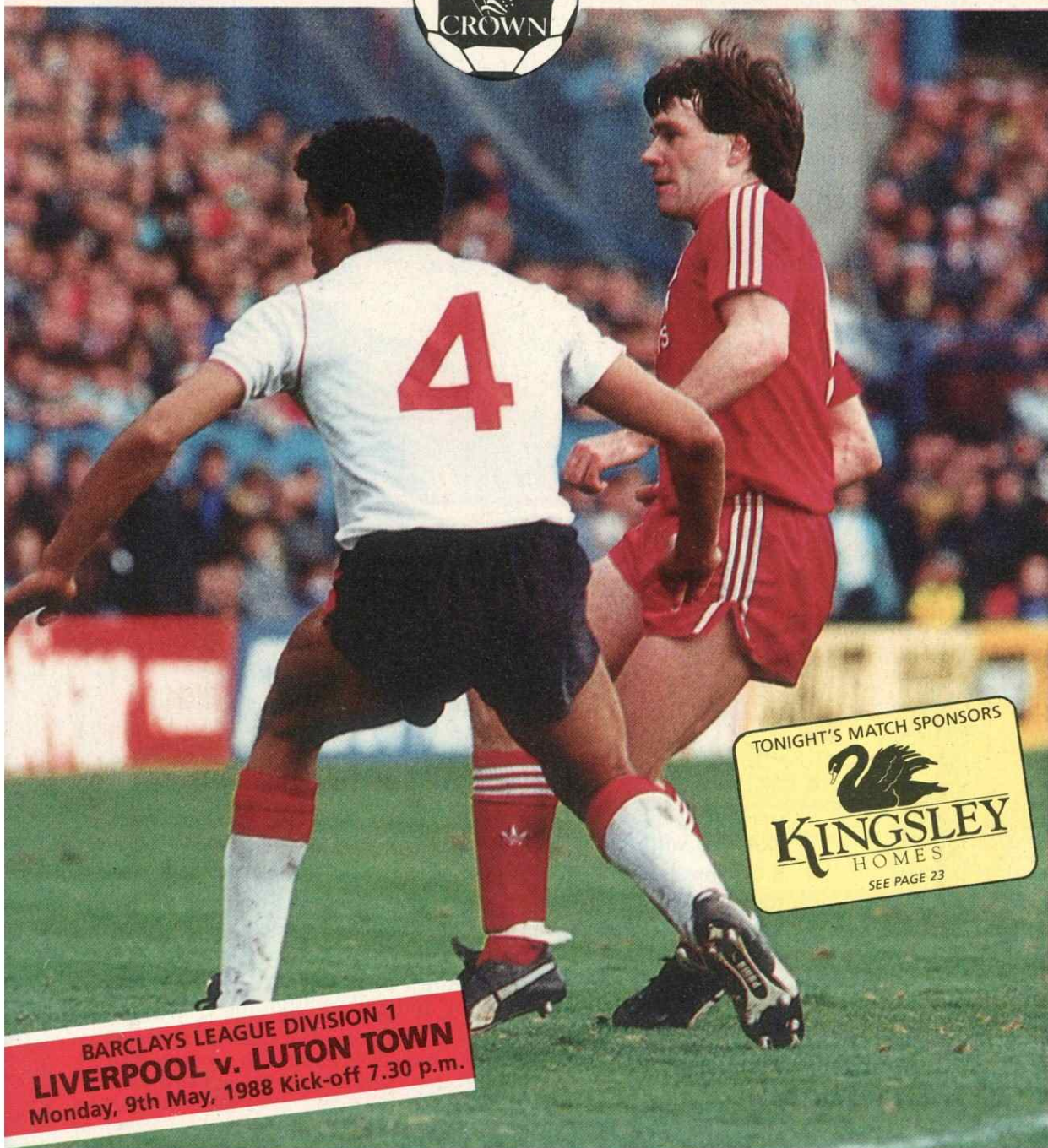


LIVERPOOL



The Anfield

Review 60p



TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSORS


KINGSLEY
HOMES
SEE PAGE 23

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 1
LIVERPOOL V. LUTON TOWN
Monday, 9th May, 1988 Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

LUTON TOWN come to Anfield tonight as holders of the Littlewoods Cup, after their success against Arsenal at Wembley a couple of weeks ago, and I would like to offer congratulations to them on behalf of Liverpool Football Club. This is the first major trophy Luton have won in the whole of their history, and I'm sure they have been savouring the experience to the full.

There's no question about it, so far as I'm concerned... no matter how many times you may win honours, the next trophy is just as welcome as the previous one was, and the satisfaction which comes from winning and proving that you've been the best never even begins to pall.

I know, for instance, that Alan Hansen values his seventh League-championship medal every bit as much as he did the first, and for the reaction of those Liverpool players who are tasting success for the first time, you need only listen to Peter Beardsley when he says: "That's what I came here for. I still have four years left on my contract and, hopefully, it will be three or four more championships." Yes, once you've tasted that feeling of success, you become hungry for more.

Luton Town have had to settle for the bitter disappointment of defeat at Wembley this season, so their achievement in the Littlewoods Cup would be all the sweeter, so far as they were concerned. Their 4-1 defeat by Reading in the final of the Simod Cup can now be forgotten, because they did the job against Arsenal in style.

Luton manager Ray Harford must have wondered, when he saw Arsenal go 2-1 up after having conceded an early goal, if it was going to be another bitter pill to swallow. Then he must have been thinking about extra time after Luton made the scoreline 2-2. But that winning goal proved once again that in football, it never pays to take anything for granted. You can snatch victory in the dying seconds.

The KENNY

As it happens, had things turned out differently in the semi-finals of the FA Cup, Liverpool and Luton Town would have been meeting at Wembley next Saturday, so this game could have been a dress rehearsal—or would it? I'm not sure how we would have arranged this postponed League fixture, had we been scheduled to meet at Wembley.

As it is, Luton's players will be like millions of other people next Saturday—spectators waiting to see which skipper walks up to collect the FA Cup. But at least they have the satisfaction of knowing they were able to take the Littlewoods Cup back to Kenilworth Road.

As for Liverpool, after tonight we have just one game to go—and if we can win that one, we shall achieve an historic double. Having said that, we are all well aware that Wimbledon, with their own, inimitable style, will be bidding to make a bit of history for themselves. So there's no way the FA Cup final is a foregone conclusion. To do the double, we have to win it—and to win it, we'll have to work as hard as we've ever worked in any match this season.

All I will say is that the Liverpool players are prepared to do just that; and if effort, allied to skill, can bring the FA Cup back to Anfield, we shall not be found wanting. Our fans know they can rely upon us to give 100 per cent. all the way. And we hope it will be good enough to do the trick.

DALGLISH

COLUMN



IN OUR final issue of the Anfield Review for season 1987-88, we put the spotlight not only upon tonight's visitors, Luton Town, but upon our visit to Wembley for the FA Cup final next Saturday, as we feature full-colour action from our FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough.

Liverpool go to Wembley as champions bidding to become the first English club to achieve a League-FA Cup double for the second time around, and we know our supporters will wish the team luck. On the back page we pay our own tribute to the fans who have given the club such marvellous backing this season. See you at Wembley!



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LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Seasons	1975-76
1900-01,	1976-77
1905-06,	1978-79
1921-22,	1979-80
1922-23,	1981-82
1946-47,	1982-83
1963-64,	1983-84
1965-66,	1985-86
1972-73,	1987-88

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

Seasons 1976-77
1977-78, 1980-81
1983-84

U.E.F.A. CUP WINNERS

Seasons
1972-73
1975-76

F.A. CUP WINNERS

Seasons 1964-65
1973-74
1985-86

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

Seasons 1980-81
1981-82

MILK CUP WINNERS

Seasons 1981-82
1982-83, 1983-84



WARNING TV SURVEILLANCE

This ground is equipped with CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

Installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust. It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

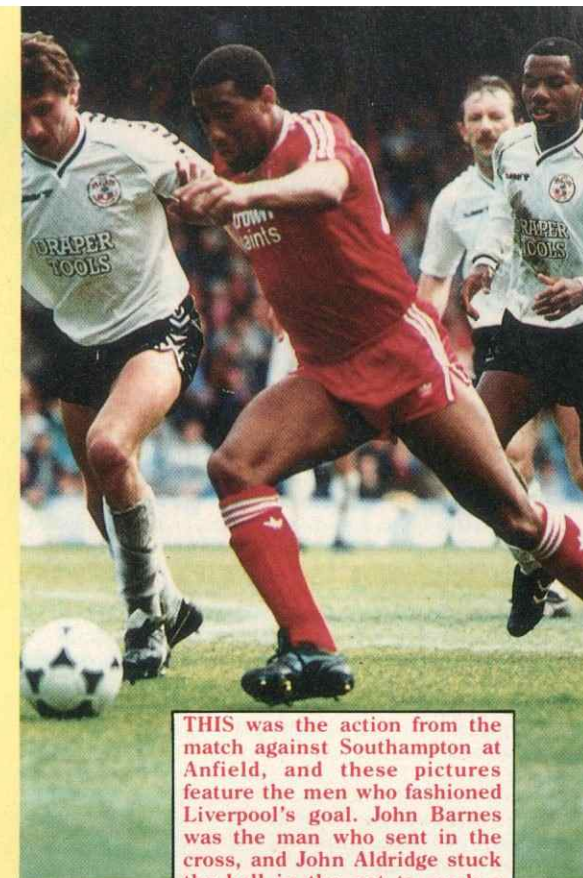
The Football Trust is funded entirely by the pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters from their Spotting-the-Ball competition.



