

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

£2.00

Swindon

ISSUE 12



TODAY'S VISITORS

All the latest information on
Bradford City Football Club

PLAYER PROFILE

A closer look at Lee Collins

BRIAN BORROWS HITS 600

Brian Borrows will be making his
600th League appearance today.

SWINDON VS BRADFORD CITY

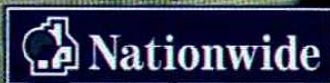
Saturday 12th December 1998 3.00pm Kick off

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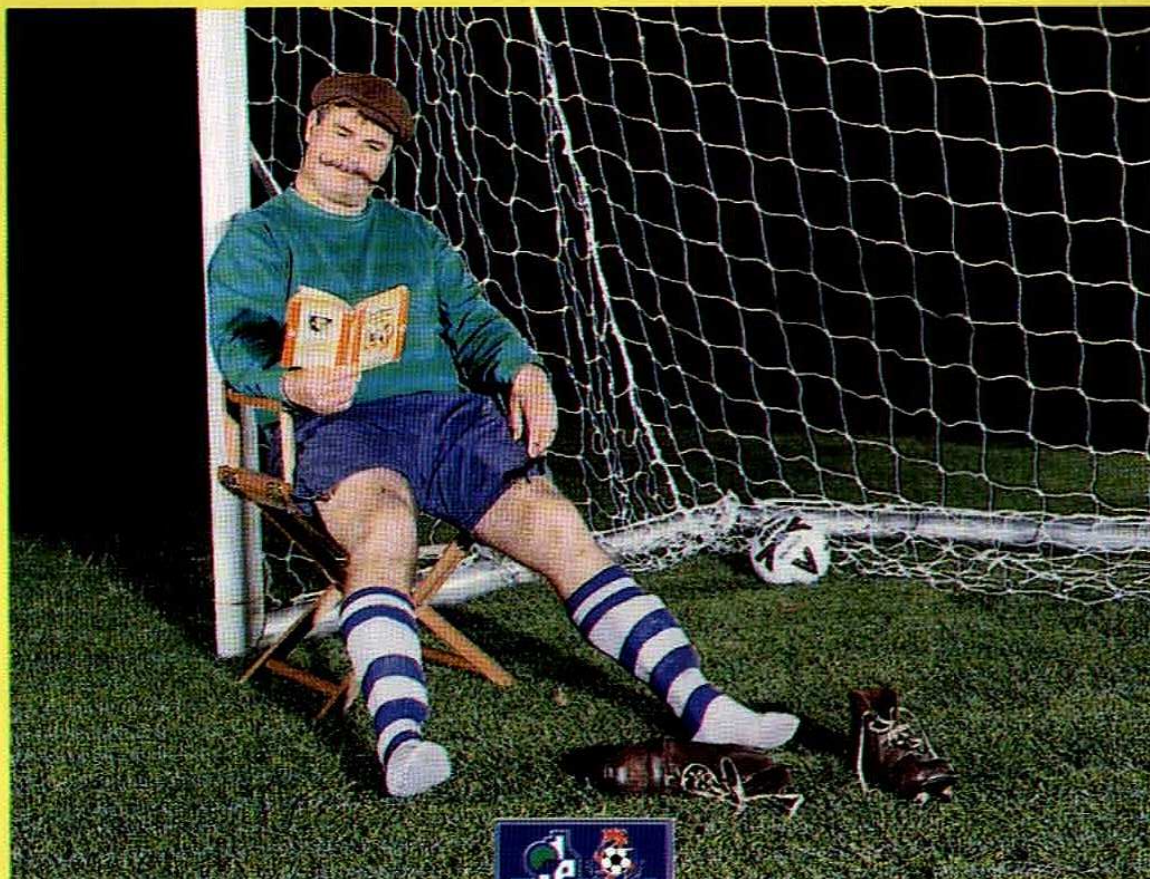
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The World's No.1 Building Society

vs Bradford City

December 12th 1998

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Manager Jim Quinn gives his views on the Norwich City game.

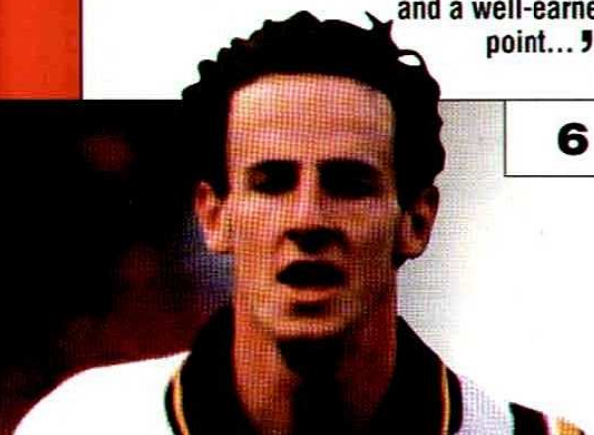
“ Although we didn't play our best football it was a hard-working display, and a well-earned point... **”**



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The Visitors

Find out all the latest news on Bradford City, including an in-depth look at their manager, Paul Jewell.



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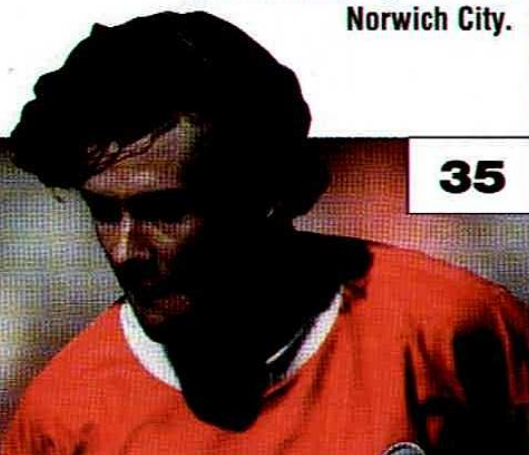
All the action captured on film from our recent game with Norwich City.



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Premiership Latest

“ Ince for sale and McManaman leaving on the Bosman ruling. What will happen to Liverpool.. **”**

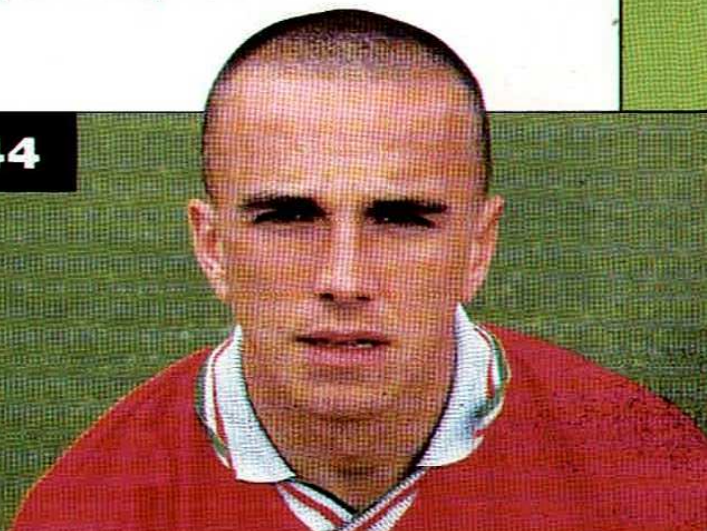


Collins Up Close

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A Q&A Session with Lee Collins

Lee talks about his injury and the road to recovery, involving lots of hard work and treatment.





to the county ground...

Festive greetings to everybody at today's game at the County Ground for our clash with Bradford City, already our second this campaign.

The vagaries of the Football League's Fixtures Department have lined this meeting with added significance as we try to overturn the 3-0 defeat inflicted upon us by City just last month. On that occasion all would agree that Bradford benefited from being the home team. Many commentators have noted the way they have managed to turn Valley Parade into a virtual fortress. This time they will have to cope with the home advantage being with Town, and Bradford will not have missed the fact that our home record is similarly impressive.

Paul Jewell's team showed last week the strength of character which has brought them to 8th position in the Division One, with an away victory at Oxford United, courtesy of Lee Mills' 11th goal so far this season. After two defeats for City, and with United in such strong recent form on the pitch, we are going to have to really earn the points we want to get out of today's game. Whilst the 3-0

result last month might have been a little harsh on Town, it does give an accurate indication of the scale of the challenge for our players. In fact, despite the long trek to the County Ground today, at the time of writing City are favourites with the bookmakers to take all three points away with them.

Jewell has given an indication of wanting to bolster his defensive personnel, although this looks unlikely before today's match. It has been widely reported that City's boss has a pot in excess of £1m to spend on improving his playing staff, and last week made a move for Sheffield Wednesday striker for a reported £1.25m. Definitely in contention is Scottish international Stephen Wright, who is welcomed back into the squad after a hefty lay-off. It is probably a sign

of his ambition that Jewell is hoping to strengthen a defence which has leaked less than one goal per game over the last two months, including three clean sheets, and has a superior record to that of Town's own back line.

Whilst Town Manager Jim Quinn can only dream of such spending power, he'll be hoping for some seasonal cheer today, our last home match before Christmas. We all hope for some of the flair of our previous encounter, if not exactly the same result! We therefore welcome Bradford City's supporters and staff, including our former Club Secretary, Jon Pollard, who have all made such a long journey for today's game. On behalf of everyone at the club we would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



Welcome to Bradford City F.C.

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Jim Quinn

gives his view...

As this is our last home game until Boxing Day I would like to wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Today we face Bradford City, a side that beat us 3-0 earlier in the season, a score line that I think flattered them. That game was only a matter of weeks ago so I know the lads have that defeat fresh in their minds and want to correct it.

Our last game saw us play Norwich City. Although we didn't play our best football I think the players deserve praise for putting in a determined display against a team near the top of the League.

Norwich shut us down to some extent and we were forced into playing the long ball which doesn't really suit our game. We worked very hard as a unit and pushed forward when we could but Norwich are a good side when it comes to shutting down the space and at times our players found it difficult to get any passing moves going.

"the players deserve praise for putting in a determined display..."

We had a lot of possession without providing any good through balls to either Iffy Onuora or Neale Fenn. And when your forwards have to pick up loose balls themselves it means there will be few goal scoring chances.

At half time I told the lads they needed to change things round a bit. We needed to stop playing the long ball so much and get it on the deck and hope it did something off of the greasy surface. In the second half we

had plenty of corners and crosses into the box but their two centre halves were on the ball every time. I was itching to get on there myself and get on the end of some of the crosses because Iffy wasn't having a lot of luck, often being marked by two players.

But you have to give credit to Norwich as they worked well as a team and you can certainly see why they are 4th in the League. The big thing for me was that we were missing an injection of real pace. This is where we missed Ty Gooden and George Ndah. When you have players such as these, who can really turn on the speed, you can always get the opposition on the back foot.

Today we can build on that performance as we face Bradford City, another of the League's top sides. With George Ndah available for selection he should give us that extra spark up front that can so often be the difference.

On a more serious note, this week has seen Philippe Cuervo pick up a broken leg in a reserve game against Millwall. I'm sure everybody at the club would like to wish Philippe a quick recovery.

This is our last game before Christmas, so let's get in the festive spirit and make plenty of noise for this important game.

NEXT MATCH

(AWAY) **BARNSELEY**

Sat 19th December 1998



Barnsley are a tough side with some fine individual players, but we'll be going there with confidence and looking to upset the home side.

Today's visitors **BRADFORD CITY**

This evening we welcome the players, supporters and staff of Bradford City Football Club to the County Ground for this Nationwide League Division One game. We hope you all enjoy the game and have a safe journey home afterwards.

When last season drew to a close and supporters looked forward to the start of the 1998/99 campaign, few would have put their money on Bradford City becoming one of the First Division's big spenders during the summer months.

But that's the way it has turned out. Close season arrivals included club record signing Isaiah Rankin - a former Arsenal reserve striker - for £1.3m, Lee Mills from Port Vale for a further £1m and Gareth Whalley from Crewe for £600,000, as well as returns to The Pulse for the likes of Peter Beagrie - from an extended loan period at Everton - and fans' favourite Stuart McCall, on a free from Rangers along with team-mate Stephen Wright.

The Bantams signed off last season with a dismal run of four defeats in five games, including a 5-0 defeat at Crewe, but they have enjoyed a blistering 1998/99 so far, and are lying eighth in the table at the time of writing and looking genuine contenders for a Play-Off place.

A wobbly start to the campaign quickly settled down and the Bantams began punching their weight. A run of just one defeat in 12 games between mid-September and mid-November saw Paul Jewell's side race up the division and confirmed the observation that, going forward at least, they look as good as anyone.

Former Wolves and Derby man Lee Mills leads the scoring charts with 11 League strikes to date, while the likes of Peter Beagrie (6), Robbie Blake (5) and Isaiah Rankin (4) have all added to the firepower.

Several clubs have already felt the full force of Bradford's attack, including Port Vale (lost 4-0), Portsmouth (4-2) and Bristol City (5-0).

The Robins, of course, visited Valley Parade themselves a month ago, and were beaten 3-0 thanks to second-half goals from Beagrie, Nigel Pepper and Wayne Jacobs.

Jimmy Quinn's side will be eager to wipe out memories of that result this afternoon.

Defender:
ANDREW O'BRIEN

Forward:
ISAIAH RANKIN



The team BRADFORD CITY

MARK PRUDHOE

POSITION: **Goalkeeper**

BORN: **08.11.63**

AGE: **34**

HEIGHT: **6ft**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Stoke City**

Appointed the club's goalkeeper coach during the summer and offered a new contract to keep him at Valley Parade until the new millennium. Lost his place first to Australian Robert Zabica and later to new signing Gary Walsh last season. An excellent shot-stopper he cost the club £70,000 in July 1997.

GARY WALSH

POSITION: **Goalkeeper**

BORN: **21.03.68**

AGE: **30**

HEIGHT: **6ft 3in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Middlesbrough**

Signed for City for £500,000 after a successful loan period in October 1997, having previously spent the majority of his career at Manchester United. An England U21 International, he picked up European and domestic honours while at Old Trafford, including the 1991 Cup-Winners' Cup and the 1994 FA Cup. A cool, calm and collected 'keeper, he was voted the Bantams' 'Player of the Year' for last season.

MARK BOWER

POSITION: **Central Defender**

BORN: **23.01.80**

AGE: **18**

HEIGHT: **5ft 10in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **Trainee**

Highly-rated youngster who has come up through the ranks and who made his debut against Norwich in March 1998 at left-back. Happier in the centre of defence, but has yet to figure this year.

JOHN DREYER

POSITION: **Full-back**

BORN: **11.06.63**

AGE: **35**

HEIGHT: **6ft 1in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Stoke City**

Comfortable in the centre, at left-back or in the left side of midfield, John suffered serious foot ligament damage at Christmas 1997 and missed the rest of the campaign. Strong, committed and experienced, he is now back to full fitness.

WAYNE JACOBS

POSITION: **Left-back**

BORN: **03.02.69**

AGE: **29**

HEIGHT: **5ft 9in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Rotherham**

A highly popular member of the Bradford side, Wayne is a dead-ball specialist who loves to push forward from his position at full-back. The captain of the side, he began with Sheffield Wednesday and was signed by the Bantams on a free transfer in August 1994.

DARREN MOORE

POSITION: **Central Defender**

BORN: **22.04.74**

AGE: **24**

HEIGHT: **6ft 2in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Doncaster Rovers**

Nicknamed 'Bruno', this imposing player missed more than five months

of last season with a combination of hamstring and groin injuries, but has returned to fitness this season. Weighing more than 15 stone he is a fearsome opponent for any striker and is powerful in the air and on the ground.

