

ROVERS

Review



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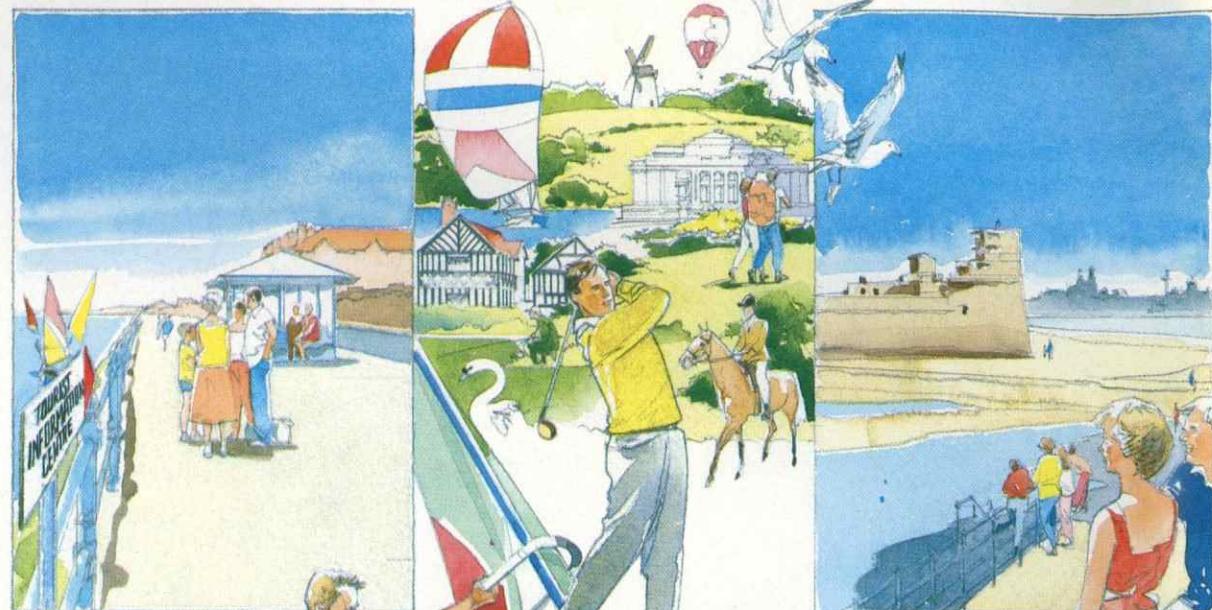
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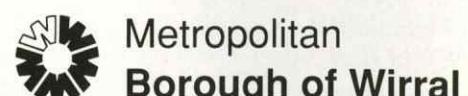
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TRANMERE
TALKBACK

THE NUMBERS GAME

Today we have our first home encounter with the new, dreaded squad numbering system! At their summer meeting, the Football League relaxed their rules to allow clubs to use squad numbers, as in the Premiership, together with names on their backs, if they so wished.

Thankfully, only Charlton, Birmingham (their numbers start with 0898!), Boro' and Luton have entered into the spirit of this innovation.

According to its Premiership exponents, squad numbers and names will help fans. They must be joking. Liverpool have 36 names on their programme team list! How do fans know when a substitution has been made at half-time? You would have to check all the numbers again to see if there had been any replacements. So for that matter will referees!

And as for the names on the back of shirts, well who can read them from the stands? Imagine the fun they must have at Birmingham City fitting a name like Peschisolido between the shoulder blades.

Let's face it, the latest numbering and naming craze is purely another angle to marketing football strips. At Manchester United they're making a killing selling those ridiculous all black kits with 'Hughes', 'Giggs' or 'Cantona' written on the back, so kids can identify with their favourite player. Please, please, let's stick to the traditional 1-11 numbering system.

RE-ARRANGED MATCHES

The League match against Bolton Wanderers scheduled for Saturday 9th October has now been switched to Sunday October 10th with a 3.10pm kick-off to accommodate live TV coverage by Granada.

Meanwhile, there are now at least three Friday night dates with the home matches against Bristol City, Crystal Palace and Charlton Athletic all brought forward a day.

