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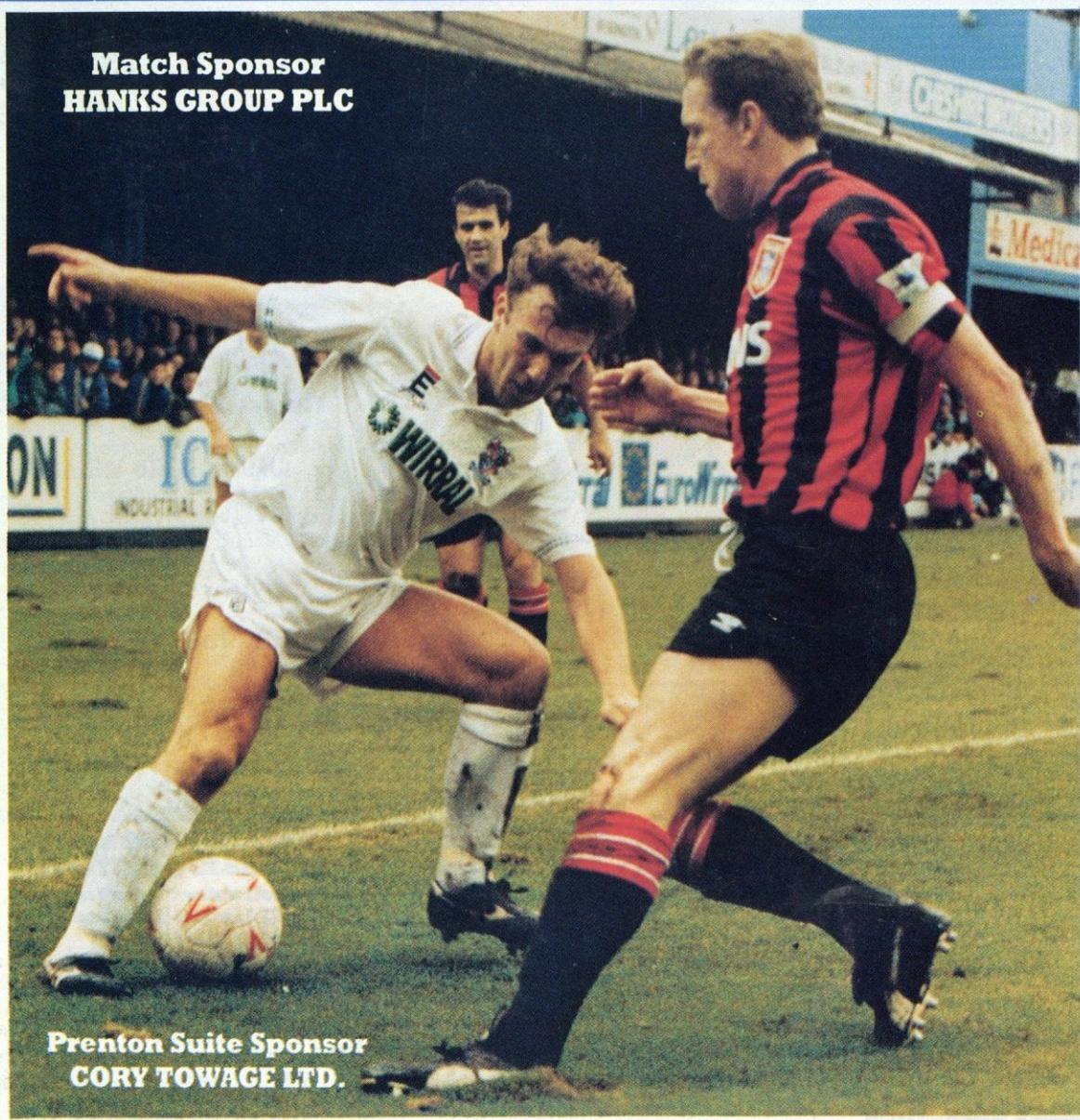
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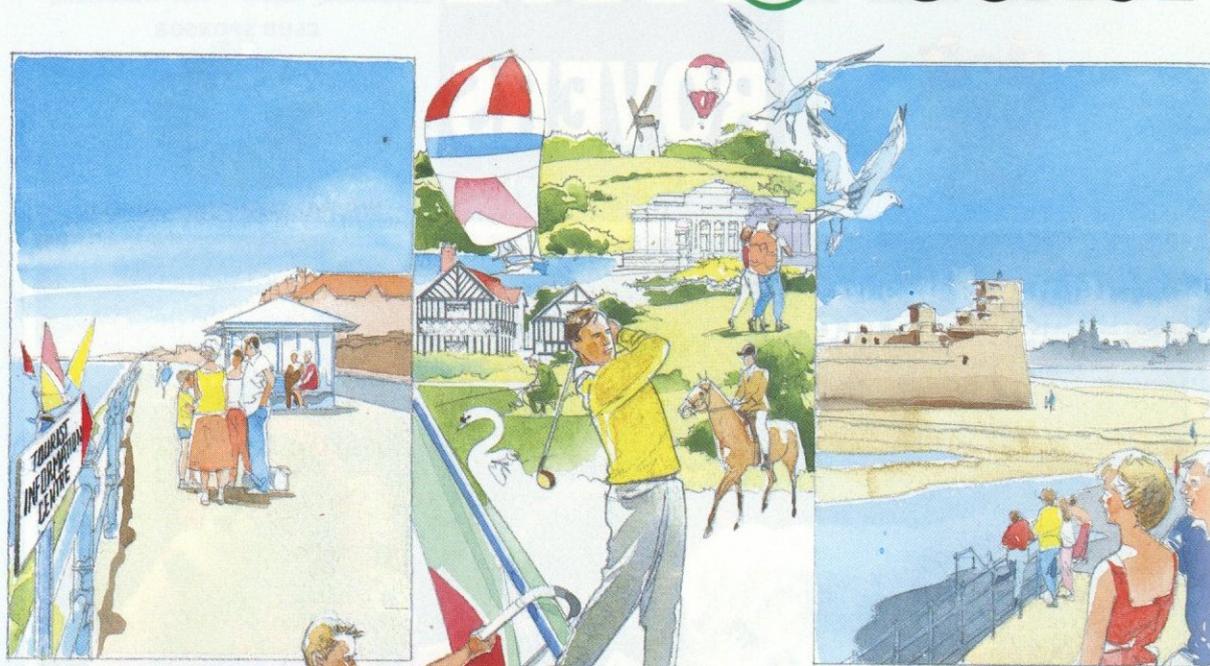
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LUTON TOWN

Saturday, 13th February
1993

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AT THE HELM



Good Afternoon. There's an old football adage which says, 'There is no such thing as a bad victory.'

While we've certainly played better – and lost – than we did down at Cambridge, we rode our luck a bit to come away with three very valuable points.

Even though John Beck has gone, not a lot has changed at the Abbey Stadium. They still try to squeeze you and kick you out of your stride as well as operating a very frustrating offside trap.

Overall, it wasn't a good match for the fans, but we've been involved in plenty of open, attacking games. Sometimes we've come out on top, on other occasions we have caught a cold. At the end of the day you can only work with the players you have available. With Aldo suspended, Cooper injured and Ian Muir not 100 per cent, we opted to pack the midfield and keep it tight at the back.

While we had a couple of glorious chances early in the match its fair to say Cambridge had their moments too. But we got the break two minutes from time. We worked all week on ways of getting through Cambridges' offside trap and when Ian Nolan hoisted in a free kick, Neil McNab timed his run to perfection. When the bounce beat their keeper, Neil was left with a simple tap in.

Lucky maybe, but you need breaks and results like that to stay in contention.

Getting back on the rails was par-

ticularly important after our 'performance' at Notts County. When we are good we are usually very good but when we are bad we tend to have a collective stinker all round.

It has to be the worst 90 minutes showing of any Tranmere side I've been in charge of and the buck stops at my door. While it would be unfair to criticise individuals, too many players played well below par on the night to get away with it.

It was one of those nights you want to forget quickly – even the half time tea was horrible!

We badly wanted to get the Notts County game out of our system however the referee was adamant that our

pitch was unplayable for the visit of Sunderland. That meant we had another seven days to think about it, with some people already writing us off in the meantime.

It just shows how quickly the worm can turn. The week before the Ipswich game everyone was telling us how wonderful we were – a week on and the same people are questioning our credentials to be in the Promotion Frame! I have a simple philosophy, 'Never ever believe in your own publicity' and maybe some of our lads were getting a bit carried away by the media attention. There's a long way to go yet and any one of ten teams could put a run together. Hopefully it will be us.

Today we welcome David Pleat and Luton Town to Prenton Park. At Kenilworth Road we were terrible defensively but tasty in attack and ended up drawing 3-3. We want no repeat of that today. We have to build on last weeks success, so get behind the lads and help us to another three points.

Finally, I would like to mention two points. Firstly, I would like to welcome all our lady supporters and hope that you enjoy the game. Secondly I would like to offer my congratulations to Pat Nevin and John Aldridge on their international call-ups. It is good for both players and Tranmere Rovers to have players involved in the international scene. Long may it continue!

**Enjoy the game,
John King**



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LUTON TOWN

For years Luton perfected the art of beating the drop on the last day of the season. The sight of David Pleat racing across the pitch at the end of one final triumph at Manchester City a decade ago summed up the spirit of the plucky little club. The trouble is they are at it again and this time facing the prospect of falling into the Second Division.

Luton have simply sold too much family silver to be left with much chance of rallying again. Their form of late has improved, but their illness could be terminal. No-one mentions their away record in polite company. Too much has happened at that club in recent history that suggests they are heading for big trouble.

Not so long ago Luton were a smashing little side who played good football and had their share of stars. Often too good for one division if not quite good enough to stay up they were one of those teams you had a soft spot for. Then came the plastic, then came the controversial chairman with his politically-motivated ban on away fans, then came the constant sale of their best players, then came the youth policy, then came relegation when the grass returned. All the good work of before was wiped out by events that made the club one of the most unpopular in the land.

In that atmosphere it is hardly surprising that the new regime and old boss Pleat have found it hard to prosper. Even this year they have been forced to sell Mick Harford who even at veteran stage is of a calibre to top Chelsea's scoring charts. Mark Pembroke and loan Chris Kamara, booed out by the fans. If they stay up it will be arguably Pleat's finest work.

Of late the kids have been learning fast and picking up some decent results, but they are still so young that hammerings like the 5-1 home defeat by Derby County will occur. The bottom of the table is a place normally only escaped from by time-served professionals. Just ask Pleat, he knows from the good old bad old days.

The club is also in various stages of takeover bids and further talk of selling its best young talent. There is a fear that this vicious circle of spend-lose cash-lose games-spend will not stop here. The basement is littered



Manager David Pleat

with clubs who fell through the floors above with sickening speed, like Wolves and Burnley. And they had a big set of supporters.

MANAGEMENT

David Pleat is the biggest name in Luton. He was drawn back after ventures away to Tottenham and Leicester that promised much but left only a bitter taste. Pleat was probably the best mind of his age a decade ago but the Spurs experience was a hard one to come through despite the FA Cup Final appearance. He always liked to wheel and deal and over the piece held his head high managerially. The boss's door at White Hart Lane has been more like a turnstile since as it proves to be one of the toughest in football.