IT'S presentation time before the game against Southampton, and Kenny Dalglish receives the brand-new Barclays League trophy from Mr. John Quinton, the chairman of Barclays Bank. Mr. Quinton also handed over to the Liverpool chairman, Mr. John W. Smith, a cheque for £50,000—Liverpool's reward for winning the title. Liverpool captain Alan Hansen stepped up to receive the Football League's traditional championship trophy, and he led the players on the lap of honour around Anfield.

Pictures by
John Cocks

IT WAS a family affair at Anfield as Kenny Dalglish received the Barclays League championship trophy, because his wife Marina (pictured here with the latest arrival, Lauren), and children Kelly, Lyndsay and Paul were guests of the match sponsors, Candy.



THIS was the action from the match against Southampton at Anfield, and these pictures feature the men who fashioned Liverpool's goal. John Barnes was the man who sent in the cross, and John Aldridge stuck the ball in the net to mark a personal milestone, because it was the 200th goal of his career.



KENNY'S GOAL CLINCHES OUR 16th LEAGUE TITLE

The Years

SEASON 1984-85 was a traumatic one for Liverpool, as it ended on a note of tragedy, with the disaster of the Heysel stadium making unwanted headlines. Liverpool lost the European Cup final against Juventus, finished as runners-up in the League, went out of the Milk Cup in the third round, and couldn't get past Manchester United in the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

The club also lost manager Joe Fagan, after he had been in charge for two seasons, and Liverpool handed Kenny Dalglish the job of succeeding him. At the start of season 1985-86, he was talking about the club and the players needing to get the legacy of Brussels out of their systems... at the end, he was stepping up to receive the Manager of the Year award as Liverpool achieved a double by claiming the League championship and the FA Cup.

Liverpool didn't make a bad start, but Manchester United set off like a house on fire as they swept into what seemed a title-winning lead, with 10 victories on the trot. They were 10 points clear of the nearest opposition and looked unstoppable. Meantime, Liverpool kept on plugging away and, by the end of November, that United lead had been whittled down to a couple of points, with Everton making a showing.

December was a poor month for Liverpool, though, because we lost to Arsenal, drew against Newcastle United, suffered a Boxing Day defeat against Manchester City, then drew 1-1 with Nottingham Forest, in our 24th League game of the season. By then we had won 13 matches, including five on the trot from late October to the end of November, and suffered four defeats.

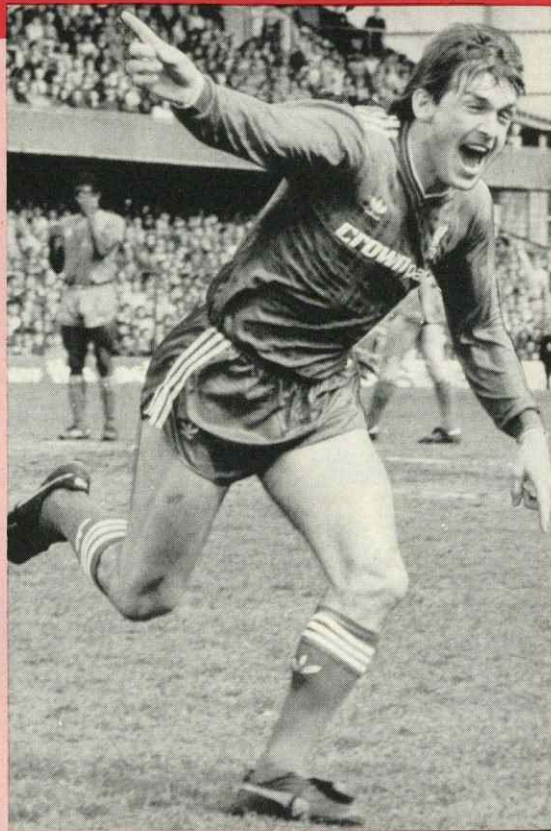
New Year's Day dawned, and Liverpool dropped two points at home against Sheffield Wednesday, but we made up for that by going to Watford and winning 3-2, and beating West Ham 3-1. But we lost at Ipswich, dropped two points against Manchester United at Anfield, and fared even worse when Everton beat us 2-0 on our own ground.

The leadership of the First Division had changed hands for the first time on February 1, when Everton overhauled Manchester United to go one point clear (on 56 points), with Chelsea (54) in third place and Liverpool (53) lying fourth. When Everton won at Anfield on February 22, it looked ominous for everyone else, and towards the end of the first week on March the Blues were still showing all their rivals a clean pair of heels.

The only difference was that Liverpool had edged into second place, one point in front of Manchester United—but still five points adrift of Everton. However, we had embarked on a run which saw us go unbeaten through our last dozen matches... indeed, we took no fewer than 34 points, as we won 11 and draw one of those final games. It was a run which was to take us to the pinnacle—by the first week in April, we were ahead of Everton on goal difference, and at the beginning of May we had totalled 88 points to Everton's 86, West Ham's 84 and Manchester United's 76.

That end-of-season winning streak for Liverpool must have made Everton wish they had never won the Anfield derby game, as they felt the backlash from us. It began with a 2-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane, then it was 4-1 against Queen's Park Rangers, 2-1 at Southampton and 6-0 against Oxford United at Anfield.

The run of victories came to an end with the scoreless draw against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough (Wednesday had also beaten Manchester United in a vital game at Old Trafford); then



Man on the mark... Kenny Dalglish, after scoring the goal that clinched the League title for Liverpool in the final game of the season against Chelsea, at Stamford Bridge.

the Liverpool juggernaut began to roll again. Manchester City went down 2-0, Ronnie Whelan hit a hat-trick in the 5-0 demolition job on Coventry City, and Craig Johnston's lone goal won the game at Luton.

It was West Brom 1, Liverpool 2 at The Hawthorns, Liverpool 5, Birmingham City 0 at Anfield—where Gary Gillespie notched a hat-trick—and that left two away games to be negotiated. One was at Leicester, where goals from Ian Rush and Ronnie Whelan saw Liverpool home and dry, and then came the final League outing, against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

It was May 3, the last Saturday of the season, and by then Chelsea and West Ham, two other candidates for the championship, had seen their hopes take a tumble, while Manchester United had virtually given up the ghost. Everything really hinged on what Liverpool did against Chelsea and, just maybe, on how Everton fared against the Hammers at Goodison Park 48 hours later.

On the Saturday, Everton beat Southampton at Goodison Park and West Ham won at West Brom... but the Everton-West Ham

of Glory...



★ **WE BEGAN** this sparkling series, which has made compelling reading for every Liverpool supporter, by going right back to season 1892-93, when we finished as champions of the Lancashire League. And we have featured all the seasons in which Liverpool won at least one major trophy.

★ **TONIGHT WE** conclude our series by bringing you almost bang up to date, as we go back just a couple of seasons... to 1985-86, when Liverpool achieved the double of League title and FA Cup. And, of course, right now we're aiming for a repeat performance.

clash on the Monday turned out to be a decider merely for second place, because Liverpool clinched the championship by winning at Chelsea, where a crowd of more than 43,000 saw Kenny Dalglish strike the dagger blow inside the first half-hour.

It was the goal that won the game, the goal that decided the destination of the League title; and Liverpool claimed that honour for the 16th time as they totalled 88 points. The only question then was whether we could stage an astonishing double by winning the FA Cup, and thus denying Everton that prize as a consolation for having lost the title race.

NO PLACE in Europe... so when it came to Cup competitions, Liverpool had to go for the two domestic trophies—and in season 1985-86 we slipped up at the semi-final stage of the Milk Cup, because after disposing of Oldham Athletic, Brighton, Manchester United and Ipswich Town, we allowed Queen's Park Rangers to cash in on a 1-0 lead by drawing 2-2 at Anfield.

In the FA Cup, however, Liverpool remained on course for Wembley, despite a scare or two along the way. The third round brought Norwich City to Anfield, and there were doubts that January day as to whether the game would be started, as snow flurries changed the pitch from green to white.

