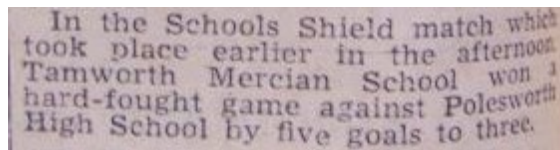


Roy Ashwood career with Bolehall Swifts

At The Tamworth Mercian Secondary Modern School, in my last year 1957/58, I was captain of the school Athletics team and at 14 years of age I could run the 100 yards in 11 seconds, I played cricket for the house team Ethelfleda, and I played centre forward for the school football team.



Note the Paper on the right shows the wrong opponents as it should be Kingsbury High School as shown on the left



After leaving school in April 1958, I scored 4 goals for the Mercian School Football team in the Schools Fazeley Charity Shield final 5-3 win over Kingsbury School, which was played on Good Friday 4th April 1958. I was then approached in my first job at work in the third week in April by a Committee member of Tamworth Football Club and asked to come and play for them. I started playing for Tamworth F.C. "A" team for the 3 remaining matches in the April/May 1958. After this the Tamworth FC "A" team was not continued the next year to save on expenses.

I started playing for Bolehall Swifts in August 1958 after being approached by Committee member Derek Probin to do so, and I think in all the matches I played in I averaged a goal every 2 matches.

The Bolehall Swifts home matches in 1958/59 were played at this time on a farmer's field which was over the canal bridge from the Gate Inn public house at Amington. The top room at the side of the Gate Inn, approached by a metal staircase, was used as a changing room for both teams. The pitch was used by the farmer for grazing cattle and had cow pats at various locations on the pitch and it was a rough uneven playing surface. As mentioned later in the script, Tamworth Working Men's Club formed a football team in 1961 and they took over playing here, when Bolehall Swifts obtained the

new Rene Road ground. The Tamworth Herald reported how well the new club, TWMC were doing in their first season despite *"The only bugbear is THAT pitch at the Gate Inn, it's not really a place to bring Teams like Atherstone, North Warwick and Bolehall who all have superb grounds of their own"* a committee man said. The land is presently used in 2016 for houses between the Stonehaven and Peterhead Roads. The Gate Inn is still there and is open for business as usual.

Committee meetings at that time 1958/59 were held in the Amington Inn, Bolehall, usually at 11.00am on Sundays. Committee members at that time I recall were: - President Mr. George Philips, Secretary Harold Storer, Derek Probin, Ernest Cotterill, and Harry Sharpe, who was possibly Treasurer. Harry Sharpe used to accompany the teams I played in at home and away matches.

Before my time with them, In the season 1957/1958 the Swifts played in the Tamworth and Trent Valley league and the league table in April 1958 shows they were not doing very well, being second from bottom with only five points, having played twenty matches, winning two, losing seventeen, drawing one, scoring twenty-eight goals and conceding one hundred and thirty eight.

At the committee meeting in April 1958, it had been decided that the team would be taking a trip to play on the Continent in the Easter of 1959, depending upon Fixtures and cup commitments. It was agreed that the club would run two teams next season and each player was insured for £5 a week for a period of 12 months. The 500 strong supporters club have raised £350 pounds which has already been handed over. Team Captain and centre half Harold Storer, has already take over as Club Secretary the committee hope this will create a "personal touch" between the players and officials. A trial match would be held on 16th August to find players for the two teams they were going to have in the Sutton and District Leagues that season 1958/59, in which the "A" team would play in the Premier league and the "B" team play in the division 1 league.

I must make mention of Harold "Aggie" Storer who as well as Secretary, was an inspirational Captain who could play equally well at Centre half or Centre Forward. He was a genuinely nice man and in my opinion was the "Backbone" of the Club at that time. He was to be greatly missed when he went to play in 1960 for Tamworth Football Club and then for Tamworth Working Men's Football Club. If he were at his peak in today's football, he would walk into most football lower league clubs in the Conference and above and more than hold his own. It was a pleasure to have played with him.

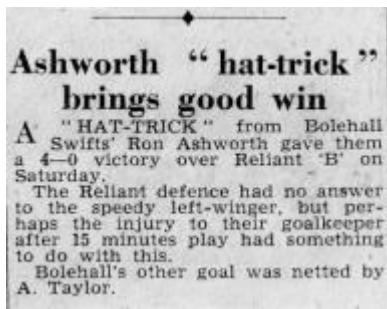
Being only 5 foot 4 inches tall and 10.5 stone in weight, at 15 years, the Committee picked me to play on the left wing in the "B" team in the earlier matches, but I played inside left in the later years.

Some of the matches with some scores that I played in that I have some details of:-

1958/1959 season

30th August 1958, Bolehall v Doultons.

5th September, Reliant B v Bolehall (I scored a hat trick see newspaper cutting with name incorrect)



13th September Bolehall v Baddesley Colliery

20th September Bolehall v Dordon

27th September Bolehall 6 v Erdington Congs 4 Scored 1 goal

4th October Bolehall 4 v St Leonards 4. (I scored all Bolehall goals see newspaper cutting)



11th October Bolehall 2 v Water Orton 4 (Cup Match)

18th October Bolehall 3 v Marston Green 3.

25th October Bolehall v Hill Rovers

1st November Bolehall v Aldridge Athletic

8th November Bolehall v Erdington YMCA

15th November Bolehall v Doultons

29th November Bolehall v South Yardley

6th December Bolehall v Aldridge Athletic

13th December Bolehall v Erdington Methodists

20th December Bolehall 2 v Fazeley Swifts 1

3rd January Water Orton 2 Bolehall Swifts 2 match played in snow

31st January Bolehall Swifts 11 Erdington Congs 0 scored 1 goal.

7th February Walmley 5 Bolehall 3

14th February Bolehall Swifts 5 Fazeley 2 scored 1 goal. (See Newspaper cutting)

Bolehall—better of two Swifts
FAZELEY SWIFTS again met their "Waterloo" against Bolehall Swifts on Saturday when they lost 5-2.
The opening 20 minutes were fairly even. H. Storer gave Bolehall the lead, and Fazeley equalised a few minutes later. D. Baker regained the lead for Bolehall before the interval.
After the resumption, Bolehall dominated the game and A. Taylor scored a fine goal. R. Ashwood scored the fourth. Fazeley paid one of their rare visits to the Bolehall end and scored before A. Taylor put Bolehall further ahead with another great goal direct from a corner-kick.
Hall, the Fazeley goalkeeper, gave a marvellous display of goalkeeping, saving what appeared to be certain goals.

10-goal Swifts are really swift !
GOALS poured in like cards at Christmas time when Sutton Post Office went down 10-0 against Bolehall "B" at Sutton on Saturday.
In the first three minutes Bolehall banged in three goals which sent Sutton reeling. They were netted by K. Sharpe, D. Baker and A. Taylor.
Sutton rallied for a short time, but before the interval Swifts hit in three more through K. Taylor, Baker and R. Ashwood.
Bolehall eased off in the second half but Sutton could not take advantage of their chances, and Swifts came again to add four more.
Scorers were A. Taylor, K. Taylor (2) and then A. Taylor scored from a corner-kick for the second week in succession.

