett turned it down, preferring to keep faith with the exciting young team he was developing at Selhurst Park.

But when the call came from Forest - the lure proved too strong to resist.



# STATS...STATS...STATS swindon vs notts forest

## who's played for forest

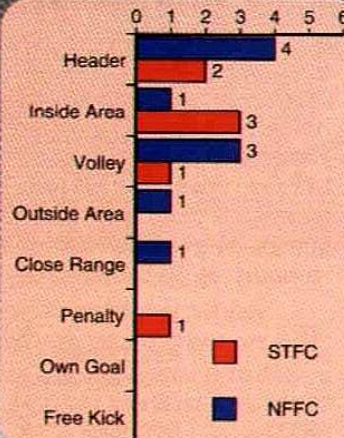
### Forest Roll Call

	A	G	C	Previous Clubs
Thierry Bonalair	4	1		Neuchatel Xamax
age 31				Nantes Auxerre Lille
Steve Chettle	4	1		
27/9/68 Eng U21	1			
Jon Olav Hjelde	4			Rosenborg
age 25				
Des Lyttle	4		2	Swansea Worcester
24/9/71	2			
Alan Rogers	4		1	Tranmere
3/1/77	2			
Geoff Thomas	4	2	1	Wolves Palace Crewe
5/8/64 England	1	1		Rochdale
Pierre van Hooijdonk	4	4	1	Celtic NAC Breda
29/11/69 Holland	2	3		
Scot Gemmill	3(1)			
2/1/71 Scotland	1			
Andy Johnson	2(1)			Norwich
2/5/74 Eng Yth	1			
Dave Beasant	2			Southampton Chelsea
20/3/59 England				Wolves (L) Grimsby (L)
Kevin Campbell	2	2	1	Newcastle Wimbledon
4/2/70 Eng B				Arsenal Leicester (L)
Marco Pascolo	2			Orient
age 31 Switz	1			Cagliari Servette
Steve Stone	2			
20/8/71 England				
Chris Bart-Williams	1(1)	1		Sheff Wed Orient
16/6/74 Eng U21	1			
Dean Saunders	1(1)	1		Galatasaray Villa
21/6/64 Wales	1	2		Liverpool Derby
				Oxford Brighton
				Swansea Cardiff (L)
				Oxford
Chris Allen	1			
18/11/72 Eng U21	2	1		
Craig Armstrong	(1)			Watford (L) Gillingham
23/5/75	1(1)			(L) Bristol Rovers (L)
				Burnley (L)
				Darlington (L)
Stephen Guinan	(1)			
24/12/75	1	1		
Alan Fettes				Hull West Brom (L)
1/2/71 N Ire	1			
Stephen Howe				
6/1/73	1			
Ian Moore				Tranmere Bradford (L)
26/8/76 Eng U21	(2)			
David Phillips				Norwich Coventry Man
29/7/63 Wales	(1)			City Plymouth
Stuart Thom				
27/12/76	1	1		
Vance Warner				Grimsby (L)
3/9/74	(1)			
Ian Woan				Runcorn
14/12/67	(1)			

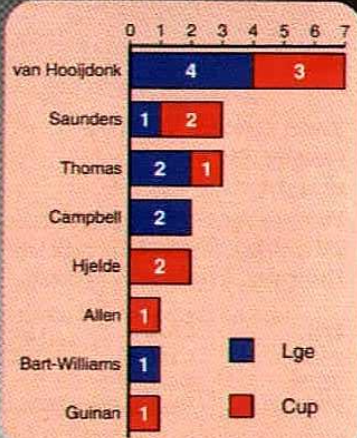
Key: A=Appearances (Sub) C=Cautions (Sent Off) G=Goals  
Cup details, date of birth and international honours in italics

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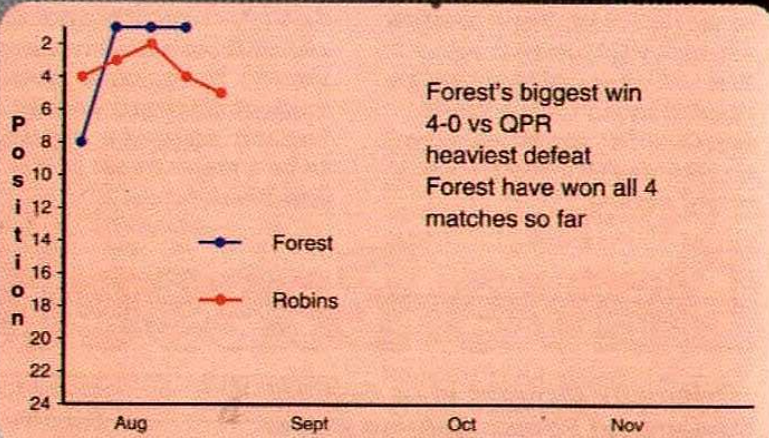
## how goals went in



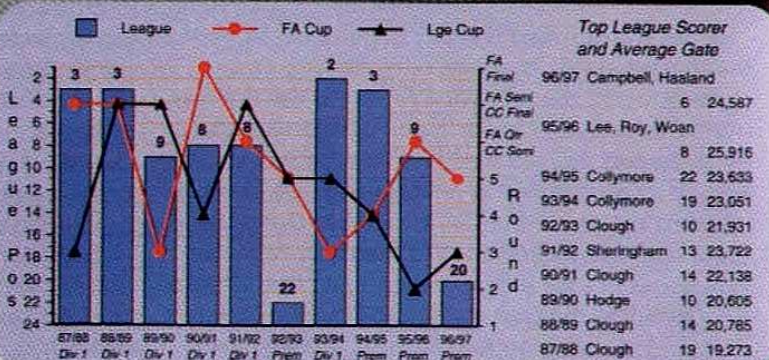
## notts forest's scorers



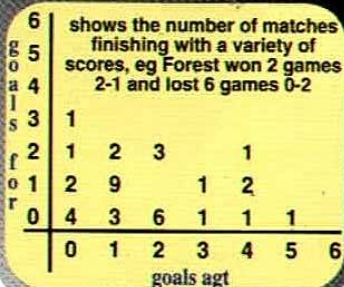
## league position throughout the season



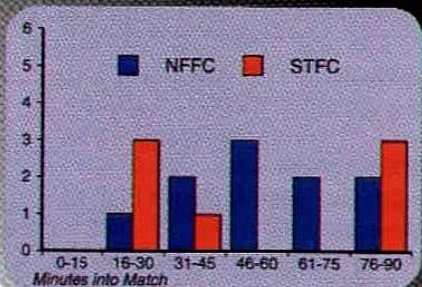
## nottingham forest's 10 year league and cup record



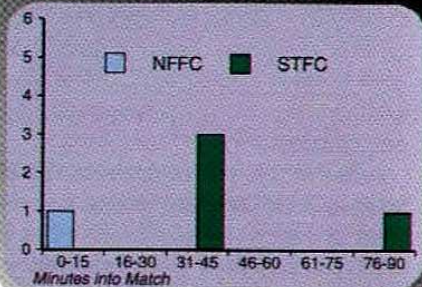
## notts forest's results analysis



## when goals were scored



## and when goals conceded



# looking back...

*Dick Mattick looks back*

## 5 YEARS AGO

**A slip by player manager Glen Hoddle brought Swindon's first defeat of the season.**

John Moncur had set up Craig Maskell to give Swindon a twentieth minute lead at Millwall but a miskick by Hoddle let in John McGinlay for an

equaliser early in the second half. Digby appeared to have saved Swindon with a great block three minutes from time but Goodman stroked home the rebound. A £38,000 improvement to the floodlights at the County Ground boosted their rating from 250 Lux to 600 Lux, well above the new league requirement for Division One matches. A 4-1 defeat for Forest

at Blackburn left them at the bottom of the Premier league, a position which they also occupied at the end of the season.



*Glenn Hoddle*

## 10 YEARS AGO

**Despite going a goal down to a header by Stephens, Swindon fought back to beat Middlesbrough at Ayresome Park.**

Goals by Dave Bamber and Jimmy Quinn gave Town a half lead time over the team that

had been promoted with them to Division Two the previous season. Leigh Barnard, who along with Kieran O'Regan had been outstanding in midfield, headed Town further in front so that Slaven's goal near the end did not change the result. Town's Under 21 England goalkeeper Fraser Digby signed a new two year contract. Nottingham Forest, lying sixth in

the First Division were involved in a high scoring match with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Nigel Clough, Colin Foster and Paul Wilkinson all scored for Forest but they still went down by the odd goal in seven. Twenty six Liverpool fans were extradited to Belgium to face charges in connection with the Heysel Stadium disaster.

## 15 YEARS AGO

**Swindon took a deserved lead in their Division Four match at Blackpool when Roy Carter headed home a left wing cross from Rideout.**

Town almost went two up six minutes from half time when Rideout's shot rebounded off

the post. A minute later debutant full back Roy Baverstock handled a cross by former Swindon favourite Peter Noble and Ashley equalised. Blackpool's winner came after 69 minutes when a man who was later to score many goals for Swindon, Dave Bamber, headed home with Jimmy Allan

still too groggy from colliding with a post to keep out another effort by the seaside. Steve Hodge with two and Nigel Davenport were the scorers but it was not enough to stop Forest going down 4-3 at Anfield where Liverpool fought back after trailing 3-2 at half time.

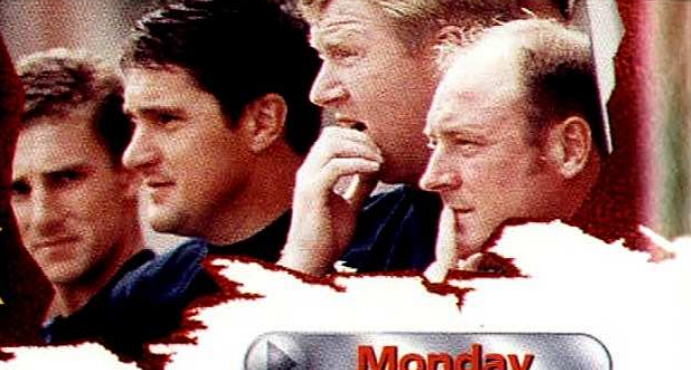
## FLASH-BACK

**"Bruce Walker King of Soccer in the West"** was the slogan I remember carved on a school desk. It resulted from the most exciting minute of the 300 that Town and Forest took to resolve their Fifth Round Cup tie in 1967. After a goalless draw at the City Ground, Forest had sneaked ahead with a goal from right back Peter Hindley six minutes before the interval. Swindon bombarded the Forest

goal in the second half but seemed to be out of luck until Don Rogers dispossessed John Barnwell and slipped the ball into the path of Bruce Walker who cracked in an equaliser from the edge of the area. The odd thing was that Walker, who only played as Bobby Jones was cup tied, should steel the show when two of the leading wingers of the era Town's Don Rogers and Forest's Ian Storey-

Moore were playing. With extra time failing to produce further goals, nowadays it would mean penalties, but then it was a mass exodus from Swindon with factories and schools closing early and 78 coaches heading for Villa Park where second half goals by Barry Lyons, Joe Baker and John Barnwell in front of a 52,596 strong crowd saw Forest earn a home Sixth Round tie with Everton.

# Mike Walsh's diary of the week



## Wednesday

**August 27th**

Having been knocked out of the Coca Cola Cup the previous evening by Watford everyone was feeling a bit down but there was no point sulking and there were a lot of positives to come out of the second leg clash, particularly our second half showing.