However, the show did go on, and Liverpool made Anfield the setting for a five-goal display which earned them a crack at Chelsea in the fourth round. That game, though, was at Stamford Bridge—and we had come unstuck in the Cup there before.

Two goals in three minutes put us on course for round five, however—Ian Rush struck on the stroke of half-time, and Mark Lawrenson hit a goal two minutes into the second half. Chelsea had no answer, and so (as in the previous season) Liverpool came up against York City.

In 1985, York had held us to a draw at Bootham Crescent and been hammered 7-0 in the Anfield replay; this time out, a Jan Molby penalty saved Liverpool's bacon at York, and in the replay our Danish international was to set us on the victory road, after York had held us to 1-1 in the 90 minutes. Extra time brought goals from Molby and Kenny Dalglish, and it was with some relief that Liverpool said farewell to gallant opponents from a lower division.

A home tie against Watford was the reward in the sixth round, but at Anfield we couldn't find a way through to goal, and when the replay took place at Vicarage Road we found ourselves trailing even before half-time. There were only four minutes left on the clock when Liverpool were awarded a penalty, and Jan Molby despatched it safely to win us an extra-time reprieve.

Continued on page 8

SEASON 1985-86 FA CUP

Round 3: Norwich City (h) 5-0
Round 4: Chelsea (a) 2-1
Round 5: York City (a) 1-1, (h) 3-1
Round 6: Watford (h) 0-0, (a) 2-1
Semi-final (White Hart Lane): Southampton 2-0
Final (Wembley): Everton 3-1
● **Liverpool won the FA Cup**

SEASON 1985-86 FIRST DIVISION

Arsenal (h) 2-0, (a) 0-2
Aston Villa (h) 3-0, (a) 2-2
Birmingham City (h) 5-0, (a) 2-0
Chelsea (h) 1-1, (a) 1-0
Coventry City (h) 5-0, (a) 3-0
Everton (h) 0-2, (a) 3-2
Ipswich Town (h) 5-0, (a) 1-2
Leicester City (h) 1-0, (a) 2-0
Luton Town (h) 3-2, (a) 1-0
Manchester City (h) 2-0, (a) 0-1
Manchester United (h) 1-1, (a) 1-1
Newcastle United (h) 1-1, (a) 0-1
Nottingham Forest (h) 2-0, (a) 1-1
Oxford United (h) 6-0, (a) 2-2
Queen's Park Rangers (h) 4-1, (a) 1-2
Sheffield Wednesday (h) 2-2, (a) 0-0
Southampton (h) 1-0, (a) 2-1
Tottenham Hotspur (h) 4-1, (a) 2-1
Watford (h) 3-1, (a) 3-2
West Bromwich Albion (h) 4-1, (a) 2-1
West Ham United (h) 3-1, (a) 2-2
● **Liverpool won the League championship**

LIVERPOOL really made Everton feel blue in season 1985-86, because as well as beating them in the final of the FA Cup, we went to Goodison Park and scored a 3-2 victory—and though we lost the Anfield return 2-0, it sparked off a Liverpool revival which saw us go through the remainder of the season unbeaten and wind up as champions, pushing Everton into second place.

In the Goodison derby game, Kenny Dalglish distinguished himself by scoring after only 20 seconds, while Ian Rush made it 2-0 with 16 minutes gone. And three minutes from half-time former Everton player Steve McMahon rubbed salt into the wound by putting Liverpool 3-0 ahead, though the Blues came back with two second-half goals.

WE BEAT THE ODDS TO DO THE DOUBLE The Years of Glory...



It's Liverpool 3, Everton 1 in the 1986 FA Cup final... and that's cause enough for Liverpool's players to enjoy their lap of honour with the trophy.



Manager of the Year... that's Kenny Dalglish, after having steered Liverpool to a League-FA Cup double in his first term as team boss.

continued from Page 7

The sting seemed to have been taken out of Watford by then, while Liverpool were eager to close in for the kill; and with 108 minutes of football behind us, we delivered the crucial blow. It came from Ian Rush, and it took us through to the semi-finals. Everton also made it, but the Merseyside giants were kept apart, as in the Milk Cup competition of season 1983-84.

Liverpool's opponents turned out to be Southampton, with the duel scheduled for White Hart Lane, and while Everton were battling their way through at Villa Park we achieved our goal during extra time, thanks to Ian Rush, who scored after 99 minutes and again after 104 minutes' play. For the first time, Liverpool and Everton would meet in an FA Cup final at Wembley and, as for the 1984 Milk Cup final, tickets were pearls almost beyond price.

As in the 1971 semi-final at Old Trafford, it was Everton who struck the first blow and Liverpool who bounced back to produce a victory flourish. The man on the mark for Everton was Gary Lineker, shortly destined to take his talents to Barcelona; and that goal put Liverpool on the rack for a spell. Indeed, we were relieved to get the breathing space allowed by the half-time whistle.

Then we began to get into our stride as the second half got under way, although a reflex-action save by Bruce Grobbelaar from Graeme Sharp probably proved to be a turning point. Liverpool profited from this escape and visibly grew in confidence, while Everton were now having to back-pedal. And just inside the hour Jan Molby produced a penetrating pass which found Ian Rush, who beat Bobby Mimms to put his team level.

From that moment on, Liverpool looked rejuvenated, and in another five minutes we had forged ahead after a Molby-Rush move had led to Johnston tucking the ball away from close range. Now it was Everton who were desperately trying to come from behind... but they were not going to make it. Six minutes from the end, with the Liverpool fans already preparing to hail their team with a victory roar, Rush struck again, and that was that.

Liverpool had become only the third club in this century to have achieved the League-FA Cup double, and we had claimed both the title and the Cup after battling against the odds.



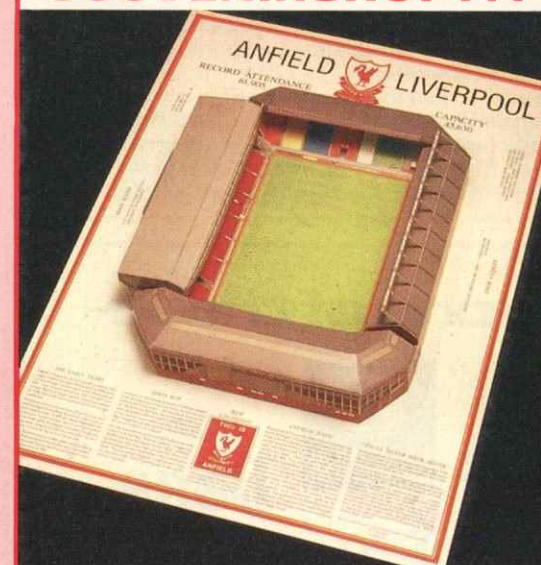
TWO old hands said their farewells to Anfield, and a player born and bred on Merseyside arrived from the Midlands to play for Liverpool after having started out in the colours of Everton. The men who left were Phil Neal—Bob Paisley's first signing—and Alan Kennedy, who had twice ensured Liverpool's success in the European Cup.

While Kennedy returned to the North-East to play for Sunderland, Neal—a veteran of more than 630 games—became the player-manager at Bolton. And signing in from Aston Villa was Steve McMahon, the first player to be recruited by Kenny Dalglish.

Bruce Grobbelaar was Liverpool's sole ever-present in the League, while Alan Hansen—named as the new captain of the team—missed only one match and Jan Molby, like Ronnie Whelan, played in 39 games. Ian Rush, as usual, was the leading marksman, with 22 goals in his 40 League appearances.

Liverpool called upon 18 players during season 1985-86, though Neal played in only 11 games, Kennedy in eight, and John Wark in seven. Perhaps the unluckiest player was Gary Gillespie, who got into the side during the later stages of the campaign and then, on the eve of the FA Cup final, had to drop out because of a stomach illness.

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FIRST OPINION

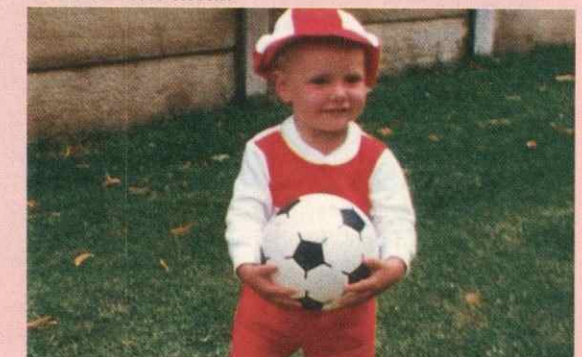
FROM 93-year-old Mr. H. J. N. Baron, of Eastbourne, a letter rightly claiming he is one of our oldest fans. Badly wounded in the first world war, he spent three months in Liverpool in hospital blues, and says: "I was staggered at the reception we got at Lime Street station... even the kids threw their sweets and cigarettes into the ambulances."