Pleat did not enhance his reputation too much at Leicester. They were on the slide and he could not do a great deal to stop it. His penchant for the transfer market meant there were always coming and goings, but the end result was disappointing, with a relegation fight or two thrown in. Having worked at the top Pleat often looked dissatisfied with the standard

of player he was dealing with.

However, his name was still held in high regard at Luton where they had done well in his absence, scaling real heights under John Moore, probably the man least known in the history of management. Pleat came to the club as their slide was taking hold, but unlike the cavalry he could do little about it. Once more his dealing came to the fore, only this time it was unusual to see him buy too often. When he does it is for old heads and occasional youngsters he has spotted along the way.

NEW FACES

Luton's biggest investment in these troubled times has been for a player who has passed this and many other way before, **Ian Benjamin**. The honest journeyman's record has been plotted here on several occasions and there is hardly the space to run through his clubs again. However it is fair to say Benjamin always gives you a game and will have the bottle for the trying weeks ahead.

Chris Kamara may also be a new face if his three-month loan deal at Sheffield United does not end in a signing. His spell is up tomorrow and if United cannot field him this weekend he could be back at Luton. The far-travelled Kamara is another you need in the trenches, but the fans at Kenilworth Road have not often seen it that way.

The biggest departures were of Harford, following his second spell, and Pembroke, a high-quality midfielder who has not yet paid back his transfer fee although a hat-trick for Derby at Luton in the FA Cup reminded the crowd of what they were missing. Steve Claridge was another who enjoyed but a brief flirtation with Luton before returning to post-Beck Cambridge.

THE PLAYERS

Phil Gray is Luton's latest star and, who knows, may have been swooped for by the time the club has arrived here today. The signs are that he will be the next to go if anyone signs a cheque for £1 million and both Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough are considering doing so. Gray was snapped up from Spurs where he rarely got a chance and the Northern Ireland

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Back row, left to right: Darren Salton, Jamie Campbell, Des Linton, Alec Chamberlain, Marvin Johnson, Juergen Sommer, David Greene, John Dreyer, Chris Kamara. Middle row: John Moore (first team coach), Julian James, Paul Telfer, Tim Allpress, Kurt Nogan, (now Brighton), Richard Harvey, Trevor Peake, Brian Owen (physio, now Cambridge). Front row: Steve Claridge (now Cambridge), David Preece, Phil Gray, David Pleat (manager), Ceri Hughes, Jason Rees, Scott Oakes.

international has done good things at this level.

Gray has kept Luton's hopes alive during these depressing months and it would be a killer blow for morale if he was to go. Sadly that will be determined by forces off the field and his departure seems imminent.

Luton forked out £275,000 for Gray 18 months ago which was around the time that Pleat was in the position to spend. He also recruited **Trevor Peake**, a trusty defender from Coventry, and **Steve Thompson** from Bolton. Everyone at Tranmere knows Thompson can play but Pleat and he never hit it off, leaving Thommo to move to Leicester baffled by some of the training ground tactical talk. In return Luton brought in **Scott Oakes** and **Des Linton** from Leicester, two more promising youths spotted by Pleat during his spell there.

A close look at Luton's staff reveals that they have still got enough home-grown players to put out a team that did not cost a penny in transfer fees. That has been their trademark and

will have to continue to be. The present crop are finding the going tough, but many will move to bigger and better things.

Welshman **Ceri Hughes** has a chance to progress after overcoming injury, young Scot **Paul Telfer** is another who has picked up his trade quickly and the likes of **Jason Rees** and **Marvin Johnson** are finding out what it is all about in a hurry.

Relegation would ruin the club and set back a few of these young careers, so they know what the stakes are at the moment. If only there were a few more old heads they might stand a chance.

Those experienced men who remain are worth their weight in gold. The pick is undoubtedly midfielder **David Preece**. Good enough to play for England 'B', Preece was a superb signing from Walsall. Spurs fancied him for a long time but in those days

Luton could say 'no' to money. Preece has got on with it and if the ship goes down he will be one of the first to be rescued.

Keeper **Alec Chamberlain** is known in these parts for the fine loan spell of a few years back during his Everton days. Chamberlain seemed set for big things but has had a bumpy ride of late. The Everton move did not finish with success and his switch to Luton has been like winning a ticket for the shooting gallery and finding out you are a duck. However he will always be welcome here after his spell.

Another worthy is **John Dreyer**, who was out of favour but now back in. A good player who must wonder why he is still there and the world falls down around him.

But the bottom line is how the kids respond and only the likes of **Martin Williams** and Co., kids with just the first experience of First Division life, will be able to answer those questions in the big weeks ahead.

Alan Nixon

Hatters

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NEW DATE FOR GRIMSBY GAME

The visit to Grimsby Town, postponed because of the Mariners F.A. Cup commitments, has been re-arranged for Tuesday March 16th with a 7.45p.m. kick off.

WELCOME THE LADIES

Once again we extend a warm welcome to the ladies who join us today for our second 'Ladies Day' of the season.

APPEARANCE MILESTONES

After Steve Mungall made his 550th appearance (League, Cup and Play-off) against Ipswich, Steve Vickers chalked up a milestone with his 350th outing for Tranmere at Notts County - not a game to remember sadly! That figure, inclusive of all League, Cup and Play-offs, means 'Vicks' appearance at Cambridge took him into the top ten all time appearances chart for Rovers, displacing Eddie Flood.

Neil McNab also stands on the verge of a personal appearances landmark. He now needs just two more outings to register the magical figure of 650 in English Football.

GOOD NEWS FOR "TANK"

Congratulations, somewhat belatedly, to Tony Thomas and his wife Anita on the birth of baby James Christopher on January 23rd. With 'Tank' back playing, having had a full 90 minutes at Rhyl, Tony may well feel his fortunes have changed for the better at last.

RE-ARRANGED DATE FOR SWINDON

The Swindon match has been re-arranged for Tuesday 23rd February at the County Ground, kick off 7.45p.m. While its understandable many fans resent the idea of forking out more money to Swindon, remember the lads need your support. And don't forget to take a torch!

Please note also that the Leicester City match has reverted to a Saturday fixture on March 13th. The League have refused permission for the fixture to be switched to Sunday to accommodate T.V. coverage as the fixture has already been printed on Pools coupons!

LIVERPOOL SENIOR CUP

This Tuesday, February 16th, we kick off our defence of the Liverpool Senior Cup with a home match with Knowsley United in Round 2. Kick off is 7.30p.m. Given the lack of competitive matches for the reserves, John King is likely to field a youngish side including a sprinkling of first teamers.

PLAY-OFF DATES

Not that we fancy the idea of the Play-offs as a route to the Premier division but its as well to be aware of the scheduled dates. First leg semi finals are on Sunday May 16th with the return legs on Wednesday 19th May. The Final, at Wembley, is on Bank Holiday Monday 31st May.

Have We Got
NEWS
For You!

WELCOME HOME KEN



Today we extend a special welcome home to Ken Cambridge a Tranmere fan of 55 years standing, who has been living 'down under' in Australia since 1990-91 season, but is home to take his place at Prenton Park today. Over the years since 1937-38, Ken has seen all the great teams and players but rates the half back line of Wheeler, Ball and Kieran the best.

NEWCASTLE TICKET ARRANGEMENTS

For holders of BOTH priority vouchers B and C, you can obtain tickets at the Ticket Office either after todays match on 13th February (the Ticket Office will remain open until 7.00pm), or on Monday 15th February between 9.00am and 6.00pm.

Holders of ONE priority voucher B or C will be able to purchase tickets on Tuesday 16th or Wednesday 17th February, between 9.00am and 6.00pm. Please do not attempt to purchase tickets without the necessary vouchers.

Tickets will be on general sale to the public from Thursday 18th February, 9.00a.m till 6.00pm.

The Ticket Office will be open on Saturday 20th February between 10.00am and 1.00pm, subject to any tickets remaining.

NORWEGIAN FANZINE!

Believe it or not, there is now a Tranmere fanzine called 'Come on you Rovers' being published and distributed amongst our growing band of Norwegian fans. Though much of the content is lifted from our programme (with translation) the format is very similar to "Give us an R". Is Dave Goat really a Norwegian?

F.S.A. MEETING

The Football Supporters Association have a meeting planned for Thursday 18th February at the Prentonian Suite, Prenton Park (8p.m.), with guest speakers from Tranmere Football Club, which should obviously be of interest to all Rovers fans. Lifts will be available from Liverpool city centre - ring Sheila Spiers on 722-7702, for those who need them. All supporters, whether FSA members or not, are welcome.

NEW GATE RECEIPTS RECORD

The Ipswich Town Cup tie produced new record gate receipts of £78,098 to surpass the previous best set at the Millwall game.

MATCH & TICKET INFO

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TRAVEL CLUB NOTICES

As if the result was not enough, the facilities on one of our coaches to Notts County left a lot to be desired and were less than our supporters have a right to expect when booking on an 'executive' coach. Selwyns Travel have accepted responsibility for the problems and have reduced their charge to us which enables us to offer a refund to affected passengers.

Supporters on Coach ONE should therefore see Peggy in the Ticket Office who will make a refund of £1.50 or apply this amount as a discount against the next booking.

* * *

The abandoned Swindon game has now been re-arranged for Tuesday 23rd February. Much as we would like to, we cannot offer our supporters free travel to this game. Unlike others we could mention however, we do not intend to profit from the unfortunate events of that day and we will be offering travel at COST PRICE, i.e.: ADULTS £9.50, under 16's and over 65's £8.50

* * *

On a more serious note, we have been badly let down recently by supporters booking seats for away games by phone and then not turning up. This not only reduces the profitability of the service but is doubly frustrating when we have turned away fans when the coaches were apparently full.

In future therefore telephoned bookings will only be taken when backed by an acceptable credit card. We regret the inconvenience that this will cause to genuine supporters but the only alternative would have been to raise prices to cover the eventuality of 'no-shows'.

NEWSFLASH ...

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MATCH SPONSOR

A warm welcome to the **Hanks Group PLC** who have recently moved to purpose-built premises at Scotts Quays, Birkenhead. Sincere thanks to Eric and Ken Hanks and we trust that you and your guests enjoy the day.

PRENTON SUITE SPONSOR

Once again we would like to welcome **Cory Towage** who operate the Mersey's most powerful tugs. Sincere thanks to Doug Harding and we hope that you and your party enjoy the match.

BALL SPONSOR

We would like to welcome **Bronco's Menswear** as our ball sponsor for today's match. Bronco's are situated in the Pyramids in Birkenhead selling a great range of menswear.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The February issue of Matchday Magazine is now on sale at the club shop, price £2. This edition includes an article by our own Peter Bishop who looks back at Tranmere's fortunes in January.

**COMMERCIAL
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Watch this space for further details ...

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In the NEWS OF THE WORLD issue of SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28th there will be a free team colour poster of TRANMERE ROVERS F.C.
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Programme Parade
by
Tony Evans
CHARLTON
Price £1.30
Pages: 36 (large)
Adverts: 18%

After paying £14 to sit in a temporary stand, only to find that stewards had allowed people to sit in the wrong seats, and then being forced to take part in a very long-winded evacuation exercise, it is comforting to note that at least the programme production team at The Valley have got their act together. Editor Steve Dixon and his contributors produce an imaginative, colourful magazine which would put many Premier League clubs to shame.

