



SWAYTHLING FC – SEASON 1978/79

PART 4: MARCH 1979 TO END OF SEASON



Swaythling moved into the final stages of the season with the league pretty much beyond them but had reached the final of the Hampshire Midweek Cup competition where they were due to meet likely champions and cup holders Newport over two legs. There was still a fair few points to play for in the league too.

Key: Competitions: Div = Division. / (followed by a number) = leg number.

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

Date	Competition	Opponents	Venue	Result	Score	Notes
03/03/1979	Hampshire League—Div.1	B.A.T.	away	Draw	1-1	
10/03/1979	Hampshire League—Div.1	Pirelli General	away	Lost	0-3	Yes-1
17/03/1979	Hampshire League—Div.1	Moneyfield Sports	away	Draw	1-1	
24/03/1979	Hampshire League—Div.1	Waterlooville Res	away	Lost	1-2	
07/04/1979	Hampshire League—Div.1	Netley Central Sports	away	Won	3-0	Yes-2
16/04/1979	Hampshire League—Div.1	Gosport Borough Res	Home	Lost	1-2	Yes-3
25/04/1979	Hants Floodlit Cup—Final/1	Newport (I.W.)	Home	Won	2-1	Yes-4
28/04/1979	Hampshire League—Div.1	B.A.T.	Home	Won	1-0	
08/05/1979	Hants Floodlit Cup—Final/2	Newport (I.W.)	away	Won	4-1	Yes-5
NOTE: THERE WERE TWO MATCHES DATES NOT TRACED						
??/??/??	Hampshire League—Div.1	Portsmouth Royal Navy	Home	Won	3-2	
??/??/??	Hampshire League—Div.1	Sholing Sports	Home	Won	1-0	

Match Notes 1. **PIRELLI GENERAL 3-0 SWAYTHLING**

Saturday, 10th March 1979. Hampshire League—Division 1

At Jubilee Sports Ground, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh. Opponent’s team unknown.

Referee: unknown. The Swaythling line-up is shown in the table.

Notes Taken:

The two reserve teams met in a Hampshire League Division 2 fixture on the previous Wednesday evening. Pat Edgehill equalised for Swaythling Reserves in the last minute to cancel out a first half Pirelli effort.

The main pitch at this large Sports Ground was unfit so the match took place on the second pitch which was adjacent and in a more open area. Fortunately the weather was okay as it was a fair distance from the shelter of the wooden stand that was located for viewing on the main pitch!

Swaythling had the better of the first half but failed to score. Pirelli’s three goals came in the second half, one of them being a fine 30-yard effort and the third was netted late in the game.

In the end, Swaythling were deservedly beaten.

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Harris		
2	Graham Meyer		
3	Kazi Podadowski		
4	Chris Scott		
5	Ken Brady		
6	Keith Cooper		
7	Phil Birks		
8	M (Jenner) Brown		
9	Ray Deane		
10	Keith Vine		
11	Kevin Kelly		
12	Mike Proudley		

Match Notes 2. NETLEY CENTRAL SPORTS 0-3 SWAYTHLING

Saturday 7th April 1979. Hampshire League—Division 1

At Recreation Ground, Station Road, Netley (first visit)

Referee: unknown. Opponent's team unknown. Swaythling line-up shown in the table.

Notes taken:

Recent league form had not been good and this was a welcome Swaythling victory.

A damp pitch caused a few problems for the players but Keith Vine ruled the Swaythling midfield. It was a **Vine** flick from a corner midway through the first half that gave the visitors the lead going into the break.

Netley struggled throughout the game and Swaythling netted two further goals in the second half to underline their superiority through an **own goal** and **Chris Scott** who beat the offside trap for number three.

It was a fine all-round performance from Swaythling.

Retrospective Comments:

This was my 34th new ground visited and I'd only got here thanks to a work colleague, who was knowledgeable about local football, who explained where Netley played and even provided concise directions about the short cut that could be taken from the railway station! Back then, I didn't know where hardly any of the grounds were located!