21st February Sutton Post Office 0 Bolehall Swifts 10 scored 1 goal. And Alan Taylor scored direct from a corner kick for the second week running.

7th March Sutton Post Office Match abandoned when 2-0 up due to rain erasing touchlines.

21st March Bolehall Swifts 4 St Leonards 3. Paid to Club Secretary, the money for Belgium Tour.

28th March Erdington Methodists 0 Bolehall Swifts 2 scored 1 goal.

28th March Bolehall Swifts first team 3 Tutbury Hawthorne 2 (Wilnecote Charity Cup Final) The match was played on Wilnecote Secondary Modern School Playing field with a ball presented by West Bromwich Albion. Information is from a match report in the Tamworth Herald 3rd April 1959.

4th April Bolehall 0 Aldridge Ex Servicemen 2. I had to go off with an injured ankle, after seeing doctor on the next Monday nothing was broken but had Sticky Bandage put round it for support. Before the start of this match a 2 minute silence was observed after the Death from polio of Jeff Hall of Birmingham City. I did not play in next two matches through this injury

18th April Doultons 2 Bolehall Swifts 8

25th April Bolehall Swifts v Hodgehill at Home. Our Committee called a stop to the match mid way through first half due to a very biased referee giving all the decisions to Hodgehill.

30th April Bolehall Swifts 0 Coleshill Town 1.

9th May Practice match at home, the Belgium Tour team 7 rest of playing staff team 2.

Bolehall Swifts 1959 First overseas football match in Belgium

The match had been arranged with Harry Ash Tours Ltd of Haringay London and all the party who went including all the players had to pay all cost of Travel and Hotel accommodation, it was not funded by the club, but we were all happy to pay the cost.

On Thursday 14th May 1959 I exchanged English currency for 1,400 Francs with Committee member Harry Sharpe who had the required banking arrangements to facilitate this for team members.

On Friday 15th May 1959, the party of 23 people assembled at the car park of the Amington Inn and after photographs of the party were taken, they all left by Midland Red coach for London at 9.45am. After arriving at the Victoria Coach Station at 2.20pm and after changing coaches in London, the party arrived in Southend on Sea at 4.55pm. A Vickers Viking plane G-AHPH, operated by Channel Air Bridge and piloted by Captain Walsh and Captain Torry, was boarded and took off at 6.35pm, climbing to 3,500feet and travelling at 200mph arriving in Ostend at 7.15pm. The weather was very warm and sunny all that day in England but on Landing at Ostende it was cold and overcast.

One notable absentee on the above party was one of the team players. Tom Seedhouse had not had his passport delivered at that time of departure, but fortunately it arrived next day and he joined the team on the next available flight.

The Party stayed at the Hotel Marion, 19, Rue Louise and some training on the beach was done by the players on the Saturday morning after breakfast, whilst others went sightseeing and shopping.

The match was played on Whit Sunday, the team leaving their Hotel and travelling to Lissewege which was near the Holland boarder with Belgium. Before the kick off, The Swifts team had a group photograph taken and one of each individual player by Mrs Pam Storer, the wife of team Captain Harold Storer. Copies of these were later presented to each player by Mrs. Storer. Players of Lissewege then presented flags of their Town to each Bolehall Player. A football signed by all the Swifts team was presented by Harold Storer to the opposition captain and a Bolehall Banner.

The exciting end to end match was won 1-0 by Bolehall Swifts and the team celebrated their victory back at the Hotel Marion, 19, Rue Louise, Ostend and a nearby nightclub until the early hours of next morning, before retiring to bed and flying back to England on Whit Monday 18th May 1959.

A report of the match and photograph of the players and committee members before they left Tamworth can be found in the Tamworth Herald dated 22nd May 1959.

Bolehall Swifts had gained 27 points with one match to play this season and if that was won they could go second to Aldridge Athletic in the league table P 19, W 12, L 4, D 3, F 74, A 38 P 27. The opponents were Hodgehill and the result is unknown.

On Saturday 13th June 1959, at Wilnecote Parish Hall in the evening, Bolehall Swift's held a dinner and dance and presentations to players who won the Wilnecote Charity Cup Final were made.

1959/1960 season

15th August I Sprained my ankle in first training match of the season on 15th August 1959 (which our side won 5 – 3) and was taken a in car by Derek Probin to the hospital to have it checked and it was consequently strapped up and as a result I did not play again until 26th September 1959.

26th September Bolehall Swifts 0 Fazeley 0, I was not fully fit but turned out as the team was short.

17th October Bound Brook Bearings 0 Bolehall Swifts 2

24th October Whitacre Swans, v Bolehall Swifts match abandoned with Bolehall winning 5-4 as heavy rain had washed away the touchlines.

31st October Kingsbury 6 Bolehall Swifts 4, I scored 2 goals. (I signed my Apprenticeship Indentures as an Apprentice Electrician with the National Coal Board on this morning)

7th November Reliant 1 Bolehall Swifts 0 On this day, Harold Storer, Bolehall Swifts Captain and Player Secretary was Captain for the third time of the Sutton League team against Handsworth, in the Campbell Orr Shield which they lost 1-3 after scoring first.

14th November Kingsbury Youth Club 9. Bolehall Swifts 1 Owing to the First Team being short of their chosen side through sickness, players from the second team were taken to fill those gaps, as a result of which this game was started with Bolehall having only 7 men and finishing with only 10 men.

21st November Bolehall Swifts 4 Fazeley Swifts 4, (Polesworth Cup)

28th November Bolehall Swifts 1 Aldridge Athletic 2

12th December Minworth Social 0 Bolehall Swifts 5 scored 1 goal.

19th December 1959 Bolehall Swifts 5 Minworth Social 2.

2nd January 1960 Fazeley 2 Bolehall Swifts 3, after extra time (Polesworth Cup Replay) Scored 1 goal.

9th January 1960 Bolehall Swifts 2 Mckechnies Sports 3, scored 1 goal

16th January Birch Coppice 1 Bolehall Swifts 0 (Polesworth Cup) Bolehall goalkeeper broke a finger after 20 minutes, so for the rest of the match we had 10 men and novice goalkeeper from outfield (No substitutes were allowed at this period of football)

6th February North Warwick Colliery 9 Bolehall Swifts 1

13th February 1960 Bolehall Swifts 2 North Warwick Colliery 4. I played my first match, for the First Team aged 16 years 10 months.

20th February Bolehall Swifts 3 Boundbrook Bearings 2, scored 1 goal

27th February Bolehall Swifts 1 Perry Common 2 (cup Match) A Report in the Sports Argus of this match had a mention of my name so I must have played well. At this time of the season, the Tamworth Herald shows that Swifts "B" team were 3rd From bottom, having record P12, W4, L7, D1 goals for 21, goals against 41, points 9.

5th March Bolehall Swifts 1 North Warwick Colliery 3 (Lewis cup Match)

I was then left out of the first team for the Semi Final of the Fazeley Charity Cup match after playing well in all the previous games, so felt very disappointed and disillusioned with the way the club was being run and the team selection. Committee member Derek Probin had some theory that he could keep all the younger players in the "B" team and they would somehow "gel" and be a force for years to come. Alas this disillusioned the more able players and made them go to seek a higher level of football elsewhere. After this I was contacted and invited to play for Crown Athletic.