"After all these years, I'd like to express my appreciation of the warm-hearted Liverpudlians—we were often stopped in the street and invited to tea, AND told to bring any pals, as well. At times, if we went into a restaurant, we would find the bill had been paid anonymously."

"I must congratulate your club on its phenomenal success—sad to say, my TV set broke down and I missed the 5-0 win over Nottingham Forest. But I would be grateful if you would publish my tribute to all Liverpudlians in your programme at Anfield, where the Kop is famous for its true sportsmanship."

Thanks a lot... and all the best to you, Mr. Baron.

NOW FOR one of our youngest supporters... Greg McAlinden, who lives in South Africa. Proud grandfather Mr. H. F. Rowe, 28, Utting Avenue, Anfield, writes: "Greg's Mum and Dad have lived in South Africa for the past five years, and—as you can see—we took Liverpool's colours with us then we went to visit them."



"My wife and I send all the news about the team, week by week, and we found when we were out there that the following for Liverpool is very strong. Greg's Mum, Val, used to stand on the Kop and watch all the matches."

"I know the family in South Africa would be thrilled to bits if you could put Greg's photograph in the Anfield Review—he would be the envy of all the Liverpool supporters who live in the Witbank area of South Africa."

We're happy to oblige.

THE FINAL of the Granada Schools Cup competition will take place at Anfield on Wednesday night (kick-off 7.30 p.m.). The competition, run by Granada TV news, embraces under-14 schools associations throughout the North-West, and after the first series of semi-finals, Blackburn were the successful side.

Last season's winning finalists, Sefton, beat Blackburn 3-0 at Old Trafford then, and this time out they were bidding to go all the way again as they made it to the second series of semi-finals.

● Answers on Page 26.

OUR PROGRAMME for the home game against Southampton featured Kenny Dalglish and an opponent in a picture taken when Liverpool met Leeds United at Anfield just 11 years ago. We asked you to identify Kenny's opponent, and he was the former Leeds and England forward, Tony Currie. The first correct answer came in from Mr. Peter Hurst, 20, Corinto Street, Liverpool 8, and he receives two tickets for tonight's game against Luton Town.

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PICTURE KEY

BACK ROW (left to right): David Preece, Emeka Nwajiobi, Richard Harvey, Stacey North (now with West Brom), Gary Cobb, Kingsley Black, Mark Stein.
MIDDLE ROW: Jim Ryan (coach), John Faulkner (coach), Rob Johnson, Ashley Grimes, Les Sealey, Mick Harford, Andy Dibble, Darron McDonough, Robert Wilson (now with Fulham), Mickey Weir (now with Hibernian), Dave Kirby (physiotherapist).
FRONT ROW: Danny Wilson, Brian Stein, Steve Foster (captain), Ray Harford (manager), Mal Donaghy, Ricky Hill, Tim Breacker.

or as an emergency striker. Tall and powerful, he has totalled around 200 League appearances now and he's still only in his mid-20's. He had the misfortune to miss the Littlewoods Cup final through injury, but he could be back tonight.

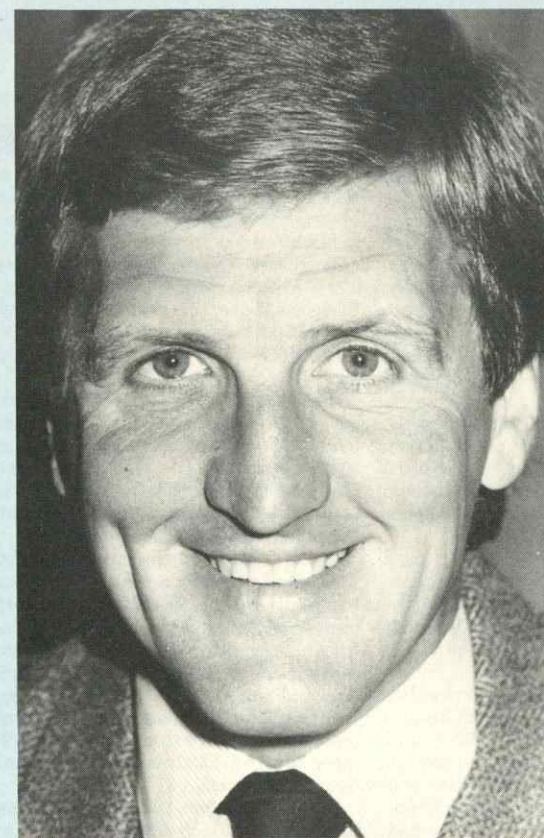
Alongside him is captain **Steve Foster**, capped by England and an FA Cup finalist with Brighton. He had an unhappy spell at Aston Villa, but during three seasons with Luton his career has blossomed and, indeed, he is rated one of the club's best-ever signings. He is now a player-coach at Kenilworth Road.

At left-back we may see a player who originally made his name as a midfielder . . . **Ashley Grimes**, who kicked off with Manchester United and later played for Coventry City. At one stage he was in the shadow of Mitchell Thomas at Luton, and there was talk of a transfer to Swindon Town. But when that move broke down, Grimes grabbed his second chance to make his mark at Luton, though he was a substitute at Wembley.

Luton's most-capped international is Northern Ireland's **Mal Donaghy**, who has been at the club for 10 years. Signed from Larne, he can play anywhere along the back-four line or in midfield.

Like Steve Foster, **Danny Wilson** played for Brighton, and he has also been with Chesterfield and Nottingham Forest. This talented midfielder links up with Mal Donaghy and **Brian Stein**—who, of course, is one of two footballing brothers on the club's books. South African-born, Brian was signed from Edgeware 11 years ago, and many people feel he deserved more than a single England cap.

His younger brother, **Mark**, joined Luton in 1982 under the



LUTON TOWN have been under new management this season, after the resignation of John Moore, who did such a good job for the club last term. However, Ray Harford has shown that he can measure up to the demands, as well, since Luton have been to two Wembley finals and taken part in the centenary festival, as well as having reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

Ray Harford had a spell as manager of Fulham, and after five years with the Craven Cottage club he joined Luton as a coach. When John Moore vacated the managerial chair, Luton turned to Harford, and he showed that their faith in him had not been misplaced. A Londoner—though he was born in Yorkshire—he played at centre-half for half a dozen League clubs in the lower divisions before becoming a coach with Colchester United.

YTS scheme, and after a spell on loan at Aldershot he has returned to nail down a place at Kenilworth Road, alongside **Mick Harford**.

Luton's squad is completed by more than half a dozen other players, notably ex-Arsenal man **Ian Allinson**, (though he was signed from Stoke City this season for £15,000), **Ricky Hill**, **David Preece** and **Emeka Nwajiobi**. Hill last year celebrated 10 years at the club with a testimonial, and this England international has come back after breaking a leg this season. Preece, another casualty, was a £150,000 recruit from Walsall, and Nwajiobi is a Nigerian international. Hill and Preece both made it for the final against Arsenal.

Also in the squad are **Kingsley Black**, **Gary Cobb**, **Rob Johnson**, **Ricky McEvoy**, **David Oldfield** and **Aaron Tighe**. Black, an outside-left, gained England Under-18 honours, but after his display at Wembley he became the centre of a tug-of-war for his services between England and Northern Ireland . . . and it was Ireland who won. As for Johnson, he has recovered twice from serious knee injuries, and he was at left-back in the Luton side which won at Wembley.



Danny Wilson



Brian Stein



LUTON TOWN could have made a small fortune, had they been prepared to sell striker Mick Harford. But they persuaded him to sign a new contract, and club and player have prospered. Sunderland-born, Harford has done a fair amount of travelling . . . he played for Lincoln City, Newcastle United, Bristol City and Birmingham, before fetching up at Kenilworth Road.

Highly mobile for a big fellow, he was in England's shadow squad for Mexico and has now worn his country's colours. When he joined Luton, for a fee of quarter of a million, he became the club's record-priced signing, and he repaid Luton by scoring 25 goals in League and Cup last season. This time out, he spent two months on the sidelines with a knee injury, but has come back to show that he's not lost that scoring touch.

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SOCCER

THE progress of Luton Town this season has been impressive—especially when you consider that they went through their first five matches without recording a single victory. They began with a 1-0 defeat at Derby, continued by losing 1-0 at home to Coventry, drew 2-2 against West Ham at Kenilworth Road, lost 3-0 to Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, and drew 1-1 at home against Arsenal.

At that stage, with two points out of 15, Luton Town were separated from the bottom of the table only by pointless Charlton Athletic and Sheffield Wednesday, who had one point. But Luton certainly ended their jinx in their next match.

