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vs SWINDON TOWN
Tuesday, 10 November, 2026 | 7pm

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SWINDON PREVIEW

Tonight, Argyle bring their group-stage campaign in the Jersey Mike's Trophy to a conclusion when they welcome Swindon Town to Home Park.

The Pilgrims have already secured their place in the knockout stages, but there is still plenty to play for, with top spot and the advantage of a home tie in the next round up for grabs.

A draw or win would see Argyle top the group, while defeat would leave them in second place behind Crystal Palace Under-21s. Swindon, meanwhile, are already guaranteed not to qualify, regardless of tonight's result.

This fixture comes between Argyle's Emirates FA Cup first-round tie and Saturday's trip to Sheffield Wednesday in Sky Bet League One, presenting Head Coach Tom Cleverley with an opportunity to rotate, while keeping the Pilgrims' cup ambitions firmly in focus.

Cleverley said: "It's a game that is sandwiched in between two other really important ones, so, it's a chance to utilise the squad and manage minutes and loads.

"But of course, we're taking every game very seriously. We want to win the group and get the home tie.

"Every time you cross that white line, it's a chance to show the best version of yourself, both individually and as a team."

There could also be opportunities for some of the club's emerging talent, with one or two under-18s set to be involved. Jared Rendle provided an assist in the FA Cup on Saturday, and Cleverley is keen to strengthen the pathway between Argyle's academy and senior sides.

Owen Oseni is likely to make his return from injury, having last featured in the Jersey Mike's Trophy, against Palace Under-21s.

Cleverley highlighted the importance of having the striker available for the challenges ahead: "Owen has been a very useful player to have, whether that's coming on and making an impact or stretching defences from the start."

Argyle reached the quarter-finals of this competition last season, although their knockout fixtures were all away from home. Cleverley is keen to go further this time and believes a run of games at Home Park could help his side do that.

"It would be a big help to have a few home ties," said Tom. "It was a very valuable competition for us last year, I thought it galvanised our league form.

"We understand the history of cup competitions. I don't think Argyle have ever won a national cup, and we would love to be the first group to do that, but we aren't getting ahead of ourselves."

First, however, the Pilgrims will focus on Swindon, with top spot and home advantage within their grasp.

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OPPOSITION SWINDON TOWN

This Season

After missing out on the Sky Bet League Two play-offs on the final day of the 2025/26 campaign, Swindon Town will have come into the current campaign hoping to have learnt from that experience. Under veteran manager Ian Holloway the Robins have improved drastically – they were bottom of the league not long after the 63-year-old took over. Now in his second full season in charge at The Nigel Eady County Ground, Holloway's aim remains to get Swindon back in the third tier. They began the campaign with a goalless draw at Northampton Town and followed it up with a win at home to local rivals Cheltenham Town. However, a 3-0 defeat against Oldham kept the Reds grounded. A pair of wins came next against Port Vale and Colchester United, but they then fell into a bad run, failing to win eight in a row in all competitions. As of late, form has improved. The Reds' Emirates FA Cup defeat against League One side MK Dons on Saturday was their first since the beginning of October. Since then, they have managed wins away at high-flying Barnet and at home to Rotherham United. Powered by the goals of Aaron Drinan, Holloway's side are a match for anyone in the division and sit poised just one point off the play-off places.

About them

The Reds were founded back in 1879 as Swindon AFC, later becoming 'Spartans' and then finally Swindon Town in 1883. The following year they turned professional and became a founding member of the Southern League. It was not until 1920 that Swindon were elected into the Football League. They remained a third-tier side for 43 years until finally reaching the Second Division during the mid-60s. They won the 1969 League Cup, beating Arsenal in the final at Wembley, the club's only major domestic honour. They enjoyed more success at Wembley towards the end of the 20th century – winning the Second Division play-off final but missing out on a place in the top-flight after breaching Football League regulations. They righted those wrong three years later, winning the play-offs for a second time and securing a place in the Premier League. They only spent a solitary season in the top-flight before relegation. Just over a decade later they found themselves in League Two after a steady decline. In more recent times, the Reds have bounced between the third and fourth tier - the latter being where they currently reside. They play home fixtures at The Nigel Eady County Ground and have done so for the last 120 years, since 1896. They have been nicknamed the Robins since 1902, when they changed the club colours from black, white and blue to red.

