

Sayings of the season

"This is the strongest squad we have had for a long while and everybody is playing for this place. There is a buzz of excitement from the team at the moment" — **Assistant manager Terry Reardon** during Slough's pre-season preparations.

"The side is better balanced and there is more spirit in the middle than when I was there" — **former Slough coach Tommy Tranter** after watching Slough beat Harrow in September.

"Football is a cruel game. One minute you are up and everybody loves you, the next you are down and no one wants to know you" — **manager Laurie Churchill**.

"Although I'm in the table it is obvious that Slough are playing well below their best, both individually and as a team. Provided they can maintain a sense of urgency and steer clear of injuries there is no reason why Churchill's team cannot take the Isthmian League championship from Enfield" — **Observer reporter John Clarke**, in September.

"Competition for places is a healthy thing. Slough haven't guaranteed me a first team place

or anything like that" — **goalkeeper Frank Parsons** after signing from Woking for £2,000.

"If the Rebels are still lurking around the top of the table by the end of the month they can consider themselves earners this challenge" — **Sports Editor Geoff Martin** in October.

"A successful team in a town of this size should be getting four-figure gates every week. I think people are beginning to realise that the football they can see at Wexham Park is often more entertaining than that in the Football League" — **Slough chairman Gordon Greig**.

"I don't give quotes to the press. I prefer to let the players do the talking where it matters on the pitch" — **manager Laurie Churchill**.

"Slough will go on to re-emphasise their strongest ever bid for the title" — **Geoff Martin** after seeing Slough's first league defeat at Harrow.

"This has been an unlucky club for me" — **striker Eggle James** after being ruled out through injury for the third time.

"Tuesday's win came at the wrong time and in the wrong competition" — **Observer**

reporter **Eddie Fitzmaurice** after Slough had beaten Barton in the Hitchiti Cup. Barton had earlier knocked the Rebels out of the FA Cup.

"Most of us desire nothing more than to see the championship flag flying at Wexham Park and the FA Trophy on the scoreboard. Success is just around the corner" — **Slough Town Handbook**, August.

"I can't understand why referees keep looking at me. I'm not a dirty player but I do have a tendency to dispute decisions" — **striker Mickie Kiely** after clinching his sixth caution.

"We see absolutely no prospect of improving ourselves with the Alliance League" — **chairman Gordon Greig** after Slough had turned down an Alliance League approach.

"I never dreamed we'd do it" — **Slough manager Laurie Churchill** after clinching the treble.

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Meet the men who clinched the championship

Snippets from Wexham Park

SLOUGH scored 118 competitive goals during the season, but none more spectacular than one full-back Bill Nichols bagged for the Rebels in an FA Cup replay in 1982. Bill took a free-kick against Barnbury and nuzzled it into the net from his own half. After the match officials measured the distance as 72 yards!

NO prizes for naming Slough's top goalscorer? Well, Mickie Kiely, surely shining his best ever form in non-league football, scored an expected 31 goals and next best for Slough was Eggle James who claimed 17. Dave Russell got 12 and Pat Morrissey's eight included an unusual header of penalties in the Hitchiti Cup Final against Watlington.

SEVERAL Slough players topped a half century of

Richard Teale (goalkeeper): The supporters' Sportsman of the Year for the second time running. Teale had a tremendous season for Slough and his brave goalkeeping won them many league points. Still haunted by the mistake which almost cost



Top scorer Mickie Kiely.

Slough vital points late in the season against Sutton, but that shouldn't detract from an excellent campaign.

Dave Farley (full back): made the position his own from early in the season. His well-timed tackles and speedy incursions into enemy territory down the flank endeared him to the fans.

John Beyer (central defender): one of several Slough players who have never had a better season. Beyer formed an instant link with Eric Young at the heart of the defence. His timing and commitment were superb apart from a nervous spell towards the end of the season.

Eric Young (central defender): How long can the Rebels hold on to this battling defender who never gives up? Not only was he outstanding in the well-organised defence, but was also a constant threat to other teams at set pieces. His power in the air certainly swung things Slough's way in the championship-clincher at Sutton.

Vic Akers (full back): an extremely sound season for Akers who defended at times as if he depended on it. An unflinching competitor, he added stability to an area of Slough's play that certainly needed strengthening and his contribution improved as the season progressed.

Steve Norman (defender): an extended first-team run helped Steve mature quickly and although he lost his place towards the end of the season, he proved that he can wear the armband with distinction in seasons to come. One of the town's best home-grown prospects for years.

Terry Reardon (defender or midfielder): How long can the Rebels hold on to this battling defender who never gives up? Not only was he outstanding in the well-organised defence, but was also a constant threat to other teams at set pieces. His power in the air certainly swung things Slough's way in the championship-clincher at Sutton.

