



versus

SWINDON TOWN

Friday

10th January

1997

Kick Off

7.45 p.m.

TRANMERE Rovers Review



Official Shirt Sponsor



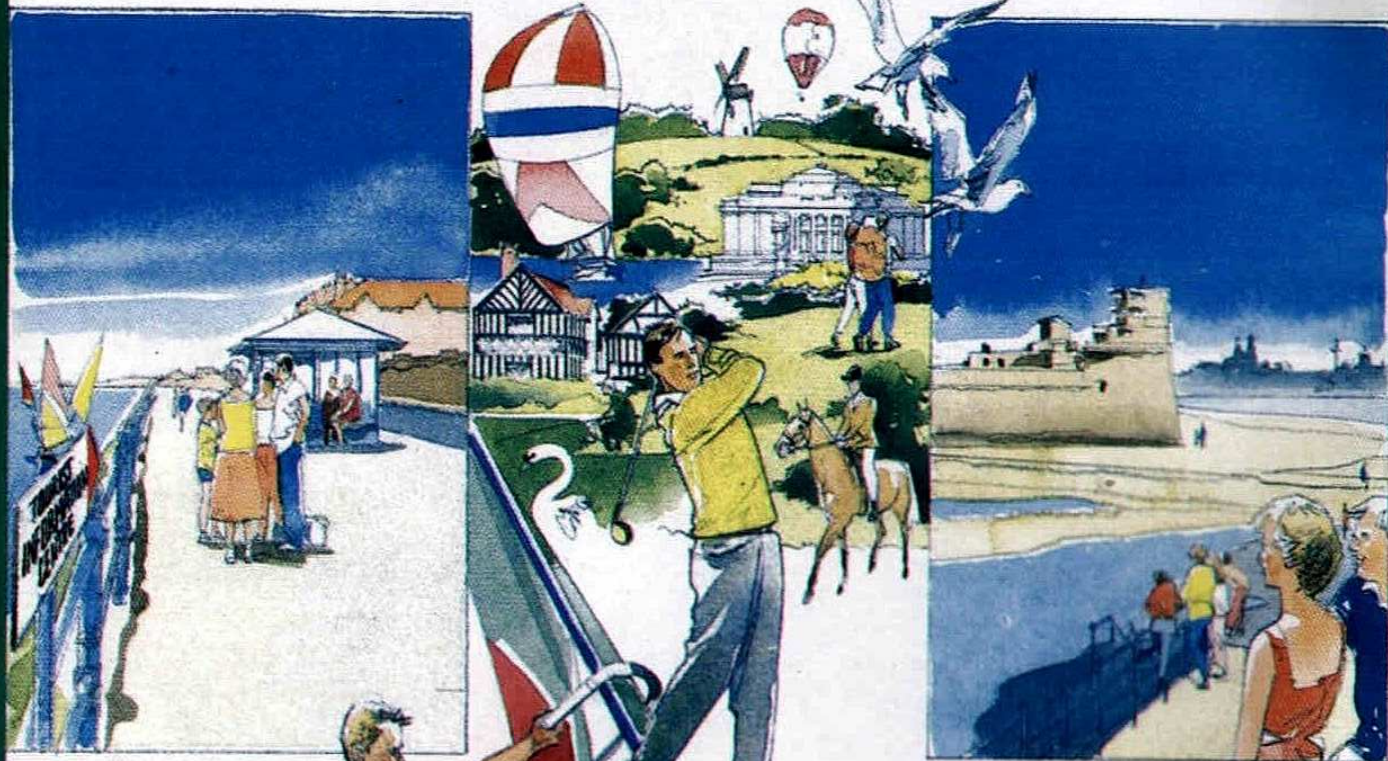
Metropolitan
Borough of Wirral

The Official Matchday Magazine of Tranmere Rovers F.C. . Price £1.50

Programme Monthly 1995/96

MERIT AWARD
PROGRAMME of the YEAR

COAST to COAST



country parks...
sailing school...

Hilbre Islands
nature reserve...

coastal park and
lighthouse...

golf and
international events...

New Brighton
regeneration...



promenade walks...
heritage trail...

visitor centre
and famous ferries...

history and culture...

dockland
redevelopment...

spectacular
Mersey views.



Contact: Carole Jackson Tel: 0151-647 2366

Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, Department of Leisure Services & Tourism

Westminster House, Hamilton Street, Birkenhead, Wirral L41 5FN



EuroWirral



**Metropolitan
Borough of Wirral**

ALDO!

up front

Hello and firstly let me wish everyone a belated Happy New Year on behalf of myself and all the staff at Tranmere.

Tonight we welcome a good friend of mine in Steve McMahon to Prenton Park and I am certain his Swindon side will provide us with a very stern test.

We went along to watch Swindon at Goodison last Sunday and they were very unfortunate. The referee effectively killed off their chances in the first minute with the sending off of Ian Culverhouse and it was always going to be difficult for them after that.

Now we just have to ensure we don't suffer from the backlash of their disappointment. Any side managed by Steve will mirror his style of play – and that is one of total commitment, so we'll have to be on our toes. From our point of view, the injuries to Danny Coyne and Eric Nixon were a bolt from the blue. Danny is likely to be out for a few weeks but Eric may be back tonight.

If not, I have every faith in young Steve Simonsen. He's a

competent keeper and, importantly, a very confident one – so I have no qualms about giving him his debut. We're fortunate to have three good goalkeepers.

Meanwhile, the FA Cup draw gave us a very big incentive with the chance of a home tie with Sheffield Wednesday if we beat Carlisle. While that has its obvious attractions, it would be unprofessional of us to think of anyone else but Swindon and then Carlisle on Tuesday. We got a very good result at West Brom, with an excellent performance at a venue where we have often come unstuck in the past. So it is extra important for us to keep up the good work tonight.

Enjoy the game,

John Aldridge



TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB LTD

Prenton Park,
Prenton Road West,
Birkenhead,
Wirral, Merseyside L42 9PN

General Enquiries:

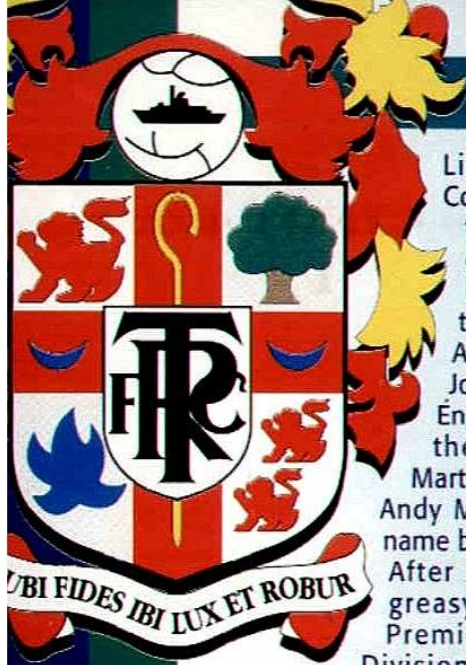
Telephone: 0151-608 4194
Facsimile: 0151-608 4385
Ticket Office: 0151-609 0137

Commercial Office:

Telephone: 0151-608 0371
Facsimile: 0151-608 4724
Club Shop: 0151-608 0438

President: Harold Thomas
Chairman & Chief Executive: Frank Corfe
Directors: Tony Adams,
John Holsgrove,
Howard Jones,
Fred Williams,
Norman Wilson F.A.I.
Director of Football: John King
Secretary: Norman Wilson F.A.I.
General Manager: Janet Ratcliffe
Player/Manager: John Aldridge
Assistant Manager: Ray Mathias
Reserve Team Manager: Kevin Sheedy
Physiotherapist: Les Parry
Player/Coach: Steve Mungall

Coach & Chief Scout: Dave Philpotts
Youth Development Officer:
Warwick Rimmer
Youth Liaison Officer: Ron Taylor
Head Groundsman: Andy Quayle
Safety Officer: Paul Mason
Medical Officers: Dr. Mike Azurdia,
Dr. John Delaney
Football In The Community
Liaison Officer: Steve Williams
Supporters Liaison Officer: Carol Dalziel
P.A. Announcer: Richie Tierney
Club Chaplains: Canon Alan Poulter,
Father Gerry Courell



Life is never dull at the County Ground. Currently on the upswing of their yo-yo existence, the current side bears no resemblance to that which visited us last on August 20th, 1994.

John Gorman has gone (to England no less!) along with the likes of Paul Bodin, Martin Ling, Jan Aage Fjortoft, Andy Mutch and Keith Scott, to name but a few.

After sliding down football's greasy pole from the Premiership to the Second Division, Steve McMahon has hauled them back up one rung.

Long forgotten are the things that once divided us. This is a new team, a new board and management. Time for a fresh start and old wounds to be healed forever.

FACE TO FACE

Two heroes of Liverpool's recent past come face to face today when John Aldridge pits his wits against ex-teammate and pal Steve McMahon, who was the provider of numerous goals for the boss in their Anfield days. So far this season, it is 1-0 to Macca with Aldo acknowledging his opposite number has done well at the County Ground. "Macca has done brilliantly at Swindon after a difficult start. He's rebuilt the team completely in his own style and we know any side managed by him will be competitive and hard to beat. It will be good to see him afterwards."



THE LAST 5 YEARS AT PRENTON PARK

| | |
|---------|---|
| 1991-92 | 0-0 |
| 1992-93 | 3-1 (Irons 3) 3-2 in Play Off Semi Final* |
| 1993-94 | - |
| 1994-95 | 3-2 (Aldridge 2, Nevin) |
| 1995-96 | - |

* Though we won 3-2 on the night we of course lost 5-4 on aggregate to miss out on the Play Off Final at Wembley.



| | P | W | D | L | F | A | PTS |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Bolton Wanderers | 27 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 55 | 37 | 52 |
| Barnsley | 25 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 44 | 27 | 47 |
| Sheffield United | 26 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 44 | 28 | 46 |
| Wolves | 25 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 34 | 23 | 40 |
| Crystal Palace | 25 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 49 | 27 | 39 |
| Norwich City | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 35 | 36 | 39 |
| Oxford United | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 37 | 29 | 37 |
| QPR | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 35 | 35 | 37 |
| Stoke City | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 32 | 33 | 37 |
| Port Vale | 26 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 29 | 26 | 37 |
| TRANMERE ROVERS | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 34 | 33 | 36 |
| Huddersfield | 27 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 32 | 35 | 35 |
| Ipswich Town | 27 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 34 | 38 | 34 |
| Charlton Athletic | 26 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 27 | 34 | 34 |
| West Brom | 26 | 7 | 12 | 7 | 43 | 42 | 33 |
| Swindon Town | 25 | 10 | 3 | 12 | 35 | 32 | 33 |
| Portsmouth | 27 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 30 | 32 | 33 |
| Birmingham City | 23 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 24 | 22 | 33 |
| Reading | 26 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 28 | 37 | 29 |
| Oldham Athletic | 25 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 28 | 31 | 27 |
| Man City | 25 | 8 | 2 | 15 | 27 | 40 | 26 |
| Southend United | 26 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 25 | 46 | 25 |
| Bradford City | 27 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 24 | 44 | 23 |
| Grimsby Town | 24 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 26 | 44 | 22 |



The Match Preview



**FOR CERTIFICATES
DIPLOMAS DEGREES**

Phone: 0151 551 7777 NOW!
and ask for Welcome Centre Staff

HEAD TO HEAD

HEAD TO HEAD

Rovers v Swindon...

| | P | W | D | L | F | A |
|-------|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Home | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 22 |
| Away | 17 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 30 |
| Total | 33 | 9 | 10 | 14 | 45 | 52 |

LANDMARKS

- First meeting:2-1 Oct 18, 1958 (A)
- Last Home Win:3-2 1994-95
- Last Home Draw:0-0 1991-92
- Last Home Defeat:0-2 1984-85
- Biggest Home Victory:3-0 1984-85
- Heaviest Home Defeat:3-5 1968-69
- Biggest Away Victory:2-1 1958-59
- Heaviest Away Defeat:1-4 1978-79

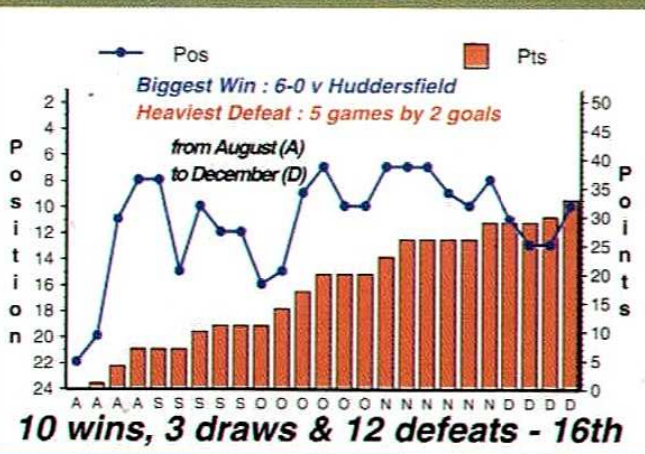
Our Last Meeting: September 14th, 1996 Swindon 2, Tranmere 1
 Another dreadful performance by Rovers at their bogey ground! A Mark Walters penalty plus a Horlock effort in the 76th minute put the game beyond us long before Aldo pulled a goal back a minute from time. Will we ever put one over on Swindon



The Match Preview

DANGERMAN

WAYNE ALLISON has been proving that his form in Swindon's championship season was no fluke. Scorer of 20 last term he is well on his way to that total this time around. Born in Yorkshire (16.10.68) he learned his trade with Halifax before an unsuccessful £250,000 move to Watford, however he picked up the threads of his career at Bristol City where he became a cult hero. At the end of his contract Wayne moved to Swindon for a tribunal set fee of £475,000. Big and strong – a real handful for defenders – Wayne scores goals from any situation but is particularly strong in the air.



WIRRAL TOOL HIRE

- Mixers
- Drills
- Ladders
- Whizzers
- Breakers
- DPC Machines
- Generators
- etc, etc...



- Mowers
- Strimmers
- Floor Sanders
- Chainsaws
- Carpet Cleaners
- Scaffold Towers
- Cable Detectors
- etc, etc...

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BIRKENHEAD 0151 652 3442 | ROCK FERRY 0151 644 8314 | HESWALL 0151 342 6342 |
| LIVERPOOL 0151 733 2301 | CHESTER 01244 381617 | WREXHAM 01978 353900 |
| | | BOOTLE 0151 833 3344 |

For up-to-date Tranmere Information,
 Ring **ROVERS CLUBCALL** on **0891 12 16 46**





TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Prenton Park, Prenton Road West, Birkenhead,
Wirral, Merseyside L52 9PN.
Telephone: 0151-608 4194 . Facsimile: 0151-608 4385



Boardroom Briefing

I extend a warm Friday night welcome to our friends from Swindon, in particular the Chairman, Directors, Steve McMahon and the players and those involved in the decision making process of agreeing to a Friday night fixture at Prenton Park. Sadly this type of co-operation is not universal throughout the Division but Swindon are one of those clubs who understand the harsh realities of commercial life outside the Premiership. Their exit from the FA Cup must have been an acute disappointment and I fully understand Steve McMahon's frustration that within minutes of the kick-off, he was suddenly faced with a penalty and one of his players sent off. Playing Premiership sides is difficult enough and one can imagine the preparation that went on beforehand, only to end in an impossible uphill battle. Of course we know the feeling only too well having experienced it at Swindon's County Ground some years ago in a play-off for promotion.