ANDREW O'BRIEN

POSITION: **Central Defender**

BORN: **29.06.79**

AGE: **19**

HEIGHT: **6ft 3in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Trainee**

Versatile man-marker who is nicknamed 'Rash' for his ability to be 'all over' opponents. Happy playing in defence or midfield his mobility and tenacity promise a great future for this home-grown youngster.

LEE TODD

POSITION: **Full-back**

BORN: **07.03.72**

AGE: **26**

HEIGHT: **5ft 5in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Southampton**

Able to play on either flank, Lee failed to establish himself at Southampton having been snapped up from Stockport County in July 1997. He became Paul Jewell's fifth summer signing for the Bantams when he switched to Valley Parade for £250,000 in July 1998.

ASHLEY WESTWOOD

POSITION: **Defender**

BORN: **31.08.76**

AGE: **22**

HEIGHT: **6ft**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Crewe**

A former Man Utd trainee and England U21 International, Ashley is a versatile player, a good reader of the game, and he also tackles well. He cost £150,000 when he moved from Gresty Road in the summer.



The team BRADFORD CITY

Released from Vicarage Road in the summer of 1997, this former England U21 cap is both a strong and determined ball-winner and an accomplished passer of the ball. Likes to push forward and have a go at goal, although has been far from prolific at Valley Parade.

GARETH WHALLEY

POSITION: **Midfield**

BORN: **19.12.73**

AGE: **24**

HEIGHT: **5ft 10in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Crewe**

An influential central midfielder, Gareth was a target for Spurs and Liverpool last season but remained at Gresty Road, where he was club captain. This skilful playmaker followed team-mate Ashley Westwood to Valley Parade in July 1998 for a fee of £600,000, finally following team-mates Robbie Savage (Leicester) and Danny Murphy (Liverpool) out of Gresty Road.

ROBBIE BLAKE

POSITION: **Forward**

BORN: **04.03.76**

AGE: **22**

HEIGHT: **5ft 9in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Darlington**

Mobile and hard-working striker who does a lot of running off the ball to create openings for team-mates. Snapped up by former Bantams' boss Chris Kamara for £300,000, he has signed a new contract keeping him at the club until 2001 and has already nabbed five goals this season.

LEE MILLS

POSITION: **Forward**

BORN: **10.07.70**

AGE: **28**

HEIGHT: **6ft 1in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Port Vale**

The Bradford transfer record tumbled when Lee became City's first million-pound signing in August 1998. Began with Wolves and also played for Derby before moving to Vale Park, scoring the goal which kept Vale in the First Division last season. Sixteen goals in 1997/98 made him the club's leading scorer, before his summer transfer to help balance the books. He has already found the net 10 times in the League this season.

ISAIAH RANKIN

POSITION: **Forward**

BORN: **22.05.78**

AGE: **20**

HEIGHT: **5ft 10in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Arsenal**

Another striker signed this summer, another record fee - this time of £1.3m. Izzy moved from Highbury in August 1998 and opened the season in fine form. Strong and direct, with devastating pace, he scored five in 11 games on loan at Colchester last season and has netted four already for the Bantams.

GORDON WATSON

POSITION: **Forward**

BORN: **20.03.71**

AGE: **27**

HEIGHT: **5ft 10in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Southampton**

A club record buy of £550,000 at the time of his move from The Dell (Jan 1997), Gordon broke his leg in only his third game for his new club and has only this season returned to action. Formerly with Charlton and Sheff Wed, he has won England U21 caps.

Other squad members include:
Daniel Verity (defender); Stephen Wright (right-back); Stuart McCall (midfield); Paul Bolland (midfield); Lawrence Davies (forward); Gareth Grant (forward); Andrew Patterson (forward).

PETER BEAGRIE

POSITION: **Winger**

BORN: **28.11.65**

AGE: **32**

HEIGHT: **5ft 8in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Man City**

Tricky and experienced wide player who is a great favourite with the Bantams' fans. Began with Middlesbrough and also had spells with Sheffield Utd, Stoke, Everton and Sunderland before joining Man City in a £1.1m transfer in March 1994. Moved to Bradford for £50,000 in July 1997, but had seven weeks on loan at Everton last season.

JAMIE LAWRENCE

POSITION: **Winger**

BORN: **08.03.70**

AGE: **28**

HEIGHT: **6ft**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Leicester City**

Versatile right-sided player who has good pace, tremendous ball skills and a strong tackle, making him equally valuable in defence and attack. Loves to run at defenders and has now fully recovered from a depressed cheekbone injury sustained late last season.

CRAIG RAMAGE

POSITION: **Midfield**

BORN: **30.03.70**

AGE: **28**

HEIGHT: **5ft 9in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Watford**

The manager

PAUL JEWELL

Following former manager Chris Kamara's sudden departure in early January 1998, it was to his assistant, Paul Jewell, that the Bantams turned - originally on a temporary basis.

A former striker or midfielder with the club, Liverpool-born Jewell initially filled the manager's chair on a 'caretaker' basis, although the 33-year-old ex-Liverpool and Wigan man made no secret of his desire to take the job on a full-time basis.

His first game in charge coincided with Bradford's first victory of 1998, and only their third win in a run of 14 games stretching back to November 1st 1997. That triumph - by 2-1 - also signalled opponents Stockport's first home defeat in almost 12 months, so it certainly boosted morale around the Pulse Stadium.

City finished the campaign in 13th place - their highest ever League position - and Jewell was promptly awarded a new, two-year contract.

He began his career with Liverpool, before moving to Wigan and scoring 35 goals in 137 League games.

Terry Dolan took him to Bradford for £80,000 and Jewell went on to make 269 League appearances for the Bantams, as well as working as Reserve and first-team coach.



Richard Mackey's... **SWINDON TOWN** dream team...

To start this series, Swindon Town's PR & Media Relations Officer **RICHARD MACKEY** picks his STFC dream team.

Manager: Glenn Hoddle. He may have lost the plot of late, but he is still the man who got us through the biggest game of our lives (Vs Leicester, Play-off Finals) and into the Premier League for the only time in our history.

Formation: A traditional 4-4-2. The legendary Peter Downsborough between the sticks with Taylor and Calderwood providing a formidable defensive line. The two Welsh full-backs will be able to get forward, but must be aware that Walters and Rogers will not relish too much defensive work. Horlock will give the midfield a bit of bite while Hoddle will play a holding role, picking up the ball from defense/ forwards and spreading play with his supreme passing ability. In attack, Quinn will have a field day in the air with service from Rogers and Walters. Quinn will also be using his height and strength to hold up the ball for Fjortoft.

My only concern is that we're a bit lightweight in midfield with no recognised ball-winners. But if all else fails I can bring on Steve White to grab us a penalty in the dying minutes. The thought of Walters, Hoddle and Rogers in the same midfield is a mouth-watering prospect and would surely make this one of the great attacking sides.

ON THE BENCH: Steve White, Nicky Summerbee, John Moncur



WHAT DO YOU THINK? Send your 'Dream Teams' to: Richard Mackey, Swindon Town Football Club, County Road, Swindon, SN1 2ED.

PAGES from the past...

JOHN TROLLOPE WRITES, DEC 1982...

What a cracking pair of matches were provided by the Cup tie against Brentford, a team described by their skipper, Chris Kamara, as the best in Division Three.

It was late in the first half before we made a break through with Russell Lewis heading home Howard Pritchard's corner, but a second followed quickly when Leigh Barnard, who battled bravely against a hamstring injury, chipped over the 'keeper. Many people thought we had let the chance of progressing in the Cup slip when we surrendered a two-goal lead here at the County Ground. The injury of Charlie Henry forced us to reshuffle, and I decided to move Leigh Barnard back to right back and withdraw Paul Rideout to midfield, thus allowing our substitute Jim Quinn to play in his normal position. All credit to Brentford for fighting back to earn a replay but we felt desperately unlucky with Brentford's equaliser only coming in the 89th minute.

Many among the Swindon followers at Griffin Park felt that this was our best performance of the season. I feel we have played well in a lot of away matches but this was perhaps the best result. It was a heavy pitch and after Andy Rowland's goal had taken us into injury time I really thought our fitness began to tell. Even so, until Paul Batty's goal in the last minute, it was only a fine move finished off by Howard Pritchard that separated the teams. The draw was kind enough to give us a home match for Round Three and, if we can overcome Aldershot, there is every hope of a shot at one of the top clubs in a money-spinning tie.

Unfortunately these two matches have seriously depleted our playing strength. Charlie Henry has damaged the ligaments of his right knee and will be out for some time, while Russell Lewis (calf strain) and Paul Batty (swollen ankle) will both be struggling to be fit for today's game. Next week may well see an easing of the club's financial position as four new members are applying to join the Board and will bring with them a considerable injection of cash, if the meeting of shareholders approves the increase of

the size of the Board to 12. Much of the money will be needed to pay off debts but hopefully some of it will be made available to me to strengthen the squad.

Finally a thank you and a request. Thank you to all those agents who sell Moonraker Lottery and the Robins' Gold Bingo tickets. It cannot have been easy to sell tickets after our relegation to Division Four but the funds you raise are even more important. The request? As the festive season approaches I would ask all our supporters not to drink and drive. We have not got that many supporters and we certainly do not want to lose any more.

JOHN TROLLOPE

Quiz question:

In the Cup match against Aldershot mentioned in the article above, two Swindon players scored hat tricks. Who were they?

If you think you know the answer to this question - please send it on a postcard to:

Dick Mattick -

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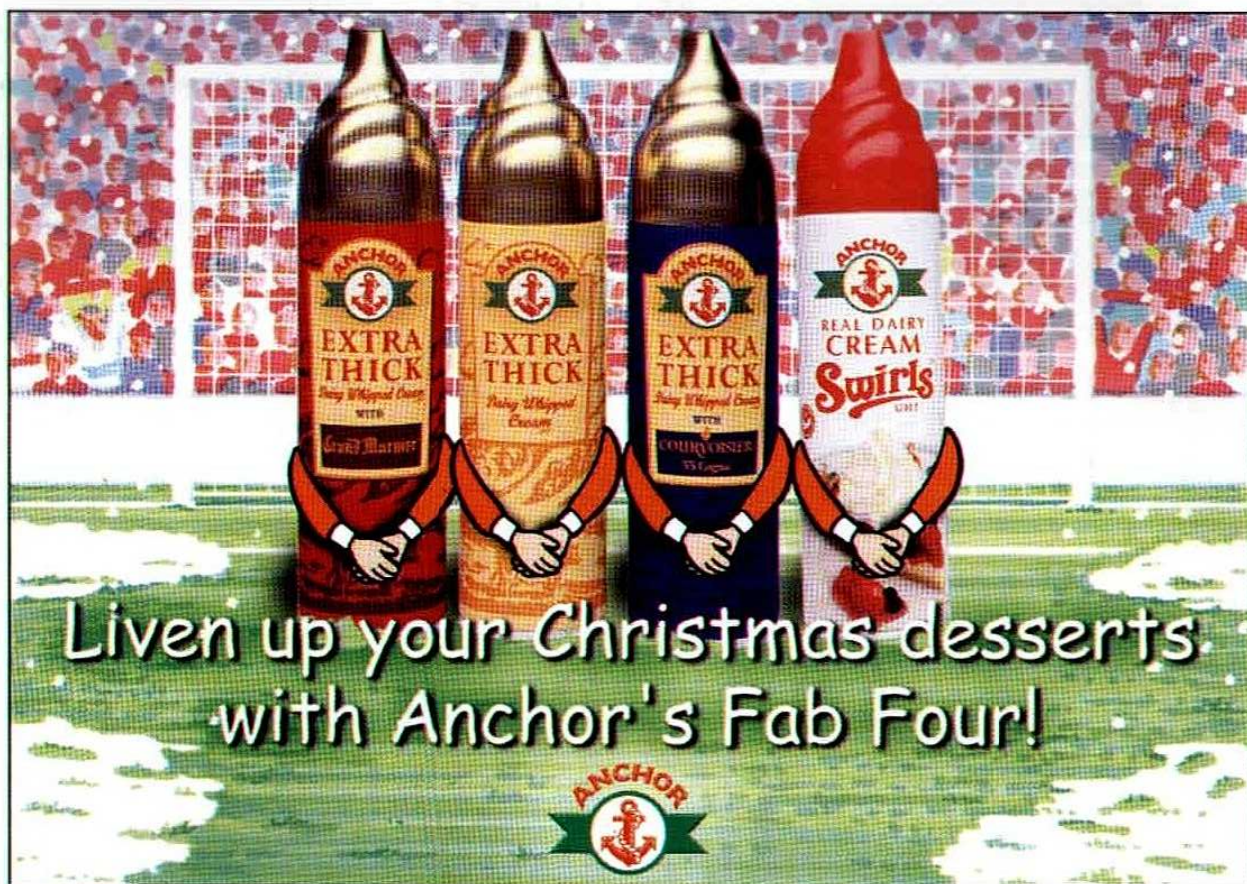
Last game's question

In the 1963-4 FA Youth Cup Final, Swindon played Manchester United. What was the result of the First Leg played at the County Ground and who scored the goals.

Answer...

A 1-1 draw. Don Rogers scored for Swindon and George Best got United's equaliser.

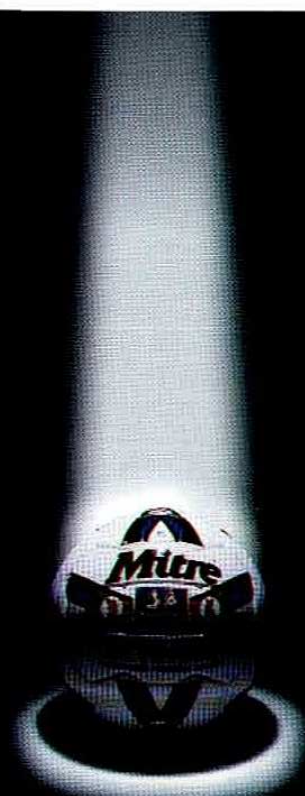
compiled by Dick Mattick



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Mike Walsh's

weekly diary...November

Monday 23rd

After a disappointing display against Bradford away it was nice to get back to winning ways with a great 2-0 victory over Crystal Palace.

With Ty Gooden coming off after a matter of minutes it could easily have gone the other way, but George Ndah set the game on fire when he came on and his performance really got the whole side going. After such a tough game, Jim and myself decided to give the lads a day off. This gave the coaching staff the chance to assess our position with injuries and look ahead to the next few matches. Our next three games are Grimsby, Norwich and Bradford, all sides doing well in the top half of the League. But we feel confident that we are starting to tighten up the defence and that we have plenty of options when we go forward, so there is no reason why we can't get some points from these games.

Tuesday 24th

The players were back in today. After a good two days rest they were refreshed and ready for action.

We pushed them hard in training today with plenty of running. We then rounded this off with a session of ball work. We got the lads in teams of four and got them playing two-touch games on small pitches. This works their touch and keeps them on their toes.

Wednesday 25th

The main event of the day was a reserve trip to Cambridge.

Although reserve football is all about giving the youths a chance to taste the next level up,

these games are also vital for players coming back from injury. Today was Scott Leitch's first game since he suffered a nasty gash to his knee in the home game against QPR. We were delighted to see that 'Leitchy' came through it without a problem. We also won the game 2-1, with manager Jim Quinn scoring his first goal for Swindon since his return to the club.

Thursday 26th

Back to the training ground today and it was a case of getting the lads focussed on Saturday's game.