A trip out to Netley from my home in Southampton showed that I was starting to take a greater interest in the local football scene. An excellent Swaythling performance and result made this a most pleasant afternoon out.

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Shaw		
2	Graham Meyer		
3	Kazi Podsadowski		
4	Chris Scott		1
5	Ken Brady		
6	Keith Cooper		
7	Keith Vine		1
8	Ray Deane		
9	Wyn Thomas		
10	Les Gatrell		
11	Phil Birks		

12	Jenner Brown	yes	
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Match Notes 3. SWAYTHLING 1-2 GOSPORT BOROUGH RES

Monday 16th April 1979. Hampshire League—Division 1

Visit Number: 24. Referee: unknown. Opponent's team unknown. Swaythling team >>

Notes taken:

Swaythling struggled in this game and were a goal down at half-time. Knight was introduced into the midfield at half-time and **Deane** levelled. Gosport snatched a winning goal later in the match.

Retrospective Comments:

I just had time to get from The Dell to Ten Acres on foot to make this my second match seen in the day. The first game saw Southampton lead 3-0 against Tottenham Hotspur in the First Division. David Peach netted a sixth minute penalty and Saints were then awarded another penalty which Alan Ball (making his 600th Football League appearance) duly converted too. Phil Boyer made it 3-0 in the fortieth minute. But Spurs fought back and goals from Peter Taylor (60), Chris Jones (68) and John Pratt (80) saw them get what appeared to be an unlikely 3-3 draw.

It was the first time I'd ever watched two completed matches in a day and Swaythling's disappointing performance against a lowly team in the afternoon provided little cheer.

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Harris		
2	Graham Meyer	Yes	
3	Kazi Podsadowski		
4	Chris Scott		
5	Ken Brady		
6	Keith Cooper		
7	Keith Vine		
8	Ray Deane		1
9	Mick Proudley		
10	Les Gatrell		
11	Phil Birks		

12	Ian Knight	Yes	
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Match Notes 4.

SWAYTHLING 2-1 NEWPORT (I.W.)

Wednesday 25th April 1979. Hampshire Floodlight Cup—Final, First Leg.

Visit Number: 26. Referee: unknown. Opponent's team unknown. Swaythling line-up>

Notes taken:

This was a hard-fought final against champions elect Newport. Swaythling took the game to them and were rewarded with a goal from **Brown** and then, just on half-time, **Proudley** beat the offside trap to add goal number two.

Newport played much better in the second half and, just when it looked as though Swaythling were going to take a two-goal lead into the second leg, **Musselwhite**, a dangerous striker for the Island side, pulled one back on the stroke of the final whistle.

Retrospective comments:

That late Newport goal probably turned the favouritism back their way and set up an interesting second leg. Now, it was only the other day when I didn't know how to find Netley's ground so a midweek trip to the Isle of Wight to watch the second leg seemed to be a momentous journey back those times. Now, of course, I am an experienced Island traveller!

A Swaythling XI met a Jersey Representative XI at Ten Acres on the Friday evening (winning 2-1) and I was tempted to go up to the ground to watch the final league game against B.A.T. and missing Southampton's First Division match against Manchester City instead. I stayed loyal to Saints and both won their games by 1-0. Trevor Heberd got the Saints' goal whilst the injury plagued Chris Glover was on target at Ten Acres.

I hadn't given up on my regular visits to The Dell quite yet!!

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Harris		
2	Steve Hills		
3	Kazi Podsadowski		
4	Chris Scott		
5	Ken Brady		
6	Keith Cooper		
7	Ian Knight		
8	Ray Deane		
9	Mick Proudley		1
10	Jenner Brown		1
11	Phil Birks		
12	Wyn Thomas		

Match Notes 5.