Hopefully the worst of the Winter is now behind us and the prospect of snow covered and frozen pitches has abated. The postponement of our Third Round Cup tie following a pitch inspection now comes into sharp financial focus when one appreciates victory there would result in a lucrative Fourth Round tie against Sheffield Wednesday at Prenton Park at a date to be confirmed. Without wishing to add additional pressure, this would be a much needed boost and we are due a slice of Lady Luck in the FA Cup, for this has eluded us now for several seasons. Nevertheless, the League remains the all important factor and both Swindon and ourselves are well aware that two good footballing sides can acquit themselves well at a higher level.

As we embark on our first match of 1997 we recognise the various challenges that face the club during the New Year and whilst the broader issue of financial restructuring is under consideration, we are nevertheless conscious of the need for day-to-day economies wherever these can be achieved. We have appointed two sub-committees to have an in-depth look at ourselves, one on the commercial and administration side and the other on the administration of the youth development, training, scouting and playing staff, for while these will not cope with day to day trading losses, one must be careful that demands on the transfer market are not too radical and counter productive.

Tonight's game promises to be an exciting affair. We will ensure the floodlights remain on! We expect both sides to provide an entertaining game which I trust you will enjoy.

Frank Corbett

ARGYLE TAXIS

wish Tranmere Rovers Football Club
all the best for the rest of the season
647 5454

Day by Day

**Wednesday
4 December**

defeat.

While the first team enjoy a day off after their trip to Reading, the Reserves set off from Prenton Park at 3.15pm for a Pontins League game against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough. Unfortunately, it ends in a 2-0

It's the Reserve team's turn for a break from training and the first team go through their paces as normal.

**Thursday
5 December**

**Friday
6 December**

A full turn out as everyone trains at Raby Vale. Chairman Frank Corfe announces plans to float Tranmere Rovers on the stock market.

As it's only a short trip to Stoke, the team coaches leave Birkenhead at 12.30pm and head straight for the Victoria Ground. A more subdued bus returns home after a 2-0 defeat. Not a happy day for our two Lancashire League teams either – the "A" team go down 5-1 against Wrexham "A" at home, while the "B" team lose 3-1 away to Manchester City "A".

**Saturday
7 December**

**Monday
9 December**

The whole squad takes part in a tactical practice match in the morning at the ground.

Normal training for everyone at Raby Vale, with the first team squad concentrating specifically on functional work.

**Tuesday
10 December**

**Wednesday
11 December**

A day off from training, but Ivano Bonetti has returned to Italy with a view to looking for a new club, possibly his home-town team, Brescia.

Back to reality, with two tough training sessions for all.

**Thursday
12 December**

**Friday
13 December**

The first team train for an hour in the morning, but the Reserve squad carried on with some running practice.

A morning start from Prenton Park for Oakwell. The team has a pre-match meal in a hotel in the centre of Barnsley, while the usual four people – plus Kevin Sheedy, who tags along for the ride – go ahead to lay out the kit in a dressing room which Mungy describes as "poky". The 3-0 defeat is best forgotten.

**Saturday
14 December**

**Sunday
15 December**

The evening sees the annual staff Christmas party at the Prentonian, and a splendid time is had by all.

Carol Datzel



CHESTER
ELLESMERE
PORT
WIRRAL
TRAINING
ENTERPRISE
COUNCIL



**TRAINING
to
WIN!**

TRAIN NOW TO IMPROVE YOUR JOB
OPPORTUNITIES. CALL CEWTEC ON FREEPHONE
0800 132 762

**JOIN A
WINNING
TEAM!**

Read the

LIVERPOOL
ECHO
The best-selling newspaper on Merseyside

**DAILY
POST**

for Tranmere's

News,
 Views
 Match reports



Don't miss them six days a week

For up-to-date Tranmere information,
Ring **ROVERS CLUBCALL** on 0891 12 16 46

Calls cost 45p per minute at cheap rates and 50p per minute at all other times



THE GREATEST EVER POST WAR SCORER!

The bosses' brace of expertly taken goals at West Brom on New Years Day finally took him past Jimmy Greaves' first class career total of 464 goals.

With his career total now standing at 465 there is now no arguing that he has secured his place in Football's Hall of Fame.

After all, anyone who can score more goals than Arthur Rowley and the great Jimmy Greaves must surely now be considered "The Greatest Goalscorer in Post-War History". No one can touch him and somehow you feel that, even at 38, Aldo still has more goals left in him.

How about the magic 500 goals? Certainly, the mantle of Tranmere "top goalscorer in a career" – currently held by Ian Muir with 180 – is very much in his sights.

PROGRAMMES FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

Reserve Team Programme Editor Tony Coombes is close to completing his personal Tranmere collection but has found himself with hundreds of duplicate issues ranging from the 1960's to the present day, available for sale or exchange. If you are interested, or have a wants list, please contact Tony at Flat 1, 63 Greenbank Road, Tranmere, Wirral L42 7JT.

SWINDON MASCOT

Swindon's mascot tonight is 15-year-old Susan Shaw, who attends Greendown School and also plays for Shaw Girls FC. Her favourite player is Mark Walters.



F.A. CUP INCENTIVE

What better incentive could there be to overcoming Carlisle on Tuesday night (7.45 p.m.) than the prospect of a home meeting with Sheffield Wednesday and "Zip" Nolan? Let's go for it!

A MOGGY STORY ...

It's our own fault really. Once you publish a picture of a pet dolled up in Tranmere gear others are bound to

follow! Hence we received a photo from Leanne Docherty, from Holt Road, Tranmere of her Persian Cat "Purdy" bedecked in Tranmere shirt, scarf, and hat. Whatever next ... a Tranmere flea circus?!



A MOGSY STORY ...

Providing he is fit and selected to play at some stage of this evenings match, John Morrissey should make his 500th appearance for Tranmere – a real career milestone for the winger who is now in his 12th season at Prenton Park, an achievement which will be marked with a presentation.

JANE'S A WOMAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Jane Williams and her father Roger Ewing have season tickets in the Paddock and some supporters may have noticed they were missing throughout September. Certain local newspapers reported that Jane, who lost her husband in a tragic cycle accident last year, was bravely walking from Lands End to John O'Groats in memory of her husband, Chris, who had also been a regular Tranmere supporter.

As Chris had cycled the epic journey of 875 miles for charity only three months before he was killed, Jane decided to do the walk for the same charity, Claire House Children's Hospice – to be built shortly on the Wirral.

Jane's sister, Sara, took time off work to do the walk with her, and Mum and Dad provided vital back up. The incredible journey passed through Dunfermline where Philip Yeates, physiotherapist to Dunfermline Athletic and also the Scottish National team, gave both girls treatment to help them on their way. The journey was completed on 1st October after 37 days.

On Friday, 29th November, the day before the Ipswich game, Jane attended a dinner by invitation of the Chronicle Newspaper Group and Manweb who held their Annual Community Awards at the Grosvenor Hotel in Chester.

It is with great pleasure we report that Jane was presented as "Woman of the Year" for South Wirral. Congratulations Jane.



Prenton
Portfolio

Community Spirit

TONIGHT'S SPECIAL GUESTS

I would like to welcome St. Paul's RC Primary School to tonight's match as our special guests. St. Paul's have had a long association with Tranmere Rovers in the Community and have always been very supportive in all our activities.

Regular coaching sessions have been conducted at the school over the years with the children always showing considerable enthusiasm in their efforts.

As part of our on going association with the school 30 children have been invited to attend tonight's game after having a bite to eat in the warm surroundings of the Belmont Suite. Enjoy the game and make yourselves heard!

CHILDREN'S PARTIES

Bookings are now being taken for childrens parties to be held at Prenton Park throughout the coming year. The parties are held in the Bunny Bell Suite and take place on Monday,s Tuesdays and Wednesday evenings 4-5.30pm A maximum of 16 boys and girls can attend the parties which consist of a game of football, a ground tour and two free tickets for the birthday child and a friend to attend a future game. For a total of £40 this represents excellent value. For further information phone Louise or Shirley on 608 2354.

SOCCKER SCHOOL

Application forms are now available for our forthcoming



Soccer School. The course is being held at Ridgeway High School, Noctorum between Tuesday 11th February and Friday 14th February. A maximum number of 100 places are available to boys and girls aged 8-12 so please book early to avoid disappointment. Further details and application forms can be obtained by phoning the Community Department on 608 2354.

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

- NEW NATIONAL SPONSOR

After three successful years under the sponsorship of Pizza Hut, the National Football in the Community Scheme is pleased to announce a new three-year deal. Burtons Wagon Wheels have now joined forces with the Scheme as our National Sponsor and the future looks really exciting with some superb initiatives on offer to our local community. During the next couple of months a national Young Journalist of the Year competition will be completed alongside a Design a Mothers Day Card competition. Both events will be held throughout our local schools with the winners being invited to Prenton Park to receive their prizes before entering the national event. Our Soccer Schools will also have a major influx of prizes to hand out including the obvious - Wagon Wheels. Further details on the above events will be printed in forthcoming programmes.

FOR
DRUG
PREVENTION,
INFORMATION
OR HELP,
RING
FREEPHONE

0800

838

909

9.00 am-
9.00 pm
EVERY DAY
OF THE
YEAR

SCORING
AGAINST
DRUGS



MERSEYSIDE
DRUGS
PREVENTION
TEAM

Working with the
community to
prevent the spread of
Drug Misuse.

Telephone:
0151-236 4434

TRANMERE LADIES FOOTBALL

Due to the adverse weather conditions of late causing the Fourth Round Women's FA Cup game against Wembley to be postponed, a new date has now been set.

The match will now take place this Sunday, January 12th at Heswall Football Club and will kick off at 1.00 p.m. to accommodate extra time if needed. The game should be an excellent advert for ladies football with both teams having beaten each other 3-1 in two earlier games this season. Admission is free so why not come along and support the girls.

On Sunday, 19th January the ladies are representing Cheshire as their County Cup Holders in the North West Counties Cup. The opponents are Oldham Athletic with the game being played at Christleton FC, Chester, 11am kick off.

Lets Hear It For The **Girls!**

Steve Williams



**What if
a young Brazilian
forward wanted to sign
for your team, but the
club couldn't afford him ?**



Nationwide Savings :

So you stepped forward with a brown envelope stuffed with cash and secured the transfer. You'd be branded a hero, the fans would carry you shoulder high to the Kebab van and they'd probably even name the home stand after you. All because you had a flexible savings account that gave you instant access to your money. To find out more about Nationwide savings accounts just give us a call. All the best for the season!

Call free on: **0800 30 20 10** quoting ref: FB043

or visit our football site on
<http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

 **In tune with people**



THE BUILDING SOCIETY.

Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice. Please note that for various legal, regulatory and customer service requirements your call will be recorded. Nationwide Building Society, Head Office, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, SN38 1NW.

Second String

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY RESERVES 2
ROVERS RESERVES 0

Defeat in this Pontins Premier League game was tough on Rovers.

But on the positive side John McGreal played for the first-half without any ill effects after his ankle problem and Andy Thorn got through the full 90 minutes after his hamstring injury.

Rovers gave a try out to trialist Lee Kissock in place of Kenny Irons for the last half hour.

Manager Kevin Sheedy was quite pleased with the overall performance but disappointed more chances were not created.

"We had a lot of possession and eighty per cent of play" said Kevin. "But twice we got caught out on the break and it left a little to work on."

Kevin himself was glad to discard his crutches after undergoing leg surgery and to get back in the fray running the Reserves. Ray Mathias had stepped into the breach in the previous three games.

Rovers Reserves: Coyne, Mungall, McIntyre, Challinor, Thorn, McGreal, Morrissey, Connolly, G. Jones, Irons, Moran. Subs: P. Jones, Woods (for McGreal 46), Kissock (for Irons 60).

BOLTON WANDERERS RESERVES 3
ROVERS RESERVES 3

Graham Branch netted two superb individual first-half goals to help earn Rovers a share of the points in this league clash.

Rovers, after twice leading, found themselves behind midway through the second period but Gary Jones came up with a late and deserved equaliser.

"We were disappointed to concede three goals but there was plenty to be pleased about in our attacking play", said manager Sheedy.

Ex-Everton player Mark Grugel was given a full run out whilst on a trial period. John McGreal completed another full 90 minutes but John Morrissey had to be replaced when feeling unwell in the second-half.

Rovers Reserves: Nixon, Woods, McIntyre, Challinor, Connolly, McGreal, Morrissey (Mahon 55mins), Mungall, G. Jones, Branch, Grugel. Subs: P. Jones, Blundell.

Andrew Stratton



**HOLIDAY CLUB
 PONTIN'S
 LEAGUE
 PREMIER
 DIVISION**

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Wed 28 Aug | Derby County | 3-0 | (Jones 2, Scott) |
| Thurs 5 Sept | Nottingham Forest | 0-5 | |
| Weds 11 Sept | Bolton Wanderers | 3-1 | (Jones 2, Challinor) |
| Weds 18 Sept | Man. United | 1-5 | (Woods) |
| Wed 25 Sept | Everton | 0-1 | |
| Weds 2 Oct | Leeds United | 3-1 | (Jones 2, O.G.) |
| Wed 9 Oct | Birmingham City | 1-2 | (Jones) |
| Wed 30 Oct | Blackburn Rovers | 2-3 | (Nevin, Branch, Bonetti) |
| Weds 6 Nov | Liverpool | 3-1 | (Branch 2, O.G.) |
| Mon 11 Nov | Stoke City | 1-3 | (Bonetti) |
| Wed 20 Nov | Oldham Athletic | 2-2 | (Nevin 2) |
| Wed 4 Dec | Sheffield Weds. | 0-2 | |
| Wed 11 Dec | Bolton Wanderers | 3-3 | (Branch 2, G. Jones) |
| Wed 18 Dec | Nottingham Forest | 3-1 | |
| Mon 23 Dec | Man City (Lge Cup) | 3-1 | |
| Mon 13 Jan | Wrexham (Lge Cup) | | |
| Wed 22 Jan | Man. United | | |
| Thur 30 Jan | Stoke City (Lge Cup) | | |
| Wed 5 Feb | Blackburn Rovers | | |
| Mon 10 Feb | Stockport County (Lge Cup) | | |
| Mon 17 Feb | Liverpool | | |
| Wed 26 Feb | Stoke City | | |
| Weds 5 Mar | Oldham Athletic | | |
| Tues 25 Mar | Derby County | | |
| Weds 2 Apr | Sheffield Weds. | | |
| Weds 16 Apr | Birmingham City | | |
| Wed 30 Apr | Leeds United | | |
| Tues 6 May | Everton | | |

LEWIS REED UNITED

THE WINNING TEAM

Nissan
FOR RENTAL **Lewis Reed** **NISSAN**
MOTOR VILLAGE
 474 WOODCHURCH ROAD, PRENTON,
 TEL: 608 9933

For up-to-date Tranmere Information,
 Ring **ROVERS CLUBCALL** on **0691 12 16 46**

Calls cost 45p per minute at cheap rate and 50p per minute at all other times



TRANMERE ROVERS OFFICIAL CLUB SHOP

MASSIVE SALE LAST DAY TOMORROW!

Only at our shop in St John's Square,
Grange Road Precinct, Birkenhead.

TRAINERS
CHILDRENS **£3**
from.....
ADULTS **£5**
from.....