We stressed to the lads that Grimsby are well known for the defence so we will have to be patient if we want to break them down. We also worked on defensive work and set pieces.

Friday 27th

It is a long journey to Grimsby so we set off at 9.30am.

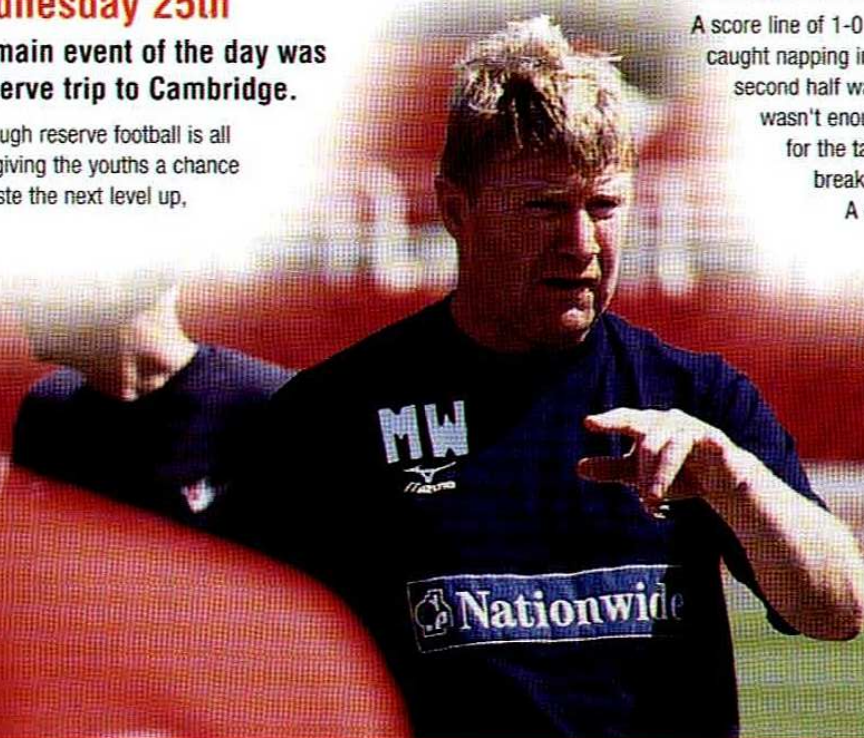
The purpose of this is to get the players at the hotel by the afternoon and hold a training session before dinner. This gives the lads a chance to really stretch their legs and recover from the four-hour journey.

Saturday 28th

Grimsby are a good outfit but we should have beaten them.

A score line of 1-0 demonstrated that we were caught napping in the first ten minutes. The second half was an improved display but it wasn't enough. The home side were there for the taking, but we just couldn't break through.

A disappointing result.



Football round-up

Dave Norris brings you all the latest football news...

First Team Latest

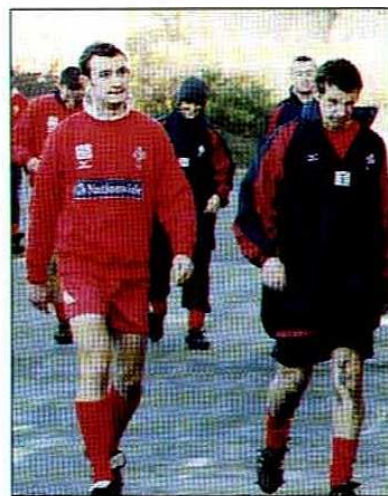
Almost half way through the season now and Jim Quinn is having to dig deep into his squad after a combination of injuries and suspensions.

Just when it looked like the manager was going to enjoy an almost full complement of players, reality bit hard before our last game against Norwich City. George Ndah was out, of course, after picking up his fifth caution of the season against Crystal Palace. Alan Reeves and Dave Kerslake are both frustrated by injuries, whilst Ty Gooden broke down in training the day before the match after giving strong signs of making a quick recovery. Worse was to come this week though as Philippe Cuervo suffered the agony of a broken leg. Philippe has lately given every indication of a return to first-team contention following a mini pre-season fitness regime and his latest set-back will be a severe blow both to him and the manager.

Further restrictions on Jim Quinn's capacity to select his own team look likely soon, as some players, including Craig Taylor and Darren Bullock, have edged that much closer to suspension in

recent games. With a tight, or even non-existent, budget, Town are forced into utilising squad members who will now be looking to cement their opportunity into something longer lasting. Bobby Howe, Chris Hay and - dare we note it - Jim Quinn have now scored five goals between them in the last three reserve games, with the manager mainly playing himself as a centre-back.

With on-loan striker Neale Fenn returning to Spurs after today's game chances will continue to open up for those trying to break into the first team.



"The end of yet another tough training session for the first team players"

"We are forced into utilising squad members who will now be looking to cement their opportunity into something longer lasting."



Reserve Update



One player who is certainly out to impress in this climate is Cheltenham marksman Charlie Griffin.

Griffin has had a number of Nationwide and Premier League club scouts watching him over the past two seasons, which is not all that surprising given that he is currently top scorer in the Screwfix League at the age of just 19. Recent improvements in his overall game has encouraged Jim Quinn to offer him the chance of proving his worth amongst the pro's. Griffin showed some good quality in his first game against Reading (H), although the pace and strength of higher class football clearly took its toll as the game wore on. He did enough, however, to merit a second chance, which he took handsomely, scoring alongside the manager and Chris Hay in our away tie versus Millwall. This was our third Combination victory in as many games, which is a stark turnaround from earlier results.

Perhaps it is our Youth Trainees who will be most encouraged by the improvement in the fortunes of the Reserves. Not only are they being offered the chance to play with the pro's and gain vital experience, but Jim Quinn's direct involvement certainly looks to be a factor in adding greater significance to the games. Sam Campagna and Frazer McHugh's recent call-ups for the first team shows which direction the talent appears to be moving, which can only be heartening for the rest of the YT's.

Youth Team News

The betterment of the Reserves and the competition amongst the YTs to get into that squad may be lending itself to a similar improvement with the youths' own Leagues.

Three victories on the bounce against Brentford, Bournemouth and Southend have seen the 'A' team rise up the South East Counties League where they now occupy 10th spot. Particularly pleasing for manager Tom Jones will be the ease by which his players are now finding the net. The majority of the season has been frustrating for the 'A' team in front of goal, but in the last two games seven goals have been scored by five different players, including a brace each for 1st year YT Danny Jeffery and top scorer Nicky Burke. Danny's display was all the more impressive for being a second-half substitute, whilst Nicky's made it four goals in his last three games for Town.

For boss Tom Jones this upturn has come on the back of some pointed training sessions in which he demanded more ruthlessness of his players, particularly the strikers: "We're moving nicely up the League now and it's good to see the side finishing the chances. We've made a hell of a lot of chances all season and ended up getting beaten when we were possibly the better side. All of sudden we're taking the opportunities and learning that you win games if you finish your chances". He will be looking for more of the same in this Wednesday's Times FA Youth Cup at home to Leeds United.

The 'B' team in the South West Counties League have also shown some promising signs of improvement, capped by their

3-2 victory over Cardiff who had up until then remained unbeaten. The 'B' team comprises of our 1st year YTs along with Under-16 schoolboys who hope to be taken on as YTs next year. Within days, they faced Cardiff again, this time at home. Pick of the bunch was right-back Paul Andersen, who topped off a terrific display by scoring a goal in a 3-1 defeat. Meanwhile the 'C' team, which understudies the 'B' team in the local Wilts League, has been forced out of action lately because of poor pitch conditions. They returned to the fray this week at Downton in south Wiltshire. This match represented a very welcome return for Karl Robinson, our 2nd year YT who has forced himself back into the fold after a massive five month lay off as a result of injury. Karl will be looking to return to full fitness as soon as possible and show his worth in the six months remaining of his traineeship.



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the **GRIPTON** factor

By our matchday announcer JON GRIPTON of BBC Wiltshire Sound

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND

103.6, 104.3 & 103.5 FM



I couldn't have been happier as I drove home from the County Ground last Saturday.

Nothing to do with the fact that we'd just held one of the division's highfliers to a one-all draw with what most admit was a below-par performance. Nor was it anything to do with meeting Norwich director Delia Smith (well, I had to get a cookbook autographed for my mum, didn't I!). No, it was in my car as I tuned in to my mate Shaun Hodgetts on BBC Wiltshire Sound that I started to smile. Non-league Stevenage knocked out of the FA Cup - and not just beaten but knocked into submission. Four goals to one.

You'll forgive me for thinking they got their just deserves, I'm sure. For anyone who was here at Swindon a year ago will still wince at the slightest mention or memory of **THAT** day. Remember the icy wind and rain? Remember the slow walk out of the ground? For some,

the pain of defeat is still etched indelibly on the brain. But next month we can start again - with a great chance to make this season **OUR** season in football's greatest competition. We can beat Barnsley on January 2nd - especially if we pack the County Ground to capacity.

So some of football's executives are in a stew about a certain lager advert. You've probably seen the poster (I'm not naming the company - that'd be playing right into their hands!). It has a defensive wall lined up to face a free kick - but rather than the players' names on their shirts, the words are **WOMANISER**, **CHEAT**, **DRUNK** and the like.

The powers that be at the PFA think the advert is degrading and portrays their players in a bad light. They should credit us with a sense of humour and irony, shouldn't they?

Enjoy the game.

This is your chance to join an exciting new venture **the official S.T.F.C.** **SUPPORTERS' CLUB**

Following on from our notes last week we would again ask any interested supporter to contact us if they have an interest and wish to be involved in the formation and organisation of the Official Supporters Club.

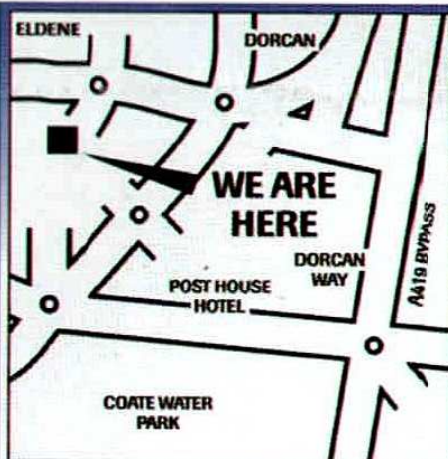
We are particularly looking for individuals who may take on roles such as membership secretary or treasurer. The contact point is listed below.

We are currently investigating and considering the idea of opening an Official Website page and as at this point in time planning is at its infancy stage, we would welcome ideas on format and also what information supporters would like to see. You may already **E-MAIL** us with your thoughts and ideas on: **STFCOSC@HOTMAIL.COM** or alternatively write to the contact point below.

In our last notes we advised you of a meeting of The Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire satellite group on **8th December** and we will bring a report on this evening in the near future. Meanwhile may we advise you that the Disabled Supporters group meet every first Tuesday in the month at the County Ground and if you have not already attended and wish to participate the group and Chairman **Tony Bedford** will be pleased to see you.

Tony may be found on matchdays at the front of the **North Stand**. The meetings are of an informal nature with generally around 15/20 attending, usually there is a guest speaker from the Football Club e.g. **Steve Sutherland**. One development area for the disabled under consideration is the provision of an arrangement for away travel.

The contact point for any of the above should you wish to write is **David Taylor c/o STFC** at the **County Ground**.



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STFC official photographers

tel: 01793 848655

spoke@cartwheel.demon.co.uk

cartwheel

TREATMENT room

Nobody likes to be injured. This is a fact about professional footballers that will never change, and it means the Treatment Room is often a depressing place where players hate to be.

However, the mood has improved of late because a number of lads are getting closer to full fitness.

Experienced defender **Alan Reeves** has worked hard over a number of weeks to shake of his ankle injury and it looks like he's now over the worst. We are hoping he will be fit for a reserve game on Wednesday. He has been taking part in head tennis, distance running, and 200- and 400-metre work. He has shown no problem with these, which is good news for the lad.

Phil King is continuing to build up his fitness with plenty of track work. Like **Alan Reeves**, he is doing lots of 200- and 400-metre running.

Jimmy Glass is on-line to a speedy recovery. He has tested his knee in the pool by 'treading water' and using weights. He is now back enjoying some functional goalkeeping work, which means he is very close to getting himself back in action.

The most disappointing news of last week was, of course, that **Philippe Cuervo** has broken his leg in a reserve game. He has broken his fibula and has some instability in his ankle, which has received surgery. There is no way of putting a time scale on how long he will be out, but it will be a long-term injury. We're sure that everyone at the club wishes **Philippe** a speedy recovery.

Bobby Howe was brought off after picking up a groin strain in the reserve game against Reading. **Bobby** shouldn't be held up too long by this as he is already rowing, running, playing head tennis, and doing some stretches.

Finally we move on to **Ty Gooden**. He was kept out of the Norwich game by the groin strain that has troubled him over the last two weeks. We have sent him off to the Lillishall Centre for some special treatment to aid his recovery. **Ty** will spend a few days at Lillishall so he can benefit from the latest medical equipment that a club of Swindon's size cannot afford. This centre is provided by the PFA and each professional club is entitled to a number of placements there each year. They will be working on making the hamstring stronger by using a number of different treatments. In terms of psychology, the centre also gives **Ty** a change of scenery away from distractions, where he can work hard and get himself fit.



ALAN REEVES

COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome to today's game, the last one before Christmas.

Firstly, we would like to extend a warm and festive welcome to John Cima and his group from **Minety Juniors under 11s**. They are here as our Saturday Team Club, so let's hope they bring us luck and help Swindon Town bag the three points.

You may have seen in the Evening Advertiser this week the picture of Jim Quinn, Jon Holloway and myself with a cheque for £1,400. This money was raised at a penalty shoot-out where **150 Wroughton Junior School** pupils took part. The youngsters raised this great sum of money with profits being shared between us and **Wroughton Juniors**. Teacher **Leigh Woolard** did a fantastic job helping us organise the event and a good time was had by all. If you think your school would like to hold a similar event please give us a ring on 01793 421303.

As we mentioned in our last programme notes, we have been busy coaching in a number of local primary schools. Pictured below are the youngsters from **Goddard Park Juniors** who enjoyed a fun-packed morning at the end of November. Jon and I are hoping to continue these sessions in the New Year at local primary schools.



We are well on the way to organising our first course of 1999, scheduled for February. Details are available from the County Ground Main Reception, in the **Arkells Stand**, and we are sure this young man, **Kevin Brack**, will be on the course, seen here with Jon and I back in October (pictured top right). **Kevin** has not yet missed a single course in the 2 1/2 years we have been in charge of the Community Office. Well done **Kevin**!



And finally it's a case of third time lucky for **George Sealey** pictured below with his friends celebrating his 6th birthday back in November. **George** had a great time with us, but we are sorry we got your surname wrong.



Jon and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very merry Christmas.

Festive Greetings

Clive & Jon



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&

The

R's

WITH HELEN MERCER



I have stopped wishing for better weather. It may be something to do with the fact it's December, but nobody is listening!

I even asked Jem, our groundsman, for an up-to-date weather report and he promised me it wouldn't rain on Saturday - and guess what, it rained and I got wet. (It will be snow next!!!)

I hope you are all wrapping up well on the cold December afternoons. Please spare a thought for the ballboys and ballgirls this afternoon; they do an amazing job and the game just wouldn't be the same without them, but they sit by the pitch for 90-plus minutes, ever vigil, so give them a cheer when they greet you this afternoon - it may keep them warm for a little longer.

