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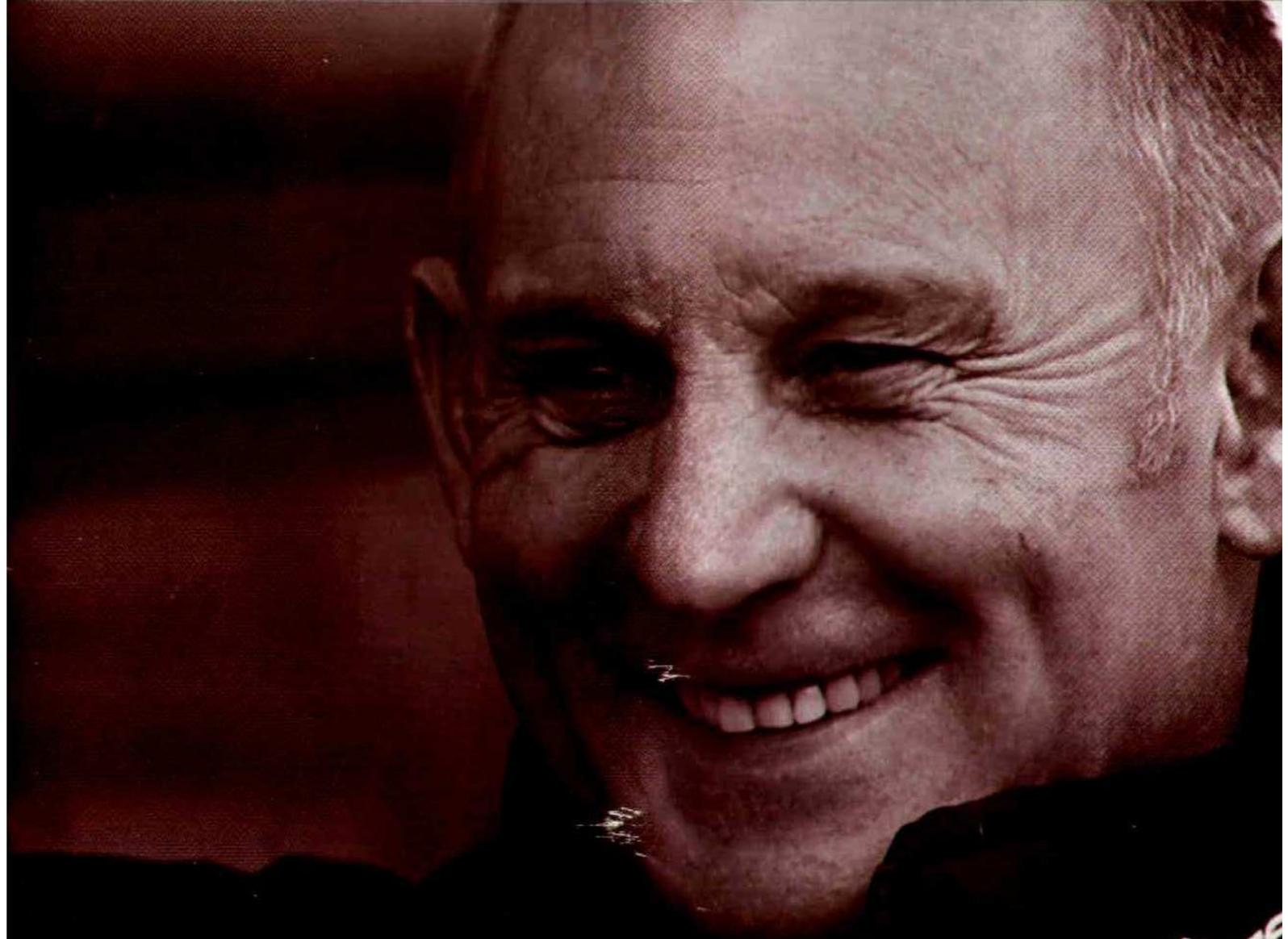
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DENIS SMITH

can we start the season on a winning note?

I was really looking forward to the new season - that was until I heard how pessimistic some people were about our chances!

People looking in from the outside seem to have picked up the wrong impression about this club and I can tell you they are a long way off the mark. We have a well-balanced and experienced squad, and I'm looking to surprise a few people along the way!

In my career, I have yet to go into a season merely hoping to survive. If I didn't think we had the chance to make an impression, then it would hardly be worth starting the campaign. It doesn't matter what level you operate at, you want to do well in whichever league you are in and I know that that is not always easy.

Yes, the club has some very major problems off the field - these are well documented and need to be addressed - but on the pitch we will be doing our best to help take the side forward. The atmosphere inside the camp is very positive and has been since the day we returned for pre-season training.

I have been able to bring in a number of new faces. Players of the right age bracket, who are not cynical, have good experience and know what they are doing. The line-up we started with against Hereford United was a good example of that, with Steve Roberts the youngest player on our side!

Not everything has gone right in pre-season. We have, as you will know, picked up a few too many injuries, with both Carlos Edwards and Matty Crowell being longer-term

problems, but we wish them both speedy recoveries.

The heavy schedule around the Liverpool game was a burden at the time, but having got through that period, then I think it will stand us in good stead for the coming nine months.

Well done to the lads who have received international call-ups for the up coming Wales and Trinidad matches. I'd also like to congratulate Andy King and his club on reaching the Play-Offs last time out and I'm sure that they can at least match that performance this season.

They will be favourites with the bookies to do even better in the coming months, and that can bring its own problems, but Swindon are a good footballing club and I'm sure Andy will have them well prepared for another promotion challenge.

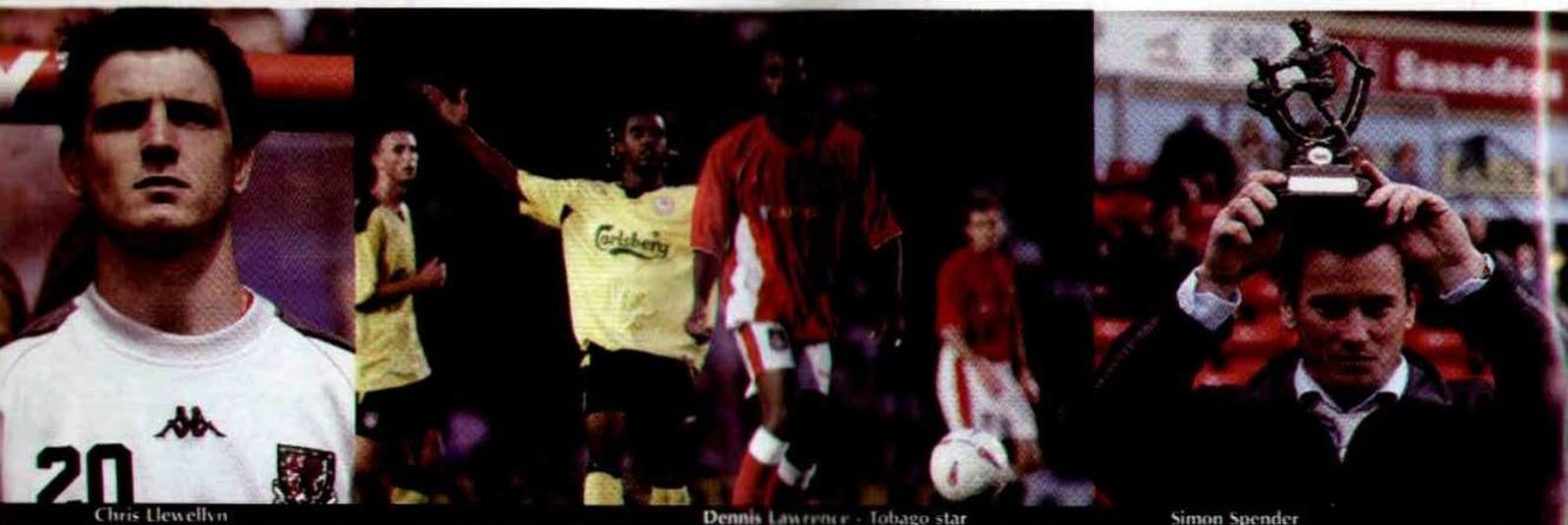
Thanks to everyone who turned out against Liverpool and has followed us during the pre-season. Your support has been much appreciated.

We are hoping for another decent turn out this afternoon, especially with no Premiership games, and if you are like what you see then I'd like to think that you will be back to support us when you can during the coming months.

Enjoy the match...

Read and listen to Denis Smith's post match thoughts this evening on the club's official website -

www.wrexhamafc.co.uk



Chris Llewellyn

Dennis Lawrence - Tobago star

Simon Spender

RACECOURSE NEWS

IF IT'S FRIDAY, IT MUST BE DOUGLAS!

The Liverpool match proved to be an excellent curtain raiser to the new season, even if it did involve the players in a frantic travelling schedule back and to the Isle of Man, and what a great sight it was to see the Racecourse full to capacity.

"I think all the players really enjoyed it," enthused Dragons' coach and former Anfield star Joey Jones after the match. "It might only have been a friendly but for youngsters like Matty Done, it gives them a taste of what the big-time is about.

"I know he only came on for the final ten minutes but I thought he did really well for a 16-year-old and showed some nice touches. The way he chased back to deny Le Tallec a goalscoring opportunity was excellent and bodes well for the future."

GOOD NEWS FOR CARLOS

It was a devastating blow for both player and club when the news broke of the extent of Carlos Edwards' injury sustained playing for Trinidad late last season. The stylish wing-back, voted by his fellow professionals as the best player in his position last term and a summer transfer target for Coca Cola Championship side Preston North End, damaged knee ligaments and will be out of action until the new year.

"The operation was a complete success," commented a relieved Dragons' physio Mel Pejic. "It was very much as we expected and the main thing now will be to plan a rehabilitation programme that will get Carlos back to full fitness. We're hoping to send him to the F.A. Centre at Lilleshall to help aid his progress."

LATVIA CALLING

Whilst Chris Llewellyn just missed out on a call-up for the senior squad for Wales' forthcoming friendly international in Latvia later this month, three of the club's up and coming youngsters were duly selected for the Under-21 squad.

Craig Morgan and Matty Crowell both made their debuts at this level last term under former Welsh Under-21 manager Jimmy Shoulder. With Glyn Hodges and Clayton Blackmore now at the helm, they will be looking to establish themselves ahead of September's qualifying match with Azerbaijan.

For Simon Spender, it will be a new experience and one that the 18-year-old is looking forward to: "It's a great honour to be selected to play for your country and I'm really looking forward to the game. That said, I've just got to concentrate on pushing my claims for a regular first team place this season."

TO GO OR NOT TOBAGO

Another player to receive an international call up this week was the Red Dragon's ever popular central defender Dennis Lawrence. With Trinidad facing a crucial World Cup qualifier at home to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, coach Bertillie St. Clair

has arranged a further warm-up game with Guatemala.

The two fixtures could see Lawrence miss out on the vital trips to Oldham and Brentford but Wrexham having been trying to seek a compromise solution with the Trinidadian F.A. that would still allow the player to report in good time for his country.

"It's a difficult situation," explained Dragons' boss Denis Smith. "However, if we allow our younger players to join up with the Welsh Under-21 squad then I don't see how we can deny Dennis the chance to play for his country.

"I would never want to stop anyone playing for their country because it reflects well on them and on Wrexham as a club. But we don't have the size of squad to cope with international call ups."

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Community Scheme has certainly been busy over the summer months with several Soccer Schools being run at Flint, Sychdyn and at the NEWI Sports Centre here in Wrexham.

The advent of the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) has also helped provide the necessary funding to run a series of courses at local schools. Black Lane Primary School, Brynteg CP, St. Giles Juniors, Ysgol Penrhyn and Ysgol Bodhyfryd will all have benefited from this before the end of the school holidays. The courses are free of charge to children who attend the school in question and they receive football coaching, a meal provided by Deep Pan Pizza as well as a visit to Techniquet NEWI.

JUNIOR DRAGONS

This Season has seen the re-launch of our Junior Dragons Club. As part of the Community Scheme's ongoing commitment to introduce new supporters to Wrexham F.C., they have waived all membership fees.

The Junior Dragons Club so far has 850 Members with numbers increasing daily. As we believe in the importance of encouraging young supporters, all members receive the following benefits:

- 25% off replica Club Shirt
- 10% off Club Shop merchandise
- 2 free tickets for a Wrexham first team game
- Chance to be a mascot (free kit)
- Chance to become ball boy/girl
- Discounts on all Football in the Community activities
- Signed team photo
- Christmas party
- End of season party

For more information please contact the Community Office on 01978 358545.

DARREN FERGUSON

I can't wait for the football to begin

Welcome back to the Racecourse as we get down to the real business. After a good, but tough, pre-season, this last week has really dragged, as all of us are now just waiting for the big kick-off.

Swindon were very unfortunate in the play-offs last May and I have no doubt that they will be back up at the top of the table challenging again this season. There have had a few comings and goings at the County Ground, but I still think they will be a very hard side to beat. We enjoyed two close games against them last season and I'm expecting another two good footballing contests this time.

There is also a changed look to our squad and, while we will no doubt miss the pace and width offered by both Carlos and Eddie, the boss has been able to bring in new players that give us other options.

All four-outfield players have plenty of experience, falling as they do into the manager's preferred age group of mid to late twenties. This also means they are more mature individuals and have therefore settled quickly into life at the Racecourse.

I can see us being a more physical line-up this time around and I really do fancy our chances of doing well. On behalf of the other players, I'd like to welcome Andy, Alex, Danny, Dean and Matt to Wrexham and hope they enjoy their time with us. On the same score, we all wish the departed players good luck for the future.

Obviously the size of our squad will be a problem over the next nine months, as it was last season when the last third of our season was hampered by both injuries and suspensions. This is also something that a number of other clubs will also have to face over the coming 46 games, so we are not alone in that respect.

The injury to Carlos is a serious one, but at least he has had his operation now and we are looking forward to seeing him back in the squad at some point in the New Year.

The need to get the campaign off to a winning start is vital, not so much in terms of points, but to lift everyone's spirits after a turbulent summer. If we can get the results right on the pitch, then I'm hoping that our other problems will start to be sorted out and we can all get back to concentrating on what a football club should always be about – the football.

Thanks for your support again today, you did us proud against Liverpool and I hope you feel we responded to that backing.

Get all the after match reaction and pictures, this evening, on www.wrexhamafc.co.uk

TEAM TALK



I was only a few months ago that Matt Baker thought he could be on the verge of a return to the Football League with Conference side Hereford United, but they lost out by just one point to Chester City and then suffered further agony in the play-offs.

"Chester had a big lead in the league table, but we steadily whittled it away and even beat them on the last day of the season, but it was not quite enough.