We knew that if we could show the same amount of heart and commitment that we displayed during the second 45 minutes at Vicarage Road then there was certainly no need to panic.

## Thursday

**August 28th.**

To help get some League experience under his belt, Peter Holcroft joined Third Division Exeter City on a month's loan.

Having played only three times for the first team we knew that Peter needed to get away for a while to really get some competitive matches behind him.

There is no question of it becoming a permanent move as Peter is still very much part of our future plans but we felt that letting him go on loan would be of benefit to him, the Club and no doubt Exeter as well, who have made a great start to the new season.

## Friday

**August 29th**

All our attentions were turning towards the big game the next day at Stoke City's brand new Britannia Stadium.

We knew it was going to be tough with a carnival like atmosphere expected but we were determined to become party poopers and make sure we continued our unbeaten start to the Division One campaign.

## Saturday

**August 30th**

Although we felt we had prepared well for the match, the first half didn't quite go according to plan as we fell behind.

But a few words at half time did the trick as we dominated the second half and scored twice in as many minutes to silence the home crowd.

The Chief and Chris Hay took their goals very well and in the end we could have won even more handsomely with two blatant penalty appeals being turned down.

Nevertheless it was another enjoyable trip home after yet another away win and if we can keep up this sort of form on our travels then we are in for a tremendous season.

## Sunday

**August 31**

After the massive high of the previous day, football seemed to fade into insignificance as the news of the tragic death of Diana, the Princess of Wales was heard.

When something like this happens it really makes you think what life is all about and it took most of the day for the news to really sink in.

## Monday

**September 1st**

All the lads were in for an afternoon training session before we all got on the coach and made our way to a hotel in Ipswich in readiness for another tough away game the next day.

## Tuesday

**September 2nd**

We trained in the morning, the lads then relaxed during the afternoon before we made our way to Portman Road for the game.

Despite taking the lead through the Chief some sloppy defensive work allowed Ipswich to score twice which proved to be enough for them to take the points and leave us on the end of our first league defeat of the season.

Saying that I felt we deserved at least a point and if Chief's second goal had not been ruled out for a foul then maybe we would have travelled back with our unbeaten record still in tact.

## Wednesday

**September 3rd**

The result at Ipswich was now forgotten as we began to look ahead to the visit of Nottingham Forest but as this programme went to print we had a few injury worries with both Scott Leitch and Mark Seagraves picking up knocks at Ipswich.



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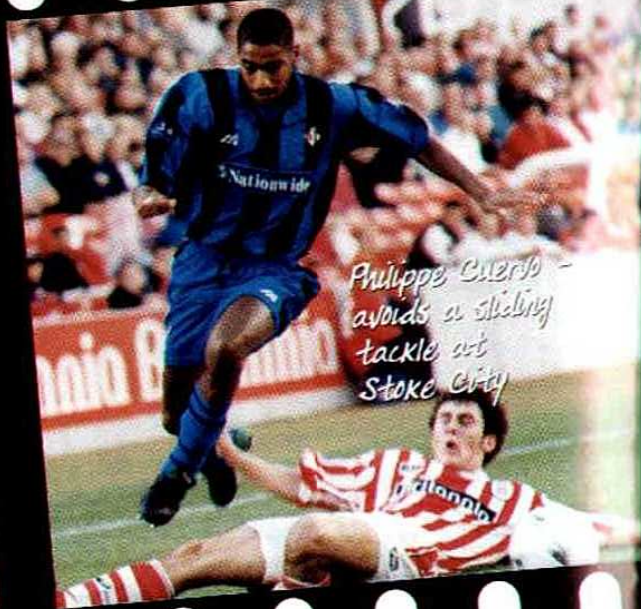
Don't miss *Classic Gold Saturday*  
*Sport with Susanna Bateman*

# action

## replay



Determination - Jason Drysdale and Paul Stewart jostle for pole position



Philippe Clerbo - avoids a sliding tackle at Stoke City



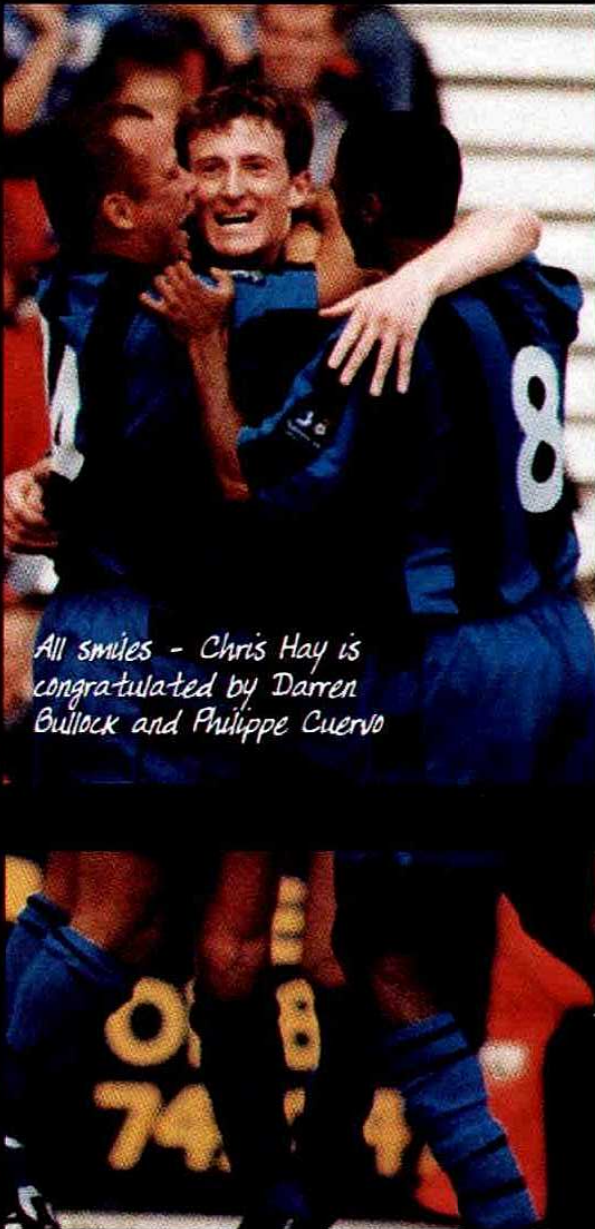
Outnumbered - Wayne Allison can find no way through the Stoke defence



Take that! - The Chief equalises at the Britannia Stadium



*That's mine - Stoke keeper Carl Muggleton beats Chris Hay in the air*



*All smiles - Chris Hay is congratulated by Darren Bullock and Philippe Cuervo*

## RESULT...

SATURDAY 30TH AUGUST  
NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE

**Stoke City 1**  
**Swindon Town 2**

Attendance 23,000

## TEAM...

- 1 Fraser Digby
- 2 Frederic Darras
- 3 Jason Drysdale (Bullock 64 mins)
- 4 Scott Leitch (Smith 71 mins)
- 5 Mark Seagraves
- 6 Alan McDonald
- 7 Mark Walters
- 8 Philippe Cuervo
- 9 Chris Hay
- 10 Wayne Allison
- 11 Ty Gooden

Subs not used: Steve Cowe

## MATCH REPORT

Two goals in as many minutes spoilt Stoke City's party as Swindon chalked up a superb away win in the first game ever played at the brand new Britannia Stadium.

After falling behind to a first half goal by Richard Forsyth, Swindon came storming back after the break.

They dictated the play and drew level in the 78th minute when Wayne Allison swivelled and smashed a shot home from eight yards.

And two minutes later Chris Hay scored the winner with a fine finish from the edge of the penalty area.

It could have been even more convincing for Town who had two blatant penalty appeals turned down.

*"I was delighted with the way we stuck at our task to come away with all three points and spoil Stoke's party in their new ground,"* said manager Steve McMahon afterwards.

# reserve round-up

with Ross McLaren



## Match report

**Avon Insurance Combination Division One.**

**West Ham United Reserves 1  
Swindon Town Reserves 0**

**We slipped to our third successive defeat against Premiership opposition but this display was a vast improvement on our two previous performances.**

Lots of chances were created with Steve Finney and Steve Cowe both going close and we should also have had a penalty.

The West Ham goalkeeper made several fine saves to make sure the score stayed level at half time.

We continued to pass the ball well during the second half but just when it seemed that we were going to emerge with at least a point, we shot ourselves in the foot 10 minutes from time as poor defending allowed West Ham to score the only goal of the game.

The goal was a direct result of sloppiness at the back which was frustrating as we had looked fairly solid up until then.

Despite the defeat I was a lot happier with the way we played and it was good to see the Gaffer get another 80 minutes under his belt.

It was just a shame that we undid all our hard work with a lapse in concentration so near to the end.

**Team:** Talia, Pattimore (Finlayson), King, McMahon (McAreevey), Bullock, Elkins, Watson, Collins, Finney (Meechan), Cowe, Smith.

## Family Night Football

**Our next Reserve team game here at the County Ground is on Wednesday September 10th when we entertain Charlton Athletic (7.15pm).**

It was great to see over 1000 of you come along for our opening fixture at the County Ground against Spurs and I hope a lot of you can make it next Wednesday.

## Reserve Team Player Appearances 97/98

Player Name:	League		Cup		Total	
	Apps.	Gls.	Apps.	Gls.	Apps.	Gls.
DARREN BULLOCK	3	0	0	0	3	0
STEVE COWE	3	1	0	0	3	1
LEE COLLINS	3	0	0	0	3	0
SOL DAVIS	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
GARY ELKINS	3	0	0	0	3	0
ALEX FINLAYSON	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0
STEVE FINNEY	2	0	0	0	2	0
PETER HOLCROFT	2	0	0	0	2	0
PHIL KING	1	0	0	0	1	0
PAUL MCAREEVEY	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
STEVE MCMAHON	2	0	0	0	2	0
ALEX MEECHAN	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
MICHAEL PATTIMORE	2(1)	0	0	0	2(1)	0
ALEX SMITH	3	0	0	0	3	0
FRANK TALIA	3	0	0	0	3	0
WAYNE THORNE	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
MARK WALTERS	3	0	0	0	3	0
KEVIN WATSON	3	0	0	0	3	0

## FIXTURES 97/98

### Avon Insurance Combination Div 1

Tue Aug 12	Crystal Palace	A 1-2
WED AUG 20	TOTTENHAM	H 0-2
Thur Aug 28	West Ham United	A 0-1
WED SEP 03	LUTON TOWN	H PP
WED SEP 10	CHALTON ATHLETIC	H 7-15
Mon Sep 15	Brighton & H.A.	A 2-00
WED SEP 25	NORWICH CITY	H 7-15
Wed Oct 01	Portsmouth	A 7-00
Wed Oct 08	Wimbledon	A 2-00
WED OCT 15	IPSWICH TOWN	H 7-15
Wed Oct 22	Watford	A 7-30
WED OCT 29	ARSENAL	H 7-15
Mon Nov 03	Chelsea	A 7-00
WED NOV 12	OXFORD UNITED	H 7-15
Thur Nov 20	QPR	A 7-00
WED NOV 26	MILLWALL	H 7-15
WED DEC 03	WEST HAM UNITED	H 7-15
Mon Dec 08	Luton Town	A 7-00
WED DEC 17	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H 7-15
Wed Jan 07	Charlton Athletic	A 2-00
WED JAN 14	PORTSMOUTH	H 7-15
Thur Jan 22	Norwich City	A 7-30
THUR JAN 29	WIMBLEDON	H 7-15
Wed Feb 04	Ipswich Town	A 7-00
WED FEB 11	SOUTHAMPTON	H 7-15
Wed Feb 18	Millwall	A 2-00
WED MAR 04	CHELSEA	H 7-15
Tue Mar 10	Arsenal	A 2-00
Wed Mar 18	Oxford United	A 7-30
WED MAR 25	CRYSTAL PALACE	H 7-15
WED APR 01	Q.P.R.	H 7-15
Wed Apr 15	Southampton	A 7-30
Wed Apr 15	Tottenham	A 7-30
WED APR 22	WATFORD	H 7-15