The Management (no ... not Hale and Pace!) but rather Curbishley and Gritt referred to the close matches between Athletic and ourselves in recent years and hoped for a victory to push themselves back into the promotion frame.

At the time of the programme going to print, Charlton were looking forward to the visit from champions Leeds United for their FA Cup Third Round Replay. Naturally there was plenty of coverage of the original tie at Elland Road, where the Addicks achieved a very creditable 1-1 draw.

The quality of the photographs throughout is first class with no less than eleven shots from recent fixtures. On the Junior Reds page it was interesting to read the thanks and the recollections of youngsters who had recently been chosen as mascots for their heroes' home matches.

Tranmere related material takes up nearly FIVE full pages. Our rector transfer fee had not been updated to the £300,000 outlay on Pat Nevin and Graham Branch was listed as a defender! Otherwise the coverage was excellent and included an in-depth look at Hugh McAuley whose clever wing play graced both the Valley and Prenton Park for several seasons in the 70's. My abiding memory of Hugh will be the cross he provided for Eddie Loyden to volley our unbelievable winner against Arsenal at Highbury. Eddie himself was remembered in the Addicks Archives match in which he had blasted a hat-trick past Charlton in a 4-0 victory for Rovers in 1972.

All in all a very good publication and is awarded 85 points in our programme survey (the same total as last season, how's that for consistency). Owing to shortage of space the points awarded for the Barnsley programme were omitted from the last Programme Parade - to keep your records up to date they scored 75 points.

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NOTTS COUNTY Price: £1.20
Pages: 36 (large size)
Adverts: 43%

Before I embark upon this particular review may I emphasise that it is not in any way influenced by the result of the match!

Now that County have invested heavily in their impressive stadium and have a team that appears to have turned the corner under Mike Walker, let us hope that the next focus for some improvement will be the match programme. At least they haven't got the nerve to label it a "magazine" as many clubs do these days!

With an incredibly high adverts content of close to 50%, the remaining content would have to be exceptional to justify a price of £1.20. Unfortunately the quality rarely rises above the mediocre with nothing remotely original in sight. Indeed, as is the case with several television programmes, some of the multitude of adverts are more entertaining than the football content! The editor really seems to be struggling to fill what little space there is, because one particular feature about the threats to the future of the football pools caused by the proposed National Lottery actually appears more or less in duplicate on two different pages.

One snippet of information that did intrigue me was the County fans were apparently having to fork out only £12 for their stand tickets at Charlton as opposed to the extortionate £14 that we were charged for a seat in a temporary stand.

Programme Parade by Tony Evans

The only positive comment I could make about the Tranmere coverage is that it was accurate, but, in keeping with the rest of the programme very unoriginal.

As I stressed at the outset, this review is not a case of sour grapes. If you'd like to judge for yourself, I'm sure the Souvenir Shop will have plenty left. On reflection, I'd save your money if I were you!



CAMBRIDGE UTD. Price: £1.20
Pages: 44 (smaller size)
Adverts: 22%

The U's programme is packed with interesting and original reading material, but lets itself down with its rather dull and dated format.

All the colour is concentrated on half a dozen full page photographs dotted throughout the 44 pages. I think the overall impact would be greater if some of it was reserved for titles, borders, backgrounds and smaller photos to illustrate articles.

Judging by the programme articles, the Football In the Community section at the

Abbey Stadium is extremely active with particular emphasis on the younger supporters.

I was amused to read United goalkeeper John Vaughan's advice for up and coming players in his position - "Don't sign for Preston!" The Deepdale Club are, of course, now managed by Vaughan's former boss at The Abbey, the widely admired and much loved John Beck.

The article about Cambridge's programme from the past, in this case from the 1975-76 season, is excellently compiled and focused on the newspaper style format published for the visit of Tranmere. The match itself was featured elsewhere and those of you whose memories go back as far as Johnny King's first promotion season as a manager will perhaps recall the thrilling 3-3 draw with the highlight being a glorious 35 yarder from that enigmatic winger Steve Peplow.

In the Rovers coverage much attention was focused on the absent John Aldridge. Perhaps a little more research would have informed the editor that, because of the postponement of the Sunderland match, the U's defence was to be reprieved because of his suspension. The only other inaccuracy I spotted also concerned Aldo who was credited with 29 goals so far this season which is 5 more than his official total (or 6 if goals by Charlton defenders are not included! Sorry John!)

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Chief Executive Mr. Frank Corfe branded it "a disgrace" and that is nothing short of the truth.

Tranmere fans who witnessed the "lights out" debacle at Swindon will now have to pay to watch the re-arranged game and how the Wiltshire club can justify this is beyond belief. Rovers supporters who were fortunate to miss the game will have to pay full admission while those who kept their ticket stubs will get £2 or £3 off.

But why should fans pay for Swindon's failings? The relationship between the two clubs is delicately placed as it is following the promotion wrangle of two years ago yet Swindon seem intent on distancing themselves from Rovers.

It is no wonder that there is strong but humorous talk of a sarcastic protest with Tranmere fans taking torches to the County Ground.

Mr. Corfe said: "It's a disgrace that our fans should be made to pay again. They should be let in for nothing and compensated for travelling.

"The game should be replayed at Prenton Park for the remaining 39 minutes behind closed doors." Whether such sentiments will be acted upon by the Football League in future remains to be seen but surely something should be done to prevent fans losing out yet again.

Rovers supporters aren't the only ones likely to be out of pocket.

Rangers fans are losing their deposits after booking travel and accommodation for the European Cup clash with Bruges only for UEFA to rule the game be played behind closed doors because of Belgian crowd trouble.

It is a sad state of affairs when people who make the game what it is are treated in such thoughtless manner and guidelines should be set up to protect the fans - particularly from losing money which is scarce enough to find in the current financial climate.

Competition

Now for today's competition and we have two tickets for a future home game to give to the first person to correctly answer:

1. Who scored in Rovers' 3-3 draw with Luton earlier this season?
2. Which clubs did David Pleat manage before returning to Luton for his second spell as boss?
3. Which Rovers player was recalled from a loan spell at Wigan this month?

Send your entries to: Family Club, Wirral News Group, 76 Hamilton Street, Birkenhead L41 5AN. Closing date is February 21st.



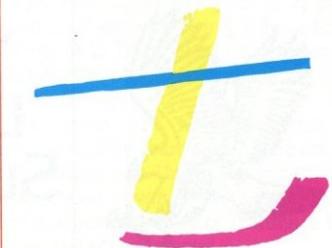
TODAYS WIRRAL NEWS GROUP MASCOT



Today's Wirral News Group Mascot is nine-year-old MICHAEL FRANCIS, from Bramford Close, Upton. Michael, a pupil at Brookdale Primary School, first started watching Rovers when he was four.

He says his favourite player is captain Eric Nixon but lists Dave Higgins' diving header against Oxford as his best moment watching the side.

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TRANMERE IN THE COMMUNITY

School of the Week PRIORY JUNIOR SCHOOL

I would like to welcome our School of the Week Priory Junior School. Priory have been involved in our Inter-School Quiz competition of late and have always been keen participants of our many activities. Enjoy the game and help cheer Rovers to victory.



Wirral Junior Schools Annual Quiz

At the time of writing Football in the Community has just completed the semi final stages of our Annual Junior Schools Quiz. Eighty one schools entered this year and the competition was held over four evenings in the impressive Tranmere Suite. Questions were asked on general knowledge, sport, pop music, faces and television. There was also a karaoke session to finish with. In all 22 schools qualified for the final which will be reported on in the Newcastle United programme.

Qualifiers (Day One) (Marks out of 100): Park Primary 81, St. Joseph's (B'head) 79; Heygarth 70; Willaston 69; Eastway 68; Holy Cross 68.

Qualifiers (Day Two): Higher Bebington 82; Bidston Avenue 78; Pensby Park 70; Mendell 68; Grove Street 66.

Qualifiers (Day Three): St. Annes 75; Overchurch 73; Gayton 70; Mount 69; Hillside 68; Prenton 68.

Qualifiers (Day Four): Castleway 77½; St. Peters (Heswall) 75; St. Josephs 71; Parkgate 71; Poulton Lancelyn 63½.

Easter Soccer Schools for Boys and Girls

We now have application forms available for our forthcoming Easter Soccer Schools. We will be holding two schools over the two week period with lots of fun and competitions on offer for children between the ages of 7 and 12. Lots of prizes and match tickets will also be available to various competition winners. A ground tour is conducted within the course with each child gaining a certificate of attendance upon completion

of the four days coaching. The courses are held at Borough Road Playing Fields and are priced at a very reasonable £22. We put a major emphasis on the football is fun theme and welcome children of all standards on our courses. If you require any further information phone Steve Williams on 608 2354 or call into the Community Office for a form. Forms are also available from the ticket office.

Have your Birthday Party at Prenton Park

We are still taking bookings for childrens birthday parties to be held at Prenton Park. The parties are held in the Sponsors Lounge with the children being treated to a Tranmere Rovers video show whilst eating their food.

Before the children actually settle down for their eats they are taken for a game of football and given a tour of the ground. The birthday child plus a friend or parent are also invited to attend a Tranmere home game as a present from the club. The price for the parties is £25 and further information can be gained by phoning Steve Williams or Shirley Waring on 608 2354.

Everton Park Girls and Ladies 5-a-side

At present we are participating in the Everton Park Girls and Ladies 5-a-side Leagues. We have two teams in the Under 16 section and one in the Open Age section. We have started off well with all three teams unbeaten and lots of goals being scored in the process. I will be publishing the results over the 10 weeks which will hopefully bring more success from our Ladies Squad.



10-year-old Kelly Shimmin – scoring well for the Under 16's

Week One: Tranmere Jrs A 2, Archbishop Blanch 1; Tranmere Jns A 2, Broadgreen Comp. 1; Tranmere Jns B 3, Peter Lloyd B 0; Tranmere Jns B 3, Alsop B 0; Tranmere Jns B 4, Archbishop Blanch 0; Tranmere Ladies 4, Liverpool Univ. 1.

Week Two: Tranmere Jns A 2, Broadgreen Comp B 0; Tranmere Jns A 2, Peter Lloyd A 0; Tranmere Jns A 2, Bootle High 2; Tranmere Jns B 5 Broadgreen Comp. A 0; Tranmere Jns B 5, Broadgreen Comp B 0; Tranmere Ladies 0, Ron Brown 0.

Ten year old Kelly Shimmin has scored well for Tranmere A who are predominantly our Under 14 squad. Kelly has scored seven goals so far. Natalie Preston has scored 15 of Tranmere B's 20 goals so far this season.

Molly Gardner is top scorer for the Seniors with some well taken efforts. Next week sees a crunch match with Tranmere Jns A taking on Tranmere Jns B and may be the best team win.

Tomorrow the ladies team play away to Wigan in the League Cup.

14

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TRANMERE ROLL CALL...