COLES FROM NEWCASTLE

Congratulations are in order to Tranmere fan Gary Monks - who plays for the Supporters team - and girlfriend Catherine Cole (no relation to the Newcastle star), who tied the knot on September 4th in Lancaster, County Durham. The couple who met at Liverpool

University, are to settle on Merseyside. A Cole from Newcastle?

FANZINE FADE OUT

The final edition of 'White Magic' is on sale around the ground today. Its publishers, Rob MacKay and Stu Egan, are off to University at the end of September, so will cease to produce the magazine after that. With the demise of 'Three Men in a Boat' for the same reasons, the mantle is left with our 'Travellers Tale' contributor, Dave Goat, to keep the flag flying with 'Give Us an R'.

Dave however, is having the problems but is hopeful he'll soon be back in business with a brand new magazine.

Amazingly, the only fanzine still in regular current production is the Norwegian effort, 'Come on you Rovers', which has a somewhat limited appeal unless (a) You haven't already read the match programme and (b) You don't speak Norwegian!

Nevertheless, Jan Nedretvedt is to be congratulated on putting together such a well produced mag for our Scandinavian supporters.

PROGRAMME FAIRS

The 14th Annual Southport Programme Fair takes place in the Lounge Bar of the Floral Hall on Sunday 26th September from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Meanwhile, a date for your diary next year if you are into Programme collecting. The 20th Annual Football Programme Fair takes place at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London WC1 on Saturday 4th June 1994 (11.00 am to 4.15 pm).

Tickets can be ordered from The F.P.D. (Dept F.L.), 66 Southend Road, Wickford, Essex SS11 8EN. They cost 60p.

WHAT'S IN A NAME . . . OR A FACT

It's a coming to something when you cannot trust club pen-pics to give you a players' correct name. Careful observers will have noted that a 'Michael Simpson' was Notts County's scorer the other week yet we included him in the team list as SAMPSON, exactly as his name was spelt in the information sent to us!

At Tranmere we pride ourselves on trying to be accurate about our opposition, so errors hurt but at least we aren't in the same ball park as Grimsby whose programme informed us John Aldridge is a

'Welsh' international, we'd never won at Blundell Park, and that Warren Aspinall and Tommy Tyanan have played and scored for us in previous years!

In fact, the catalogue of howlers so angered one Rovers fan, Bob Davie, he saw fit to write to Grimsby and enlighten them.

Talking of howlers, the well informed Geoff Duffield who writes in the 'Sporting Life' is under the impression we have a forward called Peter Malkin and that Neil McNab is still still with us, while the 'Roker Review' informed us Kenny Irons came from Northwich Vics as King's assistant!



ROVING WORLDWIDE

Tranmere fans seem to find themselves in all four corners of the Globe these days - it's just a pity there aren't more of them at Prenton Park instead.

Bryan Wickens of Upton sent us this photograph of himself complete with Rovers jacket and scarf on the Great Wall of China.

A bit far to go for a take-a-way after the match!

ARE YOU A SUPERFAN?

Are you, or do you know someone who qualified as a 'Superfan' of Tranmere Rovers? If so we want to hear from you for our ongoing series in the Programme. Please write with details and a good head and shoulders photo to the Programme Editor, Tranmere Rovers and you or your friend/relative will be the star feature in our column.

TWIN SUBS FIRST

Never before have two substitutes scored for Tranmere as Jon Kenworthy and Ian Muir did against Notts County. The rule allowing two subs rather than one, has been in existence since the start of 1987-88 season.

SIGN UP RUSHDIE

Through our recent attendances are no laughing matter, the Editor has had an idea. Sign Salman Rushdie. There would be around 40 million for the next home match!



TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.