12th March watched Crown Athletic match after being invited to play for them.

19th March debut for Crown Athletic, Crown Athletic 2 Walsall Phoenix 5 and I scored both Crowns goals.

26th March Crown Athletic 1 Handsworth Arsenal 2

2nd April Crown Athletic 3 Aston Park Rangers 2

9th April Bolehall Swifts 5 Marston Green 0 did not play but watched from touchline.

13th April Played for Wolferston Sports and lost 2-1 in the under 18 cup semi final. Bolehall Committee member Derek Probin had arranged with them for me to play in this match.

15th April 1960 Watched the Mercian School 3 Wilnecote High School 1 win in the Charity Shield again, then afterwards watched Bolehall Swifts 0 Arbury Sports 2, Fazeley cup final. It was to be a long wait until 1975/76 season until Bolehall Swifts won this trophy for the first time beating Dolce Vita 2-1 and my best mate and neighbour in our younger days Micky Hill was Swifts Manger.

23rd April Bolehall Swifts 4 Whitacre Swans 2 scored 1 goal

29th April Bolehall Swifts 3 Wood End 2 (Coronation Cup Semi Final) scored 1 goal.

4th May Bolehall Swifts 1 North Warwick Colliery 7. I scored our goal.

6th May Bolehall Swifts 3 Wilnecote 4 Wilnecote Cup Final.

24th June 1960 The Annual Dinner and Dance and awards presentation, but I did not attend as I was not up to it having lost my Brother in a motor cycle accident 2 days before. Derek Probin gave me my award for playing in the Wilnecote Cup final at my home on the Monday afterwards.

1960/1961 season

12th August 1960. I was approached by Bolehall Swifts to again play for them and was informed I could take my pick which position I wanted to play in the First team. Offer was turned down by me.

3rd September 1960 played in Crown Athletic trial game at the Jolly Sailor ground and scored 4 goals and then played for them the rest of this season.

I was again approached to play for the Bolehall Swifts on 11th September 1960 as they could not raise a team to play against Tamworth FC reserves in the Wilnecote Charity Cup match at the Lamb football Ground on Wednesday 14th September, and I duly signed to play for this one match only, as I wanted to play on the Tamworth FC Lamb ground and I would never see Bolehall Swifts short, such was my affinity to the club. Before the match when getting changed into our kit, the Bolehall players were mainly unrecognisable to me from the previous season. In the match I only had four passes during the whole game which Swifts lost 10-0. Tamworth Herald pages show that most of the previous season's players had left Bolehall Swifts e.g. Harold Storer, Barry Eyrl, Tom Seedhouse, and Roger Powis were now playing for Tamworth FC, Storer and Powis in the Tamworth First Team.

I came back and play with Bolehall on 28th April 1961 for their 2-1 loss to Reliant in which I hurt my leg and thigh resulting in me again loosing time from work and my studies at Technical College.

1961/1962 season

Harry Sharpe (committee member) had loaned money to the club purchase the old allotments at Rene Road and this was to be developed into the new ground which is used today. At first there was one and then later two full sized pitches laid out (which I helped to mark out the touchlines and penalty area etc.) and a basic building with home and away changing rooms and shower facility's (Which nearly always had no hot water as the immersion heater had not been switched on, or the tank full of hot water had all been used by those first in) but this was luxury after the Gate Inn facilities. There was a common room between the changing rooms where cups of tea were served.

A bit of history of the Rene Road ground.

As a child living at 34, Rene Road, Bolehall, We children were always told that a school was going to be built at the back of our house. It never during my school time happened but it is there now, called the Ankermoor Primary School. This is the area between number 46 and 64 Rene Road. Where the school stands now was a field at the back of our houses, where we used to play our children's games, and this is where Jimmy Hill, Micky Hill and I, to name a few kicked our first football as well as playing cricket and other games. This field was L shaped with a brook at the bottom and on the Rene Road number 64 side was a passage down to the allotments as is now and a hawthorn hedge where the school boundary is now, which separated it from the allotments. Mr. Charles Bassford our next door neighbour at number 32, Rene Road had one of these allotments and they seemed huge plots, with Chickens, for meat and eggs, geese and ducks, pigs etc as well as vegetables.

In the Public Notices of the Tamworth Herald, Saturday 13th April 1940, the Tamworth Emergency Horticultural Committee in the National Effort to encourage the cultivation of Allotments, appealed to residents in the Borough to take up allotments and as such land was made immediately available in Rene Road Bolehall, free of rent for the first year, which was extended to 25th March 1942. In the Tamworth Herald of Saturday March 3rd 1945, it was reported in the Council minutes that only 7 applications had been received out of the 24 allotment plots available on the Rene Road allotments and it was resolved that notice would be given to the present holders to terminate their tenancies on 25th March 1946 and that the owners of this land the Staffordshire education committee be informed of the councils intention to relinquish possession of the land on that date. From my memory the allotments were still active after this date, but between this date and the purchase by Bolehall Swifts in 1961, I do not know of any more information.

19th August 1961 First Trial matches of season with Bolehall on new Rene Road Ground.

26th August 1961 Bolehall Swifts 2 Tamworth Working men's club 1 (I missed a penalty, but made the two goals the others scored. It was the first competitive match to be played on this ground)

**FOOTBALL
TEAMS**
SATURDAY
Bolehall Swifts v. Tamworth W.M.C.
(3-0): D. Baker; M. Jones, A. Toon;
T. Scattergood, J. Ronayne, R. Dag-
nall; Chetwynd, R. Ashwood, A. Hul-
bert, T. Wood, R. Hill. Players meet
on ground 2-30.
Tamworth W.M.C. v. Bolehall
Swifts: Weston; Nicholls, Eyrl; Seed-
house, Storer, Sharp; McDonnell,
Smith, Coley, Sanders, Alan Taylor.
Ref: Gilbert. Players report at Rene
Road ground 2-15 p.m.
Tamworth v. Youth F.C. v.

TAMWORTH'S newest soccer out-
fit, Tamworth Working Men's
Club helped christen Bolehall Swift's
new ground on Saturday in a cur-
tain-raiser to their Sutton League
season.
But the friendly ended with Bole-
hall the winners 2-1. The Club had
most of the play and enough chances
to take the scoring into double
figures but poor finishing saw them
without a goal until the 90th minute
—and then it was too late.
For as inside-left Saunders rounded
off an intelligent game with a grand
opportunistic goal, Tamworth were
already two goals down through
Hulbert and Hill.

The above newly formed Tamworth Working Men's Club noticeably has several Ex Swift players: - Nichols, Eyrl, Seedhouse, Storer, and Taylor and they played their home games at the Gate Inn Ground which Swifts had just vacated. This report from the Tamworth Herald seems a bit biased as although the TWMC side were on top for most of the game, there was no way their play and possession would have merited a possible tally of double figures. They finished the season in second place in the league, whilst Bolehall Swifts finished 2nd Bottom, winning only 3 games in the league that season. In 1961/62 season, both Bolehall Swifts and TWMC played in the Sutton Premier League and Swifts had a second team this season in 2nd Division.