1st line = League Games 2nd line = Cup Games

Player Birthplace/Date	Int. Hons Date/Fee	1992-93		Tranmere Career*		Other Career	
		Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals
John Aldridge - Eire Liverpool 18.9.58	5-11' 11.4 Real Sociedad 06.91 £250,000	24 9	19 5	67 22	41 23	409+27 69+2	224 52
Graham Branch Liverpool 12.2.72	6-2" 12.2 Heswall 05.91 Free	- +1	- -	+4 +2	- -	1 -	1 -
Ged Brannan Liverpool 15.1.72	6-0" 12.3 Y.T.S. 07.90 -	22 9	1 -	53+4 27	3 -	- -	- -
Steve Cooper Birmingham 22.6.64	5-11" 11.10 Barnsley 12.90 £100,000	2+3 1+1	- -	15+16 6+5	3 1	167+37 29+6	38 5
Danny Coyne - WY Prestatyn 27.8.73	6-0" 12.7 Y.T.S. 07.92 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Tony Draper Liverpool 29.11.73	5-5" 9.7 Y.T.S. 7.92 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Michael Foster - W.Y. Bangor 24.9.73	5-8" 10.10 Y.T.S. 10.90 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Shaun Garnett Wallasey 22.11.69	6-2" 13.4 App. 05.88 -	5 3	1 1	33+1 10+1	2 1	6 -	- -
Dave Higgins Liverpool 19.8.61	6-0" 11.0 Caernarvon 06.87 Free	20 6	2 -	232+3 61	7 -	- 5	- -
Mark Hughes - W. U21 Port Talbot 2.2.62	6-0" 13.0 Bristol City 12.85 £3,000	7+1 5+2	- -	251+4 64+4	9 2	106+2 16+1	4 -
Kenny Irons Liverpool 4.11.70	5-9" 11.0 Y.T.S. 11.89 -	22+1 11	3 2	91+11 28+4	16 6	- -	- -
John McGreal Liverpool 2.6.72	5-11" 10.11 Y.T.S. 07.90 -	- +1	- +1	3 -	- -	- -	- -
Neil McNab - S. U21 Greenock 4.6.57	5-7" 10.10 Man. City 01.90 £125,000	23+1 9	2 -	87+11 28+3	6 2	428+19 69	25 4
Chris Malkin Bebington 4.6.67	6-3" 12.0 Stork AFC 08.89 Free	19+1 9+1	3 1	99+47 28+14	31 9	- -	- -
Dave Martindale Liverpool 9.4.64	5-11" 11.0 Caernarvon 06.87 £1,500	8+5 3+2	- -	106+34 32+8	7 3	- 4	- -
Alan Morgan Aberystwyth 2.11.73	5-10" 11.00 Y.T.S. 07.92 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
John Morrissey - Eng. Y. Liverpool 8.3.65	5-8½" 11.9 Wolves 10.85 £8,000	25+1 10+1	4 3	262+22 70+5	43 10	6+5 +1	1 -
Ian Muir - Eng. Y. Coventry 5.5.63	5-8½" 11.0 Brighton 08.85 Free	6+1 3+4	2 -	260+15 59+5	125 35	9+2 2	3 -
Steve Mungall Bellshill 22.5.58	5-8" 11.5 Motherwell 07.79 Free	21+1 8+1	3 -	441+14 90+3	13 3	14+6 -	6 -
Pat Nevin - Scot Glasgow 6.9.63	5-6" 11.9 Everton 08.92 £300,000	23 9	8 2	31 9	8 2	337+41 88+10	68 18
Eric Nixon Manchester 4.10.62	6-4" 15.7 Man City 07.88 £60,000	26 11	- -	213 65	- -	97 26	- -
Ian Nolan Liverpool 9.7.70	6-0" 11.10 Marine 07.91 £12,000	8 5	- -	42 11	1 -	- -	- -
Tony Thomas Liverpool 12.7.71	5-11" 12.5 Y.T.S. 02.89 -	3 3	- -	116+1 27	10 1	- -	- -
Steve Vickers Bishop Auckland 13.10.67	6-3" 12.0 App 08.85 -	22 7	- 1	279+1 65+1	11 8	- -	- -



(All White)

TRANMERE

(12) DAVE
MARTINDALE

(5) STEVE
MUNGALL

(7) JOHN
MORRISSEY

(2) DAVE
HIGGINS

(4) KENNY
IRONS

(8) JOHN
ALDRIDGE

(10) PHIL
GRAY

(5) CERI
HUGHES

(4) MARVIN
JOHNSON

(12) IAN
BENJAMIN

(11) DAVID
PREECE

(2) JOHN
DREYER

(1) PHIL
CHAMBERLAIN

LUTON

PASSING BACK...

5 Years Ago: Ian Muir scores but Rovers lose 2-1 at home to Peterborough in front of 2,230 fans. Luton meanwhile also lost - to Arsenal at Highbury - despite a goal from Mark Stein. Spurs sign Paul Walsh from Liverpool, Everton defeat QPR 2-0.

10 Years Ago: Just over a 1,000 at Darlington freeze as they see the home side win 1-0, but at Anfield, Liverpool's 1-0 defeat of Ipswich takes them 15 points clear at the top. Luton, like many others are frozen out. In midweek, Neville Southall, on loan at Port Vale, plays for Wales.

20 Years Ago: Luton lose 2-0 at Brighton - a marginally better 'performance' than Rovers at York City. Eddie Loyden's goal being a mere consolation as Rovers sink 1-4 in front of 3,255. Arsenal win 2-0 at Anfield through Ball (pen) and Radford - Liverpool's first home defeat for 13 months. Ball's father, Alan Snr, gets the bullet at PNE after failing to get a point in 1973.

MATCH OFFICIALS...

Referee: Mr. Ken Redfern
(Whitley Bay)

A self-employed jewellery importer ... married with three grown up children ... Ken has been a League referee since 1974 and has been in charge of a Skol Cup Final plus Milk Cup and Rumbelows Cup semi-finals ... interested in cricket and athletics plus animal related charities ... first match at Prenton Park for several years.

Linesmen:



RED TRIM

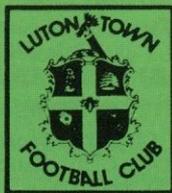
Mr. P. Newell
(Red Trim)



YELLOW TRIM

Mr. J. P. Smith
(Yellow Trim)

Reserve: Mr. Bob Cooper (Wirral)



ROVERS

ERIC
ON

(14) IAN
MUIR

(6) STEVE
VICKERS

(3) IAN
NOLAN

(10) NEIL
McNAB

(11) PAT
NEVIN

(9) CHRIS
MALKIN

(8) MARTIN
WILLIAMS

(7) PAUL
TELFER

(9) SCOTT
OAKES

(6) TREVOR
PEAKE

(3) JULIAN
JAMES

LEC
ERLAIN

(14) JASON
REES

TOWN (All Blue/Orange Trim)

LANDMARKS...

Complete Record v LUTON

	P	W	D	L	F	A
H	5	3	0	2	8	7
A	6	0	1	5	5	15
T	11	3	1	7	13	22

Biggest Victory: 2-0 (H) 1965-66

Heaviest Defeat: 2-3 1938-39

Last Home Win: 3-2 1969-70

Last Home Draw: None

First Meeting: 5 Nov 1938 (H) 2-3

Last Meeting: 1992-93 (A) 3-3

Heaviest Away Defeat: 0-3 1938-39

Served us both: John Seasman (1975), Alec Chamberlain.

LUTON ROLL CALL...

Stats up to Feb. 7

Player	Transfer Fee			Int 1992-93			
	Birthplace/Date	Pos	Date	Previous Clubs	Hons	Apps	Gls
Alec Chamberlain Ely 20.6.64	(G)	£150,000	July 88	Ipswich, Colchester, Everton, Tranmere (L)	-	15	-
Andy Patterson Australia 26.9.69	(G)	-	Dec 88	Luton, Swindon (L), Ipswich (L)	-	16	-
John Dreyer Alnwick 11.6.63	(D)	£140,000	July 88	Oxford, Torquay (L), Fulham (L)	-	21+1	3
Julian James Tring 22.3.70	(D)	-	July 88	Ex. App, Preston NE (L)	Eng U21	31	2
Marvin Johnson Wembley 29.10.68	(D)	-	Nov 86	Ex-YTS	-	23+2	2
Trevor Peake Nuneaton 10.2.57	(D)	£100,000	Aug 91	Nuneaton Boro, Lincoln, Coventry	Eng SP	26	-
Des Linton Birmingham 5.9.71	(D)	P/E	Oct 91	Leicester City	-	18+3	1
Ceri Hughes Pontypridd 26.2.71	(M)	-	July 89	Ex-YTS	Wal U21	16	2
Paul Telfer Edinburgh 21.10.71	(M)	-	Nov 88	Ex. YTS	-	14+1	2
David Preece Bridgenorth 28.5.63	(M)	P/E £150,000	Dec 84	Walsall	Eng 'B'	30	1
Jason Rees Aberdare 22.12.69	(M)	-	July 88	Ex-YTS	Wal U21	23+2	-
Scott Oakes Leicester 5.8.72	(F)	P/E	Oct 91	Leicester City	-	13+17	3
Phil Gray Belfast 2.10.68	(F)	£275,000	Aug 91	Spurs, Barnsley (L), Fulham (L)	N.I.	31	11
Ian Benjamin Nottingham 11.12.61	(F)	£80,000	Nov 92	Sheff. Utd, WBA, Notts Co, Peterboro, Northampton, Cambridge, Chester, Exeter Southend	Eng Y	7+5	1
Martin Williams Luton 12.7.73	(F)	-	Sept 91	Ex-YTS	-	4+4	-

FIVE YEAR RECORD

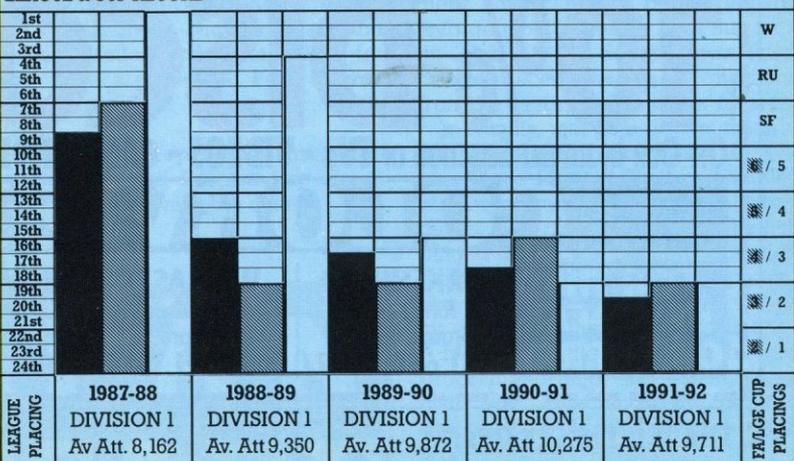
LUTON 5 YEAR

LEAGUE & CUP RECORD

LEAGUE

F.A. CUP

LGE CUP



**Coming Soon . . .
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Sunday, February 28th
3.00 p.m. kick off**

A major football news story about the North East wasn't picked up by any of the rags last week. It had nothing to do with Terry Butcher replacing Malcolm Crosby at Roker, nor that Middlesbrough are likely to get relegated - that's inevitable. The news was, there was no news on Newcastle, no words of wisdom from the Messiah, no walking on the Tyne waters. Was there news black (and white) out? What was going on? We needed our daily fix, even if it was: "St. James' Park groundsman mows pitch". Next day, however, they were back on the back page. Phew!

