

tranmere rovers *Review*



1

Rovers vs Swindon Town

Friday
25th September
1998
Kick Off
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THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF TRANMERE ROVERS F.C. PRICE £1.80



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ROVERS REVIEW

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Boardroom Bulletin

We extend a warm welcome to the Chairman and Directors, Steve McMahon and the players for tonight's match which once again catapults us into the televised arena.

We are sure that those who travelled to Gigg Lane will have been delighted with the team's performance. Hard working and effective – they played Bury at their own game and most certainly came off victors, if not in the scoreline, certainly in performance, with Georges Santos making an excellent

It is frustrating to be at the foot of the table but with two games in hand, a sterling performance at Bury and confidence high in the camp, we should quickly turn the corner, hopefully with a win this evening.

Finally, the Steve Simonsen transfer to Everton is now completed and we know that every dedicated Tranmere fan

"We should quickly turn the corner, hopefully with a win this evening"

debut up front. We all hoped for a victory to make John Aldridge's 40th Birthday a particularly special occasion. As it was, the performance certainly cheered him up and Directors, Frank Corfe, Tony Adams and Howard Jones joined a posse of players, backroom staff and several of John's international colleagues with many of his friends and relatives at a super party at the Liverpool Moat House, where a good time was had by all.

will wish him well in the Premiership and a successful career in the years to come. At the same time, we welcome Graham Allen in the opposite direction and look forward to his contribution at Prenton Park.

We hope you enjoy tonight's game and to those fans who have to make the return journey to Swindon, take care when homeward bound.

"It helps to know that the fans still have faith"

Welcome to the players, management and Directors of Swindon Town.

I was very sad to hear of the resignation of Steve McMahon midweek. I know he was going through an indifferent spell with regard to the fans but what they must remember is that with the lack of money they have, Steve had done a very good job, and bought a lot of cash into the club. At one stage last season the team were top of the league but people seem to have forgotten this and I think he has been unfairly treated.

Hopefully tonight we can continue where we left off at Bury, a goalless draw away from home was a very good result against a team up there near the top of the league. I was most pleased by the performance of the lads who showed courage and commitment, they battled well and deserved the point.

I must also congratulate the fans for continuing to get behind the lads. We are at the bottom of the league with games in hand but everyone is still getting behind the lads and showing their support.

It is greatly appreciated and it really helps the lads to know that the fans still have faith.

Hopefully we can put another good show on in front of the Sky camera and get our first league win of the season.

So carry on getting behind the lads.

Rovers Review

1998/99 Season

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John Aldridge



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Loftus Road Report

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1998

Pre-Match Thoughts What a long way to go on a Tuesday afternoon! What time are we going to get home? Is it true Vinnie Jones is their new manager? What is happening with Simmo? Is it only 10 days since our last game?

Getting There: Left on time but heavy traffic around West London Mileage: 214 miles (x2 = 428). Total mileage in season: 1212.

At Loftus Road: A compact stadium – all four sides matching. Very “tight” feeling, crowd close to pitch. Though gate was almost half their average, still great atmosphere. Usual procession of planes flying past on way into Heathrow. Stewarding OK. Good view from behind one goal No. of Tranmere Fans: 298. Percentage of attendance: 3.69%.

The Match: Frantic pace, very physical. They had better of first half, us the second. Players competed well and worked very hard. We got better as game went on. Danny C severely restricted in second half. **Tranmere Man of the Match:** Clint Hill

The Men in Black: Frasier Stretton (Nottingham). Sounds like an American film star, looks slow and over weight but always up with play. Generally fair to both sides though booked Andy Thompson for a tackle similar to several they committed without censure.

Match Facts: QPR 0 Rovers 0. Attendance: 8,070

The “Low-Down”: One of those clubs who have floated on the Stock Market. Have joined forces, and share facilities, with Wasps Rugby Union Club. This has caused major financial problems and their share value has plummeted.

What The Press Said: ‘Dogged Rovers grind out a point’ ‘Tranmere found defensive discipline and a willingness to work slavishly’ (*Daily Post*). ‘Gutsy Rovers’, ‘Lashings of hard work all over the field’ (*Echo*).

Memories of the Day: • The London traffic • Vinnie Jones’ behaviour on the touchline • Arriving back at Prenton Park in the early hours.

HOOPS



QUEENS PARK RANGERS

Price: £2.00 Pages: 48

Adverts: 15%

If the disappointing football served up by Rangers and ourselves hadn’t put you to sleep then surely the strange black and blue hooped design which appears on most pages of the programme would send you into a trance! Talking of black and blue, Hollywood-bound Vinnie Jones stares threateningly at the reader at regular intervals and, just for

good measure, Rangers other glamour boy Iain Dowie also displays his handsome features from time to time. Surely to protect those of a nervous disposition this programme should be X-rated!

In his Chairman’s column Chris Wright states in stark terms the problems faced in running a First Division club on a sound business footing while still satisfying the aspirations of the fans. His realistic comments, of course, mirror almost exactly many of those emanating from our own boardroom in recent weeks. QPRs current difficulties are highlighted by the fact that the 5,052 diehards who witnessed the first round Worthington Cup victory against Walsall made up the lowest attendance for a competitive first team fixture at Loftus Road since May 1966!

GOALS

Best Article: In a variation on a familiar theme the “Where R They Now?” feature tracks down former players of both clubs and finds Bernard Evans, who played for us in 1963-64, living in Chester and working as an industrial cleaner for Shell UK, Colin Clarke coaching in the USA and Ian Muir turning out for Nuneaton Borough!

Best Original Idea: Vinnie Jones’ kit sponsor is perfectly named as... The Culture Club!

Best Quote: As part of Danny Maddix’s testimonial year his committee has managed to persuade his present and former team mates to perform their own version of “The Full Monty”! The advert in the programme describes it as “the ultimate ladies night” and quotes one of the attractions as “autographed memorabilia”! The mind boggles!

Best Rovers Reference: For anybody daring to write off Rovers after our troubled start to the season, the editor reminds them that “there is a long way to go yet and Tranmere still possess a fine blend of seasoned professionals and impressive young talent”.

FOULS

Little effort had been made to predict our line-up accurately with the injured Dave Challinor and John McGreal listed to play alongside the departed Craig Russell.

Tony Evans

SCOREBOARD

Cover Design	7
Tranmere Coverage	7
Originality	8
Layout	8
Photographs	9
Family Appeal	9
Interest Level	8
Statistics	8
Accuracy & Research	6
Value for Money	7
TOTAL	77 (last season 89)

Division One Statistics

How Clubs have scored goals... and conceded them

H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG	see key below	H	CR	OB	V	FK	P	IB	OG
3	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	Barnsley	4	1	0	2	0	1	2	0
1	2	1	3	0	1	4	0	Birmingham City	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
4	2	4	1	0	1	6	0	Bolton Wanderers	3	3	1	1	0	1	4	0
5	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	Bradford City	4	1	1	1	0	2	4	0
3	2	1	0	0	1	4	0	Bristol City	2	4	3	6	0	1	4	0
2	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	Bury	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
2	3	0	0	0	2	5	0	Crewe Alexandra	5	1	2	1	0	0	5	0
1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	Crystal Palace	2	4	1	1	0	1	2	0
1	1	1	2	0	2	3	0	Grimsby Town	0	3	1	2	0	1	2	1
5	3	1	3	0	0	3	0	Huddersfield Town	0	1	2	1	0	2	4	0
6	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	Ipswich Town	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
3	0	0	2	0	2	4	1	Norwich City	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	0
4	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	Oxford United	2	4	1	2	2	1	9	0
1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	Port Vale	4	0	1	3	0	0	5	1
3	3	2	0	0	2	6	0	Portsmouth	5	1	2	0	1	1	2	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	Queens Park Rangers	1	2	1	0	0	3	4	0
4	4	0	2	1	0	3	1	Sheffield United	4	3	0	2	0	0	6	1
3	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	Stockport County	1	1	1	2	0	1	5	1
5	6	0	1	2	2	6	0	Sunderland	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
2	2	0	2	0	1	4	2	Swindon Town	4	4	2	1	1	2	6	0
0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	Tranmere Rovers	6	2	0	0	0	1	3	0
3	3	2	2	0	0	3	1	Watford	2	3	1	0	1	0	5	0
2	2	2	5	0	0	6	0	West Brom. Albion	5	0	0	3	0	1	5	0
0	2	1	2	0	2	5	0	Wolverhampton W.	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0

Key: H = Header; CR = Close Range; OB = Outside Box; V = Volley; FK = Free Kick; P = Penalty; IB = Inside Box; OG = Own Goal

1998-99 Season Division One Campaign Records

Highest/Lowest Gates

41,008 Sunderland v QPR 8-Aug

4,310 Bury v Portsmouth 8-Sep

Highest Aggregate Scores

Crewe 4-4 Bolton 19-Sep

Biggest Home Win

Sunderland 7-0 Oxford 19-Sep

Biggest Away Win

Bristol City 1-4 Watford 22-Aug

Swindon 1-4 Watford 19-Sep

Port Vale 0-3 West Brom 22-Aug

Port Vale 0-3 Ipswich 31-Aug

Consecutive Wins

Huddersfield 5

Games Unbeaten

Sunderland 8

Consecutive Defeats

Grimsby, Port Vale, Watford 3

Games without a Win

Bristol City 9

Current Sequences

Consecutive Wins

Huddersfield 5

Games Unbeaten

Sunderland 8

Consecutive Defeats

Birmingham, Bristol City, Palace, Swindon 2

Games without a Win

Bristol City 9

Div.1 Stat Attack

Key: PU = Players Used; GF = Goals For; GA = Goals Against; CS = Clean Sheets; LP = Lowest position; HP = Highest Position

Division One Statistics, Club by Club

see key above	PU	GF	GA	CS	LP	HP	Leading Scorer	Lge	WC	Tot
Barnsley	21	12	10	3	17	11	Ward	5	1	6
Birmingham City	21	12	7	5	5	1	Adebola	4	2	6
Bolton Wanderers	19	18	13	1	9	5	Blake	4	3	7
Bradford City	22	10	13	1	23	16	Mills	5	0	5
Bristol City	19	11	20	0	23	13	Akinbiyi	3	4	7
Bury	21	7	2	7	8	3	Matthews	1	3	4
Crewe Alexandra	21	12	14	0	18	8	Rivers/Little/Jack	2/1/1	1/2/2	3
Crystal Palace	24	7	11	2	18	8	Lombardo	1	2	3
Grimsby Town	18	10	10	4	22	8	Groves/Smith/Burnett/Ashcroft	2/2/2/1	0/0/0/1	2
Huddersfield Town	21	15	10	2	19	1	Stewart/Allison	6/5	1/2	7
Ipswich Town	18	12	6	5	18	10	Scowcroft	5	1	6
Norwich City	22	12	8	2	11	1	Bellamy	6	1	7
Oxford United	20	9	21	2	22	13	Windass	4	0	4
Port Vale	25	5	14	1	24	19	Ainsworth/Naylor	2/1	1/2	3
Portsmouth	21	16	13	3	18	12	Aloisi	8	3	11
Queens Park Rangers	18	6	11	3	23	19	Gallen/Slade/Sheron	2/1/1	0/1/1	2
Sheffield United	21	15	16	0	14	3	Saunders	3	3	6
Stockport County	19	9	12	1	15	4	Angell	4	0	4
Sunderland	23	22	4	4	7	1	Phillips	6	2	8
Swindon Town	22	13	20	0	20	13	Ndah	5	1	6
Tranmere Rovers	22	4	12	2	24	21	Parkinson	2	1	3
Watford	21	14	12	1	11	3	Smart	4	0	4
West Brom. Albion	21	17	14	2	12	3	Hughes	7	1	8
Wolverhampton W.	21	12	7	4	7	1	Keane	5	2	7

Div. 1 Average Attendances

	Highest	Lowest	Average
Sunderland	41,008	34,111	36,086
Wolverhampton	26,816	20,203	22,693
Bolton Wdrs	19,637	16,384	18,161
Birmingham C.	19,825	15,935	17,290
Crystal Palace	19,029	14,827	16,613
Barnsley	18,114	15,328	16,222
Norwich City	16,919	15,016	16,084
West Bromwich	17,401	12,428	15,629
Sheffield United	17,528	12,293	15,575
Bradford City	14,360	13,163	13,651
Ipswich Town	15,813	11,596	13,583
Bristol City	13,761	11,801	13,089
Portsmouth	15,275	10,105	12,372
Watford	14,251	10,731	12,333
Huddersfield T.	13,854	9,811	11,194
Queens Park R.	13,337	8,070	9,556
Swindon Town	10,207	7,800	8,726
Port Vale	10,465	5,485	7,635
Grimsby Town	8,149	6,974	7,566
Stockport Cnty	7,739	6,199	6,945
Oxford United	7,521	5,587	6,592
Tranmere Rvrs	6,714	5,770	6,148
Crewe Alex.	5,759	4,977	5,442
Bury	7,659	4,310	5,317

Statistics compiled by
Football Information Services
Telephone: 0151-632 5679

Nationwide
POWERED BY NATIONWIDE



Last Season
The Nationwide Football
League saw an Increase in
Attendance of 13.5%;
Why...?