All home fixtures are to be played at The County Ground and will kick-off at the time indicated above. Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

## NEXT HOME GAME

**Wednesday 10th  
September 1997**

**Charlton  
Athletic**

**Kick-Off 7.15pm**

## THE LEAGUE

### Avon Insurance Combination Div 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Tottenham H.	4	3	0	1	9	5	9	+04
Portsmouth	4	2	2	0	8	4	8	+04
Arsenal	3	2	1	0	9	3	7	+03
Watford	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	+03
Crystal Palace	3	2	0	1	6	6	6	00
West Ham United	5	2	0	3	8	9	6	-01
Millwall	4	2	0	2	6	7	6	-01
Luton Town	3	1	2	0	8	6	5	+02
Charlton Athletic	3	1	1	1	7	5	4	+02
Wimbledon	3	1	1	1	5	3	4	+02
Chelsea	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	00
Ipswich Town	3	1	1	1	2	3	4	-01
Oxford United	3	1	1	1	5	7	4	-02
Southampton	3	0	2	0	5	6	2	-01
Q.P.R.	3	0	2	0	4	6	2	-02
Norwich City	4	0	2	2	3	10	2	-07
Brighton & H.A.	3	0	1	2	2	6	1	-04
Swindon Town	5	0	0	5	1	5	0	-04





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# youth team focus

with Tommy Wheelodon

## FIXTURES 97198

### South East Counties League Division 2

SAT AUG 09	BRENTFORD	H 2-2
Sat Aug 16	Southampton	A 1-2
SAT AUG 23	LUTON TOWN	H 2-4
WED AUG 27	CARDIFF CITY (JFC1)	H 3-3
Sat Aug 30	Reading	A 3-1
SAT SEP 13	PORTSMOUTH (LC1)	H
WED SEP 17	PETERBOROUGH UTD	H
Sat Sep 20	Colchester United	A
SAT SEP 27	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H
Sat Oct 04	Bristol Rovers	A
SAT OCT 11	WYCOMBE W.	H
Sat Oct 25	Wimbledon	A
Sat Nov 01	Tottenham Hotspur	A
SAT NOV 08	OXFORD UNITED	H
Sat Nov 15	Barnet	A
SAT NOV 29	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H
Sat Dec 06	Bristol City	A
SAT DEC 13	BRISTOL CITY	H
Sat Dec 20	Brentford	A
SAT JAN 03	SOUTHAMPTON	H
Sat Jan 10	Luton Town	A
SAT JAN 17	READING	H
Sat Jan 24		
SAT JAN 31	COLCHESTER UNITED	H
Sat Feb 07	AFC Bournemouth	A
SAT FEB 14	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Sat Feb 21	Wycombe Wdors	A
SAT FEB 28	WIMBLEDON	H
SAT MAR 07	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H
Sat Mar 14	Oxford United	A
SAT MAR 21	BARNET	H
Sat Mar 28	Brighton & H.A.	A

Home fixtures kick-off at 11.00am at the Nationwide Pavillion. Pipers WA - Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

south east

## FIXTURES 97198

### West Country Television South West Counties Youth League

Aug 23	Bristol Rovers	A 4-2
AUG 30	CARDIFF CITY	H 2-3
Sept 06	Cheltenham Town	A
SEPT 13	GIRENCESTER TOWN	H
Sept 20	Exeter City	A
SEPT 27	HEREFORD UNITED	H
OCT 04	(LEAGUE CUP ROUND 1)	
Oct 11	Plymouth Argyle	A
OCT 18	SWANSEA CITY	H
OCT 25	YEovil TOWN	H
Nov 01	Crayke United	A
NOV 08	AFC NEWPORT	H
Nov 15	Bodley	A
NOV 22	(LEAGUE CUP ROUND 2)	
NOV 29	BRISTOL CITY	H
Dec 06	Bristol City	A
DEC 13	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Jan 03	Cardiff City	A
JAN 10	CHELTEHAM TOWN	H
Jan 17	Girencester Town	A
JAN 24	EXETER CITY	H
Jan 31	Hereford United	A
FEB 07	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H
Feb 14	Swansea City	A
Feb 21	Yeovil Town	A
FEB 28	TORQUAY UNITED	H
Mar 07	AFC Newport	A
NOV 02	BASHLEY	H

All home Saturday fixtures kick-off at 11.00am - Wednesday fixtures kick-off at 2.00pm - Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

south west

### South East Counties League Division Two

#### Swindon Town Youth 2 Luton Town Youth 4

**Last season's champions Luton packed too much punch for us as they ran out deserved winners.**

Although we took the lead when Under 16 Republic of Ireland International keeper Alan Flannagan started a move which ended in a goal by Chris O'Connell, Luton soon drew level and then began to dominate.

By half time we were 2-1 down which would have been worse but for a fine penalty save by trialist Flannagan however Luton did grab a third early in the second half.

A fantastic finish by Alex Meechan gave us renewed hope before Luton sealed the points with a fourth goal late on.

**Team:** Flannagan, Peters, Campagna, Thorne, Hodson, MacDiarmid, O'Connell, Davis, McAreavey, Hughes, Meechan. **Subs used:** Culbertson, Cairns, McSherry.

#### Reading Youth 1 Swindon Town Youth 3

**The lads chalked up their first win of the season with a comfortable victory over our local rivals from Reading.**

There was only one team in it during the first half as goals by Paul McAreavey and the outstanding Alex Meechan made it 2-0 at the interval.

Reading tried to get back into the game with some over aggressive tactics after the break

but McAreavey added a third to complete an easy win.

**Team:** Flannagan, Mills, Campagna, Thorne, Hodson, Culbertson, Garton, Organ, McAreavey, Robinson, Meechan. **Subs used:** O'Connell, Peters.

#### Junior Floodlit Cup First Round

#### Swindon Town Youth 3 Cardiff City Youth 3

**A replay will be needed in the Floodlit Cup after the two teams shared six goals.**

Three times we took the lead but on each occasion we were pegged back by the tough tackling Welsh side.

Paul McAreavey gave us the lead and after Cardiff had responded, the same player edged us in front once more.

Poor defending allowed the visitors to hit back again but by half time we were 3-2 up as Stuart Hodson headed home.

The second half was very physical and Cardiff made sure of a replay when they made the most of a dubious penalty decision awarded against Wayne Thorne.

**Team:** Flannagan, Mills, Campagna, Thorne, Hodson, Culbertson, Garton, MacDiarmid, McAreavey, Robinson, Meechan. **Subs used:** O'Connell, Davis, McSherry.

#### South West Counties League

#### Bristol Rovers Youth 2 Swindon Town Academy 4

**The Academy team opened their account in the best way possible with an away win at near neighbours Bristol.**



## Swindon Town Academy 1997/98

### Back Row: (left to right)

Steve Bennett, Mark Simpkins, Kevin Campello, Gareth Cope, Mike Tarran, Neil Dix, Brian Brogden, Luke Sharps, Giovanni Spert.

### Front Row: (left to right)

Dale Pottinger, Carl Taylor, John Hurst, Phil Cannon, Clive Maguire, Alan Hughes, James Jordan.

After a slow start Carl Robinson volleyed in the first and although Rovers hit back, trialist Michael Butley restored the lead at half time.

Second half efforts by Neil Dix and Robinson put the issue beyond doubt with Rovers netting a late consolation.

**Team:** Tarran, Jordan, Bennet, Cope, Sharps, Mills, Campello, Simpkins, Butley, Robinson, Dix.  
**Subs used:** Spurtey, Brogden, Clayton.

### South West Counties League

#### Cardiff City Youth 3

#### Swindon Town Academy 2

**Despite recovering from 2-0 down to draw level, the Academy boys finally lost by the odd goal in five at Cardiff.**

A sloppy start allowed Cardiff to score twice but the youngsters showed great determination to get back on terms with goals by Alan

Hughes (penalty) and Kevin Campello.

However the home team grabbed the winner 15 minutes from the end to leave Swindon's B team with nothing to show for a gutsy display.

**Team:** Tarran, Jordan, Bennett, Brogden, Sharps, Cairns, Campello, Simpkins, Hughes, McSherry, Dix.

**Subs used:** Butley.

## south east league table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.	GD
TOTTENHAM H.	4	3	1	0	9	2	10	+07
LUTON TOWN	4	3	0	1	15	4	9	+11
SOUTHAMPTON	4	3	0	1	13	7	9	+06
BRENTFORD	4	2	2	0	10	6	8	+04
BRISTOL ROVERS	4	2	1	1	10	8	7	+02
OXFORD UNITED	4	2	0	2	8	12	6	-04
BRISTOL CITY	4	1	2	4	10	9	5	+01
WIMBLEDON	2	1	1	0	4	2	4	+02
WYCOMBE W.	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	+01
SWINDON TOWN	4	1	1	2	8	9	4	-01
BARNET	4	1	1	2	7	11	4	-04
COLCHESTER UNITED	4	0	2	2	6	10	2	-04
A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	4	0	2	2	7	13	2	-06
BRIGHTON	4	0	1	3	5	10	1	-05
READING	4	0	1	3	4	14	1	-10



### FACT FILE...

**Name:** Wayne Thorne.

**Position:** Sweeper.

**D.O.B:** 28.7.80.

**Birthplace:** Reading.

**Previous Clubs:**

Bristol Rovers, Norwich City.

**Biggest Influence on career:** Brother.

**Favourite Player:**

David Batty.

**Future aims:** To become a regular first team player at Swindon Town Football Club.

# community scheme news

with Clive & Jon

Well, at last our Summer Fun Weeks have finally come to a close and on reflection we can safely say they have been a huge success.

The five weeks began with us coaching 120 plus here at the County Ground at the end of July, 40 at Cirencester on the second week, 80 plus turned up on the third week at Marlborough and for our fourth week we travelled to Chippenham where another 40 turned up.

To conclude a staggering 130 turned out to be put through their paces here at the County Ground last week.

The highlight of our last week was the children meeting the following players to collect their autographs: Philippe Cuervo, Freddie Darras, Alan McDonald, Mark Walters, Scott Leitch, Jason Drysdale, Chris Hay, Ty Gooden and the children's favourite, Fraser Digby.

All the children commented on how nice it was for them to be able to see and talk to their heroes.

The kids were given the information for the next course which again is here at the County Ground during half term week. If you require more details, the information can be found at Reception or telephone us on 01793 421303.

Please note that numbers are limited so please get your application back as soon as possible.

Jon and I are delighted to officially welcome our new recruit in the Community Office who is Luke Sharps.

