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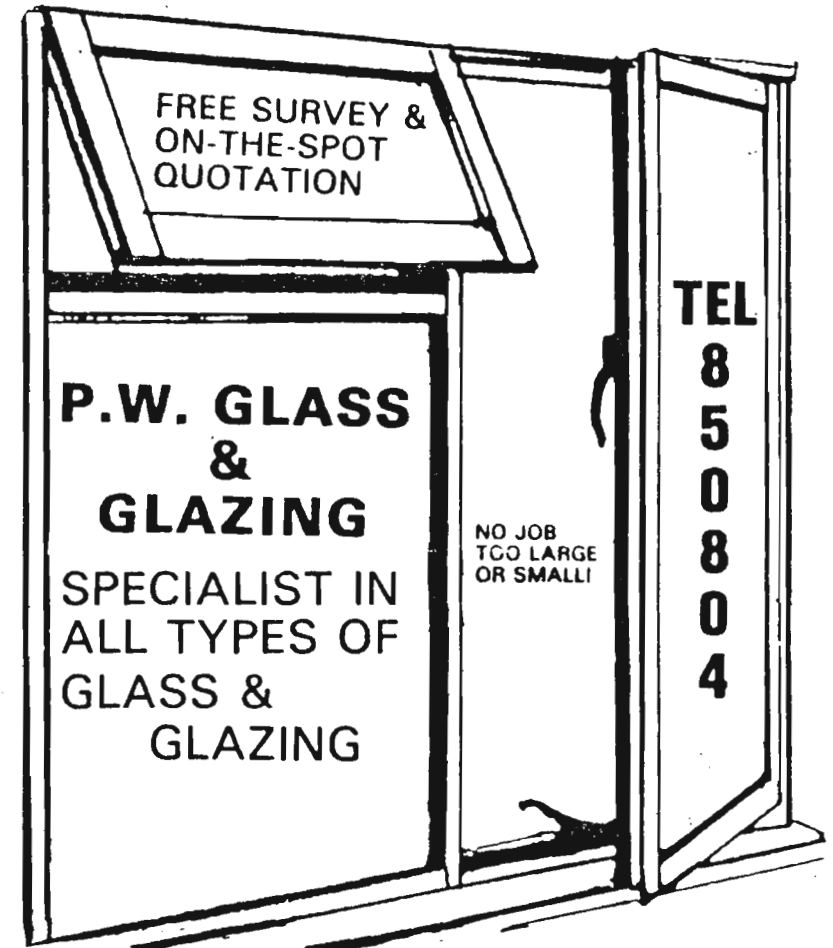
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TEAMS

Wootton Bassett Town

V

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From:

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Tony WOOSNAM
Gary BARTLETT
Jon HAINES
Terry DAVIES
Bill LOVESEY
Neil TIMBRELL
Alan WILSON
Gerry MCKAY
Damon YORK
Colin VALTERS
Roger FROST



John MILES
Steve PAISH
Justin STEPHENS
Steve KELLY
Paul GIBBONS
Neil HOLMES
Tim MILLS
Mark GARDNER
Peter HAMMOND
Mark COLLIER
Ian HOWELL
Ian JONES
Paul HAIGH

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Colours: RED/WHITE

Officials

Referee: Mr N RICKARD (Hungerford)

Linesmen: Mr M EVANS (Wantage)
Mr G C PANONS (Carterton)

WEBSITE COPY

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Gerrard Buxton Sports Ground for the final League fixture before Christmas, and what better way to enter into the Christmas break than to welcome our visitors and near neighbours Purton, and to their players, management and supporters, we extend a very warm welcome. I would like at this point, to extend our sincere apologies to those supporters who turned up last Saturday for the advertised Cup match against The Herd. Unfortunately, the game had to be called off because the pitch was not playable because of the amount of surface water that had accumulated. It was ironical though, that once the game had been called off - 11am - hardly any more rain fell until later in the afternoon, but the decision had to be made to prevent the opposition and officials travelling. That fixture will obviously be rearranged. Our last home game on 25 Nov saw Bassett beat Clanfield in a League fixture 4-2. The first half display by Bassett was not too good at all, in fact, Clanfield were much the sharper side probably due to the fact that they had been well and truly "fired up" by their player manager, Mick Pethick, who, until recently was a Bassett player. However, the interval talk given by Bassett manager Mick Woolford saw Bassett return to the pitch a different side - a team with purpose and with the determination that was lacking in the first half. Whatever Mick Woolford had to say to the players at half time may never be known, but it certainly had the desired effect as Bassett completely dominated the second half - a sure sign of good management. Since that win over Clanfield, Bassett have remained unbeaten. A draw away from home at highly placed Chipping Norton 2-2 with goals from Damon York (1) and Steve Ackrill (1) and on 9 Dec, away yet again, to Wallingford Town, again placed fairly high in the League, Bassett earned another valuable point in a goalless draw. Although goalless, the game on all accounts was very entertaining and Bassett could quite easily have snatched a win, and Bassett were kept in the game because of an outstanding display in goal by Mark Ayres. Since I last wrote, the Reserves have had three games, away to unbeaten Pinehurst where they lost 3-0, at home on 9 Dec to Warminster Town Reserves, with a goal in each half, Steve Thomas (1) and Kenny Regan (1 pen) deciding the game, to pick up their 3rd win of the season and last Saturday away to Laverstock and Ford where they shared the points in a 1-1 draw, the Bassett goal coming from skipper Thomas. This week sees the Reserves away at Purton, and manager Mal Baker will be looking for a good result to help push the reserves up the league table.

