

TRANMERE ROVERS F.C.



FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIV. 3

Tranmere Rovers
v
Swindon Town

MONDAY, 21st OCTOBER 1974

KICK-OFF 7-30 p.m.

**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

Nº

0982

6p

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Next match here—

Floodlit League

ROVERS

v

CHESTER

Wed., 23rd October 1974

K.O. 7-30 p.m.

EDITORIAL

With only 48 hours between our matches this week-end, it has been necessary to provide the printer with copy in advance of Saturday's clash with Huddersfield Town, but, as usual, we must hope at this stage that our League position is looking healthier tonight.

One thing that has been overlooked by a lot of people who view our placing in the lower reaches of the Third Division is that we have had a heavy programme away from home. From Saturday's match against Huddersfield we could look forward to six at home out of the next eight. That takes into account the postponed match against Peterborough United which has now been rearranged for Monday, December 2nd.

The other home games are against Brighton, Preston North End and Hereford United, all very attractive — or should be — from a crowd-pulling viewpoint, while next Saturday we have our 'derby' match against Wrexham at the Racecourse.

You don't have to be a grey-beard to remember when Rovers' visit to Wrexham meant traffic packed roads all the way from Wirral into Wales. But, tempor-

arily at least, those days are behind us and it will be a pleasant surprise if more than a hundred or two Roverites make the trip. Nevertheless, it will be good to hear a friendly voice from what can be hostile terraces. So do your best to get there.

In these gloomy days there is one little bit of brightness shining out like a good deed in a naughty world. We refer now to the recently established Wirral Lottery our very own fund-raising scheme which, in the capable hands of David Exall and his lieutenants has virtually rocketed to popularity as the most attractive of any being promoted on Merseyside.

The big prizes (£100 top award) are won EVERY WEEK and what is more the names of the winners are made known immediately. Even if you haven't seen the winning number there is no need to worry. All winners are notified.

A recent court ruling in Southampton made it illegal to advertise a Lottery such as ours, but should any reader be interested enough to want to help Rovers full details are available at the club office and the Supporters' Association office at the entrance to the car park.

The Robins hop in

The writer has a sharp and vivid recall of the last time Rovers met the 'Robins'. That was on a frosty night in February 1939, a matter of 10 days or so before Swindon were to meet and beat Arsenal 3-1 in extra time in the final of the League Cup at Wembley.

Having lost 5-3 at Prenton Park in what is still remembered as one of the best games played here, we were apprehensive about our fate at the County Ground. But that turned out to be another great battle, Swindon winning by a Don Rogers goal two minutes from the end.

They went on to win promotion to the Second Division for the second time, returning to the Third at the end of last season.

It is interesting to note that although the 'Robins' spent 43 years in the Third Division before being promoted for the first time in 1963, they appeared in the F.A. Cup semi final in 1910 and again in 1912.

Their star at that time was Harold Fleming, an inside-forward, who played nine times for England.

PEN PICTURES

Goalkeeper **Jim Barron** joined Swindon from Nottingham Forest at the start of the season, having served Wolves, Chelsea, Oxford United (152 appearances) and Forest (155) on his way to Wiltshire.

John McLaughlin is from North London, but had two or three seasons with Colchester, before moving to Swindon to take the place of Welsh international Rod Thomas, transferred to Derby Co. At the County Ground he teamed up with **John Trollope**, who made his debut against Tranmere 15 years ago and is now nearing his 600th League appearance.

Terry Hubbard's birthplace is given as Sebastopol and sounds like an echo of the Crimean War. And this sturdy midfield player is certainly a battler. In his third season in the first team.

Swindon Town

Ron Potter is a Midlander who made eight first team appearances for West Brom before joining the Robins three years ago.

Joe Butler from Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he began his career at St. James' Park, is Swindon's second longest servant with close on 330 appearances.

Dave Moss from neighbouring Oxfordshire is in his third season at the County Ground.

Wilf Dixon is another veteran of many wars having served Arsenal, Reading and Colchester before moving to Wiltshire. He is regarded mostly as a defender, but manager Danny Williams is making use of Wilf's experience in a midfield role.

Peter Eastoe set up a new transfer record for the club when he joined them last season from Wolves for a reported £80,000. It was the Robins' gamble in a bid to stay in the Second Division.

Hugh McLean, Town's most recent acquisition from West Brom has the unique distinction of being the only native of the Outer Hebrides playing in the Football League. He was born in Stornaway.

Tom Jenkins will understand if we say that the memory of his last game at Prenton Park gives us no pleasure at all. On that occasion he scored a hat-trick for Reading. It was also the night that George Yardley virtually ended his career as Rovers' No. 1 goalscorer when he had his cheekbone smashed. A week later Jenkins signed for Southampton for £60,000.