"After 11 straight victories in the league, we headed for the Play-Offs, but lost out to Aldershot following two draws, the second of which was played out with ten-men, after Andy Trelton was sent off just 20 minutes into the second leg.

"We held the 'Shots' to 0-0 on the day, including through extra time, but then went down 4-2 on penalties."

Strangely enough, Matt was the hero for Wrexham in a penalty shoot out against Carlisle United on the Isle of Man, stopping two efforts, although no doubt he would have preferred to have made those saves in a game that really counted.

Had things worked out differently for the Bulls, would Matt have opted to stay at Edgar Street?

"Probably, is the answer to that one.

"We had a great team there over the past few seasons, building towards last year's promotion challenge and I do feel that we could have been just as successful had we managed to gain promotion.

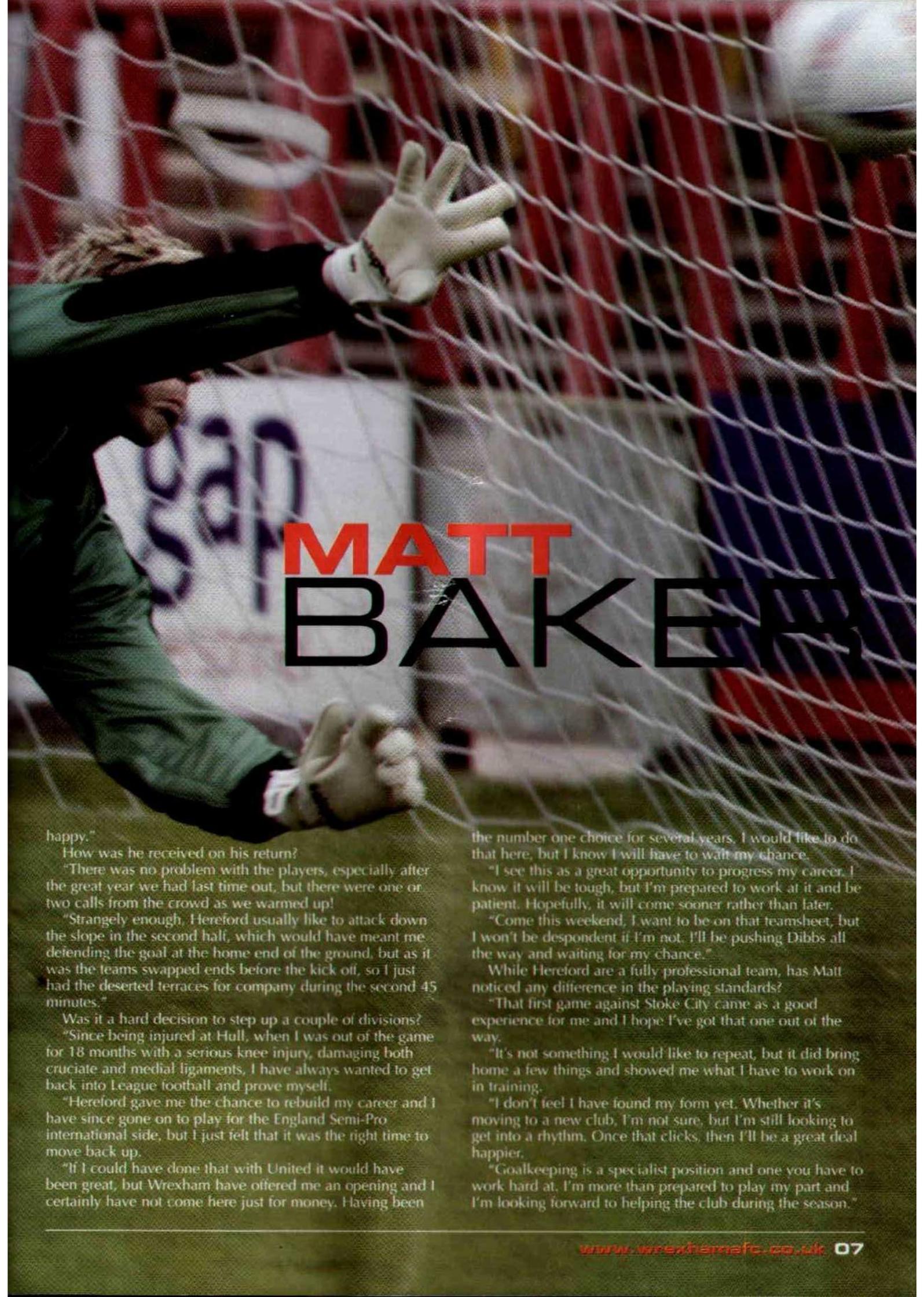
"Unfortunately missing out meant that a number of the players moved on and when the chance for me to do the same came along, then it was too good an opportunity to turn down."

As a quirk of fate would have it, Wrexham and Hereford has already arranged a pre-season friendly before he switched clubs. So it was a quick return to his former club for the keeper and one he certainly enjoyed.

"It's always good to see familiar faces again, but it did feel very strange walking back into the club, just three weeks after leaving the place where I had spent four years.

"Hereford took me in when I was on the football scrapheap, following a terrible injury, and it came within an ace of turning into a fairytale. They are a club very close to my heart, especially for the people who I worked there with.

"Having said that there was only one side I wanted to win last Saturday and that was Wrexham – and we did. If we can repeat that scoreline today, then I'll be more than



MATT BAKER

happy."

How was he received on his return?

"There was no problem with the players, especially after the great year we had last time out, but there were one or two calls from the crowd as we warmed up!

"Strangely enough, Hereford usually like to attack down the slope in the second half, which would have meant me defending the goal at the home end of the ground, but as it was the teams swapped ends before the kick off, so I just had the deserted terraces for company during the second 45 minutes."

Was it a hard decision to step up a couple of divisions?

"Since being injured at Hull, when I was out of the game for 18 months with a serious knee injury, damaging both cruciate and medial ligaments, I have always wanted to get back into League football and prove myself.

"Hereford gave me the chance to rebuild my career and I have since gone on to play for the England Semi-Pro international side, but I just felt that it was the right time to move back up.

"If I could have done that with United it would have been great, but Wrexham have offered me an opening and I certainly have not come here just for money. Having been

the number one choice for several years, I would like to do that here, but I know I will have to wait my chance.

"I see this as a great opportunity to progress my career. I know it will be tough, but I'm prepared to work at it and be patient. Hopefully, it will come sooner rather than later.

"Come this weekend, I want to be on that teamsheet, but I won't be despondent if I'm not. I'll be pushing Dibbs all the way and waiting for my chance."

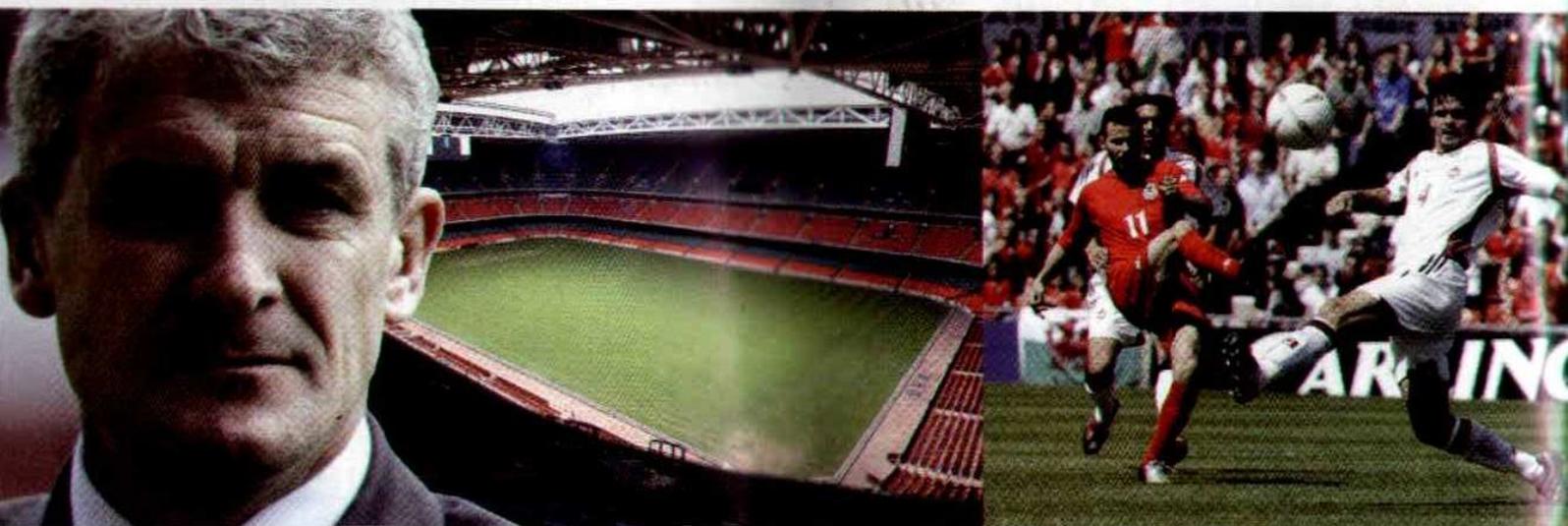
While Hereford are a fully professional team, has Matt noticed any difference in the playing standards?

"That first game against Stoke City came as a good experience for me and I hope I've got that one out of the way.

"It's not something I would like to repeat, but it did bring home a few things and showed me what I have to work on in training.

"I don't feel I have found my form yet. Whether it's moving to a new club, I'm not sure, but I'm still looking to get into a rhythm. Once that clicks, then I'll be a great deal happier.

"Goalkeeping is a specialist position and one you have to work hard at. I'm more than prepared to play my part and I'm looking forward to helping the club during the season."



WELSH FOOTBALL

waiting on the dragon

The out pouring of English mass hysteria, which seems to hit us every other summer in the final stages of major football tournaments, always makes it a difficult time for Welsh football supporters, hardly helped by our won repeated non-appearances!

The continual failure of the national side to qualify for any of international football's prestigious jamborees since the 1976 European Championship (front entrance) and 1958 World Cup (back door) seems to get more and more pronounced, as we remain at home pondering on what might have been.

Never more emphatically rammed home to yours truly than recently by an elderly parent and a neighbour on Ynys Mon, if I may be allowed to use them as examples!

My own mother, fast approaching her 99th birthday, originates from the borough of Hackney in London. However, she, 'bless her', considers herself a Welsh subject after residing in Holyhead for 65 years. When I managed to get through to her with all the latest news, which included England's progress in Euro 2004, she promptly remarked 'When are we going to be involved!'

Married to a native of Rhosllanerchrugog (the village of all talents) and producing a rather (some would say) eccentric son, and a Welsh football nut and follower of sport in Wales to boot, this has clearly rubbed off on her after many years of training.

The above is perhaps a light hearted, but also poignant view of the situation. However, the other could be described as a little more disturbing.

A met my neighbour, who we will call 'Jane', walking down the road. Passing the time of day, she said she was going to the local supermarket with some tokens she had collected from a national newspaper to 'support our boys'. These would be exchanged for some England items and a St. George's flag.

In no way wishing to be anti-English here, I thought good luck to her as a grandmother who was encouraging the youngsters in her family to support their national team and take a healthy interest in sport. Then it hit me that Jane is as Welsh as the rest of her family!

Although somewhat 'gobsmacked' I was not altogether shocked as with Wales' continued absence at high profile footballing events, the 'floating' public of Wales, without realising it, are being slowly brainwashed into who they

should support as a football nation!

I then plunged the depths of despair when Jane was asked who she would support if Wales were also involved? Back came the reply – 'I didn't know that they participated in events like this.'

Talking about hitting the nail on the head! With my depression now complete, it just stresses how important the high stakes of qualification really are. However, the most worrying aspect of all is that too many seem to be losing their Welsh identity in the middle of all the media hype and hysteria.

The basis of this article is to express how important – no – imperative, it is for Wales to qualify for a major finals as soon as possible, as much for the younger generation as anything else. They are the Wales fans of the future who could do without the 'Jane's' of this world. Who may not be aware of what they are doing, despite having seemingly good intentions!

The fact that Wales will no longer be featured on terrestrial television will not help the situation one bit, as if we do manage to progress this time around, the downside is that it will not have so high a profile due to the fact that not everyone is in the position owning a dish, or frequenting a local watering hole that can present the large screen version.

Changing tack slightly but in the same mode, lack of success at club level in European competitions sadly continues apace, despite the latest efforts of Aberystwyth Town, Rhyl, TNS and Haverfordwest County to buck the trend. Rhyl manager John Hulse feels a change to summer football, mooted by a number of influential figures in Welsh football, would not necessarily bring a turnaround in fortunes.

