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Ball kindly donated by J. HARRIS, Esq.

Hon. Medical Officer : Elwyn JAMES      Masseur : B. C. HARRINGTON

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# SWANSEA ROUND TABLE

SWANSEA BORN  
INTERNATIONAL XI

VS.

*JIMMY HILLS'*  
INTERNATIONAL  
CLUB XI

*PROCEEDS  
IN AID OF THE SWANSEA MENTALLY  
HANDICAPPED CHILDRENS APPEAL*

SOUVENIR  
PROGRAMME

1/-

**VETCH FIELD, SWANSEA**  
**4th APRIL, 1966**

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

People often ask me what is Round Table, and whilst one can always quote the six aims and objects of the National Organisation, it is probably easier described as a collection of young men who find pleasure in each others company, and whilst enjoying this fellowship try and help others less fortunate than themselves. Whilst we are not a money raising organisation, we often have to ask the general public for support at our ventures, in which we strive to give value for money, in order to implement some of their many charitable works.

It might be of interest to the general public to note the following gifts, projects, and services provided recently by the members of Swansea Table.

Provision of Videograph (Heart Machine) to Swansea General Hospital.

A Specialist Spastics chair/stretcher to Swansea Spastics Society.

The supply and installation of several telephone trollies to various wards in Morriston Hospital.

The supplying of several Audio Training Units to the Swansea Hospital for use in connection with deaf children.

The purchase and siting of a caravan so that needy families can enjoy a summer holiday on the Gower Coast.

The provision of a seaside shelter for hospital patients.

Our annual programme included transportation of Spastic Scouts.

The issuing of over 100 Christmas parcels to needy families.

Entertaining Cottage and Unit Home Children at the Gower Coast and Portcawl Fireworks Display.

Entertaining members of the National Childrens Homes.

Transportation of aged persons from Corporation Homes to pantomime and summer visits to Gower.

Chopping and delivery of sacks of firewood to aged and infirmed during winter.

Tonight we are assisting the Swansea Mentally Handicapped Childrens Appeal and our thanks go to all spectators and patrons at the Vetch.

Having been a supporter of Swansea Town A.F.C. for many years my thoughts during my year of office often centred on the possibility of giving the Swansea public a chance of seeing "the team that might have been," and with the kind assistance of John Rees, John Allen and Derek Cox we are able to bring this evening to fruition.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Board of Swansea Town A.F.C. for their generosity in loaning the Vetch Field facilities free of charge, and the invaluable assistance of Glyn Davies, Gordon Daniels, Pat Searle and Peter Walters.

Special thanks of course must go to my friend Jimmy Hill of Coventry and his International Club Members, together with all the Swansea born players who have so kindly consented to play.

In these days when professional sportsmen are so often the target and source of adverse publicity it is with pleasure that I can say that all players concerned have given their services free of charge.

I am most grateful to them and hope to be able to present to the Mentally Handicapped Appeal Committee a substantial cheque towards a most deserving Building Fund.

P. H. RIDGEWELL

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### NOSTALGIA — WELSH STYLE

by PAT SEARLE. Western Mail.

This evening we welcome a group of soccer giants who have placed the town of Swansea high on the world's sporting scene. Men of pride and character. Professionals in every sense of the word but modest in their demeanour.

We salute these artists and think back to the days when most were household names throughout the length and breadth of Britain.

The match is unique. Never before has a town been able to group its sons for such a sporting occasion. Between them hundreds of Welsh international caps have been won - thousands upon thousands of football fans have applauded their skill and efficiency and although some of the players are approaching the more gentler years of middle age, they will never be forgotten.

Swansea, with a population of less than 200,000, has no equal anywhere where soccer is played. Since the end of the second World War, no season has passed without at least one Swansea born footballer being involved in international conflict.

Ivor Allchurch is the 'daddy' of all. Sixty-six times Wales has called him, this year he became the first soccer player from the Principality to be honoured by the Queen and he is still regarded by European sports writers as one of the best inside forwards ever.

John Charles, a giant in every sense of the word, was Italy's No. 1. player during his exciting years with Juventus and was probably the finest all round performer anywhere a few years ago.

Goalkeeper Jack Kelsey had no peer, Ray Daniel was magnificent during his heyday, Mel Nurse demonstrates the value of real dedication, Barrie Hole the quality of soccer artistry.

But the personal success of each individual present tonight might not have materialised without the tremendous efforts of the 'boffins' of Swansea soccer. The school teachers who launched so many talented youngsters into the cauldron of competitive soccer. The youth of Swansea have the finest opportunity to make a name in football. Each Welshman playing tonight will vouch for the excellence in coaching found among the masters in the Swansea Schools F.A.

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&  
LEN  
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### DID YOU KNOW THAT :—

The Swans record for League appearances is the 585 held by Wilf Milne.

The runner-up is Harry Griffiths with 426.

To date Ivor Allchurch has played over 550 League games and scored over 200 goals.