The Quality of the Football



The authority...

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It Happened Today!

by CAROL DALZIEL

Previous Rovers matches played on this date:

1926 Division 3 North	Attendance: 6,310
TRANMERE ROVERS 0 STOCKPORT CO 0	
1937 Division 3 North	Attendance: 7,607
HALIFAX TOWN 1 TRANMERE ROVERS 0	
1963 League Cup Round 2	Attendance: 8,800
TRANMERE ROVERS 2 SOUTHAMPTON 0	
Scorers: Conroy, Dyson	
1964 Division 4	Attendance: 15,337
TRANMERE ROVERS 6 WREXHAM 0	
Scorers: Hill, Dyson, Manning (2), McDonnell, Weir	
1970 Division 3	Attendance: 6,613
SHREWSBURY 3 TRANMERE ROVERS 1	
Scorer: Hinch	
1972 Division 3	Attendance: 3,089
TRANMERE ROVERS 4 CHARLTON 0	
Scorers: Flood, Loyden (3)	
1982 Division 4	Attendance: 1,233
HARTLEPOOL 4 TRANMERE ROVERS 0	
1991 League Cup Round 2	Attendance: 6,056
CHELSEA 1 TRANMERE ROVERS 1	
Scorer: Aldridge	

World Events

- 1897** Britain's first motorised bus service began in Bradford.
- 1975** Death of Eric M. Remarque, author of the best-selling novel "All Quiet on the Western Front".
- 1981** Sandra Day O'Connor appointed the first woman Supreme Court Justice in the USA.
- 1982** In Peking, Margaret Thatcher began talks on the future of Hong Kong.

Sporting News

- 1983** Leicester City footballer Alan Stewart lost 3 teeth after being accidentally kicked in the mouth by an opposing Stoke City defender. The teeth were later found on the pitch.
- 1992** Jimmy Connors beat Martina Navratilova 7-5, 6-2 in the so-called Battle of the Sexes III.

Happy Birthday Today

Born 1929 comedian and scriptwriter **Ronnie Barker** now retired, but whose most famous roles were as Fletch in the classic comedy series 'Porridge' and as half of the Two Ronnies double act with Ronnie Corbett.

Born 1939 formerly Secretary of State for Trade & Industry
Sir Leon Brittan

Born 1952 former Superman **Christopher Reeve** now now sadly paralysed after a horse riding accident in 1995.

Born 1969 English actress **Catherine Zeta Jones** who rose to prominence in 'The Darling Buds of May', now pursuing her career in Hollywood.

Tranmere Players who made their debut on this date:

1954

Sammy Speakman

Outside left who spent a year at Prenton Park in the mid-50's. Signed from Middlesbrough, he made 72 first team appearances and scored 11 goals before moving on to Wigan Athletic.

1976

John Bramhall

Popular and reliable centre-half signed from Non-League Stockton Heath. John played 186 full games, plus another seven as substitute, in a Rovers shirt, scoring eight goals in the process. He moved to Bury, and now works for the Professional Footballers Association.

CREAM TO THE TOP

NOT that we have anything to rave about of course... I refer to the state of the division. It is said that pedigree is most likely to shine through and that the richer, better supported sides and those clubs that have tasted the nectar of the promised land before are always favourites for the up.

It should come as no surprise, then to find that Sunderland are already knocking on the door. All they got from last year was tea, sympathy and a place in football trivia (Who had 91 points and still failed to go up?) and it seems this year that nobody or nothing is going to stand in their way. And for once a Sunderland board ought to be applauded... after relegation and two failures to return to the top flight they have not ditched their manager, giving Peter Reid and the team a sense of security and stability and they are being rewarded with seven goal annihilation of other teams and packed houses in the wonderful Stadium of Light (I'm so glad that another team eclipsed our 5-0 defeat there).

TALKING OF WHICH...

SEVEN goals, eh? And it wasn't an isolated onion bag-busting bonanza, they were flying in all over the division at Barnsley, at Crewe Alex, at Norwich... what a football feast and the losers were those who say it's sterile stuff, bet Match of the Day wish they had had cameras there and perhaps the ITV goals round up will be broadcast at eleven instead of four in the morning. MotD obviously had to have a big rethink that night... their main match was to be Leeds Utd v Aston Villa (0-0 written all over it... and the final score...?), so we started at Anfield with the unfashionable Gerald "you can do the goals round up" Sinstadt.

Well they had to do something after their shocking effort at a top class footy show midweek, the night that Wimbledon came from three goals down against West Ham to win 4-3. Yes, they showed that game, but it was one fixed camera, yes, one... manned by someone used to doing the end of season video for

Carshalton Town. You know what I mean... great run and cross, with a triple salcoe with double loop bicycle kick top corner type goal, but the camera is still on the corner flag, oh he's caught up... great shots of the boys celebrating. And on top of that, two matches that MotD showed had terrible sound difficulties, Barry Davies and John Motson doing their voice overs in the BBC karzi; Gary Lineker "Quite appropriate that", Alan Hansen: "There's no defence".

And there's more... the theme tune ran out about 20 seconds before the credits had finished. If the BBC were to buy a club it would be Carshalton Town. Unfortunately there is little competition for Sky.

SPEAKING OF WHICH AGAIN...

I'VE read that Mick Hucknall is in talks with Ted Turner's CNN to outbid BSkyB for Man Utd., which would be good, because his careers soaring!

AND ON THE SUBJECT OF...

BUYING clubs... after the announcement that Man Utd were getting into bed with BSkyB, creating a love child that looks like a cross between Paul Scholes and Japp Stam (the only date you're gonna find on trees, bit like your parents then) almost every team in the country is trying to buy a club. The floodgates are open and probably three quarters of the top clubs will have been bought in the next year, anyone want us? Sadly probably no, despite our facilities, with all the big swanky clubs being bought up, media companies will not be interested in the fate of the smaller club, unless as feeder-nursery clubs, which means that the wealthier clubs will grow wealthier and the smaller ones, well they will just die off.

Martin Edwards incidentally says that Man. Utd. will rule the world in five years time, well if he's right I hope there is alien life with a thriving footy league, perhaps they've already landed... there is something odd about Japp Stam's eyes... perhaps he's down to wipe previous visitors who have gone a bit funny... Alan Ball watch out.

Nationwide

NEWS, VIEWS AND UNSOLICITED ALLEGATIONS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUES, WITH JONATHAN CASWELL

BIRTHDAY BOYS

While young starlet Jason Koumas celebrates his 19th birthday today – hopefully in style – congratulations are also due to the boss, John Aldridge who reached the big Four O milestone on September 18th. And to think he was still playing top flight football four months ago!

CHANGING ROOMS?

One of the advantages of having a mother who is artistically talented is you can get her to decorate your bedroom in Tranmere colours and add the finishing touch of a four foot high hand painted club crest.

Young Luke Burton (9) from Heswall is Tranmere mad and persuaded his teacher mum, Jo, to copy the full colour crest onto his bedroom wall.

It is so good we reckon Luke and his mum might just get themselves a commission or two from the club and other fans! Who needs Carol Smillie and Co?



SKY'S THE LIMIT

We may not be top of the League or able to boast 35,000 crowds and a vibrant atmosphere, but the men from Sky know they'll always see a good open game at Prenton Park.



Defeat by Huddersfield in a five goal thriller may have been unjust, but then again last season we were fortunate to beat Portsmouth 4-3 in another TV thriller.

A few years back Sky got one of their all time classics at Prenton Park, the incredible 6-6 draw with Newcastle. While it seems churlish to criticise Sky's comprehensive and professional coverage, they are not beyond ta below the belt punch when an opportunity arises.

Before the last game against Huddersfield they put Frank Corfe on the spot, confronting him with half a dozen pre-recorded, mainly teenage interviewees, all critical of his stewardship – hardly a fair cross section of opinion – and then asked him "live" for his reaction. Ouch!

PROGRAMME FAIR

The 24th Annual Bolton Programme Fair and Memorabilia Fair takes place on Sunday, October 4th in the Excel Leisure Centre, Lower Bridgeman Street, Bolton (opp. Do-It-All), between 11am and 3pm

GOING DUTCH

A warm welcome to our new keeper, John Achterburg – a 27 year old Dutchman who has played previously for Utrecht in the top flight of Netherlands football plus second division Eindhoven (not PSV)

John has signed a two year contract and is expected to make his first team debut this evening in front of the Sky TV cameras. Tall and commanding he seems to have all the credentials to succeed in English football.



The Two Of Us

PETER BISHOP LOOKS AT CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ROVERS AND TODAY'S VISITORS

Head To Head

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home:	18	10	5	3	36	23
Away:	18	1	5	12	15	32
Total:	36	11	10	15	51	55

Landmarks

First Meeting.....	18th Oct., 1958 (A)	2-1
Last Home Win.....	2-1, 1996-97	
Last Home Draw.....	0-0, 1991-92	
Last Home Defeat.....	0-2, 1984-85	
Biggest Home Victory ..	3-0, 1974-75, 97-98	
Heaviest Home Defeat ..	3-5, 1968-69	
Biggest Away Victory ..	2-1, 1958-59	
Heaviest Away Defeat ..	1-4, 1978-79	

Last Time Here

Tuesday, February 10th, 1998
ROVERS 3 SWINDON 0

A virtuoso performance from John Morrissey inspired a comprehensive victory which left Steve McMahon blazing afterwards. Andy Thompson opened, Graham Branch soared to head a second before Mogsy wrapped

it up for the 5,288 crowd.

Tranmere: Simonsen, Frail (Mellon), Thompson, McGreal, Challinor, Irons, Morrissey, Hill, Kelly, O'Brien, (G. Jones), Branch (Parkinson).

Swindon: Digby, Burrows, Robinson, Leitch, Taylor, Collins, Culverhouse (Watson), Howe, Hay (Cowe), Finney, Cuervo (Walters).

The "Ex" Files

When Ian Muir was at the peak of his powers, Swindon must have wondered where they went wrong having had him for a brief and unproductive spell. Former Tranmere boss **Bryan Hamilton** was a coach at the County Ground while **Ken Beamish** even sat in the bosses seat. In the seventies and eighties **John Kelly** and **Gary Williams** were two Scousers to earn respect in Wiltshire. From the same era goalkeeper **Scott Endersby** and that wonderfully laid back winger **Steve Peplow** also served both clubs. Further back fullback **Stewie Williamson** (who still lives in Swindon), **Pat Jackson**, **Abe Rosenthal**, **Alf Day** and **Arthur Briggs** were just some of

those to trundle between Prenton Park and the County Ground. Another connection centres on the **McMahon** brothers, John our Youth Coach and Steve, the Swindon boss.

Sidelines

• Unless you have been in the Amazon jungle for the past ten years, you will know we've had a battle or two with Swindon, not the least of which was the 1992-93 play offs. Who knows what would have happened if Aldo's first leg goal hadn't been ruled out. Though we won the second leg 3-2 old wounds were healed when Tranmere fans applauded their Swindon counterparts as Glenn Hoddle & Co., celebrated.

• After the fiasco when the lights went out, a group of Tranmere fans decided to head for a pub on the way home. After ordering a round, the group put a couple of pounds in the jukebox and on a snooker table. Seconds later the fuseboard blew up plunging the place into darkness! The lads gave up and headed home!