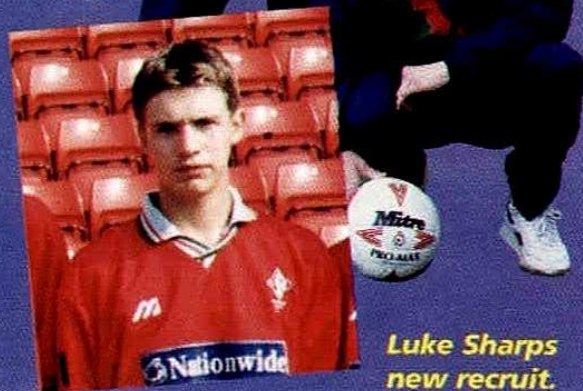
Luke is no stranger to the club as he represents the Academy team in the South West Counties League. He is with us for a two year period and will be seen around the area working alongside us to gain experience and hopefully go on to achieve his NVQ in Recreation and Leisure Studies.

We wish him well.



Clive Maguire

Jon Holloway



Luke Sharps new recruit.



The new Soccer Centres courses start on Monday. For further details contact Tom Jones: 01793 644777.



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# JUNIOR ROBINS

*with Louise Kaye*

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## **Good afternoon to all our Junior Supporters at today's exciting fixture.**

Get behind the lads for today's match by making as much noise as possible!

Fraser Digby scooped another award last weekend at the Malibu Massive Awards Night at Cairo's Nightclub. Fraser would like to thank everyone who voted him as Swindon's Sports Personality of the year!

## **Away trips**

**Unfortunately, the Junior Robins trip to Stoke City was cancelled due to lack of interest.**

Membership renewals are still drifting in but remember you cannot travel on the coach unless you have joined for the 1997/98 season. The next away trip will be to Wolves on Saturday 18th October and details of this trip will be in your October Newsletters. To those who have not travelled on the Junior Robins coach before, you do not have to be accompanied by an adult as you will be supervised throughout the day. The away trips are great fun starting from the moment you leave the County Ground. The luxury coach shows Swindon Town footage on the video during the journey and there will be opportunities to be involved in pre-match football matches and have lunch with opposing Junior teams.

## **Weekly training**

**Do not fret! News of weekly training sessions will be with you shortly.**

We will have a brand new venue and promise excellent training from qualified coaches. There will be a small fee but only a small price to pay for the new skills and fancy footwork you will be showing off by the end of the season. You will also get the opportunity to meet the players at some of the sessions throughout the year.

**To join the Junior Robins or become a mascot call Louise in the Marketing Dept on: 01793 532121**

# mascots...mascots...

## **Today's mascots**

*Jamie Woods* is 7 years old and lives in Cirencester, Glos where he attends Ingleside School. His hobbies include fishing and football of which he is a big fan of the game. Jamie's favourite Town players are Mark Robinson and Mark Walters.



*Samuel Boor*, aged 7, lives in Corsham, Wilts. He is a pupil at Heywood Prep School and enjoys cricket, computer games and of course, football. Sam plays for Corsham and likes playing in all positions. His favourite player is Alan Shearer.

*Dean Foggoa* is mascot for today's game thanks to the Evening Advertiser. Dean is 6 years old and lives in Upper Stratton, Swindon. He is a pupil at Beechwood Infants School and his hobbies include football and reading. His favourite Swindon player is Fraser Digby.



# tony horne's view from a far

*There can surely never have been a week in my lifetime like the past seven days just gone.*

Never has anything seemed more inappropriate than writing a football column. I first heard the news about 8.40am last Sunday, and I'm sure that like most people, I had to do a double-take. I had gone to Liverpool for the Liverpool versus Newcastle game, but from that moment the world stopped and nothing really seemed to matter, especially a game of football. I was absolutely disgusted that the English and Welsh Cricket Board allowed their Sunday League fixtures to go ahead seven days ago. There was one exception to this - the Durham versus Northamptonshire game was postponed and credit to them for doing so. The unofficial word from the players is that had they been told to play, they would have refused anyway.

I cannot understand how (at the

time of writing) they can deem it fit for the Scotland versus Belarus game to go ahead. I understand that this is against the wishes of the Scottish Football Association but the word from FIFA is that both teams must seek a postponement and that Belarus have not. If this situation does not change by the time that this programme goes to press, I have to say that it is about the most ridiculous thing that I have ever heard and I would suggest that Scotland would be within their rights to simply not turn up. How can this, in anyway, be comparable to the Estonia - Scotland clash where Estonia simply didn't show, despite warnings to do so, and then Scotland's award of the 3-0 victory is pathetically and spinelessly overturned. It makes me so angry. I am sure that I can not be the only

person who can see this.

It is going to be hard enough to play today, as the world strives to get back to a relative normality, let alone yesterday within hours of the funeral. And you don't even have to be British or a monarchist to share those feelings.

All that said, I trust you will appreciate the visit of high-flying Nottingham Forest today - they, as we, have made a superb start to the season. It should be a cracking game. I must congratulate both Chris Hay, singularly for his goals, and the team, as a whole for a brilliant and resolute turnaround at Stoke against our mate Peter Thorne. What a tremendous effort. Next time, remind me I have something to tell you about Joey Beauchamp!

*Please observe respectfully today's silence before the game.  
Enjoy the match!*

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**INSTALMENT PLANS**  
(details on Request)

# centre of excellence

*with Phil Cannon*

**Last week our Centre of Excellence at Greendown re-started.**

I would officially like to welcome everybody back and give a special welcome to those boys who have gained a place for this coming year.

Through the summer holidays we have had a number of trials for all age groups and have

selected a few of the lads who have reached the required standard.

Hopefully these lads will improve their ability and technique over the next few months with the help of our qualified Centre of Excellence coaches.

Fixtures for the coming season have now been handed out for all age groups but there could

be some extra games for the younger groups at half term.

Good luck for the season ahead lads!

Pictured below are the Under 11, Under 12 and Under 13's who did so well in the Totnes and Torbay Cup.

Could these be the stars of the future?



**SWINDON TOWN**  
**Centre of Excellence**

**Spot the stars of tomorrow!**  
Swindon Town Football Club and National Power working in partnership to search for the stars of tomorrow

In partnership with  
  
**National Power**

 **Darren Bullock**



 Nationwide 



# the ticket office

@swindon town tickets



*There is another home game to look forward to next Saturday when **Tranmere Rovers** are the visitors to the **County Ground (3pm)**.*

But don't forget before that on Wednesday September 10 Swindon Reserves are in action at home with Charlton Athletic the visitors.

The game kicks off at 7.15pm and tickets priced £4 for adults and £1 for Under 16's are on sale now.

## West Brom

On Saturday September 20th we visit West Brom and 500 tickets are available in advance, situated in the Smethwick End priced £12 for adults and £6.50 concessions.

On the day there will be 2500 available, pay on the turnstiles with prices set at £13 for adults and £7 for concessions.

### Matchday Ticket Office:

*For Saturday matches throughout 1997, tickets will go on sale at 11am.*

For further details on ticket availability contact the Ticket Office on:

**(01793) 529000**

To order by fax:

**(01793) 431887**

WE ARE PLEASED TO ACCEPT



## Man City

The trip to Maine Road on Saturday September 27th is an ALL TICKET affair with 829 tickets on sale in advance costing £10 for adults and £7 for concessions.

**Tickets for the following matches are now on sale:**

## Port Vale

Saturday October 4th, Port Vale (HOME), 3pm

## Bury

Saturday October 11th, Bury (HOME), 3pm.

## Norwich

Saturday October 25th, Norwich City (HOME) 3pm.

*Don't forget that tickets for Reserve team games can be purchased in advance and the home games against **Norwich Reserves on Thursday September 25th** and **Ipswich Reserves on Wednesday October 15th** are now on sale.*

## BOX OFFICE OPENING HOURS

**Monday to Friday**  
8.30am - 5.45pm

**Saturday (non matchday)**  
10am - 4pm

**Wednesday (matchday)**  
8.30am - kick-off

**Saturday (matchday)**  
9am - kick-off



# on the road... travel...



**West Brom**  
Saturday Sept 20th  
Kick-Off 3.00pm

*Both Albion and the Town have made flying starts to the season - so a thriller is in prospect at The Hawthorns! And recent history favours Town, who have recorded four wins in their last six visits there.*

## going to...



**Manchester City**  
Saturday Sept 27th  
Kick-Off 3.00pm

*Don't miss the next issue of our matchday magazine for all your travel details to Maine Road.*



## TRAVEL CLUB

**WEST BROMWICH ALBION**  
Fare **£7.00** Adults **£5.00** Juniors  
Depart County Ground: **11.30am**

Our coaches start at Aldbourne and we offer pick ups at Ashington Way plus other destinations en route. Please ask for these options and times when booking. Our coaches are either Executive or Luxury standard and we enforce our Non Smoking policy. Our Stewards are pleased to provide a selection of drinks and snacks throughout your journey, as well as the other on board entertainment we offer as well. Up to 25% reduction off our already excellent match day travel prices with our unbeatable Travel Club season ticket offer. Please ask for details. Special offers for our members - just £1.00 fee each season.

**Make Sure You Book Now At:**  
Travel Club Office (Arkell's Stand, Supporters Club entrance) Open Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Also Open Every Matchday until 20 minutes before kick off Plus 24-hour Travel information answerphone service: Telephone (01793) 611499

Or book through Barnes Coaches Ltd Information Centre or telephone any day on (01672) 540330

## Travelling by Road...

Take the A419/A417 to join the M5 at Junction 11a. Leave the M5 at Junction 1. The Hawthorns is just half a mile from the motorway exit and is clearly signposted. For the visitor's turnstiles, continue past the ground at turn right into Middlemore Road.

## Did You Know?

Swindon lost 2-1 at the Hawthorns on April 1 1991, after going in all square at half-time. It was Town's seventh League game in succession in which the teams were level after 45 minutes.



## S.A.S TRAVEL



**WEST BROMWICH ALBION** Fare **£7.00**  
Depart COUNTY GROUND (Superstore) **11.30am**  
also picking up at WOOTTON BASSETT **11.00am**  
WEST SWINDON **11.15am** ERMIN STREET **11.45am**

- Executive coach travel with hostess service of hot/cold drinks and light refreshments
- All coaches are **NON SMOKING**
- Reductions for accompanied under 15's
- No membership fee

**COUNTY GROUND BOOKING OFFICE**  
Open: Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays 10am - 2pm Thursdays 7pm - 9pm  
Tel: (01793) 536757

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county ground, swindon

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## The 92 Club

**The 92 Club was founded in June 1978 with just 39 members and is open to those football fans who have visited the current 92 Premier and Football League grounds for a first team match.**

The number of qualifiers has steadily grown and is now fast approaching 1000.

The aim of the club is to provide formal recognition of this special achievement there are also informal meetings at selected games when there is an opportunity to meet fellow fans from other clubs with a similar interest.

At present there are 12 Swindon Town fans who have reached this goal and joined the exclusive club but if any other supporter has completed the 92, or is going to mount a serious challenge in the coming months then full details of the 92 Club can be obtained by sending a s.a.e to: The 92 Club, 104 Gilda Crescent, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 9LD.

## Sully moves on

**Two weeks ago midfielder Wayne O'Sullivan left Swindon to join Third Division Cardiff City in a £25,000 move.**

The 23 year old, who joined Swindon from school as a trainee, had been on the transfer list since January after failing to gain a regular first team place at the County Ground.