If you were listening to 'Radio Robin' last Friday, you will have heard a slightly different show than usual. I think everything we said went wrong! It was good fun though and my claim to fame now is that I was there when Shaun Hodggets couldn't speak for laughing on radio! (I am reliably informed this has



never happened before, so it's another first for Radio Robin!). We also called a few of you. One or two were not in but the Jr that had us all welling up was Jordan Barnes. Jordan is only five and he sang 'Singing out for Swindon', not a word went wrong and in tune all the way! You are a star, Jordan! We will hopefully be seeing him collect his prize this afternoon along with his brother Craig, as well as Roxanne Young who also sang for us! Thank you to you all for joining in on Radio Robin.

Christmas is coming and I love the feeling you get with all the exciting things that are happening, parties and concerts, and the Christmas lights when you're trudging through town - my postbag is getting heavier with bookings for the Swindon Town 'Jack and the Beanstalk' panto. It's on Monday 21st December at 2.00pm and there are still places available - so be quick!

The famous STFC Jr's & R's disco is also filling up thick and fast. This is on Wednesday 23rd December at 7.30pm - come and have a dance with Funky!

If you wish to book either of these dates, please pick up a form from the Superstore.

MATCHDAY MASCOTS

Our mascots for today are two lucky Junior members, Ryan McCarthy and Jason Lincoln. They attend the soccer training for the Jr's on a Monday evening at the Oasis. We held a competition and Ryan won the younger group heat and Jason won the older age group heat, so well done to both and have a wonderful afternoon!



< JASON LINCOLN

is nine years old and attends Holy Family School. His hobbies are golf, swimming and, of course, football. Chris Hay is Jason's favourite player.



< RYAN MCCARTHY

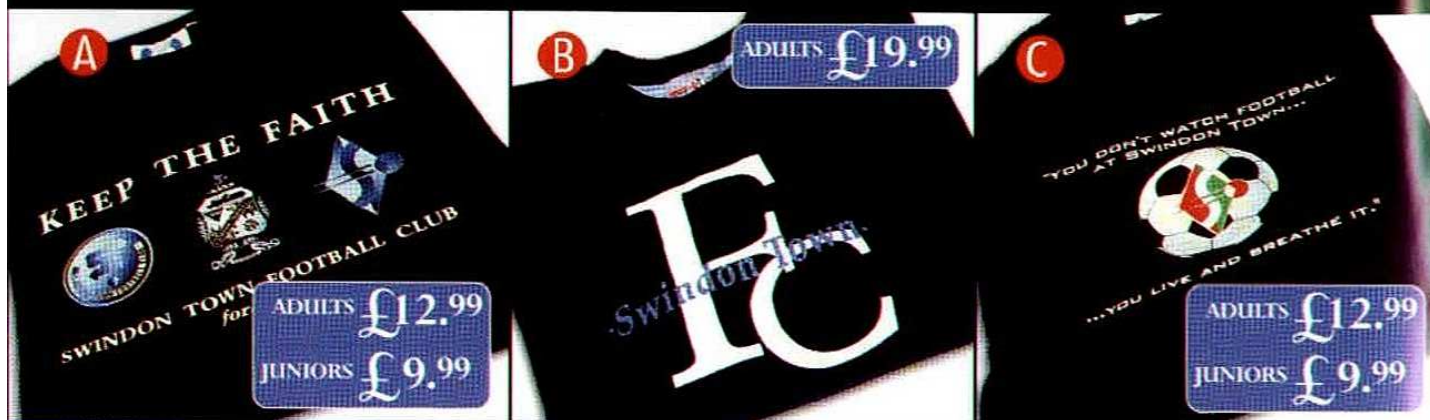
is five years old (he will be six on Monday) and attends Beechcroft Infants and his hobbies are football and speedway. Ryan's favourite player is George Ndah.

If you fancy being a Swindon Town Mascot, give me a call on **01793 532121** and I will send you all the details. You can get 10% off if you are a member.

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Black No: 683 ADULTS, 684 JUNIORS.

B Navy, CK Style Sweater, Adult Sizes Only S,M,L,XL,XXL
Code No: 970 ADULTS.

C Navy or Black, Live & Breathe it T-Shirt, Adult Sizes S,M,L,XL, Junior Sizes I,J.
Navy No: 961 ADULTS, 720 JUNIORS.
Black No: 960 ADULTS, 719 JUNIORS.

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BAGS**

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OPENING HOURS:
MON - FRI: 9.00AM - 6.00PM
SATURDAY: 10.00AM - 4.00PM
MATCHDAYS: 9.00AM - KICK - OFF
& AFTER THE MATCH

Looking ahead

Your essential guide to the next three Swindon games



AWAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
SATURDAY 19 DEC
3.00PM KICK-OFF

The Lowdown

After an exhilarating season in the Premiership, Barnsley have fallen back into the First Division with a number of changes.

The most obvious one is the departure of Danny Wilson and the appointment of the untried John Hendrie. Barnsley currently sit in comfortable mid-table but, after a taste of the big time, fans are hungry for more. Hendrie has brought in Robbie Van Der Laan and Kevin Richardson to strengthen midfield. They had a poor start to the season, but are now picking up the points.

A Reason to Watch

Swindon have had disappointing away form all season, so the team will be determined to turn that around by picking up some points at the South Yorkshire side.

The Connection

Town defender Mark Robinson played at Barnsley from 1986 to 1993. Such was his form while at the club that he was soon snapped up by Newcastle for £450,000.

Quinn's Verdict

I'll be looking for the players to show a bit more determination in this game. Barnsley are a good side with plenty of experience and youth. If we win the battle in midfield we stand a good chance of getting something.

Latest Ticket News

500 tickets are available in advance. Adults are priced at £15.00, concessions and juniors £9.00. On the day of the game all tickets will be priced at £15.00, so make sure you get your concession tickets in advance. We will have five pairs of disabled places at £10.00 for wheelchairs and £10.00 for a helper.



HOME

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
SATURDAY 26 DEC
3.00PM KICK-OFF

The Lowdown

Wolves are one of the sides tipped to go up and, with players like Irish wonderboy Robbie Keane, this is no surprise.

But they have been in this predicament season after season and they always miss out. Sir Jack Hayward has ploughed millions into the club without realising his dream: to see his beloved Wolves in the top flight. This has led to an air of desperation around Molineux, proved by the succession of managers who have come and gone. Nevertheless, they sit just below the play-off places so they have everything to play for.

A Reason to Watch

We gave Wolves a few worries away from home at the start of the season.

With home advantage we should be looking for a Christmas win. It will also be an ideal chance to burn off all the calories put on the day before!

The Connection

Star man Mark Walters spent a period at Wolves. Lucky for us they didn't keep him and he was soon banging in the goals for the County Ground faithful.

Quinn's Verdict

A tough Christmas period is made harder when you have to face the likes of Wolves, but it is all about confidence. As I've said before, we have nothing to fear when we play sides like this. We should let teams worry about us and with Walters, Ndah and Onuora fit we will be looking to give the fans a present of three points.

Latest Ticket News

Tickets are now on sale for this match. Due to the large demand for tickets to this game all free kids' tickets must be brought with an accompanying adult. Please keep your ticket stubs from this match for possible FA Cup Third Round Tie.



AWAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
MONDAY 28 DEC
12.00PM KICK-OFF

The Lowdown

Director of Coaching, Benny Lennartsson, has not had the easiest of starts since his take-over of Bristol City.

They have been on the receiving end of some real thumpings but have recently turned over Sheffield United 2-0. So they could be hitting a run of form as we enter the busy Christmas period. Local derbies are always special games. The home encounter was a real belter; this promises to be just the same.

A Reason to Watch

A Bristol derby always throws up a few moments of drama.

At the County Ground we were down to ten men and had a blood-drenched 'keeper between the sticks. Who knows what this game will produce?

The Connection

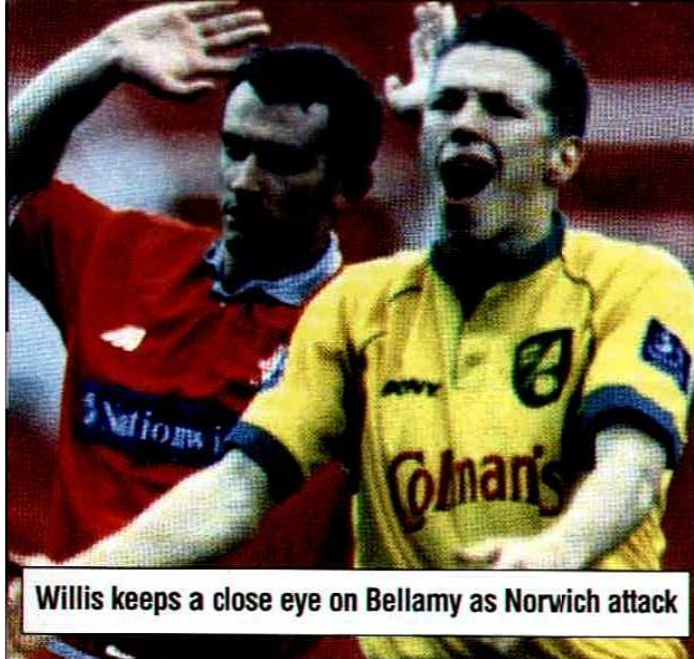
Swindon youth Alex Meechan is now plying his trade at City, and obviously big Shaun Taylor is a favourite with their home fans.

Quinn's Verdict

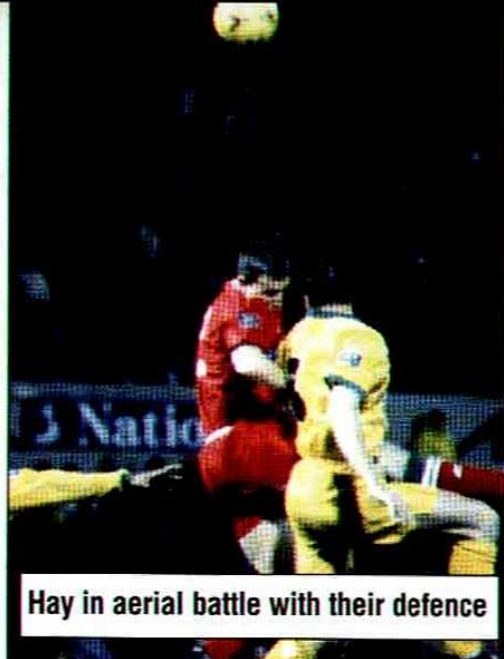
They are a club desperate for points at the moment, so it is going to be a hard encounter. They have plenty of pace in attack so we'll have our work cut out at the back. But we've beaten them once this year and we can do it again. We are hoping for plenty of vocal support, so who not make the trip down the M4?

Latest Ticket News

This match is ALL TICKET for Swindon supporters. 1,700 tickets are available for this match, these are priced at Adults £14.00, OAPs and students £11.00, and Juniors £9.00. This area of seating is unreserved, but all seats have no backs to them.



Willis keeps a close eye on Bellamy as Norwich attack



Hay in aerial battle with their defence



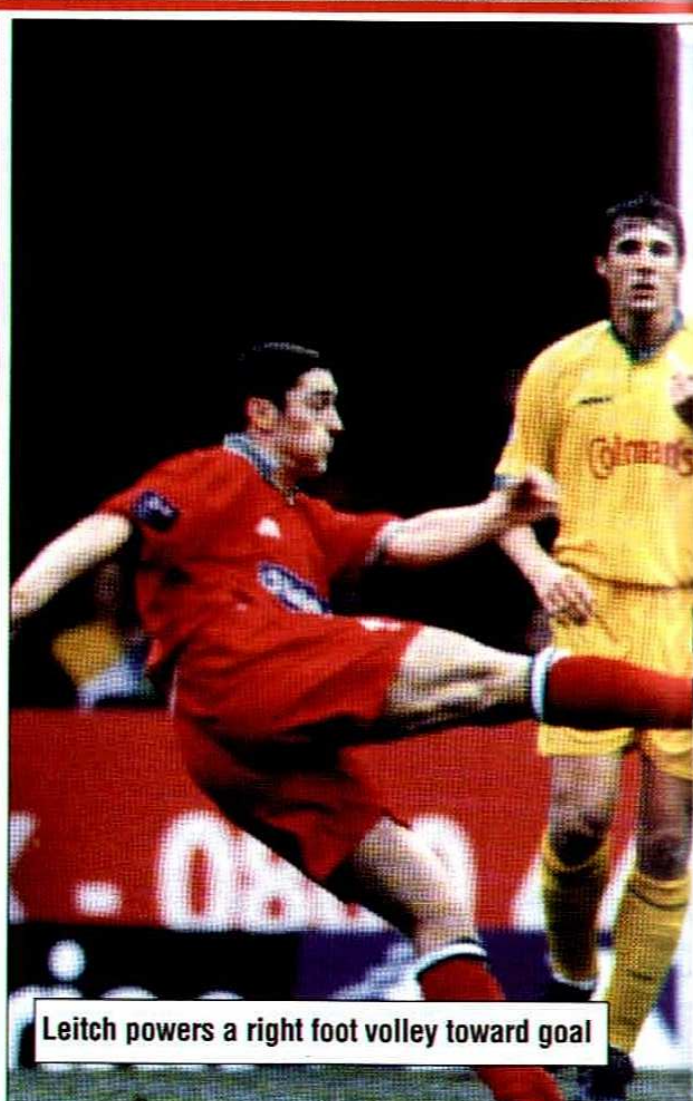
Fenn tries



SWINDON 1 NORWICH



Reeves shows Roberts there is no way through the defence



Leitch powers a right foot volley toward goal



to keep balance as he moves away from his marker



TEAM LINE UP

- 1 FRANK TALIA
 - 2 MARK ROBINSON
 - 3 GARETH HALL
 - 4 SCOTT LEITCH
 - 5 ADAM WILLIS
 - 6 BRIAN BORROWS ★
 - 7 MARK WALTERS
 - 8 KEVIN WATSON
 - 9 IFFY ONUORA
 - 10 NEALE FENN
 - 11 SOL DAVIS
-
- 12 CHRIS HAY (FENN 76)
 - 13 DARREN BULLOCK (WALTERS 70)
 - 14 CRAIG TAYLOR (HALL 78)

MAN OF THE MATCH

★ BRIAN BORROWS ★



Today Brian Borrows makes his 600th League appearance and, on last week's display, it would appear the skipper has plenty of games left in him yet. He made some timely

tackles, played the ball out of defence well, and organised those around him. An outstanding display from the veteran.

HANDY HINTS

The Rough Guide To Away Travel



Club: Barnsley

Nickname:
Tykes/Colliers

Ground:
Oakwell Ground,
Barnsley, S71 1ET

Phone: 01226 211211
Ticket Office: 01226 211211

Capacity:
19,020 (all seats)

Car parking:
Queen's Ground car park

Coach parking:
Queen's Ground car park

Away supporters' entrance:
Spion Kop Stand,
Entrance 41 to 47

Bite to eat:
From the ground you are 500 yards walk from the city centre and all the usual eateries. Or you could try the Metrodome at the top of the Away Car Park.

Post-match drink:
It is advised you stay clear of the pubs near the ground. The pubs in surrounding villages are best. Try the Longwood Hotel (two miles from ground)

If you get there early:
Not much to do in Barnsley other than check out the famous old pit shaft.

TICKET OFFICE OPENING

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday (non-match days)
10.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday (match days) 9.00am -
Kick-off & 15 mins after match.