Keith White (midfielder): perhaps Laurie Churchill's lost signing, Morrissey was a joy to watch throughout the season as he sprang excellent passes to every corner of the field. There was a stage during Slough's worst spell when Morrissey was the man behind practically every

constructive thing they did, and his three penalty goals in the Hitchiti Final against Watlington were a fitting reward for a great season.

Mickie O'Sullivan (midfielder): if Morrissey is the midfielder artist, then O'Sullivan is the artist for there can be fewer players who work harder game after game. A fanatical worker, O'Sullivan has given Slough the bite they needed in midfield and when he wins the ball, can use it to good effect. An excellent choice for captain.

Berry Friend (midfielder): not his best season — injuries played a part in preventing Friend from showing his top form over a sustained period, but he provided the fans, as usual, with some magical moments. Friend came back to form at just the right time to boost Slough's title challenge in the closing stages

but finished the season on crutches with a nasty ankle injury.

Dave Russell (midfielder): set himself a target of 21 goals for the season but netted just 12. Started well and finished brilliantly, but had a poor mid-season when little went right for him. When his confidence returned in the last month Russell was in sizzling form and scored an unforgettable goal against Sutton.

Eggle James (striker): injuries kept the former Woking player out for long periods and not surprisingly, he had his good times and bad times, but was always busy to do something extraordinary, became a firm favourite with fans and on a better day, was the perfect decoy for Kiely. Play he doesn't make much use of his height in the penalty area.

Mickie Kiely (striker): his 31 goals made him Slough's top scorer by a long stretch, but that was only half of Kiely's contribution. His unselfish running and ability to draw defenders made countless more openings for the men around him, and surely raises the most improved player accolade.

John Bishop (striker): came to Slough on a free transfer from Enfield and added width and stability up front, though a shade indecisive at times. Can't be the ball well and still has much to offer.

Frank Parsons (goalkeeper): spent most of his time after joining from Woking as understudy to Richard Teale but when called into first-team action, showed his undoubted class. Content to wait his chance and deserves a medal for patience alone.

Steve Hardwick (defender): came from Wycombe on a free transfer and although not part of this season's chase for the treble, most certainly figures in Churchill's future plans. But where will he play?

Rowan Dodds (striker): played most of his football, and scored most of his goals, for the reserves but showed he has first-team potential when given an opportunity. Like Steve Norman, an exciting home-grown prospect.



Skillful Dave Russell.

Laurie's proud record

"LAURIE has got the job — his results speak for themselves" was the comment from Town match secretary Reg White when Laurie Churchill was appointed full-time manager last season after a trial period. And Churchill's results have continued to do the talking ever since.

In a total of 77 competitive matches under his shrewd guidance, Slough have won 48 and lost only 13. And the Rebels have lost only 10 of 58 league games at the highest level of Isthmian League football since Churchill replaced Jon Aspin in January of last year.

Laurie's proud record over the past two seasons is detailed opposite.

Although friends are not included in the statistics, Slough have also had some fine results against strong teams sent to Wexham Park by Football League clubs, with wins over Fulham (2-1), Brentford (2-0), Queens Park Rangers (1-0) and Bournemouth (4-1), while the

Dartford, who subsequently reached the semi-finals, and an early FA Cup exit against Barton. Ironically, Slough beat Barton in the Hitchiti Cup just weeks later, and it is also worth noting that they did the league double over Sutton and drew with and beat Bishop's Stamford in the Churchill's Cup. In the past seasons, the teams who contested the FA Trophy final at Wembley on Saturday.

Isthmian League Premier Division				
Season	W	D	L	P
Season 1979-80:	16	8	4	20
Season 1980-81:	42	23	6	73
Total:	58	31	17	103
Berks and Bucks Senior Cup				
Season 1979-80:	2	1	0	1
Season 1980-81:	5	0	0	14
Total:	7	6	0	15
Football Association Cup				
Season 1980-81:	3	2	0	1
Football Association Trophy				
Season 1980-81:	2	1	0	7
Hitchiti Cup				
Season 1980-81:	7	8	1	7
TOTAL (all games):	77	48	13	149

Turnstiles click 26,139 times

THE turnstiles have been clicking merrily at Wexham Park during Slough Town's treble-winning season.

Attendance have more than doubled those of last season when the team struggled.

In 48 league, cup and friendly games at Wexham Park the total attendance has been 26,139, an average of 683 per game.

But the most striking improvement has been seen in league matches. Last season's average of 470 was increased this season by approximately 80 per cent, for 16,714 paid to see 21 games, an average of 770.

Unquestionably the team's success, coupled with their attractive style of football, has won Slough the extra support and the club can only hope that the fans stay with them next season.

For the record, the top home attendances were 2,112 for the home league game against Wycombe Wanderers on New Year's Day, 1,216 and 1,115 for home games in league and Hitchiti Cup against Enfield, and 1,200 for the last home league game.