"Powered by the goals of Aaron Drinan, Holloway's side are a match for anyone in the division and sit poised just one point off the play-off places"



MANAGER

Ian Holloway

Holloway will be a familiar face to supporters at Home Park, having previously been in charge of the Pilgrims between June 2006 and November 2007. The 63-year-old led Argyle to an 11th-place finish in the Championship during his first season at Home Park, before departing for Leicester City midway through the following campaign. Before moving into management, Holloway had a 19-year playing career, making close to 600 appearances across spells at Bristol Rovers, Wimbledon, Brentford, Torquay United and Queens Park Rangers. He began his managerial career at Bristol Rovers, initially combining the role with his playing duties, before focusing solely on coaching. In 2001, Holloway made the move to another former club of his in QPR and spent five years there before heading to Home Park. Since leaving PL2, his appointments have included Leicester City, Blackpool, Crystal Palace, Millwall and Grimsby Town. Among his managerial career highlights are two promotions to the Premier League, having guided Blackpool to the top flight through the Championship play-offs in 2010. He then achieved that same feat with Palace three years later. After leaving Grimsby in 2020, Holloway spent almost four years away from the dugout but returned to management in October 2024, when he was appointed Swindon manager. He signed a new contract in March 2025, committing his future to the Robins until the summer of 2028.

the squad

Lewis Ward
Goalkeeper Ward was at Reading as a youngster, but was sent out on loan to Whitehawk, Sutton United, Fylkir, Margate, Hungerford Town, Aldershot Town, Northampton Town and Forest Green Rovers. The keeper made a permanent move to Exeter City in 2019, where he would go on to spend two seasons before joining Swindon Town. After a year he went to Sutton United before subsequent short stints at Swindon, Charlton Athletic and AFC Wimbledon. The 29-year-old joined Swindon for a third time in 2025 and has now made 35 appearances for the Robins.

Kaelan Majekodunmi
Northampton-born defender Majekodunmi moved to Australia as a youngster and featured for ECU Joondalup, Gwelup Croatia, and Perth Glory. The centre-back made 21 appearances for the A-League side before opting to return to England in the summer and signing for Swindon Town following a successful trial. The 22-year-old former Australia youth international was called up by the Young Socceroos for the 2023 AFC Under-20 Asian Cup.

Billy Kirkman
Full-back Kirkman started his career at The New Saints, joining the Welsh club at under-13 level. Upon becoming a senior player, Kirkman was sent on loan to Aberystwyth Town twice to gain valuable minutes. The defender then made the move to England signing for Swindon Town, where he currently plays. The 22-year-old was initially loaned to Weston-Super-Mare, returning to Swindon after four months. Kirkman is now closing in on 50 appearances for the Robins as he looks to nail down a starting place.

James Ball
Former Sky Bet League Two promotion winner Ball began at Liverpool, where he played in the Reds' academy. Before becoming a senior pro, the versatile defender joined his hometown club Bolton Wanderers. Stints followed in non-league at Northwich Victoria, Stalybridge Celtic, Stockport County, Stevenage, Ebbsfleet United and Solihull Moors before a move into the Football League with Rochdale. After the Dale were relegated to the National League, Ball opted to join AFC Wimbledon. He helped the Dons achieve promotion to League One, before a move to Swindon Town in 2025.

Dan Butler
Dynamic full-back Butler was at Portsmouth as a youngster, eventually going on to sign a professional contract. After loans at Havant & Waterlooville and Aldershot Town, Butler joined Torquay United. He completed a season at Plainmoor and signed for Newport County, where he spent three years. A lengthy period then followed at Peterborough United before a slightly briefer one at Stevenage. In the summer, the 32-year-old joined Swindon Town on loan for the 2026/27 season.

Mitch Clark
Former Wales youth international Clark is a graduate of the Aston Villa academy, having made his senior debut for the Villans in 2017. A loan move to Port Vale came before he joined Leicester City permanently, but returned to Vale for two more loan spells. Two years followed at Accrington Stanley, before a fourth move to Vale Park upon the expiration of his contract. He would go on to spend three years with the Valiants, winning promotion in that time and being loaned to Fleetwood Town. In the summer, the 27-year-old signed for Swindon Town on an initial year-long deal.



Lewis Ward



Aaron Drinan

Jack Thomson

Scottish midfielder Thomson was at Rangers as a youngster but never made a first-team appearance for the SPFL side. Instead, loans came away from Ibrox at Clyde, Queen's Park and American side Orange County. It would be Queen's Park where Thomson would pitch up permanently in 2022, after previously helping them win the Scottish Championship as a loan player. Three seasons there followed, before a short stint at Kilmarnock and then a move to Swindon Town in the summer.

Matty Virtue

Virtue was at Chelsea and then Liverpool as a youngster, captaining the Reds' under-23 team after a loan to Notts County. In 2019, he was allowed to join Blackpool permanently and went on to spend over five years at Bloomfield Road. In that time, he was loaned to Lincoln City before joining Fleetwood, but was released in 2024. In his two campaigns with Fleetwood, the midfielder played 89 times, scoring 12 goals. Swindon Town recruited the 29-year-old when his contract expired at Highbury, and Virtue has since played 11 games for the Robins.