*"It should be a good move for Wayne as it will give him the first team football he was looking for.*

*"He's a smashing lad with a great attitude and we wish him well for the future,"* said First Team Coach Mike Walsh



## Fattio's Player of the Month

**Fattio's Restaurant in the High Street, Highworth are once again sponsoring the Players' Player of the Month Award at the County Ground.**

**In & around the county ground**

Each month the winner of the award receives a free meal for two at Fattio's and the winner for august will be announced in next week's Matchday Magazine.

## New Rockin Robin drops in

**The Club officially unveiled their new mascot before the game against Huddersfield as Rockin Robin Superhero literally dropped in at the County Ground.**

The all new mascot likes to make a big impact and he certainly did that by abseiling

off the top of the South Stand.

The Superhero then showed off his silky skills by booting several footballs into the crowd to help celebrate his arrival.

Watch out for Rockin Robin in the future - he'll be performing some more amazing stunts at the County Ground soon.



**"Rockin Robin Superhero"**

# winning ways

by Dave Hollister



## Whichford Hyundai

Kennedy Drive, Eldene, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 3SB 01793 614855



### WIN 1

WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

**The £573 Nest Egg Prize at the Huddersfield game was on its way to Berkshire soon after the final whistle.**

The winning number of 20942 came up trumps for **Mr R G Deacon** of Great Shefford. The last three digits of 942 on any other ticket sold qualify for the end-of-season draw for a Hyundai Coupe! The total tickets in the draw so far should amount to 80. I say "should" because some of you have not deposited them in the Superstore draw box. This must be done without fail if qualifying tickets are to enter the draw. The poser set in the Huddersfield

programme regarding the F.A. Cup Tie vs Stoke City in 1951/52 brought more response than I anticipated. I pointed out that gate receipts for the game amounted to £2,650, then asked for the attendance. The first correct entry opened was sent in by **Ashley Fry** of Hunters Grove, Swindon. The "Gate" was in fact 28,140! This game an average admission charge of less than 10p (2/-). An autographed football awaits collection by Ashley. Today's brain teaser is designed to ensure that no correct entries are received. So come on you statisticians...Outwit me! In a Swindon Town programme, in the 1970's, the following facts were revealed...

*"This is the highest collection ever made on behalf of a player and is a measure of the regard the supporters have for..."*

The collection amounted to £178. Which Town player received it? The first correct entry opened on September 29th will receive an autographed football from his / her favourite player. This will be presented prior to kick-off vs Port Vale on October 4th.

Details of our 1997 Football Brains of The Year quiz will appear in the Port Vale programme. It will be a six-a-side quiz with all the questions relating to Swindon Town history prior to 1990. Start getting your "Super-Sixes" together now!



# from the press box

by Mark Storey  
Western Daily Press

***I may as well come clean. The first time I visited the County Ground wasn't as a reporter - but as an away fan.***

Swindon got relegated that day, but a few months later I was up in the press box cheering Town on.

Well, you can't exactly cheer out loud up there - the other reporters give you some strange looks - but you can cheer inside. What a turnaround this season has been. A few days before the big kick-off it was all doom and gloom.

Then along came Hay and Cuervo, the sun broke through the clouds, and it's hardly stopped shining since. Hay looks a bargain, while Cuervo has added that attacking edge to the midfield that's lacking whenever Mark Walters doesn't play.

And Alan McDonald has had a terrific impact - after all, the defence is where everything went wrong at the end of last season.

I was really cursing myself for missing the Stoke win. I also have to cover the two Bristol sides and passed the Britannia Stadium on the way to cover Rovers 0-0 draw at Burnley. I know where I would rather have been.

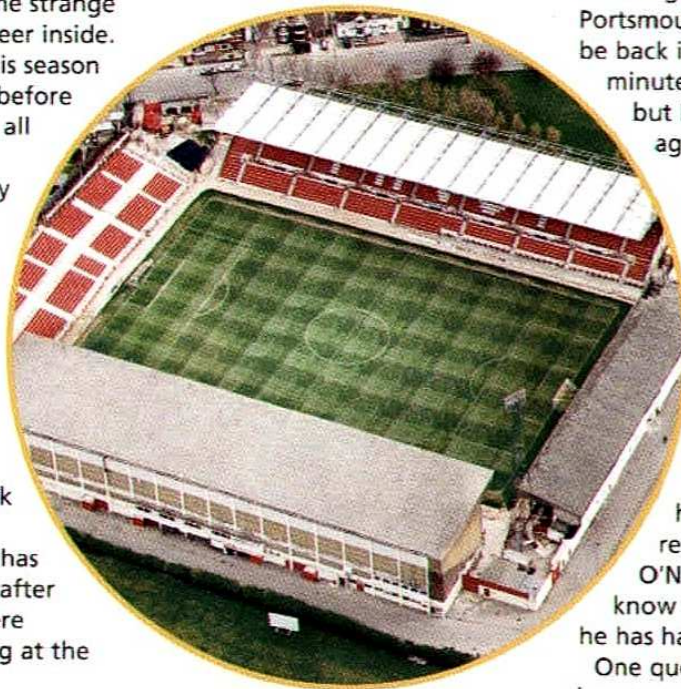
Perhaps it was for the best though. When I don't go to away games, Town win. When I go they lose.

Actually reaching an away game on time is something of an achievement for me, however.

Unlike the Adver's John Cross, whose always there about five hours before Kick-off, I am usually about four junctions down the motorway at 2.30pm on Saturday after lingering just a while too long over that £1.50 cup of tea at Strensham services.

John is the uncrowned king of the press box, always there with a grin and a family pack of Revels to hand out.

I can reveal, however there is a



dark side to the man.

According to my spies, he's understood to be something of a Julian Dicks-clone when he plays for his Sunday soccer team in North London. Macca should sign him up.

I may be from Portsmouth, but it's not hard to fall in love with Swindon. It's a friendly club - and the half-time tea down the tunnel is the best in the division.

My life as a reporter is made a lot easier by spin doctor Jason Harris, the Peter Maddelson of

Swindon Town, who could make a game of tiddlywinks between Steve McMahon and Mike Walsh sound interesting.

I have committed one major crime, however - writing a few words last season about the tightness of shirts and making a vague link with their failing form. That got me in trouble for a while.

The first report I ever did from the ground was, funnily enough, for a night game against Portsmouth. My write-up should be back in the office five minutes after the final whistle but I was so slow, I was still agonising over it at 11pm.

The floodlights were out, and the ground was deserted apart from a man with a large set of keys trying to lock up. Somehow I stayed in the job.

My best moment so far is being mistaken by an autograph hunter for Norwich's resident Spice Boy Keith O'Neill last season. I don't know why, because he has hair.

One question that remains, however, is who is inside the Rockin' Robin costume. Rumour has it it's Chairman Rickki Hunt, but I'm not so sure.

Rikki must be the busiest person alive - if he's not wheeling and dealing then he's giving a talk at the Dorchester or crossing the Andes for charity in a Swindon kit.

He's started calling me Big Issue because he reckons my severe haircut makes me look like one of the homeless. Come on Rikki. At least I take the nose ring out for home matches.

# SWINDON TOWN

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- **News** ●
- **Views** ●
- **Match commentaries** ●

**...call**

**0891**

**121 640**

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times

with Julian Wetherall

# marketing news

A warm welcome to Swindon Town for this afternoon's Nationwide First Division game against Nottingham Forest.

## Matchday Sponsors

We are delighted to welcome **CLUBCALL** as today's Matchday Sponsors and we hope they enjoy their day at the County Ground.

**CLUBCALL** is the official voice of Swindon Town giving fans all the latest news and views and match commentaries. Simply call **0891 121 640** to keep right up to date with the goings on at the County Ground. (Calls cost 50p a minute at all times)

## Matchball Sponsors

It is also a pleasure to be able to introduce our three Matchball Sponsors, namely **Thames Water**, **Wyvern Staff Agency** and **Clarion GB Limited**.

Back with us again this season, we are pleased to welcome Derek Stroud and his guests from Thames Water. Thames Water are one of Swindon's major employers with over 1000 staff based at Kembrey Park.

**Wyvern Staff** is a company with 25 years experience of operating in the Swindon area. They cover all categories of staffing, both temporary and permanent and are currently supplying commercial and industrial staff to multi national companies, local government and privately owned organisations. They recruit on a regular basis with half time announcements and maintain a good pool of staff to call on, which enables them to react to clients needs at very short notice. For more information please turn to the advert on page 39.

Since 1980 **Clarion** have adopted Swindon as their home in the UK. Their purpose built offices, located on the west side of town, encompass not only general distribution, administration and sales and marketing but also a unique and unparalleled manufacturing plant where over 150,000 radio cassettes are made each year. Needless to say, this number of units forms but a fraction of the companies overall massive annual through put of high quality In Car Hi Fi Systems.

## Presentation Time



**Derwent Marketing** were Matchday Sponsors for the recent game against Huddersfield Town and Club Director **Peter Archer** presented a

representative from Derwent with a signed, framed shirt as a memento of their day at the County Ground.



The Man of the Match Award was shared between Frenchmen **Philippe Cuervo** and **Frederic Darras** and they are pictured being

presented with their bottles of champagne.

There were two Matchball Sponsors for the Huddersfield game and men of the match **Philippe Cuervo** and **Frederic Darras** are pictured handing over signed footballs to officials and guests of **Serobex Screen Printers** and **Stanley Racing**.



### OUR CORPORATE SUITE SPONSORS





Jonathan Trigg's

# treatment room

Sponsored by  
**Ridgeway  
Hospital**



**Defender Craig Taylor has now returned to full time training after fully recovering from his hernia repair.**

Craig will play in the Reserves' home game against Charlton Athletic on Wednesday in a bid to gain some match fitness.



Ian Culverhouse is now very close to making a return to training after his long lay off.

It has been a frustrating period for Ian as he has spent countless days working alone in the gym but at last he

can see light at the end of the tunnel.

We have pencilled in the visit of Norwich City Reserves in a fortnight's time for Ian's first come-back game.



Mark Robinson is showing an improvement following an injury to his left medial collateral ligament in a training accident two weeks ago. However Mark will be sidelined for at least another two weeks.

Scott Leitch is also set to be sidelined for a fortnight after injuring his groin in the game against Ipswich Town last Tuesday night.

Scott has a torn muscle which will require careful management to ensure an early return to the first team.

Skipper Mark Seagraves was also doubtful for this afternoon's match at the time of writing. "Sigg" injured his ankle on Tuesday and will undergo a late fitness test prior to today's match.



## the shadow board

**With the win over Stoke, our great start to the season continues apace.**

Nevertheless, the success and hopes of all football clubs is now not only determined solely by what happens on the pitch as by the goings on and machinations behind the scenes. With a number of clubs continuing with the trend of floating on the Stock Exchange, the threat to the traditional role of supporters will inevitably increase as a club becomes more responsible to its share holders as a matter of law. Even at the top of the game the new emphasis on the financial

concerns of the club's share holders has resulted in at least one high profile transfer that seemingly went contrary to both the wishes of supporters and playing staff of the club concerned.

Whether our club takes this route over the next few years remains to be seen, however, as Swindon Town fans we can be more grateful than most other supporters in that you have a method of direct communication to the club's board of directors through the "Shadow" Board.

However, it is through you, that the "Shadow" Board can make a

difference.