That 'For Sale' Notice

It was revealed over the weekend that Rovers had circularised clubs in the League that they had players for sale in all positions. That might have seemed a very disturbing thing. In fact, some people regarded it as a 'team for sale'.

It was, of course, nothing like that. The truth was and is that Rovers had reached the point where they could no longer hold on to every player on their staff in the face of enquiries from senior clubs, but only one player was for sale. Who that player may turn out to be is in the hands of clubs in search of fresh blood.

When a deal has been made — assuming that one will be made — Rovers will then close ranks once again and only an offer that can-

not be refused will lure young talent away from Prenton Park.

This was a day we had hoped to avoid. Pledges were given that no player would leave Prenton Park if the Public of Birkenhead and Wirral showed that they really wanted a better brand of football here. To do that they had to come through the turnstiles. They have not done so. They have not met their side of the bargain and, like any other well-run company Rovers must pay their bills.

But there isn't a team for sale. Just one — or at the most two players. And Manager Ron Yeats, who had the last word on the matter, believes that he can fill any gap that may appear, or find a successor to a departing player if there isn't already one on the staff.

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RON YEATS TALKING



Cought up, as I have been with two matches a week, most of my comments in this column have been about the first team affairs. But that doesn't mean that the reserves and the juniors have been overlooked. Far from it. Throughout all the times of frustration I have known this season (and there are very few managers in the land who aren't suffering the same way) I have never lost sight of the fact that here at Prenton Park we have a splendid pool of young players, lads who wouldn't let us down if thrown in at the deep end of League football.

This has been demonstrated in the Floodlit League in which we remain unbeaten and in which we have taken on opposition away from home that has had up to six first-teamers in its ranks.

One of the most encouraging features of the first team in recent weeks is the way John Seasman has re-emerged and now

that he is a year older and a year stronger than he was when last he got his chance, John has been shaping up very well indeed.

There are places we go where the opposition officials just can't believe that players like Dickie Johnson, Seasman, Steve Coppell, Mark Palios and Bobby Tynan are all products of our youth team and all around or below the 20 age mark.

But getting back to the Reserves, it was good to hear reports about Les Parry, who is again showing the sort of form that made Rovers think two years ago that they had unearthed another Roy McFarland. Les might well have achieved that eminence by now but for a terrible run of injuries and one can only hope that he has all his troubles behind him.

We are at home to Chester on Wednesday night. Come and see what I mean.

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Tranmere Rovers

(White shirts, blue shorts)

1. Dick JOHNSON
2. Dave WEBB
3. Ray MATHIAS
4. Ronnie MOORE
5. John PHILPOTTS
6. Tommy VEITCH
7. Steve COPPELL
8. Bobby TYNAN
9. Tommy YOUNG
10. Mark PALIOS
11. Steve PELOW

Sub:

Referee:

LES HAYES
(Doncaster)

Linesmen:

(Red flag)
N. HAYES

(Yellow flag)
N. MIDGLY

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Swindon Town

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LES HAYES
(Doncaster)

1. Jim BARRON
2. John McLAUGHLIN
3. John TROLLOPE
4. Terry HUBBARD
5. Ron POTTER
6. Joe BUTLER
7. Dave MOSS
8. Wilf DIXON
9. Peter EASTOE
10. Hugh McLEAN
11. Tom JENKINS

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TRANMERE ROVERS FIXTURES 1974-75