Tom Nichols

Experienced midfielder Nichols was born in Somerset and came through the ranks at Exeter City. He went on to feature 113 times for the Grecians' first team before being sold to Peterborough United. After just a season, Nichols was on the move again, this time joining Bristol Rovers. In his three years at Rovers, he featured regularly before a move to Crawley Town. Three seasons with the Reds followed before a shorter spell at Gillingham. His subsequent 11 month spell at Mansfield Town was successful, helping the Stags achieve promotion before joining Swindon Town, where he currently plays.

Antwoine Hackford

22-year-old Hackford joined Sheffield United as a nine-year-old, advancing through the academy and eventually making his senior debut for the Blades. Loans followed at Alfreton Town, Burton Albion and Port Vale before a permanent departure from Bramall Lane to join AFC Wimbledon. He spent just over a year in the capital, scoring six goals in 48 appearances. In the summer, he was sold to Swindon Town. Since arriving at The Nigel Eady County Ground, Hackford's only goal for the Robins came in the Jersey Mike's Trophy against Crystal Palace Under-21s.

Aaron Drinan

The Robins' talisman Drinan started his senior career at Waterford, where he helped the Irish side win the League of Ireland title in his debut campaign. Ipswich Town picked up the striker in 2018; he spent over three years at Portman Road, having loan spells at Sutton United, Waterford, GAIS and Ayr United. A permanent move to Leyton Orient followed; Drinan scored 20 times in 96 games for the O's. Swindon Town picked up the Irishman nearly three years ago, where he has since starred scoring 44 times.

MATCH DAYS
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LAST TIME OUT IN THE TROPHY

NEWPORT COUNTY 2
ARGYLE 2 *(Argyle 5-4 on pens)*

ARGYLE
James Storer
Mathias Ross *(Wes Harding 60)*
Jack MacKenzie
Xavier Amaechi
Caleb Watts *(Bim Pepple 60)*
Tyreeq Bakinson
Caleb Roberts *(Bradley Ibrahim 72)*
Tegan Finn *(Oliver Irow 60)*
Matty Sorinola
Seb Campbell
Jared Rendle *(Harvey White 72)*





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HEAD COACH
Tom CLEVERLEY

1	Murphy COOPER
2	Mathias ROSS
3	Jack MACKENZIE
5	Julio PLEGUEZUELO
6	Malachi BOATENG
7	Harvey WHITE
8	Joe EDWARDS (C)
9	Will EVANS
10	Xavier AMAECHI
11	Ronan CURTIS
14	Oliver IROW
15	Alex MITCHELL
17	Caleb WATTS
18	Owen OSENI
19	Tyreeq BAKINSON
20	Michael BAIDOO
21	James STORER
22	Alex HARTRIDGE
23	Bradley IBRAHIM
24	Caleb ROBERTS
25	Freddie ISSAKA
26	Tegan FINN
27	Bim PEPPLE
29	Matty SORINOLA
38	Seb CAMPBELL
40	Joe Mwaro
41	Leo McCORMICK
40	Joe MWARO
42	Jared RENDLE
43	James SHARPE
44	Thomas ARMYTAGE
45	Wes HARDING
46	Frankie MAUND

MANAGER
Ian HOLLOWAY

1	Connor RIPLEY
2	Mitch CLARK
4	Gavin KILKENNY
5	Stephan NEGRU
6	James BALL
7	Tom NICHOLS
8	Ollie CLARKE (C)
9	Paul GLATZEL
10	Harry SMITH
11	Fletcher HOLMAN
12	Lewis WARD
14	Danny BUTTERWORTH
15	Joseph HUNGBO
16	Sam INWOOD
17	Ryan TAFAZOLLI
18	James DEBAYO
19	Joe SNOWDON
20	Ben MIDDLEMAS
21	Kaelan MAJEKODUNMI
22	Jaylan PEARMAN
23	Aaron DRINAN
24	Matty VIRTUE
25	Jack THOMSON
26	Dan BUTLER
27	Anthony MUNDA
28	Ollie PALMER
29	Antwoine HACKFORD
33	Joel McGREGOR
34	Billy KIRKMAN
37	Charlie SUMMERS
38	Lucas GRIFFITHS-BROWN
39	Louis MILLARD

MATCH OFFICIALS
Referee: Lewis Sandoe
Assistant Referee: Keiran Forrest
Assistant Referee: Stuart Kane
Fourth Official: Thomas Staten