TRFC REPLICA
SHIRT
GOLD/BLACK
size 38/40 only
Originally priced at £27.99
£17.99

POSTERS **50p**
BADGES **50p**
CALENDARS **£1 OFF**
PROGRAMME
BUNDLES **50p**
MANY MORE BARGAINS
CLEARANCE
BASKET **£2**
with oddments from just....

ATHLETIC
PRICES SLASHED!
SWEATSHIRTS
£15.99
DRILL TOPS
£11.99



**ALL OFFERS AT
GRANGE ROAD
PRECINCT SHOP ONLY!**

one stop soccer

Full Team Kits
from
£275.00

- FREE Team photo on Prenton Park pitch.
- FREE autographed football.
- FREE match tickets.
- FREE goalkeepers kit.

OFFICIAL CLUB SHOP OPENING TIMES:
Monday- Saturday: 9.00 a.m. -5.00 p.m.
Extended Opening Hours on matchdays. (Wednesdays Opens 10.00am)

Telephone 0151-608 0438



They think it's all over...

1997, isn't it? You know, another year on, a chance to start afresh. Not in football though, Hmm! Halfway through a season, what does it hold? Promotion! Might do, would it be lovely... is that a song? Hmm, it should be...

But, New Year's Day wasn't it? Hangovers all round, headaches being nursed you know, 13 pints of Boddies, sliding in the West Kirby snow. Enduring image, isn't it? Danny Coyne, twelve seconds played... Ouch! Rub it better Les! I've got a headache now... Where am I? Is this a ball?

Half an hour passes, superb equaliser from the Boss, ouch again! Stretchers for Danny, concerned players, he can't continue, call for Mr. Higgins... suit you sir! Great saves isn't it? You'll never beat Dave Higgins! A winner, three points in the bag, no more being boing. Marvellous!

But what of the festive season? You know, the Saturday before Christmas, what a load of Bull wasn't it? Can't someone tie him up? Christmas Day, too much eating and drinking. Rovers away shirt from Santa, that's more like it. Lovely! Not for me though...

Boxing Day? Freezing your unmentionables... is that a word? It is now. But, you know, traditional festive fixtures, Terrier time wasting, referee clocks it, isn't it? What a shame for Brian Horton, you know, nine-hundredth minute, a Ged header, Ravenelli-style celebration. Enduring image...

The FA Cup, hmm? Third Round day, most exciting. Not this year, game postponed, Rovers in the velvet bag for Round Four, only just. Fools Panel isn't it? Giving a home win for the coupons, Tranmere'll show them on Tuesday, won't they? Hmm... Earn the visit of Zip's Gang, going all the way to Wembley. The Twin Towers isn't it? May sunshine, a glistening trophy, John McGreal picking it up. Marvellous!

My name's Phil Moss? No, it's Ron Manager, they think it's all over, Kenneth Wolstenholme isn't it? You know, 1966, Bobby Moore holding it aloft. Enduring image. Not that image below though, Moore with glasses? I don't understand, all confused, double scotch, now that's better. Marvellous!



USE YOUR HEAD!

1. Which team knocked Southampton out of this season's FA Cup?
2. Name the current Everton player who's played in a winning FA Cup final against Liverpool?
3. Mark Walters has an unusual middle name - what is it?
4. Who was recently named European Footballer of the Year?
5. Name Tranmere's Youth Liason Officer - often to be heard on Radio Merseyside commentaries!
6. Of the current first team squad, who is Tranmere's longest serving player?
7. From which club did Liverpool sign Steve McMahon?
8. Which was the last team to win the FA Cup wearing striped shirts?
9. Who is Glen Hoddle's right hand man with England - a clue - he once managed Swindon?
10. Name the first team to score an FA Cup goal in 1997?

BBC

RADIO MERSEYSIDE

QULZ

Questions set by Ian Kennedy.
Answers on page 31
- and no peeking!

THE

OLD COLONIAL

BRIDGE STREET • BIRKENHEAD

SERVING THE FULL RANGE OF

GAIN'S

TRADITIONAL BITTER, DARK MILD & FORMIDABLE ALE

IMPORTED FAXE PREMIUM LAGER ON DRAUGHT, A WIDE CHOICE OF GUEST BEERS AND SPECIALITY BEERS IN BOTTLE.

*Robert Gain
The House*

GAIN'S

For up-to-date Tranmere Information,
Ring **ROVERS CLUBCALL** on **0691-72-15-46**

13

Call cost 45p per minute at cheap rates and 55p per minute at all other times

Wirral News Group

Birkenhead News

Heswall News

Neston News

Wallasey News

Hoylake and West Kirby News

Bromborough and Bebington News

The other Winning Team on Wirral!



Quiztime

TRY OUT THESE TEASERS FOR YOUR HALF-TIME QUIZ . . .

1. Who is manager of Swindon?
2. Which ex-Liverpool winger plays for Swindon?
3. Which former Spurs player steered Swindon to promotion as manager?

The SuperWhites Club is sponsored by Wirral News Group

Answers: 1) Steve McMahon
2) Mark Walters 3) Glen Hoddle

Today's Mascot



Name:
CHRISTOPHER NORTON

Age: Eight

School:

St. Werburgh's, Birkenhead

How long supported Rovers:
All his life

Favourite Player:
John Aldridge

Hi there, Badger pals!

Happy New Year and welcome to Prenton Park for the first home match of 1997.

Tonight's visitors are our old pals Swindon – so let's have three points.

Make sure you give a big welcome to Match Mascot Christopher Norton from Birkenhead.

Don't forget to keep reading this page and the Wirral News sports pages for great competitions this year.

If you are a Superwhites member, you could win the chance to be a mascot for one of the Rovers' games.

Bye for now.

Bertie Badger





1

Box Office



Next home games . . .

NORWICH CITY

Tuesday, 28th January, 7.45 kick off

READING

Saturday, 1st February, 3.00 kick off

Tickets available now for all reserved seating areas

OXFORD UNITED (Away)

Saturday, 18th January, 3.00p.m.

Executive Coaches only £13.25 adults £11.75 under 16/over 60. Coaches depart 9.30am

Match tickets available for seats and terracing. If you wish to take advantage of concessionary prices under 16/over 65 tickets must be purchased from the ticket office in advance.

There are no concessionary prices on the day. Prices £12 (£8) seats, £8.50 (£5.50) standing

F.A. CUP - Third Round

Tuesday, 14th January

7.45 p.m. Kick off



CARLISLE UNITED (Away)

Coaches depart 3.30 p.m. Executive £9.25, Standard £7.50 (£6.75 under 16/over 60)

Match Tickets: Seats available to season ticket holders and SuperWhite members only £10 (£6). Terracing available on the day £7.50 (£4.50)

Should this match require a replay it will be played on Tuesday, 21st January, 7.45 p.m. k.o.

ANYONE WHO HAD A COACH TRAVEL TICKET FOR THE ORIGINAL DATE BUT CANNOT USE IT FOR THE 14th JAN., WILL BE GIVEN A FULL REFUND AT THE TICKET OFFICE. THOSE THAT HAVE A VALID TRAVEL TICKET AND WILL BE GOING TO CARLISLE, SHOULD STILL CONTACT THE TICKET OFFICE FOR SEAT RE-ALLOCATION, GIVEN IT IS NOW ANTICIPATED FEWER COACHES WILL NOW TRAVEL

THE TOP SPORTS TEAM ON MERSEYSIDE

brings **commentaries, interviews, news, goals and results**, plus **SPORTSDESKS** each weekday at 6.15 a.m., 7.15 a.m., 8.15 a.m., 12.30 p.m., then hourly to 5.30 p.m., and the **Football Phone-In** each Saturday at 5.30 p.m. on **0151-709 9333**



95.8 FM

IT'S SOUND!



**Coming Here...
NORWICH/CARLISLE?**

Our next opponents at Prenton Park could be any one of three clubs on two different dates, due to the postponement of our Third Round FA Cup game at Carlisle.

The best case scenario would be the visit of Sheffield Wednesday on the weekend 25/26 January for an FA Cup Fourth Round tie. This is the prize awaiting both ourselves and the Cumbrians for victory on Tuesday. Should Wednesday be the visitors it would see the return of old boy Ian Nolan who has adapted to life in the Premiership very nicely thank you, since his £1.5 million departure from Prenton Park. Others to watch out for would include Dutchman Reggie Blinker and Italian Benito Carbone.

An acceptable scenario would see Carlisle here probably on the 21st for a replay should we draw at Brunton Park on Tuesday night. The Cumbrians currently ride high in the Third Division and a swift return to



Division Two looks likely. Certainly when you look at the Carlisle squad they don't lack for experience with seasoned First Division performers such as Warren Aspinall, David Currie and Owen Archdeacon on the books.

The worst case scenario is clearly the visit of Norwich City for a Nationwide League fixture on Tuesday 28 January, as this would signify FA Cup defeat by Carlisle (if the weather does not intervene again). After a fine start to the season Norwich, like ourselves, have drifted out of the promotion frame during December on the back of successive away defeats at Huddersfield (0-2), West Brom (1-5), Port Vale (1-6) and QPR (2-3). Manager Mike Walker clearly has a job on his hands to try and arrest this frail away form. Let's

hope he has not found any answers by the 28th.

So there you have it. Someone will play at Prenton Park in late January and at the moment that is as clear as the picture gets.

Then again, with all the snow we have had recently...!

Getting There...

The Manor Ground, Oxford

LOCAL DIRECTIONS: Leave M40 at junction 9 taking the A34 for 8 miles then join the A420 to Headington. The Manor Ground is to the right after about 2 miles.

Getting There...

CARLISLE

Easy! Head north on the M6 to Junction 43. Leave motorway following signs to Carlisle (A69) into Warwick Road for the ground on your right. Ground capacity these days is 10,925; 17,300 if they've finished the new stand

Allen Price

**PERFECT FOR TAKING
FAR-FLUNG CORNERS**



THE NEW OMEGA TOURER

Lookers

2.5 V6 24v
£21,565 ON THE ROAD

The new Omega Tourer covers any distance with ease, carrying you, your passengers and luggage in superb comfort with pace and style. It's a subtle combination of supreme comfort and estate car practicality with impressive sporting credentials.

Specified to a very high level, it makes any journey a pleasure. Choose it with either 2.0 110v or 2.5 V6 power - the price is the same.

We think you'll be carried away by it. Call us today to find out more.

- 16in. alloy wheels
- Rear spoiler with high-level brake light
- Full air conditioning
- Dual, full-size airbags
- Trip computer
- Electric, programmable glass sunroof
- Electronic anti lock braking
- Multi link rear suspension



6 Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead, Wirral L41 2UF

☎ 0151-200 9000





■ Nightfreight, main match sponsors for the game against Wolves in December chose Alan Mahon as their Man of the Match. Chairman Frank Corfe is pictured above with Nightfreight employees and guests



■ Alan also received the award in the Prenton Suite and following his presentation, Director John Holsgrove presented MR Engineering with their memento



■ Mascots and Ball Sponsor, Bromborough Car Sales line up before kick off with match officials.



■ Alan Mahon receives another bottle – this time from the Tranmere Suite. Keith Vivien of DRB Fluid Power Transmission presents the award.



■ In the Dixie Dean, the vote was also for Alan and was presented by Philip Davies who is pictured above with lounge members.



■ Pictured receiving a cheque for £822.50 is Equaliser winner Mr. Bill Wallace who was seated in the Main Stand at the Wolves match.

Prenton People

■ Yet another team who have purchased their kit from our club shop is Wallasey Cubs, pictured right with leader Colin Jones. For details of how you can get your team photograph taken on the pitch and to find out how you can purchase a quality kit at a competitive price, call our club shop on 0151 608 0438



New signing Kevin McIntyre was first spotted by Tranmere's scouts as a dashing left winger playing Sunday football in Liverpool.

So it shouldn't be a surprise to discover that Kevin's soccer hero is a player who also operated on the left wing – John Barnes of Liverpool.

Barnes did the job so successfully with Watford and Liverpool that he built an international career yielding 79 caps for England.

In recent years Barnes has adjusted his game to play a deeper and more central role with Liverpool.

Kevin meanwhile, had to adjust to a slightly different role shortly before he graduated from youth trainee to full time professional at Tranmere in



November.

Tranmere are now using Kevin as a left wing-back in the Alan Rogers mould and he has been turning in some encouraging performances in the reserves.

The 19-year-old from Netherley hopes his career can take off now after more than a year of frustration caused by a broken bone in his foot that refused to heal.

Kevin began dreaming of becoming a professional footballer from the moment he first saw John Barnes play.

Recalls Kevin: "My dad took me to Anfield to watch Liverpool when I was a youngster and John Barnes just stood out as far as I was concerned.

"Perhaps it was because he played on the left wing like me. But what a player he was. A buzz would go around the ground when he got the ball.

"A lot of people remember a goal he scored for England against Brazil in Rio. It was the sort of goal you expect

Kevin McIntyre

Born: Liverpool 23-12-77

Height 6ft

Weight 11st. 4lb.

Position:

Left wing/midfield/full back

Lives: Netherley, Liverpool

Former School: Lee Manor High

Been with Rovers: 4 years

First year as a professional

No first team appearances as yet.

Me & My Hero

Brazilian players to score, beating defender after defender on a great dribble before shooting the ball home.