MATCHDAY TICKET OFFICE

Saturday (match days)
11.00am - half time
Midweek (match days)
5.30pm - half time

Tickets for home matches go on general sale 4 weeks before the match

Ticket Office
01793 529000
Fax Hotline
01793 431887

Make sure you book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.



TRAVEL NEWS

TRAVEL CLUB

TEL: 01672 540330
(BARNES COACHES)



BARNSELY

SATURDAY 19 DEC
3.00PM KICK-OFF

DEPART COUNTY GROUND: 9.30AM

Adult Fare: £ 12.00

Under-16 Fare: £ 10.00

All coaches start at Aldbourne with scheduled pick-ups en route including Ashington Way (for West Swindon) and Cirencester when travelling north. Please ask for these options and times when booking.

All coaches are either Executive or Luxury standard and for added comfort for our travellers, we enforce our **NON SMOKING** policy on board.

Our stewards are happy to serve a selection of drinks and snacks throughout your journey. On longer journeys we will offer on-board entertainment as well.

BRISTOL CITY



MONDAY 28 DEC
3.00PM KICK-OFF

DEPART COUNTY GROUND: 12.30PM

Adult Fare: £6.00

Under-16 Fare: £4.00

Huge reductions available with our unbeatable Travel Club Season Ticket Offer - Please ask for details. Membership is still only £1.00 per person.

Please make sure you book right now at: Old Promotions Office (opposite County Ground) Entrance open every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 7.00pm until 8.45pm & every matchday until 20 minutes before kick-off.

24-HOUR ANSWERPHONE
booking available on: (01793) 611499.

S.A.S. TRAVEL

TEL: 01793 825935
(24-HOUR SERVICE)



BARNSELY

Depart WEST SWINDON: 9.15AM

Depart COUNTY GROUND: 9.30AM

Depart ERMIN STREET: 9.45AM

Adult Fare: £ 12.00

Under-15 Fare: £ 10.50



BRISTOL CITY



Depart COUNTY GROUND: 9.45AM

Depart ERMIN STREET: 10.00AM

Depart WEST SWINDON: 9.45AM

Adult Fare: £5.00

Under-15 Fare: £4.00

- Match Tickets available when booking coach travel
- All major credit/debit cards accepted
- Hostess service hot/cold drinks and light refreshments
- All coaches non-smoking
- Statutory NO ALCOHOL rule applies

COUNTY GROUND BOOKING OFFICE

(Former Promotions Office, off County Road)

Tel: (01793) 536757

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 10.00am - 2.00pm
Thursday evenings 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Saturday Matchdays 1.30pm - 2.45pm
Wednesday Matchdays 6.30pm - 7.30pm



CHRISTMAS AT



**SWINDON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB**



CHRISTMAS EVE DISCO

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY IN THE STFC WINNERS LOUNGE

FREE ENTRY (NO UNDER 14'S)

AND A LATE BAR UNTIL 12.15AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

**CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR IN STYLE BY
COMING DOWN TO THE WINNERS**

DISCO AND LIVE COMEDY

£10 ENTRY (NO UNDER 14'S)



WHAT'S on at swindon



a look at what's on at the County Ground

'MCGONIGLE OF THE ARCTIC'...

Last Friday, 4th December, the Swindon Town 'Winners' Lounge saw the screening of the video McGonigle of the Arctic.

This 30-minute documentary, shown on Central TV in August, has won an award at the Flagstaff International Film & Video Festival in Arizona in the 'Motivational' category. The documentary featured Geoffrey McGonigle's successful trip to the Magnetic North Pole and Central TV gave permission for this to be shown. All proceeds went to Geoffrey's nominated charity 'Children in Need' and we raised £110 on the night. Thank you to all who attended and that helped on the night, and a special thanks to Geoffrey, whose courage and determination to succeed, should be an inspiration to us all.

I NEED A LIFT!!!

Paul Warren has asked if anyone would be able to give him a lift to the Wolves game on Boxing Day from either Lincoln, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leicester or Peterborough.

Paul is happy to pay petrol money and can be contacted on 01526 833490 between 8am and 1.30pm Monday to Friday.

CHRISTMAS AT SWINDON...

There will be a Christmas Eve Disco in the Winners Lounge on the 24th of December. Entry will be free and the bar will be open until 12.15am.

There will also be a New Year's Eve Disco in the Winners Lounge with live comedy. This is priced at £10.

EVENING ADVERTISER PRESENTATION...

Evening Advertiser reporter Matt Reeder is seen here presenting manager Jim Quinn with a special edition print of the 'Adver's' front page the day Jim joined Swindon Town Football Club.

Jim said: "I'm delighted with this picture, it will look very nice on the wall in my office!"



MORE RADIO ROBIN WINNERS...

Pictured here are Daniel Mindock and Matthew Greenaway being presented with prizes from Ty Gooden and Mark Robinson after the two youngsters took part in a live 'sing-a-long' on BBC Wiltshire Sound's Radio Robin.



LATE NIGHT SHOPPING...

Fill your stockings with STFC goodies this Christmas by coming down to the Swindon Superstore late-night shopping event.

The evening will take place on Thursday 17th December. This will include free mulled wine and mince pies. Special offers on the ideal presents for Swindon fans include £5 off all Mizuno footwear, a chance to meet Jim Quinn and players, Salvation Army Brass Band, local band Kramer performing Christmas Carols, and of course Santa Claus will be dropping in!

The Advance Ticket Office will also be open until 8pm so it's also an ideal chance to buy your matchday tickets for the League game against Wolves (26/12/98) and the FA Cup tie against Barnsley (2/1/99). It is expected to be a busy night in the Superstore so get down early to avoid the queues.

SWINDON TOWN CAROL SERVICE...

The STFC Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 16th December 1998 at 6.30pm at Christchurch Old Town.

The event will feature a performance from the Swindon Town Youth Team and a special Swindon Town carol written by the Reverend Stevenette. After the service there will be mince pies and music in the Winners Lounge at the County Ground.

GOLDEN HARVEST SELLERS NEEDED...

Do you think you could sell the winning 'Golden Harvest' ticket?

If so, please call Simone Wright on 01793 532121 for further details.

Suthers SAYS

**"It would appear
that this fear of mine
is fast becoming a
reality!"**

Steve Sutherland: Director of Commercial Activities

One of the news stories receiving a lot of column inches this week is that of the apparent unrest in the Premier League camp over the appointment of two former BSKyB executives, Sam Chisholm and David Chance, as media advisors.

Apparently a significant number of Clubs have protested to the Premier League that these appointments could lead to compromising conflict-of-interest accusations, as Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance were both recently appointed to the boards of Tottenham Hotspur and Sunderland respectively. The nervousness shown by the protesting clubs is caused by the fact that the next big revolution in football will be when the Premier League and Football League television contracts are next renewed. I have previously mentioned the impending Office of Fair

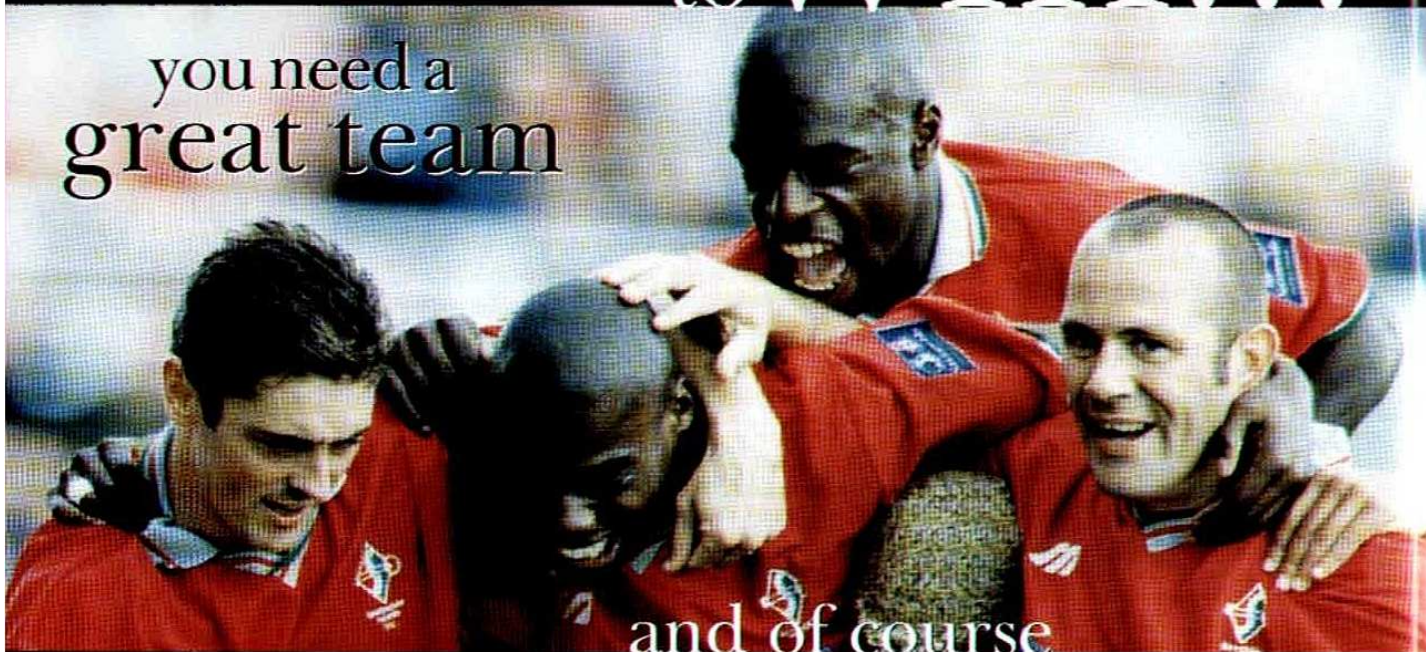
Trading decision on collective selling of television rights and the possible devastating effect a negative decision would have on the Football League. This, coupled with the proposed take-over of Manchester United by BSKyB, highlights the fact that with regard to television matters the 'waters are getting very muddled'. Some of you may remember the furore when the very first television deal with the Premier League was announced back in 1992. Spurs' Chairman, Alan Sugar, received criticism in some quarters for championing the acceptance of BSKyB's offer because, as Chairman of Amstrad who are major suppliers of satellite dishes, there was (that phrase again) 'a conflict of interest'. If it was bad then, it is many times worse now. What this does highlight to me, though, is how difficult a job it is to be involved in running a League, be it the Premier League or the Football League, I know from my own eight years

experience that balancing the interests of 92 diverse businesses is a thankless task and being fair to everyone is a constant battle. On the face of it, appointing two well-respected television specialists to advise the League makes absolute sense, but finding people who are not linked with either a Club or a possible television partner of the League is almost impossible. At the time of writing, it is reported that Peter Leave is even considering resigning his position as Chief Executive of the Premier League over this whole matter of appointing specialist advisors and this is disappointing to hear. There were many times, especially towards the end of my time at the Football League, when I felt that the Clubs were becoming ungovernable as self interest ruled. It would appear that this fear of mine is fast becoming a reality!



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By Colin Benson

ENGLAND Brian Kidd's decision to end his 30-year association with Manchester United adds credence to the view, of which I am in agreement, that when Alex Ferguson does eventually retire from his management seat it will be another former Old Trafford legend who takes over the reigns at Manchester United, not Kidd.

The smart money is on former Manchester United and England captain Bryan Robson who has gone one better than Kidd (who has been Fergie's number two) by showing his capabilities as a number one with Middlesbrough. United, of course, will be ever indebted to Brian who, as a teenager, scored in their European Cup Final win over Benfica at Wembley in 1968. He has been responsible not only for backing up his manager but for restructuring the whole of United's youth policy - and the proof of his success is seen today in the first team line-up.

It seems incredible that Brian is now 50 and possibly he surmises that time is running out if he is to prove himself as a manager.

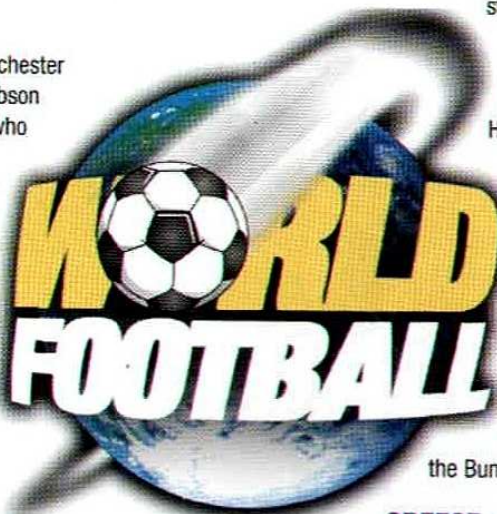
FRANCE The French press made a big deal of Lens' Champions League victory over Arsenal at Wembley last month. It was not so much the fact that they won which captured the headlines but the fact that they accused the Gunners of 'cheating'.

Now this is totally un-British and when directed at Arsenal, whose reputation in this respect has been impeccable since they moved from Woolwich, it is striking at the heart of English sporting integrity. The first to put the boot in was Lens' coach Daniel Leclercq - they call him 'The Druid' - who said "to have an attitude like the English has at this level is simply lousy. You hear a lot about British fair play. The word I have for it is 'cheating'".

You can't help smiling can you... "An attitude like the English?". The Druid obviously has not noticed that Arsenal is now under the direction of a French coach,

Arsene Wenger, and that more than half the team that played Lens were foreign imports. As a footnote it is interesting to reflect that Cyril Rool, who has a reputation as the hard man of Lens, was cautioned in this game. It was the Frenchman's 49th yellow card.

He has been sent off eight times too and he is still only 23!



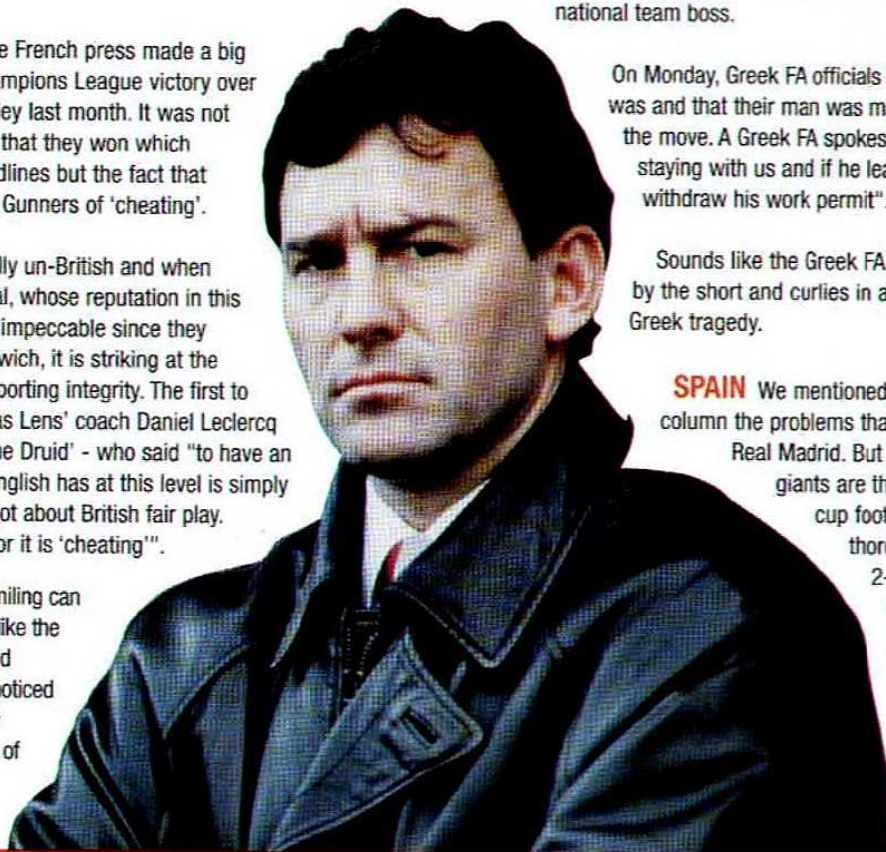
GERMANY Former Leeds United favourite Tony Yeboah put an end to Habury SV's dismal run of six games without a win with a sparkling hat-trick in a 3-0 win against bottom of the table Borussia Moenchengladbach. Bayern Munich, 2-0 winners over Nuremberg, and Bayer Leverkusen, who beat MSV Duisburg 2-0 (one of the goals was netted by the Brazilian Emerson who was formerly with Middlesbrough) are beginning to pen up a gap at the top of the Bundesliga First Division.