Just a note for your diaries. I have listed the games to be played at home, or near to home in between Christmas and New Year.

30 Dec - HIGHWORTH (A) - Federated Homes League Div 1
30 Dec - AVEBURY (H) - Wilts League Div 2

Thanks for your support today and lets hope we see a good clean entertaining Local Derby.



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Getting friendships back on the rails



Proud winners - The Swindon BR side of 1958/59 who are planning a reunion

A night of nostalgia

Nostalgia by the dug-out-full is assured at the 30-year reunion of the Swindon British Rail football side to be held at the British Rail Club, Shrivenham Road on December 30th.

The men who won the Premier Division of the Wiltshire League in 1958-59 are planning a get-together at the BR Club in Shrivenham Road on December 30.

Several of the side went on to play in higher grade football. Many Swindon Town fans will remember Roy "Jasper" Johnson, who played centre-forward for the Town in the late 50s and Mick Wallford, who after early spells with West Bromwich Albion also joined the town.

Mick has turned his attentions to managing local sides and at present runs Wootton Bassett.

Another player to have a spell with West Brom was Paul New. After acquiring many county caps, Paul finished his playing days with Chippenham Town and now assists Ferndale Athletic.

Goalkeeper Les Clifton also won many county caps and later moved to Devizes Town.

Derek Winslow, who also played for Wiltshire many times, later became a Devizes player.

Holding all the talent together was centre-half and captain Tony Early.

Paul New, who along with Les Clifton is organising the evening,

recalled the success the club had in the late 50s. As well as winning the Wilts Premier, the reserve side finished runners-up in Division One of the Swindon and District League.

"The majority of the team and officials were working in the BR workshops and offices at the time," said Paul. "Swindon was a thriving railway town in those days and it was a big achievement to beat teams like Devizes, Chippenham, Radstock and Melksham.

"We thought it would be an idea to get all the lads together again and chew over old times, and the response has been very good."

Any former players who would like further details of the evening can ring Paul on 822688 or Les Clifton on 641270.

Mick Woolford is seated 3rd from the left.

OUR VISITORS

Our visitors have made the trip, almost walking distance, from Purton and come to us currently placed 7th in the League, and following their convincing 4-0 victory over Cirencester Town last Saturday, their confidence will be very high and they will no doubt be going all out to get their first League win over us today.

In our two previous Federated Homes League encounters, Purton have failed to beat us. On 30 Aug 88 in an evening away fixture, we shared the points in a 2-2 draw and then on 11 Mar 89, here at The Gerrard Buxton Sports Ground, we beat them 1-0. This is our first encounter of the current campaign and at the time of going to print, Purton have a total of 20 points from the 13 games played so far.

Last season Purton finished in equal 5th place on 40 points with Bassett, Bassett just taking the edge with a superior goal difference. Of the 28 games played, Purton won 11, drew 7 and lost 10 (an identical record to Bassett), scoring a total of 37 goals and conceding 42.

On last seasons showing today should be a very close encounter.

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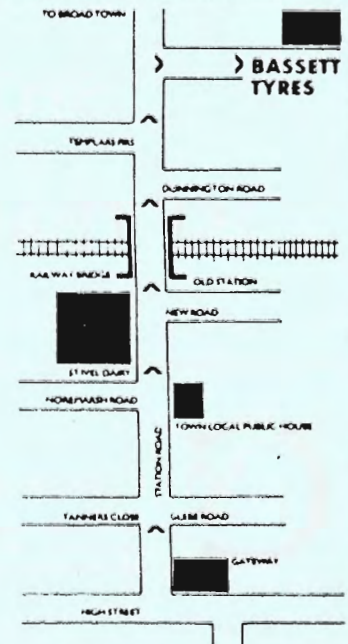


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