The referee who doffed his cap to the “booing” spectators at the Vetch some years ago was smuggled out of the ground in a Bakers van.

Since soccer was established in Swansea nearly 150 local ex-schoolboys have adopted the game as a professional career.

The 5 goals scored by Jack Fowler in the 6-1 defeat of Charlton is still the best individual scoring record for the League team.

The Reserves record is Peter Leyland's 7 goals in the 10-1 defeat of Porth in the Welsh League.

Swans who made over 300 League appearances for the club are Joe Sykes, Jim Collins, Harry Deacon, Billy Hole, John King, Sid Lawrence and Ivor Allchurch.

The Swans best home wins were the 8-1 defeats of Bristol Rovers & Bradford City.

Swans biggest home defeats were 1-6 by Bradford and the same by Workington.

Present 'All Whites' full back S. Ferguson's father kept goal for Swansea Town for many years and was affectionately known as “Fergy”.

Stan Cullis played his last League game on the Vetch Field and during the match retired due to injury.

Ralph Wishart “Ralph's Book Shop” father was trainer to the promotion side 1926.

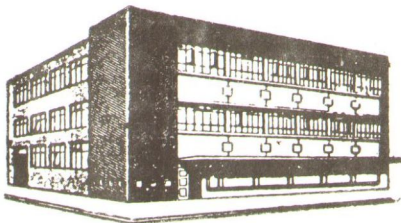
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Right

**SWANSEA BORN XI.**

(White)

Jack KELSEY (1)

Harry GRIFFITHS (2) Ray DANIEL (3)

Mel CHARLES (4) Mel NURSE (5) Barrie HOLE (6)

John CHARLES (8) Ivor ALLCHURCH (10)

Len ALLCHURCH (7) Trevor FORD (9) Barrie JONES (11)

Referee :

John GOW



Linesmen :

Tom REYNOLDS  
John ALLEN

Peter McPARLAND (11) Bedford JEZZARD (9) Jimmy HILL (7)

Jimmy SCoulAR (10) Harold HASSELL (8)

Bill McGARRY (6) Bob STOKOE (5) Dave SAXTON (4)

Pat SAWARD (3) Wally BARNES (2)

Dave UNDERWOOD (1)

**INTERNATIONAL CLUB XI.**

Left

Right

Teams selected at time of going to Press.

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## BRIEF HISTORY OF SWANSEA TOWN A.F.C.

Part-time professional soccer existed in the mining valleys of Glamorgan many years before it was sparked off as big business in Merthyr in 1908 and at Cardiff in 1910.

The Swansea Town Club was conceived in 1911, and came to life the following year. Soccer, however, had been played in haphazard fashion in the district for some years previously. The teachers fostered it in the elementary schools during the 'eighties', and later those ex-schoolboys could be said to have originated the Swansea District League in the early 'nineties', which comprised clubs from the Port Talbot and Ammanford districts. At the same time, an amateur club known as Swansea Town, was created and represented the town in the Welsh Club Competition.

It was during this period that the first Schools League was formed, under the supervision of the teachers, and this did more than anything else to establish the soccer code in Swansea.

So great had the interest in the game grown in the early years of the century that the success of the clubs at Merthyr and Cardiff gave an impetus to the idea of forming a town club in Swansea. In 1911, a few local soccer enthusiasts, with the help of the Swansea League officials, decided to create a town club. Their biggest obstacle was the ground difficulty; the only possible sites were in S'etty and Morrison. In 1912 they heard that the Vetch Field was likely to be available. This waste patch, used as a playing field by some local clubs, was needed by the Gas Co., to extend their works, but following vehement protests by the tenants of houses in the vicinity, Parliament refused the Gas Co.'s request.

This was a bit of luck for the Soccer pioneers, who promptly stepped in and rented the ground as a home for the Swans.

The pioneers of this soccer movement were Messrs. J. W. Thorpe (Magistrate's Clerk), S. B. Williams, Chas. Jenkins and E. Sambrook, and little did they, or the sceptics in the local rugby world, dream that ten years later they would see 15,000 spectators queuing to get into the Vetch Field on Saturday afternoons.

The Swans' first board of directors were Messrs. J. W. Thorpe (Chairman), P. Molyneux, F. Newcombe, D. J. Bassett, T. Martin, J. Hopkins and H. Behenna, with S. B. Williams as Secretary. They engaged ex-Derby goalkeeper W. Whittaker as player manager, and he gathered together a team of professionals of such quality that the Swans won the Welsh Cup and the Welsh League in the

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first year of their existence, and in addition earned nation-wide acclaim for the high quality of their football. Two members of that original team are still resident in Swansea at the time this was written, viz. Jim Swarbrick and Jock Weir.

The Swans have been well served by directors deeply interested in the progress of soccer in the town. Outstanding among them have been J. W. Thorpe Owen Evans, Watts Jones and Abe Freedman, who received invaluable assistance from that paragon of club officials, the unflappable S. B. Williams who controlled the destinies of the club for over 30 years.