The word on the Scotswood Road is that KK has just returned with his disciples from a five-day training session in the Marbella sun, ready for a difficult month: and FA Cup tie at Blackburn and away trips to West Ham and Tranmere.

I won't bore you with the team news - it will be the usual line up, including four or five players that our man reckons will become England regulars if Newcastle win promotion.

And don't be fooled that it's all cut and dried: Terrace talk: Magpie-mad, local social historian, Tony Kearney says: "I've been let down by them too often, I'll wait till the last game." From the horses mouth: Newcastle defender Kevin Scott admits: "The League table could look very different if we don't pick up points." Me: "Thanks to Portsmouth there's only a seven point gap. There's hope." Let's hope. Role those TV cameras.

Don't forget this match is ALL TICKET - don't miss out on the match of the season.

Jonathan Caswell

**HOME
and
AWAY**

Travelogue - Bristol Rovers

**Barclays League Division One
Saturday, February 20, 1993
Kick Off 3.00 pm
at Twerton Park, Bath**

GETTING THERE . . .

By Club Transport - With Tranmere Travel Club. Executive Coaches at £12.00 (under 16's and over 65's £10.50) leaving Prenton Park at 9.15 am. NB: Usual members conditions apply.

By British Rail: Nearest station is Bath Spa (2 miles). For further details ring British Rail on 051-709 9696.

By Car: Leave the M4 at Junction 18, taking the A46 into Bath. Follow signs to the A36 ring road towards Bristol. Turn left (under railway bridge) into Twerton High Street. Ground to left hidden behind houses/shops. Approximately 200 miles. Allow 3½-4 hours actual travelling time.

Parking: Nearby streets

AT THE GROUND . . .

Admission to terracing at £6.50 - no concessions. It is unlikely that any seating will be made available. Access via turnstiles 20 and 21. All matches at Twerton Park are ALL TICKET for visiting fans. Apply to ticket office.

Disabled/blind fans apply directly to Bristol Rovers on (0272) 352508.

Programme: £1.20 (48 pages).

Travelogue - Swindon Town

**Barclays League Division One
Tuesday, February 23, 1993
Kick Off 7.45 pm
AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT**

GETTING THERE . . .

By Club Transport - With Tranmere Travel Club. Executive Coaches at £9.50 (under 16's and over 65's £8.50) leaving Prenton Park at 2.45 pm. This is at cost price to the club - see article in this programme. Well done Directors - at least our officials are not out to screw the fans! NB: Usual members conditions apply.

By British Rail: Nearest station is Swindon, for details of prices and times ring British Rail on 051-709 9696. Apparently the station is lit on occasions.

By Car: Leave the M5 at Junction 11 and join A40, following signs for A417 and join. Continue towards Swindon on A419. 10 miles past Cirencester take A4311 for 2 miles. At roundabout (with ground to your left) take first exit into Shrivensham Road - ground to left. Mileage: 190 miles. Allow 3-3½ hours.

Parking: Car park adjacent to ground at 50p. Fans are requested to park facing the ground so that their headlights can shine through the turnstiles should the floodlights fail!

Local Radio: BBC Bristol 104.6FM; GWR 97.2FM (on the Light Programme?).

AT THE 'STADIUM OF LIGHT' . . .

Uncovered visitors terracing located on the Stratton Bank at £7.50 (no concessions). Holders of vouchers from abandoned game will be allowed a small discount. At the time of writing it was unclear as to whether seats would be made available. No disabled facilities.

Programme: £1.20.

Allen Price

Supporters Football

The team's recent run of poor results continued when they lost by the odd goal in seven to Graving Dock on Sunday 31st January. Finding ourselves 3-0 down early on in the second half, we should have reduced the deficit when Alan Thelwell was fouled in the penalty area, which led to the offending defender being shown the red card, but Barry Chang in the home goal saved the resultant penalty kick.

Now with the advantage of an extra man, the Supporters team pushed Neil Collinson into a more attacking role and this proved to have the desired effect, as three goals were scored in 15 minutes, by Nixon and John and Marty McCulloch. With only ten minutes remaining the defence was caught napping by a quickly-taken free kick which allowed Graving Dock to clinch the winner. Mention must also be made of the fine saves made by the home side's keeper, Barry Chang.

Our fixture on Sunday, 7th February was called off.

Forthcoming fixtures: Sunday, 14th February v. British Rail at Higher Bebington Road; Sunday 21st February v Wirral Wanderers at Higher Bebington Road. Both games kick off at 11am and spectators are most welcome.

Ken Walklett

"Thank You"

I have been asked by the club's Chief Executive, Frank Corfe, to express his thanks and gratitude, and that of his fellow directors, to the travelling Rovers' fans who witnessed the recent 5-1 loss away at Notts County. The directors were amazed at the supporters' constant singing and encouragement to the team, which continued unabated as the scoreline got worse and the chances of victory or even a draw even slimmer. Your vocal support was much appreciated, especially in such adverse circumstances, so "well done" and "thank you very much". Keep up the good work!

Carol Dalziel

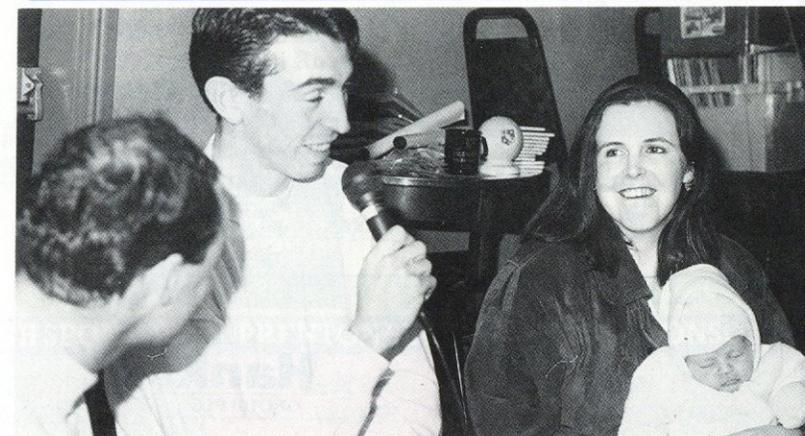
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PRENTON PUPS



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Centre stage for the Malkin's . . . Chris and Christine introduce little Patrick Greg to the Prenton Pups, watched by compere and co-organiser, Alan Beedles (extreme left). Picture by Bob Bird.

The Prenton Pups will be taking centre stage at half-time this afternoon - to provide their own entertaining contribution to this being Ladies' Day at Prenton Park.

Two teams of three will be taking part in a penalty shoot-out competition at the Cowshed end - and there is every reason for members of the fairer sex to give their uninhibited vocal support!

For the Prenton Pup lads have been challenged to the shoot-out by the Prenton Pup girls, who want to mark the feminine day out with, well, a famous feminine victory!

Hoping to open a few male eyes will be Nikola Smith, Nichola Swain and Jannine Mellor, while spot-kicking for the lads are Steven Paul, Wayne Etherington and Christopher Courtenay.

Hoping to keep both teams out is goalkeeper and Prenton Pup Simon Paul. Give them all a big cheer!

Meanwhile, the first meeting of the New Year for the Prenton Pups - Tranmere's official youngsters club which is sponsored by the Wirral Globe - took place in the Prentonian Suite.

Rovers' striker Chris Malkin turned it into a real family affair when he and wife Christine arrived with their own surprise debutant . . . three-week-old son Patrick Greg.

The happy trio were given a tremendous reception, as was the other main guest of the night Tranmere trainer - and no mean former player in his own right - Kenny Jones.

Chris, who wrote himself into Tranmere Rovers' history by scoring the unforgettable Wembley goal that took the club into the Second (now First) Division, faced a barrage of questions from the eager young Rovers' fans.

Inevitably, that goal-den moment in extra-time against Bolton in the Division Three Play-Off Final at Wembley was uppermost in the youngsters' minds. How did he feel when the ball bulged the back of the net? "Ecstatic!" responded Chris. "I knew what promotion meant for the club, I'd put us one up - it was a rather strange feeling".

More about the meeting in the next programme. Enjoy the match, especially you ladies, and don't forget to give the Pups plenty of support at half-time!



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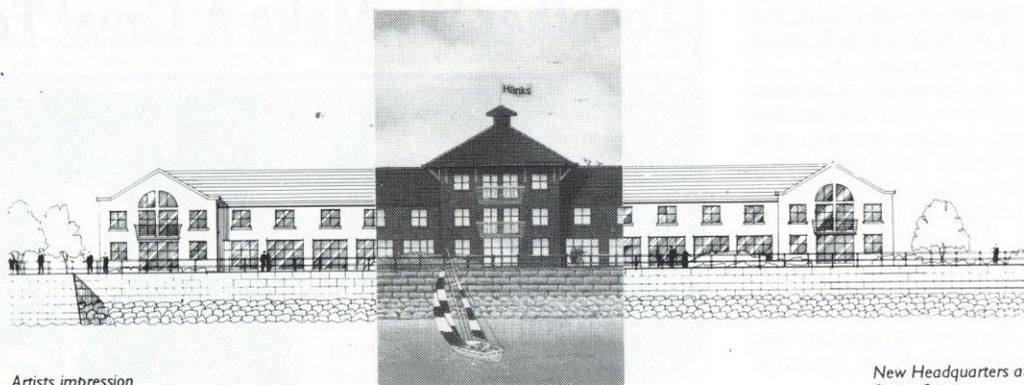
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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Hull	42	27	11	4	93	28	65
2 Rotherham	42	28	6	8	90	46	62
3 Doncaster	42	20	10	12	53	40	50
4 Darlington	42	20	6	16	83	74	46
5 Gateshead	42	16	13	13	69	58	45
6 Oldham	42	18	9	15	75	67	45
7 Rochdale	42	18	9	15	55	53	45
8 Stockport	42	16	11	15	61	56	43
9 Wrexham	42	17	9	16	56	62	43
10 Mansfield	42	14	14	14	52	48	42
11 Tranmere	42	13	15	14	46	57	41
12 Crewe	42	16	9	17	52	74	41
13 Barrow	42	14	12	16	41	48	40
14 York	42	15	9	18	74	74	39
15 Carlisle	42	14	11	17	60	77	39
16 Hartlepool	42	14	10	18	45	58	38
17 New Brighton	42	14	8	20	46	58	36
18 Chester	42	11	13	18	57	56	35
19 Halifax	42	12	11	19	45	62	35
20 Accrington	42	12	10	20	55	64	34
21 Southport	42	11	9	22	45	64	31
22 Bradford City	42	10	9	23	48	77	29

