



SWAYTHLING FC – SEASON 1978/79

PART 2: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1978



Swaythling had struggled to post wins early in this campaign but victories from three consecutive home matches from the beginning of November helped their cause. In between there was a close Hampshire League game at Newport as, once again, the team could put up a fine show against top sides but tended to struggle against the 'less fancied' teams in this period.

The above was again evident in December as the team struggled in cup ties against New Street (from Division 2) and Southampton Senior League outfit West End in cup competitions, having a second opportunity in each case and did progress in both. The return game with Newport also took place which proved to be one of the Island side's rare league defeats in the season.

Date	Competition	Opponents	Venue	Result	Score	Notes
04/11/1978	Hampshire League—Div.1	Southampton 'A'	Home	Won	2-1	
07/11/1978	Hampshire League—Div.1	Pirelli General	Home	Won	1-0	
11/11/1978	Hampshire League—Div.1	Newport (I.W.)	away	Lost	0-1	
18/11/1978	Hampshire League—Div.1	Havant Town	Home	Won	2-0	
19/11/1978	SW Co. Pratten Cup-Round 1	Yate Town	Home	Lost	1-2 aet	Yes– 1
22/11/1978	Hants F'lit Cup-Rd.1; 1st Leg	West End	away	Lost	0-1	Yes– 2
25/11/1978	Hampshire League—Div.1	Waterlooville Res	Home	Won	2-1	
29/11/1978	Hants F'lit Cup-Rd.1; 2nd Leg	West End	Home	Won	3-0	Yes– 3
02/12/1978	Hants Senior Cup—Round 1	New Street	Home	Draw	0-0 aet	
06/12/1978	Hampshire League—Div.1	Newport (I.W.)	Home	Won	1-0	Yes– 4
16/12/1978	Hants Senior Cup-Rd.1 Replay	New Street	away	Won	2-1	
23/12/1978	Hampshire League—Div.1	Sholing Sports	away	Lost	0-3	

Key: Competitions: Div = Division; SW Co. = South West Counties; F'lit = Floodlight; Rd. = Round. Score: aet = after extra time;

Notes: 'Yes' shown indicates notes were taken and they are featured below (otherwise the game wasn't attended).

Match Notes 1 **SWAYTHLING 1-2 YATE TOWN (after extra time)**

Sunday, 19th November 1978. South West Counties Pratten Cup—Round 1

Visit Number: 13. Opponent's team unknown. Programme issued (with admission).

Referee: Mr D Parker (Bournemouth). The Swaythling line-up is shown in the table.

Notes Taken:

The Swaythling team was hardly recognisable with the usual first team players turning out for their regular Sunday teams (mostly for the Colden Common or Moorgreen teams). This led to a local press debate as to where players' loyalties belong but Swaythling were, of course, a Saturday side and this was chiefly a Sunday competition.

Yate (from the Gloucestershire County League back then) held a 1-0 lead but **Carter** levelled the scores with a looping header as only seconds remained to take the game into extra time. Yate keeper B. Workman had pulled off a tremendous save to prevent an earlier equaliser. Yate netted the winner in extra time and therefore progressed.

The match was played in atrocious conditions with rain falling throughout as the Ten Acres pitch took a real hammering.

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Harris		
2	A Hinton		
3	Bill Ragan		
4	John Carter		1
5	Mervyn Rogers		
6	Sam Stevens		
7	Chris Glover		
8	David Lord		
9	Wayne Thomas		
10	Pat Edgehill		
11	David Harris		

12	unknown		
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Match Notes 2.

WEST END 1-0 SWAYTHLING

Wednesday 22nd November 1978. Hampshire Floodlight Cup—Round 1, 1st Leg

At Moorgreen Recreation Ground, Moorgreen Road, West End, Southampton (first visit)

Opponent's team unknown.

Notes taken:

A second half goal brought a fine result for Southampton Senior League side West End against Hampshire League Division 1 outfit Swaythling with the home side scoring a second half goal to take a narrow advantage into the second leg.