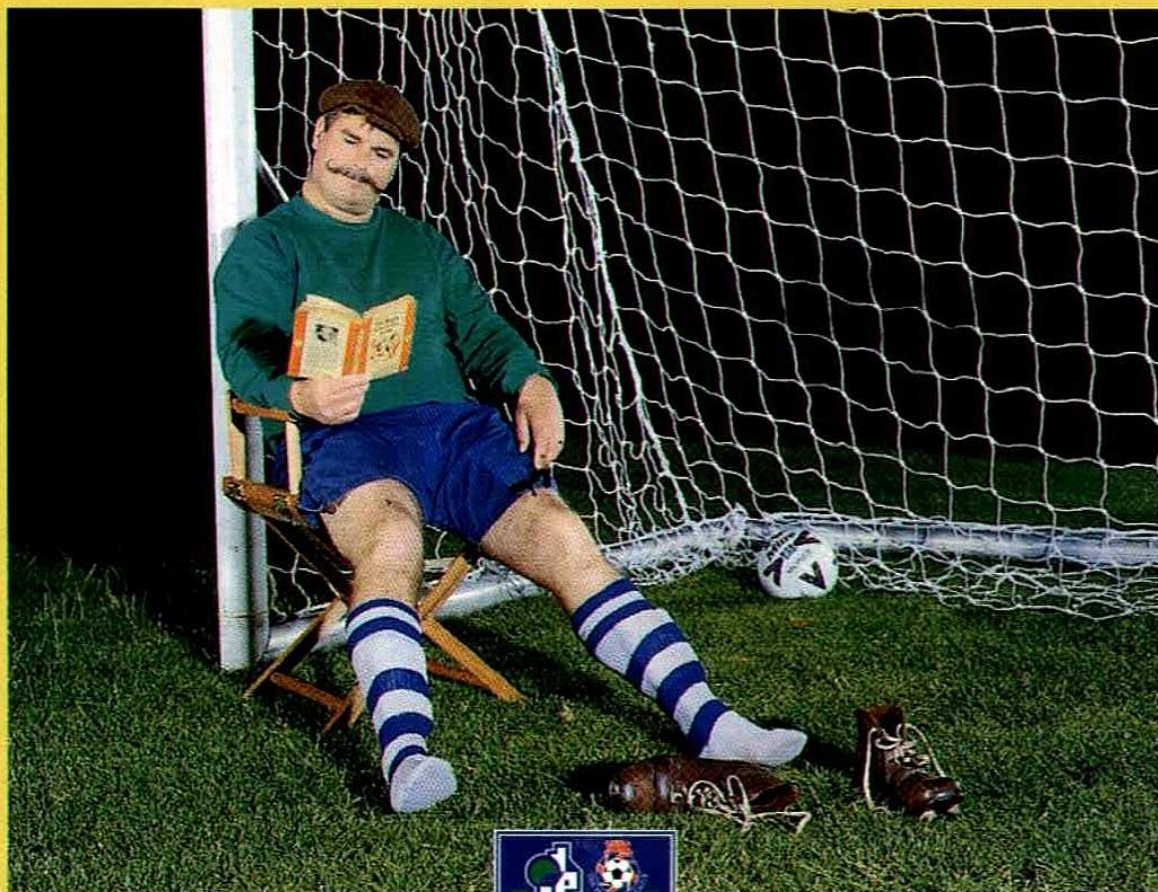
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Tales from

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

THE ONE & ONLY LES PARRY

At last we've had two matches on the run which have ended with the same players who started, substitutions excepted. Both the Bury and the Blackpool matches failed to increase my workload all players came through without an problems.

The good news from both matches was the return of Dave Challinor and John McGreal from knee and ankle problems respectively. It's good to get rid of Dave because he keeps messing my Express crossword up thinking he knows the answers and putting the wrong words in. It's still early days with him as we will have to see how he reacts to playing again but things look good.

I've asked our sign writers to change the sign on my door from Treatment Room to Scrap Yard, the average age of injured players at the moment must be at least 38. At the moment I've got Andy Thompson, David Kelly, Steve Frail and Danny Coyne all lolling around my room like it's an all-inclusive holiday village in Ibiza. Thommo's injury is causing the most concern, he has a condition which halted the Russian advance into Germany in the Second World War, his big toe is sore. He's had the problem before and we've just realised what's causing it. It's from when he and Dave Kelly stay in the Royal Oak Hotel, the bar stools are quite high and Thommo has to push off on his left foot quite hard to be able to get onto them. This causes an overuse problem as he has a weak bladder and visits the toilet a number of times during the evening making his foot sore. His toe is improving quite well and should be available for tonight or Tuesday at the latest.

We are still taking it easy with Ned and he has only just started running again. He's moved house now so that big drama is over and done with and we won't hear any more on the subject. We are targeting another two weeks before he starts training with Kevin so he's got a bit more work to do with me before then.

Danny is sore this morning after working at Europa Pools yesterday. When he jumped up onto the couch this morning saying he was really sore, I thought he meant his groin but soon noticed the harpoon wound in his side. I did warn him to look out for whaling ships yesterday when he was swimming in the baths. His groin isn't improving much and the chances are we will end up having to have something a bit more radical done to resolve his problem once and for all.

Steve Frail is another who is improving slowly. His isn't too far off training but won't be involved tonight. I don't think the young lad jumping on

his head at the baths yesterday helped. The poor youngster saw this big bright red thing bobbing up and down in the water and thought it was one of those space hoppers you sit on and bounce, unfortunately it was Steve's head.

That's about it for now, I've got to write my notes for the Ipswich match tomorrow so I'll have to leave something.

Hoping there is nothing to report next time.

Les Parry

Don't you think it's time you gave someone else a go Steve?



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1975 & 1987

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Insider Info

By BECKY ASHTON



LIL FARRAGHER

After a hard training session this is the woman who the players make a bee line for, as she's the one with the food. Lil Farragher is the players cook and has been for nearly four years.

She is responsible for feeding all of the professional players and coaching staff which means she is often rushed off her feet.

Cooking for 29 professionals is no mean feat when they are all in wanting food at the same time.

On average in a week Danny Coyne, ooh I mean the lads, go through 20 loaves of bread, 72 pints of milk, 800g of pasta and rice as well as fruit, vegetables, meat and everything else.

Lil's day begins at about 9.30am when everyone starts arriving wanting tea, coffee and toast, and she finishes at about 4.00pm when everyone has gone and on match days she works in the Dixie Dean Suite.

"Before I started here I knew nothing about football. I used to call it a field instead of a pitch until everyone used to nag me.

"The only bad thing about the job is that I don't ever get to watch the matches so I don't know if the lads are good or not. Maybe some people would say I'm lucky not to have to watch them but I don't think so.

"I am just waiting until we get to Wembley so I can go and see what I'm missing out on".

When asked for an honest opinion about Lils cooking the lads all replied jokingly "It's mingin".

FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES AT PRENTON PARK

On the rebound... Guest Writers have their say

Paddy Hoey of the Wirral News wonders who might buy who in the great scramble to snap up a top football club . . .

"Roll up, roll up," shouts the cheap shyster market trader, "gather round for the great football club buy-up, marvel as we confound you with corporate millions, delight as your rivals take top dollar from the legion of fat cats and be astounded as Manchester United sells its soul to Murdoch, just like the junkie who sells himself for his next fix".

Ah yes, my Rovers chums, just as I predicted in this self same column on the final day of last season, the big money billionaire high rollers are circling like vultures around the carcass of football, and only us in the stands, with our meat pies and sugary tea will be the victims. Like Shane Nicholson finding Maradona's tube marked: "v. special magic talc" the media tycoons are beside themselves with excitement, trembling with the kind of anticipation Neil Ruddock reserves for a steak pie dinner.

But just who will pick the big prizes at the altar of ultimate consumerism. As Frank Corfe and the Rovers board continue to do the best they can for this club, Sky, Carlton, CNN and a hundred other television companies are lining up to rip the heart out of the once glorious game.

But in a freak move some new bidders have hit the market. Disney, right wing fascist purveyors of children's pap are reported to be, by 'prominent insiders' to be contemplating buying Everton or Tottenham, believing them both to be Micky Mouse outfits.

As we dig deeper into this investigation which could change football forever, it is also revealed that Stockport look likely to be bought by a pet food company and renamed East Manchester Pedigree Chum United, and all because they bought a load of old chump from us and all because their players are 'offal'.

The greatest shock comes when Radox re-invigorating bath oils decide to buy Gazza and Middlesbrough simply because they are old soaks.

The spiral of corporate involvement gets deeper, as Vinnie Jones and QPR are bought by chemical giants Pfizer, manufacturers of viagra, hoping that if they can get them up again, they can get anything up.

And all the while the tabloid press cries about the heart being ripped out of football, a million of those loveable cockney reds troop around Old Trafford during their annual 'pilgrimage', and decry all this as the end of the national game as we know it.

I know I am preaching to the converted, but all this is nonsense my friends, football died when those charlatan finks took top dollar and left Tranmere Rovers, Swindon, Barnet and Bury high and dry, dashing off to their multi-million pound Theatre of Dreams multiplex glorified cinemas, where the team chants are displayed on boards like a second rate Jim Davidson pantomime, which is exactly what all this is.



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PRENTON *Pot-Pourri*

Searching the World Wide Web
for Tranmere News & Views

Unless you are still wearing short trousers at school (navy blue knickers for the girls?) it is unlikely that the Rovers squad is complete in your eyes. Everyone has their own opinion, and I have witnessed "discussions" between Tranmere fans that have covered every position in the team and a couple on the bench!

So I am using my privileged position in writing the second *Where Are They Now* piece to suggest the type of player I would love to see wear the "Mighty White" this season. You will not need a description of the attributes I am thinking of when I say the name: Eddie Bishop.

Having joined us from non-League Runcorn, Eddie proved to be a no-nonsense, get-up-and-at-them midfielder who never knew when to quit. His heart for the "battle" was there for all to see. No challenge was ever shirked, no running ball ever lost.

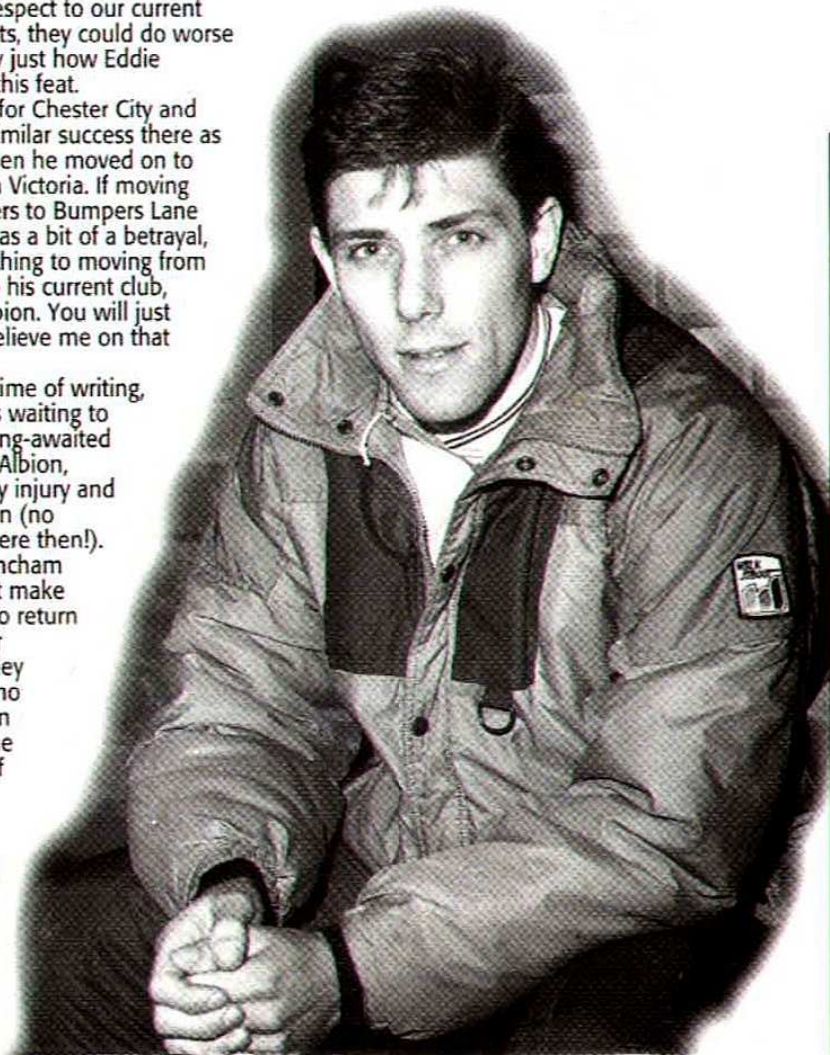
It is little surprise, therefore, that Eddie became the darling of all Rovers fans during his all too brief stay at Prenton Park. Whilst other players blessed with far more natural ability and talent were seen to "opt out" on occasions, Eddie never ever did. He would run and battle non-stop for 90 minutes, always providing, of course, that the referee did not give him an enforced rest somewhat earlier than expected.

When discussing this article with the Editor, we were both soon in fits of laughter as we recalled incidents on the pitch which, at the time made us grimace, but now are the stuff of fond folklore in these parts. Do you remember Eddie coming on as a sub at Bury and being sent off 10 minutes later? How many of you predicted that would happen within two minutes of his appearance?

Gil Upton's excellent "Complete Record" tells me that Eddie made just 58 starts for Rovers, yet scored 22 goals! Even given the fact he made 39 appearances as sub (some shorter than others!) that is a fabulous return for a midfielder. With the greatest respect to our current incumbents, they could do worse than study just how Eddie achieved this feat.

He left for Chester City and enjoyed similar success there as he did when he moved on to Northwich Victoria. If moving from Rovers to Bumpers Lane was seen as a bit of a betrayal, that is nothing to moving from Victoria to his current club, Witton Albion. You will just have to believe me on that one.

At the time of writing, Eddie was waiting to make a long-awaited debut for Albion, delayed by injury and suspension (no change there then!). As the Wincham Park outfit make their bid to return to "former glories" they could do no better than employ the services of Eddie Bishop. Even at 36 he will be a real handful and will make things happen.



Trying to find what the fans of other clubs are saying about us can be a frustrating task, especially via the "Web". I wanted to observe the reaction of Blackpool fans to their teams fortunate win at Bloomfield Road. Out of the six potential sites listed, only one was operational and up to date. Strangely, the "official" Seaside's site

(<http://www.cyberspace.co.uk/users/bfc/default.html>) whilst "on line", presented its latest entry dated 11 May 1998! Perhaps its owner was otherwise detained? The one working site I did find was well worth the hassle.