Our agenda is determined by those comments, suggestions and criticisms made to us by supporters of the club. It is, therefore, up to each individual Swindon Town supporter whether the "Shadow" Board continues in its work of narrowing and bridging the gap between the people who run the club and those of us that support it.

If you wish to contact the Shadow Board write to the address below.



**Write to us at the Swindon Town Shadow Board at: P.O. Box 663, Swindon SN1 2NX.**

**Those Town fans watching the television coverage of the Bolton Wanderers v Everton Premiership game on Monday night will, I am sure sympathise with Bolton fans who felt they were cheated out of two points when a perfectly good goal was not given.**

It happened when their rugged centre-half Gerry Taggart rose above everyone to head the ball just inside the near post. Even at first view, without the assistance of action replays and super slow-mo, the ball looked well and truly in before it was hacked clear.

The only query was did Nathan Blake foul goalkeeper Neville Southall as they both jumped to meet the looping ball.

The answer to that from referee Stephen Lodge was an empathic no because he brushed the Bolton players appeals for a goal aside and waved play-on and as this was not to Everton's advantage at the time it confirms that there was no question in his mind about awarding Everton a free kick.

The replay evidence showed that the ball bounced a good two-feet inside the net, a fact confirmed by Everton's midfielder Gary Speed who said: **"The ball clearly bounced behind the line"**.

Now referee's performances and decisions are forever being brought to task by television

analysis but in this case I believe the emphasis should be focused on the assistant referee who should have been in a position to judge. To my mind the standard of lining in the recent years has been more questionable than the standard of refereeing. Mr Lodge did look across for confirmation and in this instance was not given the assistance he is entitled to.

Whether the man on the touch line was up with play and positioned correctly I can not say for he was out of shot. But either he was not up with play,

Mellor's phone-in show last weekend on Radio Five you will have heard that poor, poor Celtic fan crying in his beer. The fellow was desperate and another goal for Town from young Chris Hay only added to his frustration. **"We should never have let him go."** was the agonising plea.

No doubt he was right but Celtic's loss is certainly our gain. Perhaps if young Chris had a surname such as Vialli, or Poborsky, the Parkhead management might have given him more first team exposure.

As it is they didn't and

as Steve McMahon suggests, he got a real bargain.

Finally, just a fleeting mention of the new rules introduced as from 1 July 1997. The laws

of the game have been re-written - the new English version containing 7,484 words, compared with 10,532 in the old version - in an attempt to make sure that they are easily understood everywhere.

That is fine but then why confuse the issue with instructions such as the **"Binding instruction"** to referees in Law 12.

**"The referee has to consider that the goalkeeper is wasting time and therefore has to award an indirect free-kick against him, if he holds the ball for longer than 5-6 seconds."**

Why 5-6 seconds? if a referee blows after five seconds has the goalkeeper the right to ask for six? And just when does the ref start clocking him anyway in the heat of battle?

There is going to be a few arguments over this one.

# from the sidelines

Colin Benson

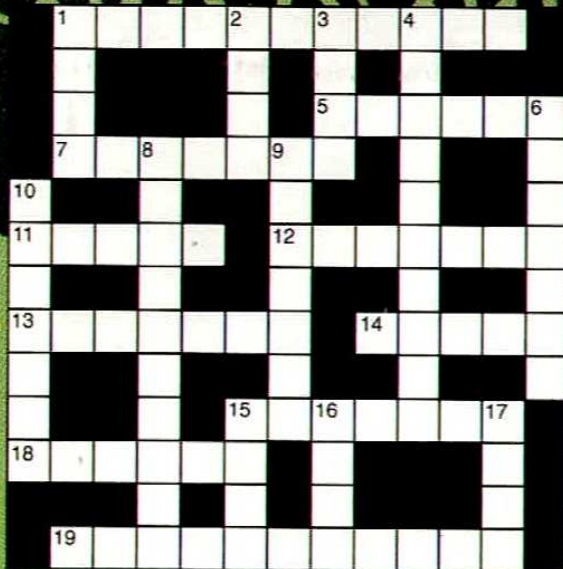
not concentrating, or simply made a bad judgement. Either way, in my opinion, he should be accountable.

Too often the careers of managers and the destiny of clubs hinge on incompetent decisions. Why the game does not get in tune with the 21st century and adopt the use of modern technical gismos to assist in assessing these questionable incidents is baffling.

We know from our brief excursion in the Premiership how important it is for the smaller clubs to get the rub of the green. But, as I recall in our home game with Oldham that season, it just wasn't Bolton's night with new signing Robbie Elliot sustaining a double fracture of the right leg to add to their woes.

If you were listening to David

compiled by Dave Hollister



## clues across...

- You'll certainly find Crystal here! (2-3-6)
- Substitutions make these inevitable (6)
- Reporter hovering around ground could be this (4-3)
- Some goalkeepers are this, chant fans (5)
- They play on a field (7)
- Keen supporter (4-3)
- John at Port Vale (5)
- Often gives colourful display in Blackburn goal mouth (7)
- Notice says this when Steve Bull is running loose (6)
- Last game of the season did this to Hereford (2-6)

## clues down...

- England Striker (4)
- Teams change this during the game (4)
- First name of Cole (4)
- Reason floodlights fail? (1-5-4)
- Injured Newcastle Forward (7)
- Players this may be too much (4-6)
- Peterborough fail to score (4-3)
- Do this when down to ten men (3-1-3)
- Local derbies are often resemblant to this (4)
- Sheffield Wednesday wingers? (4)
- Confused vase is made by goalkeeper (4)

**ANSWERS ACROSS...**  
 1 AT THE PALACE, 5 DELAYS, 7 NEWS SPY, 11 DODGY, 12 SWANSEA, 13 AVID FAN, 14 RUDGE, 15 FLOWERS, 18 BEWARE, 19 ENDED ESCAPE.  
**ANSWERS DOWN...**  
 1 ALAN, 2 ENDS, 3 ANDY, 4 A BLOWN FUSE, 6 SHEARER, 8 WAGE DEMAND, 9 POSH NIL, 10 ADD A SUB, 15 FEUD, 16 OWLS, 17 SAVE.

# MYSTIC nut-meg PREDICT THE SCORE

See if you can predict today's results...

Bury	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Tranmere Rovers
West Brom																				Reading
Swindon Town																				Notts Forest



## wordsearch

Z	R	A	M	T	X	Y	W
L	O	D	G	E	A	B	I
R	E	A	R	R	A	E	L
B	I	N	E	I	L	P	L
O	K	L	N	L	S	O	A
K	L	O	N	E	I	L	R
E	I	C	I	Y	F	L	D
E	W	H	E	L	P	S	G

Find seven hidden Premiership Referees (surnames)  
 ELLERY, BILEY, WILKIE, RENNIE, LODGE, POLL, WILLARD.

### Last game's Pick a team selection:

David Seaman,  
 A Kanchelskis, Stuart Pearce, Steve Bruce, Paolo Maldini,  
 S McMahon, M Laudrup, Eric Cantona, Nick Bamby,  
 Bergkamp, Robbie Fowler.

# SPORT-IN-YEAR 1963

1. Who became the first English bowler to take over 250 test wickets?
2. Spurs won the European Cup Winners Cup by beating this team 5-1?
3. Who became the England football team manager?
4. Relko won which big race?
5. An American won the men's singles at Wimbledon, who was he?
6. This little Irishman made his Man Utd debut in September.
7. Who became the first winners of the Gillette Cup in cricket?
8. John Charles returned from Italy to play for which English team?
9. Who became Arsenal manager after years at Wolves?
10. This left hander won the British Open Golf at Royal Lytham?

**ANSWERS.....**  
 1 FRED TRUEMAN, 2 ATLETICO MADRID, 3 ALF RAMSEY, 4 THE DERBY, 5 CHUCK MCKINLEY, 6 GEORGE BEST, 7 SUSSEX, 8 LEEDS UNITED, 9 BILLY WRIGHT, 10 BOB CHARLES.



**WHO'S THIS?**

Last game: Mr Venables

**WHO'S KIT?**



Last game: Man.U. Keeper

## FACE in the crowd

Are you the lucky winner of our 'Face in the Crowd' competition?



In every Matchday Magazine we will be publishing a photograph with a face circled. If you are the winner please call **Louise Kaye in the Marketing Department** on (01793) 532121 in person within 14 days of the date of publication to collect your prize!



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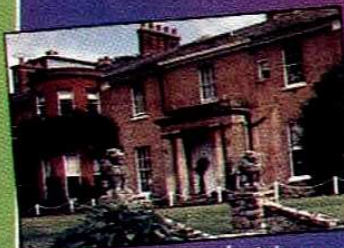
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*So listen out at the half-time break and you could be going on a superb weekend break with JARVIS HOTELS.*



# swindon town ladies

by Roger Reeves



**Swindon Town Ladies opened the new season with a five goals to one victory over Havant Town.**

The Town attacked from the off but it was the visitors who took the lead in the 29th minute. Although the Town continued to have the better of the play they had to wait almost until half time before Leanne Taylor equalised. Kim Reeves put the Town ahead in the 62nd minute and two minutes later Kerie Garwood added a third. Sharon Black and Kerie Garwood took the Town's final tally to five. This was a good all round performance from the Town who played some good passing football to out play their Hampshire opponents. The pre-season brought an unfortunate injury to one of the Town's promising youngsters. Nikki Relph broke her leg which has had to be pinned. Nikki spent a spell in the Princess Margaret Hospital but is now at home. We wish her well for a speedy recovery. Today the Town visit Southampton Saints for a Southern Region League Premier Division game. The Saint's finished last season in third place. The Town were beaten two-one at home and in the away game the Saints won by the odd goal in five. Last week they were beaten three nil by last season's champions Reading Royal's

**Southern Region League - Premier Division Swindon Town 5 Havant Town 1**

**Team:** Jo Sharpe, Adelle Taylor, Netti Wyness, Clare Wheeler, Clare Tyson, Ashley Wiseman, Kim Reeves, Pam Laker, Tracy Mackeddie, Kerie Garwood, Leanne Taylor.