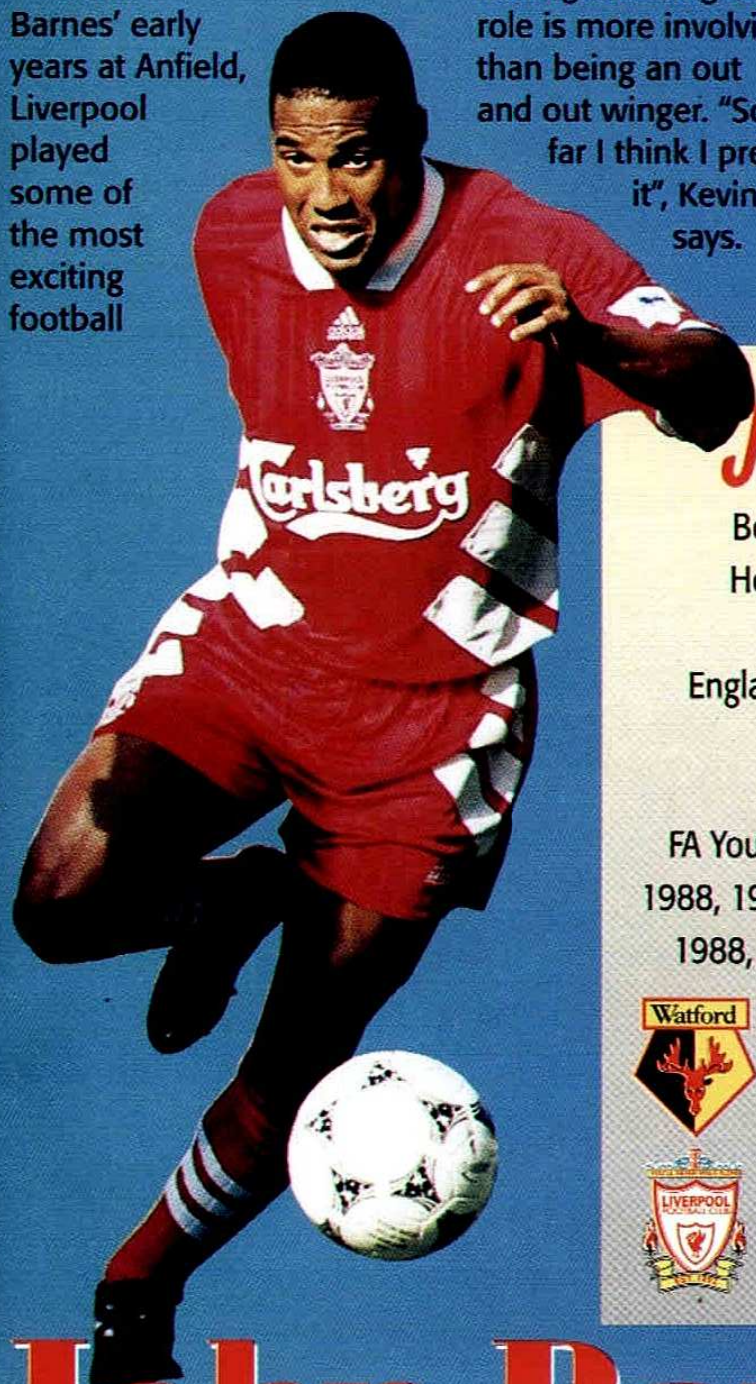
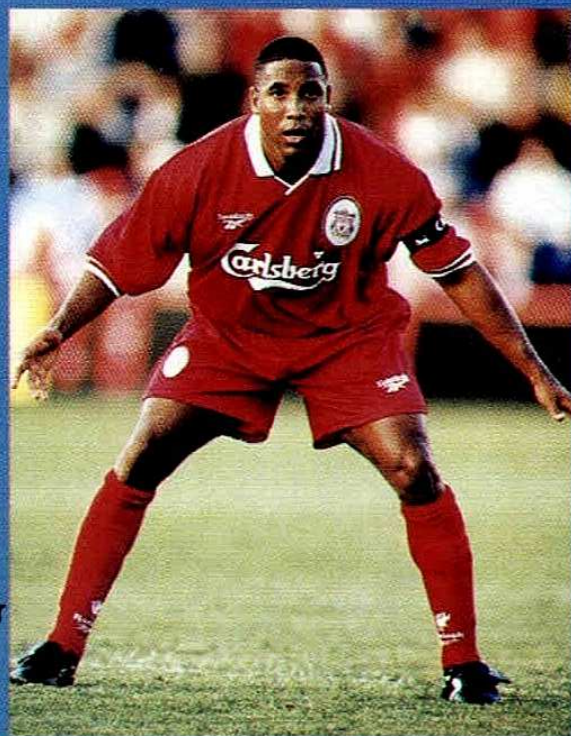
"He's scored some memorable goals for Liverpool as well, and I have been lucky enough to see them.

"In John Barnes' early years at Anfield, Liverpool played some of the most exciting football

you could wish to see.

"Now he is playing in a central role in midfield he is just as effective. In fact he is more involved in games than ever before".

Meanwhile Kevin is finding the wing-back role is more involving than being an out and out winger. "So far I think I prefer it", Kevin says.



JOHN BARNES

Born: Jamaica, West Indies, 7/11/63

Height 5ft. 10ins. Weight: 12st. 6lbs.

International Honours

England U21 3 Caps, Football League Rep.

England Full Caps – 79

Club Honours

FA Youth Cup 1982, Div. One Championships 1988, 1990. FA Cup Winners 1989, Charity Shield 1988, 1989, 1990, League Cup Winner 1995



Watford

Apps 292 (1981-1987) 83 goals



Liverpool

(transferred for £900,000)

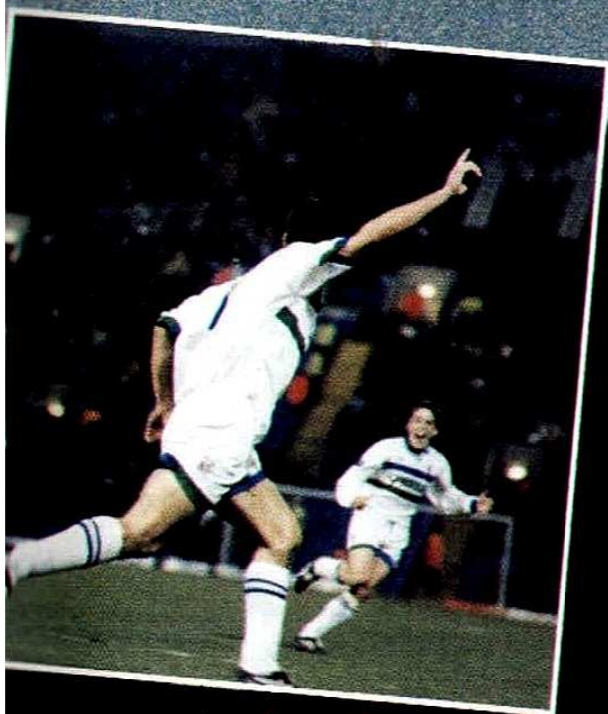
Apps 391 (1987-date) 107 goals

John Barnes

Action Stations!



DAILY POST



Main Picture
Ged Brannan's header hits a post as Rovers press for an equaliser

Far left (top):
Gary Stevens and Tony Thomas battle with Steve Corica of Wolves

Far left (bottom):
92 minutes on the clock and Ged nods in a thoroughly deserved equaliser v. Huddersfield.

Left:
Ged sets off on a Ravenelli style run towards the bench! The name is Brannan, Mr. Horton!



Swindon

TOWN



As I prepared this piece, I was a little taken aback by a missive from the editor, "let bygones be bygones". I

pondered upon this, what could he possibly mean?

Under Glenn Hoddle, the Robins had a justified reputation for playing fine football. Although the club lost some ground under the tenure of John Gorman, you can not help feeling that the drop would have occurred whoever was in charge. Perhaps Mr. Hoddle knew this?

No-one could have expected the malaise to continue and see the Wiltshire side drop further, into the murky depths of the Second Division. the sickness was soon arrested with

Swindon returning to the First Division at the first time of asking. One thing that is for certain is that it cannot be dull following the fortunes of Swindon town.

Having made a fair start to the campaign, luck seems to have deserted the side of late.

Having gone 1-0 up

against Grimsby

last month,

Town had three points

'stolen'

from their grasp when

the game was

abandoned.

What dreadful bad luck. It hurts doesn't it?!!

The least said about last Sunday's

happenings the better. Hey-ho, it

never rains but it pours. In fact with their luck of late, it

makes you wonder why they are considering establishing football's first casino at the ground.

MACCA CAN - MACCA HAS!

In his first full season in charge at the County Ground, manager Steve McMahon led Swindon to the Second Division Championship. In these parts enough is known about his exploits on the field of play. Suffice it to say, Mr. McMahon appears to have brought some of his substantial playing successes into management.

His recent choice of assistant manager is very wise. Mike Walsh performed real wonders at Bury in dreadful circumstances. It is good to see him back in league football.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERING

Having secured their place back in the Nationwide Premiership(?), Mr. McMahon lost no time in strengthening the squad. Perhaps a little surprisingly Paul Bodin (Reading) and Martin Ling (Leyton Orient) were released, along with Jamie Laidlaw (Yeovil), Gary Thorne (Gloucester) and Gary Worrall (Scarborough).

Joining the cause were ex-Red Mark Walters (Southampton, free), Scott Leitch (Hearts, £15,000), Kevin Watson (Spurs, free) and Frenchman Frederic Darras a free signing from Bastia.

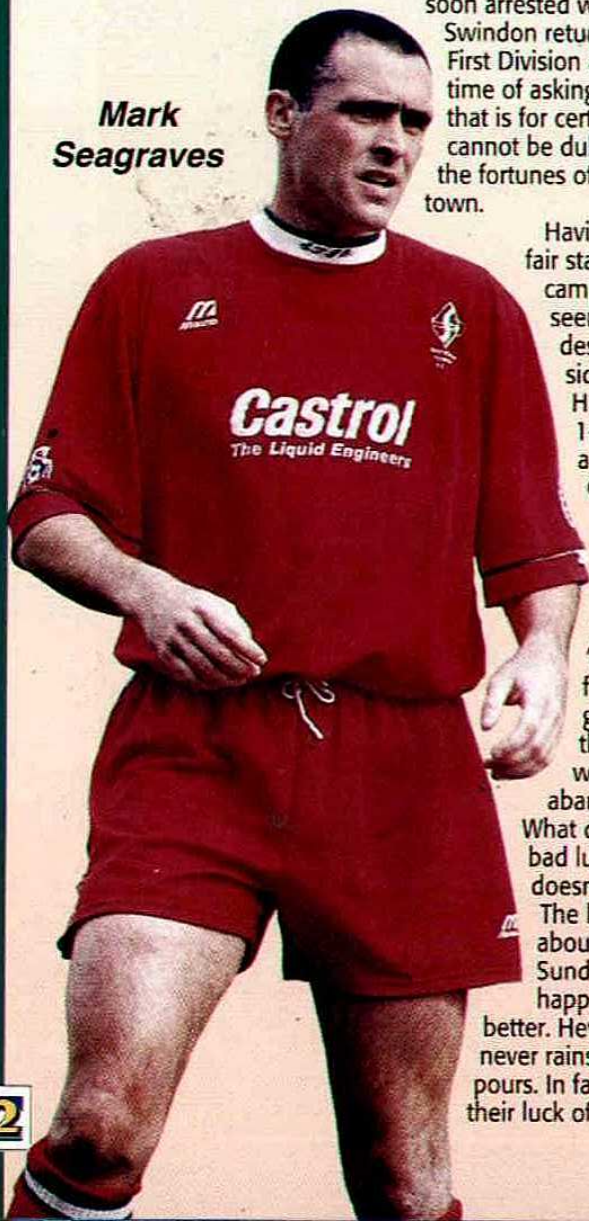
As the season got under way another surprise was to unfold when stalwart central defender, Shaun Taylor was allowed to join Bristol City for an initial fee of £50,000. This left the squad a little light at the back so it was no surprise when Gary Elkins joined the club from Wimbledon for £100,000. Since then Roger Joseph (Wimbledon, non-contract), Peter Holcroft (Everton, free) and former County Ground favourite, David Kerlake (Spurs, loan) have joined the club.

IN THE RED CORNER . . .

In the fixture at the County Ground, Aussie, Frank Talia had been preferred in the number one jersey. However a back injury last month is likely to prevent his appearing tonight. As a result Fraser Digby has the opportunity to make the multi-coloured shirt his own. The Swindon pen pictures describe him as a "tall elegant stylist". I do not know about his prowess as a hairdresser, but he is a very good 'keeper.

For the first 50 seconds of last Sunday's game, Swindon employed a back five, favouring the "wing backs" so popular in today's game. On the right, Mark Robinson was something of a capture from Newcastle nearly four years ago, even at £600,000. On the left, the performances

Mark Seagraves



The Away Team with Allen Price



Back row: Peter Thorne, Wayne Allison, Fraser Digby, Steve Mildenhall, Frank Talia, Shaun Taylor, Kevin Watson, Kevin Horlock. Middle row: Jonathan Trigg (Physio), Lee Collins, Mark Robinson, Edwin Murray, Steve Finney, Mark Seagraves, Mark Walters, Ty Gooden, Frederic Darras, Dean Hooper, Steve Cowe, Ross Maclaren (Reserve Team Coach), Front row: Scott Leitch, Ian Culverhouse, Jason Drysdale, Andy Rowland (First Team Coach), Steve McMahon (Manager), Paul Allen, Alex Smith, Wayne O'Sullivan.

of Kevin Horlock have earned him a place in the Northern Ireland squad and probably explains how Swindon could release the aforementioned Bodin.

The three centre backs are likely to be Mark Seagraves, once of Liverpool, Norwich, Manchester City and Bolton who was greatly favoured by our own John King. Having had an easier New Year than some both Ian Culverhouse and Gary Elkins should be raring to go. If the manager feels they lack match practice, Kevin Watson and Jason Drysdale will hope for the call although Darras is still out with badly bruised ribs.

Again, because of local connections, Mark Walters should need no introduction. He was 'instrumental' in winning Swindon a penalty against us at the County Ground. Scott Leitch had seen service with Motherwell, Dunfermline and Hearts before choosing to ply his trade south of the border. Another Scot, Lee Collins, is rapidly making a name for himself in midfield. No wonder - he was born in Bellshill just like our Mungy! Paul Allen seems to be out of favour of late, but both Wayne Sullivan and Peter Holcroft will be looking at the team sheet anxiously.



Mark Walters

Swindon have been without Peter Thorne for a while now because of an ankle injury. He may be fit for selection tonight however. If not, expect Steve Cowe and Wayne Allison to continue up front. Cowe joined the club following a successful loan period from Aston Villa. Allison is a seasoned campaigner who has seen service with Halifax, Watford and Bristol City.

HONOURS BOARD

Division Two Champions 1995-96
 Division four Champions 1985-86
 Football League Cup Winners 1968-69
 Anglo-Italian Cup Winners 1970

CLUB RECORDS

Founded:

1879

Ground Capacity:

15,728

Record Attendance:

32,000 v. Arsenal 1972

Record Victory:

9-1 v. Luton 1921

Record Defeat:

0-9 v. Torquay 1952

Record Transfer Paid:

£850,000 to West Ham for Joey Beauchamp

Record Transfer received:

£1.3m from Boro' for Jan Aage Fjortoft

Most Appearances:

John Trollope 889

Most Goals in a Season:

Harry Morris 48 (1926-27)

Most Goals in a career:

Harry Morris 230 (1926-33)

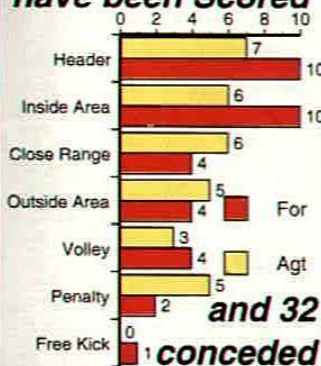
Most capped player:

Rod Thomas (Wales) 30

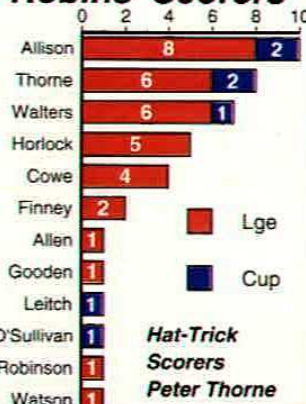
Highest ever League position:

22nd in Premiership 1993-94

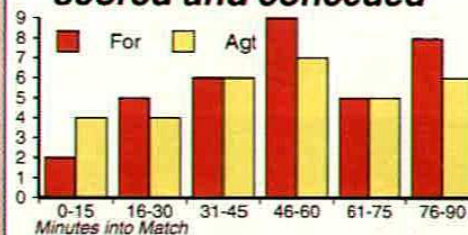
How 35 Goals have been Scored



Robins' Scorers



When Swindon have scored and conceded



The Away Team

You can always tell a new year – it is the time for the third round of the FA Cup and sometimes the sound of fallen giants moaning round the country accompanies the calendar's favourite football feast.

But then again you can usually tell when Valentine's Day is upon us and sometimes even Easter, it is the time for the rescheduled third round matches to be played and then there's more moaning from the giants because they have twenty games to play in four minutes ...

Is this time to bring in a mid-season break – an official one that is, because Mother Nature usually gives us one anyway. As a football watcher I don't come from the Les Parry School of Winter Comfort, wear as little as possible and if the match is rubbish then count the goosepimples on your flesh to pass the time.

