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MAGAZINE

10p

1975/6 SEASON

SWANSEA CITY
v.
BRENTFORD

MONDAY
26th APRIL
1976

Kick Off 7.30 p.m.



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MANAGER'S NOTES . . .

There is one thing I want to say loud and clear this evening. Thank you, every one of you, for your support this season. I am sorry that we are ending without being able to offer you the prospect of competition in the Third Division next season; or of European football in the Cup Winners Cup. Yet we have come a long way.

These days everyone here is thinking alike and pulling together. The qualities that once made this club famous are starting to reappear. I was lucky enough to have been a player here in some of the club's finest seasons; I am lucky enough to be working as manager at my hometown club.

For that reason, I know what people here want. I hope that next season we will be able to offer you a more sustained challenge for honours—and that we come out by winning something.

It is a hope that I can express with some confidence. I know the amount of work that has been accomplished behind the scenes. Not all of it, at the moment, is there to see: but it will be. You saw, for instance, the emergence of Nigel Stevenson and Stephen Morris in the first team recently. That is just the start of the job.

Clubs at our level have to develop their own talent—then mix in players like George Smith and Paul Harris whose contribution of massive experience and authoritative leadership applies the final coat of polish. Indeed, going back to my first point, I know that West Wales people believe that they have the right to see Swansea sides containing a majority of Swansea players.

That is how it should be. And that is how we intend that it should be. Coach Roy Saunders and reserve team manager John Charles have worked hard with me bringing on the players at all levels. We have had a vastly improved season in the Football League; a tremendous season in the Welsh League and won a lot of admirers from other professional clubs for the displays of our youngsters in the South Wales and South West Youth League.

Be back with us, please, next August. Because then I am certain we will have even more to put on show. This is a club on its way up.

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BRENTFORD

The season started so impressively for Brentford. After last season's promising eighth place in the fourth division table, the West London side quickly provided some early evidence that they intended to be right up among the promotion front runners.

There were three wins and three draws from the first six League matches and a high excitement in the League Cup. In the first round of that competition, they beat Brighton 2-1 at home and then held the promotion-chasing Third Division side to 1-1 away.

That gave them a fine passage through to the second round where they produced a brilliant display at Old Trafford before being edged out 1-2 by a Manchester United side in peak early season form. It was only after that flying start that things started to go wrong.

The League run ended somewhat unceremoniously at Bournemouth where they not only lost 0-3 but failed to find the net for the first time. After that set-back, the decline was swift and alarming as one defeat followed another.

Newport County took their home record with an outright 3-1 victory and six out of seven matches were lost—the only exception being a tight 1-0 home win against Southport, the side stranded at the bottom of the Fourth Division and already looking certain of needing to apply for re-election.

Then the switchback form hit an upcurve in November. Brentford launched into their retaliation by hitting nine goals in their first two matches, both at Griffin Park. First they smashed five goals against Scunthorpe and then four against Workington—and were immediately on the receiving end once more in the next game. They went to Tranmere full of home wins and were caught in a five goal avalanche.

The London side lurched into a dreadful spell after Christmas and slipped fast towards the danger zone of the Fourth Division. Ironically, the only wins during the first three months of this year came with a victory over promotion-destined Northampton Town and then away at Rochdale.

Fortunes changed only this month. Andy McCulloch, the former Cardiff City striker, was signed from Oxford United and his height and strength gave added power to the forward line. The Swans lost at Griffin Park during Easter—and other teams contained in April's unbeaten run have been Bradford, Huddersfield, Exeter City and Barnsley.

Brentford drew at Barnsley and then smashed Exeter, such powerful contenders in recent months, by a 5-1 margin. So they are now out of the re-election zone and, like Swansea, looking ahead to next season. Roger Cross is a danger man with 14 goals, Terry Johnson has netted 11 while other players like Mickey French and Sweetzer have shown themselves well able to find the net.

PEN PICS . . .

ALAN NELMES born Hackney, London. Now in his ninth season with the club, having signed on a free transfer from Chelsea in 1967. Was dogged by injury last season but returned in the closing stages to add to his 350 appearances.