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TONY ADAMS

BOARDROOM BULLETIN

THE FOOTBALL 2000 INITIATIVE

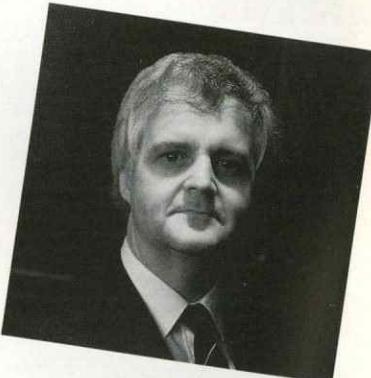
On Friday 3rd September, The Football League, in association with the Football Supporters Association and the National Federation of Supporters Clubs launched an initiative designed to ensure the continuation of a healthy and viable Football League well into the next century.

Entitled Football League 2000, the initiative aims to forge stronger links between the clubs and their supporters in order to ensure the continuing existence of the clubs. It acknowledges the collective enthusiasm of directors, who give their time, expertise and financial backing and supporters who give hard earned cash and vocal support.

It suggests that clubs seek regular consultation with their paying customers keeping them fully briefed as to the clubs financial health, plans for development of facilities, encouragement for attendance of family groups and co-operation with the local community.

Here at Tranmere we feel that we already largely satisfy these objectives. We have a director whose sole responsibility is matters concerning supporters. His area of supervision therefore dovetails with the clubs commercial department and includes the Travel Club, Prenton Pups and Prentonian Suite. We also have a Supporters Liason Officer who provides a point of contact to which supporters can address their queries, suggestions and grievances and obtain a satisfactory response.

Indeed, purely as a matter of coincidence, the night before the initiative was launched, the club was represented by myself at a meeting of supporters who had expressed a wish to become more closely involved with their club. Due to holiday commitment and poor publicity by those who called the meeting, it was not particularly well attended and it is proposed to call a



further meeting in the near future.

At the outset it should be clearly understood that it is not intended to resurrect the structured formality of the old Supporters Association.

What is envisaged is a form of social committee designed to provide opportunities that will encourage supporters to meet regularly on an informal basis at events such as Sports Forums and Quiz Nights not in themselves intended to be fund raising events, more intended to further utilise the clubs excellent and expanding facilities. It is intended that club officers, both directors and administrative staff, will be present at those functions and will provide the opportunity for a meaningful dialogue to be established between club and supporter.

Full details of appropriate arrangements will be given full publicity and supporters should be assured that their views are useful, welcomed and taken into consideration as long as they are provided in a helpful, constructive manner in an atmosphere of mutual goodwill.

Finally, may I extend a warm welcome to the Directors, Management, players and supporters of Luton Town. We trust today's match lives up to expectations and that you all have a safe journey home.

TONY ADAMS - DIRECTOR

KING VS PLEAT



Tonight we start a run of four successive home matches with a game against Luton Town.

They gave us plenty of problems last season with a 3-3 draw at their place, and of course they caught us on a real off day at Prenton Park and won 2-0, though on the day you have to credit Luton for the way they played.

While they've lost Phil Gray, they now have one of the most consistent scorers around in Kerry Dixon and he'll need to be watched carefully.

The 3-1 defeat of Notts County somewhat flattered us after a disappointing first hour when we seemed to want to play the game at our pace, and consequently County grabbed control of the game and looked much more dangerous than us. Too many of our players hid.

It was good however to see John Aldridge back on target. You know John won't go too long without scoring but I guess it's a burden off his shoulders to get a goal under his belt. In the end it was the two substitutes who clinched the game for us. Young Kenworthy showed a bit of ability to tuck away his chance and Muiry's goal was the kind of classic strike you know he's always capable of.

Last Tuesday our hopes of progressing in the Anglo-Italian Cup were scuppered by terrible finishing. It's no exaggeration to say we could have scored seven or eight goals against Bolton and yet conceded two scrappy, sloppy goals. Despite that I thought the likes of Garnett and Kenworthy did particularly well, but we have to start being more ruthless when chances come our way.

It was one of those nights when you felt it just wasn't to be, however you can be sure we'll aim to put it right next time we face Bolton.

Finally, a warm welcome to David Pleat and everybody from Luton. Let's hope they feel the backlash from our last game at home and three points come our way this evening.

John King

Cash strapped Luton boss David Pleat has a simple transfer market strategy for the new season: "I only sign foreigners and fees".