Watching football when you are freezing cold is hard but even harder if there is nothing on the pitch to warm you up. I for one will envy Rugby League fans for their balmy summer months of watching their sport...

Well some of the third round matches have been played and so we know the draw for the next round and if we get past Carlisle, who are in-form, then we have the chance to make some giants moan ourselves. Sheff Wed at home in the Cup and the return of "Zip" Nolan. A great draw, a Premiership side equals big crowd and Sheff Wed are a team that we might fancy our chances against.

And talking of moaning giants, they do though don't they though. With their poncey ways and their half time tea served in bone china mugs, they hate playing the minnows and even when they win they have a little moan. Here are some examples:

Harry Redknapp moaning about the pitch at Wrexham, where's his nostalgia – it's Orange Ball time, hurrah and so what if the only reason the game was played was because the TV cameras were there – it was the same for both sides. Well done the chaps at the Racecourse Ground.

Craig Hignett, Boro midfielder, who complains bitterly to the ref for giving Chester a penalty despite the fact they are 5-0 up. Don't you remember where you came from lad?

And Souness, the hard man of togga, complaining that the ground was too hard.

No moaning from the Beeb though – Footy Focus ran previews of games that weren't even going to be played – nice one and on the old ball, so to speak.

The up shot of the weekend's cup drama is that two of the national broadsheets named three non-Premiership players in their respective teams of the week which is excellent if a little surprising – in the sense that a lot of these writers are footy snobs themselves.

The weekend's results and subsequent draw also means that there will be at least five non-Premiership sides in the last 16 which complements the last eight of the Coca Cola Cup draw, Stockport, Ipswich and Bolton being the Nationwide reps.

This time of year also means of course that some of the players get their Christmas gloves out, it won't be long

before some of them, probably those at Middlesbrough, will take to the pitch with woolly hats (Emerson doesn't need one though) or fleece lined shirts, possibly even sponsored duvets. You may scoff but who knows these days, eh, who rightly knows?

Another classic, just to finish off flogging this horse that is already in the back of the truck on the way to the glue factory, is the response of the Nottingham Forest fans to their 3-0 defeat of Ipswich. They sang Sack the Board – I love it, mind you the sooner the board is sorted out of course the sooner Stuart Pearce can fashion a side in his own image – hope they take their time then.

And the two quotes of the week, first from Grimsby manager Kenny Swain who said that the FA Cup was the icing on the cake, trouble is after a 7-1 defeat they have no cake, and second Alex Ferguson saying that Roy Keane was on a planet above everyone else in their match. Surely he meant a plankton below everyone else? Guess we'll never know – we might if he bothered finishing a sentence now and then.

Well transfers and their rumours – here's some of them and if I've missed a few I'm sorry but it's hard to keep on top of them over Christmas when you've had a few.

Frank Clark takes charge of his first Man City game this weekend and is about to increase Franny Lee's debts if you believe the papers; he's after Paul Warhurst (£1.5m), Chelsea's Erland Johnsen (£500,000) and Lee Clark from Newcastle in a cash plus player swap involving Georgi Kinkladze.

Meanwhile Blackburn are due to sign Alex Citko, striker for Polish side Lodz, for £4m and Napoli keeper Pino Tagliatelli for the same amount but they'll probably make a meal of it, Ha!

And according to a couple of other papers Miguel Angel Nadal will move to Middlesbrough if his wife likes Teesside, he'll be staying put then. Although Mirko Taccola of Napoli has already gone to Teesside for a trial – wonder what he did?

Meanwhile Ray Wilkins has left Hibs after the Edinburgh's side 2-1 defeat against Rangers. In four months there he played under three managers including a one Jocky Scott! He's now signed for Millwall. Everton are to table a £2m bid for Forests Alf Inge Haaland. Sunderland are to sign Swedish international Jan Eriksson for £250,000 and Gillingham have agreed £250,000 for Norwich striker Ade Akinbiyi, while Norwich have taken Everton defender Neil Moore on loan.

Meanwhile Sam Allardyce the former Blackpool manager has emerged as favourite for the Notts County job after Colin Murphy and Steve Thompson were sacked last month.



Frank Clark

Around the Leagues with Jonathan Caswell

Nationwide

The **LES PARRY** Rub Down!

A Happy New Year to everybody. I hope you had a good break even though the weather hasn't been too hot. You can tell when it's months since there was any sun by looking at the size of the queue of players outside Ray Mathias's house waiting to use his sunbed.

It feels like ages since I last wrote a column so it may take me some time to get into it. Even though we haven't had many games lately, it has been quite busy on the injury front, especially with goalkeepers. It all started two weeks ago when Eric Nixon went into Murrayfield to get his knee cleaned out. At that time most of the players were made up because we would be able to travel on the coach all through Christmas without Eric's personal habits making the trip feel like a cattle truck on it's way to the slaughter house. Then we had to go and play West Brom! It wasn't even a dirty game but we ended up losing Danny and Liam O'Brien and had Tony Thomas, Ged Brannan and Alan Mahon limping around for most of the match. I should have known what sort of day it was going to be when Alan Rogers and Kenny Irons phoned in that morning with Flu.

Danny was flattened by a Tony Thomas thigh in the first 20 seconds as Tony went to clear the ball. I can't help but think that, if Danny hadn't used that fake tan cream and if the ball wasn't orange, it wouldn't have happened. Anyway, Danny damaged his neck in that collision but stayed on. Then we had to stretcher Ged off as he thought he had broken his leg. I wondered why he asked me for a comb as we carried him off, then I noticed one of the bearers was a young girl. Just as I was seeing Ged, Danny took an elbow to his head and was lying face down in the middle of the area. I couldn't believe it, the ref just let play carry on. When is the last time a goalkeeper faked an injury when the ball is pinging around his area? We thought that Danny had broken his neck so we

stretchered him off and took him straight to hospital for X-rays. Danny has just got a severe whiplash injury but unfortunately never to the other players registration number so won't be able to claim compensation. He can't turn his head from side to side only up and down. He has also lost his voice which is happy birthday for Wanda, his girlfriend. He has to answer her questions with his head movements but as he can only nod she has been having the time of her life, the poor lad has lost two stone in the past week, at least he'll be fit when he comes back.

Danny will probably be out for at least four or five weeks so it's important that Eric Nixon gets back and Simmo stays injury free. Eric may be available for tonight, he has done really well to come back in what will be exactly two weeks.

Ged has recovered from his leg injury and Alan Mahon from his concussion, he must have been bad, when I got to him on the pitch he was reciting Shakespeare and talking about algebra and geometry. Liam's shin had to be stitched after the game with about 26 stitches, he's back training now and will be available for tonight.

Those not available for tonight are Andy Thorn who is back in the Reserves and needs more games for his fitness, Gary Jones who will be back training with Kevin on Monday and Ivano Bonetti who has a back problem, we can't get him back training! Ivano came to Europa Pools with us yesterday, there can't be many Italians who can't swim, he made a show of us all by wearing water wings and arm bands. Ivano will start training on Monday and play for the Reserves next week.

Young Gary Scott has made a brilliant recovery from quite a serious ankle operation. He is running now

and I may let him start training with Kevin on Monday. If all of these injured players do start training on Monday Kevin won't know what has hit him, he's used to dealing with 10 and 12 players, the extra 5 will be a good test of his coaching skills. On second thoughts I had better keep hold of half of them, we've run out of valium.

That's all I've got room for so I'll have to leave it there.

Hoping there is nothing to report next time.

Les Parry

TECH / LITHO

Quality Colour Printers

Printers of the Award Winning
T.R.F.C. Programme 1995/96

2 Lipton Close, Brasenose Road Industrial Park,
Liverpool L20 8PU

Tel: 0151-922 5999 Fax: 0151-922 4448

when healthcare is your number one

Oi, ref! You need glasses!

May we respectfully draw your attention to

Medicash's optical grants.

With the right spectacles and a grant towards your eye test I

think you would have seen that he was offside!

We've got it covered.

Medicash

Hand in hand with the N.H.S.

7 Sir Thomas Street • Liverpool L1 6HE
Telephone: 0151-236 7051

For up-to-date Tranmere Information,
Ring **ROVERS CLUBCALL** on **0891-12-16-45**



priority - join a winning team

Superwhite Army

On The Road

BARNSELY (1) 3
Hendrie 17, Wilkinson 65, Redfeam 89 (pen)

TRANMERE ROVERS (0) 0
Saturday, 14th December, 1996
Oakwell

TRANMERE ROVERS F.C.



ClubCall

0891 121 646

News, updates & match commentaries

ClubCall "For the facts, not the fiction"

Calls cost 39p/min cheap, 49p/min at all other times.
 ClubCall, 197 Knightsbridge House, London SW7 1RS. Prices correct 1-8-96

 Metropolitan Borough of Wirral Engineers Department

40

KILL YOUR SPEED.

30

NOT A CHILD.

20

WIRRAL ROAD SAFETY UNIT

Town Hall, Birkenhead.

For full details of services available, please telephone

0151-666 4004



EuroWirral

Attendance: 8,513

Journey: 2 Video Journey

Mileage: Prenton Park to Oakwell 80 miles x 2 = 160 miles.

Mileage so far this season: 3,384 miles.

Ground: Best Features: Considerably neater than last season. Very impressive two stands, especially one major stand that can be seen for miles around. Very good disabled facilities. Worst Features: One very old stand – a case of the ground being the good the bad and the ugly. Low roof, wooden stand, one female toilet, a terrace with seats bolted on – guess where they put the away fans?

Previous matches there: A 3-1 defeat there last season – but most people will remember the 2-2 when Shaun Garnett was sent off then later found not guilty and didn't have to serve his ban.

Facts on Barnsley: Very, very cold. One of the few grounds you can see a colliery head from the stand. Their next home match will be a £5 for everyone – wonder where they got that idea?

Mascot: A man jumping around in a suit – I don't know what animal it was meant to be though!

Home crowd: For the numbers very quiet – sing when they're winning types.

Best chant: "Stand up if you hate Sheffield" was about the most original.

Away end/view: Along one side of the pitch but plenty of posts to get in the way and a low roof. Very poor standard of facilities i.e. none! Wait until you see how much they charged.

Distance from coach/car park: Not bad but down a muddy car park again – another £10.

Away crowd/No.: Approx. 750. Loud, but deserved a medal for the facilities, or lack of them – and the cold. Also contained a coach of Irish fans who had made the trip over.

Ratio of away to home supporters: 750:7763 = 1:10

Police/Officials: OK, Stewards were helpful. Apparently there was a Barnsley PR man asking where they could improve the facilities ... well having some for a start might help.

Admission: Wait for it! ... £12.50 **Programme:** £1.50.

Not Very Hot Chocolate: 75p. **Burger/Hot Dog** £1.90

Toilets (Male): A grid – no roof, against a wall kind of job.

Toilets (Female): 1 toilet that looked like a shed at the bottom of the garden – no hand bowl.

Rovers Performance: Apart from a few hard working performances again made some passes but seemed lacking in ideas and never really threatened a goal with only one clear cut chance.

MOTM: Alan Mahon (Coach One)

Home teams performance: Good passing moves, fast on the break, but again not as good as I expected. Took their two goals well but were fortunate to get a last minute penalty after a clean tackle by Ged Brannan.

MOTM: Bosancic – even though he got booked for diving.

Referee: R. Pearson (Peterlee). Strong referee in the first half against the home crowd, but spoilt a good performance by giving the penalty. First year on League list and we have now had him twice already.

Lasting memories of the day: The Irish fans and the police horses. The very cold wind..

Return fixture: 15th March, 1997

The Sixties Revisited

By Chris Metcalfe

Thanks to their one hundred per cent home record Rovers were second only to Bradford Park Avenue by the time they took on Lincoln City at Prenton in the first round of the FA Cup.

Prior to this match Russell had made another bold excursion into the transfer market when he obtained the services of former England

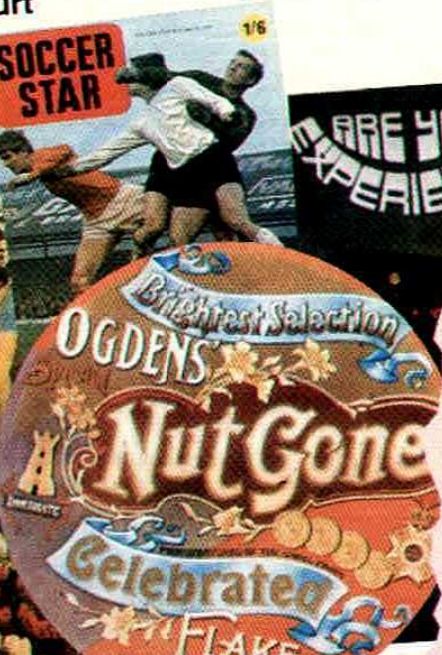
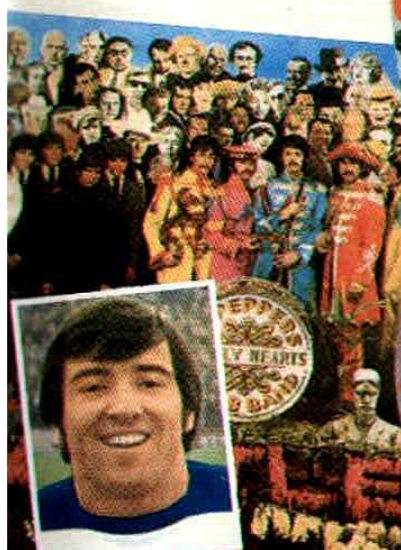


Alan A'Court

international left winger Alan A'Court from Liverpool for a "substantial" fee. A'Court replaced the relatively disappointing Jimmy Weir at Stockport and I was among those at Edgeley Park to see Rovers arrest their indifferent away from with a 3-2 win.

Almost inevitably Rovers produced an uninspired performance in the Lincoln Cup tie, with several players, notably Manning looking jaded.

They also failed to score at Sincil Bank in the replay and succumbed by the only goal in the match. I wasn't particularly concerned as I was, by this point, convinced of their ability to gain promotion.



In January & February 1965...

- Winston Churchill gets a state funeral after dying at the age of 90.
- Beatle Ringo Starr gets married to Maureen Cox.
- Stan Laurel dies.
- Lyndon Johnson becomes USA's 36th President.
- Crimplene clothes are all the rage!



Nationwide

FOOTBALL LEAGUE



The League Sponsors

Nationwide and The Football League – A winning team –

Nationwide Building Society is delighted to be sponsoring The Football League and is proud to be associated with the national game. Millions of people around the country enjoy League games, with an increasing number of families attending matches.

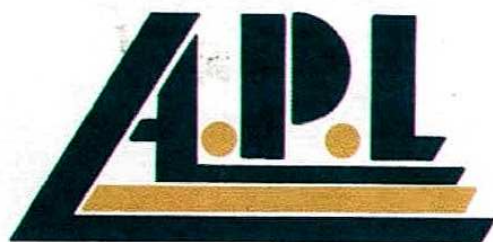
Similarly, Nationwide has a relationship with many households in the UK – around one in four. It looks after the financial needs of over seven million people and is the UK's largest building society intending to remain customer owned, committed to putting customers first.

Nationwide is an organisation with strong roots in the community and we are always looking for new ways to promote awareness of the benefits we can offer and to strengthen relationships with customers even further. With 72 league

clubs and 630 Nationwide branches throughout England and Wales, we are looking forward to working with The League and its member clubs to support community initiatives and forge even closer links with local people. Wherever you find a football team you'll find a Nationwide team.