**Subs Used:** Sharon Black, Sarah Richardson

**Subs Not Used:** Jackie Westbury

**Scorers:** Kerie Garwood (2), Leanne Taylor, Kim Reeves, Sharon Black.



**Kerie Garwood, who notched two goals against Havant Town.**

## FIXTURES 97198

### Southern Region League Premier Division

SUN 31ST AUG	HAVANT TOWN	S-1
Sun 7th Sept	Southampton Saints	A
Sun 14th Sept	Launton	A
Sun 28th Sept	Freeway (FA Cup R1)	A
SUN 5TH OCT	BINFIELD	H
Sun 12th Oct	Reading Royals	A
SUN 19TH OCT	PORTSMOUTH	H
SUN 26TH OCT	CHELTHENHAM	H
Sun 2nd Nov	Oxford United	A
SUN 9TH NOV	SOUTHAMPTON	H
Sun 16th Nov	Havant Town	A
SUN 23RD NOV	SOTON SAINTS	H
SUN 30TH NOV	LAUNTON	H
Sun 7th Dec	League Cup (1st Rnd)	
Sun 14th Dec	TBA	
SUN 11TH JAN	SWINDON SPITFIRES	H
Sun 18th Jan	Binfield	A
Sun 25th Jan	League Cup (2nd Rnd)	
1ST FEB	READING ROYALS	H
8th Feb	Portsmouth	A
15th Feb	Cheltenham	A
22ND FEB	OXFORD UNITED	H
1st Mar	Southampton	A
TBA	Swindon Spitfires	A

## THE LEAGUE

### Southern Region League Division 1 final table 1996-97 season

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading Royals	18	15	0	3	76	23	45
Portsmouth	18	10	6	2	37	20	36
Southampton Saints	18	11	2	5	39	30	35
Southampton	18	10	2	6	66	33	32
Cheltenham	18	8	6	4	36	38	30
Swindon Spitfires	18	8	2	8	42	42	26
<b>Swindon Town</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>20</b>
Binfield	18	6	1	11	22	42	19
Havant Town	18	2	4	12	15	43	10
Ringwood	18	0	3	15	14	66	3

## NEXT HOME GAME

**Sunday 5th October 1997**

**Binfield**

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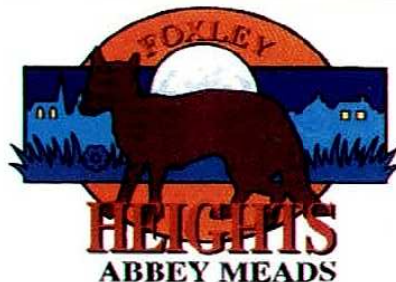
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**Who cares if we are dubbed the party poopers!**

Stoke City fans thought they were on their way to celebrating the opening of their new Britannia Stadium in fine fashion when Forsyth gave them a lead they held until the 78th minute..

Then Town exploded with two goals in two minutes through Wayne Allison and Chris Hay to chalk up our third win in four games... Sorry Stoke we do not shed the remotest tear of sympathy. Ten points from four games saw us level with **Bradford City** (what a change in fortunes for Chris Kamara's outfit), and **West Brom**, just two points behind **Nottingham Forest**. Now with the Premiership sides enjoying their second free weekend of the season - it is tough at the top they keep telling us - there is no doubt that this afternoon's show-down with **Forest** is the match of the day and what a feast of football it promises.

**Bradford City** played hosts to Sunderland on Friday night. Jamie Lawrence, a fringe player at Leicester City, is proving a real revelation in the Yorkshire eleven, while the spice in the **Bradford** attack comes from free scoring Nigel Pepper and Brazilian Edinho.

**Sunderland**, losers of three of their opening four games, were desperate to make their mark particularly after last Saturday's deflating home defeat by **Norwich City**.

That win for the Canaries sparked some spiteful scenes from **Sunderland** supporters. Maybe Peter Reid, who with some of his players was spat at, has reviewed his beliefs that they are the best fans in the world. Like those who give their allegiance to **Newcastle United** they only sing when their winning...Best fans? Don't believe it.

**Norwich City's** first points of the season were a welcome

boost but they need to follow this up with a first home win of the season against **Charlton Athletic** who stunned **Manchester City** by beating them 2-1 last week.

These are desperate times for Frank Clark too. The City boss admits it is not so easy as it was to motivate his players but the absence of play-maker Georgi Kinkladze (injured ankle) has had some bearing on their disappointing performance no doubt. Former **Forest** star Nigel Clough is still waiting for his chance, but it really is win or bust for Kevin Horlock and Nicky Summerbee at home to **Crewe**.

Another top game features **Birmingham City**, home to



**Ipswich**. Town were missing five first teamers for the 1-1 draw with **West Brom** but hope to have some of them back on duty at St Andrews.

The Blues defence were unbeaten for 405 minutes until Alan Armstrong beat them in a 2-2 draw at **Stockport County** last Saturday.

This could be another draw. If form is any guide **West Brom** should chalk up another three points against a **Reading** side that went into Tuesday's home game with **QPR** still looking for a first League win under Terry Bullivant. Mark Robins, the former **Man United** and **Norwich** striker on loan from **Leicester City**, failed to register leaving the Royals at rock bottom with just one point on the board this time last week.

The **Queens Park Rangers** v **Portsmouth** game is a tough one to call. The Loftus Road club

really have not got going yet.

At Molineux in the Coca Cola Cup they showed a lot of good running off the ball but let themselves down through the poor quality of their passing.

Pierre van Hooijdonk emphasised their vulnerability with a hat-trick against them last week end. Thank goodness he's not available for **Forest** today as he is away on World Cup duty with Holland.

**Portsmouth** have been without former Town star Fitzroy Simpson this week as he was on international duty with Jamaica, but the recall of veteran midfielder Martin Allen - nicknamed "**Mad Dog**" in his **West Ham** days, because of his enthusiastic physical commitment in the tackle, seemed to pep them up.

After losing to **Peterborough United** in the Coca Cola Cup they bounced back with a 2-1 win over an **Oxford United** side reduced to ten men when central defender Darren Purse was sent off for two yellow cards.


That dismissal had **Oxford** boss Denis Smith steaming onto the pitch to confront the referee. Today he will be hoping to run on the pitch to celebrate a victory over **Wolves**. It will not be easy as **Wolves** are continuing where they left off last season away from home, they have won at **Norwich** and **QPR** but will be without centre-back Steve Sedgley who damaged knee ligaments in the 4-2 victory over **Bury**. Manager McGhee is now without a fit recognised centre-half if Keith Curle fails to recover from his calf problem.

As for **Oxford** they are putting their faith in Joey Beauchamp. Remember him? He scored twice against **Plymouth** and laid on **United's** reply against **Pompey**. **Tranmere Rovers** seem to be the division's under achievers this season. Just one win in the opening four they are at **Bury**.







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with Mark Seagraves

Well unfortunately our unbeaten start to the league campaign came to an end at Ipswich on Tuesday but to be honest I felt we could quite easily have come away with at least a draw.

If the Chief's second goal had been given it could have been all over for Ipswich but the decision went against us and in the end we crumbled to two bad goals.

From where I was standing I thought the Chief was unlucky to have been adjudged to have fouled their defender. They were both pushing each other and Wayne was obviously stronger so he forced his way past to score and I couldn't see anything wrong with it. But the referee did and when it comes to the crunch - he is the main man.

Of course it was disappointing to taste defeat, particularly after

such a great win at Stoke last Saturday. The three points up there kept us in a healthy position in the table but even after losing at Ipswich we are still up there.

Overall we probably would have settled for four points out of six from the two away games so we were all a bit disappointed that we didn't at least get a

### the captain's comment

draw at Portman Road.

This afternoon we face a massive test against a Forest team littered with internationals but we are the home team so it is up to us to go out and see what we can do against them.

They look as if they could be on their way back to the




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Premiership but I'm led to believe that they have got a couple of suspensions and some players on international duty so hopefully we can make the most of that and get a decent result.

As far as my own fitness is concerned I turned my ankle over at Ipswich and as I write these notes I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I'm fit enough to play because it is a big game for us and I don't want to miss it.

Next week of course we have another home game to look forward to and I hope you will be in good voice for both matches - with your support I'm sure we can stay up among the top teams.

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## FACT FILE...

Date of Birth: 12.10.63

Place of Birth:  
Belfast, N.Ireland.

### School years

Secondary School attended:  
Rathcoole.

Best Subject at School: P.E.

Worst Subject at School:  
Physics.

Football Team supported at

School: Glasgow Rangers

Football heroes as a  
schoolboy: George Best.

Favourite football position at  
School: Centre Forward.

Career taken up if not  
football: Army.

First match ever seen:  
Irish League game.

At what age did you first  
attend matches: 7 years.

### Now

Favourite other sport:  
Golf.

Biggest influence on career:  
Too many to mention.

Best match ever seen  
(Live or TV): Man Utd v  
Arsenal, FA Cup Final, 1978.

Favourite Football expert:  
Alan Hanson.

Favourite country to watch:  
Brazil.

Highlight of career: Playing in  
World Cup Finals, Mexico, 1986.

Biggest disappointment:  
Losing 3-0 to Oxford in 1986  
Milk Cup Final.

Choice Opponents in a  
Cup Tie: Glasgow Rangers in  
European Cup.

# close-up profit

Alan McDonald

**Compared to other players he may be unspectacular but central defender Alan McDonald has proved to be as solid as a rock since signing for Swindon from Queens Park Rangers.**

Steve McMahon drafted him in to tighten up a defence which had started to look decidedly leaky - and the former Northern Ireland skipper has not let the Gaffer down with a string of water tight displays.

*"I've settled in brilliantly and to be honest I already feel as if I've been with the club for years,"* he said.

*"Having spent my entire career at QPR I wasn't sure what to expect from my first ever move but the lads have made me very welcome."*

At 34 McDonald is certainly in the twilight of a successful career which has seen him skipper his country, grabbing 53 caps for Northern Ireland in the process.

And although he hasn't been called up for a year and a half, he said: *"I'm still around if they need me."*

*"All I can do is concentrate on playing well for Swindon and if that means I get another chance to play for Northern Ireland then all well and good. But I won't lose any sleep over it and my aim is to do a job here at the County Ground."*

And there is no doubt McDonald is doing a thoroughly professional job at the heart of the defence where he has played a key role in a flying start.

*"We worked very hard during pre-season, enjoyed a successful tour and played some good football during our friendlies and all that hard work seems to be paying off because we've started very well in Division One."*

*"It's still very early days but we couldn't have wished for a more promising start."*

*"However the honeymoon period is over. It is now going to be a battle of attrition, it's a long slog and we will need to show a lot of character to come through it."*

*"We've shown great guts so far but we must continue to display the same qualities when the winter comes and the bad weather makes life much more difficult."*

*"On a personal note I'm reasonably pleased with the way I've performed although there is always room for improvement."*

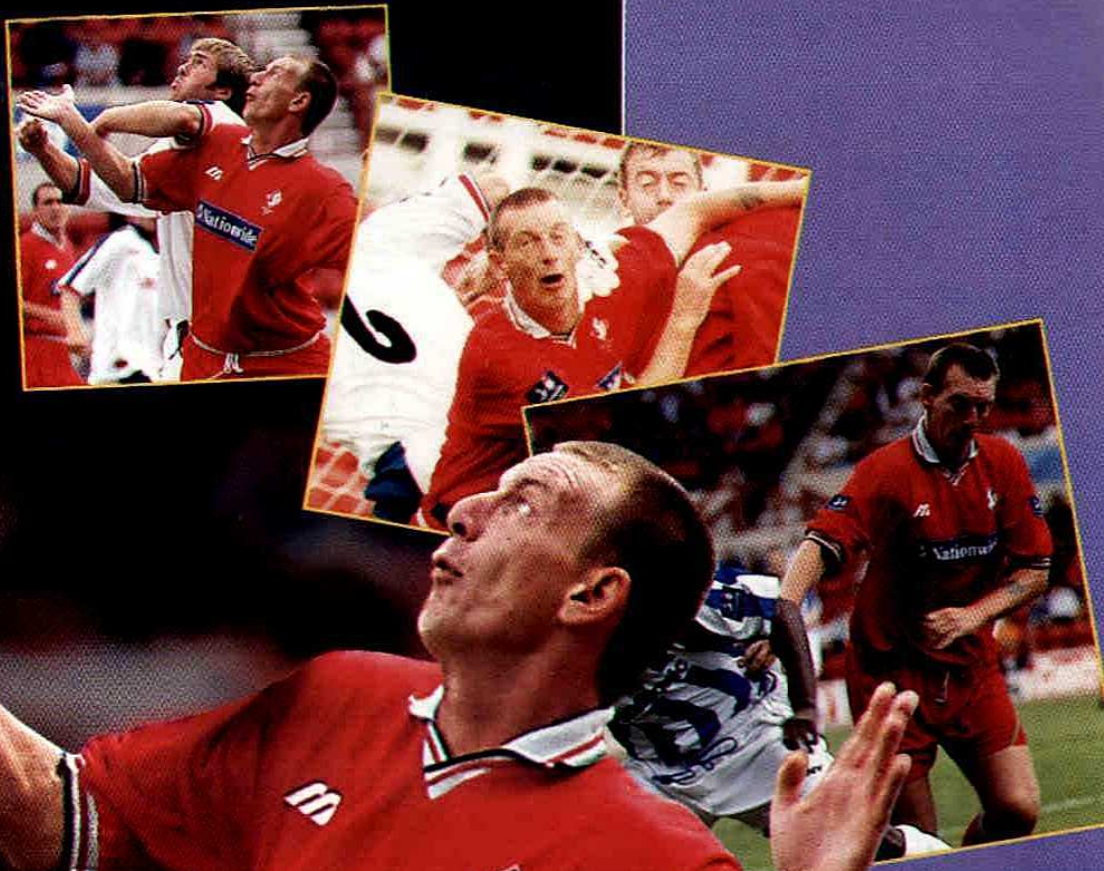
*"The main thing is that the team have been playing well and if we can steer clear of injuries and suspensions then I'm sure we can have a successful season."*

*"The only disappointment so far has been losing Mark Robinson through injury. Robbo, Mark Seagraves and myself were just starting to get a good understanding at the back when he picked up that injury in training."*

*"But saying that Freddie Darras has taken over Robbo's role and has done very well which is great news for the club,"* he added.