Aug	21	H	Hull City	L	1-2
	26	A	Doncaster Rovers	L	0-2
	28	A	Rotherham United	L	0-7
	31	H	Doncaster Rovers	W	2-0
Sept	4	H	Accrington Stanley	D	2-2
	8	A	Bradford City	W	3-1
	11	A	Oldham Athletic	W	2-0
	14	H	Bradford City	W	1-0
	18	H	New Brighton	L	0-1
	25	H	Mansfield Town	W	1-0
Oct	2	A	Barrow	D	0-0
	9	A	Chester	D	2-2
	16	H	Southport	W	1-0
	23	A	Crewe Alexandra	L	0-2
	30	H	York City	D	0-0
Nov	13	H	Carlisle United	W	2-1
	16	A	Stockport County	L	1-4
	20	A	Gateshead	D	3-3
Dec	4	A	Darlington	L	2-3
	25	A	Halifax Town	W	1-0
	26	H	Halifax Town	D	2-2
Jan	1	H	Rotherham United	W	2-1
	15	A	Accrington Stanley	W	2-0
	22	H	Oldham Athletic	D	1-1
	29	H	Hartlepool	L	0-2
Feb	5	A	New Brighton	L	1-2
	12	H	Rochdale	D	0-0
	19	A	Mansfield Town	D	0-0
	26	H	Barrow	W	2-0
Mar	12	A	Southport	W	3-2
	19	H	Crewe Alexandra	D	2-2
	26	A	York City	L	0-1
	30	A	Hull City	L	0-2
Apr	2	H	Stockport County	D	0-0
	9	A	Carlisle United	D	2-2
	15	H	Wrexham	L	0-2
	16	H	Gateshead	D	1-1
	18	A	Wrexham	D	0-0
	23	A	Hartlepool	L	0-3
	28	H	Darlington	W	2-1
May	2	H	Chester	D	1-1
	7	A	Rochdale	L	1-2

THE WAY WE WERE

Tranmere Rovers League Appearances and Goalscorers - 1948-49

Allis 10(3); Atkinson 27(11); Alexander 4(1); Bell 42(0); Gould 3(2); Harlock 13(0); Hodgson 18(0); Lloyd 13(0); A. Payne 7(0); G. Payne 29(0); Steele 25(0); Williamson 17(6); Chadwick 8(0); Connor 32(1); Hornby 8(0); Kieran 41(1); Lamb 20(2); Pollard 14(1); Bavin 2(0); Bainbridge 26(7); Barrie 11(3); Coulson 1(0); Eastham 38(2); Jack 3(3); McBennett 11(1); MacLellan 2(0); Sille 1(0); Thompson 2(0); Wheeler 34(0).



TRANMERE ROVERS F.C. 1948 - 9
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Behind the Scenes...

ALEC McLENNAN

Club physio Alec McLennan has a longer association with Tranmere Rovers than any of the other current staff, having actually played for the team in season 1946-47. Prior to that, he began his career in Scotland with Albion and then moved on to Raith Rovers before guesting for Huddersfield Town during the Second World War. New Brighton was Alec's next team - he was nicknamed "Cowboy" during his days there - and thence to Prenton Park. He then decided to study for a career in medicine, attending Strathclyde and Liverpool Universities and gaining the MCSB qualification, but continued to play football with several non-league sides.

Alec served in the Royal Air Force during the War, but spent the bulk of his career - 35 years - at Clatterbridge Hospital. He renewed his association with Rovers during Dave Russell's days as manager, and worked under Jackie Wright and all the later bosses until Bryan Hamilton, when he left the club, albeit temporarily, only to return when John King was re-appointed for a second spell as manager.

Alec must be one of the very few people who can remember Ronnie Moore, and even Ray Mathias as 15-year-old apprentices! He will admit to still feeling about 17 years of age himself, and is still as enthusiastic as he was 46 long years ago, although he claims that it feels nothing like that long since he first wore Tranmere Rovers' colours. As well as being an employee, Alec is also a Tranmere supporter, and lives in Wallasey, where he has been since he first joined the club in 1946 - a decision which was maybe influenced by his marriage to the daughter of one of the New Brighton directors! He splits his time between Valley Road and Prenton Park, and still looks forward to every day at the club, just as much as he did all those years ago.

Carol Dalziel



BACK STAGE

CENTRE STAGE

Mike Smith

Date/Place of Birth: 28/9/1973 Liverpool

Nickname: 'Smigger'

Tell us about your family and home: I live at home in Fairfield, Liverpool with Mum Margaret, Dad Trevor and 12 year old sister Jenny. My Dad is a keen follower and comes to see all my matches.

What are your hobbies/interests and do you have a secret talent? I like to play snooker and golf in my spare time, though I'm not particularly good at either. If I have a 'secret' talent then its probably that I'm not bad at Art, though I've done very little since passing my GCSE.

Do you have any routines/superstitions you follow before games? I'm not superstitious at all. I tend to think about games a lot before hand which only makes me nervous.

What position did you start in as a boy, and where would you really fancy yourself playing now? My first club was called 'White Rock' and I played on the left wing. Since then I've played in every position bar goal but always returned to the left wing where I'm happiest. Other than that I wouldn't mind playing centre forward.

How would your team mates describe you as a person? Short tempered and impatient, though I would describe myself as easy going!

What frustrates you about your own ability? My right foot and heading are not up to much. If I was involved in the play more I'm sure I'd become a better player. At the moment I tend to drift in and out of games.

What is your most embarrassing/or worst moment in football so far? Thankfully, I haven't had one yet, there's plenty of time yet!

What is the best stadium you have played at and which ground has the best playing surface? I'm fortunate enough to played at Wembley and in the Nou Camp stadium, Barcelona, which was hard and bumpy. Anfield has the best playing surface.

Who is the best player you have ever faced and how did you get on? Viv Anderson who was then with Manchester United but making a come back after injury. I was at Liverpool at the time and played half a game against him. For a young lad I suppose I did O.K.

What personal honour has given you the most satisfaction? Though I won a lot of medals as a lad, getting a professional contract at Tranmere and winning the Midland Senior League last season were special.

Has anyone in particular helped you along in your career so far? My Dad and Warwick Rimmer at the club.

What is the funniest or silliest piece of advice you have ever had? Liverpool's Youth Development Officer Steve Heighway told me I'd never make a 'pro' as "I wasn't good enough." I'm proud to say I've proved him wrong.

What is the funniest insult you have ever heard from the terraces or the funniest incident seen? Though its not a funniest "incident" as such, we had a good laugh when the Oldham programme listed me as "34 and Ex-Hartlepool."

** That was lifted from the Barclays Directory, who confused him with another player of the same name. Editor.*

What is the highlight of your career so far? Being taken on as a professional at Tranmere.

Looking back, what is the worst aspect of being an apprentice? Getting to the end of your apprenticeship and not knowing whether the club is going to offer you 'pro' terms or not. You know your every move on and off the pitch is being scrutinised, and



wonder what will become of you if they show you the door.

Which of your team mates would you not fancy sharing a room with on an away trip and why? Any of the Welsh lads! They tend to stick together and no one can understand a word of what they're saying.

What is the best goal you have ever scored? Against Preston in the first round of last seasons F.A. Cup. I ran 80 yards from the edge of our box to the edge of their's and then chipped the keeper.

What type of people do you avoid? Narky, two faced, or tight people are the ones I usually give the brush off to.

What do you remember of your Tranmere Rovers debut? I scored on my debut - a trial match against Wigan. Soon after I was offered a Y.T.S. place.

If you could watch football somewhere other than Tranmere each week, where would you go? Liverpool. I've always followed them and despite the fact they rejected me, I always will.

If you could play alongside a famous player to learn from him, who would it be? As I play on the left wing, I'd love to have Stuart Pearce behind me and Neil McNab to feed me from midfield. Both are great pro's.

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**Bill Graves reports
on Rovers
RESERVES**

Wednesday, 20th January
Midland Senior League

TRANMERE 'A' 1
WREXHAM 'A' 0

A Paul Smith goal won us this game against a side including Mickey Thomas, Joey Jones, Steve Pugh (Welsh Under 21 international) and David Rush, brother of Ian, but playing at centre-half! Unfortunately Ian Muir was unfit to test his injured ankle in a game he probably needed.

Tranmere: Coyne, Draper, Brannan, McGreal, G. Jones, Edwards, Johnson, Martindale, P. Smith, Morgan, Kenworthy. Subs: Evans, McCullagh.

Saturday, 23rd January

Lancashire League Division One
TRANMERE 'A' 0
ROCHDALE RESERVES 1

In miserable and wet conditions, Rovers were generally disappointing, although Eddie McCullagh forced the visiting 'keeper into a fine save, with a fine shot from outside the area after 10 minutes play. But only ten minutes later,

Rochdale took the lead with a scrambled goal, following a corner, to establish a 1-0 interval advantage.

Early in the second half, both Morgan and Draper were booked for petty offences (when will they ever learn?) but we did begin to dominate midfield with Mike Smith also becoming more involved and doing the simple things well. Then, midway through the second half, we were awarded a slightly fortunate penalty - the keeper saved it!

Mike Smith appeared to equalise with a great lob, only for a debatable offside decision, and again Rovers thought they had draw level when it looked clear to all that the ball had crossed the line - but the referee didn't see it that way.

Tranmere: Coyne, Draper, Johnson, McGreal, Jones, Morgan, Kenworthy, Edwards, P. Smith, McCullagh, M. Smith.

Tuesday, 2nd February

RHYL 1
TRANMERE 3

Unlucky Steve Cooper was stretched off with an ankle injury in this competitive friendly at Belle Vue.

Cooper, one of five first teamers in Rovers' ranks, was taken to hospital after a 65th minute tackle by Steve Jones that was more clumsy than malicious.

But there was better news for Rovers' boss John King who saw defender Tony Thomas come through the full 90 minutes of his comeback after five months out of action with a broken leg.

Alan Morgan beat Rhyll's offside trap to fire Rovers ahead in the sixth minute and Cooper seized on a goalkeeping error to make it 2-0.

Centre half Mark Hughes volleyed the third before Rhyll sub Justin Jones replied with a spectacular effort.

Saturday, 6th February

Lancashire League, Division One
TRANMERE 2
OLDHAM 0

Another convincing win for Rovers, although there was concern over the withdrawal of Tony Thomas with a twisted ankle after only 25 minutes - but apparently a precautionary measure and hopefully not serious.

A left wing cross from Mike Smith set up a Graham Branch header for the first goal, while in the second half substitute Paul Smith scored a second with a low shot from close in. An unusual feature of the game was the referee's decision to award us two INDIRECT free kicks in the box - for dangerous play!

Tranmere: Coyne, Sang, Johnson, G. Jones, Evans, Thomas, Kenworthy, Edwards, McCullagh, Branch, M. Smith. Subs: P. Smith, Lambkin.

Scorers: Branch and P. Smith.

Saturday, 6th February

Lancashire League, Division Two
TRANMERE 1
MAN. CITY 1

City took an early lead, but Rovers - with a couple of under 16 trialists - missed several chances, and it wasn't until the second half that Gavin Allen equalised.

Tranmere: Jones, Cassidy, Rogers, Edwards, Gerrard, P. Smith, Watts, Bate, Allen, Moore, McCrystal. Subs: Donachy, Hammond.

Scorer: Allen.