The went to Oxford and hammered United 5-2, with five different players (Brian Stein, Tim Breacker, Emeke Nwajobi, Ricky Hill and Mick Harford) on the mark. Then goals from Stein and Hill beat Everton 2-1 at Kenilworth Road.

Charlton won 1-0 at Selhurst Park to halt the Luton revival, and Queen's Park Rangers won 2-0 at Loftus Road, then Luton drew 1-1 with Manchester United on home ground, lost 3-1 at Portsmouth and fell to Liverpool at Kenilworth Road, where Gary Gillespie was our match-winner. Luton could say they were unlucky, because that was their 13th League game of the season!

But they demolished Newcastle United 4-0, won 2-0 at Hillsborough and beat Spurs by the same margin before losing 2-1 at home against Norwich City... though they resumed winning ways by scoring the only goal at Watford.

A 2-2 home draw with Southampton was followed by a 2-0 defeat at Goodison Park, successive home wins over Charlton (1-0) and Chelsea (3-0), and a 1-1 draw at West Ham. So, with the turn of the year, Luton had climbed into eighth place in the table.

They beat Derby 1-0, stayed on course for Wembley in the Littlewoods and FA Cup competitions, and figured in another remarkable match against Oxford. After the

5-2 win at the Manor Ground, the fans at Kenilworth Road saw 11 goals there... seven of them to Luton, who had a hat-trick man in Mark Stein.

There were League defeats at Highbury and Wimbledon, but the Cup run continued, though as the season went well into March Luton had the problem of catching up... they had played only 28 games to other clubs' 33.

And as the strain began to show, Newcastle put four goals past Luton in the League, while the end of the road came in the Simod Cup and the semi-finals of the FA Cup, leaving the Littlewoods Cup the last trophy at which to aim. But Luton staged a grandstand finish against Arsenal to claim the trophy.

ALMOST 30 years have gone by since Luton Town went to Wembley for the final of the FA Cup... yet this season they came so close to making it a four-timer at the famous stadium, and all in a matter of weeks. They reached the final of the Simod Cup, went back for the League's centenary festival, and were there again a week later for the Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal.

But for Wimbledon, Luton would also have been going back yet again next Saturday, to meet us in the final of the FA Cup—but the Dons came from behind, just as Reading did in the Simod Cup final, to destroy Luton's hopes. Oddly enough, it was Mick Harford whose goals gave Luton the lead against both Reading and Wimbledon... but Reading struck back four times and Wimbledon had the answer in John Fashanu and match-winner Dennis Wise.

Luton's Cup of woe ran over, too, when Mal Donaghy was stretched off with a badly-twisted knee during the 2-0 defeat by Manchester United in the centenary-festival game. The injury came as Donaghy tackled Peter Davenport, and it made him a doubtful starter for the Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal.

No wonder Luton manager Ray Harford

SIDELINES

was moved to say: "The way I feel at the moment, and the way things have been going for us, I feel 20 years older. I need a crane to lift the players. You can pick up injuries any time, but you would hope not to get them when you've only played 20 minutes each way."

In fact, Liverpool knew the feeling, as well, because John Barnes suffered an injury during the Wembley game against Newcastle United, and there were fears that he could miss the FA Cup final. Fortunately, as it turned out, things were not quite so bad as they seemed. And it was a happy ending for Donaghy too, because he was able to help Luton win the Littlewoods Cup.

LUTON TOWN have been active in the transfer market as sellers and, in the process, they have raked in several hundred thousand pounds. England Under-21 international striker Mike Newell, signed from Wigan Athletic as Mick Harford's deputy, was on his travels again when he moved to Leicester City.

And Welsh-international Peter Nicholas travelled even further, because he became a big-money signing by Aberdeen. Nicholas started out with Crystal Palace, joined Arsenal, moved back to Palace, then was snapped up by Luton.

Utility player Marc North and central defender Stacey North each stepped down a division... the former joined Grimsby Town, after a spell there originally on loan,



Mike Newell



Robert Wilson

SCORELINES

HERE ARE the results of League matches between Liverpool and Luton Town. The Liverpool score is given first, in each case.

FIRST DIVISION		
Season	Home	Away
1974-75	2-0	2-1
1982-83	3-3	3-1
1983-84	6-0	0-0
1984-85	1-0	2-1
1985-86	3-2	1-0
1986-87	2-0	1-4
1987-88	—	1-0
SECOND DIVISION		
Season	Home	Away
1954-55	4-4	2-3
1960-61	2-2	1-2
1961-62	1-1	0-1

and the latter was signed by West Brom in the hope that he could help them halt their slide towards the Third Division.

Midfield man Robert Wilson, signed from Fulham, returned to the Craven Cottage club, and winger Micky Weir, who had joined Luton from Hibernian, also made the return journey as he crossed the Border again and signed in once more at Easter Road. One new recruit was Ian Allinson, a modest £15,000 buy from Stoke City. LUTON manager Ray Harford has seen his players go to Wembley three times since he took charge of team affairs less than nine months ago—but he declared that he would still trade any of the cups for a top-six place in the First Division.

His one reservation: "That would be if we won a trophy at Wembley and got into Europe as a result... that would be comparable with finishing in the top six." And the Luton team boss admits to having a single goal—he wants Town to be accepted as a big club. "The way to do that is by doing well consistently in the First Division. I don't want us branded as a cup team."

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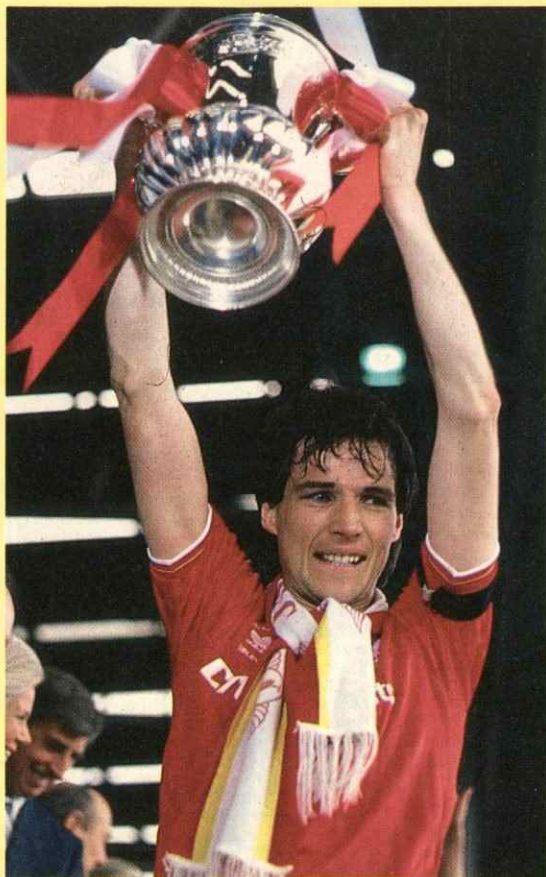
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FIRST DIVISION BANKING



BARCLAYS



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Liverpool's captain is already the holder of seven League-championship medals, just one short of the record set by Phil Neal, his predecessor as captain. Alan has collected his seven championship medals during the 11 years since he signed in from Partick Thistle for a £100,000 fee—and looking back, that kind of money makes him a bargain.

It would be especially fitting if Liverpool could lift the Cup as well as the Barclays League trophy this season, because Alan is taking his testimonial. In contrast, for Ray Houghton, Peter Beardsley and John Barnes, this is their first term at Anfield—and what a wonderful way to wind up it would be for them, as it would also be for John Aldridge, who (like Ray Houghton) claimed a Milk Cup-winner's medal with Oxford United.

Liverpool, of course, have won the FA Cup just three times—in 1965, 1974 and 1986—and this is in startling contrast to our 17 successes in the championship stakes. In 1965 it was Liverpool versus Leeds United, and Ron Yeats led his team to a 2-1 victory, with goals from Roger Hunt and Ian St. John. And in 1974 it was Liverpool beating Newcastle United 3-0, with Emlyn Hughes the skipper and goals from Kevin Keegan (2) and Steve Heighway.

In 1986, Liverpool and Everton made the FA Cup final an all-Merseyside affair for the first time, and we emerged as 3-1 winners, with our goals coming from Ian Rush (2) and Craig Johnston. Two of the players who enjoyed success against Everton are no longer at Anfield, but no doubt Ian Rush and Mark Lawrenson will be with the team in spirit next Saturday.

Injury has played havoc this season with the careers of Jim Beglin and Kevin MacDonald, two more Cup-final men in 1986, while

LINING UP AT WEMBLEY!



LIVERPOOL

VERSUS

WIMBLEDON



Ronnie Whelan has been fighting to regain fitness over the past weeks. Kenny Dalglish and Jan Molby were in the Cup-winning side of '86, as well, while for Gary Gillespie that occasion was memorable for the wrong reason . . . he was taken ill on the eve of the game.