NEWPORT (I.W.) 1-4 SWAYTHLING

(Swaythling won 6-2 on aggregate)

Tuesday 8th May 1979. Hampshire Floodlight Cup—Final, Second Leg.

At Church Litten, Newport, Isle of Wight (new ground).

Referee: Mr M D Knight (Gosport). Opponent's team unknown. Swaythling line-up >>

Notes taken:

Newport received the league champions trophy before the game but it was Swaythling that took the honours on the field. **Brown** lunged to head a free kick home to give Swaythling a shock first half lead.

Newport were kicking towards their partisan crowd in the second half. They gained a penalty and **Paul Young** squeezed it home to make the aggregate 3-2 in Swaythling's favour. Swaythling then had Cooper, Podsadowski, Brown and Knight booked, all within the space of five minutes. Swaythling regained the lead on the night when **Knight** scored a scrappy goal which just rolled over the line despite Port keeper Watson's vain effort to keep it out. Newport threw players forward in an attempt to hit back and **Phil Birks** twice produced some neat footwork to notch two goals, one of them neatly dancing round Watson and Swaythling were now 4-1 up (and 6-2 on aggregate) and there were still fifteen minutes to go. The introduction of Wallbridge for the injured Proudley kept life in the attack.

When the final whistle was blown Swaythling rather spoiled the Newport treble attempt (as well as the league they had won the Russell-Cotes Cup). This was confirmed when captain Ken Brady held aloft the Floodlight Cup amidst generous applause from the home supporters. Then it was a chase across the road to get the bus back to Ryde and embark on the journey home. It was worth the trip for sure! Great memories of a great evening which changed my football watching hereon.

No	SWAYTHLING	sub	gl
1	Malcolm Harris		
2	Steve Hills		
3	Kazi Podsadowski		
4	Chris Scott		
5	Ken Brady		
6	Keith Cooper		
7	Phil Birks		2
8	Ray Deane		
9	Mick Proudley	yes	
10	Jenner Brown		1
11	Ian Knight		1
12	Trevor Wallbridge	yes	

What a fantastic finish to Swaythling's 1978/79 season and a cup victory. It was the first team's first cup final win since 1951 and rather made up for a rather inconsistent Hampshire League Division 1 season. That stated, although the team finished fifth, they were only two points shy of third-placed Brockenhurst. The reserve team had struggled to win their league games in Division 2 but three points from their last two home games (played on the second pitch) helped to lift them into thirteenth place. The seconds did win the Southampton Senior Cup (the final being played at The Dell two days after the first team's Floodlight Cup final victory).

For this writer, a decision to support Swaythling FC regularly rather than watching through fences at The Dell in future was made with effect from the next season.

Pos	DIVISION 1	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
01	Newport (I.W.)	30	23	5	2	64	11	51
02	Fareham Town	30	18	7	5	75	34	43
03	Brockenhurst	30	14	9	7	46	35	37
04	Waterlooville Res	30	14	8	8	41	34	36
05	SWAYTHLING	30	13	9	8	42	35	35
06	Pirelli General	30	10	12	8	44	30	32
07	Sholing Sports	30	14	3	13	47	37	31
08	Southampton 'A'	30	10	10	10	43	37	30
09	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	30	12	4	14	38	52	28
10	B.A.T.	30	11	6	13	34	38	27*
11	Netley Central Sports	30	11	3	16	39	44	25
12	Gosport Borough Res	30	9	6	15	39	60	24
13	Moneyfield Sports	30	7	9	14	27	48	23
14	Brading Town	30	8	7	15	22	47	23
15	Portsmouth Royal Navy	30	7	5	18	25	53	18*
16	Havant Town	30	5	7	18	41	69	17

FINAL TABLE—1978/79 SEASON

Note: * denotes points adjustment

The wins and defeats in the table are not equal, but this was the published final table.