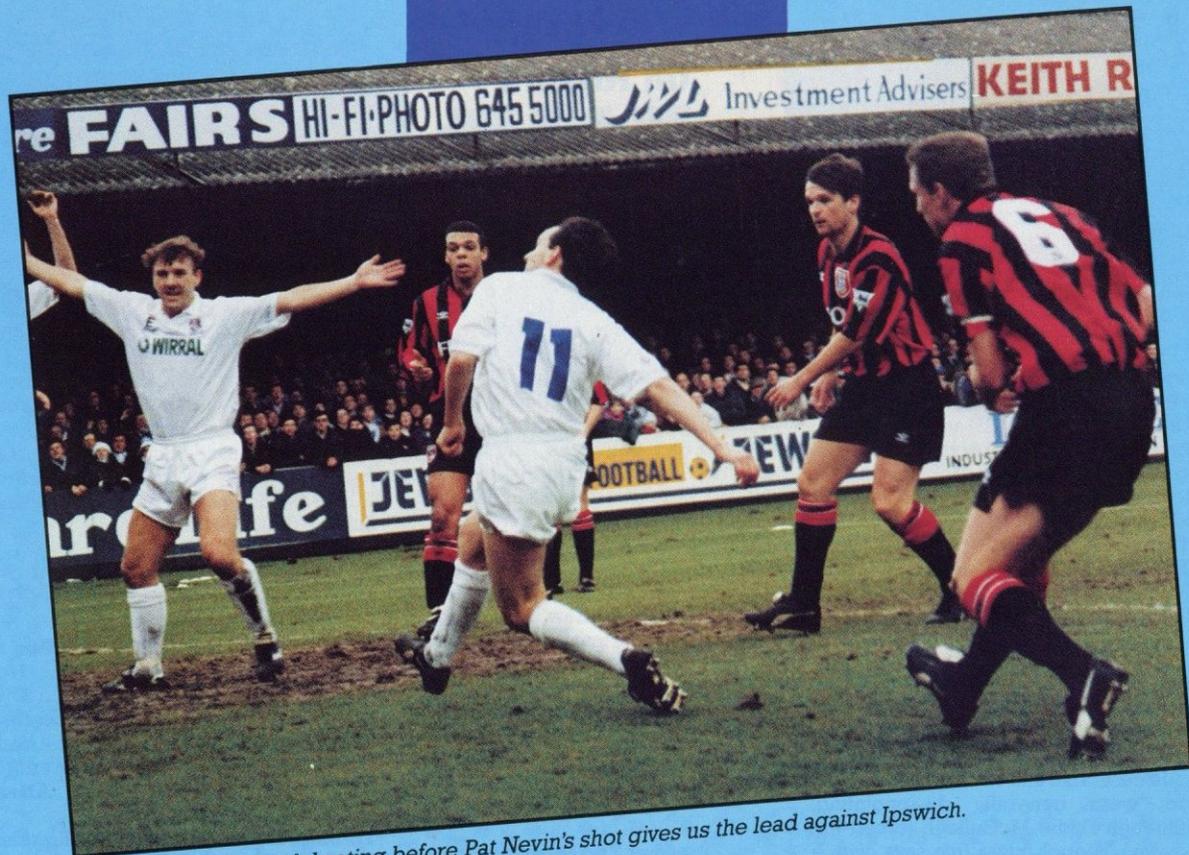
LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIV 1

22 Aug	Oldham 'A'	.....	2-0
29 Aug	Burnley 'A'	.....	3-0
5 Sept	Bolton 'A'	.....	3-0
12 Sept	Bury 'A'	.....	4-1
19 Sept	Chester City 'A'	.....	7-2
26 Sept	Man City 'A'	.....	3-1
3 Oct	Blackburn	.....	1-1
10 Oct	Blackpool 'A'	.....	4-1
17 Oct	Crewe Alex Res	.....	3-3
24 Oct	Burnley 'A'	.....	p-p
31 Oct	Marine Res	.....	3-1
7 Nov	Liverpool 'A'	.....	1-0
14 Nov	Crewe Alex Res	.....	p-p
21 Nov	Bolton 'A'	.....	2-0
28 Nov	Man. Utd. 'A'	.....	3-5
5 Dec	Liverpool 'A'	.....	1-0
11 Dec	(Fri) Morecambe Res	.....	4-1
19 Dec	Blackburn 'A'	.....	p-p
1993			
9 Jan	Man. City 'A'	.....	2-1
16 Jan	Everton 'A'	.....	0-1
23 Jan	Rochdale 'A'	.....	0-1
30 Jan	Man. Utd. 'A'	.....	1-7
6 Feb	Oldham Ath. 'A'	.....	2-0
13 Feb	Marine Res.	.....	-
20 Feb	Bury 'A'	.....	-
27 Feb	Rochdale Res.	.....	-

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIV 2

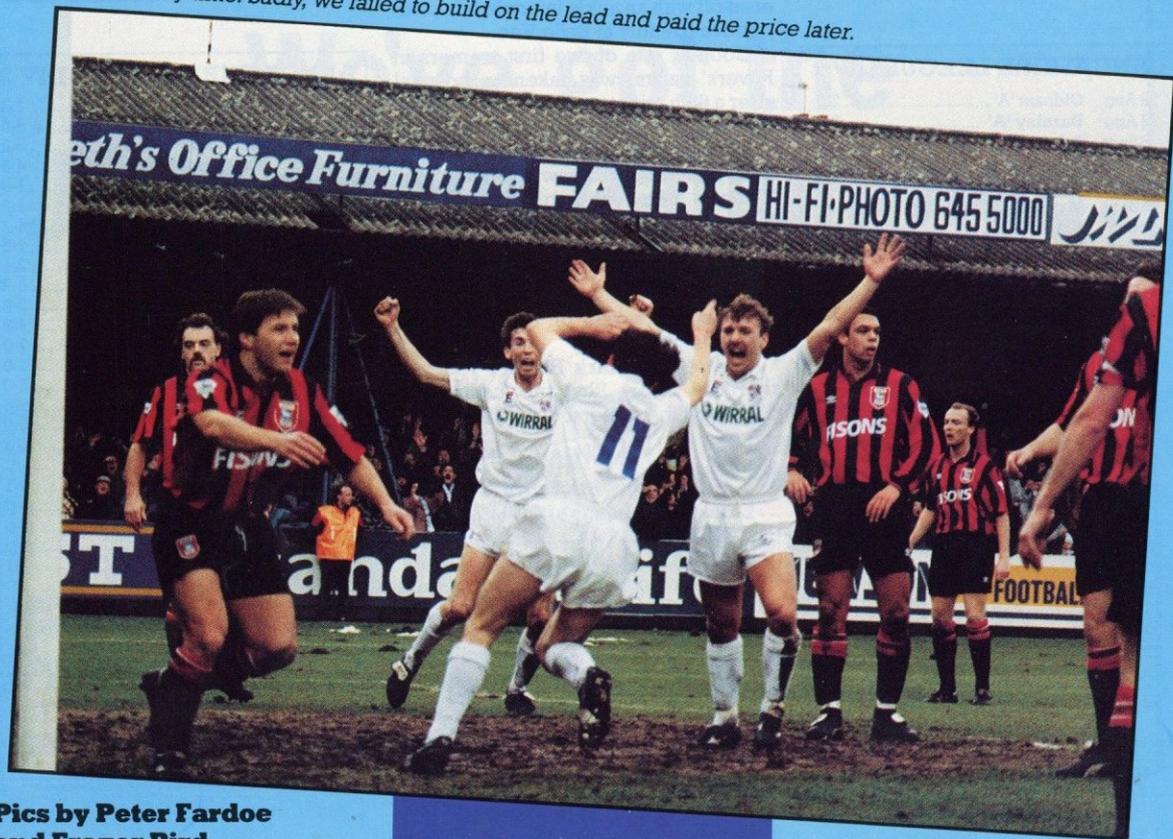
22 Aug	Burnley 'B'	.....	2-3
29 Aug	Bury 'B'	.....	5-0
4 Sept	Blackburn 'B'	.....	5-2
12 Sept	Blackburn 'B'	.....	4-3
19 Sept	Liverpool 'B'	.....	1-3
26 Sept	Everton 'B'	.....	1-2
3 Oct	Carlisle 'A'	.....	1-1
10 Oct	Crewe Alex 'A'	.....	2-2
17 Oct	Stockport 'A'	.....	2-1
24 Oct	Burnley 'B'	.....	0-2
31 Oct	Preston NE 'B'	.....	3-2
7 Nov	Rochdale 'A'	.....	4-2
14 Nov	Everton 'B'	.....	1-0
21 Nov	Man. Utd. 'B'	.....	1-0
28 Nov	Marine Youth	.....	5-0
5 Dec	Marine Youth	.....	p-p
12 Dec	Wigan Ath. 'A'	.....	0-0
19 Dec	Carlisle Utd. 'A'	.....	p-p
1993			
9 Jan	Blackpool 'B'	.....	0-1
16 Jan	Man. Utd. 'B'	.....	p-p
23 Jan	Liverpool 'B'	.....	p-p
30 Jan	Bury 'B'	.....	p-p
6 Feb	Man. City 'B'	.....	1-1
13 Feb	Man. City 'B'	.....	-
20 Feb	Preston NE 'B'	.....	-
27 Feb	Marine Youth	.....	-

& YOUTH

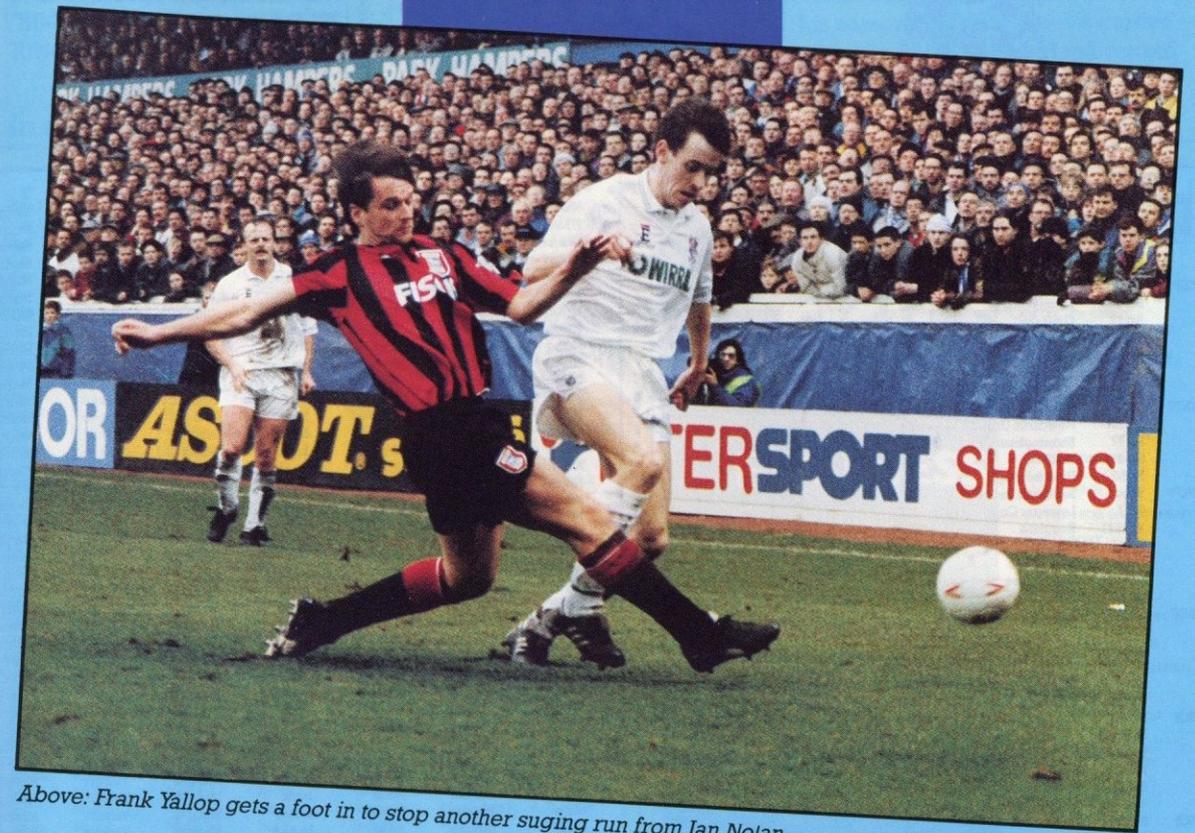


Above: Ian Muir is celebrating before Pat Nevin's shot gives us the lead against Ipswich.