Despite having signed a two year contract,

# le



McDonald has decided not to move down to Wiltshire from his London base and instead travels up and down the M4 each day.

*"It's not too far and to be honest I didn't want to move away from my family and friends,"* he said.

***Alan McDonald - solid as a rock at the heart of the defence.***

## GENERAL...

Favourite Food: Pasta.  
Favourite Drink: Caffreys.  
Favourite Comedian / Comedy: Frank Carson / Caddy Shack.  
Favourite TV Programme: Nature or Sports.  
Favourite Film: Shawshank Redemption  
Favourite Film Stars: Robert De Niro / Jodie Foster.  
Favourite holiday location: Cyprus.  
Favourite items of clothing: Jeans.  
Smartest Dresser at STFC: Scott Leitch.  
Worst Dresser at STFC: Mike Walsh.  
Any Superstitions: Too many!

# statistics 1997/98 season



**Nottingham Forest**



All home Saturday fixtures will kick-off at 3.00pm.  
Home Sunday and Bank Holiday fixtures will kick-off as advertised.  
Home midweek fixtures will kick-off at 7.45pm.  
All dates and times of kick-off's are subject to change.



## 1 NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 TABLE 1997/98 AS AT 4.9.97

	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
BRADFORD CITY	5	2	1	0	2	0	0	9	3	13
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	5	2	0	1	2	0	0	11	4	12
WEST BROMWICH ALBION	5	2	0	0	1	2	0	7	4	11
BIRMINGHAM CITY	4	2	0	0	1	1	0	10	2	10
SWINDON TOWN	5	1	1	0	2	0	1	7	4	10
PORTSMOUTH	5	2	1	0	0	1	1	9	7	8
WOLVES	5	1	2	0	1	0	1	7	4	8
SHEFFIELD UNITED	4	2	0	0	2	0	4	1	8	8
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	4	2	0	0	0	1	1	6	5	7
MIDDLESBROUGH	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	5	3	7
QUEENS PARK RANGERS	5	1	1	0	1	0	2	5	8	7
SUNDERLAND	5	2	0	1	0	0	2	7	8	6
BURY	5	0	2	0	1	1	1	5	6	6
MANCHESTER CITY	5	0	2	0	1	0	2	8	9	5
IPSWICH TOWN	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	4	5
STOKE CITY	5	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	5
PORT VALE	4	1	0	1	0	1	1	5	6	4
TRANMERE ROVERS	5	1	0	2	0	1	1	4	9	4
NORWICH CITY	5	0	0	2	1	1	1	3	9	4
OXFORD UNITED	5	1	0	1	0	0	3	6	9	3
CREWE ALEXANDRA	4	0	0	2	1	0	1	5	7	3
STOCKPORT COUNTY	5	0	3	0	0	0	2	5	7	3
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	5	2
READING	5	0	0	3	0	1	1	2	10	1



## First Team Player Appearances 97/98

Player Name	League		Cup		Total	
	Apps.	Gl.	Apps.	Gl.	Apps.	Gl.
WAYNE ALLISON	5	3	2	0	7	3
DARREN BULLOCK	1(4)	0	0	0	1(4)	0
LEE COLLINS	-	-	-	-	-	-
STEVE COWE	0(1)	0	(1)	0	(2)	0
PHILIPPE CUERVO	5	0	2	0	7	0
IAN CULVERHOUSE	-	-	-	-	-	-
FREDERIC DARRAS	5	0	2	0	7	0
FRASER DIGBY	5	0	1	0	6	0
JASON DRYSDALE	4	0	2	0	6	0
GARY ELKINS	-	-	-	-	-	-
STEVE FINNEY	(2)	1	1	0	1(2)	1
TY GOODEN	5	0	2	0	7	0
CHRIS HAY	5	3	1	0	6	3
PETER HOLCROFT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCOTT LEITCH	5	0	2	1	7	1
ALAN McDONALD	5	0	2	0	7	0
STEVE McMAHON	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
MARK ROBINSON	2	0	1	0	3	0
MARK SEAGRAVES	5	0	2	0	7	0
ALEX SMITH	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0
FRANK TALIA	0	0	1	0	1	0
CRAIG TAYLOR	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARK WALTERS	3(2)	0	1(1)	0	4(3)	0
KEVIN WATSON	-	-	-	-	-	-

Date Opponents Res Att.

SAT AUG 9	CREWE ALEXANDRA	H	2-0	8,334
WED AUG 13	WATFORD CCC 1 (1)	H	0-2	6,271
Sat Aug 16	Reading	A	1-0	9,338
SAT AUG 23	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H	1-1	7,683
Tues Aug 26	Watford CCC 1 (2)	A	1-1	7,712
Sat Aug 30	Stoke City	A	2-1	23,000
Tues Sep 2	Ipswich Town	A	1-2	11,246
SUN SEP 7	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H		
SAT SEP 13	TRANMERE ROVERS	H		
Sat Sep 20	West Bromwich Albion	A		
Sat Sep 27	Manchester City	A		
SAT OCT 4	PORT VALE	H		
SAT OCT 11	BURY	H		
Sat Oct 18	Wolverhampton W.	A		
Tue Oct 21	Sunderland	A		
SAT OCT 25	NORWICH CITY	H		
Fri Oct 31	Portsmouth	A		
WED NOV 5	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H		
SAT NOV 8	BRADFORD CITY	H		
Sat Nov 15	Stockport County (F.A. CUP 1)	A		
SAT NOV 22	MIDDLESBROUGH	H		
Fri Nov 28	Charlton Athletic	A		
SAT DEC 6	OXFORD UNITED (F.A. Cup 2)	H		
Sat Dec 13	Sheffield United	A		
SAT DEC 20	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H		
Fri Dec 26	Nottingham Forest	A		
SUN DEC 28	IPSWICH TOWN	H		
Sat Jan 3	(F.A. CUP 3)			
Sat Jan 10	Crewe Alexandra	A		
SAT JAN 17	READING	H		
Sat Jan 24	(F.A. CUP 4)			
WED JAN 28	STOKE CITY	H		
Sat Jan 31	Huddersfield Town	A		
SAT FEB 7	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	H		
Sat Feb 14	Tranmere Rovers (F.A. Cup 5)	A		
Tue Feb 17	Port Vale	A		
SAT FEB 21	MANCHESTER CITY	H		
WED FEB 25	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	H		
Sat Feb 28	Bury	A		
Tue Mar 3	Bradford City	A		
SAT MAR 7	PORTSMOUTH (F.A. CUP 6)	H		
Sat Mar 14	Queens Park Rangers	A		
SAT MAR 21	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H		
Wed Mar 25	Middlesbrough	A		
SAT APR 4	CHARLTON ATHLETIC (F.A. Cup SF)	H		
Sat Apr 11	Oxford United	A		
MON APR 13	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H		
Sat Apr 18	Birmingham City	A		
Sat Apr 25	Norwich City	A		
SUN MAY 3	SUNDERLAND	H		
Sat May 16	F.A. Cup Final			

### Stats table key

FAC = F.A. Cup  
C.C.C = Coca-Cola Cup  
\* After Extra Time  
^ Indicates own goal

### Substitutes Used

SUB ■  
SUB ▲  
SUB ●  
Goalscorer

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Front Cover Picture: Goal celebration at Stoke City

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY	BULLOCK	WALTERS
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	FINNEY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	WATSON	WALTERS
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY	BULLOCK	WALTERS
DIGBY	DARRAS	BULLOCK	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	WATSON	McMAHON
TALIA	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	ELKINS	BULLOCK
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH	BULLOCK
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH	BULLOCK

**Next Home Match**

**Saturday 13th September**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

**Tranmere Rovers**

**Kick-Off 3.00pm**

**CLUBCALL**

SWINDON TOWN FC

**ClubCall**

**0891 121 640**

news updates, match commentaries and all the latest ticket information.

\* Calls charged at 50p at all times

**Information**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Important safety announcements by the Club Management over the public address system will be preceded by a loud signal to catch the attention of spectators.



# team check



## Swindon Town

FRASER DIGBY 


FREDERIC DARRAS 

JASON DRYSDALE 

DARREN BULLOCK 

MARK SEAGRAVES 

ALAN McDONALD 

MARK WALTERS 

PHILIPPE CUERVO 

CHRIS HAY 

WAYNE ALLISON 

TY GOODEN 







TEAM MANAGER  
STEVE McMAHON

## Nottingham Forest

MARCO PASCOLO

DES LYTTLE

ALAN ROGERS

JON OLAV HJELDE

STEVE CHETTL

GEOFF THOMAS

THIERRY BONALAIR

SCOT GEMMILL

DEAN SAUNDERS

KEVIN CAMPBELL

CHRIS BART-WILLIAMS

TEAM MANAGER  
DAVE BASSETT



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## CLUBCALL



### ClubCall

0891 121 640

news updates, match commentaries  
and all the latest ticket information.

\* Calls charged at 50p at all times

## Today's Result and Attendance

Swindon v Notts Forest  
Attendance



### Referee:

Mike Bailey (Impington, Cambridge)

### Assisted by:

M.D.Dearing (Middlesex)

W.G.Gowers (Warwickshire)

### Reserve Official:

G.Merritt (Bristol)

### Mike Bailey

Mike is a 47 year old B.T. Manager who is married with two sons aged 22 and 20.

He began refereeing in 1974 and progressed via the Football Combination to the Football League list in 1986.

Mike, whose interests include computers and the training of referees at all levels has officiated in the UEFA Cup.

## Next Home Match

### Saturday 13th September

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE  
DIVISION ONE

### Tranmere Rovers

### Kick-Off 3.00pm

## Matchday Magazine

Matchday Magazine Editor:  
JASON HARRIS: (01793) 532121

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