Pleat is only half joking. Phil Gray, Alec Chamberlain and Chris Kamara have left Kenilworth Road this summer and Pleat has no money for replacements.

Said Pleat: "I think we will be the youngest team in the First Division this season. With our resources there is no other way.

"The big clubs talk about over-play in the Premier League. What about in our League? We have 46 League games, the Coca-Cola and FA Cups and the Anglo-Italian as well.

"And we don't have the money the Liverpools', Arsenal's and Manchester United's of this world have to improve their squad.

"That's why I feel the clubs in the First Division with the resources will do well. I'm talking Wolves, Derby and Forest, while Palace can attract 20,000 if they are winning, even if the style of football is what it's been for the past couple of years from them.

"I felt Tranmere, Grimsby and possibly ourselves played a lot of good football last season and we are clubs without the resources.

Pleat has replaced Chamberlain with a goalkeeper who he expects to impress the first division - American Yurgen Sommer.

"He must be the only German/American in our League. He is a giant who I think can do very well for us. He is desperate to get in the USA World Cup squad.

"My reserve goalkeeper is an Australian, Andy Petterson, and I may play a Canadian at Tranmere.

"The rest of my team is made up people like David Preece - no-one else but me would have 5ft 4in midfielder - John Dreyer and several youngsters.

"A lot of them played at Prenton Park last season and I think our victory set you back a bit".

Interview: Peter Jardine



HEAD TO HEAD



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FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Having looked at the comings and goings at other clubs, what about the Rovers? With odds starting at 16-1 the bookies clearly feel that we are an outside bet for promotion. Certainly if the experts are to be believed, the best that Rovers can hope for is mid-table obscurity. It might be suggested that I am biased but I think they are wrong.

We missed out last season by the narrowest of margins. That is no mean feat when you consider the run of results we endured during the early part of 1993. It is no mean feat when you consider the task facing the team after just 2 minutes of the play-off semi at Swindon. Consequently, this time round, Rovers have the wisdom of another season behind them.

The squad is, I believe, even better for last season. That's the good news. The bad news is that, without any doubt, the division is much better than last year. So where will we finish? If you had asked me that just one month ago I would have said that we would be

competing for a play-off place at the very least, and don't be surprised if we gain promotion outright. They say that a week is a long time in politics. My pre season optimism seems like an eternity away.

I have no intention of emphasising the negatives anymore. The time for bemoaning our situation is over. It is time for doing. Begin tonight by really getting behind the team and roaring them on to a convincing victory. The players will tell you (why not ask them yourself at the Sports Forum on the 28th) that the load and totally biased support of the watching public does spur them on to try even harder. If Aldo slices a shot don't get on his back, rather congratulate him for getting into a goalscoring position in the first place. A similar attitude to all the team can only help.

I have no doubt whatsoever that Eric Nixon is one of the best, if not the best, keepers in the land. Anyone who was at Palace and had the opportunity

to compare him with Nigel Martyn will agree. The problem is when a goalie makes a mistake it is usually at the expense of a goal against. So what! The cry from the terrace must be . . . "unlucky Eric, keep your head up, you can keep this lot out."

With our help when Rovers have thumped a team or two at Prenton Park, and they will, the missing fans will notice and begin to come through the turnstiles. Together with the people we drag in ourselves, 15,000 crowds would be the norm, not the exception. If you love Tranmere Rovers Football Club like I do get behind the team tonight and push them into the Premiership. It is not pie in the sky.

SO LONG, FAREWELL AND SEE THEE!

Apart from some changes in the more junior ranks of the professional squad, the only departures from Prenton Park have been Neil McNab and Stevie Cooper.



The famous "Cooper Flip" – seen only once (v. Bury) at Prenton Park

When we signed Macca in January 1990 I thought it was an excellent signing. I quickly realised that I didn't know much about football when I switched on Saint & Greaves to find that Jimmy Greaves agreed with me. Three and a half years, 136 appearances (including substitutions) and 8 goals later I still think it was an excellent signing. Although there was some concern as to whether the little legs could keep going for a full season of Division One football, Macca never, ever gave anything less than 100%. His last goal for Rovers was the winning goal at Cambridge in February this year. I rather suspect that the Rovers faithful will put his last European outing on their list of marvellous moments, when he left the field of play a little earlier than usual. The way the 'Exterminator' out-Italianed the Italians from Cosenza will live long in the memory. Even better was the fact that no suspension applied. Well done Macca.