"Blackpool FC - Reports, Pics & MPEG's" (<http://www.blackpoolfc.hypermart.net/index.html>) is well laid out despite all that tangerine! By the way MPEG is a means by which video can be stored and played on computers (and is the back-bone for forms of digital tele - what a wealth of knowledge!).

Under the title *Aldo shoots down Aldo* the site gleefully re-tells the story of the game. "A magnificent crunching Carlisle tackle" refers to the foul from behind that dispossessed Gary Jones and set up the Seaside's equaliser. As to whether the goal was offside the site reports "it certainly looked dubious", the report concludes with "Now 'Pool fans are just keeping their fingers crossed... it's still Martin (Aldridge) and not John, who ends the night all smiles."



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THE Robins

DAVE KNOTT ON THE BOYS FROM THE COUNTY GROUND

This evening we welcome Huddersfield Town to Prenton Park for a match which is being played in front of the Sky TV cameras. For both clubs it is their first live TV appearance of the season and hopefully their desire to impress the nation will provide an entertaining game, unlike the corresponding fixture last season which was a particularly dour affair which Rovers edged 1-0. Certainly Rovers owe Huddersfield one following the 3-0 pasting they suffered at The McAlpine Stadium in March.

Despite an opening day defeat at Bury 1-0, Huddersfield have made a bright start to the new campaign and sat in sixth place with ten points prior to the midweek matches. Victories have been recorded against Port Vale (H) 2-1, Bristol City (A) 2-1 and last weekend at home to Sheffield United 1-0 thanks to Wayne Allison's late goal. Their other point was secured in a 3-3 thriller at The McAlpine with Portsmouth. In the Worthington Cup First Round they sneaked past Mansfield 4-3 on aggregate.

This seasons start is in stark contrast to events last season when the club took fifteen matches to record their first League win, and looked a good bet for relegation. Peter Jackson was handed the task of avoiding the drop following Brian Horton's departure and he chose to recruit experience in the likes of Barry Horne, David Phillips and Wayne Allison. "The Great Escape" was achieved and became the title for the clubs end of season highlights video. However the video landed Huddersfield in hot water when they used an unauthorised clip of Charles Bronson from the classic movie of the same name.

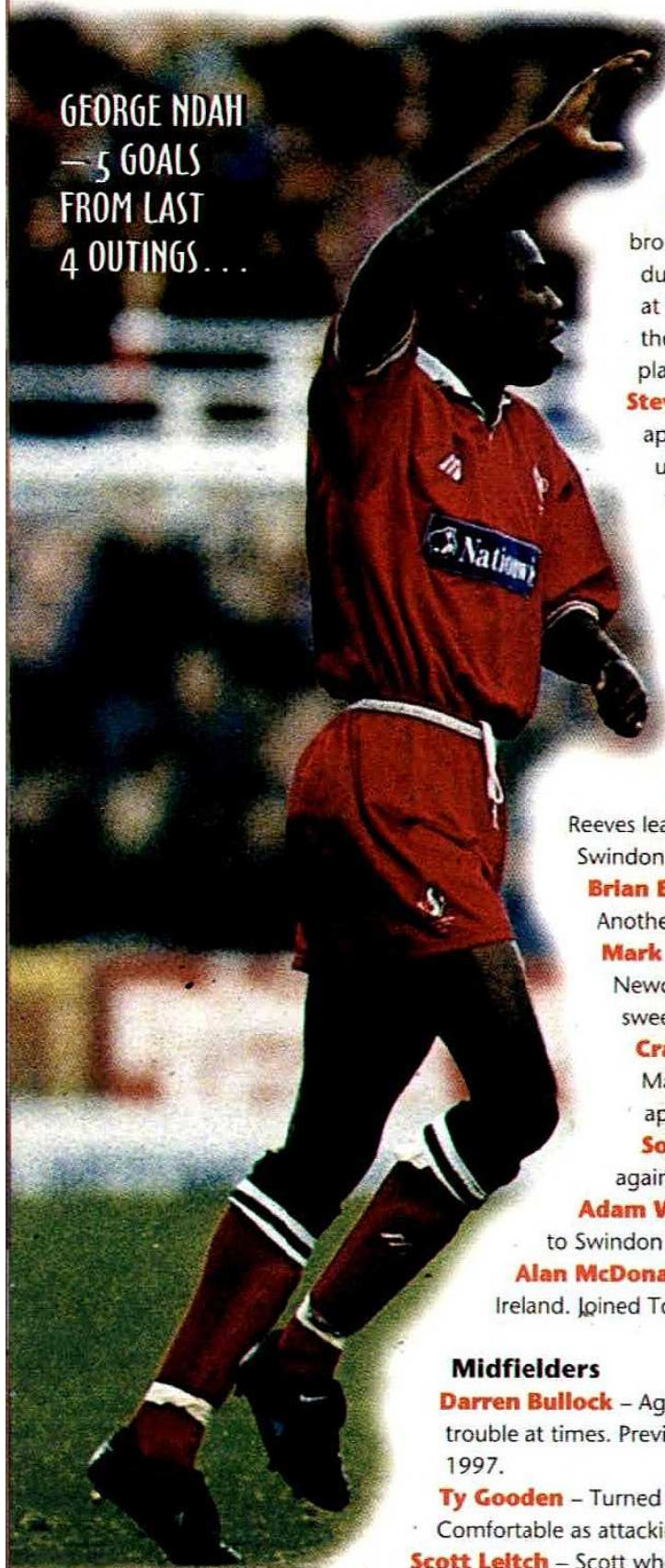
With the influx of players to the squad during last season and the subsequent improvement in the clubs form, the summer was quiet on the transfer front with only two new signings. Right winger Ben Thornley was recruited from Man. Utd, while the return of on loan keeper Steve Harper to Newcastle was compensated for by the arrival of Belgian Nico Vaesen.

FRANK TALIA



Scouting Report

GEORGE NDAH
— 5 GOALS
FROM LAST
4 OUTINGS...



Goalkeepers

Frank Talia – With the departure of Fraser Digby in the close season he has assumed the number one role and recently signed a new three year contract.

Jimmy Glass – The Bosman ruling brought Glass to the County Ground during the summer, after his contract at Bournemouth came to an end. At the moment he has to be content playing deputy.

Steve Mildenhall – Only a handful of appearances at first team level, he was used as an outfield substitute against Rovers two seasons ago when the club were severely hit by injuries.



Steve McMahon

Defenders

David Kerslake – Right back now in his third spell with Swindon, after free transfer from Ipswich. Other clubs include Leeds and Tottenham.

Gareth Hall – Another Bosman signing this summer, when he left Sunderland. Best known as a full back he can slot in anywhere in the back four or midfield. Nine caps for Wales.

Alan Reeves – Lack of first team opportunity at Wimbledon saw Reeves leave the Dons during the summer and turned us down to join Swindon. A commanding centre half who must be watched at set pieces.

Brian Borrows – Will be 38 this December but still a first team regular. Another who can play anywhere in the back four.

Mark Robinson – Was the clubs record buy when signed from Newcastle in 1994. Normally operates as a full back but has also played sweeper for the club.

Craig Taylor – Younger brother of ex-County player Shaun Taylor. Made a first team shirt his own last term but only substitute appearances in the League so far this season.

Sol Davies – Left sided defender, his last outing as a substitute against Bristol City saw him receive a red card for a professional foul.

Adam Willis – Free transfer signing from Coventry he was recommended to Swindon by Brian Borrows who knew him from his time at Highfield Road.

Alan McDonald – Vastly experienced centre half with 53 caps for Northern Ireland. Joined Town from QPR his only other club.

Midfielders

Darren Bullock – Aggressive midfielder who always gives 100% which can get him into trouble at times. Previously with Huddersfield he joined Town for £400,000 in February 1997.

Ty Gooden – Turned in his most consistent season for The Robins last term. Comfortable as attacking midfielder or in the wing back role.

Scott Leitch – Scott who signed for Swindon following a successful loan spell during the clubs promotion season in 1995/96.

Swindon Stats

No one will be more frustrated at Swindon's current plight than Steve McMahon himself. A shareholder at the County Ground his commitment to The Robins cannot be questioned and he will be looking to turn things around starting tonight. In his first full season in charge at Swindon in 1995/96 he led the club to the Second Division championship, and an immediate return to the First Division following relegation. Despite having been to a World Cup finals and won League Championships and FA Cup winners medals from his time with Liverpool he rates his first managerial success as the highlight of his career. That career started over the water at Everton and took in stops at Aston Villa, Liverpool and Manchester City before he ventured into management at the County Ground. Steve knows what it takes to win at the highest level, but getting Swindon there is another matter.

Mark Walters – Former England international whose previous clubs include Liverpool and Glasgow Rangers. Scored a screamer against Rovers last season at the County Ground.

Kevin Watson – Started out as a junior with Tottenham and came to Swindon in 1996 after loan spells at Brentford, Bristol City and Barnet.

Robin Hulbert – Youngsters who also saw red in the game against Bristol City. And England U18 he spent the end of last season on loan at Newcastle.

Philippe Cuervo – Frenchman signed on a free from Sochaux prior to last season. Turned in some impressive displays early on before injury interrupted his season.

Bobby Howe – Having struggled to make an impression at Nottingham Forest, signed for Swindon in January. Got his first taste of League action this term against Watford as a second half substitute.

Lee Collins – Ball winning midfielder signed from Albion Rovers in Scotland in 1995. Yet to figure this season.

Forwards

George Ndash – Brought in from Crystal Palace for £500,000 to fill the gap left by Wayne Allison last season. Struggled for goals initially but currently on form as mentioned elsewhere.

Iffy Onuora – Joined the club from Gillingham last March, he had begun to form an effective partnership with Ndash before missing last weekend's match.

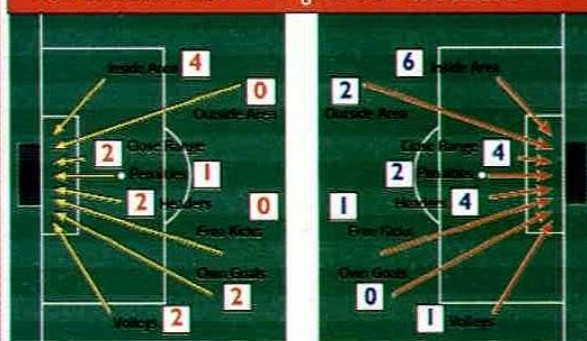
Chris Hay – Signed from Celtic in summer 1997. He started his Swindon career with 13 goals in his first three months but could not keep up that strike rate as Swindon faltered last season.

Steve Cowe – Diminutive ex-Aston Villa forward who was a regular on the bench last season. Made his first League start of the season last weekend.

Swindon Town's last ten years - the full record

	88/89	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98
Div.	2	2	2	2	1	P	1	2	1	1
F.A.	4	3	4	5	3	3	4	5	3	3
LC	2	4	3	4	3	3	SF	2	3	1
L.S.	Shearer	Shearer	Shearer	Shearer	Maskell	Fiorito	Fiorito	Allison	Allison	Hay
Goals	14	20	22	22	18	12	16	17	11	14

How Swindon have scored goals... and conceded them



Statistics compiled by Football Information Services Telephone: 0151-632 5679

When The Robins have scored goals... and conceded them

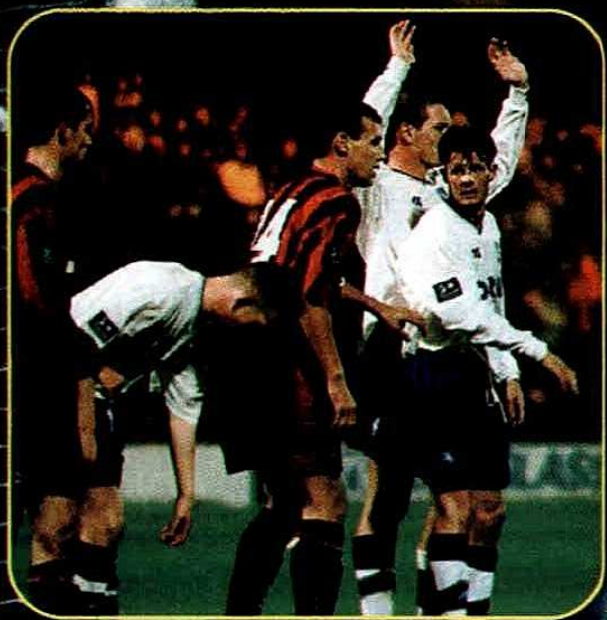


SWINDON'S BAD BOYS	
Bullock ...4	Davis ...1
Walters ...3	Hulbert ...1
Kerlake ...2	
Ndash ...2	
Raevs ...2	
Borrows ...1	
Gooden ...1	
Hulbert ...1	
Leitch ...1	

Last 6 Results

Watford	H	1-4
Portsmouth	A	2-5
Oxford United	H	4-1
Bristol City	H	3-2
Bury	A	0-3
Port Vale	H	1-1

Rovers 2 1



Tranmere players crowd the Huddersfield penalty area looking for an equaliser



Parky scores to put Rovers back into the game

out still no maximum points . . .

erriers 3



Jason Koumas crashes the ball home in the 70th minute – one that he will never forget



ee Jones tries to break the deadlock

Friday 11th September
Nationwide League Division One

TRANMERE (0) 2

(Parkinson 65, Koumas 70)

HUDDERSFIELD (2) 3

(Stewart 20, Allison 44, 69)

Attendance: 5,770

ROVERS: Simonsen, Allen, Thompson, O'Brien, Hill, Irons, Morrissey (Koumas 45), Santos (Morgan 84), Parkinson, L. Jones.