1st September 1961 Bolehall Swifts 1 Wilnecote 2 in the Wilnecote Charity Semi Final (I headed our goal)

2nd September Bolehall Swifts 0 Aldridge Athletic 3 (All the team was weary after last night's game 0. (Aldridge were to finish top of the League this season. Final table P 14 W 11 L 1 D 2 F 42 A 14 P 24)

9th September Bolehall Swifts 0 Atherstone Reserves 4 (Tamworth Herald reported on the game and said best for Swifts was inside right Roy Ashwood)

16th September Bolehall Swifts 8 Fazeley Swifts 1 (Britton Cup, this was my first game as Captain of the side and scored 1 of the goals).

23rd September Aldridge Athletic 7 Bolehall Swifts 1 (Had tooth extracted this morning before match)

30th September Bolehall Swifts 14 Water Orton 0 scored 3 of our goals.

1st October helped mark out second new pitch on the Rene Road Ground.

7th October Bolehall Swifts 1 Lichfield Amateurs 2

8th October at the Committee meeting in the Amington Inn, we were told the club was going to play a football match at Maastricht in Holland next Easter.

14th October Mile Oak Reserves 2 Bolehall Swifts 2 in cup so replay needed.

21st October match cancelled as Whitacre Swans could not field a team. Bolehall claimed the game.

11th November Bolehall Swifts 0 Fazeley 2

18th November Tamworth Working men's club 4 Bolehall Swifts 2 (Coleshill cup match) I scored our second goal; we were 2-1 up until 20 minutes from full time.

25th November Bolehall 2 Atherstone Reserves 5 (Lewis Cup Semi Final played at Fazeley)

2nd December 1961 Bolehall Swifts 1 Lichfield Amateurs 3 (Britten Cup Semi Final played at Hams Hall football ground).

16th Arley Colliery 3 December Bolehall 2 scored both our goals (Polesworth Cup)

13th January 1962 Bolehall Swifts 1 Hodgehill Celtic 1, I scored our goal (Founders Cup)

20th January 1 Aldridge Athletic 1 Bolehall Swifts I scored our goal

3rd February North Warwick Colliery 6, Bolehall Swifts 5 I Scored 2 of our goals

10th February Bolehall Swifts 0 Aldridge Athletic 5 (Aldermans Cup)

24th February Bolehall Swifts 2 Fazeley Swifts 0 (Won first game of this season in the league, I headed the winner 3 minutes from full time)

10th March Bolehall Swifts 0 Tamworth Working men's club 4

24th March Bolehall Swifts 3 North Warwick Colliery 3

31st March Bolehall Swifts 0 Atherstone Reserves 3

13th April Bolehall Swifts 1 North Warwick Colliery 2, I scored our goal (Coronation Cup at Wilnecote)

24th April Bolehall Swifts 0 Wood End 6. (Dordon Nursing Cup Semi Final) Easter Tuesday match. No other mention has ever been made of the Maastricht game taking place which had been mentioned at meeting on 8th October 1961.

2nd May Bolehall Swifts 4 Atherstone Reserves 2, I scored our goal. After a long hard season as previously stated Aldridge Athletic won the league title, with TWMC in 3rd place behind Atherstone Reserves in 2nd and Bolehall Swifts ended :- P 14 W3 L7 D 4 F 22 A 53 P 10 second from bottom above Fazeley Swifts who P 14 W1 L8 D5 F 19 A 51 P 7.

As I had been injured on a few occasions, during my playing career which resulted in me loosing time from work and more so from my studies at College, and getting virtually nothing money wise in compensation from the Insurance the club had, I then decided to retire from playing active football. Most of the matches listed above involved me beforehand, getting up on a Saturday morning about 5.30am to go to work underground in a coal mine until mid day, then showering, having lunch and then getting to the matches. This was not the best preparation to play a competitive game of football. In March 1965, I left the mining industry a fully qualified Electrician to take up employment working at Hams Hall Power Station and this involved having to work 3 out of every 4 weekends.

A bit of history and perhaps the reason why the club was founded and formed.

There had previously been a football team in Bolehall called Bolehall Rovers who in 1937 played in the 3rd division of the Tamworth and Trent Valley league. Records show they regularly lost matches and languished at the bottom of this lowest league. It was probably because of this association that Jimmy Hill and Brian Hall, who both lived near me at Rene Road, decided to resurrect a football team

in Bolehall and called it the Swifts due to the number of Swift birds flying around at the time, or because there were two other teams in the area, Fazeley Swifts and Edingale Swifts. I remember hearing Jimmy Hill and Brian Hall talking about it in the street in Rene Road when I was 10 years old, and they probably had a lot of help from Jimmy Hill's father and his uncles in the Wardingly family. The Bolehall Rovers team of 1937 included a right half called S.Hill who was probably Jimmy Hill's father Stan Hill. Bolehall Rover's team was in 1937 J.Brown J.Mathews, W.Smith, S.Hill, W.Richardson, J.Wood, W.Griffiths, J.Drake, T.Lawrence, A.Wilson, A.Mathews. They used to play their home games on the Jolly Sailor ground and the Gate Inn. In July 1937 the 17th Annual meeting of the league's minutes show that Bolehall Rovers had resigned from the league.

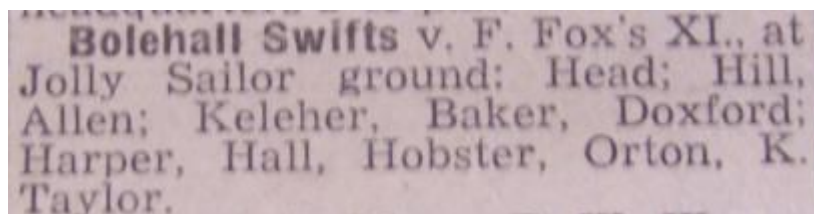
Brian Hall lived at 8, Rene Road. James Stanley Hill, Jimmy Hill's father was born 8th August 1910; Jimmy Hill junior was born in 1937. And he lived next door to me at 36, Rene Road and me at 34, Rene Road. Jimmy Hills mother's maiden name was Hannah Wardingly and his Grandmother lived at 13, Bridgewater Street and she used to wash the teams shirts and shorts after matches.

In the latter years in the 1982/3 time, an under 10 side was run by Michael Smith and my son used to come and play for this team for one season.

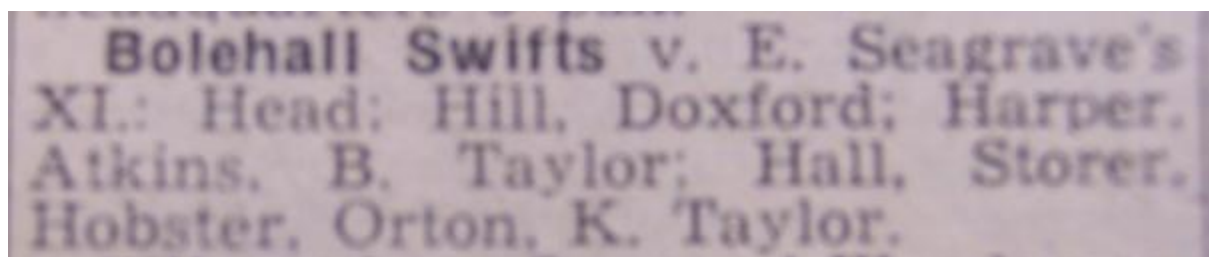
1953/54 Players in Tamworth and Trent Valley League 2

The first listed match for Bolehall Swifts I can find in old Tamworth Heralds was on 28th March 1953, which listed Bolehall Swifts v F.Fox's X1 at the Jolly Sailor Ground and that team was:- Head, Hill, Allen, Keleher, Baker, Doxford, Harper, Hall, Hobster, Orton, and K. Taylor.