GREECE On Sunday, AEK Athens proudly announced the appointment of Anghel Pordanescu as team manager. It was a big surprise to most AEK fans as the former Romanian World Cup coach was thought to be the current Greek national team boss.

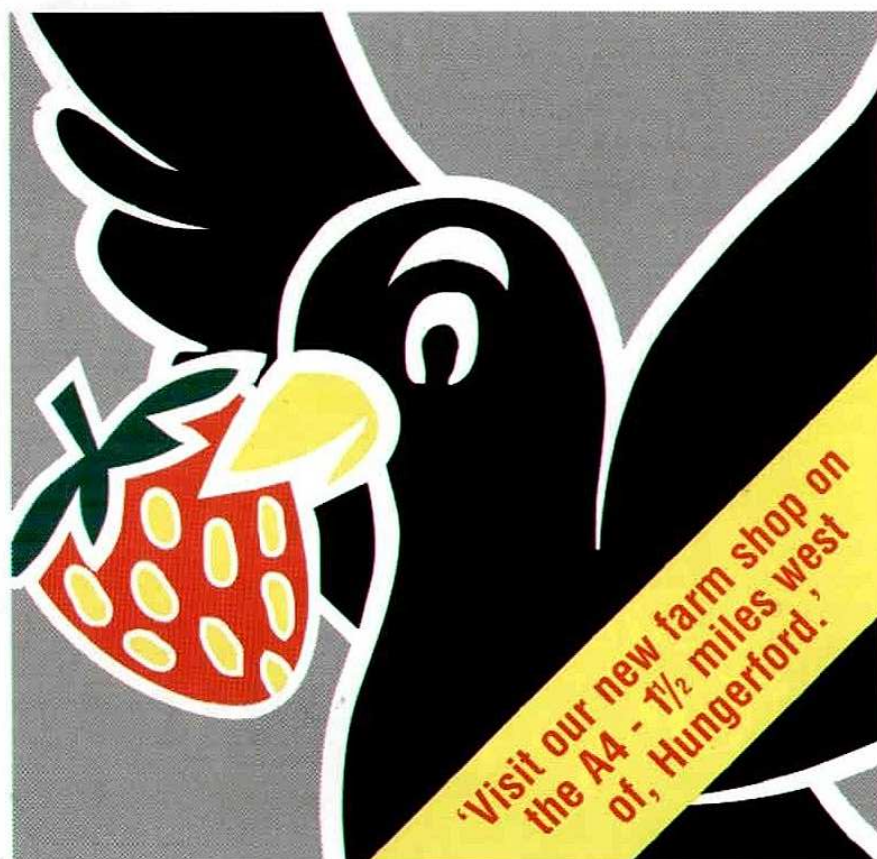
On Monday, Greek FA officials told the media he was and that their man was most certainly not on the move. A Greek FA spokesman said "He's staying with us and if he leaves we will withdraw his work permit".

Sounds like the Greek FA have Pordanescu by the short and curles in another Greek tragedy.

SPAIN We mentioned last week in this column the problems that are engulfing Real Madrid. But now the Spanish giants are the kings of world cup football after a thoroughly deserved 2-1 victory in Tokyo over South American club champions Vasco da Gama in the Inter-Continental Cup final.



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the BUSINESS



mark hillier: corporate sales manager

A warm welcome to everyone, and on behalf of the Marketing Team, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Highclose Farm Enterprises & Co Ltd and run a large 'Pick Your Own' fruit and vegetables enterprise and farm shop situated on the A4 just one mile west of Hungerford.

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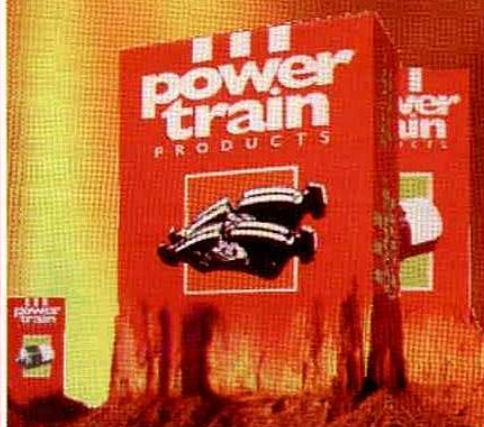
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TOON BAD BOYS ARE BACK

Newcastle United, the stockmarket-listed Premier League football club, has been thrown into turmoil in the wake of the resignation of its chairman and financial advisor.

The resignations follow the controversial re-appointment of Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd, the directors who whipped up a storm of protest earlier in the year by criticising Newcastle fans and ridiculing leading players at the club. Mr Hall and Mr Shepherd's reinstatement to the main company board has proved highly controversial. They were forced to resign after newspaper reports claimed that they called star striker Alan Shearer "Mary Poppins" and described Tyneside women as "dogs". Despite these indiscretions they were re-appointed to the board of the football club in July after they apologised. The two disgraced directors own a majority share of the football club and have been able to vote themselves back on to the board. Mr Hall is the son of Sir John Hall, who built up a controlling stake in Newcastle and whose family company, Cameron Hall Developments, still wields significant influence over its affairs. Chairman Denis Cassidy, who only took up the position in July, and non-executive directors John Josephs and Tom Fenton, are all stepping down. They said they could not continue in the current circumstances. Alex Brown, one of the City's largest stockbrokers has ended its association with the club as a result of the boardroom clash. The move is likely to further damage Newcastle's already tarnished image in the City after a terrible year for the club. Newcastle United shares fell 3p, or more than 3%, to 95p on the news.

CARLING TODAY'S PREMIER FIXTURES

BLACKBURN	vs	NEWCASTLE
DERBY CO.	vs	CHELSEA
EVERTON	vs	SOUTHAMPTON
LEICESTER CITY	vs	NOTT'M FOREST
MIDDLESBROUGH	vs	WEST HAM
SHEFF WED	vs	CHALTON
TOTTENHAM	vs	MAN UNITED

PREMIERSHIP



CARLING
F.A. PREMIERSHIP

ROUND-UP

KIDD AXES FAZACKERLEY

New Blackburn manager Brian Kidd has wielded the axe for the first time at Ewood Park by ending Derek Fazackerley's contract as first-team coach.

Kidd, who quit as Manchester United's assistant manager last week, intends to appoint a new coach as quickly as possible, with Brian McClair being strongly linked with a move back to the North-West. Long-term Rovers' servant Fazackerley holds the record for the most appearances for Blackburn. The former central defender made 674 appearances for the Lancashire club in 17 years as a player before joining the Ewood Park coaching staff in the early '90s. Although Kidd was not expected to take direct involvement in coaching matters until after Saturday's match with Charlton, he was conspicuous by his presence on the touchline for most of the game, bawling instructions to his new charges.



HOULLIER READY TO LET INCE GO

Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier is ready to listen to offers for skipper Paul Ince, as he begins the task of reshaping the Anfield outfit.



A report in The Guardian says Ince, 31, who missed the UEFA Cup second round clash against Celta Vigo on Tuesday because of suspension, will be offloaded by the Frenchman, who will be looking at offers of around £3.5 million for the England midfielder. Spurs' boss George Graham will be one of the first to be alerted to the news. The former Leeds and Arsenal boss is looking for a high-quality midfielder to control the centre of the park at White Hart Lane and Ince fits the bill. Leeds' new manager David O'Leary would have also been interested, but after landing David Batty for £4.4 million earlier in the week, the way seems clear for Graham to do business with Houllier. Houllier is also set to lose Steve McManaman in the summer on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling. But he hopes to secure the services of winger Silvio Maric in the next couple of weeks for £3million as a replacement.

SKY SPORTS 1 SUNDAY'S GAME ON TV (4.00PM K-OFF)

WIMBLEDON vs LIVERPOOL

CARLING FA PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
ASTON VILLA	15	8	6	1	23	13	30
MAN UTD	15	8	5	2	31	17	29
LEEDS	16	6	8	2	26	14	26
ARSENAL	16	6	8	2	15	7	26
WEST HAM	16	7	5	4	20	20	26
CHELSEA	14	6	7	1	22	13	25
MIDDLESBROUGH	16	5	9	2	26	19	24
WIMBLEDON	16	6	5	5	21	26	23
LIVERPOOL	16	6	4	6	27	21	22
DERBY	16	5	7	4	15	14	22
TOTTENHAM	16	6	4	6	21	24	22
LEICESTER	16	5	6	5	18	18	21
NEWCASTLE	16	5	5	6	21	21	20
SHEFF WED	16	5	4	7	17	17	19
EVERTON	16	4	7	5	10	15	19
CHARLTON	16	3	7	6	22	24	16
COVENTRY	16	4	3	5	14	23	15
BLACKBURN	16	3	3	10	15	24	12
NOTT'M FOREST	16	2	5	9	14	27	11
SOUTHAMPTON	16	2	4	10	12	33	10



QUICK QUIZ?

1. Which two men became joint player-coaches at Charlton, in July 1991?
2. Which three League clubs did not have a player sent off in first-team football in the 1995-96 season?
3. What was Leicester City first known as?
4. Who did England beat 10-0 in 1964?
5. Name the former Tottenham goalkeeper who played in the 1994 World Cup Finals for Norway?
6. Who is Manchester United's all-time top goalscorer?
7. Who is the youngest player to have scored a hat-trick on his debut?
8. Which manager won the League Cup three years in a row in the 1980s?
9. After which final was the League Cup Trophy broken?

Answers: 1. Steve Gritt & Alan Curtisley 2. Tottenham, Watford & Swindon 3. Leicester Forest FC 4. USA 5. Erik Thorstved 6. Bobby Charlton (1956-73) 7. Alan Shearer aged 17 for Southampton 8. Bob Paisley 9. 1967

WIN A WEEKEND BREAK DURING TODAY'S HALF-TIME BREAK WITH SWINDON TOWN & JARVIS



During the half-time break at today's game, Swindon Town and Jarvis Hotels will be giving away a superb weekend break, free of charge, to someone in the crowd. It will be completely at random, and you

don't have to enter any competition. We're just going to give it away there and then.

The weekend break is for two people for two nights and can be taken at any of Jarvis' 63 fine hotels across the UK.

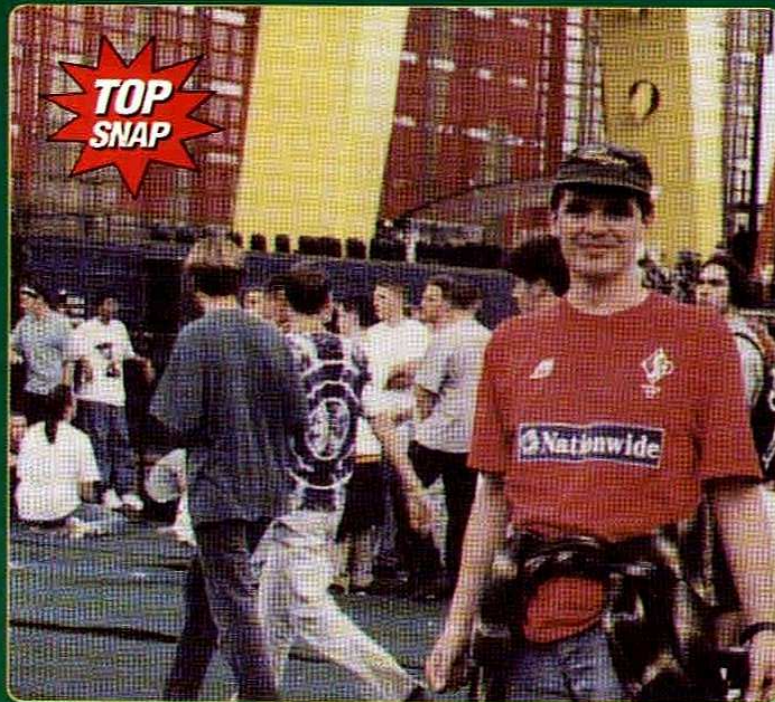
All you need to do to win a Jarvis weekend break is hold onto your ticket stub until half-time. Straight after the half-time scores are announced, we'll call out a seat number, which one of the Swindon Town players will randomly pick for us at half-time.

If it's your seat, come along with your ticket, to the Reception and pick up your Free Jarvis Weekend Break voucher. It's as simple as that.

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



show yer' colours!



Send us your picture sporting the Swindon Town colours and you may be featured!

Pictured here is Swindon Town fan Paul Rose while attending the final show of the U2 Popmart World Tour in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 21 March 1998. Unfortunately this meant that he missed the home game against Stockport County!

Send your photos to:
Richard Mackey,
Swindon Town Football
Club, County Road,
Swindon, SN1 2ED.

It's Your Call

Peter Rowe: Director of Communications for the Football League.

The Football League has recently appointed Peter Rowe as their new Director of Communications. With nearly 20 years experience in sports journalism, Peter believes the 72 clubs that make up the Nationwide Football League have much to offer the world of sport...

Life is full of twists and turns - just ask Town boss Jimmy Quinn. Not too many season ago Jimmy was at Bradford City, playing alongside current Bantams' boss Paul Jewell.

Today they are on opposite sides battling it out for points as the Nationwide First Division reaches the halfway stage and that link between the two clubs extends beyond Jimmy and 'Jagger'. 12 years ago I was living in Jimmy's home village of Cricklade forging a career in sports journalism and, after a journey that quite literally took me around the world, I too ended up in Bradford where for three years I was sports editor of the local evening newspaper, The Telegraph and Argus.

I still own a home in West Yorkshire and in recent years have become a regular visitor to Valley Parade and, as an 'adopted' Tyke, have seen a remarkable transformation in the fortunes of the club, due largely, I have to say, to the commitment of chairman Geoffrey Richmond.

Richmond's vision has seen the Bantams become a leading player in Football League circles - coincidentally where I now reside as the League's new Director of Communications.

The Football League, under the leadership of new chief executive Richard Scudamore, is undergoing a massive facelift. Early next year, the League's Lytham office, where it has been for 40 years, will close and a new Operations Centre will open in state-of-the-art premises in Preston.

The League also now has a significant presence at its London office with marketing and communications now based in the capital.

There is a new breed of professional now managing football in Britain with the avowed aim of turning it into a sleek and sophisticated business that treats all fans as its customers, a League that, while remembering its history, wants to move into the new millennium as a market leader in professional sport, and a League that cares.

Over the next couple of seasons I think you will see changes for the better within our game - both on and off the field. I hope that from new marketing and communication initiatives currently underway, 'you' the fan will be able to reap the benefits of a revitalised Football League in the not-too-distant future.