Nationwide's philosophy is to be "in tune with people", and we believe that the help we can give in investing in football's future will further demonstrate this and underline our general commitment to meeting customers' needs.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish your club a successful season.



Aquafoam Plastics Limited

Distributor of Plastics to the Building & Industry Sector

call now on:

0151 346 1313

EXECUTIVE COACHES



49 SEAT EXECUTIVE SINGLE DECK & 73 SEAT EXECUTIVE DOUBLE DECK VEHICLES

SERVING THE NORTH WEST

SELWYNS

WE SPECIALISE IN EXECUTIVE COACHES OFFERING THE COMPLETE SERVICE & ON-BOARD FACILITIES.

- Toilet/Washroom.
- Videos, Hi-Fi etc.
- Hot/Cold Refreshments
- Reclining Seats
- Stewardess Service
- Hot/Cold Meals
- Bar etc (On Request)

Our U.K. & Continental Tour Package Service includes arrangements for Hotels, Ferries, Special Events etc.

Please Contact our Groups Department on

RUNCORN (01928) 564515

Head Office: Cavendish Farm Road, Weston, Runcorn.

Happy New Year to all our members past and present, and let's hope the results continue as they started at West Brom on New Years Day – which was a brilliant result considering the injury to Danny Coyne. Well done to Higgy who didn't let the team down.

We would like to welcome any Junior Robins who have made the long journey to Prenton Park, we hope you enjoy the match and have a safe journey home.

A meeting date for January has not yet been set due to so many Reserve matches and rearranged cup games but as soon as it is we will let you all know in the sports pages of the Wirral Globe – so keep a look out each week for up-to-date details.

Don't forget the kennel on matchdays where you can stock up on sweets and drinks for the match, keep up to date on all Prenton Pups' activities and buy some souvenirs, our latest editions are"

Torches £1; Pads 40p; Pens 40p; Erasers 30p.

We also have a competition at each home game, the winner against Wolves was Garry Baldwin of Prenton who guessed 9,627 and was the nearest in that weeks Guess the Gate competition.

Your Prenton Pups membership card gets you into all home Pontins League matches and with four games coming up don't forget to come along and support the Reserves. Manchester United is on 22nd January so that should be a good one.

Christmas time saw quite a few new born babies registered – we had Joshua Brown from Bebington at one day old and on 19th December at 3.32 pm Michael Sean Fisher's granddad rushed into reception at Tranmere out of breath and was delighted to register his grandson, who at that moment was 16 minutes old, he was quite upset because he had lost 2 minutes because he had gone to the shop first. What is even more amazing is that Michael was born in West Germany. Well done Granddad – maybe if you're reading you could let us have a photograph for the programme.

Meet Kailey Rose Williams (pictured top right), she is another young member who lives in Canada with her parents Sue and Billy who have been there for the past 8 years but still love to hear about Tranmere and how they are getting on. Kailey was registered by her cousin Sarah Grant from Rock Ferry.

Happy Birthday to Billy Baily who celebrates today.

Let's hope we can beat Carlisle next week and any Prenton Pups who are travelling make sure you really get behind the



lads and give them the support they need.

Alan Beedles



WIRRAL
Globe



We're proud to sponsor Rovers' Official Club for Youngsters

Main Match
Prenton Suite
Match Ball

Lever Brothers Limited
Port Sunlight



caring for the community



BASS NORTH WEST
ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
TRANMERE ROVERS



Thanks
to our Sponsors

Media Suite

DAIKIN

*"The Top Team for
Environmental
Services"*



- AIR CONDITIONING •
 - HEATING • VENTILATION •
- 0151-357 1121



Medicash



EXCITING NEW BENEFITS FROM £1.50 Per Week
7 Sir Thomas Street, Liverpool, L61 6HE
Tel: 0151 236 7051

Matchday
Music
Supplied
by



First Aid
Cover at
Prenton
Park is
provided
by



**British
Red
Cross**
Merseyside Branch

Disabled
Enclosure
Sponsor



Medicash

CANCEL CHRISTMAS!

A COUPLE of years back Dave Bassett, then in charge at Sheffield United, organised the clubs' Christmas Party for August after saying: "We're always crap until after Christmas, so I thought we'd get it out of the way early and hopefully we'll have a better season!"

Such a stunt made little impression on the Blades' players; they got relegated anyway, but when you look at the way Rovers have fared over the past six or seven seasons, you can sympathise with his view that Christmas should be a moveable feast!

Management, supporters, and the players themselves, would love to know just why the Rovers undergo an apparent metamorphosis from confident promotion seekers to nervous wrecks inside a few weeks, either side of Christmas - and that despite the fact we have traditionally enjoyed a home match on Boxing Day with a packed house.

Back in 1989-90 season, it all started to go wrong with a 4-2 home defeat by Bury on December 2nd which was followed by draws against Chester and Preston. On December 30, we went down 0-2 at Bristol Rovers and the following week 1-3 at Bolton.

The following campaign, Rovers registered just one victory in December with defeats by Bolton (again!) Scunthorpe in the Cup and Cambridge, with draws against Reading and Rotherham. Only Birmingham were vanquished 1-0 on December 21st, before Tony Thomas' goal after 7.7 seconds changed our fortunes on New Year day and set us up for a 3-1 defeat of Southend.

In 1991-92, Rovers celebrated Christmas with a Boxing Day victory over Sunderland by a single goal, but there after it was all down hill. Two days later John Aldridge was sent off along with Paul Fletcher, in a frustrating 1-1 home draw with Grimsby and after a no score draw at Watford, defeats at Oxford, in the FA Cup, and Bristol Rovers followed.

In the three successive seasons we reached the Division One play-offs between 1992-3 and 1994-5, our form up to the Christmas period was always good, but the sound of jingle bells and Christmas party poppers brought us tumbling down the league table.

In 1992-3 rovers had the chance to go top over the festive period but drew 1-1 against Millwall. Five games without a win thereafter, and injury to John Aldridge, saw us plummet to 6th by February on the back of humiliating defeats such as the 1-5 thrashing at Notts County.

Though we recovered in March and April, the damage had been done and once again we had to settle for a play-off place when automatic promotion was in our sights.

The same scenario was re-enacted 12 months later. On December 19th, Palace won 1-0 at Prenton Park, and though we beat Watford 2-1 on New Years Day, our challenge collapsed around our ears in the next few weeks, though strangely, the only chink of light came as we progressed to the Coca Cola Cup semi-finals with a replay success over Nottingham Forest. Draws against Wolves and Middlesbrough plus defeats at Derby (0-4), Oxford (0-2), Forest (1-2) and Bolton (1-2) and Bristol City (0-2) saw us tumble from second position over Christmas to 7th by the end of January.

Once again, the ship was steadied, and Rovers came strongly towards the end of the season, but the disappointment of the narrow Aston Villa defeat in the Coca Cola semi seemed to knock the heart out of the team, and the play-off was lost to Leicester.

Christmas and New Year 1994-5 may have brought welcome home victories against Derby County (3-1) and Bristol City (2-0), but other than that the whole festive period told a familiar story. Notts County, Swindon, Stoke, Bolton and Port Vale all took points off us, as our form nose-dived without the injured Aldo.

However that season, we were lucky that others were equally inconsistent and somehow we maintained our play-off position of fourth.

The only saving grace from Rovers' traditional Christmas failings was that we usually got our act together by March and April to clinch a Play-Off place but last season the slide was irreversible and by April had cost John King his job as we hovered near the relegation zone.

Only a vital 2-0 victory over Oldham on Boxing Day brightened the gloom of a December and January nightmare which saw defeats by Luton, Portsmouth, Watford, Birmingham, Reading, QPR and Wolves with just one point at Bramhall Lane.

But for Ged Brannan's late, late goal against Huddersfield on Boxing Day you suspect 1996-7 may have followed the usual pattern coming as it did on the back of four straight December reversals. Hopefully, the victory engineered by Higgy and the boss at West Brom will have broken the mould that has been cast over the past seven years.

So what can be done to change things? Firstly, you have to recognise there IS a problem. Secondly, change the Christmas routine in some way. And if all else fails, we'll have to cancel Christmas! Think about it. One half decent return over the Christmas-New Year period in the last five years would have surely seen us promoted ...

Tranmere Topic



BROMBOROUGH PAINTS AND BUILDING SUPPLIES LTD

THE BUILDER'S MERCHANT

Suppliers of building materials to the trade and DIY. Stockists of plasters, plasterboards, sand, concrete, bricks, blocks, fence panels and posts, insulation, garage doors, bathroom suites, tiles, guttering.... and a newly opened timber department!

BUILDING MATERIALS DEPOT AND SHOWROOM AT:

**Bridle Road Eastham.
Telephone: 051-327 5661**

AND MORE

THE DECORATOR'S MERCHANT

The largest independent paints merchant in the North with daily deliveries from Mid Wales to Southern Scotland. Over 10,000 colours available from stock plus all the famous woodcare names. 2,000 wallcoverings in stock with 20,000 more available on 24hr delivery.

TRADE COUNTER & SHOWROOM AT

**Village Road, Bromborough
Telephone: 0151-334 1237**

BEST PRODUCTS BEST SERVICE



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Reading 2. Terry Phelan 3. Everton 4. Matthias Sammer 5. Ronnie Taylor 6. John Morrissey 7. Aston Villa 8. Coventry (1987) 9. John Gorman 10. Wrexham (v. West Ham).

For up-to-date Tranmere Information,
Ring **ROVERS CLUBCALL** on **0991-12 16 46**



Player Sponsorship

Interested in sponsoring a player for the season?

Main Sponsorship: **£200**

Boot Sponsorship: **£50**

Contact Eddie Reid
Tranmere Rovers
Commercial Department
on

0151 608 0371
for details

John ALDRIDGE
Sponsored by
Felton Design
Telephone
0151-644 6844 
Boot Sponsor: James Heaney & Co Ltd 608 2603

Gary JONES
Sponsored by
ARGYLE TAXIS
Telephone
0151
647 5454
Boot Sponsor: Gail Challinor

Graham BRANCH
Sponsored by
Pensby High School for Boys
Tel: 0151 648 2111 
Boot Sponsor: Haste Transport

Tony THOMAS
Sponsored by
DOOR STORE
CHESTER
01244 677700 
Boot Sponsor: Crown and Cushion on Tour

Ged BRANNAN
Sponsored by
EAVESWAY Ashton in
Makerfield
01942
271234
Official Coach suppliers
to Tranmere Rovers FC
Boot Sponsor: A2B Coaches - 609 0600

John MCGREAL
Sponsored by
Specter & Grant Solicitors
0151 647 3000 
Boot Sponsor: Sean Buckenham

Dave CHALLINOR
Sponsored by
ST PETERS ART GALLERY Nicholas St
Chester
01244
345500
Boot Sponsor:

Alan MAHON
Sponsored by
MARTIN FREEL STOCKTAKERS Telephone
0151
608 7727
Boot Sponsor: Lyndsey & Leanne Jones

Paul COOK
Sponsored by
HEATON STATIONERY LTD Telephone
0151
632 3134
Station Rd, Hoylake
Boot Sponsor: Marion Boden

Ian MOORE
Sponsored by
DOOR STORE
ELLESMERE PORT
0151 357 3141 
Boot Sponsor: Doorstore 357 3141

Danny COYNE
Sponsored by
Freshwater Ltd Specialists in Domestic Filtration
Telephone: 0151-606 0808 
Boot Sponsor: Clair Potter

Alan MORGAN
Sponsored by
DOOR STORE
BIRKENHEAD
0151 638 6663 
Boot Sponsor: Alex Bozman

Dave HIGGINS
Sponsored by
HASTE TRANSPORT Telephone
01244
382709
Boot Sponsor: Les & Denise Sands

Johnny MORRISSEY
Sponsored by
J. Mallinson (Ormskirk) Ltd Pitch Construction
Contractors to Tranmere Rovers 
Boot Sponsor: Ann Potter

Kenny IRONS
Sponsored by
Supplying Quality to the Retailer Tel: 01244 543454 
Boot Sponsor: The Clipper Boys

Pat NEVIN
Sponsored by
Protec Manufacture &
Repair of Dry
Suits for all
weather sports
0151639 1390
Boot Sponsor: Jenny Lightfoot

Liam O'BRIEN



is sponsored by



**BACCO'S
BAR & BISTRO**
1a Hamilton Street,
Birkenhead

NOW OPEN 11am TILL 11pm MON-SAT
12-10.30pm Sundays

Bacco's Bar & Bistro is Birkenhead's newest Continental Style Bar, serving an extensive range of Beers, Lagers and Wines.

We also offer a substantial Bar Menu between 11am and 3pm

Liam O'BRIEN FACTFILE

Place of birth..... Dublin
Date of birth..... 5/9/64
Birthsign..... Virgo
Joined Tranmere..... Jan 1994
Tranmere Debut..... v. Bolton (23/1/94)
Previous Clubs..... Man. Utd., Newcastle
Team followed as youngster..... Leeds
Marital status..... Married, 3 children
Most memorable match..... International Debut
Biggest disappointment..... Injuries
Professional ambition..... To be successful

Boots are Sponsored by
COPYFAX SERVICES



Andy THORN

Sponsored by



TEA & COFFEE MERCHANTS

Telephone
**0151
709 4004**

Boot Sponsor: **Allen Price**



Eric NIXON

Sponsored by

PENINSULAR (N.W.) LTD
Building Contractors
12 Leigh Rd, New Ferry, Wirral
Tel: 0151 644 0106



Boot Sponsor: **GMS Security Tickets**



Liam O'BRIEN

Sponsored by

**BACCO'S
BAR & BISTRO**
1a Hamilton Street,
Birkenhead

Telephone
**0151
512 2404**

Boot Sponsor: **Copyfax Services 632 3182**



Alan ROGERS

Sponsored by

Sage Accounting Software
Phoenix Business
Solutions

Telephone
**0151
327 6599**

Boot Sponsor: **FTSE INTL Ltd 0171 448 1806**



Gary STEVENS

Sponsored by

**Rutland Advisory
Services - Private
Medical Insurance**

Telephone
**01572
7555520**

Boot Sponsor: **Graham Boden**



Shaun TEALE

Sponsored by

**Moreton Building &
Timber Supplies**

Telephone
**0151
678 0269**

Boot Sponsor: **Become a Blood Donor 0345 711 711**



Billy WOODS

Sponsored by

BACCO'S BAR & BISTRO
1a Hamilton Street, Birkenhead
HAPPY HOUR 5pm-7.30pm MON-FRI



Boot Sponsor: **Jenny Lightfoot**



Ivano BONETTI

Sponsored by



**WALLASEY
0151 638 6663**

Boot Sponsor: **Doorstore 638 6663**



Steve MUNGALL

Sponsored by

dobbing
INSURANCE
CONSULTANTS

Telephone
**0151
632 6183**

Boot Sponsor: **AABA S.O.M. 678 7825**



Player Sponsorship

Trust us to help football

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels - from providing kit for school teams, pitches and changing rooms for grass roots football, safety and improvement work throughout the game right up to providing vital assistance to help League clubs complete the essential task of redeveloping their grounds in line with the Taylor Report.