F.Fox was most probably Freddie Fox and local lad, born in 1931 who was mad keen on football and used to watch Tamworth F C in the 1960's and the E. Seagrave below, must have similar association but was unknown to me, but a family of that name lived in Albion Street, Tamworth. These must have been the very first matches and the team was not in any league yet.



They had another Match 3 weeks later on 18th April 1953 against E. Seagraves X1. That team was Head, Hill, Doxford, Harper, Atkins, B.Taylor, Hall, Storer, Hobster, Orton and K.Taylor.



Note that there are seven players the same which are included in both matches, and Hill and Hall played in both. This was Jimmy Hill and Brian Hall.

The above matches must have been friendly games arranged by Jimmy Hill and Brian Hall with their contemporaries at School or work they may have just started, as they would have been 16 years of age at the time. It was not until later that year, on the 24th July report on the Trent Valley league annual meeting, it recorded applications for membership from new teams and Bolehall Swifts were listed amongst these new applicants and on 14th August 1953 Tamworth Herald they were listed as being to play in Division 2 of the two leagues.



There was a reference to the Tamworth and Trent Valley season kick off on 27th August 1953 and in Division 2 a match Bolehall Swifts v Reliant and the referee was G. Lathbury was listed.

The first Match Bolehall Swifts played in this Tamworth and Trent Valley league division 2 was played against Reliant on 29th August 1953, (Score unknown), followed by Turner Asbestos on the 5th September which they won 5-1 then on 12th September 3rd match was against Bernard Chase Sports which they won 4-2. No team was printed for that match but the first printed team was 2 weeks later and was E V Collis, G Bridgen, G Brooks, J Chapman, H Storer, G Faulkner, J Wallace, D Whitehouse, R T Farmer, B Whitehouse, and G Arnold. Reserves G Patrick, R Nichols, D Eastaff.

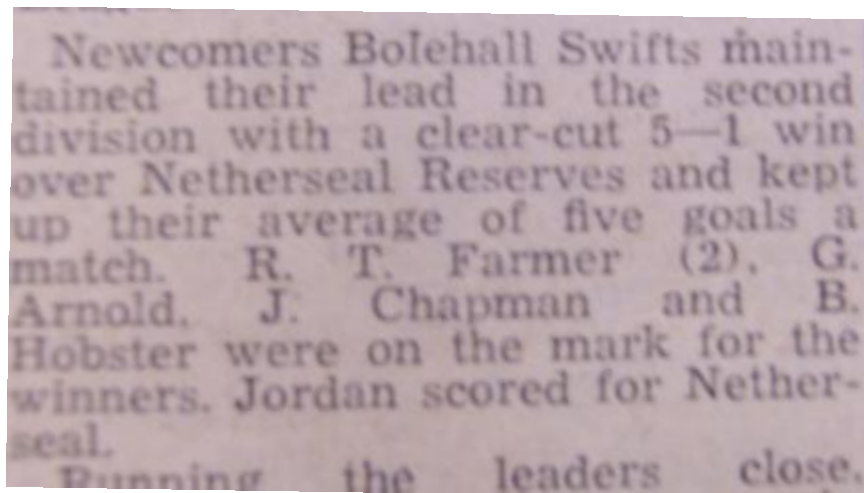
On October 17th 1953 a Bolehall Youth X1 v Tamworth Rovers on the Castle Grounds (Meet at the Baths 2.30pm) was Cockeram, Smith, Boonham, Hall, B Taylor, A N Other, Swindell, Hill, Harper, Marklew, K Taylor

On October 24th 1953 a Bolehall team was listed to play a friendly match v Reliant Reserves at the Jolly Sailor. F A Hoare, R Nichols, B F Taylor, N Nichols, R Bartram, J R Lycett, G Patrick, J F Wright, R T Farmer, P Norchi, G T Smith. Reserves D Storer, A R Cockeram

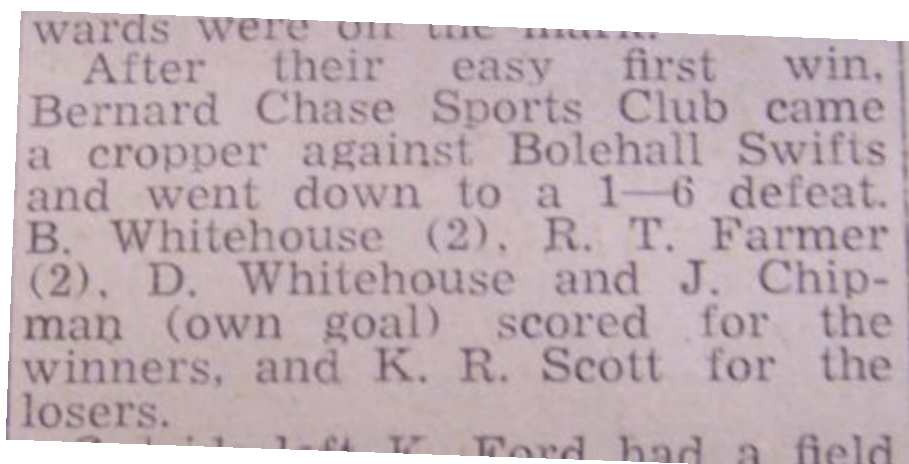
Above people details I can find are, Raymond T Farmer, born 1st May 1931, lived at 59, Dormer Ave. Jeffrey R Lycett, born 30th Jan 1932, lived at 15, Marshall Street. Frederick A. Hoare, born 8th March 1932, lived at 9/10 Anchor row. Norchi lived at 70, Rene road. Harold Storer, born 29th September 1936, lived at 66, Leedham Ave, father was Harry born 23rd Nov 1910. George Arnold, born 10th May 1935, lived at 12, Goostry Road

On April 30th 1954 Bolehall Swifts were Division 2 Champions in their first season in the Trent Valley league and as such were promoted to Division 1 having a record of P20 W16 L1 D3 F89 A32 P 35. They won the Agnes Durham Charity Cup in 1953/54 and there is a reference to this in a book on "Fazeley Football over 100 years" which is in Tamworth Library.

Some reports of the very first games in the Trent Valley League Bolehall Swifts ever played



Newcomers Bolehall Swifts maintained their lead in the second division with a clear-cut 5—1 win over Netherseal Reserves and kept up their average of five goals a match. R. T. Farmer (2), G. Arnold, J. Chapman and B. Hobster were on the mark for the winners. Jordan scored for Netherseal.
Running the leaders close,



wards were on the mark.
After their easy first win, Bernard Chase Sports Club came a cropper against Bolehall Swifts and went down to a 1—6 defeat. B. Whitehouse (2), R. T. Farmer (2), D. Whitehouse and J. Chipman (own goal) scored for the winners, and K. R. Scott for the losers.
Ford had a field

Bolehall Swifts trimmed Turners Asbestos S.C. in unneighbourly fashion with a 5-1 win in a game in which they showed greater pace and understanding. Goal-scorers were D. Whitehouse (2), R. Farmer (2) and J. Wallace for Bolehall, and Postlethwaite for Turners.