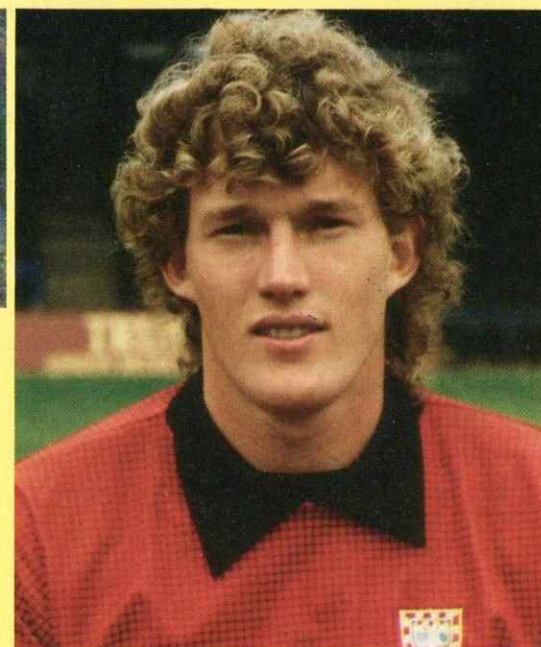
And as for Steve McMahon, who was on the bench in 1986 . . . he became the first Scouser to claim medals in League and Cup during the same season—and now, like Bruce Grobbelaar, Steve Nicol and Liverpool's skipper, he's aiming for the same again.

Finally, what a fairy-tale season it's been for Gary Ablett, the newest member of the Liverpool side. He kicked off the season in the reserves, broke through to the first-team scene as a substitute, and has nailed down a place at left-back sufficient times to have staked his claims to a championship medal. And next Saturday could see him striving to follow in the footsteps of Steve McMahon and become the second Scouser to figure in a double-winning side.

All this . . . and in addition, of course, Gary made his debut for the England Under-21 side in the European championship match against France. Now, if he can claim a winner's medal at Wembley, it would put the icing on the cake.

SEEING DOUBLE . . .

YES, that just about sums it up as Liverpool go in search of the FA Cup to add it to the First Division title. And we've been seeing double in more ways than one, because John Barnes has added the sportswriters' Footballer of the Year award to his PFA Player of the Year award, while Kenny Dalglish is in line to collect the Manager of the Year award at the Bell's Scotch whisky luncheon in London next Friday. Meantime, for Gary Gillespie it's been a double event of a different kind, because wife Susan has presented him with twin daughters, Ruth and Rachel.



Dave Beasant

WHETHER or not Wimbledon players turn up at Wembley in their mini-bus next Saturday—as happened when they went to White Hart Lane for their semi-final against Luton Town—they will go out against Liverpool determined to give us a game. Just as we, in turn, will be doing our utmost to achieve a unique double of League title and FA Cup for the second time around.

Wimbledon went from non-League football to the First Division inside nine years . . . and now this record-breaking story reaches its climax as they go to the final of the FA Cup. Another remarkable feature is that when Wimbledon kicked off for their 10th season in the League and their first in football's top flight, they had figured in promotion or relegation during seven of the previous nine seasons.

Their manager, **Bobby Gould**, is a much-travelled man—his career has taken in Coventry City (where he kicked off as a 16-year-old apprentice signed by Jimmy Hill), Arsenal, Wolves, West Brom, Bristol City, West Ham, Wolves again, Bristol Rovers, Hereford United, Chelsea, Wimbledon, Aldershot, Bristol Rovers again,



John Fashanu

Coventry City again, back to Bristol, and back again to Wimbledon.

Ironically, the management team that succeeded him at Coventry took the Sky Blues to their FA Cup triumph last season . . . now Bobby Gould gets his chance to turn a dream into reality. His footballing philosophy is founded on the belief that attack is the best form of defence. "I was a forward, and I believe you should play the ball forward as quickly as possible. We try to pressure our opponents in their own area."

Bobby Gould was swift to give credit to Dave Bassett, his predecessor at Plough Lane, for the squad of players he inherited—and equally swift to acknowledge the contribution made this season by coach **Don Howe**. Under Bassett, Wimbledon forged the footballing style which took them up through the divisions, and Bobby Gould has seen no reason to make drastic changes, though one or two adjustments may have been made.

For players like **Dave Beasant**, **Alan Cork**, and **Lawrie Sanchez**, the trip to Wembley is the realisation of a dream. Cork joined the Dons on a free transfer 10 years ago last February; Beasant, Wimbledon's captain, has been at the club nine years this month; and Sanchez is the man whose goal clinched promotion to the First Division.

As for **John Fashanu**, **Dennis Wise** and **Terry Gibson**, they also have their memories . . . Fashanu, for instance, is the man whose goal from the penalty spot put Wimbledon level in their White Hart Lane semi-final against Luton, after Mick Harford had given his side the lead. And Wise is the player who, with 10 minutes to go and extra time looming, beat Luton 'keeper Andy Dibble and put the Dons on a collision course with Liverpool.

Terry Gibson?—What a difference a few months can make! His career foundered after he had left Coventry City for Manchester United, and he became a relatively cut-price signing by Wimbledon only a few months ago. Even then, he returned to action only recently, after a hernia operation.

If Gibson plays at Wembley, no doubt he'll reflect on the swings and roundabouts of football as he walks out for the pre-match presentations—and no doubt Fashanu will cast his mind back to the start of his career . . . because it could so easily have come to an end when Norwich City, his first club, gave him a free transfer after he had returned from a spell on loan at Crystal Palace.

Lincoln City gave "Fash" a second chance, and from there it was up, up and away as he moved on to Millwall for £55,000 and Wimbledon for £125,000. And recently he was re-valued again, this time at a cool £1M.

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KEN ADDISON *Reporting*

AS READERS of this column will know, we're always trying to produce something new in the way of prizes for our sporting punters, and Bingo draw No.3 was something special, because it was for a flight aboard Concorde, and for the five lucky winners, it was a fantastic experience.

The event took place on the week-end of the Grand National, and the fortunate five met in the VIP lounge at Liverpool airport before taking off for the two-hour supersonic trip at a speed of 1190mph as the aircraft flew at 53,000 feet. And they thoroughly enjoyed also the in-flight, champagne buffet.

Two of our winners—both women—had never flown before, and their letters tell the story of their appreciation. Mrs. Wrathall, from Ormskirk, says: "It was an exciting day—one I'll always remember. And please thank Jean for the way she looked after us."

Jean is a member of our staff who always contrives to make the work look easy and, as a matter of interest, I might add that Mrs. Wrathall bought her ticket from Audrey Ribbons, who works at our kiosk in the Ormskirk indoor market.

As for Paula Robinson, from Stockbridge Village, Liverpool, she says: "The trip was brilliant—a day to remember." And as for me, I'd like to thank the Liverpool Echo and Wise Travel, especially Ray Baines, who gave his usual excellent service.

Another thank-you, this time to Dot. Simmons, an agent for many years. Dot. retired from her full-time job at the end of April, and as everyone at the Development Association sends best wishes, we all say: "Keep in touch."

That's the message, also, to all our agents as I thank them for the tremendous job they have done right through the season. Thanks for your help and understanding when there have been ticket problems, thanks for the job of selling you've done. We look forward to your continued support during the close season—and to another good season next time out.

And to those of you who are interested in becoming agents for the Development Association I'll just say . . .

**WHY DON'T YOU JOIN OUR TEAM?
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PS: Our final half-time pitch draw takes place tonight . . . and once again, the lucky winner will be £500 richer, while there will also be three consolation prizes, each of £50.

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LUTHER BLISSETT,
at Milan's San Siro Stadium, 1983.

"If ye dinnae score, ye dinnae win."

JIMMY SIRREL,
Notts County manager, 1983.

*"No footballer of talent should play
in the back four."*

MALCOLM ALLISON, 1975.

*"All visiting teams complain about
the pitch – but they all seem to win."*

ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS,
to Dunfermline players visiting Cyprus, 1968.

Source: The Book of Football Quotations, Peter Ball and Phil Shaw
(Stanley Paul, an Imprint of Century Hutchinson Ltd).