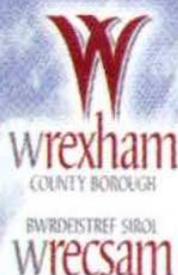
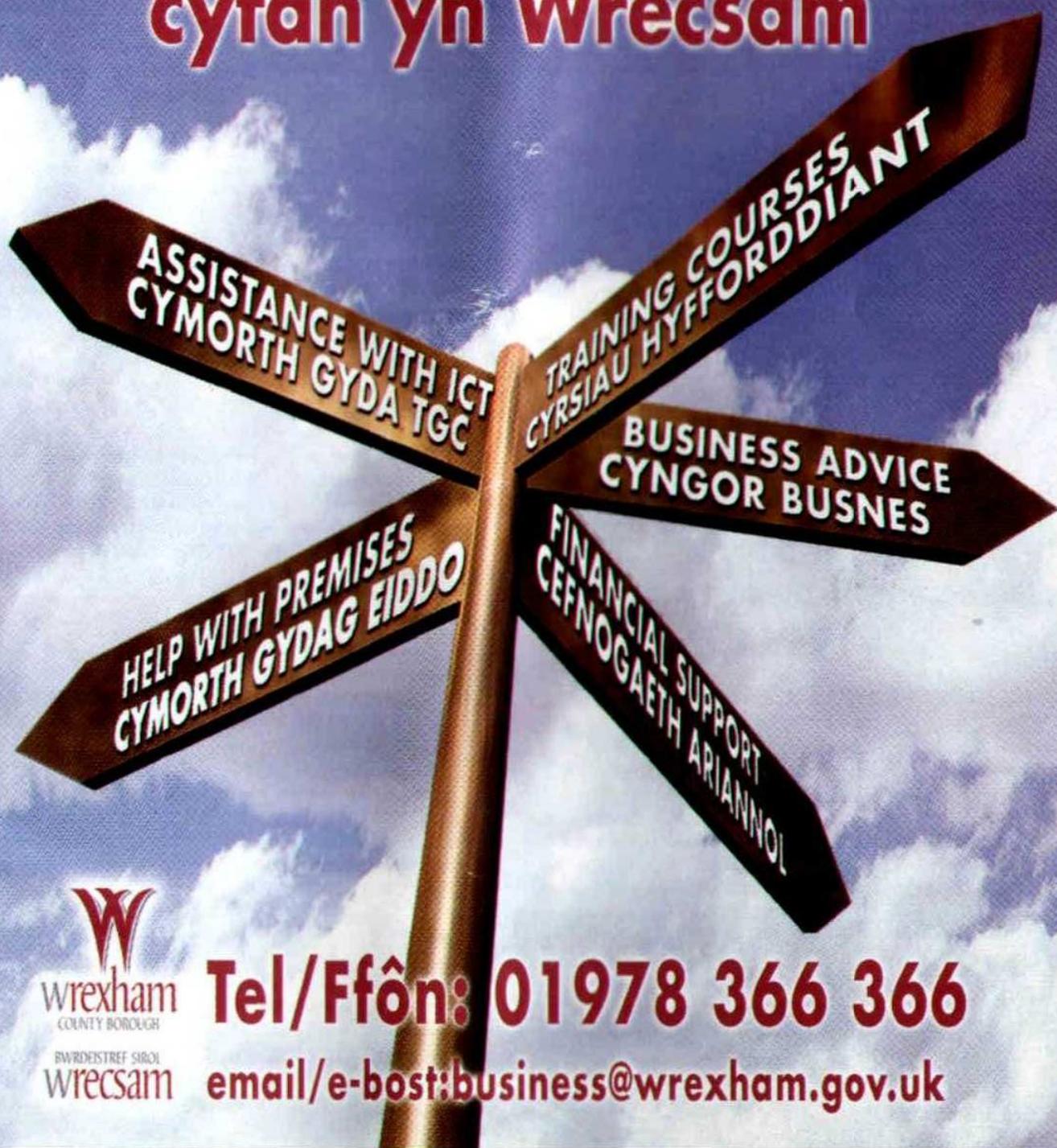
However, a switch to more 'In Season' fixtures against European opponents (as has seen to be successful in the Republic of Ireland, who are now into their third campaign of summer football) could give them a better chance, even if it is not as revolutionary a step as our friends from across the season have undertaken with their complete change of seasons.

What is certain is the fact that the game in Wales needs some overdue success at both levels to ensure that 'Jane' does not get her feet too much under the table!

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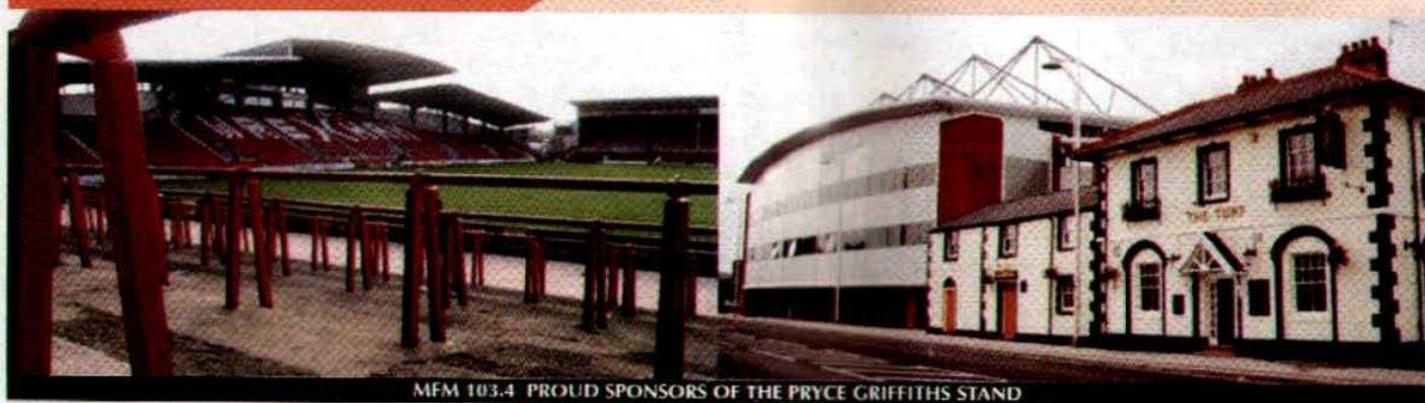
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IN THE OPPOSING DUGOUT

SWINDON TOWN

When Andy Gurney's penalty hit a post and rebound to safety at a rain lashed Withdean Stadium last May, Swindon manager Andy King could only reflect on how close his side had come to ousting favorites Brighton and Hove Albion from the Second Division play offs.

Already a goal down from the first leg, Sam Parkin's 81st minute strike looked to have given the Robins a lifeline when it took the tie into extra-time. Then, six minutes into additional thirty, up stepped Rory Fallon to shoot past Albion keeper Ben Roberts and give Swindon the aggregate lead for the first time, much to the delight of their travelling supporters.

With barely sixty seconds left on the clock, and those same Swindon fans already thinking of a trip to the Millennium Stadium, the ground erupted to the sound of their Albion counterparts celebrating Adam Virgo's close range header which billowed into the back of the net and meant the two teams faced the lottery of a penalty shoot out to determine nine months of hard work.

The first four players successful converted their spot kicks before Tommy Mooney saw his effort well saved by Roberts. Brighton converted their next two efforts leaving Gurney having to score with Swindon's fifth and final kick. The rest is history but King will be hoping that his side can build on that experience and go one better this term.

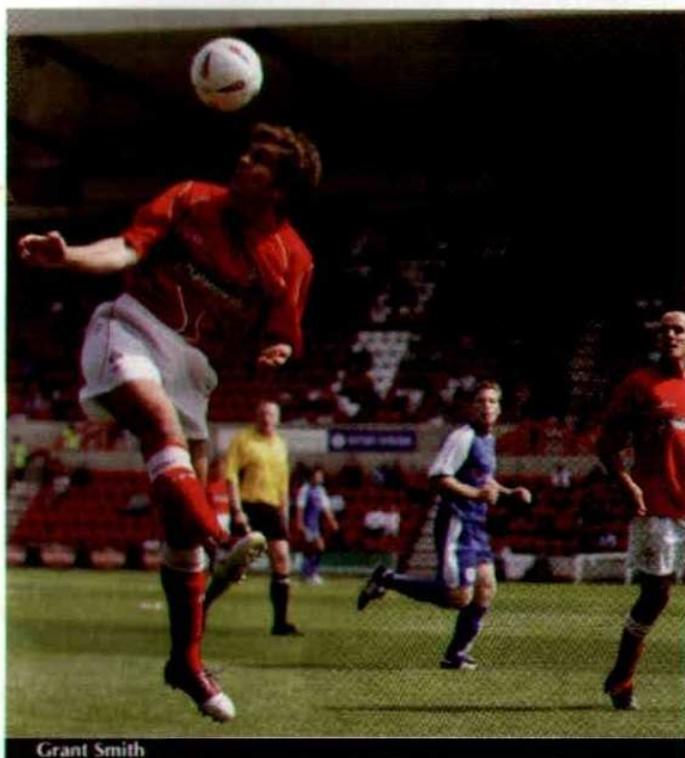
The departure of Mooney to Oxford United during the close season was a major blow for a club which also has its financial problems and doubts as to its future home. King has thus been left with little room for manoeuvre in the transfer market and has spent the past week trying to bolster his squad following injuries to Jerel Ifil and Lloyd Opara. Ifil injured his thigh in last Saturday's 2-2 draw with Bristol Rovers whilst Opara has been nursing a hamstring strain.

Former Birmingham City midfielder Danny Sonner was given a run out against Bristol Rovers and did well enough to earn another second-half outing against Premiership side Southampton on Tuesday night.

"We know he (Danny) can handle a football. That's one quality among many others you need at this level. Another one is the ability to get about and compete. If he shows me that against Southampton then it will be a matter of putting the situation to the board.

"The one area or player I haven't got a replacement for, though, and need competition for is the Matty Hewlett role, the dogged, aggression-style player," added King in an interview with the Wiltshire Evening Advertiser.

With Matt Heywood also facing knee surgery, King may



Grant Smith

be forced to ring the changes in defence with Andy Gurney partnering Sean O'Hanlon at the heart of the back four.

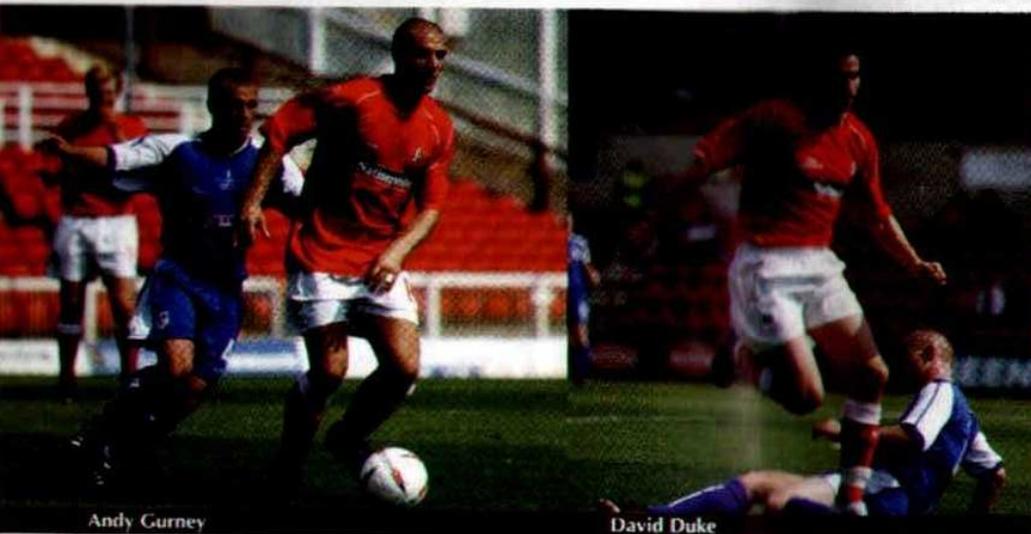
"Matty is seeing a specialist over the next few days and if an operation is perceived to be the best thing for the lad then so be it," explained King. "Heywood has been a main player at this club for a good number of years and would be sorely missed if he is forced to have an operation."

King is hopeful of signing two further players in the run up to today's game, with Tottenham's Dean Marney widely reported as one.

"I am hoping there will be two new players here for the Wrexham match," added King after the 2-1 defeat by Southampton, a game which saw the Robins take the lead against their Premiership opponents.

"I need cover. I've agreed a deal with the manager concerned for one player and I'm also hoping the Spurs thing will progress."

The worst case scenario is that no new faces appear but King is prepared for that, adding: "There are little bits to look at but I know my 'eleven' without any new faces coming in."



Andy Gurney

David Duke



Brian Howard

Pictures courtesy of Chris Adams

PLAYER BY PLAYER

GOALKEEPERS

20 RHYS EVANS

Evans was the only senior goalkeeper on the Robins books prior to the signing of Cheltenham's 35-year-old custodian Steve Book last Monday. Rhys was given an excellent grounding in the professional game during his time at Chelsea, where he previously worked under former Reds' keeper Eddie Niedzwiecki. Swindon-born, the 22-year-old has been capped by England at schoolboy, youth and under-21 level and will be hoping that his spell at the County Ground is a steppingstone on his way to a return to the big time. Released by the Stamford Bridge outfit in June 2003, he had previously pulled on the gloves for Bristol Rovers, Queens Park Rangers and Leyton Orient.

DEFENDERS

02 SEAN O'HANLON

Joined the Robins for a fee of £150,000 in March 2004 following a successful loan spell. Sean has been a regular face in the defence since, netting his first senior goal in the defeat of struggling Chesterfield last season. Southport-born, the 21-year-old is a former England youth and under-20 international who turned professional in August 2002. A product of the Toffee's academy set up at Bellefield, he failed to appear in the first team during his time at Goodison Park although he will have been given an excellent initiation into the professional game.

06 ANDY GURNEY

The club captain and a vital member of the County Ground rearguard, Andy is a versatile player who is usually to be found at full back, but is equally at home when operating in the midfield. A Bristolian by birth, the 30-year-old turned professional in his home city with Rovers and went onto play well over 100 times in the famous blue-and-white quarters. Always dangerous when delivering his trademark free-kicks, he subsequently joined Reading for a fee of £100,000 in 1999 following a period on the English Riviera with Torquay United.

15 ANDREW NICHOLAS

Impressed the Robins faithful immensely since gaining a regular starting spot last season, Andrew made his first team debut in the LDV meeting with Boston United. Locally born, the 20-year-old is a tall and commanding defender who looks to have a promising future in the game. He finally established himself last season and made 33 league appearances in what was his first season for the club, scoring one goal in the

process. Having come through the academy set up at Liverpool, he spent a season as a professional at Anfield but failed to register a first team appearance and moved onto the County Ground a little over twelve months ago.

19 MATT HEYWOOD

Now into this fifth season in the West Country, Matt has been one of the mainstays of the Robins rearguard and is a strapping central defender who likes to dominate the opposition forwards. Chatham-born, he is still just 24-years-old and is likely to once again be a regular in the first eleven as he has been for much of the past three seasons. Signed from Burnley in January 2001, he played just 13 times in all competitions for the Clarets but since his move south has registered almost 170 outings for Swindon. Suffered a recurrence of a long-standing knee injury during pre-season and may well miss this afternoon's opener.

22 ALAN REEVES

The brother of former Preston and Chesterfield striker David Reeves, Alan has made a big impression on the County Ground faithful during the six seasons that he has spent with the club and where he has formed an excellent understanding with his defensive colleagues. Birkenhead-born, the 36-year-old started out with Norwich City but it was following a £10,000 move to Chester that he first started to get noticed. Now at the veteran stage of his career, the wholehearted defender moved to Rochdale before playing 27 times for Wimbledon in the Premier League during a four-year spell.

12 JEREL IFIL

Finally completed a permanent move from Watford last month, Jerel's arrival saw Andy King pay the Vicarage Road club £70,000 for his services but it was a reluctant sale by the Hornets who were forced to part with him in order to free up their budget to strengthen other areas of the squad. A Londoner by birth, the 22-year-old was well regarded by former boss Ray Lewington as he is a commanding centre-back who reads the game well and stands over six feet tall. Good in the air and always a threat from set pieces, he originally moved to Swindon on loan during the 2002-2003 season, the first of three such moves to the Wiltshire club.

MIDFIELDERS

03 GRANT SMITH

A well-travelled midfielder who is now on the books of his ninth club, Grant joined Town after being released by

Sheffield United and was recommended by Blades' boss Neil Warnock. Although he arrived in the summer of 2003, he was made to wait for his chance but featured in the Carling Cup win at Southend United and again at Leeds United in the following round with a sub appearance against Notts County in between being his league bow. His first full start came during the second leg of the play-offs at Brighton, where he slotted in admirably at left-back and will be hoping for further chances to show his worth in the new campaign.