When Cooperman arrived following the Scunthorpe debacle in December 1990 the response of most fans was . . . "who?" After his debut against Reading that month the fans were still saying . . . "who?" Do you remember that fog? Still he came highly recommended. I have in my possession the programme that introduced Cooper to the fans when he made his debut for Moor Green ten years ago. (Any offers?) The Brummies answer to the fat and balding one described Coops as, "a young, athletic, goalscoring forward." Who are we to disagree? At the risk of

being laughed out of the Prentonian, I still believe that he could have done a job for us. Just like McNab, Coops gave his all. He never stopped trying and he never gave up. Perhaps his enthusiasm was his problem. He went for every ball and it didn't seem to matter whether the central defender or Aldo/Steely/Malkin/Muir had it at the time. Coops made just 43 appearances (including substitutions) scoring 5 goals, one of them at Wembley. Without doubt he will be remembered however for the brace he scored at Brentford securing a place in the play-off final against Bolton (I think we won that one didn't we? Who needs the Anglo-Italian Cup anyway?) Unfortunately the famed somersaults were few and far between. So instead our picture shows Steve just after he had been to a suspect curryhouse with Yosser!

I will watch out for the result of Ayr United and York City with interest. Thanks very much lads for everything you gave.

DON'T FORGET, GET BEHIND THE ROVERS TONIGHT AND PUSH THEM INTO THE PREMIERSHIP!
ALLEN PRICE

STATS ON ONE
Gates - Highs and Lows (up to and including 6 September 1993)

Top Five Attendances	Club	Versus	Average
26,682	Forest	Derby (17.8.93)	24,954
25,615	WBA	Wolves (5.9.93)	19,108
23,225	Forest	Grimsby (21.8.93)	as above
21,061	Wolves	M'boro (28.8.93)	20,561
21,052	Wolves	Bristol C (14.8.93)	as above

Five Lowest Attendances	Club	Versus	Average
5,875	P'boro	Barnsley (17.8.93)	6,242
5,259	Grimsby	Portsmouth (24.8.93)	6,215
5,159	Oxford	Watford (28.8.93)	6,855
5,059	Southend	P'boro (28.8.93)	6,842
4,793	Grimsby	Tranmere (28.8.93)	as above

Rovers:
Highest: 8,777 -v- Leicester (21.8.93)
Lowest: 6,317 -v- Notts County (4.9.93)
Average: 7,547

Goalscorers (League only) (up to and including 6.9.93) Chris Armstrong (Palace) 5, John Hendrie (M'boro) 5, Brett Angell (Southend) 4, Clive Mendonca (Grimsby) 4, Mark Stein (Stoke) 4.
Rovers: Aldridge, Brannan, Kenworthy, Malkin and Muir all on 1.

Bookings and Sendings Off (League only to 28.8.93)

Club	Off	Cautions
Watford	3	4
ROVERS	2	7
Barnsley	1	7
Millwall	1	4
Portsmouth	1	4
Wolves	1	3
Derby	1	1
M'boro	0	10

6 bookings only: Birmingham, Charlton, P'boro
5 bookings only: Leicester, Luton
4 bookings only: Forest, Palace, Stoke
3 bookings only: Bristol C, WBA
2 bookings only: Bolton, Oxford, Southend, Sunderland
1 booking only: Grimsby, Notts County

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Dave Higgins, the choice of Prenton Suite sponsors Devonshire Developments, pictured after the Notts County game