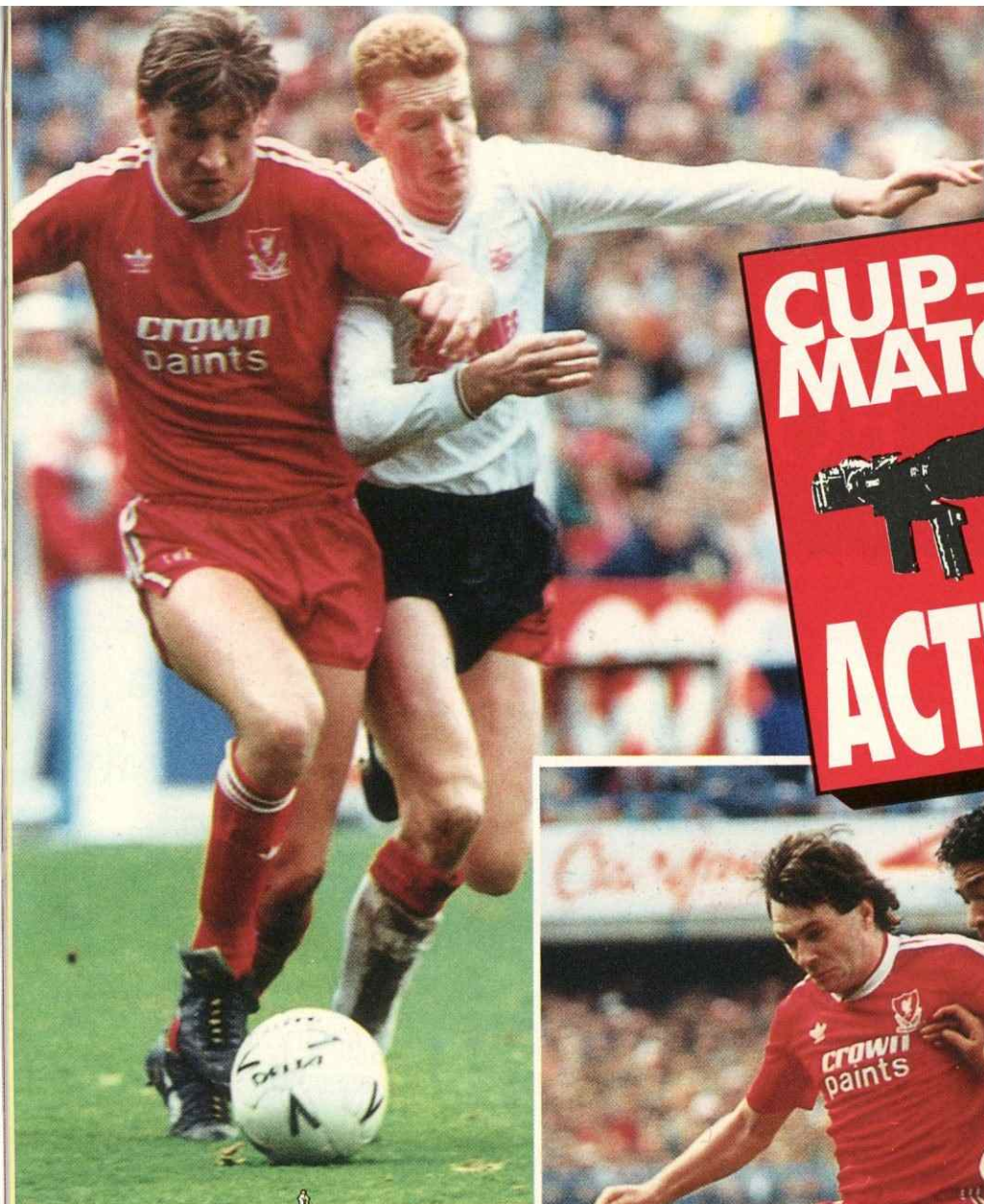
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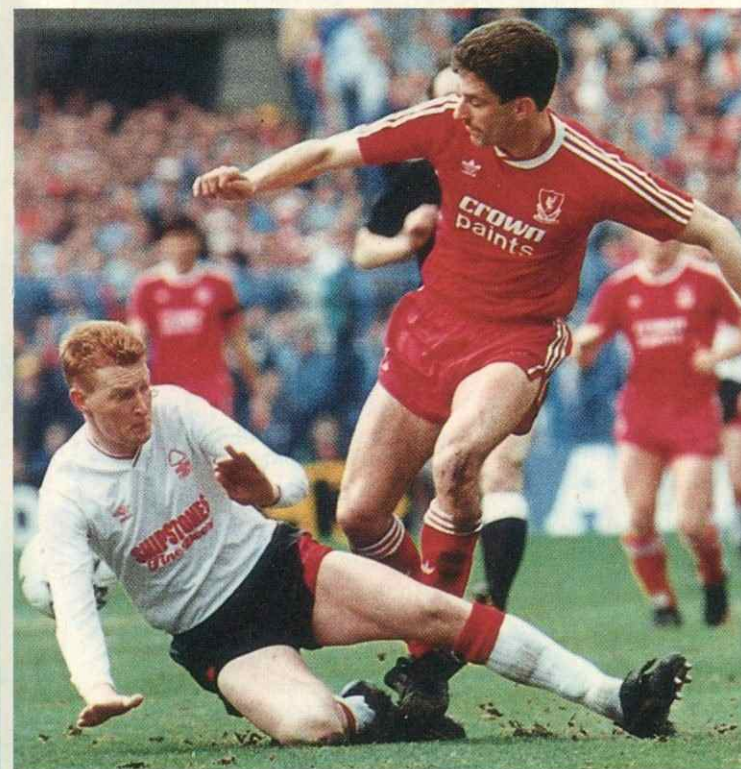
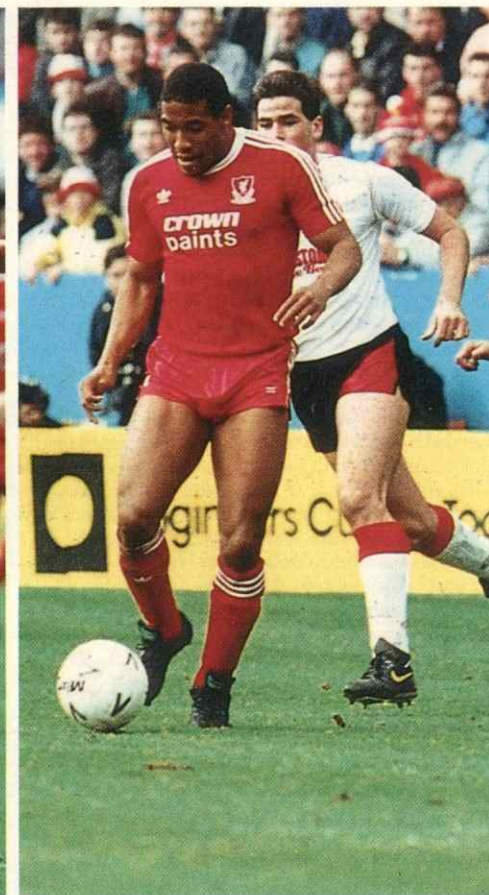
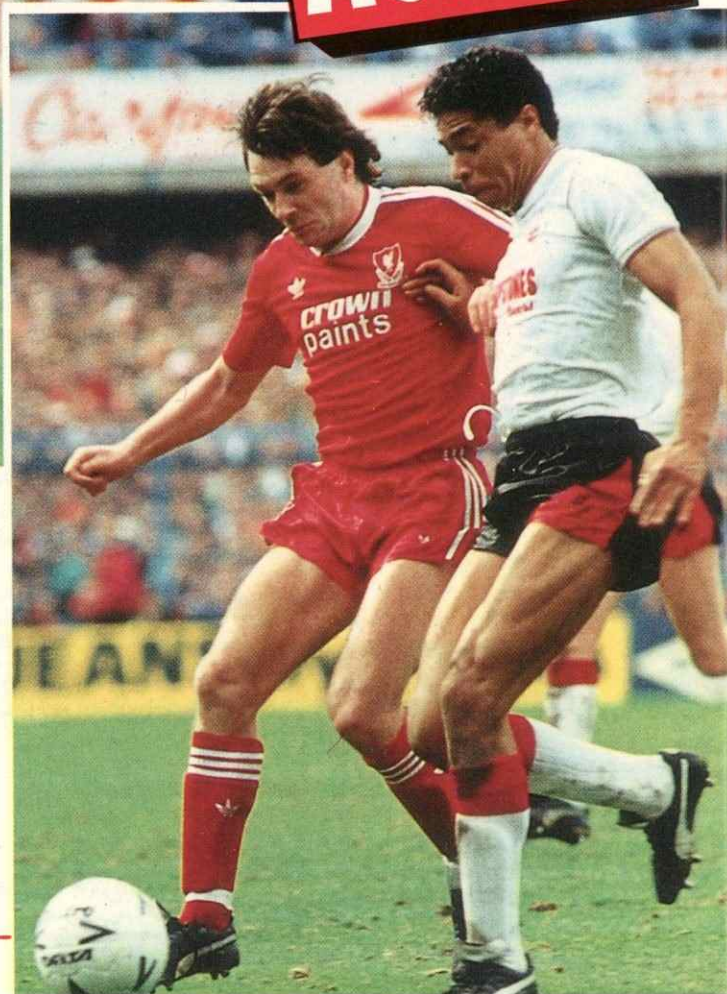
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**CUP-
MATCH
ACTION**



THE VENUE is Hillsborough, and the occasion is the semi-final of the FA Cup, with Liverpool and Nottingham Forest coming up against each other for the second time in eight days. The previous Saturday, Forest had won the Barclays League game 2-1; but at Sheffield we reversed that scoreline to march on to Wembley. And here are half a dozen shots of the action, featuring Ray Houghton, Nigel Spackman, Steve Nicol, John Barnes and John Aldridge. As for the goals, see pages 25, 28 and 29.