One of the Swans many achievements was to become the first South Wales club to reach the first round of the F.A. Cup; that was in 1913-14. Another feat was in 1914-15, when they startled the football world by defeating Blackburn Rovers in a Cup-tie at the Vetch Field by 1-0, the goal scorer being that well known character in both soccer and rugby, Ben Beynon.

The Swans most successful seasons were 1923-24-25, when Joe Sykes captained what was probably the best team that has ever worn the Swans colours. In successive years they won promotion to the Second League and for the first time in their history reached the semi-final of the F.A. Cup.

Throughout the history of soccer, it has been an accepted fact that the backbone of a successful team is a strong half-back line, and the Swans have provided a few examples of the truth of this conviction. Old timers can never forget the superb play of Collins, Sykes and Macpherson in those successful years of the 'Twenties', which in later years was almost duplicated, first by Warner, Hanford and Lloyd, and later by Paul, Weston and Burns. It is a regrettable fact that the Vetch Field has not for some years seen the equals of those half-backs for all-round ability. The present day value in transfer fees of any of the trios mentioned would be staggering.

Most were 'imported' players from England and Scotland, but Ireland also made its contribution in such polished artists as Feeney, Keane, M'Grory, O'Driscoll and Lockhart.

Other players who added lustre to the game at the Vetch Field were Wilf Milne, whose nearly 600 League appearances has been challenged only by the 400 appearances made by Harry Griffiths. Jack Fowler whose 5 goals in the 6-1 defeat of Charlton remains the best individual scoring record for the League team, whilst Peter Leylands 7 goals in the 10-1 defeat of Porth in a Welsh League game holds first place in Reserve team scoring records. An odd coincidence is that probably the best ball-playing inside forwards to wear the Swans colours all were named Ivor, viz. Brain, Jones and Allchurch.

No look back over the Swans history can be made without recognition of the great part played by Swansea school teachers in fostering the game in the district. They planted the soccer seed in the schools and tended it whilst it germinated into local League and thence into the professional stage of the game, and thus became a consistent source of supply not only to the Swans but to Wales also, for since Billy Hole was given international honours in 1922, Swansea ex-schoolboys have collected more than 300 senior Welsh caps between them, whilst their reputations have been so high throughout the country that the aggregate amount in transfer fees paid for their services is nearly half a million pounds. Can any other town in the British Isles of Swansea's size equal such a distinction?

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## THE VISITORS

What can we say of the Stars who have promised to visit the Vetch tonight? Who better to organise such a club than **JIMMY HILL**. As a player he was a Fulham stalwart for many seasons. Although full International honours evaded him he played for England "B", and for the F.A. He helped the London Club into the First Division and to reach the Semi Final of the F.A. Cup. Became the most famous chairman of the Players Union and more recently has been Manager of Coventry City with conspicuous success.

**NAT LOFTHOUSE** is regarded by many as being England's finest post war centre forward. His 30 goals in 32 matches certainly show him to have been the most successful. Scored six goals in one match for the Football League in 1952 but possibly his finest hour was when he scored the two goals at Wembley in 1958 to win the cup for Bolton. Recompense indeed for playing the supporting role in the Matthews final of 1953.

**TOM FINNEY** another of Football's great names. Played 76 times for England and scored 30 goals in these matches. By staying with Preston all his career he sacrificed his chances of the major club honours although he helped his club to win Runners-up medals in the League Championship in 1953 & 1958 and at Wembley in 1954.

**BEDFORD JEZZARD**'s already successful career was cut short by injury. He had had time to become a great favourite at Fulham and played for England on two occasions. **TED DITCHBURN** kept goal for the Spurs and England. He was a member of the memorable Tottenham team of the 1950's which won the Second and First Division Championships in successive seasons.

**WALLY BARNES** is known to us all as a famous Arsenal captain, and cultured full back. Many times capped for Wales he receives a special welcome today. Is known nowadays as a T.V. Broadcaster. **JIMMY SCOULAR** and **BOB STOKOE** both played in the 1955 Newcastle Cup Winning team. Jimmy was capped by Scotland on a number of occasions and is now of course, Manager of the Swans nearest rivals. **PAT SAWARD** won a Cup medal with Aston Villa in 1957 and was an Eire International many times. **NEIL FRANKLYN** in the immediate post war years was an automatic choice as England's Centre Half. Stoke City and Hull City both enjoyed his services.

**DEREK UFTON** gained one cap for England only, against F.I.F.A. in 1954. He was however the mainstay of the Charlton team in its First Division days and is now in charge at Plymouth.

Today's match is refereed by **JOHN GOW** a Swansea born Football League Official who is tipped for the highest honours. Although now teaching in Birmingham he remains a member of the Swansea Referees Society. He is a son of the late Bill Gow who will be well remembered as a fine Football League Official for many years and a leading local sportsman.

The linesmen Messrs. **TOM REYNOLDS** and **JOHN ALLEN** are both Swansea Round Tablers and Welsh League Officials.