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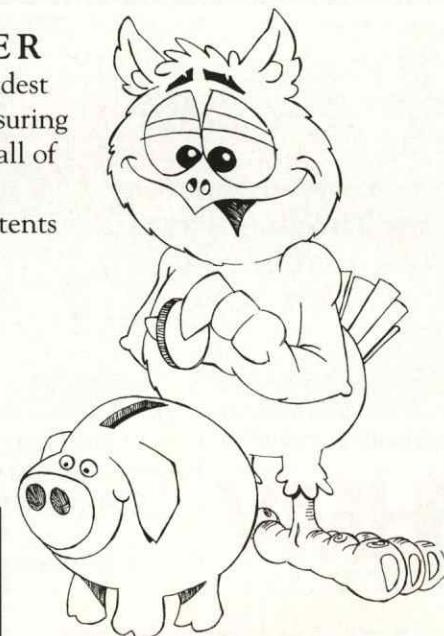
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STEVE WILLIAMS

TRANMERE IN THE COMMUNITY

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Application forms are now available for our forthcoming half term soccer school. The course is again being held at Borough Road Playing Fields starting on Monday, October 25th and ending on Thursday October 28th. Each of the four days will be packed with competitions and fun with numerous prizes on offer to outstanding individuals and enthusiastic achievers.

A ground tour will be conducted during the course with match tickets also available to competition winners. One of Tranmere's star players will also hopefully pay a guest visit during the week to give some tips and advice to the children.

The course is open to boys and girls of all standards aged between 7 and 12 with the course fee being £22.00.

Application forms can be obtained by phoning myself, Steve Williams, on 608 2354.

TRANMERE ROVERS LADIES.....3

WIGAN LADIES.....3

Tranmere Ladies started their first season in the North West Ladies League Division One with an excellent draw against last season's champions, Wigan Ladies.

This was a superb game of football with both sides pushing for victory right up to the final whistle.

Tranmere started the game at a furious pace and forced six corners in the first 10 minutes. Unfortunately the chances made were not being taken and Wigan soon started to get back into the game. After 25

minutes the speedy Wigan centre forward broke free and scored a fine opportunist goal. Tranmere responded with Natalie Preston hitting the bar but again numerous chances went begging, leaving the half time score 0-1.

Tranmere started the second half slowly and were made to pay for defensive errors with a second Wigan goal. This helped transform the Tranmere girls who then put on relentless pressure until Julie Kerr scored two fine goals in the space of 10 minutes.

The game was now finely balanced and with 15 minutes to go Wigan took the lead on the break. New signing Diane Pyke playing only her third full game in goal then produced two marvellous saves to keep Tranmere in with a shout before Julie Kerr again equalised with a brave header clinching her hat-trick.

Our next fixture is the Women's FA Cup against Stockport at home on Sunday kick off 2pm.



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JOHN TROUP

Bruce Rioch is a very perceptive man.

He might be in charge of one of British football's least likeable clubs, but you get what you see with Rioch.

The dour jock was a big enough man to admit that his side were totally outplayed by Rovers makeshift team in last Tuesday's merciful exit from the Anglo-Italian Cup. In fact, he was so incensed by the performance of some of his players that he actually transfer-listed four of them on the basis of what he saw that wet and windy Prenton night.

But not only is he honest, he has an uncanny knack of hitting the football nail on its topical head. Rioch said after our 2-1 defeat that he was shocked at the way some of our fans barracked John King after the final whistle. He said it was appalling.

And you know what? He was spot on.

I'll be the first person to admit that when things aren't going right for Rovers I'll scream and shout with the best of them. But as far as I'm concerned, that's simply a measure of how much Tranmere means to me. Illogical, yes. But true, nevertheless.

I've lost count of the number of times I've sworn at Kenny Irons and Dave Martindale when an opposing midfielder has whipped the ball off their toes. I couldn't begin to recall the number of times big Eric has had me near to tears with his bizarre antics, or when Chrissy Malkin has encouraged my mirth with his ball control.

But at the end of 90 minutes, win lose or draw, my anger is forgotten. Because for every occasion Marty is caught dawdling on the ball in the centre circle there's an exquisite pass to balance the scales. Every time Kenny Irons loses out in a 50-50 there'll be a breathtaking 25-yarder to compensate. And just when you're taking the mickey out of Malkin, he'll make you eat your words by scorching past a centre back and blazing into the back of the net. And Eric, well, Eric's just Eric. Occasionally, he does a Grobbelaar, but there's no finer keeper in Britain on his day.