Below: Party time! Sadly, we failed to build on the lead and paid the price later.



Pics by Peter Fardoe and Frazer Bird



Above: Frank Yallop gets a foot in to stop another suging run from Ian Nolan

Below: Clive Baker acrobatically collects the ball as Chris Malkin slides in on goal.





STATS & FACTS

First Sub - ★
 Second Sub - †
 Own Goal - †
 Sent Off - SO
 Goalscorers - Bold

	Date	Opponents	Event	Score	Att.	Pts.	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	Referee
AUG	Sat 15	Cambridge United	BL	2-0	5,248	3	-	Nixon	Brannan	Nolan	Irons	Hughes	Garnett	Morrissey	Aldridge 1	Malkin 1	Martindale	Thomas	Muir	Branch	J. Rushton
	Wed 19	Blackpool	CCC1 1L	3-0	3,719	-	-	Nixon	Brannan	Nolan	Irons	Hughes	Garnett 1	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Malkin	Martindale★	Thomas	Muir	Branch★	T. Holbrook
	Sat 22	Sunderland	BL	0-1	16,667	3	15	Nixon	Brannan	Nolan	Irons★	Hughes	Garnett	Nevin	Aldridge	Malkin	McNab	Thomas	Muir	Morrissey★	J.A. Kirkby
	Tues 25	Blackpool	CCC1 2L	0-4	2,734	-	-	Nixon	Brannan★	Nolan	Irons	Hughes	Garnett	Nevin	Aldridge	Malkin	McNab	Thomas	Muir	Morrissey★	K. Lupton
	Fri 28	Bristol Rovers	BL	2-1	5,458	6	8	Nixon	Brannan	Nolan	Irons	Hughes★	Garnett 1	Morrissey	Aldridge	Nevin	McNab	Thomas	Muir	Branch	V. Callow
SEPT	Tues 1	Peterborough	AI Pre 1	0-0	1,954	-	-	Nixon	Brannan	Nolan	Irons	McNab	Garnett	Morrissey	Aldridge	Nevin	McNab	Thomas★	Muir	Malkin	J. Key
	Sat 5	Luton Town	BL	3-3	6,801	7	9	Nixon	Brannan	Nolan	Irons	Garnett	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 1	Nevin 1	Muir 1	McNab	Malkin	Mungall	P. Foakes
	Sat 12	Grimsby	BL	1-1*	5,330	8	9	Nixon	Brannan	Nolan★	Irons	Garnett	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Nevin 1	Muir	McNab	Malkin	Mungall★	D. Allison
	Tues 15	Wolves	AI Pre 1	2-1	3,511	-	-	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Nevin★	McNab	Nevin	Martindale	Cooper★	A. T. Fitzharris
	Fri 18	Charlton Athletic	BL	0-0	6,955	-	-	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey★	Aldridge	Malkin	McNab	Nevin	Martindale	Cooper★	G. Singh
	Sat 26	Oxford United	BL	2-1	4,683	12	9	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Martindale	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey 1	Aldridge	Malkin	McNab	Nevin	McGreal	Cooper	R. Gifford
	Tues 29	Notts County	BL	3-1	5,403	15	6	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan 1	Martindale	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 1	Malkin	McNab	Nevin	Irons	Cooper	K. Hackett
OCT	Sat 3	Bristol City	BL	3-0	5,975	18	5	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Martindale	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Malkin	McNab	Nevin	Irons	Cooper	K. Barrett
	Sat 10	Newcastle United	BL	0-1	30,137	18	6	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Martindale★	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Malkin	McNab	Nevin	Irons★	Cooper	I. Cruikshanks
	Sat 17	Birmingham City	BL	4-0	7,901	21	6	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons 1	Mungall 1	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Cooper	McNab	Nevin	Muir	Hughes	K. Cooper
	Sat 24	Watford	BL	†2-3	6,937	21	6	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers★	Morrissey 1	Aldridge	Cooper	McNab	Nevin	Cooper	MCGreal	R. Pawley
	Fri 30	Peterborough	BL	1-1	8,068	22	4	Nixon	Hughes	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Malkin 1	McNab	Nevin	Cooper	McGreal	I. Hendrick
NOV	Tues 3	Southend United	BL	3-0	5,870	25	3	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey 1	Aldridge 1	Malkin	McNab 1	Nevin	Cooper	Hughes	J. Lloyd
	Sat 7	Leicester City	BL	1-0	13,838	28	2	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Malkin	Hughes	Nevin 1	Cooper	McGreal	A. Buksh
	Wed 11	Reggiana	AIC	0-0	2,251	-	-	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Malkin★	McNab	Nevin	Muir★	-	T. Ward
	Sat 14	Brentford	BL	3-2	7,852	31	3	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons 1	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Malkin	McNab	Nevin	Cooper	Hughes	S. Lodge
	Sat 21	Portsmouth	BL	0-4	9,982	31	3	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Malkin	McNab	Nevin	Martindale	Hughes	R. Groves
	Tues 24	Cremonese	AIC	1-2	5,727	-	-	Nixon	Higgins★	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Malkin 1	McNab	Nevin	Muir	Hughes★	L. Bazzoli
	Sat 28	Derby County	BL	2-1	15,665	34	2	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons 1	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Malkin 1	McNab	Nevin	Muir	Hughes	J. Watson
DEC	Fri 4	West Ham United	BL	5-2	11,782	37	2	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons 1	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 3	Malkin 1	McNab★	Nevin	Muir	Martindale★	P. Harrison
	Tues 8	Pisa	AIC	1-0	700	-	-	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons 1	Mungall	Hughes	Morrissey	Cooper★	Martindale	McNab 50	Martindale	Cooper	McGreal	L. Brignoccoli
	Wed 16	Cosenza	AIC	2-1	3,659	-	-	Nixon	Hughes	Brannan	Irons 1	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey 1	Aldridge 3	Malkin	McNab	Martindale	Muir	Hughes	J. Key
	Sat 19	Wolves	BL	3-0	9,758	40	2	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge	Muir	McNab	Nevin	Martindale★	McGreal	J. Kirby
	Sat 26	Millwall	BL	1-1	13,118	41	2	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons★	Mungall	Hughes	Morrissey 1	Aldridge	Muir	McNab	Nevin	Martindale	Hughes	R. Hart
	Mon 28	Barnsley	BL	1-3	8,204	41	2	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Mungall 1	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 1 SO	Malkin	McNab	Nevin 1	Martindale★	Muir	A. Smith
JAN	Sat 2	Oldham Athletic	FAC3	2-2	13,389	-	-	Nixon	Hughes	Brannan★	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 1	Malkin	McNab	Nevin 1	Martindale★	Muir	R. Hart
	Sat 9	Charlton Athletic	BL	2-2	8,337	42	3	Nixon	Higgins	Hughes	Irons★	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 1	Malkin	McNab	Nevin 1	Martindale★	Muir	J. Martin
	Tue 12	Oldham Athletic	FAC3	3-0	12,525	-	-	Nixon	Higgins	Nolan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers 1	Morrissey 2	Aldridge 2	Malkin	McNab	Nevin★	Martindale★	Hughes	K. Hackett
	Fri 15	Oxford United	BL	†4-0	8,317	45	2	Nixon	Higgins 1	Nolan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Malkin	McNab	Nevin 1	Martindale★	Hughes	K. Cooper
	Sat 23	Ipswich Town	FAC4	1-2	13,683	-	-	Nixon	Higgins	Nolan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Aldridge 2	Malkin	McNab	Nevin 1	Martindale★	Hughes	K. Cooper
	Tues 26	Notts County	BL	1-5	5,642	45	2	Nixon	Higgins 1	Nolan	Irons	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	McNab	Malkin	Muir★	Nevin	Cooper★	McGreal	A. Dawson
FEB	Sat 6	Cambridge Utd	BL	1-0	4,802	48	4	Nixon	Higgins	Nolan	Irons★	Mungall	Vickers	Morrissey	Martindale	Malkin	McNab 1	Nevin	Hughes	Muir★	P. Don
	Sat 13	Luton Town	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sat 20	Bristol Rovers	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sun 28	Newcastle United	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAR	Sat 6	Bristol City	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tues 9	Brentford	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sat 13	Leicester City	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tues 16	Grimsby Town	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sat 20	West Ham United	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tues 23	Portsmouth	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Fri 26	Southend United	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
APR	Fri 2	Derby County	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tues 6	Swindon Town	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sat 10	Millwall	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mon 12	Barnsley	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sat 17	Wolves	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sat 24	Birmingham City	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAY	Sat 1	Watford	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sat 8	Peterborough	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	T.B.A.	Swindon Town	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TBA	Sunderland	BL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

BIRKENHEAD SCOUTS GANG SHOW '93

Glenda Jackson Theatre, Birkenhead
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 Saturday 20th February Matinee at 2.30pm

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LEAGUE TABLE

FACTS AND FIGURES

	HOME					AWAY					TOP SCORER	AV. ATT.	TOP ATT.		
	P	W	D	L	F A Pts	P	W	D	L	F A Pts					
Newcastle	28	10	3	1	29	8	9	2	3	23	16	62	Kelly 13	14,392	30,137
West Ham	28	8	3	0	28	11	7	4	4	24	16	52	Morley 15	14,392	18,766
Millwall	28	11	3	0	41	11	3	6	5	11	16	51	Moralee 13	8,069	12,445
Tranmere	26	10	4	0	25	9	4	2	6	15	24	48	Aldridge 19	7,586	13,118
Portsmouth	28	10	1	2	37	6	2	7	6	21	28	44	Whittingham 28	11,799	21,028
Swindon	27	8	4	2	27	17	4	4	5	19	23	44	Maskell 17	8,912	14,398
Grimsby	28	8	3	3	23	17	5	1	8	19	20	43	Mendonca 7	5,884	9,119
Leicester	28	7	4	4	23	18	5	2	6	16	18	42	Blissett 14	14,917	19,687
Charlton	29	6	7	2	20	13	4	4	6	15	16	41	Pardew 7	6,986	12,945
Wolves	29	7	5	3	26	18	3	5	6	13	17	40	Bull 9	14,212	17,270
Peterborough	26	3	7	4	18	19	7	1	4	18	19	38	Adcock 11	8,943	

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