		Scorers		Attendances	
				Home	Away
Sat. Aug. 17	—AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	0—1	3,141	
Wed. Aug. 21	—Southport FL Cup	A	2—0		
Sat. Aug. 24	—Crystal Palace	A	1—2		14,816
Sat. Aug. 31	—ALDERSHOT	H	2—0	2,348	
Tue. Sept. 3	—Swindon Town	A	0—0		5,511
Sat. Sept. 7	—Plymouth Argyle	A	1—4		
Wed. Sept. 11	—WEST HAM (L Cup)	H	0—0	8,638	
Fri. Sept. 13	—PORT VALE	H	1—0	3,033	
Wed. Sept. 18	—West Ham		0—6		
Sat. Sept. 21	—Walsall	A	0—2		2,900
Wed. Sept. 25	—Chestefield	A	0—1		4,276
Fri. Sept. 27	—BLACKBURN R.	H	1—1	4,115	
Tue. Oct. 1	—Charlton Athletic	A	3—3		5,526
Fri. Oct. 4	—HALIFAX TOWN	H	3—1	2,584	
Fri. Oct. 11	—Southend United	A	0—1		
Sat. Oct. 19	—HUDDERSFIELD	H			
Mon. Oct. 21	—SWINDON TOWN	H			
Sat. Oct. 26	—Wrexham	A			
Sat. Nov. 2	—BRIGHTON	A			
Sat. Nov. 9	—Grimsby Town	A			
Fri. Nov. 15	—PRESTON N. E.	H			
Sat. Nov. 23	—F.A. Cup 1st rd.				
Mon. Dec. 2	—PETERBOROUGH	H			
Fri. Dec. 6	—Colchester Utd.	A			
Sat. Dec. 14	—F.A. Cup 2nd rd.				
Sat. Dec. 21	—BURY	H			
Thu. Dec. 26	—Port Vale	A			
Sat. Dec. 28	—WATFORD	H			
Sat. Jan. 4	—Peterborough U.	A			
Fri. Jan. 10	—COLCHESTER U.	H			
Sat. Jan. 18	—Hereford United	A			
Sat. Jan. 25	—Gillingham	A			
Fri. Jan. 31	—GRIMSBY TOWN	H			
Sat. Feb. 8	—Brighton	A			
Fri. Feb. 14	—GILLINGHAM	H			
Sat. Feb. 22	—Preston North End	A			
Sat. Mar. 1	—Aldershot	A			
Fri. Mar. 7	—CHESTERFIELD	H			
Sat. Mar. 15	—Blackburn R.	A			
Wed. Mar. 19	—AFC Bournemouth	A			
Fri. Mar. 21	—PLYMOUTH A.	H			
Fri. Mar. 28	—WALSALL	H			
Sat. Mar. 29	—Bury	A			
Fri. Apr. 4	—WREXHAM	H			
Mon. Apr. 7	—CHARLTON	H			
Sat. Apr. 12	—Halifax Town	A			
Mon. Apr. 14	—Watford	A			
Fri. Apr. 18	—SOUTHEND	H			
Mon. Apr. 21	—CRYSTAL PALACE	H			
Sat. Apr. 26	—Huddersfield	A			
Sat. May 3	—FA Cup Final				

NORTHERN FLOODLIT LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP		
Wed. Sept. 4	—PORT VALE	H 1—1
Wed. Sept. 11	—Chester	A
Wed. Sept. 18	—CREWE ALEX.	H 4—1
Wed. Sept. 25	—Stockport Co.	A 2—0
Tues. Oct. 8	—Port Vale	A
Mon. Oct. 21	—Crewe Alex	A
Wed. Oct. 23	—CHESTER	H
Wed. Oct. 30	—STOCKPORT C.	H

NORTHERN FLOODLIT LEAGUE		
Wed. Nov. 6	—CHESTER	H
Mon. Nov. 11	—Crewe Alex	A
Wed. Nov. 20	—TELFORD	H
Wed. Nov. 27	—Stockport C.	A
Wed. Dec. 11	—PORT VALE	H
Wed. Dec. 18	—Shrewsbury	A
Wed. Jan. 8	—WREXHAM	H
Wed. Jan. 15	—Hereford Utd.	A
Wed. Jan. 22	—HEREFORD UTD.	H
Wed. Jan. 29	—Chester	A
Wed. Feb. 5	—CREWE ALEX	H
Wed. Apr. 14	—Wrexham	A
Mon. Feb. 10	—Telford Utd	A
Wed. Feb. 26	—STOCKPORT C.	H
Tues. Mar. 11	—Port Vale	A
Wed. Mar. 19	—SHREWSBURY	H

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By
RONALD CROWTHER
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In the days before somebody hit upon the idea of the long and sometimes misleading grooming process of 'under 23 football' a player was old enough as soon as he was good enough to step into England's senior side.

In the pre-war era 'Raich' Carter was one of a distinguished pride of young lions who were picked to play for their country before they were old enough to vote. And Carter was certainly good enough — not only to be an international star at 20 but also to win a League championship medal and to captain Sunderland to an F.A. Cup triumph by the age of 23.

Like so many of his great contemporaries, Carter was a brilliant product of an age of self-expression in soccer when players were unfettered by pre-match planning and encouraged instead to go out and play it off the cuff. With his genius for creative inside-forward play and his built-in contempt for inefficient opponents, no man was better equipped to do so.

Split second decisions and swift tactical appraisal of situations came so easily and naturally that Carter's supreme confidence was often mistaken for arrogance.

But, above all his other qualities it was his self-reliance that made him into one of the outstanding craftsmen of two separate eras.

As was the case with other stars of his generation, his career was interrupted by seven years of

war. But immediately on its resumption the man who was then a silver-haired veteran demonstrated with his devastating displays for England and Derby that the kind of skill he had shown for Sunderland could not be eroded.