Booking: Morrissey – 42.

Shots: 10. Corners 10. Fouls 16.

HUDDERSFIELD: Vaesen, Jenkins, Edwards, Johnson, Gray, Collins, Richardson (Dalton 61), Horne, Stewart, Allison, Thornley (Dyson 73).

Bookings: Stewart – 35. Edwards – 65.

Shots: 5. Corners 3. Fouls 6.

Referee: Mr. J. Brandwood (Lichfield).

The 6 Pack

SIX
QUESTIONS
AIMED
AT
FINDING
OUT
WHAT
MAKES
TRANMERE
PLAYERS
TICK...

TODAY'S
INTERVIEWEE
IS

Liam O'BRIEN

Many supporters reckon last season was your best for Tranmere in terms of personal performance – do you agree?

I'll probably go along with that. I played 48 games in total last season and I was quite pleased with the way I played. It was a tough season because we were trying to battle our way out of relegation danger for much of the season but we came good in the second half of the season.

Towards the end of the last campaign you were offered a new contract for this season – what was your reaction to that?

I was delighted. The new contract was just what I wanted because I have enjoyed myself here at Tranmere and I felt there was another good season left in me in First Division football.

Just one more?

Yes, I honestly think this will be my last season at Tranmere. I'm hoping to go back to my native Ireland next season. I've bought some property there and I expect to be going over in the summer. I honestly don't know which club I will be joining. I'm just gambling that I will be picked up.

You come from Dublin, so is it a question of the mother country calling you back?

Yes, I always said when I left Ireland to play my football over here that I wanted to come home and finish my career there. I played five seasons in Ireland before I came over to join Manchester United. I had a couple of years with Bohemians then three very successful seasons at Shamrock Rovers when we won the League title three times and the Cup twice. I want to put something back into the Irish game because it put me on the road to a successful career in this country.

Does that mean you want to go back as more than just a player?

I want to go back as a player-coach or player-manager. During my time in England I have played under a lot of good managers and coaches and hopefully I have learned something from each and every one of them that I can pass on. I've played for Alex Ferguson, Kevin Keegan, Jack Charlton, John King and John Aldridge among others. Football is what I know best. There are not many Irish players who play the game in England and then go back. Most end up staying here. But I intend being one of the exceptions.

Do you think Irish football is in a healthy state?

I think the game is stronger over there than it has been. A lot of English teams are playing their pre-season games in Ireland these days – Tranmere included. You can count on a good competitive game from the Irish sides. And, of course, this club is always sure of a very warm welcome.



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LIGHTFOOT**

Date of Birth November 9th, 1967
Place of Residence Wolverhampton
Marital Status Married with two children
What car do you drive Nissan
Honours/Achievements 3rd/4th Div. Championships, Sherpa Van Winner '88
Most memorable match Sherpa Van Final
Who makes you laugh and why Ned because he has multi-coloured teeth
Favourite CD/Music Lighthouse Family
Favourite pastime (other than football) ... Golf and spending time with my family
Team you supported as a child Wolves

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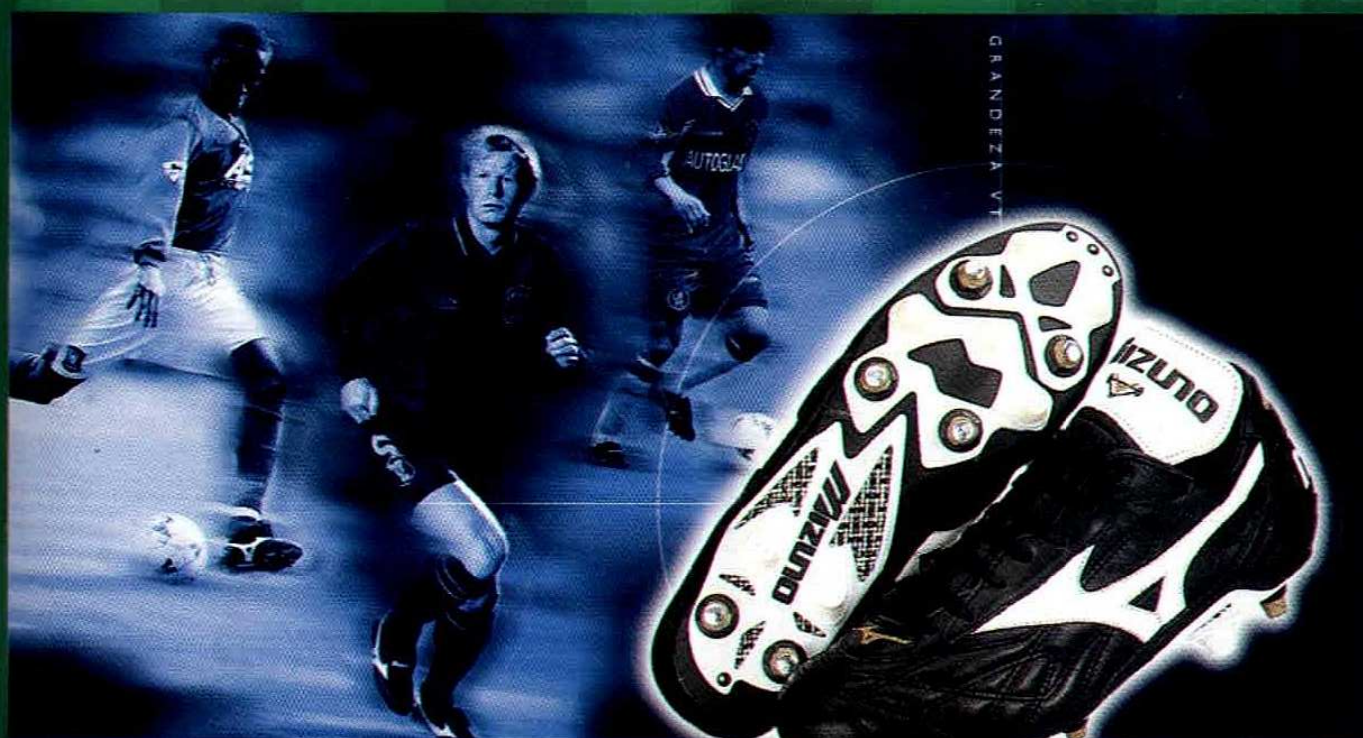
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Middlesbrough	4	3	0	1	7	5	9
Sheff Wed	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Man City	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Wolves	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
TRANMERE	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
WBA	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
Oldham	4	2	0	2	6	8	6
Burnley	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Grimsby	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Barnsley	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
Bolton	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Port Vale	4	0	0	4	2	8	0

PONTIN'S LEAGUE
Division One
Adults £3
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Wednesday 30th September, Kick Off 7.15 p.m. at Prenton Park

Tranmere Rovers Reserves vs Middlesbrough Reserves

WIRRAL

TRANMERE ROVERS

MIDDLESBROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB

ROVERS RESERVES3 OLDHAM ATHLETIC RESERVES.....0

The second string rode their luck early on but finished decisive winners in this Pontins Division One League clash at Prenton Park.

It was a memorable occasion for Perry Taylor who helped himself to a brace of goals before heading off to join the England U18 squad.

Dutchman John Achterberg gave an assured performance in goal and there was also plenty of promise from recent signing David Fairclough despite a second half booking.

George Santos returned after completing a three match suspension and Micky Mellon played the full 90 minutes to push for a senior recall.

The deadlock was broken in the 32nd minute when Taylor beat David Miskelly with an angled shot after the keeper had pushed out an effort by Lee Jones.

Taylor doubled the advantage with a sweetly struck 20-yarder nine minutes into the second half.

Lee Jones completed the scoring when set up by Gary Jones in the 79th minute.

It was a second victory in four starts and Rovers should quickly make ground up the table.

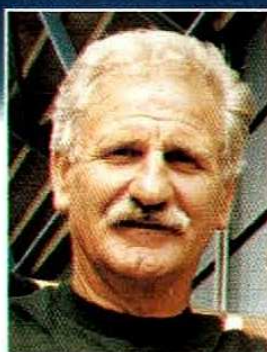
Rovers Reserves: Achterberg, Morgan, Fairclough, T. Holmes, Hinds, Koumas (J. Holmes 84), P. Taylor (Joy 74), Santos, G. Jones (Haig 84), Mellon, L. Jones. Subs not used: C. Taylor, Aldridge.

Middlesbrough are the next visitors to Birkenhead on Wednesday next, September 30th, kick off 7.15 p.m.

Andrew Stratton

Thur 13 Aug	Grimsby Town (7.00)	3-1 (Mahon, G. Jones, Holmes)
Wed 19 Aug	Burnley (7.15)	0-1
Mon 24 Aug	Wolves (7.00)	1-2 (Koumas)
Wed 2 Sept	Oldham Ath (7.15)	3-0
Wed 23 Sept	Port Vale (7.00)	-
Wed 30 Sept	Middlesbrough (7.15)	-
Mon 5 Oct	Barnsley (7.00)	-
Wed 14 Oct	Bolton Wand. (7.15)	-
Wed 28 Oct	W.B.A. (7.15)	-
Tue 3 Nov	Sheff. Wed. (7.00)	-
Wed 2 Dec	Man. City (7.15)	-
Wed 9 Dec	Grimsby Town (7.15)	-
Wed 16 Dec	Burnley (7.15)	-
Tue 5 Jan	Oldham Ath (7.00)	-
Wed 20 Jan	Wolves (7.15)	-
Tue 2 Feb	Coventry City (7.00)	-
Wed 17 Feb	Port Vale (7.15)	-
Wed 24 Feb	Middlesbrough (7.00)	-
Wed 10 Mar	Barnsley (7.15)	-
Wed 17 Mar	Bolton Wand. (7.00)	-
Wed 24 Mar	Sheff. Wed. (7.15)	-
Wed 31 Mar	W.B.A. (7.00)	-
Tue 27 Apr	Man. City (6.45)	-
TBA	Coventry City (7.15)	-

The Youth Tree



WARWICK RIMMER & THE YOUNG ROVERS

Saturday, 12th September 98

WREXHAM 'A' 1 TRANMERE 'A' 2

Fielding a very strong team the scoreline does not reflect the amount of possession we had and with better finishing the scoreline could have trebled. The game itself was a good excuse for some injured players to return to fitness, namely Dave Challinor and John McGreal who both showed good attitudes and character in both their performance and help given to the younger members of the team. Well taken goals by **Perry Taylor** and **Andy Moran**, both regular scorers this season, ensured we maintained our unbeaten start to the season.

Team: (4-4-2) Murphy; Morgan, Challinor, McGreal, Joy, Williams, Gibson, Mahon, Fairclough, P. Taylor, Moran. Subs: Sutcliffe, C. Taylor.

Saturday, 19th September 98

TRANMERE 'A' 6 MARINE RESERVES 1

A good result, all be it against a weaker Marine side, the pleasing thing was that we created so many chances and finished well. Two more headed goals by **Alex Hey** formed part of a good hat-trick. At times our passing and movement was excellent and proved to much for Marine. More consistency is still need in some individual players performances and the overall performance of the team. Our first goal could be the fastest this season coming after approximately 10 seconds. Let's hope we can continue scoring in our future games.

Team: (4-4-2) Achterberg, Sutcliffe, C. Taylor, Holmes, Fairclough, Williams, Gibson, P. Taylor, Joy, Moran, Hey.

TRFC Centre of Excellence

The Centre of Excellence teams got off to a great start at the weekend (Sunday 13th September) against Oldham. The U-11s lost a thrilling match 5-4. The played really well for a long period of the game and Jamie Williams was very pleased with them. Glyn Salmons U-12s won 1-0 with a goal from Diabie. The scoreline flattered Oldham because they too played some magnificent football. I travelled up to Oldham with the U-13s and U-14s. Two new coaches have joined us in Dylan Williams and Robbie Savage and their U-13s won 3-2 after leading 3-0 and had played really well for the majority of the match. The scorers of the goals were Dagnall (2) and Fowler. I took the U-14s, assisted by Paul Morrison another new recruit, and we won 2-1 with goals from Clampitt and Smyth. Both teams played a lot of attractive football and we just about deserved to win on the day. There were a number of good individual performances, notably from Carl Clampitt in midfield and David Raven at the back.