Above are league games reports and below the cup match

Lady Agnes Durham Cup Final Team, printed in the Tamworth Herald the Friday before the game.

Bolehall Swifts v. North Warwick Colliery (Lady Agnes Durham Cup final), at Wilnecote (3 p.m.): J. T. Sadler; D. Storer, C. C. Slater; H. Storer, N. Nicholls, D. Faulkner (capt.); P. J. Bridgen, G. T. Smith, W. Tunnicliffe, W. G. Meads, R. T. Farmer. Res.: R. Malpas, G. Bridgen, G. Patrick. Players meet Amington Inn 2 p.m.; bus leaves 2-15 p.m.

Below is the photograph of the Team which "did a double" in their first season.

Note D, Faulkner "Capt", and W.G. Meads listed in the above are not in the photograph below.



1954/55 season, Played in the First Division of the Tamworth and Trent Valley league

12 months later in this first Division of the Trent Valley league they had not fared so well, being beaten 15-0 by champions Netherseal on 29th April 1955 and finished 9th of 12 in the league having P 22 W 7 L 15 D 0 F 15 A 106 P14, but they had played Minworth Social at Coleshill on 31st March 1955 and beat them 3-2 in the final of the Coleshill Charity Cup, to win the trophy.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE						
League Table						
	P.	W.	L.	D.	P.	A.
Netherseal	22	17	5	0	141	27
Dordon Ath.	22	17	5	0	180	38
Edingale S.	22	17	5	0	107	27
Dontsthorpe	22	17	5	0	115	43
Donham	22	10	10	2	70	60
N.W. Colliery	22	10	10	2	77	78
Caseley S.	22	9	10	3	63	88
Tam. G.S.O.R.	22	7	13	2	50	111
Dolehall S.	22	7	13	2	53	100
Hollant R.C.	22	6	10	0	61	113
Emmery S.	22	2	19	1	34	103
Abber Mill R.C.	22	2	20	0	40	151

Bolehall Swifts v. Whittington V.
Sippitts; B. Nicholls, J. Chapman;
(Lichfield and District League): C.
T. Seedhouse, H. Storer (capt., T.
Shufflebottom; K. Scott, G. Patrick,
J. Hollyoake, S. Brindley, K. Taylor.
Reserves: B. Taylor, G. Arnold, R.
Hill, B. Evans. Players meet at Gate
Inn 2-30 p.m. Kick-off 3 p.m.

BOLEHALL'S EASY WIN IN NEW LEAGUE

BOLEHALL SWIFTS got away to a good start in the Lichfield and District League by defeating Whittington Villa by seven goals to one.

Play was even and fast in the earlier stages, with Whittington showing slightly more enterprise in front of goal. They took the lead after eight minutes through D. Perry. Bolehall struck back and B. Evans equalised a minute later.

Bolehall continued to attack and following pressure on the Whittington goal K. R. Scott put them ahead after 20 minutes.

Three goals in eight minutes, which shattered Whittington's hopes, were scored by B. Evans (58 minutes and 66 minutes), S. Brindley (61 minutes).

Bolehall's fast forward line was now at its best and despite Whittington's sporting fighting spirit, further goals were scored for Bolehall by G. Patrick (77 minutes) and K. Taylor (79 minutes).

Whittington can be congratulated on their fine sporting show, for despite the score they never gave up fighting. But for the great display by the Whittington goalkeeper the score would have been heavier.

Two divisions in Trent Valley League

TAMWORTH & TRENT VALLEY LEAGUE opens its 1956-57 season on Saturday, September 1. There will be two divisions.

The Junior Division formed last season, is now known as Division II. Clubs in each division are as follows:—

Division I: Bolehall Swifts, Donisthorpe Colliery, Dordon Athletic, Kettlebrook Youth Club (promoted from the old Junior Division), Measham Imperial, Netherseal St. Peter's, Tamworth G.S.O.B. (also promoted last season, but this team is now their second team, which was formerly in the Sutton and District League), Foundry Services and Grendon, a new club only recently admitted to the league.

Division II: Amington, Crown Athletic, Dosthill Y.C., Edingale Swifts (only running one team this season), Lichfield City Laundry, Wilnecote Rovers, Thurmaston.

DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Dordon Ath.	18	14	2	2	117	41	20
Bolehall Swifts ..	18	12	2	4	72	33	28
*Netherseal St. P.	16	13	2	1	76	29	25
*Donisthorpe C.W.	17	11	3	3	90	27	23
Appleby Magna ..	18	8	8	2	51	45	18
Edingale Swifts ..	16	6	6	4	40	42	16
Measham Imp.	17	7	9	1	54	53	15
Denham and Har.	18	5	13	0	34	75	10
Fazeley Swifts ...	18	2	16	0	20	96	4
Foundry Services	18	1	16	1	21	128	3

*Points deducted.

SATURDAY

BOLEHALL SWIFTS v. Appleby Magna, at Appleby Magna: P. J. Shields; D. Slater, R. Hill; W. N. Nicholls, H. Storer, W. Robey; J. G. Weir, K. R. Scott, A. Toon, D. Scott (capt.), C. Orton. Res.: R. T. Farmer, W. T. Shakespeare, J. Chapman, K. C. Sharpe, A. R. Cockeram. Players meet Amington Inn, 2-10 p.m. 'Bus leaves 2-15 prompt.

Above first match played at Appleby Magna 27th August 1956, then Foundry Services on 3rd September 1956 on Morrows Field

1957/58 season in the Trent Valley League

Wednesday next

League standings

	P	W	D	L	A	P
Edingale S.	17	15	0	2	12	32
Donhill B.C.	17	14	0	3	12	31
Donathorpe C.	17	13	0	4	12	30
Thespians	17	10	0	7	12	22
Hurley Utd.	17	9	0	8	12	21
Foundry S.	17	9	0	8	12	21
Tam. G.S.O.B.	17	9	0	8	12	21
Netherseal St. P.	17	8	0	9	12	20
*Wilnecote	17	8	0	9	12	20
Lichfield C.L.	17	7	0	10	12	19
Bolehall Swifts	17	7	0	10	12	19
Tame Valley A.	17	7	0	10	12	19

* Two points deducted for playing ineligible player.

Swifts for the Continent

UNLESS the dates clash with cup fixtures members of Bolehall Swifts' soccer team may spend next Easter on the Continent.

At a committee meeting last week it was decided that if the teams are committed to cup fixtures arrangements should be made for the holiday at a later date.

It was agreed that two teams would be run again next season. Each player was insured for £5 a week for a period of 12 months.

The 500-strong supporters' club have raised £350, which has already been handed over.

Centre-half H. Storer has taken over the position of secretary. The committee hope this will create a "personal touch" between players and officials.

A trial match will be held on Saturday, August 16. Players report Gate Inn dressing-rooms at 2-30.

Tamworth Herald 3rd April 1959 cutting below

TAMWORTH'S

WILNECOTE
CUP GOES TO
BOLEHALL

BOLEHALL SWIFTS played their finest football of the season to beat the strong Burton League side Tutbury Hawthorn by three goals to two and win the Wilnecote Charity Cup.