04 MATT HEWLETT

Another to have previously pulled on the colours of one of the Bristol clubs, Matt came through the junior ranks at Ashton Gate and went onto amass 153 senior appearances for the Robins after originally turning pro in 1993. Bristol-born, the 28-year-old made waves in his teenage years and was rewarded with a call-up to the England youth side. A former teammate of Matt Heywood while on loan at Burnley in 1998, he has a good engine and gives his all in the centre of midfield.

07 SAMMY IGOE

Currently in his second season in Wiltshire, Sammy has visited the Racecourse on numerous occasions previously with his former club Reading where he earned a reputation as a hardworking wide man who was always liable to produce something special. Born in Staines, the 28-year-old may be short in height but more than makes up for this with some towering performances on the right wing, where he always shows great enthusiasm and endeavour. Came through the ranks at Fratton Park and played 177 times for Portsmouth prior to his £100,000 sale to the Royals in March 2000.

10 STEFANI MIGLIORANZI

Having originally joined Swindon on a short-term contract in the summer of 2002, Stefani has made a big impression and is now one of the first names on Andy King's team sheet. Born in Pocos de Caldas, Brazil, the 26-year-old arrived at the club with a question mark over his fitness, but this has since been more than dispelled as his creative midfield play has made him a firm favourite with the County Ground fans. Originally joined Portsmouth from St John's University in New York in 1999 and went on to play 42 times for Pompey before heading off to Wiltshire on a free transfer.

11 DAVID DUKE

A regular name in the Robins first team pool for the last four seasons, David is normally used in a wing back role although his natural attacking tendencies do tend to mean that he spends a lot of time pushing forward. Inverness-born, the 25-year-old was spotted by Sunderland in 1997, when turning out for Redby CA, and signed on a free transfer. Despite his

LAST FIVE RESULTS

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Scorers
21.07.04	Bideford Town	A	5-2	Smith 2 (1 pen), Fallon 2, Kelly n.g.
24.07.04	Millwall	H	1-2	Holgate
27.07.04	Grays Athletic	A	1-2	Fallon
31.07.04	Bristol Rovers	A	2-2	Howard, Caton
03.08.04	Southampton	H	1-2	Igoe

versatility, he failed to make the breakthrough at the Stadium of Light but has been a consistent performer during his time at the County Ground.

17 BRIAN HOWARD

A former teammate and midfield companion of our own Matty Crowell during their time with Southampton, Brian failed to register a first team appearance during his four-years with the Saints. Winchester-born, the 21-year-old made his mark in the game early on and was capped by England at both youth and under-20 level during his formative years. Having been allowed to leave the St Mary's Stadium in the summer of 2003, he took up the offer of a contract with Swindon, where he enjoyed a consistent first term.

ATTACKERS

09 SAM PARKIN

One of the most feared strikers in the lower division, Sam found the net an impressive 23 times last season and was one of the main reasons that the Robins managed to secure a play-off berth. Roehampton-born, he is still just 22 years old, and the Wrexham defence will have to be at its best this afternoon to ensure that the former Chelsea youngster does not carry his fine form into the new season. Having enjoyed loan spells with Millwall, Wycombe, Oldham and Northampton, he eventually joined Swindon in August 2002, arriving with a bang, scoring 26 times in all competitions during his inaugural season at the County Ground.

16 RORY FALLON

Played against Wrexham for both Barnsley and Swindon last season, Rory is a tall striker who is always likely to provide a threat in the air especially from set pieces. Born in Gisbourne, New Zealand, the 22-year-old moved from Yorkshire in November 2003 and was a regular in the referee's notebook as he picked up eight bookings and one red card last season. Also turned out for our near neighbours Shrewsbury Town during a three-month loan spell in the 2001-02 seasons, although he failed to find the net in his 11 appearances for the Shropshire club.



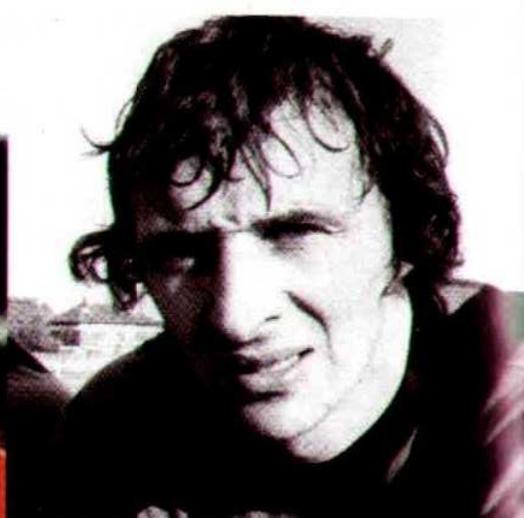
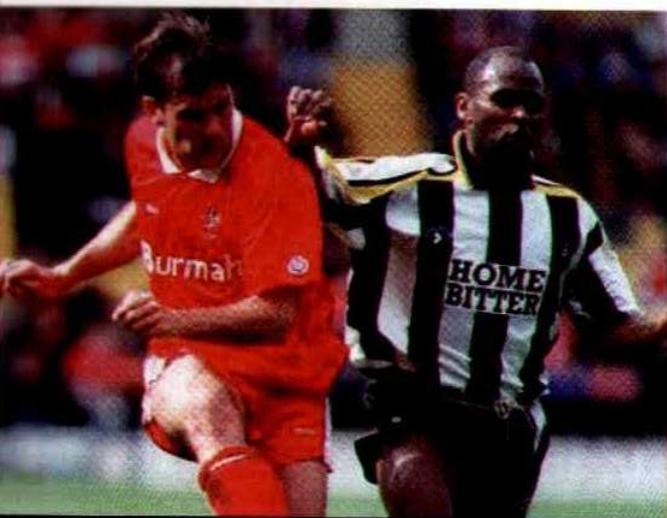
MEET THE MANAGER

ANDY KING

Having taken the Robins to the verge of the First Division on a limited budget last term, where they were very unlucky to lose to Brighton in the play-off semi-final, the club's followers will be hoping that he will be able to ensure that his charges go one better this time around. Now well into his second spell at the County Ground, he was originally put in charge during 2000, but was later replaced by former Liverpool boss Roy Evans. When Evans moved on, King was back at the helm in January 2002, following a short spell under current assistant manager Malcolm Crosby.

Since then the 47-year-old, who turns 48 next Saturday, has built steadily with a 13th place finish in 2001-2002 bettered by three places the following term before an exciting campaign saw the end of season lottery reached last May.

Luton-born, as a player he was a midfielder who will be remembered by most supporters for his two spells with Everton but he actually served no less than seven clubs. The others being Luton (twice), Queens Park Rangers, West Bromwich Albion, Wolves, Cambuur (Holland) and finally Aldershot.



Glenn Hoddle

Don Rogers

Mike Summerbee

DREAM TEAM

Football historian **LEIGH EDWARDS** selects a post-war Swindon Town 'Dream Team' with the help of several Swindon supporters and club officials.

FRASER DIGBY

England Under-21 goalkeeper who was a key figure in Swindon Town's 1992-93 First Division play-off final triumph. Signing professional for Manchester United in April 1985, he moved to Swindon in September 1986 and featured in that season's promotion success. He was ever-present in 1988-89, starring as they qualified for the play-offs in successive seasons and were Coca-Cola Cup semi-finalists in 1994-95. Also featuring in the 1995-96 Second Division title triumph, he had a testimonial in July 1997 and played 417 League games before joining Crystal Palace in August 1998, then played for Barry Town.

ROD THOMAS

Welsh international right-back who was capped 30 times while at Swindon Town. Initially with Gloucester City, he moved to the County Ground in July 1964 and was a key figure in Swindon's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' success. He also starred in their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final triumph and netted five goals in 296 League games prior to joining Derby County in November 1973. Featuring in their 1974-75 League Championship campaign, he moved to Cardiff City in November 1977 and subsequently had spells with Newport County and Gloucester again before becoming a publican.

JOHN TROLLOPE

Long-serving left-back who holds Swindon Town's appearance record. Signing professional at the County Ground in July 1960, he made his League debut in Swindon's 1-1 draw at home to Halifax Town a month later and was ever-present in seven consecutive seasons including the 1962-63 promotion success. He featured in Swindon's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' campaign as well as their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final triumph. Scoring 21 goals in 770 League games for Swindon, he was coach before managing them between November 1980 and March 1983, then their youth-team boss. His son Paul is a current Welsh International.

GLENN HODDLE

Former England international midfielder who was player-manager as Swindon Town reached the Premiership in 1992-93. Signing professional for Tottenham Hotspur in April 1975, he starred as they won promotion in 1977-78 and then won the FA Cup in two consecutive seasons and the UEFA Cup in 1984. He moved to Monaco in July 1987 and helped win the French title in 1987-88, becoming Swindon's player-boss in August 1991. Scoring once in 64 League games, he left to take charge of Chelsea after the 1992-93 First Division play-off final triumph and has since managed England, Southampton and Spurs.

COLIN CALDERWOOD

Commanding central defender who was capped 36 times by Scotland after leaving Swindon Town. Signing professional for Mansfield Town in March 1982, he moved to the County Ground in July 1985 and starred as Swindon won the Fourth Division title in 1985-86. He also helped to win promotion in 1986-87 and then featured in two further play-off finals including the 1993 Wembley triumph. Scoring 20 times in 330 League games for Swindon, he moved to Tottenham Hotspur in July 1993 and subsequently played for Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest. He is now managing Northampton Town.

SHAUN TAYLOR

Influential central defender who was ever-present alongside Colin Calderwood as Swindon Town reached the Premiership in 1992-93. He impressed with Bideford before moving to Exeter City in December 1986 and starred in their 1989-90 Fourth Division title triumph. Joining Swindon in July 1991, he was the sole ever-present player in their 1993-94 Premiership campaign and also featured in the 1995-96 Second Division title triumph. He netted 30 goals in 212 League games while at the County Ground before moving to Bristol City in September 1996 where he has become development coach.

MIKE SUMMERBEE

Brilliant winger who was capped eight times by England after leaving Swindon Town. Initially with Cheltenham Town, he moved to the County Ground in March 1960 and was an important figure in Swindon's 1962-63 promotion success. He netted 39 goals in 218 League games prior to joining Manchester City in August 1965, amassing a vast collection of domestic and European honours under the Joe Mercer/Malcolm Allison partnership at Maine Road. Subsequently with Burnley, Blackpool and Stockport County, he is a successful businessman and his son Nicky also starred for Swindon Town.

ERNIE HUNT

England U-23 international striker who was Swindon Town's leading marksman in four successive seasons including their 1962-63 promotion triumph. Born locally, he signed professional at the County Ground in March 1960 and netted 82 goals in 214 League games for Swindon prior to joining Wolverhampton Wanderers in September 1965. He was top scorer as they regained top-flight status in 1966-67 and subsequently played for Everton, Coventry City, Doncaster Rovers and Bristol City, featuring in their 1973-74 FA Cup run. He later ran the Full Pitcher pub in Ledbury and then became a window cleaner.

PAUL RIDEOUT

England U-21 international striker who was Swindon Town's leading goalscorer in two consecutive seasons. He was Swindon's youngest League player at 16 years 107 days against Hull City in November 1980 and netted 38 goals in 95 League games while at the County Ground before joining Aston Villa in June 1983. Moving via Italian club Bari to Southampton in July 1988, he rejoined Swindon on loan in March 1991. He had spells with Notts County and Glasgow Rangers prior to joining Everton in August 1992 and was an FA Cup winner in 1995, then played for several clubs in China and Tranmere Rovers.

PETER NOBLE

Versatile favourite who was ever-present in Swindon Town's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' triumph. Initially with Consett, he joined Newcastle United in November 1964 and played top-flight football before moving to Swindon in January 1968. He scored twice in their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final success and netted 62 goals in 216 League outings prior to joining Burnley in June 1973. An FA Cup semi-finalist in 1973-74, he was twice ever-present for the Clarets and leading marksman in 1978-79. He subsequently played for Blackpool and has since run a sportswear business in Burnley.

DON ROGERS

England U-23 international winger who scored twice in Swindon Town's 1969 League Cup final success. Signing professional at the County Ground in October 1962, he featured in Swindon's 1962-63 promotion campaign and was ever-present in four successive seasons. He starred as Swindon won promotion again in 1968-69 and the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1970, reuniting with Bert Head at Crystal Palace in November 1972. Moving to QPR in September 1974, he rejoined Swindon in March 1976 and netted 148 goals in 412 League games overall for the Robins. He has since run his own sports shop in Swindon.

TOPICALLY SPEAKING

REBRANDING FOR ALL?

How many times have we been promoted? Well: 1961-62 under Ken Barnes' management; 1969-70 under John Neal; 1977-7, the only time as Champions, under Arfon Griffiths; 1992-93 under Brian Flynn and of course the season before last when we bounced back at the first attempt under Denis Smith. So, five times? Well, yes, and er....no!

I suppose it depends on what you call promotion. As far as finishing in the top three or four and gaining promotion to a higher division by that means, then the seasons noted above are correct. However, in 1920-21 and 1957-58 we also achieved promotion! How so? Well we moved into the league in 1921-22 from the old Birmingham League and with the reorganization of the Football League in 1958, we achieved promotion through finishing high enough to qualify for a place in the new Third Division rather than the Fourth Division. You could also claim that we achieved "promotion" in 1991-92 as the following season, with the advent of the Premiership, all the League divisions 'moved up' one. So, if you look at it one way, we finished 1991-92 in Division Four and finished 1992-93 in Division Two!

Similarly.....(this season with the changes: Premiership, Coca-Cola 1, Coca-Cola 2 etc.) we have been promoted from the old Division Two to Coca-Cola League One. Well, it's better than getting relegated I suppose, but you have to wonder how all this positive advertising of divisional variations will end? It's even spreading to non-League: with the Conference now splitting to one and two and thence to Conference North and South!

I suppose the major disadvantage is the confusion and alienation of the core support who are bemused by all this window-dressing. After all, you could argue, like Brian Clough still does, that the Premiership is still the First Division, then following on from this line of thought we are still in the "Third Division"! We aren't of course, we are in Coca-Cola League One, which sounds better than Division Two (where we were last season) and definitely better than Division Three (where we would have been prior to 1992-1993)....but all the re-branding in the world won't change the fact that we are two promotions away from the top division: be that designated the Premiership, the First Division or whatever!

Confused Eddie (Hoping for promotion to the.... er....)