RESERVE REPORT

LIVERPOOL'S bid to claim the championship of the Central League came to a sudden stop when our greatest rivals, Nottingham Forest, won two matches in the course of a few days to open up a points gap which could not be bridged. After losing 2-0 against Forest last month, we went four points behind with just three games left to play.

This meant that we needed to win our last three games—all on home ground—to have a chance of overhauling Forest, who followed up their victory over us by beating Blackpool the following week. At that stage we were seven points adrift, but we narrowed the gap again as we defeated Coventry City 4-1 at Anfield.

This left us with the matches against Grimsby Town and Leeds United still to come—but Forest opened up that seven-point gap again with a stunning, 6-0 away victory over Aston Villa. And so, even if we beat Grimsby and Leeds, we couldn't catch Forest. However, we certainly gave them a run for their money, as we claimed the runners-up spot.

And as we scored a 3-0 win over Grimsby, there was a bonus for one Liverpool player, because that game saw Jim Beglin making a comeback after his long injury lay-off.

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LOCAL BOYS BENEFIT

THE 5-0 victory against Nottingham Forest at Anfield did more than earn three Barclays League points on our way to the championship. It also brought a useful prize for Litherland Boys Club.

A panel of leading managers, chaired by Bobby Robson, decided our win was the best result of the week, to earn us the Barclays Performance of the Week award for the second time this season.

Boys' clubs in membership of their national association are eligible to receive the award, and we are happy to endorse the nomination of Litherland Boys Club, who are here tonight to receive the award—a cheque for £250 and a new set of football strip, which they are wearing—from Mr. Alastair Thompson, corporate director of Barclays Bank Liverpool region. In addition, Barclays will present a silver salver to Liverpool FC as a memento of the occasion.

"I am delighted to be able to present this award," says Mr. Thompson. "We are happy to co-operate with the National Association of Boys' Clubs in this way. I also congratulate Liverpool on a tremendous season, and wish them success at Wembley on Saturday."

Our sincere thanks from both Liverpool and the Boys' Club to Barclays Bank for their interest and support.



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THE FIRST nail in Nottingham Forest's coffin during the FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough, as Liverpool are awarded a penalty; and to the dismay of the Forest players spot-kick expert John Aldridge steps up to slot the ball past 'keeper Steve Sutton.

COMPLETE THE COUPON ON PAGE 26

GOING PLACES



ANFIELD TRAVEL CLUB

TONIGHT we play our final First Division match of the season... and that leaves us with just one more game away from Anfield. The FA Cup final against Wimbledon at Wembley next Saturday. Liverpool and Wimbledon were there for the recent centenary-festival matches, but next Saturday their paths will cross; and if you're going by road to the Cup final, here is your RAC route.

It starts on the A5047 (Edge Lane) or Queen's Drive, taking you to the M62, junction Broad Green, then via the M62 to Croft, junction M6, and the M6/M1 south to intersection 1, Staples Corner, junction with the A406. Follow the A406 (North Circular Road) west to Blackbird Hill (A4088) and the A4088 to Wembley.

TRAVEL-CLUB members are advised that we shall be operating a coach service to Wembley for the FA Cup final against Wimbledon next Saturday. We would like to stress, however, that **ONLY** members of the Travel Club will be able to take advantage of this special service. The departure is timed for 8.30 a.m. from Anfield (by the Shankly Gates), and the cost per person will be £10.

• For further information about the Anfield Travel Club, contact Mrs. S. Johnston at the Souvenir Shop (051-263 1760). Coach tickets should be purchased from the Souvenir Shop.

SOCCER QUIZ

ANSWERS

1. Luton Town met Nottingham Forest. 2. Tottenham beat Watford in their semi-final. 3. Coventry City beat Leeds United in their semi-final. 4. Gary Mabbutt (Spurs) and Brian Kilcline (Coventry). 5. Liverpool's first final appearance was in 1914, at Crystal Palace. 6. The League ground is Stamford Bridge. 7. West Ham won the FA Cup in 1975. 8. Leeds United won the FA Cup in 1972, so they went back as the holders in 1973. 9. Keith Houchen and Dave Bennett. 10. Clive Allen.

LIVERPOOL CITY BOYS IN ACTION

THERE is another seven-a-side curtain raiser before tonight's game, and it features the youngsters in the Liverpool City team squad (under-11 age group). For this game (remember, there is no offside), the squad has been divided into two equally strong sides, and these lads are some of the best footballers of their age in Liverpool. We're sure that we can rely on you to give the boys a real Anfield welcome.



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FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH...



adidas



CUP-MATCH ACTION

LIVERPOOL gave Nottingham Forest plenty to think about in the FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough, and our opponents played their part in helping to make it a game to remember. The action here centres around John Barnes (above) and Ray Houghton (on the opposite page), as he presents problems for 'keeper Steve Sutton and midfield man Neil Webb. But the man of the moment was John Aldridge (below), as he followed up his penalty strike by volleying home a cross from John Barnes to score the goal that snuffed out any hopes Forest might have had of staging a comeback.



Kick-off 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated

Table with 3 columns: Date, Team, Score. Rows include fixtures for Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, 1988 Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May.

Table with 11 columns: Res., Att., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Substitutes. Rows list players and their appearances/goals.

Home matches in bold type. Away matches in bold type. Goalscorers in bold type. Substitute in bold type when called on. Average home league gate: 40,146. Aggregate home league gate: 762,779.

DIVISION 1

Season 1987-88 (Up to and including Monday, 2nd May, 1988)

Table with 3 columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows list teams and their league positions.

CENTRAL LEAGUE

Season 1987-88 (Up to and including 24th April, 1988)

Table with 3 columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows list teams and their league positions.

CAREER DETAILS

Table with 10 columns: League, Goals, Games, Goals, Games, Goals, Games, Goals, Games, Goals, Games. Rows list players and their career statistics.

GAMES AND GOALS AT A GLANCE...

Table with 4 columns: Season 1987-88, League, Goals, Games. Rows list players and their season statistics.

NEXT MATCHES HERE

Table with 2 columns: Team, Match Details. Rows list upcoming matches.

CENTRAL LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: Division 1, Division 2, Division 3. Rows list teams and their league positions.

Appearances Season 1987-88

Table with 2 columns: Player, Appearances. Rows list players and their appearances.

Goals

Table with 2 columns: Player, Goals. Rows list players and their goals.

TEAM CHECK



LIVERPOOL (Red-and-White Shirts)

1	BRUCE GROBBELAAR
2	GARY GILLESPIE
3	GARY ABLETT
4	STEVE NICOL
5	NIGEL SPACKMAN
6	ALAN HANSEN (Capt.)
7	PETER BEARDSLEY
8	JOHN ALDRIDGE
9	RAY HOUGHTON
10	JOHN BARNES
11	STEVE McMAHON

Subs

LUTON TOWN (White Shirts)

1	ANDY DIBBLE
2	TIM BREACKER
3	ROB JOHNSON
4	RICKY HILL
5	STEVE FOSTER (Capt.)
6	MAL DONAGHY
7	DANNY WILSON
8	BRIAN STEIN
9	MICK HARFORD
10	DAVID PREECE
11	KINGSLEY BLACK

Subs

Referee
Mr. M. G. Peck

Linesmen
Mr. J. M. Kerfoot
(yellow flag)
Mr. T. A. Moore
(yellow flag, red trim)

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THERE will be a full house for the FA Cup final at Wembley next Saturday . . . and that's our cue to sign off at Anfield by thanking all our supporters for the magnificent way in which they have rallied round the team throughout this season. Our average gate has been around the 40,000 mark, and more than threequarters of a million people have been to the Barclays League games alone on this ground.

We kicked off playing in front of more than 54,000 people at Highbury, as we scored our first victory of the season, and we'll be signing off in London before an audience of millions, when we play Wimbledon next Saturday. In between times, we have played to capacity crowds here and been crowd-pullers on other grounds. It all adds up to a season which has never been less than exciting and, overall, one which could turn out to be something really special.