Already we have launched our own web site - full of facts and information on every aspect of the game - check it out on your computer: www.football-league.co.uk. The new Fluo-Flare winter ball is on display today and early in the New Year a number of other exciting projects will come on stream - including an opportunity for us to trial a pay-per-view TV system for key games. Here is an opportunity for us to dip our toes into the water to see how the market reacts to the idea.

All our work is geared towards the improvement of our 72 member clubs and in doing so I would like to think that your visit to any one of our League grounds will be a pleasurable one.

I am really looking forward to today's game - although on this one I'm staying strictly neutral - and I am equally excited about the Football League's new strategy that will guarantee not only the survival of the game, and in that I mean the 'whole' game, but its continued growth as a business and a sport for everyone to enjoy regardless of sex, race, creed or colour.

Stick with us because the Nationwide Football League is on the move.

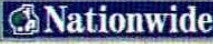
If you have any ideas about how you would like to see football developed please write to: Peter Rowe, Director of Communications, The Football League Ltd, Winchester House, 259-269 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5RA.



"Town Boss Jimmy Quinn will be battling it out for the points today against his old team mate Paul Jewell."



For all the match predictions, results, fixtures and news from The Football League visit the new Nationwide football internet site at www.football.nationwide.co.uk

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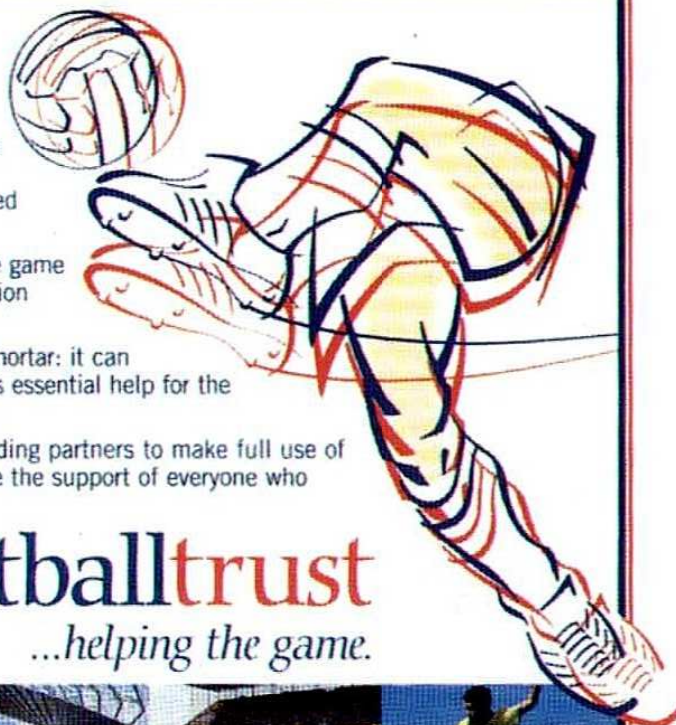
A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game and will continue its vital grant support for lower division clubs to complete the Taylor programme.

The Trust is about a great deal more than bricks and mortar: it can handle grant aid programmes of every sort and provides essential help for the game at all levels.

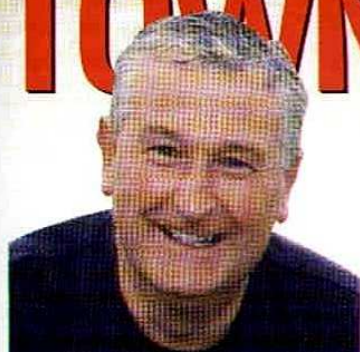
The commitment of the Government and the new funding partners to make full use of the Trust's grant aid experience and expertise will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

thefootballtrust
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The Football Trust, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EB

SWINDON TOWN Ladies



by Roger Reeves

The Town Ladies were beaten by a solitary goal at Cardiff County and dropped to third place in the South West Combination League.

This was, as expected, a closely fought contest. Cardiff scored the only goal of the game in the 12th minute, but the Town were unable to break through the well-organised Welsh defence despite having most of the play in the second half.

The Town Reserve fixture against Oxford United Reserves was postponed.

Five Town players have been awarded their Wiltshire County caps after making ten appearances for the Senior Squad. Diane George, Pam Laker, Leanne Taylor,

Kim Reeves and Nadine Lloyd have all received the honour. The five were joined by Clare Wheeler, Katie Lemon, Adelle Taylor and Annie Nichols for the recent match against Sussex at Lancing. Wiltshire beat last season's winners of the South West Counties Championship by three goals to two in an exciting game. Wiltshire, having already beaten the Army, need to beat Somerset to reach the final for the third consecutive season. Tomorrow, the Town travel to face Oxford United in the South West Combination League.

Last season the Town knocked Oxford out of the League Cup and won both League fixtures, but in the first home game of this season the "U's" turned the tables on the Town and won a closely fought contest by three goals to two. The Town Reserves entertain high-flying Risborough Rangers in the Southern Region League. When the Town visited Risborough earlier in the season they suffered the same fate as have every other team and contributed to the Buckinghamshire side's 100% record. The match will be played on the County Ground Extension and will kick-off at 2.00 p.m.



Pam Laker, the Town's Captain, who has been awarded her County Cap.

FIXTURES 98/99

South West Combination League

SUN 6TH SEPT	OXFORD UNITED	2-3
Sun 13th SEPT	Bristol Rovers	3-1
SUN 20TH SEPT	SHERBOURNE	7-1
Sun 27th SEPT	(FAC 1) Newport	2-1
Sun 4th OCT	Portsmouth	2-2
SUN 11TH OCT	DENHAM UNITED	POST
Sun 18th OCT	Swindon Spitfires	6-0
SUN 25TH OCT	CHELTENHAM	6-0
Sun 1st NOV	(FAC 2) S Coast Rangers	4-1
Sun 8th NOV	Bath City	6-1
SUN 15TH NOV	BRISTOL CITY	4-1
Sun 22nd NOV	Saltash Pilgrims	3-4
Sun 29th NOV	Cardiff County	0-1
Sun 6th DEC	(FAC 3) Bristol Rovers	A
Sun 13th DEC	Oxford United	A
SUN 10TH JAN	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Sun 24th Jan	Sherbourne	A
SUN 31ST JAN	PORTSMOUTH	H
Sun 7th Feb	Denham United	A
SUN 14TH FEB	SWINDON SPITFIRES	H
Sun 28th Feb	Cheltenham	A
SUN 7TH MAR	BATH CITY	H
Sun 14th Mar	Bristol City	A
SUN 21ST MAR	SALTASH PILGRIMS	H
SUN 28TH MAR	CARDIFF COUNTY	H

FIXTURES 98/99

Southern Region League Northern Division

Sun 6th SEPT	Tring Town	4-4
Sun 20th SEPT	Witney Town	2-1
Sun 4th OCT	Risborough Rovers	1-9
SUN 25TH OCT	CHESHAM UNITED	5-3
Sun 1st NOV	Bushey Rangers	POST
SUN 15TH NOV	NEWPORT P. UTD	2-1
Sun 22nd NOV	Oxford Utd (LCR1)	1-4
Sun 29th NOV	Oxford United	A
SUN 13TH DEC	RISBOROUGH R.	H
Sun 10th Jan	Chesham United	A
SUN 24TH JAN	BUSHEY RANGERS	H
SUN 31ST JAN	TRING TOWN	H
Sun 7th Feb	Newport Pagnell Utd	A
SUN 28TH FEB	OXFORD UTD	H
SUN 7TH MAR	WITNEY TOWN	H

NEXT HOME GAMES

South West
Combination League
Sunday 10th Jan 99
Bristol Rovers
Southern Region League
Northern Division
Sunday 13th Dec 98
Risborough R.

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 SERIOUS PERFORMANCE

WOLVES NEED NEW FACES

Wolves' new manager Colin Lee hopes to appoint a new player-coach and complete a signing from the continent this week.



Lee has approached a Premiership club to bring in a player-coach as a replacement for Mike Hickman, who left Wolves at the weekend to return to Australia.

Lee is keeping the identity of both targets to himself, but has confirmed that he has seen in action the player he hopes to bring in from Europe.

Meanwhile, Lee has been told not to push himself too hard at Molineux.

The warning comes from managing director John Richards as Lee strives to make a success of his appointment.

Lee said: "I have been told to slow down by John Richards, but I feel that the manager should always be seen to be the hardest worker at the club."

SAUNDERS ON THE MOVE

Sheffield United's Welsh International striker Dean Saunders has joined Benfica for £500,000, the English First Division club have announced.



"The financial aspects of the agreement between the two clubs were finalised on Saturday and the player flew out to Portugal on Monday to sign a contract and complete the medical formalities," said United.

Saunders, 34, has formerly played for Benfica manager Graeme Souness at Liverpool and Galatasaray.

Benfica will be the 11th club of his career. Saunders has also collected 63 international caps for Wales.

Benfica have experienced severe cash-flow problems recently and became embroiled in a financial wrangle for late payment of funds with Manchester United after signing Czech international Karel Poborsky for £2m last season.



NATIONWIDE DIVISION 1 ROUND-UP

ALOISI SURE TO GO

Portsmouth manager Alan Ball has admitted he is powerless to stop chairman Martin Gregory selling £1 million-rated striker John Aloisi to help solve financial problems at Fratton Park.



Aloisi has been linked with moves to Premiership side Charlton and first division Ipswich as Pompey struggle to pay off mounting debts. Ball said: "John Aloisi is the chairman's most saleable asset. If my phone rings I'll say he's not for sale but it might be a different story if someone calls the chairman."



CITY GET BIG WIN

Bristol City's new director of coaching, Benny Lennartsson, celebrated his first victory in charge at the sixth attempt against Sheffield Utd.



He bravely gave a debut to 20-year-old Steve Phillips and admitted: "It was a gamble and Steve repaid it handsomely with an excellent display." Lennartsson added: "We have deserved more points from my five games in charge and this time a break went our way. I couldn't see why the penalty was awarded." Hopefully this is a breakthrough for us and we can go on to move clear of the relegation zone."

Nationwide Division One Fixtures 12/12/98

BRISTOL CITY	vs	CRYSTAL PALACE
HUDDERFIELD	vs	WEST BROM
IPSWICH	vs	BARNLEY
OXFORD	vs	BIRMINGHAM
Q.P.R.	vs	CREWE
SUNDERLAND	vs	PORT VALE
SWINDON	vs	BRADFORD
TRANMERE	vs	BOLTON
WATFORD	vs	STOCKPORT
WOLVES	vs	NORWICH

Nationwide League Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
SUNDERLAND	21	13	7	1	49	15	46
IPSWICH	22	12	6	4	31	12	42
WATFORD	22	10	7	5	37	31	37
NORWICH	21	10	6	5	35	27	36
BOLTON	21	9	8	4	40	30	35
HUDDERSFIELD	22	10	5	7	33	36	35
BIRMINGHAM	22	10	5	7	30	23	35
BRADFORD	21	10	4	7	36	25	34
SHEFF UTD	22	9	6	7	33	35	33
WOLVES	22	9	6	7	31	22	33
GRIMSBY	22	9	5	8	27	26	32
WEST BROM	21	9	3	9	39	37	30
BARNLEY	22	6	9	7	32	30	27
CRYSTAL PALACE	19	8	3	8	30	34	27
BURY	22	7	6	9	17	24	27
STOCKPORT	22	5	11	6	26	27	26
QPR	22	7	4	11	25	32	25
PORTSMOUTH	22	6	6	10	31	35	24
SWINDON	22	6	6	10	30	35	24
OXFORD	22	6	5	11	25	36	23
TRANMERE	21	4	10	7	27	33	22
PORT VALE	22	6	4	12	26	43	22
BRISTOL CITY	22	4	7	11	32	49	19
CREWE	21	2	5	14	21	46	11

KIT SPONSORSHIP 98/99 SEASON



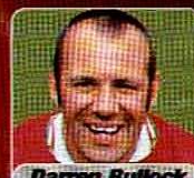
Frank Talia

**THE TWO
PETERS**



Lee Collins

**VICTORIA
ASHFORD &
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BRIAN BORROWS

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND

103.6 104.3 & 103.5

Despite picking up a few points, though, we can't pretend our work's over or anything. Just lately we've had a spate of injuries and suspensions which puts much more pressure on the other players to stay in the frame. Six first team defenders besides me have all had lay-offs already this season. All we need is one or two more long-term injuries and we'd be drafting in the YTs, who are 20 years younger than me so I just can't allow that - another reason for me to stay fit and healthy. I've been asked plenty of times about retiring, but for me it just isn't an issue. I'm picked for exactly the same reason one of the kids might get selected: to do a job. I'll continue as long as both me and the manager think I can, and right now I'm pretty happy with my play.



Brian Borrows

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND

[illegible]

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FORTY THREE



Q. How long have you been injured now?

A. It feels like forever, but I've actually been out for most of the season. I played with the damaged shoulder for a few games and was making it worse so I've had to have surgery and now I'm on the long road to recovery. I've never experienced a long-term injury like this before and it does get to you a bit. All your life you train every day to play football and then you can't do it.



Q. Do you feel like you're not part of the action?

A. Definitely. The players and coaching staff have been great, but when you're not with your teammates in training, and you're not travelling to away games you miss the banter that goes with it.

You also have to remember that I'm used to being really fit and working hard everyday. When you can't do that anymore it does get you down.

This is just the worse part of what can be the best job in the world. And I've just got to keep going day by day and work hard as I can.

When you have an injury like this you can very easily let your chin drop but I believe I'm made of tough enough stuff that I'll be able to bounce back once I'm fully fit.

Football is one of those professions where anything can happen from one day to the next. You can be a great player one day, and then dropped the next. Or in my case you can be playing in the side and then sidelined for months. It is all just part of the game.





Q. Do you have lots of spare time now you're injured?

A. You must be joking. The regime for injured players is in at 9.15am and we can be kept here anything up to 5pm. So it is actually a longer day than the rest of the squad.

Q. What has the treatment been like?

A. The two physio's, Dick and Dave, have been working quite hard with me. After the operation I had no movement in the shoulder and it was very painful. Over the weeks they have improved the mobility of it by getting me in the pool and moving it around. My progress from here was quite good. And after a few weeks I could really feel the difference in the joint. It is this that keeps me going. If I keep going forward in the right way and see that I'm getting better, then I'm happy. Now I've got mobility in the arm, I'm doing some light running and head tennis. Which is a lot more fun.



Q. You must really miss kicking a ball about.

A. Of course, straight after the surgery I saw a ball on the ground and I was itching to kick it, but the shoulder was just too tender. Now I'm over that stage it is great to be playing head tennis with some of the other lads.

