



Gorse Hill Football Team 1927-1928

Better Late than never ...

“What about Gorse Hill, 1927-28” comes the plaintive cry from the Isle of Wight.

And it is accompanied by a special souvenir leaflet produced to mark Gorse Hill School’s wonderful football season of that time.

When we recently printed a photograph of the Ferndale team of 1925-26, we ventured to say that their feat of dropping only one point in their entire championship season could still be a record.

“Not so,” says Ken Smith, of Ryde, IoW ... and the brochure backs up his words.

Gorse Hill’s record that year read: played 12, won 12, goals for 51, goals against, 3, points 24.

“The season will be remembered for many years as one in which the schools’ football teams set up a record which has never been equalled and can scarcely be surpassed by any Swindon school,” states the brochure.

“The senior team won the Swindon Schools’ League Shield without conceding a single point; won the Wiltshire Individual School championship; won the Ramsbury Six-a-Side Cup; supplied five members to the Swindon Boys’ team; and had the honour, which has only once previously come to Swindon, of providing a representative to play for England.

“The Juniors won the Schools’ League Junior Cup.

“Thus, every football honour which could be won by a Swindon School has been secured in one season,” it adds.

What can we say in answer to that, other than “sorry.”

Those photographed in the senior team are:

Back row (l-r): R. Wheeler, E. Watts; second row (l-r): B. Smith, F. New, J. Thompson, H. Selwood, K. Smith; third row (l-r) Mr. R. Smith, F. Lewis, J. Kempster, W. Puffett, F. Tavinor, J. Collett, Mr. H. Atkins, front row (l-r) C. Butcher, J. Reeves, A. Leach, A. Stimpson.

The Swindon Boys quintet are: Wheeler, Puffett, Butcher, Reeves and Thompson; the England International, Puffett.



Wally Puffett worked for Morse's, the big store in Swindon when he left school and never had the chance of joining Swindon Town because he worked on Saturdays.

But he later became a keen watcher at the County Ground and is still a ticket holder there.

Ken Smith, who sent the brochure, is a keen follower of the progress of Swindon Town, although he and his wife have been living on the Isle of Wight for 40 years. "We always feel our roots are solidly in Swindon," he says.

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