Constitution Changes (Div.1)—summer 1979

- Fareham Town joined the Southern League and their reserve team (14th in Division 2) replaced them.
- Portsmouth Royal Navy and Havant Town were relegated to Division 2.
- Romsey Town and Bournemouth were promoted to Division 1 (from Division 2).

For the sake of completeness, the other three Hampshire League tables are shown below: (with apologies for small print, although it can be magnified on the website)

Ps	DIVISION 2	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
01	Romsey Town	30	19	7	4	47	21	45
02	Bournemouth	30	17	9	4	48	20	43
03	Horndean	30	17	6	7	49	29	40
04	Cove	30	16	6	8	45	36	38
05	Ringwood Town	30	14	9	7	40	20	37
06	AFC Totton	30	16	3	11	49	38	35
07	New Street	30	14	7	9	36	25	35
08	Portals Athletic	30	11	7	12	38	36	29
09	Warsash	30	13	3	14	46	51	29
10	Cowes	30	9	10	11	27	34	28
11	Sholing Sports Res	30	9	9	12	38	45	27
12	Overton United	30	11	3	16	44	53	25
13	Swaythling Res	30	8	7	15	37	47	23
14	Fareham Town Res	30	8	6	16	37	45	22
15	Pirelli General Res	30	4	6	20	29	63	14
16	Winchester City	30	2	6	22	22	71	10

Constitution Changes (Div.2)—summer 1979:

- Romsey Town and Bournemouth promoted to Division 1.
- Portsmouth Royal Navy and Havant Town relegated from Division 1.
- Due to Fareham Town Reserves moving to Division 1, only Winchester City were relegated to Division 3.

Ps	DIVISION 3	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
01	Pegasus	30	23	5	2	69	21	51
02	Downton	30	22	4	4	91	34	48
03	A.C. Delco	30	19	4	7	52	20	42
04	Petersfield United	30	18	5	7	57	32	41
05	Netley Central Sports Res	30	16	3	11	41	44	35
06	Sway	30	14	6	10	60	39	34
07	Moneyfield Sports Res	30	14	4	12	52	53	32
08	Christchurch	30	12	4	14	64	55	28
09	Whitchurch United	30	11	6	13	50	56	28
10	Liss Athletic	30	9	8	13	35	45	26
11	Lymington	30	10	2	18	41	81	22
12	Ryde Sports	30	7	7	16	54	69	21
13	New Milton	30	8	5	17	36	55	21
14	Winchester Castle	30	8	4	18	35	58	20
15	Portsmouth RN Res	30	6	5	18	21	60	17
16	Blackfield & Langley	30	4	4	22	39	85	12

Constitution Changes (Div.3)—summer 1979:

- Winchester City were relegated from Division 2.
- Pegasus and Downton promoted to Division 2.
- Blackfield & Langley relegated to Division 4.
- Portsmouth Royal Navy Reserves withdrew from the league.

Ps	DIVISION 4	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
01	AFC Totton Res	22	16	5	1	58	11	37
02	Basingstoke Town Res	22	12	7	3	57	20	31
03	Brockenhurst Res	22	12	6	4	46	21	30
04	Enham Alamein	22	13	3	6	44	38	29
05	Andover Res	22	12	2	8	51	36	28
06	McMurdo	22	9	7	6	49	30	25
07	Botley	22	10	4	8	49	39	24
08	R.A.P.C. (Worthy Down)	22	6	7	9	42	53	19
09	Folland Sports	22	4	4	14	26	73	16
10	Awbridge	22	3	5	14	30	50	11
11	Courage & Company (Alton)	22	3	4	15	28	58	10
12	B.T.C. (Southampton)	22	4	2	16	21	62	10
13	<i>Sandown</i>							0

Note: Sandown withdrew.

Constitution Changes (Div.4)—summer 1979:

- AFC Totton Res and Basingstoke Town Res were promoted to Division 3.
- Courage & Company (Alton) changed their name to Bass (Alton) FC.
- Malshanger FC joined from the North Hants League.