

**JOHN JAMES RIMMER
AKA "JIMMY"**

Position Goalkeeper

Clubs Man Utd, Arsenal, Aston Villa, Swansea

Honours England

Medals 2 European Cup Gold Medals, Aston Villa & Man Utd
League Champions, Man Utd & Aston Villa
Supercup, Aston Villa
2 World Club Championships, Aston Villa & Man Utd
2 Charity Shields
Coached Chinese National Team

- (1) *What was your first contact/association with the Swans?*
Approached by Harry Greg, manager of Swans. Came on loan to Swans from Man Utd because of Harry Gregg who was Man Utd goalkeeper when I was a young lad.
- (2) *Why did you sign for the Swans and how did this come about?*
See Above
- (3) *What did you think about Swansea, the city and the club, before you signed?*
Never been to Swansea before I signed and didn't know anything about the place.
- (4) *What was your initial impression of the set-up, the players and the Vetch?*
Brilliant, one of the best bunch of lads – Alan Curtis, Robbie James, Jeremy Charles, Wyndham Evans, Nigel Stevenson & Herbie Williams. Liked the Vetch, cosy little ground and good atmosphere.
- (5) *Did you progress straight into the first team?*
Yes, that's why Harry Gregg signed me.
- (6) *What can you remember about your debut?*
I had a nightmare, lost 3-1 away to Doncaster Rovers. Malcolm Struel Chairman said, "What have we signed here?"
- (7) *What was playing at the Vetch like?*
- (8) *What was the crowd at Swansea like?*
Enjoyed the ground and the crowd who were very good to me. I became a local hero to them. The Vetch was small compared to what I was used to but it brought me closer to the supporters.
- (9) *Did you have much contact with the fans, apart from playing in front of them?*
Yes, I used to go to the local clubs with Harry Griffiths to do presentations and met many of the fans. We got on together very well.

- (10) *What were the arrangements for travel to away games?*
Excellent – we used to stay in the best hotels and the travel on the best coaches. For instance away to Darlington we would stop somewhere for a first class meal.
- (11) *What did training involve? Was it hard? Did it improve you as a player?*
The training under Harry Gregg and John Toshack was very strict. Two hours in the morning and I would do an hour in the afternoon with the apprentices. Harry Gregg improved me 100% and I thank him for that. His advice was always to work hard and if you've got the ability you will succeed.
- (12) *What was the general lifestyle like being a professional footballer in Swansea? Did you consider yourself well paid?*
Swansea paid me very well considering the average man's wage. Wherever I went I was recognised and the fans would speak to me. The people of Swansea treated me very well and showed me a lot of respect and Welsh hospitality.
- (13) *Why did you leave Swansea?*
Arsenal made an offer for me (£70,000) which Swansea could not refuse and as a pro I had to go even though I didn't want to.
- (14) *Did you keep in touch with the city, the club or anyone at the club after you left? Did you look out for the Swans' results?*
I kept in touch with all the lads and Harry Gregg phoned me every week. Yes, whatever club I was at I would look up the Swans' result.
- (15) *What was your best moment as a Swansea player?*
I was not playing well but coming to Swansea changed the direction of my playing career. From a low point I went up and up so that was my best moment.
- (16) *What was your worst moment?*
See Question No (6)
- (17) *What is your most vivid memory of Swansea?*
Travelling out of the city centre and finding the Gower Peninsular and all its beautiful scenery.
- (18) *Any final thoughts on playing for or living in Swansea?*
If only I could start my time all over again I would enjoy playing for the Swans in the Premier League. I have many reasons to thank the Swans and the people of this area.