KEITH LAWRENCE born St. Paul's Cray, Kent. Joined the Club from Chelsea on a free transfer in the 1974 close season and only missed three games in his first year. Still only 21, he had a three-month loan period with West Bromwich Albion whilst at Stamford Bridge and stands over 6' 2" tall.

GORDON RIDDICK born Watford, Hertfordshire. Transferred from Northampton Town in October 1973. One of the most experienced players with over 400 League games to his credit, he moved with success into the back four last season having spent most of his career in mid-field or up front. Previously with Orient, Charlton, Gillingham and Luton Town.

MIKE ALLEN born South Shields, Co. Durham. Signed for a five-figure fee from Middlesbrough as a mid-field player four seasons ago but switched with great success to the left back position in the closing stages of the 1973-74 season and has been the regular No. 3 ever since.

PAUL BENCE born Littlehampton, Sussex. Appointed Captain at the start of the season. Joined Brentford on a free transfer from Reading in July 1970 and has given consistent service at full back and in mid-field. Started his League career with Brighton and has now made nearly 200 appearances.

continued over

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Pen Pics—continued

JACKIE GRAHAM born Glasgow. One of the Club's most consistent players, having signed from Southern League Guildford City in June 1970 for £2,500. Previously with Scottish Clubs Morton and Dundee United, the latter club paying £15,000 for his transfer. Is approaching his 200th game for the Club.

TERRY SCALES born Stratford, London. Signed from West Ham United on a free transfer in the 1971 close season on the recommendation of striker Roger Cross. Last season moved up with success from left back to mid-field.

ROGER CROSS born East Ham, London. First came to Griffin Park from West Ham United in March 1970 and moved on to Fulham in September 1971 for a £30,000 fee. Returned to Griffin Park for £16,000 in January 1973 and was leading goalscorer in the 1972-73 and 1973-74 seasons. Missed much of last season with injuries but returned with seven goals in his last ten games.

TERRY JOHNSON born Benton, Newcastle. Versatile player who can perform either in mid-field or as a conventional winger. Signed from Southend United in November 1974 for a five-figure fee having previously been with Newcastle United.

MICKEY FRENCH born Eastbourne, Sussex. Manager John Dockerty's first signing from his old club, Queen's Park Rangers for a bargain £2,000 fee. Went straight into the League side and hit four goals in 13 games.

PAUL PRIDDY A former Brentford Junior who left the Club for Southern League Wimbledon in October 1974 after having played in over 50 games. Returned in September 1975 and took over in goal when Bill Glazier retired.

ANDY McCULLOCH. Signed in March 1976 from Oxford United for £25,000—a record fee for Brentford. Joined Oxford in 1974 from Cardiff City for £70,000, having previously been with Queen's Park Rangers.

TOM SHARP. Scottish born captain of Everton's youth side, he joined Brentford in January on a month's loan which was subsequently extended for a second month, before he signed a full Contract in March 1976.

JOHN CHARLES LOOKS AT THE RESERVES

By now, all the questions have been answered. You know how the Welsh League championship bid finished and our final placing in the South Wales and South West Youth League—but, whatever happened as far as the

respective league tables are concerned, they tell only half the story.

We have accomplished something that has not happened at this club for years: a successful, bold and fast building youth policy. Three of our young players have made first team debuts and done well—Nigel Stevenson, Stephen Morris and Dalling . . . all of them under 17.

These are not the only ones by any means. Leighton Harvey is a mid-field player who has come on leaps and bounds and must be on the brink of the first team squad: I have been pleased with the goals of Jeremy Charles. If they keep improving over the next six months as they have been, I anticipate that half a dozen could be challenging for places this time next season.

Of course, it does not end with me. This club is lucky to have a manager like Harry Griffiths who is prepared to follow through by giving young players their chances. It stresses the point I have been making all season: there is no club at which a young player of ability stands a better chance of furthering his career than at Swansea City.