DEAN BENNETT TUSSELES FOR THE BALL

FREEZE FRAME

WREXHAM 1 STOKE CITY 1



Chris Llewellyn shoots for goal

Hector holds his position

Danny Williams surges forward

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

WREXHAM: Matt Baker (Andy Dibble 74), Jim Whitley, Alex Smith (Andy Holt 46), Steve Roberts, Brian Carey (Shaun Pejic 46), Dennis Lawrence, Danny Williams (Levi Mackin 66), Darren Ferguson (Mark Jones 66), Chris Llewellyn (Dean Bennett 74), Dean Bennett (Simon Spender 46), Hector Sam.

STOKE CITY: Ed de Goey, Paul Kurt, John Malino, Wayne Thomas, Clint Hill, Dave Brammer, Karl Henry, Darel Russell, Gifton Noel-Williams, Ade Akinbiyi, Clive Clarke.
SUBS: Steve Simonsen, Chris Greenacre, Paul Williams, Dwayne Lee, Lewis Neal, Ben Foster.

REFEREE: Trevor Parkes

ATTENDANCE: 1,821

AWAY: 317

The first friendly match of the season saw new signings Matt Baker, Alex Smith, Dean Bennett and the returning Danny Williams line-up in the new look Dragons' side. For Stoke, former Racecourse favourite Dave Brammer made his first appearance after his protracted move from Crewe Alexandra.

It was Williams who showed first, hitting a 20-yarder over Ed de Goey's bar whilst Hector Sam nearly opened the scoring early on when he surprisingly out jumped the giant former Chelsea keeper but was unable to steer his resultant header into the gapping net.

The home side were well on top, but Ade Akinbiyi was a constant threat and his battle with Brian Carey was one of the main features of an entertaining match. Indeed, the former Gillingham man forced Baker into action with a comfortable save from 20-yards after Carey had blocked the first effort.

It was still mainly Wrexham doing most of the attacking with Ferguson in particular pulling the strings to good effect in midfield. He dissected the visitor's defence with a great ball into the box aimed at the dangerous Sam, but an alert defender recovered to slide the ball away for a corner.

The former Wolves and Manchester United schemer certainly had his eye-in and he found Llewellyn on the right-hand side of de Goey's penalty area and the striker forced the keeper to save at the foot of the post.

Wrexham took a well-deserved lead on 37 minutes and it was no surprise that the influential Ferguson was involved. It was his slide rule pass that had the home defence on the back foot but Smith, advancing in from the left, appeared to have delayed too long. However, he did well to pull the ball back from the by-line and Chris Llewellyn side-footed home at the near-post for the first goal of the new campaign.

Unfortunately, the advantage lasted all of three minutes, as Clive Clarke swung over the ball from the Wrexham right and Gifton Noel-

Williams out-jumped the advancing Baker to loop a header into the net from 10 yards out.

Half time saw the Reds make three substitutions with Shaun Pejic, new boy Andy Holt and Simon Spencer introduced in place of Smith, Bennett and Carey respectively. The visitors made just one change and that was in goal with former Everton keeper Steve Simonsen taking de Goey's place but, somewhat bizarrely, three outfield players changed numbers. Don't you just love pre-season!

Wrexham were soon back on the attack early in the second period and Llewellyn hit a stinging shot which was blocked as the ball arched towards Simonsen's goal. Hector Sam then nearly restored the Dragons' advantage twice in the space of just sixty seconds. His first effort was a long range shot that struck the inside of Simonsen's right-hand post and the Trinidad International followed that up with a well-placed header which forced the keeper into a good low save low.

Andy Dibble made a welcome return to first team action on 74 minutes following his horrific injury at Peterborough last term, and it was pleasing to see that he emerged from the dug-out to rapturous cheers from the Dragons' supporters. Bennett also returned to the fray at the same time, this time at the expense of Llewellyn.

The veteran keeper was soon into the action, tipping a shot over from Chris Greenacre before plucking a corner out of the air under great pressure.

Unfortunately, the number of second-half substitutions disrupted the flow of what had been an entertaining game, although with eight minutes left, the Reds had loud appeals from a penalty turned down by referee Trevor Parkes.

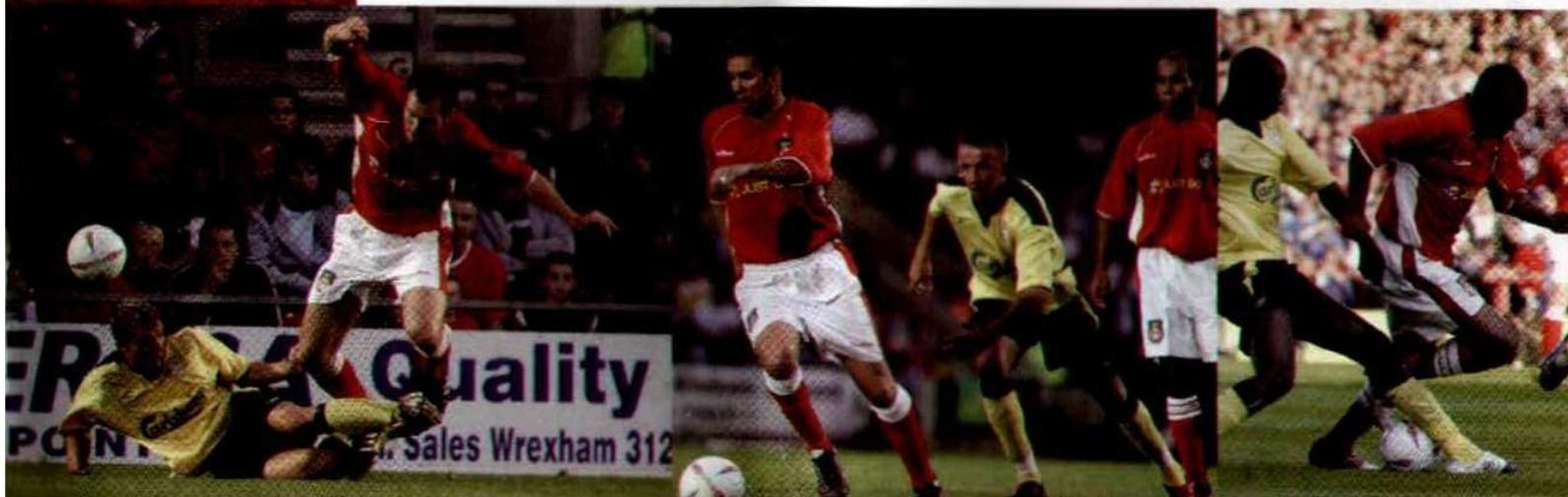
Bennett fed Sam and the striker twisted and turned, but then saw his shirt grabbed from behind by the defender. However, the referee saw matters differently and waved play on much to the disgust of the home crowd.



JIM WHITLEY AND DARREN FERGUSON

FREEZE FRAME

WREXHAM 1 LIVERPOOL 2



Chris Llewellyn in orbit

Darren in action

Hector Sam on the run

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

WREXHAM: Andy Dibble (Matt Baker 81), Steve Roberts (Shaun Pejic 46), Brian Carey, Dennis Lawrence, Simon Spender, Andy Holt (Matty Done 81), Darren Ferguson, Danny Williams, Jim Whitley (Levi Mackin 65), Chris Llewellyn, Hector Sam (Mark Jones 50).

SUBS: Craig Morgan.

LIVERPOOL (1st half): Kirkland, Finnan, Traore, Hyypia, Medjani, Biscan, Welsh, Murphy, Cisse, Kewell, Le Tallec.

LIVERPOOL (2nd half): Dudek, Diao, Whitbread, Warnock, Riise, Raven, Potter, Pongolle, Otsemobor, Foy, Le Tallec.

REFEREE: Mark Warren

ATTENDANCE: 14,978

With none of their Euro 2004 stars on parade, it was new boy Djibril Cisse that got most of the pre match attention, but in the end it was fellow French youngster Anthony Le Tallec who stole the show with two goals as Liverpool got their pre-season preparations off to a winning start with this come-from-behind 2-1 victory at the Racecourse.

Le Tallec was the only player to stay on the field for the entire 90 minutes and he repaid his manager's faith with an excellent double to serve notice that he intends playing more of a part in the first team this season.

Raphael Benitez used 21 players in his first match as Liverpool manager, while opposite number Denis Smith had to call up 16-year-old Matty Done to the senior squad. With Simon Spender playing his second full 90 minutes inside a day, there was also a place on the bench for another trainee in Levi Mackin as the Dragons' playing resources were stretched to the very limit.

That said, manager Denis Smith could be well pleased with his side's showing particularly in the opening stanza when they took the game to their more illustrious opponents. Indeed, it was thoroughly deserved when the home side took the lead after 19 minutes as the Liverpool defence conceded their first goal in the Benitez era.

Darren Ferguson, the subject of some barracking due to his United ties, took a left sided corner and as the ball came back to him, he lifted a cross that Dennis Lawrence directed the ball towards goal, where Hector Sam was on hand to make sure the ball flew past Chris Kirkland from close range.

That setback served to spark Liverpool into action and they drew level just four minutes later. Igor Biscan, who was an impressive figure in midfield, crashed a 25-yard shot against the base of Dibble's right hand post and the French youngster Anthony Le Tallec was quickest to the loose ball to tap home the equaliser.

Wrexham enjoyed a great deal of possession in the first half and really should have gone into the interval back in front. First Simon Spender

wasted a golden opportunity to score when he ghosted in at the back post and with most of the goal gaping, screwed his effort from 12 yards well wide of the mark. Then Steve Roberts also popped up unnoticed at the back post, but despite his best efforts couldn't guide his header on target from a similar distance.

Benitez made ten changes to his team at half time, with only Le Tallec surviving from the side which kicked off the game and despite this being a much younger Liverpool team after the break, they were certainly up for the challenge. It was young Scot Robbie Foy who had the first chance of the second period but his low shot from distance drifted just wide of Andy Dibble's goal.

Florent Sinama Pongolle, enjoyed his second half run out and came close on a couple of occasions to giving Liverpool the lead. He forced Dibble into a fine save with a low shot and then slid a right-footed effort just wide of the far post following a sweeping Liverpool move.

Le Tallec and Pongolle were a real handful for the Wrexham defence throughout the second period and they carved open another chance after 70 minutes, when Pongolle latched onto his team-mates pass but lifted the ball over the bar from close range.

The duo linked up again eight minutes later, this time to deadly effect, as Pongolle dribbled through the Wrexham defence and unselfishly laid the ball into the path of Anthony Le Tallec, who made no mistake with a low finish into the far corner.

First year trainee Done, who has shown up well in the Youth team's pre-season friendlies, was then give his first taste of senior action and the youngster showed he was capable of taking the occasion in his stride with a number of confident passes on the left flank.

Overall, though the tired legs of the Dragons - playing their second match in two days - were no match for a revitalised Liverpool team during the second 45 minutes, those Wrexham fans in the near 15,000 crowd will have been delighted at what they saw from their side.



Goal scoring action from our game away at Brentford last season



Action against Oldham last season

HOME AND AWAY

defending the faith

Wrexham make the short trip to Boundary Park next Tuesday night for their first away fixture of the new Coca Cola League One campaign.

As ever, the Latics will provide a stern test for the Dragons with Oldham Athletic manager Brian Talbot looking to build his side around new signing Rodney Jack, the Jamaican striker having previously played for Talbot at Rushden & Diamonds.

Reports from their pre-season matches suggest a more direct approach; with fellow Jamaican international Jermaine Johnson look to cross the ball high into the penalty area at every opportunity. 'JJ' as the Oldham fans have nicknamed him, has been the Latics star performer this term and was instrumental in all three goals that clinched a 3-0 victory at Rochdale last Saturday.

Having set up the first for Danny Boxhall, Johnson capitalised on a long ball out of defence to race clear and slot the ball past the advancing Rochdale keeper. Johnson added a second shortly afterwards, once again a direct result of his blistering pace.

Oldham's only reverse per-season was the 1-0 home defeat by Premiership Bolton Wanderers. Indeed, that so far has been the only goal conceded by a youthful Latics rearguard although Talbot has injury doubts ahead of today's trip to Luton Town.

Will Hanning had been struggling with a toe injury before then picking up an ankle injury at Spotland, which forced him off at half time. If passed fit, he seems set to partner another new signing, Mark Arber, in the centre of defence at Kenilworth Road.

The vastly experienced John Eyre, defender Danny Hall and forward Wes Wilkinson have also suffered slight knocks in the build-up to the new season but manager Talbot remains optimistic that he will have a full squad to select from at Kenilworth Road.

"Hopefully Will Hanning and John Eyre will be fit and we'll take it from there. I hope both of those players are fit because they are in my plans. It's nice to see Chris Killen, Boshell and Appleby playing because they hadn't played last season and it's nice to have them back."

Sadly for former Wrexham loanee Chris Killen, he suffered a recurrence of a hamstring injury in training on Wednesday. This must have been a massive blow for the player who trained throughout the entire summer in a bid to end his injury nightmare. The striker even travelled to Lillleshall to spend a week on an intensive recovery programme, but it seems to have been to no avail.

BEES ARE A BUZZING

There can be little doubting the impact new manager Martin Allen had upon Brentford following his late season move from Conference side Barnet.

Having seen the Griffin Park side escape from relegation on the final day of the season, he has been extremely busy in the transfer market, bringing in several new faces.

And with the arrival of veteran winger John Salako, striker Deon Burton, defender Andy Myers and South Korean San Lee, Allen sees no reason why the club cannot progress.

"The lads who've come in have settled in fine. They are good people and the squad respect each other, so now only time will tell."

However, the Bees boss had mixed feelings following his side's 3-2 friendly victory at Aldershot on Wednesday night.

Deon Burton gave the Bees a 2-0 advantage with goals either side of the break before the hosts pulled level in the space of four minutes with strikes from Aaron McLean and Roscoe D'Sane but the visitors sealed the victory with a header from Chris Hargreaves.

"Last night's game proved to be a very testing and tough away game against good opposition and is just what we needed after the good performance on Sunday against Reading," Allen told the club's website.

"A plus was seeing the team raise their game when Aldershot equalised for 2-2. I was delighted we came again and managed to get a winner.

"But the negatives were the fact we conceded two goals, which is a disappointment.

"Another positive is that Mr [Michael] Dobson looked closer to full fitness. He is working hard on the training pitch with Andy Myers and they both hope to be playing 90 minutes on Saturday at Newmarket, to help bring the pair of them up to full fitness."

Allen further strengthened his squad this week when he signed Charlton defender Michael Turner on loan, initially for one month.

The 20-year-old has been captain of the Addicks reserves for the last two years and trained with his new Bees teammates on Wednesday.