The pitch was a tad bumpy and difficult to play good football on. In that regard, Swaythling put in a resolute performance.

Retrospective Comments:

Still very much 'getting into' local football at that time, I didn't fully appreciate the magnitude of this result and fair play to West End from the Senior League on obtaining this victory. I wasn't sure how long West End had possessed floodlights but they did arrange a number of friendly matches under them (club's not having a lot of midweek action in mid-season being more than happy to play back then).

A comment that cricket supporters might appreciate. Swaythling's number seven was indeed G R (Bob) Stephenson, who was Hampshire's wicket-keeper between 1969 and 1980 and had one season as captain. Bob played football for Derby County, Shrewsbury Town and Rochdale and was mainly a second team player for Swaythling in this season and featured in midfield.

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Shaw		
2	Graham Meyer		
3	Ian Knight		
4	Chris Scott		
5	Ken Brady		
6	Keith Cooper		
7	Bob Stephenson		
8	Mick Proudley		
9	Trevor Walbridge		
10	Kazi Podsadowski	yes	
11	Kevin Kelly		

12	Steve Hills	yes	
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Match Notes 3.

SWAYTHLING 3-0 WEST END

(Swaythling win 3-1 on aggregate)

Wednesday 29th November 1978. Hampshire Floodlight Cup—Round 1, 2nd Leg

Visit Number: 14. Opponent's team unknown.

Notes taken:

The aggregate scores were soon level when, after only a couple of minutes, **Kelly** scored with a low shot. **Wallbridge** increased the lead during the first half.

Kelly secured the victory with his second goal of the game in the closing stages to secure a safe passage for his side.

Retrospective Comments:

This took Swaythling into the semi-final of the competition and they would be drawn to meet Romsey Town from Hampshire League Division 2 at the semi-final stage (at home in the first leg).

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Shaw		
2	Graham Meyer		
3	Ian Knight	yes	
4	Chris Scott		
5	Ken Brady		
6	Keith Cooper		
7	Wyn Thomas		
8	Chris Glover		
9	Trevor Wallbridge		1
10	Phil Birks		
11	Kevin Kelly		2

12	Kazi Podsadowski	yes	
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Match Notes 4.

SWAYTHLING 1-0 NEWPORT (IW)

Wednesday 6th December 1978. Hampshire League—Division 1.

Visit Number: 15. Opponent's team unknown

Notes taken:

This was a vital top of the table encounter which was dominated by Newport but it was Swaythling that got the only goal, which was a close in header by Wallbridge from a good cross.

Swaythling lost Knight who had to go to hospital with a leg injury but substitute Podadowski was a capable replacement.

Retrospective comments:

Swaythling were at the top of the table but Newport were not only behind on points obtained but, most significantly, on games played as well. A Hampshire League Division 1 table, published shortly after this match (and shown below) revealed Newport, with 20 points, being two behind (which was equivalent to a win back then) but Swaythling had played 17 of their 30 league matches whilst Newport had played only 13.

A Swaythling win in this match was therefore very important if they were to stay in contention.

It would clearly take a most consistent run of victories from here if the team was to compete for the title. It turned out that this defeat, and Newport's second of the season, would prove to be their last in the league through the entire campaign.

However, there were more exciting meetings between Swaythling and Newport to come before this season closed!

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Harris		
2	Steve Hills		
3	Ian Knight	yes	
4	Chris Scott		
5	Ken Brady		
6	Graham Meyer		
7	Phil Birks		
8	Chris Glover		
9	Trevor Wallbridge		1
10	Wyn Thomas		
11	Kevin Kelly		
12	Kazi Podadowski	yes	

The top of the table as at 16th December 1978 was as follows:

Pos	HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE DIV 1 (top)	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Swaythling	17	9	4	4	26	20	22
2	Newport (IW)	13	9	2	2	31	7	20
3	Pirelli General	16	7	5	4	29	18	19
4	Sholing Sports	15	8	2	5	29	18	18

A 0-3 defeat at Sholing Sports in the next league game at the very end of the calendar year didn't help the Swaythling cause.

So, forward to 1979