The match was played on Wilnecote S.M. School playing field, by permission of Mr. R. W. Griffiths, the school headmaster.

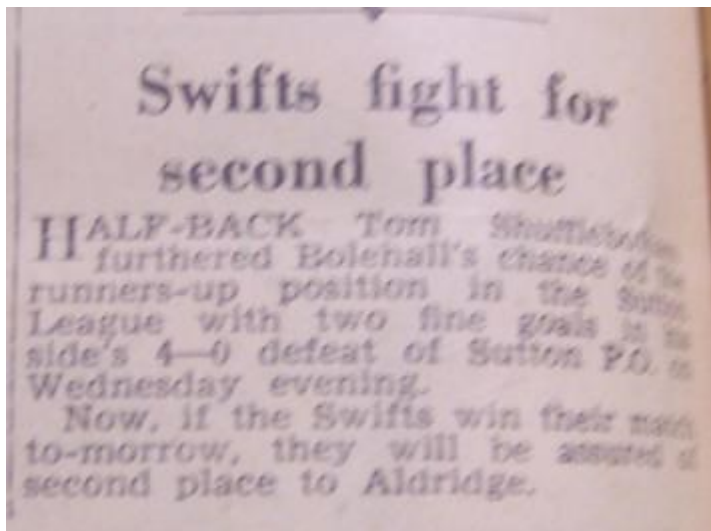
Both teams started off in a most business-like manner, playing fast, open football. The Swifts, quicker into the tackle and playing better as a team, took the lead early in the game, but Tutbury equalised towards the closing stages of the first half.

In the second half the Swifts came more and more into the picture and built up a 3-1 lead with goals by Walker and Powis, but they were later handicapped by an injury to Shufflebotham.

Tutbury rallied strongly, reduced the arrears and were still pressing hard for the equaliser when the final whistle blew.

It is possible that the good standard of play was induced by the fact that the ball had been presented by West Bromwich Albion through the vice-chairman of the Charity Committee, Mr. S. Grey. Certainly another contributory factor was the very capable handling of the game by the referee, Mr. P. G. Layton.

Dr. J. V. L. Grant, president of the competition, presented the cup to the winners.



1959 Tamworth Herald cutting above and below

MAY 15, 1959

N. Warwick are champions

NORTH WARWICK COLLIERY have earned top honours among the ten Tamworth and district teams in membership of the Sutton and District League's three divisions.

They are first division champions by a single-point margin over Minworth Social. Wood End finished in third place.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

Division I.

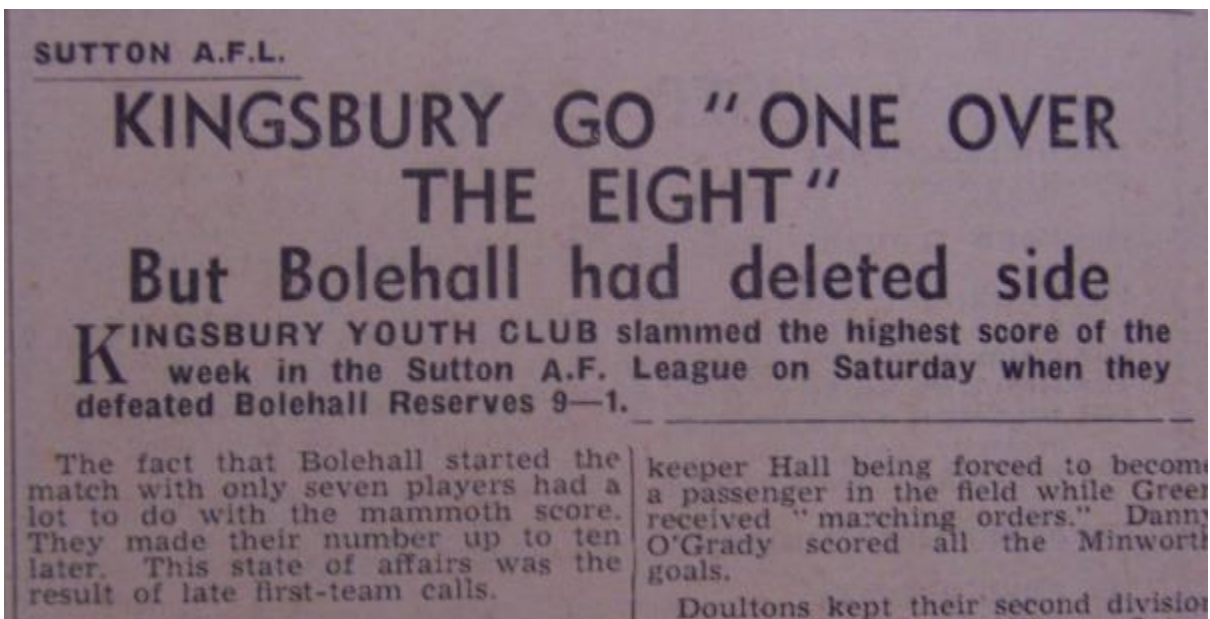
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
N. Warwick C.	16	13	2	1	61	24	27
Minworth Social	16	12	2	2	74	28	26
Wood End	16	11	4	1	53	36	23
Bound Brook	16	9	6	1	69	36	19
Aldridge Ex-S.	16	7	7	2	55	40	16
Perry C. B.L.	16	7	9	0	38	53	14
Dordon Athletic	16	4	10	2	41	75	10
Birch Coppice	16	2	13	1	24	81	5
Marston Green	16	1	13	2	33	67	4

Division II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Aldridge Ath.	20	16	2	2	117	27	34
Water Orton Utd.	20	13	5	2	99	43	28
Hodgehill	19	12	3	4	81	39	28
Walmley	20	13	5	2	91	46	28
Bolehall Swifts	19	12	4	3	74	38	27
Fazeley Swifts	20	9	5	6	101	40	24
Doultons	20	7	9	4	67	53	18
Erdington Meth.	20	6	11	3	50	58	15
Sutton P.O.	20	2	15	3	33	107	7
Erdington Congs	20	2	17	1	25	183	5
St. Leonard's	20	1	17	2	30	126	4

Division III.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bound Brook Res.	20	17	2	1	117	21	35
Minworth Res.	20	16	1	3	99	32	35
Hams Hall	20	12	5	2	93	41	26
Aldridge A. Res.	20	10	6	4	81	41	24
Perry C. Res.	18	10	7	1	62	47	21
Water Orton Res.	20	7	11	2	50	57	16
Two Gates Y.C.	20	7	11	2	58	71	16
Mile Oak Y.C.	19	6	13	0	43	97	12
Shustoke Sports	19	5	13	1	40	91	11
Hodgehill Res.	20	4	14	2	56	94	10
Doultons Res.	20	3	17	0	33	137	6



The people in this photograph that I can recognise are: - Kneeling bottom left Harold Storer's father, behind him in the Raincoat and Trilby hat is Charlie Wardingley. Back row Goalkeeper Fred Hoare with Norman Nichols to the left of him and Harold Storer to the right of him. Extreme right committee man Harry Sharpe and next to him committee man Ernest Cottrell

I think a lot of the above players and some of the ones below became "victims" of Conscription or as it was also called at the time National Service. This imposed a liability to conscription into the armed forces of all men 18 to 41 years old until it was decided that those born on or after 1 October 1939

would not be required, call-ups formally ended on 31 December 1960. Luckily I came into the age of not being conscripted.