Brentford could yet prove to be the surprise package in the division and will provide Wrexham with another difficult

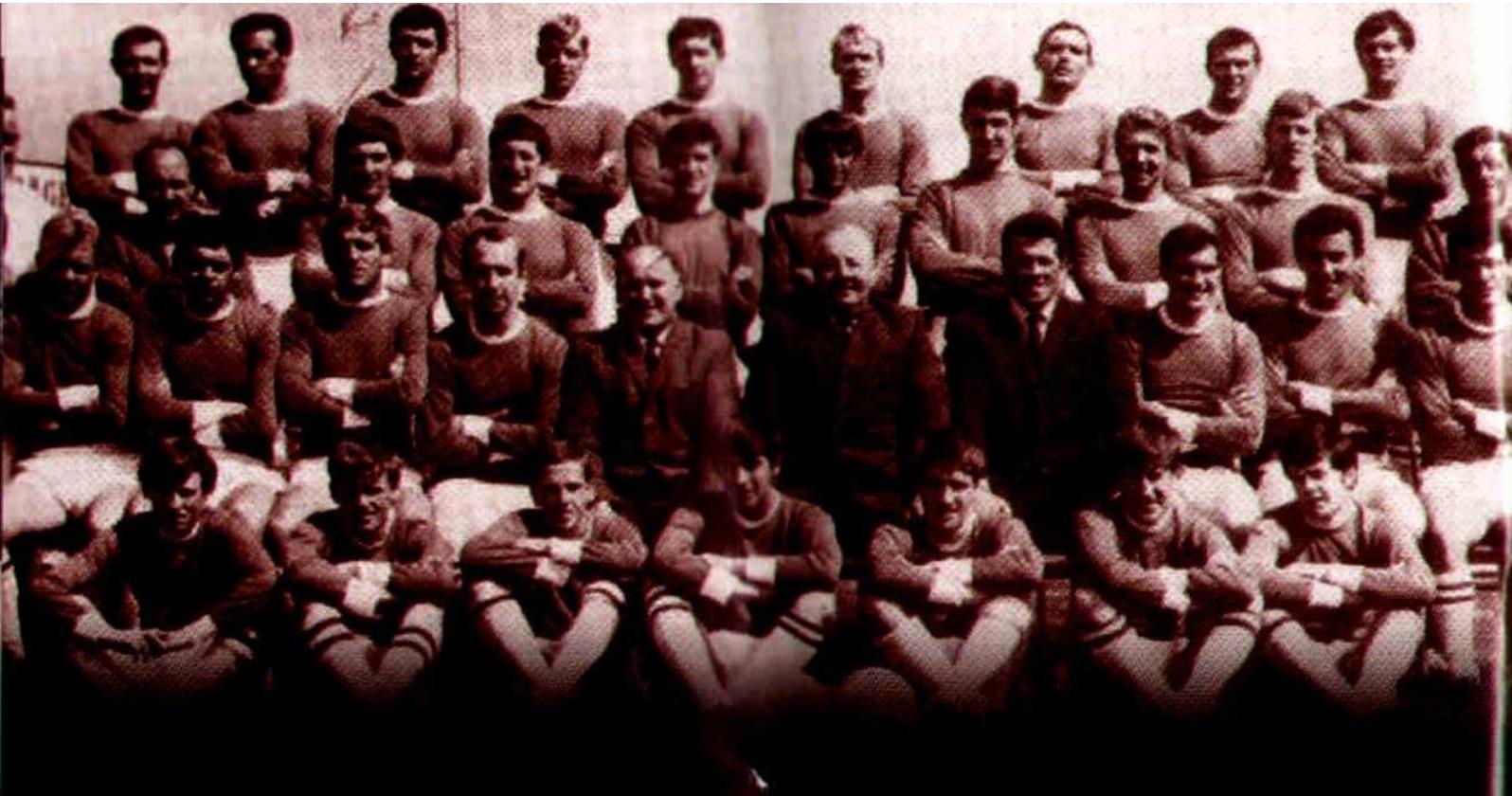
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read David Lovett every night in the**

**WREXHAM
EVENING**

LEADER



SEASON BY SEASON

1967-68 all promise

After missing out on promotion by just six points in season 1966-67, Wrexham manager Alvan Williams decided to return to his former club, Southend United, for several players in an effort to bolster promotion hopes for the new campaign. Centre forward Ray Smith quickly proved an excellent acquisition, as did versatile defender Steve Ingle. Midfielder Tony Beanland was also snapped up from the Essex outfit whilst the other two major signings were full-back Alan Bermingham, from Skelmersdale United, and influential midfielder Terry Bradbury (from Leyton Orient). So, aspirations for a successful season were high.

AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

The season opened with a home fixture against Luton. Ray Smith's header, on the hour, seemed to have won the points until a late equaliser earned the "Hatters" (who would become Division Four champions) a point. Defeats at Tranmere (1-2) in the League Cup and Southend (1-3) in a grudge match – the reasons being obvious – were followed by a 2-0 home win over Chester. Further home victories against Barnsley (2-0) and Hartlepoons (6-0) saw the Reds move upwards whilst both those teams would ultimately join Luton in gaining promotion! However, two defeats in South Wales (at Swansea 0-2 and Newport 2-3 respectively) showed our inconsistency.

OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

One big disappointment came in early October when Brentford won 2-1 at the Racecourse thus ending our unbeaten home league record that stretched back to April 1966. The Reds shrugged that off as they defeated

Darlington 3-1 and Southend 4-1 on the "Course. Away form improved with draws at Exeter (2-2), Brentford (0-0) and Chester (1-1). We also registered our first away victory – 2-0 at Lincoln. Home wins over Workington (5-0), Halifax (2-0) and Crewe (1-0) put Wrexham into seventh place, just four points off the top four.

DECEMBER/ JANUARY

December began with a 1-1 draw at Notts. County but disaster struck in the F. A. Cup with a 1-7 mauling at Bradford City. We were even 1-0 ahead early on and had another effort disallowed! Another away day, at Luton, brought a 1-2 defeat before we played Rochdale twice at Christmas – winning at home (2-0) and then losing, 0-3.

Bad weather during January saw the Reds play only one league fixture, as Swansea were beaten 2-1 on the Racecourse. Progress was made in the Welsh Cup, but only just! The Reds defeated Bethesda 1-0 on the "Course in a poor game.

FEBRUARY/ MARCH

February proved to be a disastrous month – played five, lost five! First was a 0-3 reverse at Hartlepoons, followed by Newport's 1-0 victory at Wrexham. The Reds then lost 1-3 in the Welsh Cup when Second Division Cardiff travelled to North Wales. The month ended with another 1-3 defeat (this time at York), before Bradford City won 2-0 on the Racecourse. This fixture saw Gareth Davies make his league debut for Wrexham.

March opened with two away draws, 1-1 at Darlington and 2-2 at third placed Barnsley – usually

poor grounds for the Reds. But, a 1-3 defeat at Chesterfield was just around the corner!

However, Wrexham stopped the rot with four straight (much needed) victories. Indeed, we were to remain unbeaten during the final 13 games of the season! Aldershot were beaten 2-1 as Steve Stacey came on as a late substitute to score the winner. Then came another home win as Chesterfield were soundly beaten 3-0, with an in-form Ian Moir netting two. Moir also scored twice in a 2-1 win over Lincoln. The Reds then recorded only their second away win, 2-1 at lowly Workington.

APRIL/ MAY

April opened with a 2-2 draw at Halifax before registering the 'double' over bottom placed Bradford Park Avenue at Easter. Exeter then gained a 0-0 draw here and our visit to Crewe brought a similar result. Wrexham rounded off April with home victories over Port Vale (1-0) and Notts. County (2-0) but any chance of promotion had now passed the Reds by.

In the final away game, Wrexham gained a 1-1 draw at Vale Park and we finished the season with a 3-1 home win against York City – that result condemned the 'Minstermen' to a re-election application. Wrexham, themselves, finished in eighth place.

MATCH OF THE SEASON 1967-68

Southend visited North Wales on a rainy Monday October evening with Wrexham out to revenge a 1-3 defeat at Roots Hall the previous August. In the visitors' team was a certain Sammy McMillan, who had become out of favour with Reds' boss Alvan Williams. Wrexham fielded Ray Smith and Tony Beanland, both ex-United players – thus adding 'spice' to the proceedings.

Indeed, it was Sammy 'Mac' who opened the scoring with a close range effort after only two minutes. Wrexham couldn't get going in the first half as United put a stranglehold on play but this would change after the break.

Ray Smith equalised from a goalmouth scramble on 50 minutes, and his well-flighted header, on the hour, put us ahead. Smith completed his hat trick from the penalty spot and Don Weston completed our 4-1 victory, converting a left wing cross. Revenge is sweet!

A typical programme cover from the 1967-68 season.

Official Programme - - - - Price 9d.

WREXHAM

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.



Racecourse Ground - - - - Wrexham



LOOK WHO'S TALKING



CAN YOU IDENTIFY WHICH WREXHAM PLAYER HAS ANSWERED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS? YOU CAN FIND OUT JUST WHO IT IS ON PAGE 32.

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

New York. I have relatives living there and I really like Manhattan. One day I'd also like to visit Toronto.



WHERE WOULD YOU BUILD YOUR DREAM HOUSE

I'm 50/50 between Wrexham and Trinidad, so I'd like to have one in both places and split my time between them.

WHICH PLAYER DO YOU MOST ADMIRE

Ronaldo. I like his skills and just love the Brazilian style of play.



FAVOURITE TEAM

As a kid I liked Barcelona and the great AC Milan team that contained the likes of Ruud Gullitt and Marco van Basten

FAVOURITE FILM

Any action film, like The Rock. I also like animated features like Shrek.



FAVOURITE FOOD

I like anything spicy, but would pick spicy chicken and salad as top of my list.

BEST GOAL SCORED

That would have to be for Wrexham, when we were down to nine men against Colchester United and I grabbed the equaliser.

HOBBIES

I like relaxing and watching the television or going to the movies. I've also been thinking about taking up golf!



Goalmouth scramble against Airbus



The referee checks the Airbus wall

RESERVES & YOUTHS

We take the opportunity this week to catch up on three more of our pre-season outings. It's been a difficult period, what with Liam Jones, Phil Gray and Mike Williams away in Northern Ireland with Wales for the annual Milk Cup tournament and the likes of Jamie Reed, Matthew Done and Kieran Quinn called up into the first team squad.

Indeed, while Jamie and Kieran were 'only' on standby it was good to see Matty make his senior debut in the prestigious friendly with Liverpool at the Racecourse and also play the second half of our third/fourth place play-off against Carlisle United in the Isle of Man. But these absentees meant that the squad was left somewhat threadbare for the trip to Airbus UK and, in particular, for the home clashes with Rochdale and Oldham Athletic.

We made the short trip to Broughton three weeks ago on Saturday 17th July to face an Airbus UK side promoted to the Welsh Premier League as runaway champions of the Cymru Alliance last term. A young Dragons side put up a spirited performance but the

superior experience and strength of the home side proved vital as the 'Planemakers' eventually triumphed 4-2.

Lee Acott opened the scoring for the home side on 15 minutes with a smart lob over Dragons' keeper Danny Evans and Andy Thomas doubled the hosts' lead from a free kick five minutes later. But the Dragons showed that they are made of stern stuff and only the width of a crossbar denied Gareth Evans' header from pulling a goal back shortly afterwards.

However it was a short-lived reprieve for the home side and an Andy Spencer brace clawed the Dragons back on level terms before the interval. He reduced the deficit on 39 minutes with a well-struck angled drive and then levelled the scores just before the break with a superb 25-yard free kick.

Our slick passing had us in control as the second half progressed but we were caught out on 59 minutes when Airbus substitute James Hussaney headed in a Steve Hughes cross to restore his side's lead. Acott added a late fourth to clinch a somewhat flattering victory for the Welsh Premier League newcomers.

In fact, their assistant manager Gary Wynne was full of praise for the Dragons in an interview with the Evening Leader after the game. "It was a good work out for the lads," he said. "Wrexham brought a young squad of players with a good mix of first year pro's and second year YTS lads and they did very well and gave us a good game of football. They have obviously been taught the right way and had a bit of steel about them."

The following Tuesday, 20th July, we entertained Rochdale in a youth friendly at Colliers Park and won far more comfortably than the 3-2 scoreline suggests.

"We played well," reflected Centre of Excellence Director Steve Weaver. "It was a comfortable 3-2 win. In fact it should have been more!

"The first 20 minutes we kept the ball really well but didn't look like scoring. However, they did have 3

LINE-UPS

v. AIRBUS UK (A): Danny Evans, Mark Harris, Matthew Done, Gareth Evans (Ennion 57), Graham Roche, Kieran Quinn, Aaron Braisdell, Neil Houghton, Jamie Reed (Shannon 70), Andy Spencer (Marc Williams 80), Mike Williams (Andrew Fleming 64). Sub: Michael Jones.

v. ROCHDALE (H): Michael Jones, Nick Houghton, Mark Harris, Graham Roche, Gareth Evans, Kev Williams, Dean Ennion (Andy Spencer), Chris Evans, Jamie Reed (Roy Cardus), Marc Williams, Aaron Braisdell.

v. OLDHAM ATHLETIC (H): Michael Jones, Nick Houghton, Mark Harris, Gareth Evans, Graham Roche, Kev Williams, Roy Cardus, Chris Evans, Jamie Reed, Aaron Braisdell, Andrew Fleming.

or 4 good chances during this period – but more because of our poor defending. I think it took us a little time to settle down and get used to the pace of the game after having played a couple of games against senior sides beforehand.”

Just after the 20-minute mark we took the lead when Chris Evans burst forward at pace to receive a pass from Graham Roche, and flick the ball down for Marc Williams to finish well. But it was 1-1 a minute later when a defensive mistake allowed a Dale player to run through and slide the ball past Michael Jones.

“We did very well then and had numerous chances,” added Steve. “We must have forced about ten corners and from the last one Marc Williams put us back in front with a near post header.

“It was no more than we’d deserved at that stage and, in fact, we should have been further ahead. We put a few things right defensively at half time and it paid off after the break.”

It was 3-1 when Andy Spencer did well down the right hand side and put a great ball in for Marc Williams to challenge a defender to an aerial duel. It was Marc that got the touch and duly found the net for his hat trick.

Spencer then went close with a header; Marc Williams forced a great save from the Dale ‘keeper and a Chris Evans shot was blocked by a superb last-ditch tackle by a visiting defender. The came one of the most bizarre incidents you’ll see anywhere on a football pitch.

It all started with a Dragons corner. There was then a melee in the penalty area before the ball was partially cleared to Aaron Braisdell. He hit a stunning volley that flew into the top corner of the net. A goal you might think! But, the ball somehow found a hole in the net and carried on its trajectory some considerable distance. Neither the referee nor his assistant were sure what had happened so gave agoal kick!