I know that the point has been made about the gap between Welsh League and Football League. We bridge that by ensuring that our apprentices get every chance in training against the first team squad. They play regularly in practice matches against the League side—something that would not happen at bigger clubs where the staffs are far larger and where lines of demarcation are rigidly drawn. I am delighted by the way in which Swansea City is tackling its future.

	DIVISION IV											
	HOME					AWAY					Goals	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		A
Lincoln	45	21	2	0	71	15	11	7	4	39	23	73
Nthmptn	46	18	5	0	62	20	11	5	7	25	20	68
Reading	46	19	3	1	42	9	5	9	9	28	42	60
Tranmere	45	18	2	2	58	13	6	7	10	28	39	57
Hudrsfld	45	11	5	6	28	17	10	8	5	28	24	55
Bremth	45	15	4	3	38	15	5	7	11	18	3	51
Exeter	46	13	7	3	37	17	5	7	11	19	30	50
Watford	46	16	4	3	38	18	6	2	15	24	44	50
Torquay	46	12	6	5	31	24	6	8	9	24	39	50
Doncaster	46	10	6	7	42	31	9	5	9	33	38	49
Swansea	44	14	7	1	49	19	2	6	14	14	35	45
Barnsley	46	12	8	3	34	16	2	8	13	18	32	44
Cam Utd	46	7	10	6	36	28	7	5	11	22	34	43
Hartlepl	46	10	6	7	37	29	6	4	13	25	49	42
Rochdale	46	7	11	5	27	23	5	7	11	13	31	42
Crewe	46	10	7	6	36	21	3	8	12	22	36	41
Brentford	45	12	7	4	37	18	2	5	15	17	40	40
Scunthrp	46	11	3	9	31	24	3	7	13	19	35	38
Stockport	46	8	7	8	23	23	5	5	13	20	53	38
Bradfrd	43	8	7	7	32	26	3	8	10	25	36	37
Darlington	45	11	6	5	29	13	3	3	17	18	43	37
Newport	45	8	7	8	35	33	5	2	15	22	54	35
Southport	46	6	6	11	27	31	2	4	17	14	46	26
Workgtn	46	5	4	4	19	43	2	3	18	11	44	21

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GEOFF FORD ON THE COMMERCIAL FRONT

Now that the season has come to a close, I would like to personally thank everyone who has helped out on the commercial side of the club. By this I mean all the programme sellers, Pools Agents, Advertisers, Match Ball Donors, and other Donators, Ground Caterers, Stuart George, and last but not least, my board of Directors, for backing this department all the way.

I would like to see more of you supporters helping us with our weekly pools, Harry Griffiths and his staff are doing all they can to improve the playing side of our club, and I think you will agree, that in his first full season, he has done a commendable job, so I ask you to help us in our efforts to raise more money, by doing this we are helping Harry to strengthen his team. Remember our aim next

season is promotion. Lets get in the extra cash this will give Harry a better chance to achieve his objective.

The 500 Club is gaining strength day by day, large weekly prizes are being won, why not group together and form a syndicate. All enquiries to myself or staff, or call in the club and ask for Vic Gomersall, he will be only too pleased to advise you.

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THE GAME I'LL NEVER FORGET . . . Harry Griffiths

"Very difficult," says Harry. "I enjoyed them all. I think probably I'd go for a game that perhaps not too many people remember . . . I'm not even too sure of the year but I think it probably the start of the 1954-55 season when we were in the Second Division.

"The season before Port Vale had been in the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup. They had got there with a defence nicknamed the 'Iron Men'. Tremendous defenders who gave you absolutely nothing. Roy Spronson was in it; so was Tommy Cheadle; John King was in goal. In fact that side had also been promoted from the Third Division.

"They came here facing our famous forward line of Ivor and Len Allchurch, Cliff Jones and Terry Medwin and I had just moved into it at inside-right. Our attack was reckoned by

them to be the ideal test for their defence at this higher level of competition.