The same thing goes for John King.

Now there's a man who deserves some stick, eh? After all, he's only taken us to Wembley five times, brought in players who believe a ball should kiss the ground and not the top of the stand, and presided over the most successful period of our 111-year history.

Just who are these bozos who think it's time for Kingy to go? The same whingeing little toerags who tried to hound Marty out a couple of seasons ago, that's who. The same no-brains who used to give Morrissey a hard time, and then professed to kiss his naughtiest parts when he had the best season of his career.

The self same scousers in disguise who only watch Tranmere because they've got a couple of ex-Liverpool and Everton players in the squad.

If Sid James and Kenneth Williams were around today, they'd have only one message for our bafflingly honest manager.

Carry on Kingy.

Forget the trilobites who seem to think £8.50 is cheap gear for a good moan and concentrate on the vast majority of fans who are 100 per cent behind you. You'll find they're the ones with the longest service record.

The abuse dished out to Kingy on Tuesday might not have rocked his famous old ship, but it further served to emphasise the mini crisis which has descended on Prenton Park.

I for one was mighty relieved to see us beat a poor Notts County side when we didn't really deserve the full points. But it made things worse when I read that Peter Johnson had been forced to re-consider his long-term commitment to Tranmere.

If he left tomorrow you couldn't have a bad word said about the world's greatest freezer mogul. Quite simply, without PJ and the crazy paving man there would be no Rovers 93.

In short, we owe them everything – six years of ecstasy for starters.

But I think they're barking up the wrong tree when they say the fans have to turn up in greater numbers before new blood arrives in Birkenhead.

Football is entertainment. If you run a theatre you don't say to people "turn up first and then we'll put some decent players on". It's an unfair comparison, but a valid one.

Gates soared at Rovers after modest success was followed by some risky signings. They turned out to be inspired signings, and we never looked back. If PJ and FC are to be believed, we're at the crossroads. It's all very well saying to the fans 'turn up first and then we'll sign some more players'. But this is one chicken

and egg issue that is easily solved. If you want people to come and watch you, you have to make it so no alternative is more attractive.

My message to Mr Johnson is this. Thanks for all you've done. But as a businessman you'll know one has to speculate to accumulate. I'm not suggesting the need to buy ourselves out of trouble, because we ain't in it yet. But if you can squeeze another £250,000 out of the coffers, that's all it will take to spark the imagination of another couple of thousand non-converts, and we won't look back again.

Please don't back out now. Rovers are like a fast car overtaking a line of slower moving traffic. When you see something coming straight at you at great speed you can't take your feet off the throttle. There's only one way to get by – you hit the gas and keep going.

It's a simple choice. The fairweather fans aren't going to respond in numbers yet, not least because the decent opposition doesn't come until later in the season. But spend a bit more cash, take a few more risks, and you'll get your reward in footballing heaven.

Speaking of heaven, what about Muiry's goal against Notts County? I keep getting accused of sentimentality for blabbering on about the Coventry assassin. Well, I make no apologies. If I had one criticism to make of Mr. King it's this. You let too many heroes slip out the back door a la Steel, Harvey and now, sadly it seems, Muiry.

How can you sell someone who scores goals like that? But back to reality. TRANMERE ROVERS ARE AT THE PINACLE OF THE GREATEST SPELL IN THEIR HISTORY. JOHNNY KING IS THE GREATEST MANAGER WEVE EVER HAD. WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON???

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Just when you thought it was safe to breathe a sigh of relief over the national side, a new obstacle is thrown in the way.

Graham Taylor, understandably, expressed his disbelief at FIFA's instructions for referee Mr. Van Den Wijngaert to clamp down on sliding tackles and not be afraid to use red and yellow cards.

In a game where tension is high anyway - the referee and the players can well do without such added pressure.

It is also worrying as everybody, especially those at FIFA, knows the British game is based on a high content of physical challenges and the art of the sliding tackle is preached and encouraged from an early age.