1957/58 Players

P. J. Shields, D. J. Baker, R. J. Nichols, K. B. Scott, D. Scott (Captain), K. Taylor, J. Hill, H. Storer, G. Arnold, D. Whitehouse, A. M. Toon, A. V. Scattergood, T. Shufflebotham, T. Seedhouse, N. Scott, T. Brindley, N. Farmer, G. Patrick, A. Cockerham.

Of the above players I remember P.J.Shields who was a goalkeeper who was blind in one eye. He played for Crown Athletic when I moved to them for a season and despite this handicap was a very good reliable goalkeeper. Norman Nichols was another player who moved to Crown Athletic before this season, he was a very dependable centre half J.Hill was my next door neighbour and I think he was conscripted into the Royal Air Force.

The first match I played in was versus Doultons at Two Gates, but the first I remember playing in for Bolehall Swifts was on September 5th 1958 and this was that team Versus Reliant at Station fields:-

J. Sadler, A. Cross, T. Cox, N. Scott, C. Wilkins, A. Houlst, A. Taylor, K. Ullman, N. Jackson, R. Dagnall, R. Ashwood. Reserves R. Cross, K. Kendall, J. Neal, M. Neal.

As well as Harold "Aggie" Storer previously mentioned, some others who were also the "backbone" of the club over the earlier years were Jimmy Hill who gave yeoman service both as a player and for many years Secretary. His Brother Michael Hill was a player in the early years and later manager.

Dennis "Spud" Baker was a long time servant of the club, such that a part of the new club house was named after him, he was there before me, during my time and for a long time afterwards.

Harry Sharpe committee member was an unsung hero, he lived at 70a, Thomas Street, Bolehall and it was he I was informed, who loaned the club the money to purchase the Rene Road ground. He helped the players with banking and money arrangements for the Belgium tour and was always on hand with welcome half time refreshments during all our matches.

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR 2003

Below is the letter Jimmy Hill as Secretary wrote to me in 2003 asking if I wanted to attend the Golden Jubilee re-union and the tickets for admission that he sent when I accepted.

BOLEHALL SWIFTS SUPPORTERS' SOCIAL CLUB



VAT REGISTERED No.113 0935 09

TEL: TAMWORTH (01827) 62637

Chairman: K. NORCHI, Trustees: G. CLARKE, J. LATHAM, S. GRAHAM.

Financial Secretary & Treasurer: Mr. B. J. HOLMES 20 Alfred St, The Leys, Tamworth Staffs. Tel: (01827) 66470

General Secretary: J.S. Hill 33 Dormer Ave, Bolehall, Tamworth Staffs. Tel: (01827) 54067

27-7-03

Mr. R. ASHWOOD.

Dear Roy,

To celebrate the "golden Jubilee" of Bolehall Swifts Football Club we are holding a players re-union on Saturday August 2nd. If you are interested would you please give me a telephone call on 62637 in between 2.00p.m.-2.30p.m. or 9.30p.m.-11.00p.m.

Yours sincerely

Jim Hill.

14.30

Bolehall Swifts S.S.C

presents

Partytime

22 AUG 2003

Price FREE per ticket

7.30p.m.

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Partytime

22 AUG 2003

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WITH COMPLIMENTS

Saturday. May 16th.	Breakfast. Luncheon. Dinner.
Sunday. May 17th.	Breakfast. Luncheon. Dinner.
Monday. May 18th.	Breakfast. Luncheon. The Coach will collect you from your Hotel at. 2.45 p.m. to return you to Ostende Airport. Arrive London.

Your Hotel in Ostende is :-

Hotel Marion.
19, Rue Louise,
Ostende.

FOOTBALL. Details of your Football match or matches can be obtained from you Club Secretary, and also the time of the departure of the Coach from the Hotel to the match.

Harry Ash Tours representative will be staying at the Hotel Marion during the whole tour.

We would point out that Continental Hotels do not usually supply Soap or Towels.

We would ask you all to use the enclosed Luggage Labels in your Wallet in case any baggage is mislaid.

Above are the details of the tour itinerary we were provided with by Harry Ash tours, prior to our departure.

Below is a copy of the Tamworth Herald of 22nd May 1959, which reported the tour.

ODD GOAL GAVE BOLEHALL SWIFTS VICTORY OVER BELGIAN TEAM



BOLEHALL SWIFTS' recent visit to the Continent promised success from the start. It was the team's first overseas visit. They met and narrowly defeated the Belgian team of Lissewege by the odd goal.

Pictured above are the party of 23 before they left for Southend on Friday for the night to Ostend. At Ostend the party had several pleasant surprises. Language presented no problem as most of the residents spoke English, and they were surprised to find a large number of English visitors.

Friday evening was spent touring the town, but on Saturday morning members of the team settled down to a serious practice match on the sands before a further sight-seeing tour.

On Sunday afternoon the party left for Lissewege—18 miles out of Ostend. Before the match, Bolehall skipper H. Storer presented the home captain with a football, autographed by members of the visiting team, and also a Bolehall Swifts banner.

In return, the local team gave 11 club ensigns and a picture of the historic church at Lissewege.

With a strong wind in their favour, the home side soon had Bolehall on the defensive, but the visitors soon replied with swift, hearty tackling and skilful use of the wings, where R. Powis and R. Ashwood used the ball with dangerous effect.

However, F. Hoare, the Swifts goalkeeper, made several good saves before Bolehall began to look superior, but at the interval neither set of forwards had found a weakness in the defences.

With the wind as an advantage in the second half, Bolehall quickly took the ball into the home side area, and after 65 minutes Steve Neale scored—beating four defenders.

Later skipper Storer tried the home defence with a hard drive from about 40 yards, but the shot was diverted, presenting the Swifts with a corner.

Following this incident, Lissewege pressed hard, but a stout-hearted defence hung on to their one-goal lead until the final whistle. It was a game in which both teams gave of their best with contrasting styles of football, but the Swifts lived up to their reputation, and kept the flag of their club flying.

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My Personal Glossy photograph purchased in 1959 from the Tamworth Herald

From the Left hand side players are front Dennis (Spud) Baker, Steve Neale, Roy Ashwood, Barry Eyrl, Roger Powis, (behind the two ladies) Fred Hoare behind Don Potts holding Ball, A Walker, Brian Taylor in front of Harold Storer. Committee members from right hand side Harry Sharpe (with hearing aid) Dennis Probin (Smoking pipe) and his wife Mrs Avril Probin and Ernie Cotterell (With jacket buttoned up wrong) Don Potts is holding the ball which was presented to the opposition. The other five men were regular supporters of the team.



Team Photograph with: - From left back row Harold Storer (Captain) Alan Walker, Fred Hoare, Tom Seedhouse, Roger Powis, and Barry Eyrl. Front row from left Don Potts, Roy Ashwood, Dennis Baker, Steve Neale, Brian Taylor. The above shirts were coloured light blue bodies, white collars and sleeves, white shorts with blue and white striped socks



Roy Ashwood individual Photo.



Airplane we flew to Ostende on.



Just Landed at Ostende on Tarmac.