"I don't think they knew what hit them. They scored first, played well for a time and certainly gave me some painful memories of getting in close to score an equaliser. Finally I managed it—and then the game was transformed.

"From the flanks, Cliff and Len tore them to pieces. Cliff scored three on the trot; then Len, Terry and Ivor all added one apiece. So all of us found the net as we won 7-1 in wrecking a defence that so many experts had reckoned could take on the best sides in the game.

"Few results gave me more pleasure than that one. They talk nowadays about the 'great' Swansea forward line. On that day, we played possibly the game of our lives."

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- 3 Danny Bartley
- 4 Phil Evans
- 5 Paul Harris
- 6 Stephen Williams
- 7 Nigel Dalling
- 8 Robbie James
- 9 Dave Bruton
- 10 Geoff Bray
- 11 Mickey Conway
- 12 To be announced

BRENTFORD

- 1 Paul Priddy
- 2 Alan Nelmes
- 3 Mike Allen
- 4 Paul Bence
- 5 Gordon Riddick
- 6 Keith Lawrence
- 7 Terry Johnson
- 8 Terry Scales
- 9 Andy McCulloch
- 10 Micky French
- 11 Roger Cross
- 12 To be announced

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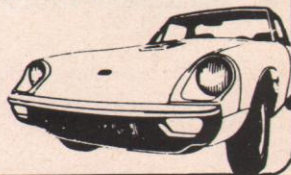
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SWANSEA'S COME-BACK

From MICHAEL BOON,

Sunday Express Sports Columnist

And so to the end. For Swansea City, the season winds up on something of an anticlimax. Almost the last thing that any manager wants at this stage in the season is a 'flat' finish: nothing to win for, nothing to play for. Yet that is at least an improvement here—just strike a contrast with a year ago!

It is worth reminding you of the position then. Swansea, after a season of almost unbroken misery, seeking re-election for the first time in their history. Just look now at the position. The improvement has been sound—and, in many senses, that is better than spectacular. Because the foundations have been put in place.

The first thing that Harry Griffiths put right was the pride of Swansea City. For a man like him that wasn't difficult. He believes so passionately in the club that has employed him for all but a few months of his working life that the message he put across was sincere and genuine. He did not need any clever talking: his 'feeling' for Vetch Field success said it all for him.

He moved wisely so sign George Smith: a fighter, a competitor, widely experienced and fitted with the mid-field qualities demanded of a skipper at a vital time: Paul Harris had just the right kind of background from nearly 200 first team games with Orient to direct the defence; Geoff Bray was a proven goalscorer.

I believe that Swansea's come-back this season stemmed from there. In each department, Harry signed players tried and tested in the demands and pressures of top grade football. The confidence and stability that they brought to the Vetch Field has now filtered through.

In every position, there are players challenging or making progress fast in the reserve sides: Alan Curtis has bolted ahead in the last three months to become a full international and the most exciting Welsh 'discovery' for a very long time; young players have found their feet instead of being swept off them as they were a year ago.

With just the semblance of an away record, Swansea would probably be back in the Third Division. Their home record has been promotion-plus; their tally of away points almost disastrous. I stress 'away record' because that is not quite the same as away form: that has been highly impressive in many matches.

I know that quite a few managers have been glad to see the backs of Swansea—so often returning home with nothing except a few pats

on the back for enterprising, attacking football.

That, of course, is not nearly enough. There is nothing like two points won. All the good football in the world does not add up to a row of beans unless it is reflected in the League table . . . except, perhaps, as a signpost of better things to come.

And that, I am certain, is what will happen next season. If you look at Swansea's campaign in retrospect, the only quality missing is consistency away from home. That is what Harry Griffiths has to put right to ensure a much needed promotion next season—all the remaining ingredients have been put together.

Indeed, the transformation in Welsh football has been quite staggering. A couple of seasons ago, I must confess that the only future I could visualise was for Swansea City, Cardiff City and Newport County to band together under some such heading as 'Gwalia United' and pool all their slender resources.