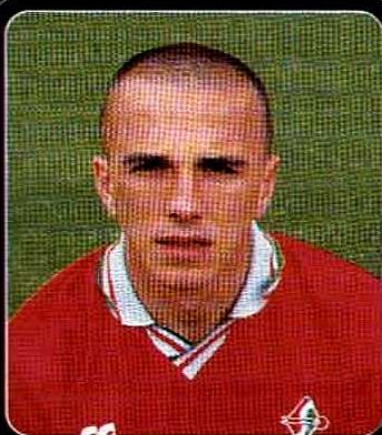
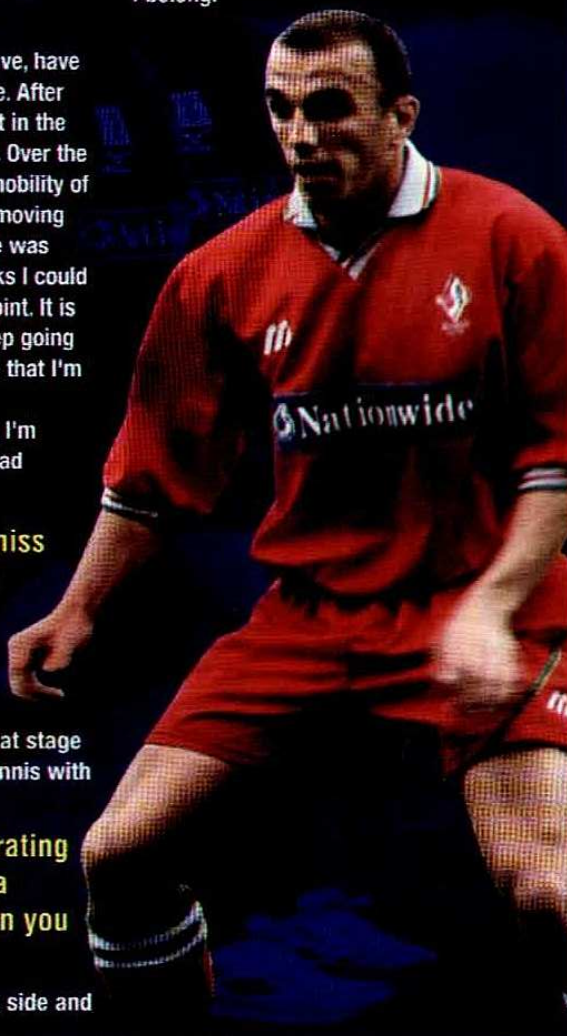


Q. It must also be frustrating because the club has a manager who hasn't seen you play yet.

A. I just want to get back in the side and

find the form that put me there in the first place. With an injury such as this you have to take it one day at a time, but my long-term aim is to be back in the first team.

I am delighted to see the team winning and doing well, it just makes me all the more determined to get back where I belong.



Lee Collins

FACT FILE

Did you ever feel your career had gone pear-shaped?

I feel a bit like that at the moment but I'm positive things will get better.

Best dressed at STFC?

Lee Collins. I've always liked the clothes he wears.

Worst dressed at STFC?

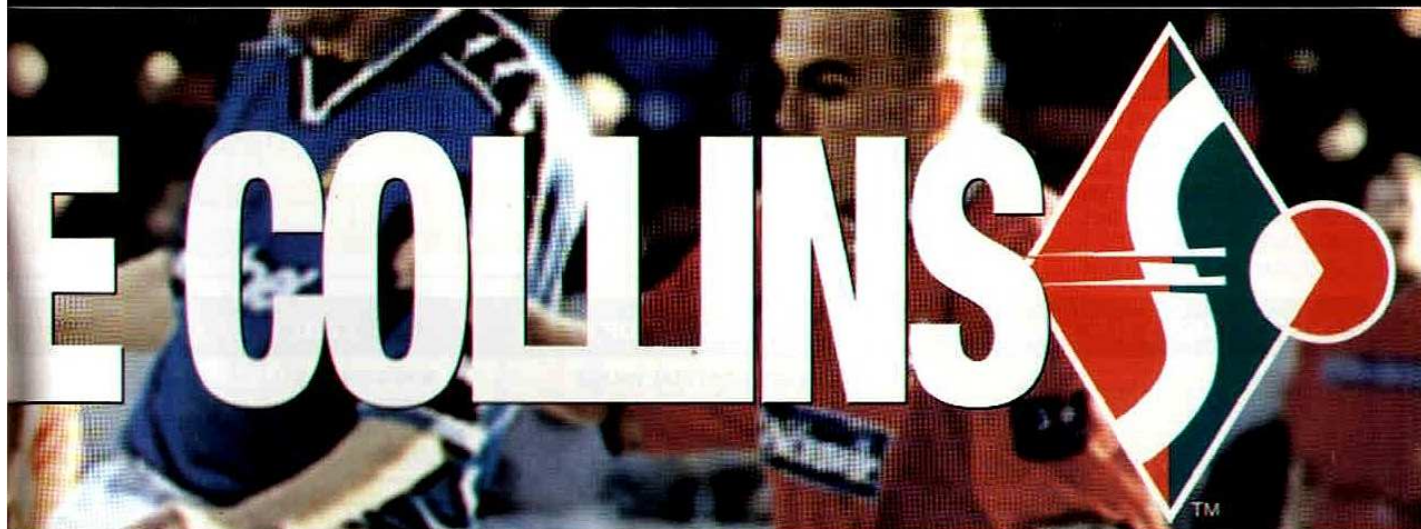
I have to say Adam Willis because a couple of weeks ago he wore a suit that was about two sizes too small for him.

You house is on fire, what is the first material possession you rescue?

My CD collection

Best advice a manager has ever given you?
Hang up your boots!

Sum up Kevin Watson in three words?
Massive Rangers Fan!



the swindon fact files

the key:

FAC = F.A. CUP
WC = WORTHINGTON CUP

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sat Aug 08	Sheffield United A	1-2	15,937	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	GOODEN	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
WED AUG 12	WYCOMBE W. WC1 (1) H	2-1	4,682	GLASS	ROBINSON	HALL	GOODEN	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT AUG 15	SUNDERLAND H	1-1	10,207	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Tue Aug 18	Wycombe W. WC1 (2) A	0-2	2,478	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	WATSON	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Aug 22	Wolverhampton W. A	0-1	21,537	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT AUG 29	PORT VALE H	1-1	7,800	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	HULBERT	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Mon Aug 31	Bury A	0-3	4,513	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	HULBERT	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT SEPT 05	BRISTOL CITY* H	3-2	8,537	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
WED SEPT 09	OXFORD UNITED* H	4-1	8,305	GLASS	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Sept 12	Portsmouth A	2-5	10,105	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT SEPT 19	WATFORD H	1-4	8,781	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Fri Sept 25	Tranmere Rovers A	0-0	5,501	TALIA	ROBINSON	WILLIS	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Tue Sept 29	Bolton Wanderers A	1-2	16,497	TALIA	ROBINSON	WILLIS	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT OCT 03	STOCKPORT COUNTY H	2-3	7,961	TALIA	ROBINSON	DAVIS	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
FRI OCT 09	HUDDERSFIELD T. H	3-0	8,316	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Oct 17	Ipswich Town A	0-1	13,212	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
Tue Oct 20	Birmingham City A	1-1	19,485	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT OCT 24	W.B.A. H	2-2	8,967	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	WATSON	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT OCT 31	QUEENS PARK RANGERS H	3-1	8,500	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Nov 07	Crewe Alexandra A	2-0	4,469	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Nov 14	Bradford City A	0-3	14,897	TALIA	TAYLOR	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT NOV 21	CRYSTAL PALACE H	2-0	11,718	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Nov 28	Grimsby Town A	0-1	8,657	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT DEC 05	NORWICH CITY (FA.C2) H	1-1	9,262	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT DEC 12	BRADFORD CITY H									
Sat Dec 19	Barnsley A									
SAT DEC 26	WOLVERHAMPTON W. H									
Mon Dec 28	Bristol City A									
Sat Jan 02	(FA.C3)									
SAT JAN 09	SHEFFIELD UNITED H									
Sat Jan 16	Port Vale A									
Sat Jan 23	(FA.C4)									
SAT JAN 30	BURY H									
Sat Feb 06	Sunderland A									
Sat Feb 13	Oxford Utd (FA.C5) A									
SAT FEB 20	PORTSMOUTH H									
Sat Feb 27	Watford A									
WED MAR 03	TRANMERE ROVERS H									
SAT MAR 06	BOLTON W. (FA.C6) H									
Tue Mar 09	Stockport County A									
SAT MAR 13	CREWE ALEXANDRA H									
Sat Mar 20	Queens Park Rangers A									
Sat Mar 27	W.B.A. A									
SAT APR 03	IPSWICH TOWN H									
Mon Apr 05	Huddersfield Town A									
SAT APR 10	BIRMINGHAM C. (FA.CSF) H									
Sat Apr 17	Crystal Palace A									
SAT APR 24	GRIMSBY TOWN H									
Sat May 01	Norwich City A									
SUN MAY 09	BARNSELY H									
Sat May 22	F.A. Cup Final									

THIS SEASON'S TOP SCORERS

IFFY ONUORA	11
MARK WALTERS	8
GEORGE NDAH	7
GARETH HALL	2
DARREN BULLOCK	1

THIS SEASON'S TOP GATES

SAT 21 ST NOV VS CRYSTAL PALACE	11,718
SAT 15 TH AUG VS SUNDERLAND	10,207
SAT 5 TH DEC VS NORWICH CITY	9,262
SAT 24 TH OCT VS W.B.A	8,967

LAST FOUR GAMES

NORWICH CITY	A	DREW 1-1
GRIMSBY	A	LOST 1-0
CRYSTAL PALACE	H	WON 2-0
BRADFORD	A	LOST 3-0

FRONT COVER PHOTO... BRIAN BORROWS



1



PLAYER IN RED
DENOTES SCORER

NUMBER IN BRACKETS
DENOTES PLAYER REPLACED ()

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
HAY	ONUORA	BULLOCK	NDAH	DAVIS (8)	CUERVO	TAYLOR
HAY	ONUORA	BULLOCK	NDAH	KERSLAKE	WATSON(8)	TAYLOR
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	DAVIS	HAY	CUERVO(4)
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY (4)	CUERVO (11)	GLASS
NDAH	HAY	BULLOCK	GOODEN	ONUORA(8)	ROBINSON	CUERVO (4)
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY	DAVIS	CUERVO (9)
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	COWE	DAVIS(3)	ROBINSON
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HULBERT(4)	COWE	DAVIS(6)
NDAH (2)	ONUORA (2)	BULLOCK	GOODEN	ROBINSON	WILLIS	WATSON
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	ROBINSON(10)	COWE	WILLIS
NDAH	COWE	BULLOCK	GOODEN	TAYLOR	HOWE	WATSON
NDAH	CUERVO	BULLOCK	GOODEN	WATSON	TAYLOR	COWE(9)
COWE	CUERVO	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HOWE(8)	ONUORA(9)	WATSON
WILLIS	ONUORA	NDAH	GOODEN	BULLOCK	HALL	CUERVO(10)
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	CUERVO	WATSON	WILLIS
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY(9)	WATSON(10)	DAVIS(4)
NDAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY(9)	WATSON(5)	CUERVO
NDAH	ONUORA	LEITCH	GOODEN	HAY(8)	DAVIS	CUERVO
NDAH	ONUORA	LEITCH	GOODEN	WATSON(8)	HULBERT(5)	BULLOCK(10)
HAY	ONUORA(2)	BULLOCK	GOODEN	WATSON(7)	CAMPAGNA	COWE(8)
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	GOODEN	HULBERT(7)	CAMPAGNA	COWE
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	GOODEN	TAYLOR(10)	BULLOCK(8)	NDAH(11)
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	NDAH	HOWE(8)	HULBERT(6)	LEITCH(10)
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	DAVIS	HAY(10)	TAYLOR(3)	BULLOCK(7)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Sunderland	21	13	7	1	49	15	46
Ipswich	22	12	6	4	31	12	42
Watford	22	10	7	5	37	31	37
Norwich	21	10	6	5	35	27	36
Bolton	21	9	8	4	40	30	35
Huddersfield	22	10	5	7	33	36	35
Birmingham	22	10	5	7	30	23	35
Bradford	21	10	4	7	36	25	34
Sheff utd	22	9	6	7	33	35	33
Wolves	22	9	6	7	31	22	33
Grimsby	22	9	5	8	27	26	32
West Brom	21	9	3	9	39	37	30
Barnsley	22	6	9	7	32	30	27
Crystal Palace	19	8	3	8	30	34	27
Bury	22	7	6	9	17	24	27
Stockport	22	5	11	6	26	27	26
QPR	22	7	4	11	25	32	25
Portsmouth	22	6	6	10	31	35	24
SWINDON	22	6	6	10	30	35	24
Oxford	22	6	5	11	25	36	23
Tranmere	21	4	10	7	27	33	22
Port Vale	22	6	4	12	26	43	22
Bristol City	22	4	7	11	32	49	19
Crewe	21	2	5	14	21	46	11

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES 98/99

Player Name:	LEAGUE	W.C.	FAC.	Gls.
Apps.	Apps.	Apps.		
BRIAN BORROWS	23	1	0	0
DARREN BULLOCK	16(3)	1	0	1
SAM CAMPAGNA	0	(1)	0	0
LEE COLLINS	0	0	0	0
STEVE COWE	2(1)	0	0	0
PHILIPPE CUERVO	2(4)	0	0	0
SOL DAVIS	11(1)	0	0	0
NEALE FENN	3	1	0	0
JIMMY GLASS	1	1	0	0
TY GOODEN	21	1	0	1
GARETH HALL	20	1	0	2
CHRIS HAY	3(5)	1	0	0
BOBBY HOWE	(2)	0	0	0
ROBIN HULBERT	2(4)	0	0	0
DAVID KERSLAKE	7	0	0	0
SCOTT LEITCH	11(1)	0	0	0
ALAN McDONALD	0	0	0	0
STEVE MILDENHALL	0	0	0	0
GEORGE NDAH	18(1)	0	0	7
IFEM ONUORA	19(2)	1	0	11
ALAN REEVES	16	(1)	0	1
MARK ROBINSON	15(1)	1	0	0
FRANK TALIA	21	1	0	0
CRAIG TAYLOR	1(2)	0	0	0
MARK WALTERS	22	1	0	0
KEVIN WATSON	6(4)	(1)	0	0
ADAM WILLIS	8	0	0	0

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MATCH..... STATS



the officials

Referee:

Mr A.P. D'Urso

Andrew D'Urso is 43, and works as a Bank Manager. Andrew is married with two children and started refereeing in 1979 and was appointed to the National List of Referees for the 94/95 season. His hobbies include football, golf and spending time with his family.

Assistant Referees:

M L.C. Jones

Mr A.C. Harvey

match facts

Half-Time Score

Full-Time Score

Today's Attendance



ClubCall

0891 121 640

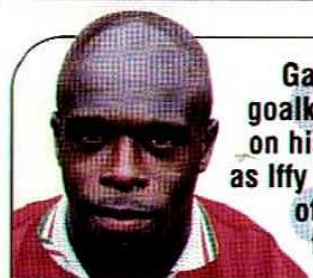
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TODAY'S TEAMS.....



FRANK TALIA	1	GARY WALSH
MARK ROBINSON	2	STEPHEN WRIGHT
GARETH HALL	3	WAYNE JACOBS
SOL DAVIS	4	STUART McCALL
ADAM WILLIS	5	DARREN MOORE
BRIAN BORROWS	6	ANDREW O'BRIEN
MARK WALTERS	7	JAMIE LAWRENCE
KEVIN WATSON	8	ROBBIE BLAKE
IFEM ONUORA	9	LEE MILLS
GEORGE NDAH	10	GARETH WHALLEY
TY GOODEN	11	PETER BEAGRIE
BOBBY HOWE	12	ISAIAH RANKIN
ROBIN HULBERT	13	MARK BOWYER
SCOTT LEITCH	14	PAUL BOLLAND
TEAM MANAGER JIM QUINN		TEAM MANAGER PAUL JEWELL



Gary Walsh, Bradford's goalkeeper, will have to be on his guard this afternoon as Iffy Onuora is due a couple of goals. Let's hope they come today.



Swindon Town Football Club, County Ground, County Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 2ED.