“We were arguing about the decision while the goal kick was taken quickly and Rochdale broke up field. Michael Jones made a good save from a teasing cross but the ball broke kindly for a forward to score.

“But there was no real onslaught after that and we held on comfortably. We were delighted with the result really. We played some good football – and could have score 4 or 5 more.”

A fortnight ago we took on Oldham Athletic in another youth friendly at Colliers Park and were beaten 5-2, though the scoreline reflected more the physical difference between the two sides than footballing ability.

The loss of ‘keeper Michael Jones on 73 with the score at 3-1 to the visitors with the Dragons enjoying a good spell didn’t help our cause either; the youngster receiving what looked like a broken nose after an innocuous collision with a Latics forward. With no substitute keeper striker Aaron Braisdell had to take over between the posts and did well before being beaten twice in the closing six minutes.

RESERVES FIXTURES

Pontin's League Division One West

Wed	Aug	18	Manchester United	H
Wed	Sep	1	Shrewsbury Town	A
Wed	Sep	8	Blackpool	H
Wed	Sep	15	Bury	H
Wed	Oct	6	Stockport County	A
Tue	Oct	12	Oldham Athletic	A
Wed	Oct	27	Macclesfield Town	H
Wed	Nov	10	Chester City	H
Wed	Nov	24	Rochdale	A
Wed	Dec	1	Carlisle United	H
Wed	Dec	8	Burnley	A
Wed	Dec	15	Stockport County	H
Wed	Jan	12	Bury	A
Wed	Jan	26	Macclesfield Town	A
Wed	Feb	2	Oldham Athletic	H
Wed	Feb	9	Rochdale	H
Wed	Feb	16	Chester City	A
Wed	Mar	2	Burnley	H
Wed	Mar	9	Carlisle United	A
Wed	Mar	28	Manchester United	A
Wed	Apr	13	Shrewsbury Town	H
Wed	Apr	27	Blackpool	A

The Dragons struggled in the opening exchanges and it was no more than the Latics really deserved when they opened up a 3-0 lead with just over half-an-hour played. Indeed, only a couple of fine stops by Michael Jones and a header off the line by Chris Evans prevented the half time score being more.

The second half was a different story though, as the Dragons came out with more purpose and direction and were rewarded with a goal back on 48 minutes.

Braisdell did most of the spadework down the left-hand side and his low cross was side-footed past the visiting keeper from about 12 yards out by Andrew Fleming, a trialist recently released by Everton.

Jamie Reed, having only returned from the Isle of Man in the at 2.30am having been on standby for the first team’s clash with Carlisle United, then curled a right foot shot a few feet wide from the corner of the penalty area. The same player then shot wide under pressure from two defenders a few minutes later as a dramatic recovery looked on the cards.

Then came the injury to Jones, though it didn’t seem to affect the Dragons too much at first as Reed pulled a second back on 78 minutes with a clinical header.

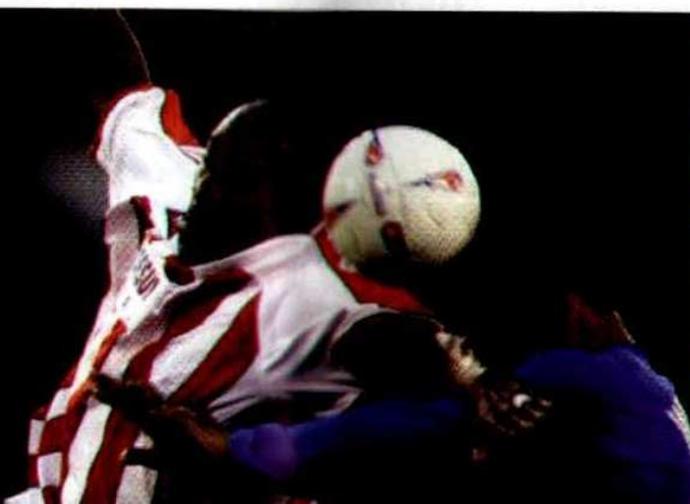
Roy Cardus forced a couple of fine saves after Oldham’s fourth and fifth goals – goals that were a trifle unlucky after what was a valiant Dragons effort after the break.



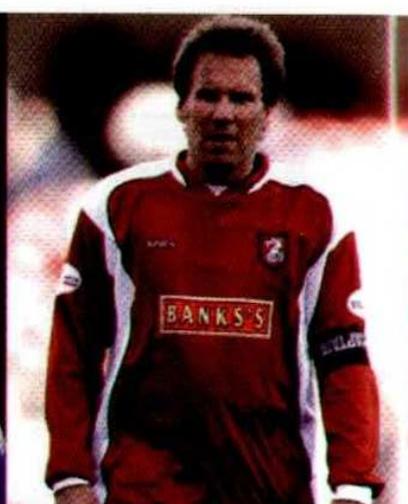
72 Clubs. The 'Coca-Cola' Football League. The Real League.



Jason McAteer



Wayne Allison



Paul Merson

THE FIRST REVIEW

Continuing on from the last home game, in this edition of Red Dragon News we attempt to complete our look through the transfers that have taken place during the summer months.

Brian Little has been able to secure the signatures of Michael Jackson and former Oldham loanee Calvin Zola, to add to his Tranmere Rovers squad. Sensationally, Little has also captured the signature of former Republic of Ireland international Jason McAteer. The ex-Bolton, Liverpool and Sunderland midfielder joins on a two-year contract and Little was clearly delighted to get his man. Talking to the clubs official website, the Rovers manager said: "He (McAteer) will be an inspiration to everyone around the dressing room and it's a bonus to get a player of his quality."

McAteer himself predicts a season of success for Rovers. Speaking on BBC Radio Merseyside, he commented: "This season we're one of the favourites and hopefully we can get something going and get promoted."

Another Irish international who will be gracing the Coca-Cola League 1 is ex-Leeds United midfielder Stephen McPhail. The current Eire international was one of a number of new faces to arrive during the summer at Barnsley. Now entering his first full season in charge of the Oakwell outfit, manager Paul Hart has begun to shape a squad that he believes is capable of securing promotion. Other faces to join the Tykes include former West Bromwich Albion defender Matt Carbon, powerful 6'3" target man Barry Conlon, goalkeeper Nicky Colgan,

Mansfield Town centre back Tony Vaughan and former Peterborough and Birmingham midfielder Tom Williams who has joined on a free.

One man leaving Oakwell is goalkeeper Marlon Beresford. The experienced stopper has returned to Luton Town where he spent the earlier part of last season. Mike Newell has been fairly inactive during the summer but was more than happy to have secured the services of the former Turf Moor goalkeeper: "Marlon is an experienced player and we are delighted to have him back".

Newell will also be looking to build on the encouraging form that the Hatters showed last term. However, this time round they will be without the services of inspirational captain Emerson Boyce who has joined Crystal Palace on a free transfer.

A team who will similarly be looking to build on the success of last season will be Colchester United. Phil Parkinson led his men to a credible mid-table finish season and will no doubt be hoping to push towards the play-offs this term. Parkinson has recruited no fewer than four players to his ranks, including the experienced centre back Wayne Brown who joins from Watford following a successful loan spell at Layer road last season. Also joining Brown is the much-travelled goalkeeper Aiden Davies, with United becoming his eleventh professional club. Parkinson has also added Stephen Hunt, who signed from Reading and George Elokobi who joins from non-league Dulwich Hamlet.

Chesterfield boss Roy McFarland has added three new faces to last season's squad. Wayne Allison joins on a two-year contract from Sheffield United and Spiriters fans will be hoping to see the big man add to the 150 career league goals he has scored to date. Also plying their trade next season at Saltergate will be full back Shane Nicholson who rejoins from Tranmere and former Arsenal trainee Alex Bailey who joins on a free.

Oldham Athletic will be looking to improve on last season's flirtation with relegation. Boss Brian Talbot has been linked to a number of signings but currently the Latics boss has only made two additions to his squad. Mark Arber has moved from Peterborough and Rodney Jack has followed his ex-boss from Rushden & Diamonds.



TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Bristol City	v	Torquay United
Chesterfield	v	Brentford
Doncaster Rovers	v	Blackpool
Hartlepool United	v	Bradford
Hull City	v	AFC Bournemouth
Luton Town	v	Oldham Athletic
Milton Keynes Dons	v	Barnsley
Peterborough United	v	Tranmere Rovers
Sheffield Wednesday	v	Colchester United
Stockport County	v	Huddersfield Town
Walsall	v	Port Vale

The most inactive club so far in the transfer market this summer has been Bournemouth. The Dean Court outfit has so far made no new signings, and to date the only activity for the Cherries has seen the departure of striker Warren Feeney. The Northern Ireland international has moved to Stockport to join Sammy McLroy at Edgeley Park. "There were other clubs in for Feeney," explained McLroy, "but he said he wanted to play for me, which is gratifying."

Joining Feeney in a new look strike force is Marc Bridge Wilkinson, who joins following four years at Port Vale. Completing County's trio of summer signings is former Chester and Stoke goalkeeper Neil Cutler.

The new teams joining the Coca-Cola League 1 have also been busy trying to add experience and depth to their squads. Doncaster have added former Wycombe striker Jermaine McSparran.

The former Wanderers frontman told the official club web site the reasons behind him signing for Rovers: "I was impressed with all the facilities at Rovers and the ambition of both Dave Penney and John Ryan." Also joining last seasons Division champions is former Manchester City centre back Nick Fenton.

Another club looking to build on last season's promotion success is Torquay United. Leroy Rosenior has been steadily preparing the Gulls for their first ever season in Coca-Cola League 1. One addition that certainly raised an eyebrow in Devon was the acquisition of Portuguese midfielder Bruno Meirelles. The former Benfica man joins on a five-month contract with Rosenior adding: "Bruno is coming in with six other midfielders, it gives us strength in depth and plenty of competition for places".

Joining Meirelles is ex-Plymouth winger Martin Phillips. The other addition to the squad is trialist Richard Bouton. The ex-Reading hit man has joined on non-contract terms and has certainly gone about the task of securing a permanent contract in the right way, scoring a first half hat trick against Newton Abbott.

Huddersfield complete the newly promoted teams in the division. Peter Jackson has so far made two additions to last seasons play off winning squad. He has brought in former Mansfield striker Junior Mendes and has completed the signing of former Chesterfield and Torquay midfielder Chris Brandon. Brandon, speaking exclusively to the official Huddersfield web site, said: "I've been at two other clubs but no disrespect they are not like Huddersfield, which is a massive club."

The financial problems of two of the three relegated clubs from last season's First Division have been well documented. As a result of this, Bradford have so far made no in-roads into the transfer market, the battle with administration occupying the thoughts of the Bantam's staff and fans alike. MK Dons however are a team who, following their relocation, have been able to delve into the transfer market. The result of which have seen them sign former Crewe striker Alan Smart, QPR defender Steve Palmer and Australian Under-23 international Gareth Edds, to bolster their young squad from last term.

Completing the round up is Paul Merson's Walsall. In his first full season in charge, Merson will be hoping that the Saddlers are able to bounce straight back at the first time of asking. Hoping to achieve this, Merson has added the services of the experienced Mark Kinsella. Saddler's boss Merson told the official web site: "He (Kinsella) had offers to go to other clubs higher up but he wanted to come here and we moved quickly to get his signature."

Merson has also added 24-year-old defender Kofi Dakinah who has signed from FC Copenhagen who joins on a one-year contract following a trial spell.

LIVERPOOL RESERVES

Monday night sees the Racecourse play host to Liverpool's reserve match with Premiership rivals Manchester City, kick-off 7.00 p.m. The game is expected to attract a crowd of over 3,000 and should see a number of top players pushing their claims for a first-team start the following Saturday.

"It should be a cracking game," explained Wrexham club spokesman Geraint Parry. "Liverpool showed in the recent friendly match here that they have a number of up and coming players who will be looking to impress new manager Raphael Benitez.

"They've just returned from their American tour and it will be interesting to see which star names are given a run out ahead of their opening Premiership match at Tottenham. Manchester City will no doubt be looking to field a similarly strong side and they also have an excellent record at reserve and academy level."

One player looking to make an impact at Reserve team level for the Anfield club this term is David Raven. He impressed at Under-19 level last season, with coach John Owens full of praise for the England Under-19 captain.

"David didn't have the best of starts to the season as he came back from our pre-season tour of Australia injured. However, from November/December time he was such a tower of strength for us that, such was his form, we had a chat with the Melwood staff and said it would be good for him to move there. He was the one showing the signs of being a top player."

AUGUST 2004

9	Mon	Manchester City	H
18	Wed	Middlesbrough	A
30	Mon	Nottingham Forest	H

SEPTEMBER

7	Tues	Blackburn Rovers	A
13	Mon	Sunderland	H
20	Mon	Birmingham City	A
27	Mon	West Bromwich A.	H

OCTOBER

4	Mon	Newcastle United	A
11	Mon	Everton	H
21	Thu	Manchester United	A
25	Mon	Bolton Wanderers	H

NOVEMBER

1	Mon	Aston Villa	H
15	Mon	Wolverhampton W.	H
23	Tue	Leeds United	A
29	Mon	Middlesbrough	H

DECEMBER

7	Tue	Manchester City	A
14	Tue	Nottingham Forest	A

JANUARY 2005

10	Mon	Blackburn Rovers	H
19	Wed	Sunderland	A
24	Mon	Birmingham City	H

FEBRUARY

7	Mon	West Bromwich A.	A
14	Mon	Newcastle United	H
22	Tue	Everton	A
28	Mon	Manchester United	H

MARCH

7	Mon	Bolton Wanderers	A
22	Tue	Aston Villa	A
29	Tue	Wolverhampton W.	A

APRIL

4	Mon	Leeds United	H
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MATCH BY MATCH 2004/2005

DATE	OPPONENTS	V	RES	ATT	AWAY	POS	REFEREE	SCORERS	TEAM
AUGUST									
7 Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H							
10 Tue	Oldham Athletic	A							
14 Sat	Brentford	A							
21 Sat	PORT VALE	H							
24 Tue	Hull City (LGCP)	A							
28 Sat	Bournemouth	A							
30 Mon	BARNSELY	H							
SEPTEMBER									
4 Sat	Blackpool	A							
11 Sat	BRADFORD CITY	H							
18 Sat	Tranmere Rovers	A							
25 Sat	SHEFFIELD WED	H							
OCTOBER									
2 Sat	Doncaster Rovers	A							
9 Sat	PETERBOROUGH	H							
16 Sat	WALSALL	H							
19 Tue	Colchester United	A							
23 Sat	Torquay United	A							
30 Sat	HULL CITY	H							
NOVEMBER									
6 Sat	Luton Town	A							
20 Sat	BRISTOL CITY	H							
27 Sat	Huddersfield Town	A							
DECEMBER									
7 Tue	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H							
11 Sat	MK Dons	A							
18 Sat	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H							
26 Sun	Bradford City	A							
28 Tue	CHESTERFIELD	H							
JANUARY 2005									
1 Sat	BLACKPOOL	H							
3 Mon	Sheffield Wednesday	A							
8 Sat	Peterborough	A							
15 Sat	TRANMERE ROVERS	H							
22 Sat	Chesterfield	A							
29 Sat	DONCASTER ROVERS	H							
FEBRUARY									
5 Sat	Walsall	A							
12 Sat	TORQUAY UNITED	H							
19 Sat	Hull City	A							
22 Tue	COLCHESTER UNITED	H							
26 Sat	MK DONS	H							
MARCH									
5 Sat	Hartlepool United	A							
12 Sat	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H							
19 Sat	Swindon Town	A							
26 Sat	BRENTFORD	H							
29 Tue	Port Vale	A							
APRIL									
2 Sat	BOURNEMOUTH	H							
9 Sat	Barnsley	A							
16 Sat	Bristol City	A							
23 Sat	LUTON TOWN	H							
30 Sat	Stockport County	A							
MAY									
7 Sat	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H							

CROESO TREF SWINDON



Dyn ni'n croesawu tim Andy King i'r Cae Ras ar gyfer ein gem gyntaf o'r tymor. Does ond gobeithio y bydd gem p'nawn 'ma hanner cystal a'r gem gyfatebol tymor diwethaf. Bryd hynny enillod y Dreigiau o 3-2, mewn gem a oedd yn llawn cyffro a goliau.