Over the last 20 years the Trust has received and distributed £250m from Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers Pools and Littlewoods Spot the Ball competition for the benefit of football.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing seating, and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. Every club depends on the support of the FOOTBALL TRUST and the success of the pools companies. Both are crucial for football's future.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game



LITTLEWOODS VERNONS ZETTERS
*Making sure football wins
the Pools each week*

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB

TRANMERE ROVERS. STILL LOOKING SHARP THIS SEASON.

Tranmere Rovers Football Club will be looking just as good this season.
Thanks to their exclusive Mizuno strip.



Name: **JAMES GEDMAN**

Status: **YTS**

D.O.B.: **17/9/78**

(**Liverpool**)

Height/Weight: **5ft 10ins,
10¹/₂ st**

Preferred Position:

Right Midfield

Been with Rovers since: **1994**

Most memorable match: **Tranmere v Blackburn -
"B" Team League**

Where do you live: **Knowsley Village**

Best Stadium played in: **Anfield**

Player you most admire: **Jamie Redknapp**

Who was your hero as a schoolboy: **Kenny Dalglish**

Any honours so far: **Part of 1995/96 successful
Tranmere Rovers Youth Team**



LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - "A" TEAM

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| 17th Aug | Stoke City "A" | A 1-3 |
| 24th Aug | Burnley "A" | A 3-2 (Blundell, Tynan 2) |
| 7th Sep | Preston North End "A" | A 0-1 |
| 13th Sep | Morecambe Reserves | A 1-1 (Baxter) |
| 21st Sep | Blackburn Rovers "A" | H 1-1 (Hynes) |
| 28th Sep | Wrexham "A" | A 4-2 (Lampkin, Kenworthy, Jones, Hynes) |
| 5th Oct | Bury "A" | H 2-0 (Blundell, Connolly) |
| 12th Oct | Oldham Athletic "A" | A 3-2 (Kenworthy, Hynes, Connolly) |
| 19th Oct | Liverpool "A" | H 1-1 (Blundell) |
| 26th Oct | Crewe Reserves | H 1-2 (Walker) |
| 11th Nov | Bolton "A" | H 2-0 (Walker, Crawford) |
| 9th Nov | Man United "A" | A 1-2 (Hynes) |
| 16th Nov | Burnley "A" | H 3-1 (Woods, Walker 2) |
| 23rd Nov | Everton "A" | A 1-1 (Kissock) |
| 30th Nov | Man United "A" | H 1-5 (Kissock) |
| 7th Dec | Wrexham "A" | H 1-5 (P. Jones) |
| 14th Dec | Crewe Reserves | A 0-5 |
| 11th Jan 97 | Everton "A" | H |
| 18th Jan | Marine Reserves | A |
| 25th Jan | Oldham Athletic "A" | H |
| 1st Feb | Liverpool "A" | A |
| 8th Feb | Morecambe Reserves | H |
| 15th Feb | Bury "A" | A |
| 22nd Feb | Stoke City "A" | H |
| 1st Mar | Bolton Wanderers "A" | A |
| 8th Mar | Marine Reserves | H |
| 15th Mar | Preston North End "A" | H |
| 29th Mar | Blackburn Rovers "A" | A |

DIVISION 2 - "B" TEAM

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|---|
| 17th Aug | Stockport County "A" | A 1-1 (Gedman) |
| 24th Aug | Rochdale "A" | H 3-2 (Gedman 2, O.G.) |
| 31st Aug | Marine Youth | H 5-0 (Lampkin, Scott, Baxter, Gedman, Tynan) |
| 7th Sep | Chester City "A" | A 1-1 (Hill) |
| 14th Sep | Blackburn Rovers "B" | H 1-0 (Graves) |
| 28th Sep | Carlisle United "A" | H 1-1 (Taylor) |
| 5th Oct | Wigan Athletic "A" | A 1-1 (Baxter) |
| 12th Oct | Blackpool "A" | H 2-0 (Gedman, Taylor) |
| 19th Oct | Oldham Athletic "B" | A 1-3 (Hill) |
| 26th Oct | Everton "B" | H 1-1 (Small) |
| 2nd Nov | Everton "B" | A 1-4 (Sexton) |
| 9th Nov | Man City "A" | H 1-3 (Edge) |
| 16th Nov | Burnley "B" | A 2-3 (Small, Koumas) |
| 23rd Nov | Man United "B" | A 2-4 (Baxter, Tynan) |
| 30th Nov | Stockport County "A" | H 0-1 |
| 7th Dec | Man City "A" | A 1-3 (Moran) |
| 14th Dec | Oldham Athletic "A" | H p-p |
| 4th Jan 97 | Blackburn Rovers "B" | A p-p |
| 18th Jan | Liverpool "B" | H |
| 25th Jan | Carlisle United "A" | A |
| 1st Feb | Man United "B" | H |
| 8th Feb | Blackpool "A" | A |
| 15th Feb | Crewe Alexandra "A" | H |
| 22nd Feb | Rochdale "A" | A |
| 1st Mar | Liverpool "B" | A |
| 8th Mar | Bury "B" | H |
| 15th Mar | Wigan Athletic "A" | H |
| 22nd Mar | Marine Youth | A |
| 29th Mar | Crewe Alexandra "A" | A |
| 5th Apr | Burnley "B" | H |
| 12th Apr | Bury "B" | A |
| 19th Apr | Chester City "A" | H |

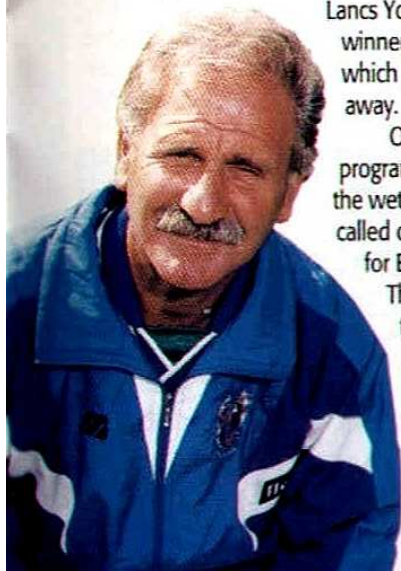
It has been a frustrating time recently at Youth level, as well as starting a new year it will be like starting a new season at the same time. There are no scheduled home league games either side of Christmas as a short break. This added to the awful weather lately has meant that the youth players have not played for a month.

Also you have the Christmas and New Year holiday and the problem of finding good training conditions for the players. Most of the work has been in the gymnasium which is a nice change but not always the best preparation for matches. The youth team has made decent progress again this season beating Grimsby in the FA Youth Cup and progressing to the Quarter Finals of the Lancashire Youth Cup by beating Bury at Prenton Park.

We should have played Coventry away in the FA Youth Cup this week but it was cancelled due to poor ground conditions and it will now be played on Tuesday 21st January. This was a big disappointment for the boys who really look forward to Youth Cup matches because they are treated like first team games. They play on the main pitch, they use the first team coach and hope to impress. It is also a nice change to play a team outside your own area who aren't in your league.

Another big game is in the FA Lancs Youth Cup when we play the winners of the Everton/Bolton tie which unfortunately again will be away.

Our School of Excellence programme has also been affected by the wether as most games have been called off which makes it a busy time for Elaine and Ronnie in our office. They have all the ringing around to do and then when it is postponed they have to do it all again, so that has to be our New Years wish - some warmer weather to continue our programme.



Warwick Rimmer and the Young Generation

It's The Business!

Happy New Year! It is difficult to believe that 12 months have passed since I last included this message in the programme. 1966 was certainly an eventful year ... let's hope 1997 continues to be, but with even more positive results!

The lease on our "Christmas Shop" in Birkenhead Precinct comes to an end tomorrow and whilst we very much wanted to retain this on a permanent basis, the timing was not ideal and the cost of a long term lease for such a prominent site was considered prohibitive. However, we have (at the time of writing this) many bargains available including children's trainers for just £3 – so why not pay us a visit tomorrow?

On a positive note, if we beat Carlisle on Tuesday, we will be looking for a Prenton Suite, a Media Suite and a ball sponsor for our clash with Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday, 26th January. Phone Eddie or Debra for information on 608 0371.



FRAMED SHIRT TO BE CLAIMED

Our draw for this fabulous prize was made on Saturday and the winning ticket is **YELLOW 81** (Serial No. **AB463384**)

Please present your ticket at the club shop to claim your prize

CELEBRITY DINNERS

January 30th – **DUNCAN MCKENZIE**

Thanks to Bromborough Paints and Building Supplies for sponsoring this dinner

BOOK NOW FOR:

February 27th – **FRANK WORTHINGTON**
RING 608 0371 FOR DETAILS

MCDONALD'S SPONSOR KIT



Brookdale Primary School were delighted with their new kit from the club shop and even more delighted when McDonalds in Upton agreed to sponsor it for them! Pictured above is the team, teacher Mr. Scragg and McDonalds Restaurant Manager, Janet Hewson.

BOOK NOW FOR CHRISTMAS 1997!

Believe it or not we took our first Christmas 1997 Party Night booking on 31st December 1996! A company in Liverpool were recommended to book early for this year by a group who had enjoyed such a great night out, they too have rebooked their party of 30!

ARROWE

All home games are broadcast to the patients of Arrowse Park Hospital, in association with

"SPORT AND DANCEWISE"

Heswall

Telephone: 0151-342 4698



ROVERSGOLD

Become an agent in 1997 – earn good commission and support the club at the same time. Members can win up to £2,000 per week, or £5,000 per month or a new car twice a year!

SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR AGENTS

£1 commission paid for every new member who joins in January. Earn yourself extra cash – its easy! Ring Di Graham, our Lottery Manager, on 0151 608 0371 for details.

YOU CAN PAY BY SUBSCRIPTION DIRECT TO TRFC OR TO YOUR NEWSAGENT

You've a better chance of winning with Roversgold than on the National Lottery and being a member saves ££££ at local shops and restaurants.

NWRS LTD

- Vehicle Air Conditioning
- Transport, Refrigeration Systems
- Sales, Service and Repair

0500 323223



Janet Ratcliffe



STOKE CITY

Price: £1.50 Pages: 48 Adverts: 27%
Value for money rating: **

Perhaps influenced by the financial considerations necessary in his other role of Marketing Manager, Tony Tams, the Potters Programme Editor, exhibits a commendable ability to make economies by using the same photograph of Nigel Worthington, seen on the front cover, no less than THREE times in total! No doubt, he is also grateful that the very high adverts ratio saves on the number of articles that he and his contributors need to write.

Manager Lou Macari spends most of his column categorically denying the press stories that he was interested in signing defender Gareth Griffiths from local rivals Port Vale. usually when a manager refutes rumours so strongly there is some truth in them so expect Griffiths to sign any day now! Lou's son, Mike, recently left his mark on Rovers, scoring a hat-trick against our reserves for City's high-flying second string. Let's hope we can exact early revenge when we entertain them again later this month in one of our group matches in the Pontins League Cup. Like ourselves, Stoke obviously appreciate the necessity to provide their own stars of the future, as both their Youth teams are also riding high in their respective leagues.

HITS: Best Article: With very little competition, perhaps the most interesting was one duplicated from "total Football" announcing the results of their recent "King Pie" survey, in which Burnley's offering of lightly spiced potatoes blended with lean chunks of meat in a rich gravy just beat that produced by their Lancashire neighbours, Bury. No doubt Norwich will be hoping to challenge for this particular accolade next time around, now that Delia Smith is a director at Carrow Road. **Best Photograph:** A full page action shot of Ray Wallace showing off City's snazzy away kit in all its glory. **Best Original Idea:** Renaming us the Prenton Rovers!

MISHITS: Please see "They Think It's All Over" in the recent Wolves programme! Don't worry, Phil, I won't be attempting to write your column!



BARNSLEY

Price: £1.50 Pages: 32 Adverts: 24%
Value for money rating: ***

Although Barnsley's programme contains far fewer pages than Stoke's, it manages to pack in more football articles most of which are written in a lively, interesting style.

For those of us looking for clues as to the success of Danny Wilson's lads so far this season, two possibilities could be found in the programme. Firstly, no fewer than an amazing SIX players have been ever present to date and secondly an advert for John Smith's Brewery showing them as suppliers to Barnsley FC. I'll leave you to judge which of these factors might be the more important!

Now here's a quiz question for all you football anoraks. Which team has been drawn against Oldham Athletic in the FA Cup in three out of the last four seasons? No, believe it or not, the answer is not Rovers, but Barnsley!

The holiday industry is obviously booming in Barnsley judging by the fact that a local travel company is able to sponsor the huge kit worn by the club mascot Toby Tyke!

HITS: Best Article: "Nay Ref" in which Barnsley-based Premiership referee Stephen Lodge gives his opinion of a recent experiment in Holland where a match was covered by 22 cameras all monitored by a fourth official who was consulted in the case of difficult decisions. The idea is the branchchild of Holland's Director of Coaching Jan Rekers who hopes to introduce such technological assistance in time for the European Championships Finals of 2000 to be co-hosted by his country and Belgium. **Best Photograph:** A beauty of John Hendrie's children trying on the latest Barnsley leisure wear. **Best Original Idea:** A neat summary of the oppositions season so far.

MISHIT: According to the statistics page we play at Roots Hall!

SCOREBOARD

| | Stoke City | Barnsley |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cover Design | 6 | 6 |
| Club News | 6 | 6 |
| Tranmere Coverage | 6 | 8 |
| Variety of Content | 7 | 8 |
| Photographs | 8 | 7 |
| Layout Style | 7 | 7 |
| Use of Colour | 7 | 7 |
| Accuracy | 6 | 9 |
| Originality | 5 | 8 |
| Statistics | 8 | 7 |
| TOTALS | 66(61) | 73(67) |