Until next time, *Steve Mungall.*

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

15th Aug	Macclesfield Town Res.	A	1-1
22nd Aug	Morecambe Res	A	1-0
5th Sept	Southport Res.	H	3-2
12th Sept	Wrexham "A"	A	2-1
19th Sept	Marine Res.	H	6-1
26th Sept	Leek Town Res.	H	
3rd Oct	Burnley "A" (Supp. Cup)	H	
10th Oct	Macclesfield T. (Supp. Cup)	H	
17th Oct	Marine Res. (Supp. Cup)	A	
24th Oct	Accrington Stanley Res.	H	
31st Oct	Morecambe Res.	H	
7th Nov	Leek Town (Supp. Cup)	H	
14th Nov	Wrexham "A"	H	
21st Nov	Wrexham "A" (Supp. Cup)	A	
28th Nov	Burnley "A"	H	
5th Dec	Accrington Stanley Res.	A	
12th Dec	Accr'ton St Res (Supp. Cup)	H	
19th Dec	Wrexham "A" (Supp. Cup)	H	
9th Jan	Accr'ton St Res (Supp. Cup)	A	
16th Jan	Southport Res.	A	
23rd Jan	Marine Res. (Supp. Cup)	H	
30th Jan	Leek Town Res. (Supp. Cup)	A	
6th Feb	Bury "A"	H	
13th Feb	Burnley "A" (Supp. Cup)	A	
20th Feb	Oldham Athletic	H	
27th Feb	Burnley "A"	A	
6th Mar	Bury "A"	A	
13th Mar	Oldham Athletic	A	
27th Mar	Marine Res.	A	
3rd April	Semi Finals 1st Leg		
17th April	Semi Finals 2nd Leg		
24th April	Leek Town Res.	A	

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE

15th Aug	Wigan Athletic	A	4-2
22nd Aug	Bury	H	0-0
29th Aug	Chester City	H	0-1
12th Sept	Oldham Athletic	A	1-1
19th Sept	Stockport County	A	0-2
26th Sept	Wrexham	H	
3rd Oct	Blackpool	A	
10th Oct	Burnley	H	
17th Oct	Rochdale	A	
24th Oct	Carlisle United	H	
31st Oct	Preston North End	A	
7th Nov	Bury	A	
14th Nov	Wigan Athletic	H	
21st Nov	Chester City	A	
28th Nov	Oldham Athletic	H	
5th Dec	Stockport County	H	
19th Dec	Wrexham	A	
2nd Jan	Blackpool	H	
9th Jan	Burnley	A	
23rd Jan	Rochdale	H	
30th Jan	Preston North End	H	
24th Feb	Everton "A"	H	
13th Feb	Carlisle United	A	

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The Swinging 60's Revisited

by Chris Metcalfe

Tranmere actually carved out more chances and performed better territorially than in the FA Cup defeat six months earlier but had no answer to the "Blues" clinical finishing. At least Yardley realised his dream of playing on a big stage.



Enriched by that experience George made Barnsley suffer the following Friday evening when, in a sharp performance, Rovers triumphed 3-1 against the "Tykes" with Yardley (2) and Alan King on the scoresheet. Incidentally, Alan was the only King in Rovers' squad at this point but was still habitually listed in programmes and match reports as King, A, such was the indelible influence of his distinguished namesake, Johnny, who had been released to join Port Vale during the close season after six and a half years of sterling service. Fortunately, in terms of time served, that only proved to be a quarter of his overall contribution to the club.

Following the Barnsley victory, the club hit upon a lean spell with only a point taken in the next four games. By this point the new wingers Rowland and Gill had temporarily fallen by the wayside. Rowland had been hampered with a bloodclot in his leg (sorry, folks, I can't recall which one), while Gill had been replaced by John McNamee, now displaying his best form for the club. Ken Beamish was also establishing himself, either as a direct right winger or as a bustling central striker who would move up alongside Yardley whenever the more subtle talents of George Hudson were unavailable through injury.

...to be continued.



The Big Issue!

A UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO THE FOOTBALLING ISSUES OF THE DAY, WITH **PHIL MOSS**

At the moment we do, and so do the FA's International Committee, so called because many of them remember when we used to win away from home – like in two World Wars. The IC met last week in Lancaster Gate to discuss France '98, and whether they should offer Hod an extension to his current contract.

Once they'd realised they were talking about the World Cup, and not this year's Bordeaux vintage, they no doubt had a very full and frank discussion on

England's inept performance, and then poured the tea and ate cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off. So, with the IC as useful as a Craig Russell loan spell, I'd better have a go at evaluating our Glenda.

Personally I'd have sacked him off big time as soon as they landed back home early from across the Channel, but maybe that was too harsh. His refusal to play MO and the Posh Blond one from the start cost England the group, but that was then.

This is now, and he should be gone, and for one reason. His book.

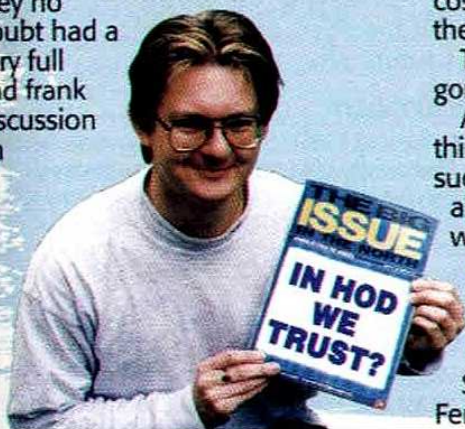
All successful managers have one thing in common, apart from being successful that is. And that is their ability to draw the line between what should be said in the public arena, and that which should remain behind closed doors, in the confines of the dressing room.

Shankly, Busby, Paisley and now Ferguson and Wenger, all keep club

matters where they belong, inside the club. When do you hear either of those modern day managers publicly having a go at one of their players, let alone writing it (or having it ghost written) in a book. Exactly! You don't.

Yet we have a man charged with getting the national side to the next European Championship who can't keep his mouth – or David Davies' computer – shut and breaches the vital manager-player confidentiality. This then gives the green light for Mr. A. Adams (very apt initials don't you think!!) to publish himself, and suddenly you have no respect within the camp, no team spirit, and everyone wondering if the next argument will be in Hod's second volume.

The players need to know that the manager is on their side. This is why Hoddle should be relieved of his duties, together with his Gormless side-kick, and the Director of FA's Public Affairs, a certain David Davies.



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Today's TRANMERE MASCOT

Name:

IAN GOODCHILD (aged 11)

School:

Woodchurch High

Favourite Players:

Lee Jones

Hobbies:

Football, golf, cricket and playing on Playstation



SuperWhites QUIZ - Just For Fun!

- 1) Name the former Man Utd player and current TV pundit who once managed Swindon?
- 2) Where do Swindon play?
- 3) What is Swindon Town's nickname?
- 4) What is the christian name of Steve McMahon's brother, currently on Rovers' staff?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 34

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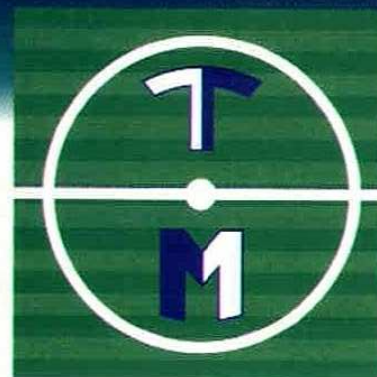
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Tranmere Midfielders

I have just got home, after a great though exhausting day out at Alton Towers with the Midfielders. We took twenty five of our members and a full report of the day will appear in a future programme.

PENALTY SHOOT OUT

This took place during the Huddersfield game and was won by Colin Simpson who took home a signed football. Many thanks to the Football Club for allowing us to hold this.

MEMBERSHIP

Forms are still available at the ticket office, main reception or the shop. Please return them to us at the next meeting together with two passport photos and the £3 for the season's membership. Don't forget, the free raffle will from now on only be open to our members.

PLAS-Y-BRENIN

There now follows a report about the Midfielders day out to Plas-y-Brenin during the summer. It is written by Daisy Forshaw:

"When we went to Plas-y-Brenin we had so much fun. We went canoeing and skiing and although we got really cold and wet we had a great time. The instructors were great and helped to make the day even more fun. The barbecue when we finished really topped the day off. I would love to go back. If we return to Plas-y-Brenin I would love to take part in the other activities available, the day was just not long enough."

OCTOBER MEETING

We will meet as usual on October 5th in Aldos from 8pm till 10pm. Make sure you come along if you are still in either the table tennis or Nintendo penalty competitions. There will also be some players present to answer your questions and sign autographs. Also more great prizes in the free raffle. So come along all you 13-17 year olds for a great night out.

Finally, as Aldo said, the support was great at the Huddersfield game so lets get behind the team again tonight and see if we can help them get the maximum three points to start the climb back up the table where we belong.

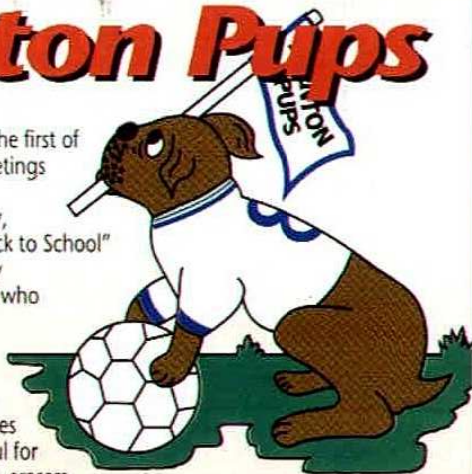


Tranmere Midfielders
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Prenton Pups

The Prenton Pups enjoyed the first of their new look monthly meetings when they gathered in the Tranmere Suite on Thursday, September 17th with a "Back to School" theme. Assembly was led by "Headmaster" Alan Beedles who explained that the season's meetings would follow a different theme on each occasion. In keeping with a new school term all the prizes on offer were to prove useful for school - pens, pencils, rules, erasers, pencil cases and even the scarf and gloves would keep out the cold of winter.



Alan announced the first Player of the Month - Andy Parkinson - who pipped Clint Hill and Georges Santos in the early voting. Alan also presented 10-year-old Lyndsey Roger with her prize of a Rovers away scarf for winning the Kennel Competition v Bristol City. She was only one out in guessing the total number of goals scored in the Nationwide League that weekend.

The first "lesson" took the form of a Tranmere Quiz, all correct answers being rewarded with a Prenton Pup eraser or a signed photo of outgoing Steve Simonsen.

The first guests to arrive helped out with languages as English, French and Dutch were covered by Gary Jones, George Santos and, on the eve of his signing, John Achterberg. During their chat with Alan the players revealed a little of their backgrounds and hobbies. George said he was a big reggae fan and had just bought a Bob Marley CD. Gary on the other hand favoured All Saints with John having a more varied taste.

As Gary raved about his red BMW Prenton Pup President, Lee Jones, drove into the car park in his Toyota Supra. As for George and John they are both without transport at present with George's VW Golf in France and John's Citroen parked up in Holland. George hoped to have his car back soon so that he can drive to his new house in Oxtown following his stay in the Venezia.

Lee joined in the fun and immediately excited the Pups by donating one of his Welsh international shirts for the raffle. The players then took part in a game based on "Play Your Cards Right", Alan held up cards showing football teams and the cries of "higher" or "lower" indicated their position on the map of Britain.

As the players prepared to leave they were besieged for autographs and photographs. Rochelle McLean (10), goalkeeper for Tranmere Rovers girls, dashed to John for some advice on keepers gloves. The Dutchman (probably making his debut tonight) recommended Adidas Supersoft.

Although school dinners take a bit of stick in general there were no complaints as about four ton of chips arrived for the Pup's refreshment. They were devoured with relish - tomato sauce actually - and orange juice in double-quick time.

The raffle ended the evening with lucky Lyndsey Roger adding to her previous prize by swooping for Lee's shirt.

Finally, welcome to Swindon town supporters, especially the younger element of their following. Have a safe journey home.

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Lewis Reed



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Tranmere Rovers F.C.

Women's National Premier League

ILKESTON 3 TRANMERE ROVERS 4

Tranmere Rovers Ladies gained their first victory of the season with this excellent victory over newly promoted Ilkeston.

The game started at a frantic pace on one of the warmest days of the summer with Tranmere in complete control going close on numerous occasions.

Molly Gardner made an excellent run and was played through on goal by an excellent pass from Sue Smith. As the keeper advanced Molly coolly dispatched the ball over her head into the top corner. The game continued to be played in Ilkeston's half before a long ball over the Rovers defence sent their centre forward clean through on goal and Sue calmly curled the ball round the advancing keeper. The first half finished with Rovers again on top in search of a goal.

The second half started brightly and it wasn't long before Kelly Shimmin hammered home a cracking shot to give Rovers the lead. The lead was again short lived as Ilkeston gained a penalty through a debatable decision. This seemed to spur Tranmere onto greater things and the lead was soon regained when Molly Gardner scored two quick goals in succession with both being extremely well taken.