Cafodd Swindon dymor i'w gofio tymor diwethaf: gan orffen yn safleoedd y gemau ail-gyfle. Fodd bynnag, fe ddaru nhw golli yn y diwedd i'r tim a enillodd dyrchafiad: Brighton.

I'r rhai hynny ohonoch chi sy ddim wedi bod i'r gemau rhaifrol yn erbyn Dinas Stoke a Lerpwl, heddiw fydd y tro cyntaf i chi gael golwg ar ein chwaraewyr newydd: Matt Baker, golgeidwad a arwyddwyd o Henffordd; Danny Williams, a arwyddodd i'r Dreigiau am yr eildro o Kidderminster; arwyddwyd Dean Bennet hefyd o Kidderminster, chwaraewr a fydd yn cymryd lle Paul "Lddie" Edwards



Dear Supporter,

Welcome to the start of the 2004/05 football season.

It is a pleasure to welcome Coca-Cola to their sponsorship of the Football League. To have one of the world's most recognised brands onboard is a genuine boost for League football.

By introducing the names 'Championship', 'League One' and 'League Two', The Football League has begun a concerted effort to refresh the public's perception of the competition. In doing so we are seeking to reclaim rather than dispense with our heritage. Our top clubs will be competing for the same trophy that has been used since the end of the nineteenth century - a Trophy that is engraved 'The Football League Championship Cup'.

The aim of this re-branding exercise is to make our matches more attractive to a wider audience, so that more people regularly choose to spend their Saturday afternoons at Football League matches and in addition to make our competition and clubs more attractive to commercial partners. By achieving these ambitions we will help to ensure the long-term viability of The Football League.

The supporters are central to these plans. Last season 16m supporters attended League games; the most for 40 years. We are looking to build on this to attract 21m supporters to League games by 2010. To achieve this goal we as a League must ensure that the next generation of football supporters follow their local club.

How are we proposing to do this? By focusing our attention on the integral role all the clubs play in their local communities.

Our 72 clubs are the embodiment of community; in many cases they are the biggest communal activity in their towns and cities. We want to further enhance the value of each club to its local community.

What does this mean in practice? During the next twelve months The League plans to develop a series of initiatives in conjunction with the clubs. These will enhance the relationship and links that clubs have with their supporters and communities, encourage more people to attend games at their local clubs, increase the number of children playing football and deliver vital new commercial revenue.

The Football League is developing a sense of renewed confidence and an enhanced appreciation of its values, and its value for money. Our competition is about 'real football for real fans'.

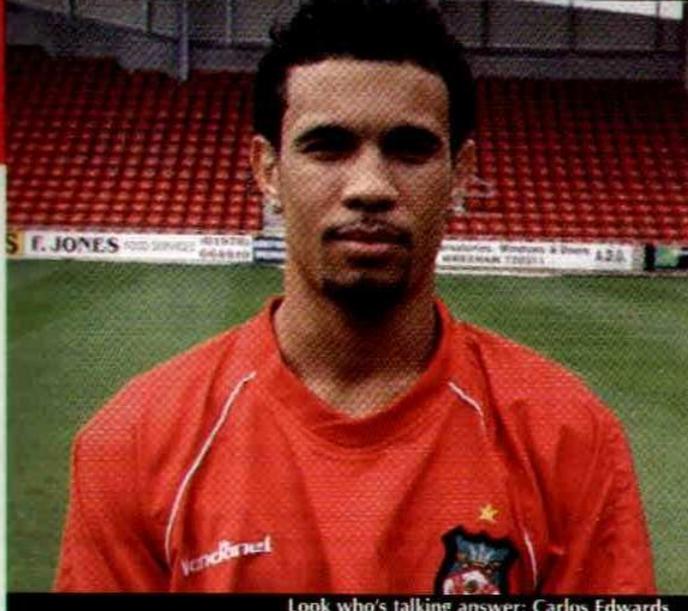
Thank you for the support you give your club and the Football League.

Sir Brian Mawhinney
Chairman, The Football League

sy wedi symud i Blackpool, a croeso i Andy Holt sy wedi arwyddo o Ddinas Hull: chwaraewr amryddawn sy'n gallu chwarae yn y cefn neu yng nghanol y cae. Croeso hefyd i allgellwr newydd sy wedi arwyddo o Gaer i gymryd lle Carlos Edwards, ydy Alex Smith
Wrth gwrs y golled fawr fydd Carlos Edwards sy allan tan o leiaf y flwyddyn newydd gydag anaf drwg i'w benglin. Does ond gobcithio am wellhad buan a llwyr i Carlos.
Wel, mae'r tymor yma yn siwr o fod yn un caled ar ac oddi ar y cae. Rheswm da felly i ddechrau'r tymor gyda triphwynt!
Mwynhewch y gem!

QUIZ TIME

1. Which current Premiership club did Swindon famously defeat 3-1 after extra-time in the 1969 League Cup final?
2. The record transfer fee received by the Robins was £1.5 million from Manchester City in January 1997, but can you name the player heading north in this deal?
3. Can you name the seven clubs that Town boss Andy King played professional football for?
4. Swindon were defeated in last seasons Second Division play-off semi-final by which club, who went on to secure promotion courtesy of a victory at the Millennium Stadium?
5. Which Wrexham player netted a hat-trick against the Wiltshire club on 30th September 1995, in a dramatic match that ended 4-3 to the Welshmen?
6. Who provided the opposition for the Red Dragons on the opening day of last season?
7. During the summer former Reds winger Michael Blackwood has signed for which current League Two club following the unfortunate demise of Telford United?
8. The Old Show Ground was the former home ground of which current Coca Cola League Two club, who moved to their current home at Glanford Park in 1988?
9. Can you name the former Second Division manager who is now in charge of Northern Ireland?
10. Which two clubs will play their Scottish Premier League home matches at Pittodrie this season?
11. Westerlo, Mouscron and Mons are all clubs from which European country?
12. Can you name the twelve players on duty for Wrexham against Brighton & Hove Albion on 19 August 1978, in what was our first ever match in the old Second Division?



Look who's talking answer: Carlos Edwards

ANSWERS

1. Arsenal.
2. Kevin Horlock.
3. Aldershot, Cambour, Everton, Luton Town, Queens Park Rangers, West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers.
4. Brighton and Hove Albion.
5. Karl Connolly.
6. Chesham United.
7. Lincoln City.
8. Scunthorpe United.
9. Lawrie Sanchez.
10. Aberdeen and Inverness Caledonian Thistle.
11. Belgium.
12. Dai Davies, Mickey Evans, Alan Dwyer, Gareth Davies, John Roberts, Mickey Thomas, Bobby Shinton, Mel Sutton, Dixie McNeil, Graham White, Les Cartwright, John Lyons.

DRAGONS ROLLCALL 2003/2004

Player	Birthplace/D.O.B.	League Appearances	League Goals	Cup Appearances	Cup Goals
ARMSTRONG, Chris	Newcastle, 19 June 1971	19(7)	5	2(2)	3
BARRETT, Paul	Newcastle, 13 April 1978	19(8)	2	4	1
CAREY, Brian	Cork, 31 May 1968	32(2)	2	4	1
CROWELL, Matty	Bridgend, 3 July 1984	9(6)	0	2(3)	0
DIBBLE, Andy	Cwmbran, 8 May 1965	35	0	3	0
EDWARDS, Carlos	Port of Spain, Trinidad, 24 October 1978	42	5	6	0
EDWARDS, Paul	Manchester, 1 January 1980	40(1)	0	5	0
FERGUSON, Darren	Glasgow, 9 February 1972	39	1	5(1)	0
HOLMES, Shaun	Derry, 27 September 1980	3(10)	2	2(2)	1
INGHAM, Michael	Preston, 9 September 1980	11	0	2	0
JONES, Lee	Wrexham, 29 May 1973	13(9)	5	3(2)	3
JONES, Mark	Wrexham, 15 August 1983	0(13)	1	1(2)	1
LAWRENCE, Dennis	Trinidad, 1 August 1974	45	5	6	0
LLEWELLYN, Chris	Swansea, 29 August 1979	46	8	6(1)	1
MACKIN, Levi	Chester, 4 April 1986	1	0	0	0
McNULTY, Jimmy	Liverpool, 15 February 1985	0	0	0(1)	0
MORGAN, Craig	St. Asaph, 18 June 1985	13(4)	0	3(2)	0
ONE, Armand	Parish, France 15 March 1983	2(1)	0	0	0
PEJIC, Shaun	Hereford, 16 November 1982	20(1)	0	2	0
ROBERTS, Steve	Wrexham, 24 February 1980	24(3)	0	6	1
SAM, Hector	Mount Hope, Trinidad 25 February 1978	24(13)	10	5(1)	5
SPENDER, Simon	Wrexham, 15 November 1985	3(3)	0	0	0
THOMAS, Steve	Hartlepool, 23 June 1979	31(9)	2	5(2)	0
WHITFIELD, Paul	St. Asaph, 6 May 1982	0(2)	0	2	0
WHITLEY, Jim	Zambia, 14 April 1975	34(2)	0	3	0



Chris Llewellyn



Rhys Evans

SQUAD CHECK

WREXHAM

1. ■ ANDY DIBBLE
2. ■ JIM WHITLEY
3. ■ ALEX SMITH
4. ■ STEPHEN ROBERTS
5. ■ BRIAN CAREY
6. ■ DENNIS LAWRENCE
7. ■ CARLOS EDWARDS
8. ■ DANNY WILLIAMS
9. ■ CHRIS ARMSTRONG
10. ■ DARREN FERGUSON
11. ■ CHRIS LLEWELLYN
12. ■ DEAN BENNETT
13. ■ MATT BAKER
15. ■ CRAIG MORGAN
16. ■ MATT CROWELL
17. ■ MARK JONES
18. ■ SHAUN PEJIC
19. ■ ANDY HOLT
20. ■ LEVI MACKIN
21. ■ SIMON SPENDER
23. ■ HECTOR SAM
24. ■ DANNY EVANS
25. ■ KIERAN QUINN
99. ■ SCOTT WATKINS

SWINDON T.

1. ■ RHYS EVANS
2. ■ SEAN O'HANLON
3. ■ GRANT SMITH
4. ■ MATTHEW HEWLETT
5. ■ ADRIAN VIVEASH
6. ■ ANDREW GURNEY
7. ■ SAMMY IGEO
8. ■ RORY FALLON
9. ■ SAM PARKIN
10. ■ STEFAN MIGLIORANZI
11. ■ DAVID DUKE
12. ■ JEREL IFIL
14. ■ LLOYD OPARA
15. ■ ANDREW NICHOLAS
16. ■ STEVE ROBINSON
17. ■ BRIAN HOWARD
18. ■ ALAN REEVES
19. ■ MATTHEW HEYWOOD
20. ■ STEVE BOOK

match officials

REFEREE: S. W. MATHIESON

ASSISTANT REFEREES: K. MATTOCKS, J. D. STOKES FOURTH OFFICIAL: C. N. HARWOOD

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GROUND REGULATIONS

■ In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at the Racecourse Ground and will be enforced by the Club's stewards, with the full support of North Wales Police:

REMEMBER

■ The club has the right to refuse entry or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a steward or police officer. ■ Any person who fails to comply with instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground. ■ Any person whose behaviour could reasonably be construed as consisting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators may be ejected.

ALSO

■ It is a criminal offence, for which you may be arrested: ■ to throw anything on to the pitch or at players, officials and other supporters ■ to take part in any indecent or racist chanting ■ to go on to the playing surface at any time ■ to try to enter the ground with intoxicating liquor, to try to enter the ground whilst drunk ■ to possess any article, such as knives, bottles, fireworks, smoke canisters, cans and flagpoles which might be used as offensive weapons ■ to use behaviour which is threatening, abusive or insulting towards another. ■ Persons convicted of criminal offences will become subject of Exclusion Orders banning them from all Football League grounds.

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Chairman Alex Hamilton **Directors** Dave Bennett, Steve Gooderson, David Griffiths, John Reames, **Life President** Pryce Griffiths **Vice President** Harold Evans, Malcolm K Davies
Manager Denis Smith **Assistant Manager** Kevin Russell **Football Co-ordinator** Joey Jones
Physiotherapist Mel Pejic BSc(Hons) **Chief Scout** Brian Prandle **Centre of Excellence**
Manager Steve Weaver **Assistant Centre of Excellence Manager** Steve Cooper **Sales Manager**
 Phillip Sadler **Community Officer** Mark Morris **Safety Officer** Colin Edwards **Groundsmen**
 Johnny Edwards, Stuart Webber **Webmaster** Geraint Parry **Administration** Sue Edwards,
 Madge Pike, Gill Dugan **Club Doctors** Dr. Keith Park, Dr. Malcolm Greensmith, Dr. Hywel
 Hughes **Sports Scientist** Craig Twist BSc, MSc, Bases Acc. Ex. Phys **Sports Psychologist**
 Katherine Bond BSc, MSc, Bases Acc. Sport Psychol