Tony Evans

Programme Parade

100 Years!

| Date | V | Opponents & Event | F-A | Att. | Pos. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Sat 17 Aug | A | Southend United | 1-1 | 4,264 | 12 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers [▲] | McGreal | Teale | O'Brien |
| Wed 21 Aug | A | Shrewsbury Town (CCC1-1) | 2-0 | 2,875 | - | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | McGreal | Teale | O'Brien |
| Fri 23 Aug | H | Grimsby Town | 3-2 | 6,800 | 7 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers[●] | McGreal[■] | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 27 Aug | H | Port Vale | 2-0 | 6,123 | 1 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | Mahon[!] |
| Sat 31 Aug | A | Bradford City | 0-1 | 10,080 | 5 | Coyne | Stevens [▲] | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | Mahon |
| Tues 3 Sept | H | Shrewsbury Town (CCC1-2) | 1-1 | 3,028 | - | Coyne | Thomas | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 7 Sept | H | Birmingham City | 1-0 | 8,540 | 5 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 10 Sept. | A | Huddersfield Town | 1-0 | 10,181 | 3 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 14 Sept | A | Swindon Town | 1-2 | 8,430 | 4 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 17 Sept | A | Oldham Athletic (CCC2-1) | 2-2 | 3,094 | - | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 21 Sept | H | West Bromwich Albion | 2-3 | 7,848 | 6 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 24 Sept | H | Oldham Athletic (CCC2-2) | 0-1 | 3,711 | - | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Higgins[■] | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 28 Sept | A | Norwich City | 1-1 | 14,511 | 7 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Thom | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 1 Oct | H | Oxford United | 0-0 | 4,577 | 7 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Thom | Teale | O'Brien |
| Fri 4 Oct | H | Portsmouth | 4-3 | 5,001 | 4 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | Thom[●] | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 12 Oct | A | Sheffield United | 0-0 | 15,059 | 4 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers [▲] | Thom | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 15 Oct | A | Bolton Wanderers | 0-1 | 14,137 | 5 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan | Thom [●] | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sun 20 Oct | H | Queens Park Rangers | 2-3 | 7,025 | 9 | Coyne | Stevens | Brannan[!] | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 26 Oct | A | Ipswich Town | x2-0 | 11,003 | 6 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | Thom | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 29 Oct | H | Charlton Athletic | 4-0 | 5,527 | 5 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | Thom | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 2 Nov | H | Crystal Palace | 1-3 | 8,613 | 7 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | Thom[●] | Teale | O'Brien |
| Fri 15 Nov | H | Oldham Athletic | 1-1 | 8,327 | 8 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 23 Nov | A | Manchester City | x2-1 | 26,531 | 6 | Nixon | Stevens | Rogers | Higgins[!] | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 30 Nov | H | Ipswich Town | 3-0 | 10,127 | 5 | Nixon | Stevens | Rogers[■] | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Tues 3 Dec | A | Reading | 0-2 | 5,513 | 5 | Nixon | Stevens | Rogers [●] | Higgins | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 7 Dec | A | Stoke City | 0-2 | 9,931 | 7 | Nixon | Stevens | Irons | Higgins ^x | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 14 Dec | A | Barnsley | 0-3 | 8,513 | | Nixon | Stevens | Thomas | McGreal | Teale | O'Brien |
| Sat 21 Dec | H | Wolverhampton Wanderers | 0-2 | 9,674 | 10 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | McGreal | Teale | O'Brien |
| Thurs 26 Dec | H | Huddersfield Town | 1-1 | 10,134 | 12 | Coyne | Stevens | Rogers | McGreal | Teale | O'Brien |
| Wed 1 Jan | A | West Bromwich Albion | 2-1 | 14,770 | 11 | Coyne [●] | Stevens | Thomas | McGreal | Higgins | O'Brien |
| Fri 10 Jan | H | Swindon Town | | | | | | | | | |
| Tues 14 Jan | A | Carlisle (FA Cup 3) | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 18 Jan | A | Oxford United (FA Cup 4) | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 25 Jan | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tues 28 Jan | H | Norwich City | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 1 Feb | H | Reading | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri 7 Feb | A | Charlton Athletic | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 15 Feb | H | Manchester City | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 22 Feb | A | Crystal Palace | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri 28 Feb | H | Stoke City | | | | | | | | | |
| Tues 4 Mar | A | Oldham Athletic | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 8 Mar | A | Wolverhampton Wanderers | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 15 Mar | H | Barnsley | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 22 Mar | A | Grimsby Town | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 29 Mar | H | Southend United | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 31 Mar | A | Port Vale | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri 4 Apr | H | Bradford City | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 12 Apr | A | Portsmouth | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 19 Apr | H | Sheffield United | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 26 Apr | A | Queens Park Rangers | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun 4 May | H | Bolton Wanderers | | | | | | | | | |
| TBA | A | Birmingham City | | | | | | | | | |

| T.R.F.C. | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| TEAM | MATCH SPONSOR |
| Crystal Palace | Signs by Morrell Ltd |
| Oldham | Cory Towage |
| Ipswich | Silverbeck Rymer |
| Wolves | Nightfreight |
| Huddersfield | BUPA |
| Swindon | Lever Brothers |
| Norwich | The Wheatsheaf Inn, Raby |
| Reading | Mizuno |
| Man City | Imetec (UK) Ltd |
| Stoke | Bass NW |
| Barnsley | Halls of Holywell |
| Southend | Lewis Reed |
| Bradford | Assoc. British Ports |
| Sheff Utd | EuroWirral |
| Bolton | ADS Graphics |

The Story of The W

| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Referee |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Morrissey | Aldridge | Cook | Irons | Bonetti | Nevin | Brannan | Moore | D. Orr |
| Morrissey | Aldridge1 | Cook | Irons | Bonetti1 | Branch | Brannan | Moore | T. Leake |
| Morrissey | Aldridge2 | Cook | Irons1 | Bonetti | Branch | Brannan | Moore | P. Rejer |
| Morrissey | Aldridge | Cook | Irons | Branch1 | Morgan | Nevin | Jones | T. West |
| Morrissey | Aldridge | Cook | Irons | Branch | Thomas | Nevin | Jones | R. Pearson |
| Irons | Aldridge | Cook | Irons | Branch1 | Mahon | Moore | Morgan | E. Lomas |
| Morrissey | Aldridge1 | Cook | Irons | Branch | Moore | Jones | Thomas | I. Cruikshanks |
| Morrissey | Aldridge1 | Cook | Irons | Branch | Moore | Jones | Thomas | D. Allison |
| Morrissey | Aldridge1 | Cook | Irons | Branch | McGreal | Jones | Mahon | P. Taylor |
| Morrissey | Aldridge1 | Cook | Irons | Branch | McGreal | Jones | Mahon | P. Richards |
| Morrissey | Aldridge1 | Cook | Branch1 | Bonetti | Mahon | Jones | Morgan | G. Frankland |
| Morrissey | Aldridge | Cook | Branch | Bonetti | Irons | Jones | Mahon | W. Burns |
| Irons | Aldridge1 | Cook | Branch | Bonetti | Morrissey | Jones | Higgins | R. Knight |
| Irons | Aldridge | Cook | Branch | Bonetti | Morrissey | Jones | Mahon | S. Baines |
| Irons | Aldridge | Brannan | Branch2 | Bonetti1 | Morrissey | Jones1 | Mahon | J. Kirby |
| Irons | Aldridge | Brannan | Branch | Bonetti | Morrissey | Jones | Cook | F. Stretton |
| Irons | Aldridge | Cook | Branch | Bonetti | Morrissey | Jones | Mahon | R. Fumandiz |
| Morrissey | Aldridge1 | Irons | Branch | Bonetti | Cook | Nevin | Mahon | K. Lynch |
| Brannan | Moore | Jones | Cook | Mahon | Aldridge | Higgins | Bonetti | N. Barry |
| Brannan | Moore1 | Jones1 | Cook | Mahon1 | Aldridge1 | Higgins | Bonetti | S. Mathieson |
| Brannan | Moore | Jones | Cook | Mahon | Aldridge | Higgins | Bonetti | M. Fletcher |
| Brannan | Aldridge1 | Jones | Thomas | Mahon | Branch | Morrissey | Irons | K. Leach |
| Brannan | Aldridge | Thomas | Moore | Cook | Irons | Nevin | Jones | M. Brandwood |
| Brannan | Aldridge2 | Thomas | Moore | Cook | Irons | Nevin | Mahon | E. Wolstenholme |
| Brannan | Aldridge | Thomas | Nevin | Mahon | Irons | Jones | Cook | P. D'Urso |
| Brannan | Aldridge | Thomas | Nevin | Cook | Morrissey | Jones | Mahon | R. Harris |
| Morrissey | Aldridge | Brannan | Irons | Branch | Nevin | Jones | Mahon | R. Pearson |
| Brannan | Branch | Thomas | Moore | Mahon | Aldridge | Morrissey | Irons | I. Cruikshanks |
| Brannan | Aldridge | Irons | Moore | Mahon | Branch | Nevin | Morrissey | T. Leake |
| Brannan | Aldridge2 | Cook | Morrissey | Nevin | Moore | Mahon | Branch | S. Baines |

SPONSORSHIPS

| PRENTON SUITE | BALL | MEDIA SUITE |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Medicash | Pyramids | First National Bank |
| RWA Group | Pyramids | Shorrock Fire |
| K&K Print Finishing | Mike McNulty | Radio Merseyside |
| MR Engineering | Bromborough Cross Car Sales | DRB Power Transmission |
| Kellco | The Internet Whites | Black Macadam |
| Bass NW | Medicash | Delta Environmental Services Ltd |
| Tech Litho | Europa Pools | Cory Towage |
| Boughey & Dalziel | Primark | Wirral News Group |
| MR Engineering | McCarthy Menswear | TR Transport |
| First National Bank | Pyramids | Duncan Sheard Glass |
| Sevenside Taverns | Cobleys Solicitors | Phoenix Computer Sys |
| Keith Dixon Partnership | US Athletic | |
| Bass NW | Robbie Williams | |
| Olivers Coffee Shop | Malcolm Jones | |
| Medicash | Fastforme | AEV PLC |

hites 96~97

| Player/Int Hons Birthplace/Date | Signed from Date/Fee | 96-97 Lge Apps/Gls | 96-97 Cup Apps/Gls | TR Debut/date | TR Career Apps/Gls |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| John Aldridge - Eire Liverpool 18.9.58 | Real Sociedad 06.91 - £250,000 | 22+4 | 14 | v Brighton 17.8.91 | 254+8 165 |
| Ivano Bonetti - Italy U21 Brescia, Italy 2.8.65 | Grimsby Town 08.96 - Free | 9+3 | 1 | v Southend 17.8.96 | 11+3 2 |
| Graham Branch Liverpool 12.2.72 | Heswall 05.91 - Free | 14+3 | 4 | v M'Boro 17.9.91 | 36+35 7 |
| Ged Brannan Liverpool 15.1.72 | Ex YTS 07.90 - | 24+2 | 4 | v Mansfield 22.10.90 | 282+13 23 |
| Dave Challinor - E U19 Chester 2.10.75 | Brom Pool 07.94 | - | - | - | - |
| Stuart Connolly Dublin 8.12.77 | Stella Maris, Dublin 08.96 | - | - | - | - |
| Paul Cook Liverpool 22.2.67 | Coventry 03.96 £250,000 | 19+3 | 4 | v Oldham 3.3.96 | 38+3 1 |
| Danny Coyne - Wales Prestatyn 27.8.73 | Ex YTS 07.92 | 21 | 4 | v P'Boro 8.5.93 | 88+1 |
| Dave Higgins Liverpool 19.8.61 | Caernarfon 06.87 - Free | 14+1 | 1 | v Mansfield 17.9.83 | 420+5 11 |
| Kenny Irons Liverpool 4.11.70 | Ex YTS 11.89 - | 16+5 | 1 | v Bury 2.12.89 | 273+36 41 |
| Jamie Jardine Birkenhead 1.2.77 | Ex YTS 07.95 | - | - | - | - |
| Gary Jones Chester 10.5.75 | Ex YTS 07.93 | 3+11 | 2 | v Millwall 20.11.93 | 35+38 10 |
| Jon Kenworthy - W U21 St Asaph 18.8.74 | Ex YTS 08.93 | - | - | v Charlton 24.8.93 | 18+14 2 |
| John McGreal Liverpool 2.6.72 | Ex YTS 07.90 | 6 | 1 | v Southend 25.4.92 | 117+5 1 |
| Alan Mahon - Eire U21 Dublin 4.4.78 | Ex YTS 03.95 | 9+6 | 2 | v Huddersfield 3.2.96 | 9+10 2 |
| Ian Moore - Eng U21 Birkenhead 26.8.76 | Ex YTS 07.94 | 6+5 | 1 | v Atalanta 6.9.94 | 38+19 11 |
| Alan Morgan - W U21 Aberystwyth 2.11.73 | Ex YTS 07.92 | +1 | - | v Ipswich 17.4.96 | +5 1 |
| John Morrissey - EY Liverpool 8.3.65 | Wolves 10.85 - £8,000 | 11+7 | 1 | v Southend 4.10.85 | 452+47 61 |
| Steve Mungall Bellshill 22.5.58 | Motherwell 07.79 - Free | - | - | v Hfield 17.11.79 | 584+40 17 |
| Pat Nevin - Scot Glasgow 6.9.63 | Everton 08.92 - £300,000 | 3+8 | - | v Sund'land 22.8.92 | 219+9 37 |
| Eric Nixon - FL0 Manchester 4.10.62 | Man City 07.88 - £60,000 | 5 | - | v Carlisle 25.3.88 | 418+1 |
| Liam O'Brien - Eire Dublin 5.9.64 | Newcastle United 01.94 - £250,000 | 24 | 4 | v Bolton 23.1.94 | 116+6 7 |
| Alan Rogers Liverpool 3.1.77 | Ex YTS 07.95 | 13 | 1 | v Grimsby 25.11.95 | 40+1 2 |
| Gary Stevens - Eng Barrow 27.3.63 | Glasgow Rangers 10.94 - £350,000 | 26 | 3 | v Sund'land 24.9.94 | 113+1 1 |
| Shaun Teale - E.S.P. Southport 10.3.64 | Aston Villa 08.95 - £450,000 | 25 | 4 | v Wolves 12/8/95 | 62 |
| Tony Thomas Liverpool 12.7.71 | Ex YTS 02.89 | 8+2 | 1 | v P'Boro 4.2.89 | 289+4 14 |
| Andy Thom - EU21 Cashalton 12.11.66 | Wimbledon 09.96 - Free | 8 | 1 | v Norwich 28/9/96 | 8 1 |
| Billy Woods - Eire U21 Cork 24.10.73 | Cork City 07.95 £30,000 | - | - | - | - |

Us & Them

**RADIO
CITY
1548
AM**

**FULL MATCH COMMENTARIES
FROM THE NORTH WEST'S
SPORTS LEADER**

- 1 Eric **NIXON**
- 2 Gary **STEVENS**
- 3 Tony **THOMAS**
- 4 John **McGREAL**
- 5 Dave **HIGGINS**
- 6 Liam **O'BRIEN**
- 7 Ged **BRANNAN**
- 8 John **ALDRIDGE**
- 9 Paul **COOK**
- 10 John **MORRISSEY**
- 11 Pat **NEVIN**
- 12 Ian **MOORE**
- 13 Alan **MAHON**
- 14 Graham **BRANCH**

- 1 Fraser **DIGBY**
- 2 Mark **ROBINSON**
- 3 Gary **ELKINS**
- 4 Scott **LEITCH**
- 5 Mark **SEAGRAVES**
- 6 Kevin **HORLOCK**
- 7 Ian **CULVERHOUSE**
- 8 Lee **COLLINS**
- 9 Steve **COWE**
- 10 Wayne **ALLISON**
- 11 Mark **WALTERS**
- 12 Kevin **WATSON**
- 13 Wayne **O'SULLIVAN**
- 14 Jason **DRYSDALE**


Today's Referee

Mr. David Allison (Lancaster)

A 47-year-old schoolmaster from Lancashire ... very experienced official who has been in charge of an Auto Windscreen Shield Final and a Division One Play Off Final (1995) plus other big domestic and European matches ... this is his 17th and final season as a ref ... in charge of the Charlton v. Newcastle cup tie last Sunday

Referee's Assistants

 **Mr. A. S. Breckell**
(Accrington)

 **Mr. A. S. Hogg**
(Derbyshire)

Reserve Official
Mr. G. T. Stott

Today's Sponsors

Main Match Sponsor:
Lever Brothers
Prenton Suite Sponsor:
Bass (NW)
Match Ball Sponsor:
Medicash
Media Suite Sponsor:
Delta Environmental Services



AWAY GAMES AT HOME

WITH A **NYNEX** SEASON TICKET

FA Carling Premier League, Nationwide League, Home Internationals,
FA Cup, Coca Cola Cup, Scottish League/League Cup/SFA Cup

All exclusively live on    with **NYNEX**

phone **0500 941 940** and sign up now

IT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING

NYNEX

NYNEX is a Cablevision Limited Registered Office: The Television Centre, 1 Wood Road, Surbiton, Surrey K11 1YU
Registered in England No. 2146306. NYNEX is also available in multiple units at serviceable locations.