With 15 minutes to go Ilkeston scored direct from a free kick with the ball somehow slipping through the keepers hands. The remainder of the game was a tense affair with Tranmere finally holding out for the three points. Molly Gardner was voted Player of the Match.

The Ladies' next game is away at Aston Villa on Sunday in the First Round of the National League Cup.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Doncaster Belles	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Croydon	2	1	1	0	5	0	4
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Millwall	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ilkeston	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
TRANMERE	2	1	0	1	5	6	3
Everton	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Southampton	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Bradford	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

Sun 6 Sept Doncaster Belles (H) 1-3 (Preston)
Sun 20 Sept Ilkeston Town (A) 4-3 (Gardner, Smith, Shimmin)

Sun 27 Sept	Aston Villa (A) Lge Cup	-
Sun 4 Oct	Millwall Lionesses (H)	-
Sun 18 Oct	Arsenal (H)	-
Sun 25 Oct	Bradford City (A)	-
Sun 1 Nov	Ilkeston Town (H)	-
Sun 8 Nov	Croydon (H)	-
Sun 15 Nov	Southampton Saints (H)	-
Sun 22 Nov	Liverpool (A)	-
Sun 29 Nov	Croydon (A)	-
Sun 6 Dec	Bradford City (H)	-
Sun 13 Dec	Southampton Saints (A)	-
Sun 20 Dec	Everton (A)	-
Sun 3 Jan	Liverpool (H)	-
Sun 17 Jan	Millwall Lionesses (H)	-
Sun 24 Jan	Arsenal (A)	-
Sun 31 Jan	Doncaster Belles (A)	-
TBA	Everton (H)	-

1998-99 FIXTURES

Tranmere Ladies
are sponsored by
**DIRECT
MARKETING
SUPPORT**





DIRECT MARKETING SUPPORT PROUD SPONSORS OF TRANMERE ROVERS LADIES FC

Tranmere Rovers Ladies FC have formed a partnership with local company D.M.S. who will be the clubs main sponsors during the current season.

This is a major boost to the team who have performed miracles over their nine years since their formation in 1990. From the early days in the North West Division Four the Ladies have rapidly played their way through five divisions to reach the pinnacle of the womans game – the National Premier League.

The financial burden has always been a major obstacle but with the added support of D.M.S. the prospects of further success has now increased dramatically.

D.M.S. are a well respected local company who have a high ratio of female employees. The newly formed partnership with Tranmere Rovers Ladies can help improve the profile of our team locally and nationally and will also give D.M.S. some high profile publicity throughout the campaign.

Everyone concerned with our club are extremely grateful for the massive boost D.M.S. have given the team and the hope is that the partnership is a long and rewarding one.

Finally I would like to welcome Julie Hannigan and Ann Calvert to tonight's game. Julie and Ann are employees of D.M.S. and have both been very supportive in making the sponsorship a success.

Enjoy the game.

TRANMERE ROVERS SOCCER SCHOOLS

Tranmere Rovers Football in the Community are holding their final two Soccer Schools of the year at Borough road Playing Fields during the Autumn Half Term holidays. This will be a chance for your son or daughter to come along and experience how much fun it is to learn the basic skills of football.

The aim of our Soccer Schools are to provide enjoyment, improve the child's basic football skills and to give all participants an action packed few days of football fun.

The first course has been organised for boys and girls aged between 5-7 and is our second Tranmere Tots Course of the year.

COURSE ONE – Tots Course for boys and girls aged 5-7

Monday 26th October - Thursday 29th October, 2.30-4.30. Course limit 60 boys and girls. Course fee: £15.

COURSE TWO – Mixed Course for boys and girls aged 7-12

Tuesday 27th October - Friday 30th October, 10.00-2.00. Course limit 100 boys and girls. Course fee: £25.

The Soccer Schools offer: Qualified coaching, small sided games, prizes for endeavour and enthusiasm, Mini World Cup (mixed course only), certificates and numerous spot prizes, a tour of Prenton Park (mixed course only), supervision in a safe environment, Superstar Competition, American Shootout, Penalty Shootout.

To reserve a place or for further details phone Steve Williams on 608 2354.





1

League
Table
1998/99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	pts
Huddersfield	9	6	1	2	15	10	19
Sunderland	8	5	3	0	22	4	18
Birmingham	9	5	1	3	12	7	16
Bury	9	4	4	1	7	2	16
Watford	8	5	0	3	14	12	15
Sheff Utd	9	4	2	3	15	16	14
Wolves	8	4	2	2	12	7	14
Bolton	7	3	4	0	18	13	13
West Brom	8	4	1	3	17	14	13
Ipswich	8	3	4	1	12	6	13
Norwich	7	4	1	2	12	8	13
Portsmouth	9	3	3	3	16	13	12
Barnsley	8	3	3	2	12	10	12
Grimsby	9	3	2	4	10	10	11
Stockport	9	2	4	3	9	12	10
Swindon	9	2	2	5	13	20	8
Crewe	8	2	2	4	12	14	8
Bradford	8	2	2	4	10	13	8
Crystal Palace	7	2	2	3	7	11	8
Port Vale	8	2	1	5	5	14	7
Oxford Utd	9	1	3	5	9	21	6
QPR	8	1	3	4	6	11	6
Bristol City	9	0	4	5	11	20	4
TRANMERE	7	0	4	3	4	12	4

Player	Birthplace & Date	Signed from	Date & Fee	TRFC Debut & Date	98-99 Lge Apps/Gls	98-99 Cup Apps/Gls	TRFC Career Apps	Gls
John Achterberg	Utrecht 8.7.71	Eindhoven	09.98 - Free					
Graham Allen	Bolton 8.4.77	Everton	08.98 - Loan	v Bristol C. 29.8.98	4	1	5	
Dave Challinor	EU19 Chester 2.10.75	Brom. Pool	07.94 - Free	v Stoke 28.2.97	1	1	39+5	1
Danny Coyne	Wal Prestatyn 27.8.73	Ex. YTS	07.92 -	v Pboro 8.5.93	2		111+1	
David Fairclough	Glasgow 26.4.78	Bohemians	08.98 - £15,000					
Stephen Frail	Wrexham 10.8.69	Herts	01.98 - £75,000	v Man City 31.1.98	3	1	8+2	
Clinton Hill	L'pool 19.10.78	Ex. YTS	07.97 -	v Forest 18.10.97	4	4	25+2	1
Kenny Irons	L'pool 4.11.70	Ex. YTS	11.89 -	v Bury 2.12.89	7	4	341+49	52
Gary Jones	Chester 10.5.75	Ex. YTS	07.93 -	v Millwall 20.11.93	3+3	2+2	94+56	25
Lee Jones	Wrexham 29.5.73	Liverpool	06.97 - £100,000	v Southend 28.3.97	4+2	1+3	47+10	16
David Kelly	Eire Bir'ham 25.11.65	Sunderland	08.97 - £350,000	v WBA 9.8.97	1	1	2	38+1
Jason Koumas	Wrexham 25.9.79	Ex. YTS	07.98 -	v Carlisle 18.8.98	1+3	1	2+1	3+4
John McGreal	L'pool 2.6.72	Ex. YTS	07.90 -	v Southend 25.4.92	4	4	194+5	1
Kevin McIntyre	L'pool 23.12.77	Ex. YTS	08.96 -	v Forest 18.10.97			+2	
Alan Mahon	Eire U21 Dublin 4.4.78	Ex. YTS	03.95 -	v Hud'field 3.2.96	1+1	1+2	19+37	3
Micky Mellon	Paisley 18.3.72	Blackpool	10.97 - £285,000	v Sheff. U. 1.11.97	5+2	1	3	34+11
Alan Morgan	WU21 Aberystwyth 2.11.73	Ex. YTS	07.92 -	v Ipswich 17.4.96	2+1	1	1	19+13
John Morrissey	EY L'pool 8.3.65	Wolves	10.85 - £8,000	v Southend 4.10.85	4+3	1+1	501+65	64
Liam O'Brien	Eire Dublin 5.9.64	Newcastle Utd	01.94 - £250,000	v Bolton 23.1.94	4	2	184+10	12
Andy Parkinson	L'pool 27.5.79	Liverpool	05.97 -	v Wolves 22.10.97	6+1	2	4	18+12
George Santos	Marville 15.8.70	Toulon	08.98 - Free	v Wolves 8.8.98	5	3	8	
Ian Sharps	War'ron 23.10.80	YTS	07.97 -	v Sunderland 22.8.98	+1		+1	
Andy Thompson	Cannock 9.11.67	Wolves	07.97 - Free	v WBA 9.8.97	6	3	61	3
Ryan Williams	Chest'field 31.8.78	Mansfield	08.97 - £70,000					

SuperWhites Quiz Answers
1. LOU MACARI 2. COUNTY GROUND 3. THE ROBINS 4. JOHN

Stat Attack

Date	V	Opponents & Event	F-A	Att.	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Referee
Sat 8 Aug	A	Wolverhampton Wanderers	0-2	20,203	24	Simonson	Frail	Thompson	McGreal	Hill SO	Irons	Morrissey	Santos	Kelly	Russell	Mellon	Parkinson	Morgan	G. Jones	Taylor
Tues 11 Aug	H	Carlisle (WC1-1)	3-0	5,116	-	Simonson	Frail	Thompson	McGreal	Hill	Irons1	Morrissey	Santos	Kelly2	Parkinson	Mellon	L. Jones	Coyne	G. Jones	D. Laws
Sat 15 Aug	H	Portsmouth	1-1	6,714	22	Simonson	Frail	Thompson	McGreal	Hill	Irons	Morrissey	Santos	Russell	Parkinson	Mellon1	L. Jones	Morgan	G. Jones	Kirby
Tues 18 Aug	A	Carlisle (WC1-2)	1-0	2,106	-	Simonson	Morgan	Thompson	McGreal	Hill	Irons1	Mahon	Mellon	G. Jones	Parkinson	L. Jones	Morrissey	Coyne	Koumas	Jones
Sat 22 Aug	A	Sunderland	0-5	34,155	23	Simonson	Frail	Thompson	McGreal	Morgan	Irons	Parkinson	G. Jones	Russell	Mellon	L. Jones	Morrissey	Sharps	Koumas	Lynch
Sat 29 Aug	H	Bristol City	1-1	5,960	23	Coyne	Morgan	Thompson	Allen	Hill	Irons	Morrissey	O'Brien	G. Jones	Parkinson	L. Jones	Russell	Koumas	Mellon	Burns
Tues 8 Sept	A	Queens Park Rangers	0-0	8,070	24	Coyne	Allen	Thompson	O'Brien	Hill	Irons	Mellon	Santos	G. Jones	Parkinson	L. Jones	Morrissey	Koumas	Morgan	Stretton
Fri 11 Sept	H	Huddersfield Town	2-3	5,770	24	Simonson	Allen	Thompson	O'Brien	Hill	Irons	Morrissey	Santos	Parkinson	Mellon	L. Jones	Koumas	Morgan	Mahon	Brandwood
Tue 15 Sept	A	Blackpool (WC2-1)	1-2	3,954	-	Simonson	McGreal	Thompson	O'Brien	Hill	Irons	Koumas	Santos	G. Jones	Parkinson	Mellon	L. Jones	Morrissey	Mahon	Mathieson
Sat 19 Sept	A	Bury	0-0	5,030	24	Simonson	Allen	Hill	McGreal	Challinor	Irons	Koumas	Santos	Parkinson	O'Brien	Mahon	L. Jones	Morrissey	G. Jones	P. Richards
Tue 22 Sept	H	Blackpool (WC2-2)	3-1	5,765	-	Simonson	Allen	Hill	McGreal	Challinor	Irons1	Koumas	Santos	Parkinson	O'Brien	Mahon	L. Jones	Murphy	G. Jones	Holbron
Fri 25 Sept	H	Swindon Town																		
Tues 29 Sept	H	Ipswich Town																		
Sat 3 Oct	A	Birmingham City																		
Sat 10 Oct	A	Oxford United																		
Sat 17 Oct	H	Watford																		
Tues 20 Oct	H	Barnsley																		
Sat 24 Oct	A	Crewe Alexandra																		
Sat 31 Oct	H	Stockport County																		
Sat 7 Nov	A	Sheffield United																		
Sat 14 Nov	A	Bolton Wanderers																		
Sat 21 Nov	H	Norwich City																		
Sat 28 Nov	A	Port Vale																		
Sat 5 Dec	H	Grimsby Town																		
Sat 12 Dec	H	Bolton Wanderers																		
Sat 19 Dec	A	West Bromwich Albion																		
Sat 26 Dec	H	Sunderland																		
Mon 28 Dec	A	Bradford City																		
Sat 9 Jan 1999	H	Wolverhampton Wanderers																		
Sat 16 Jan	A	Bristol City																		
Sat 30 Jan	H	Crystal Palace																		
Sat 6 Feb	A	Portsmouth																		
Sat 13 Feb	H	Queens Park Rangers																		
Sat 20 Feb	A	Huddersfield Town																		
Sat 27 Feb	H	Bury																		
Weds 3 March	A	Swindon Town																		
Sat 6 March	A	Ipswich Town																		
Tues 9 March	H	Birmingham City																		
Sat 13 March	H	Sheffield United																		
Sat 20 March	A	Stockport County																		
Sat 27 March	H	Crewe Alexandra																		
Sat 3 April	A	Watford																		
Mon 5 April	H	Oxford United																		
Sat 10 April	A	Barnsley																		
Sat 17 April	A	Norwich City																		
Sat 24 April	H	Port Vale																		
Sat 1 May	A	Grimsby Town																		
Sun 9 May	H	West Bromwich Albion																		
TBA	A	Crystal Palace																		
TBA	H	Bradford City																		

For Tickets and Travel Information,
call the Ticket Office on 0151-609 0137

● First Substitute ▲ Second Substitute ■ Third Substitute B = Booked SO = Sent Off ✕ Own Goal Scorers - Goalscorers in Bold



Off The Park

THE GENERAL MANAGER ~ JANET RATCLIFFE

During the height of the World Cup in France this year, used car specialist, DC Cook

MotorHouse linked up with Wirral News series to offer youth and junior football teams throughout the region the chance to win a brand new kit for the 1998-99 season.