I must confess that belief now looks like sheer pessimism. Just as Swansea have battled back, so have Cardiff City. And, of course, at national level, Wales have excited football-minded people like no national side since the 1958 World Cup finals. In the North, Wrexham have enjoyed a marvellous season with a great run in Europe and promotion dying only during the Easter programme.

Luckless Newport County are the only black spot. They have battled for so long against odds that would swamp almost anyone else that, as F.A.W. secretary Trevor Morris says, "they have a genius for bobbing up alive and well at the last possible moment."

At Youth level, Wales will again be contesting the finals of the U.E.F.A. Youth Championship having qualified by the enjoyable route of knocking out England. Behind the national 'showcase', all three South Wales clubs are putting together youth policies that are looking a great deal more vigorous than just a year or so ago when Mr. Morris blasted at the clubs for allowing so many outstanding youngsters to escape to English clubs.

This did not go down well at the time. But there is little doubt that Morris was engaged in speaking good old fashioned common sense. The three clubs are now doing everything they can think of to strengthen youth squads and sheer hard work is paying off. At the Vetch Field, the results have been there for all to see and the work of John Charles may prove just as valuable at this level as his personal contribution as a player a few years ago.

Yes, season 1975-76 ends with real hope for season 1976-77.

**CITY OF SWANSEA HERITAGE YEAR
SUPER SPORTS
PERSONALITY CONTEST**

Saturday, May 29, 1976

Doors open 1.00 p.m. To commence at 2.00 p.m.

Admission to all parts 30p per head. Leading Rugby and Soccer Internationals will participate. Those taking part will include: Neville Mead (Leading contender for British Heavy-weight Championship) Leigh Jones, Andy Hill, Roy Bergiers, Roger Blyth, Mike Shannon and many others.

A Real Festival Day for the Family.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

TONY GLASSON

TONY GLASSON (Salisbury). Started refereeing during Army service in Cyprus and graduated through the Wiltshire, the Western League on to the League line in 1967-68 and then on the Supplementary list. Appointed to the full list in 1973-74. On the line for the European Championship match France v. Belgium last season and has officiated in Italy. A company director, he is married with four sons and is interested in architectural design work. His ambition is to referee at Wembley and to be appointed to the international referee's list.

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New boy Stephen Williams beating two players in a recruit match.



Geoff Thomas scores v. Lincoln, ball photographed on the way to the net.

HOME MATCH ATTENDANCES

Tranmere	1-1	2,866
Torquay (F.L.C.)	1-2	2,143
Cambridge	1-0	2,082
Workington	1-0	2,176
Newport	2-2	4,751
Scunthorpe	2-0	3,098
Huddersfield	1-1	3,248
Darlington	2-0	2,964
Bradford	3-1	3,490
Torquay	2-0	3,170
Hartlepool	3-1	2,240
Crewe	4-0	2,627
Northampton	1-1	3,650
Reading	5-1	2,750
Exeter	0-3	4,250
Cardiff City	0-3	10,075
Barnsley	3-1	2,500
Lincoln City	2-2	3,750
Doncaster	2-1	3,100
Stockport	5-0	2,650
Southport	2-0	2,157
Bournemouth	1-1	2,354
Rochdale	1-1	1,600

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

WALES v. NORTHERN IRELAND

at the Vetch Field, Swansea

FRIDAY 14th MAY, 1976

Kick Off 7.00 p.m.

Admission to the STANDS for the above match will be by ticket, the price being

Centre Stand — £3.00

West and Wing Stands — £2.00

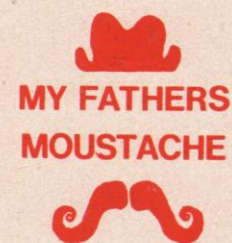
All applications to The Secretary, Swansea City F.C., Vetch Field, Swansea, with your remittance, together with a self-addressed envelope large enough to hold the tickets, stamped to the value of not less than 8½p, so that tickets may be sent you by first-class post.

Admission to the Enclosure—£1.50

Ground £1.00 (Schoolboys 50p)

will be by payment at the turnstiles on the day of the match.

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