I still regard the productive partnership he shared with Peter Doherty at Derby as the greatest club inside-forward combination I have ever seen. Without this pair Derby would have been a very ordinary team. With them they were a magnificent Cup-winning side.

Soccer writers raved about what they described as their duet for four feet. Each man was a match-winner and a superb entertainer in his own right. And when the pair were on peak form together few sides could live with Derby.

Between them there was a healthy, bantering rivalry that kept them at concert pitch. Each confessed to just a tinge of jealousy about the class of the other one. Each tried to outshine the other. Yet, with all their defence-splitting ideas they were always so much on the same wavelength that they blended in a wonderful way.

I recall the uproar when they suddenly pulled off their two-man penalty manoeuvre. Carter strolled up to the spot, casually stroked the ball to his right for Docherty to race in from the edge of the box and to slam it into the

(continued on page 12)

RONALD CROWTHER (continued)

net. Fans to whom such originality was unheard of believed it was a breach of the laws.

Years later when many people began to marvel at the powers of Puskas — especially after his four goals flourish in a European Cup final at Hampden — I drew atten-

tion to the remarkable similarity of his style with that of Carter. Each man had a lethal left foot. Each was a great team man as well as a brilliant individualist. And each had his career rudely interrupted and yet came back like a good wine — all the better for maturity.

SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION NOTES

A coach will be departing from the Supporters Office next Saturday for the match at Wrexham. Will all members of the Senior and Junior Branches book their seats early. Why not call into the Supporters Office after today's game. New members welcome.

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The Professionals

Rovers, who have pioneered so many things in the last dozen or so years, will break more new ground next February on the eve of their return match with Aldershot on Saturday, March 1st.

One of the good friends of the club, and a past guest of honour at our Celebrity Dinners, is Major General Sir James Wilson, who will take over as G.O.C. Aldershot Command in December.

With this in mind, Manager Ron Yeats, who played for the Army while stationed at Aldershot during National Service, had the idea of taking the team down their the

week before our match at the Recreation Ground and billeting them with the Army. The days ahead of the match could be used to meet and coach Army footballers, to play against an Army team at the splendid stadium they have on the camp and to coach and instruct young soldiers keen on football.

The Army Sports Council has jumped at the chance to entertain Rovers on those lines and so Tranmere will blaze a new trail when, as one publicist put it, 'The Professionals meet the Professionals'.

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

LES HAYES of Doncaster. A foundry foreman. Married with two daughters, he refereed in the Doncaster Bently League, the Yorkshire and Northern Premier Leagues before graduating on to the League list via the Line. A

linesman in a European Cup match in Denmark in 1972, he refereed the 1972 Northern Premier League Watney Cup Final. His interests outside soccer include swimming, cricket and motoring.

LEAGUE TABLE — DIVISION THREE

	P	Home				L	F	A	W	Away				P
		W	D	L	F					A	W	D	L	
Blackburn	12	6	1	0	13	5	2	2	1	5	5	19		
Peterboro	14	5	2	0	10	3	3	1	3	7	11	19		
Colchester	13	5	1	1	13	5	2	3	1	8	6	18		
Preston	14	5	1	1	14	6	2	2	3	10	9	17		
Swindon	14	5	2	1	13	7	1	3	2	9	13	17		
Walsall	14	5	2	0	16	2	1	2	4	7	12	16		
Crystal P	13	6	0	1	16	7	2	0	4	3	10	16		
Watford	14	4	3	0	11	6	1	3	3	7	11	16		
Southend	15	6	0	2	15	6	1	1	5	2	9	15		
Charlton	13	5	2	0	17	9	1	1	4	5	11	15		
Plymouth	15	7	1	0	15	4	0	0	7	5	17	15		
Bury	15	3	2	1	8	3	2	2	5	7	13	14		
Hereford	14	4	2	2	13	4	1	1	4	5	12	13		
Port Vale	14	3	2	0	11	5	0	5	4	7	14	13		
Bournemouth	12	3	1	1	8	2	2	1	4	4	8	12		
Grimsby	14	4	1	3	15	11	1	1	4	6	13	12		
Chesterfield	14	3	2	2	8	6	2	0	5	11	16	12		
Wrexham	12	2	2	1	12	7	2	1	4	10	13	11		
Halifax T	15	2	3	2	10	9	0	4	4	6	15	11		
Brighton	15	4	3	1	12	10	0	0	7	3	17	11		
Huddersfield	11	3	0	2	7	4	2	0	4	4	9	10		
Tranmere	13	3	1	2	8	5	0	2	5	5	12	9		
Aldershot	15	4	1	3	13	11	0	1	6	2	13	9		
Gillingham	13	1	3	2	6	7	0	2	5	6	15	7		

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