Set the task of picking their very own World Cup Dream XI, 13-year-old Richard Davies selected what the judges thought was the strongest team with superstars such as Ronaldo, Zidane, Carlos and Owen adorning his Hall of Fame.

Richard has donated the winning strip to his school team, Pensby Boys School. Playing in the Wirral Schools Knock-Out Cup competition, the 1997-98 season was a successful one for the school with success for both Year's 8 and 10, with the latter making the Cheshire Schools Cup Final.

The full team strip – bearing the DC Cook colours of red, white and blue was purchased from the Tranmere Rovers Club shop and is being presented tonight to Year 8 acting as a representative gathering of the Pensby Boys School football team. The presentation is being made by DC Cook MotorHouse general manager, Gary Sykes.

We also welcome tonight the West Kirby Gymnastics Club who were featured in our last matchday

programme. As you may remember, the 26 strong team are representing Great Britain in the Display Gymnastics in Gymnastrada which is being held in Sweden next July. One of the girls has been sponsored for the trip by Tranmere Rovers Charity Trust and Chairman Barrie Bradburn would like to thank all supporters who generously donated to the ground collection at the last match. We hope you enjoy tonight's display.

FOURTH IN EUROWIRRAL TEN PIN BOWLING

Last week the club took part in the annual EuroWirral Fit for Business Games and were

delighted to come Fourth out of 42 entries. The team were actually only 2 points behind

John Mowlem who came

Third. First and Second places

were won by teams from

Wirral Borough Council.

XMAS PARTY NIGHTS ALMOST SOLD OUT!

If you have not yet decided on the date for your office Christmas Party, do not leave it too much longer or you may be disappointed. We have had an overwhelming response to our Christmas Entertainment programme with many dates already full. *Bookings are now being taken for New Year's Eve*

WAREHOUSE USED CAR SALE HUGE SUCCESS!

Were you one of the people who got themselves a bargain last weekend at the Lookers Used Car Sale held at Prenton Park? There were over 200 cars on offer, many of which were sold at this unique trade sale event. Said Lookers spokesman, Geoff McKenna, "We were delighted with the response over the weekend and extend our thanks to Tranmere Rovers for the excellent facilities provided and support of the club staff."

ROVERSGOLD CANVASSERS NEEDED

Our door-to-door operation is now up and running successfully in many areas of Wirral. However, Jane Yeardsley, Lottery Manager is interested to hear from anyone interested in earning extra cash for Christmas. All you need is a few spare hours each week. – 608 4194.

CAR BOOT SALES

Every Sunday in the car park Spaces £7 – Admission 20p
Doors open 7.00 am
Refreshments available
Pick up a bargain this weekend!

CELEBRITY DINNER WITH TOMMY DOCHERTY

Thursday 25th November

Comedian is Paddy Greene

A superb night's entertainment for £26 per person

Telephone 608 4194 to reserve your tickets

Visually Impaired Facilities Supplied by

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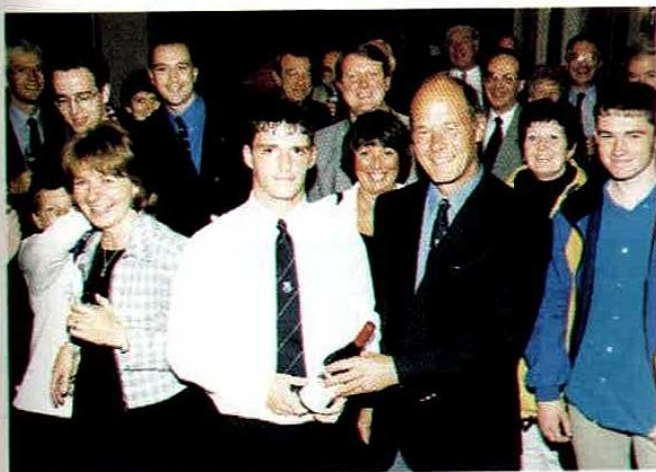
Medicash

Prenton People

SUPPORTING TRANMERE



Jim Rymer of Silverbeck Rymer, who were our main match sponsors for the game against Huddersfield is pictured here receiving his club memento from Director Tony Adams, Mr. Rymer also presented Georges Santos with his man of the match award



Peter Darch presents Jason Koumas with his second award on behalf of the Dixie Dean members for his performance against Huddersfield, Jason will be hoping the two awards he won here will not be the last this season



The winner of our equaliser draw was Mr. R. Hutchison, the winning number being 53450, Gareth Powell presented the cheque for the value of £563.50 during half time at the Huddersfield match



Jason Koumas was voted man of the match by our Vice Presidents club members, Jason was presented with his award by Bob Scott and Neil Bennet following the Huddersfield game.



Our Prenton Suite sponsors for the Huddersfield game were Catholic Builders Association, they chose Graham Allen as their man of the match, pictured here presenting Graham's award is sales manager Brendan Ryan and director Tony Adams who presented Mr. Ryan with their club memento

Birmingham vs Tranmere Rovers

Saturday, 3rd October kick off 3.00

THIS MATCH IS AN ALL TICKET
MATCH FOR ROVERS FANS

Admission: £16.00

Limited number of concessions at
£9.00

COACHES DEPART 11.15 a.m.

Executive £8.00

Standard Adults £7.00 Conc. £6.00

HOW TO GET TO BIRMINGHAM

From M6 join A38(M) at
Junction 6. Branch left and
then take the first exit at the
roundabout. Continue along
the A45, Dartmouth
Middleway. Left into St.
Andrews Road for ground.
Street parking.

HOW TO GET TO OXFORD

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 two miles

Oxford Utd. vs Tranmere Rovers

Saturday, 10th October kick off 3.00

Admission Pay at turnstile

SEATING

Adults £14.00 Accompanied Jnrs £6.00

Senior Citizens & Unaccompanied Jnrs
£11.00

STANDING

Adults £9.50 Conc. £6.50

Executive Coaches Only

DEPART 10.00 a.m.

Adults £14.50 Conc. £13.00

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE **TRAVEL CLUB** MUST BE SHOWN AT THE TICKET OFFICE AT THE TIME OF BOOKING ANY TRAVEL.

Tranmere Rovers Ticket Office: Tel: 0151-609 0137

£20,000



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IPSWICH TOWN

Ipswich Town come to Prenton Park nursing something of an injury crisis in defence.

Centre-half Jason Cundy has been ruled out for the rest of the season after surgery to cure an ankle injury.

Tony Mowbray and Mark Venus are short term casualties but are still likely to miss the trip to Merseyside. But as bad as it is in defence, Town have no problems in attack.

James Scowcroft has been scoring the goals and looks in impressive form.

Scowcroft started last season as Ipswich's main striker because of Alex Mathie's injury problems but then had difficulties of his own.

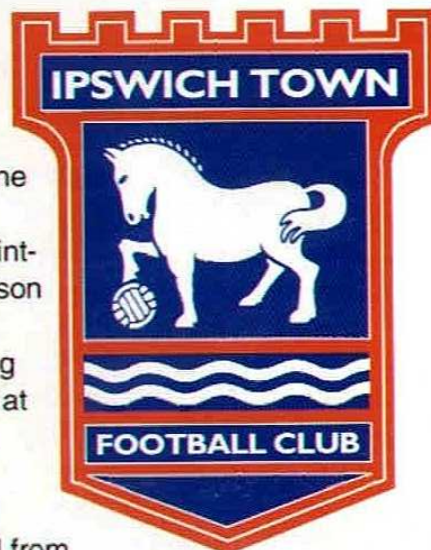
He was relegated to the bench by Mathie's subsequent return and then tore a knee cartilage which resigned him to the bench. But he's returned as good as ever this term and looks certain to enjoy an extended run in the team.

An England B international, Scowcroft has formed an impressive front line partnership with David Johnson. Pint-sized striker Johnson has shown the consistent finishing which eluded him at Bury. He became Ipswich's record £800,000 signing when he switched from Gigg Lane last season and hasn't disappointed.

His greatest asset is his pace, but he is also remarkably good in the air. Naturally left-footed, he has a knack of banging them in with his right and his versatility is a problem for defenders.

● This match by the way is a Category 'B' match.

Garry Doolan



The Football Trust has been providing support for football throughout the UK for 22 years.

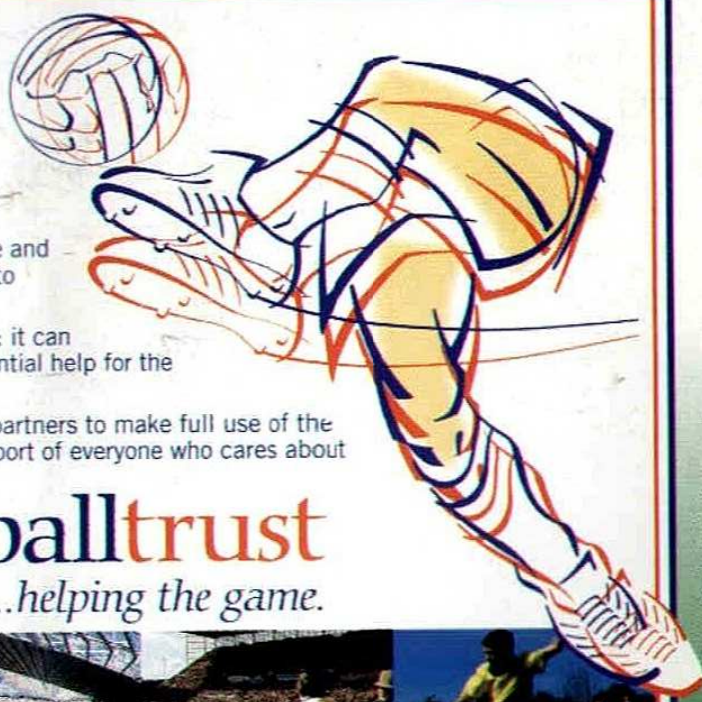
A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game and will continue its vital grant support for lower division clubs to complete the Taylor programme.

The Trust is about a great deal more than bricks and mortar: it can handle grant aid programmes of every sort and provides essential help for the game at all levels.

The commitment of the Government and the new funding partners to make full use of the Trust's grant aid experience and expertise will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

the football trust
...helping the game.



The Football Trust, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EB

Match of the Day

The Mirror

1 John **ACHTERBERG**

2 Graham **ALLEN**

3 Cliint **HILL**

4 John **McGREAL**

5 Dave **CHALLINOR**

6 Kenny **IRONS**

7 Jason **KOUMAS**

8 Georges **SANTOS**

9 Andy **PARKINSON**

10 Liam **O'BRIEN**

11 Alan **MAHON**

12 Lee **JONES**

13 John **MORRISSEY**

14 Gary **JONES**

1 Frank **TALIA**

2 David **KERSLAKE**

3 Gareth **HALL**

4 Scott **LEITCH**

5 Alan **REEVES**

6 Brian **BORROWS**

7 Mark **WALTERS**

8 George **NDAH**

9 Steve **COWE**

10 Darren **BULLOCK**

11 Ty **GOODEN**

12 Kevin **WATSON**

13 Craig **TAYLOR**

14 Bobby **HOWE**

Today's Match Officials



Roger Furnandiz (Doncaster)

A 45-year-old technical sales manager... married with two teenage children... been a League official since 1994-95... has been involved in over 450 Premier and League matches since 19985... away from football enjoys golf and cricket



Mr. C. D. Edwards



Mr. N. A. Yates



Mr. R. Cooper

Match Sponsor: **Lewis Reed** Prenton Suite Sponsor: **S. Hall Motors Ltd.** Media Suite Sponsors: **Sky TV** Match Ball Sponsor: **Motorhouse**

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News**
Heswall News
**Hoylake
and
West Kirby
News**



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Neston News
**Bromborough
and
Bebington
News**

Wirral News Group

The other Winning Team on Wirral!