Taylor, despite losing Gascoigne, praised the referee for the way he handled the match - but England could count themselves fortunate they didn't have a more highly-charged official.

And would it be too impetuous to inquire whether Holland or Norway will receive the

same news minutes before they take the field in the next set of matches?

Whatever FIFA's reasoning for such instructions - the mentality of their decision makers needs to be seriously questioned and their timing of announcing proposed actions totally changed.

Otherwise what will the future hold for our national side when players are continually suspended for challenges innocuous by our standards and how can referees be expected to produce a competent and fair display.

Meanwhile, stay tuned this Saturday for news from Wirral News Group's Family Club on the list of activities and competitions coming your way this season.

Don't forget you can still take part in the Wirral News Group "Round the Ground" Quiz - pitting the six sections of Prenton Park against each other in a battle of football wits. Just write to Richie Tierney, c/o TRFC, Prenton Park, Prenton Road West, Birkenhead L42 9PN.

Today's Mascot



Name: Martin Kearney

Age: 14

Address: Beckwith Close, Birkenhead

Length of time supporting Rovers: More than four years

Most memorable match: Pre-season 4-3 defeat by Liverpool

Favourite Player: John Aldridge

School: Ridgeway High School

Hobbies: Playing football and drawing

Competition



If you have something to say about Rovers or football in general then send your views to Family Club Letters, Wirral News Group, 76 Hamilton Street, Birkenhead

In tonight's competition we are again offering fans the chance to win an autographed action photograph of your favourite player. All you have to do is identify the former Rovers star pictured alongside. Send in your answer, plus the name of your favourite player, to: Family Club, Wirral News Group, 76 Hamilton Street, Birkenhead L41 5AN - before Friday, September 17th.

Letter of the Week

I, like many Rovers fans, have been reading the comments about the lack of support since Tranmere's rise to Division One. But may I ask the chairman and management team, what do we have to turn up for?

We bought only Mark Proctor for this season and if we are to make an improvement on last year's show we must buy another quality midfield player.

It's what we seem to be crying out for and will increase competition for places.

The side has been struggling and it was only in the last 10 minutes against Notts County that we looked like the team of a few seasons ago, hungry for victory, and the fans responded with their support.

We have to buy to improve and restore faith in our "stay away" supporters.

P. Quirk, Hoylake

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Super Fans



THE DEVEY FAMILY

Edna Devey, of Upton, was persuaded by her family and friends to nominate herself, husband Bill and son David as Superfans. Bill, who is now 66, first watched Rovers at the age of four; he has only missed a handful of games in 62 years. He brought Edna along when she was 19, and she says that in those days, they were hard up, so couldn't afford the pictures, the cinema and Rovers, so guess what came first? When they were courting, Bill stood in the Cowshed, but Edna was allowed to perch on the garden roller by the old wooden stand.

They graduated to the stand when Edna was pregnant, but sadly their baby died and Edna was very ill for a while - she credits Tranmere with "bringing her out of herself" again.

Son David, who is brain-damaged and epileptic, came to Prenton Park with his parents when he was six. At the time, he could barely walk or talk because of his medication, but Edna says that, from then, the change in him was remarkable. He is a fan of 33 years' standing and now attends Riverside Day Centre where he has the radio on all day in case there's any Tranmere news!

Over recent years, due to various illnesses, the family has not been able to attend too many away games, but did make it to Wembley once. Bill has suffered four heart attacks, but hasn't missed a home game (he claims he wouldn't dare have one during the season)! Last season, David was knocked down and sustained head injuries which left him paralysed down one side, which meant that they missed three games; thankfully, he is fully recovered now. Edna is diabetic, but says she will keep on watching Rovers until they reach the Premier League, even though she, Bill and David were devastated at missing out at almost the last hurdle last season.

Carol Dalziel

SUPPORTERS' MEETING

Although attended by a relatively small number, the Supporters' meeting on September 2nd was lively and gave rise to a number of interesting ideas. The Club was represented by director Tony Adams, who expressed the keenness of the Board to get committed Rovers' supporters involved and re-iterated that the excellent social facilities should be used. There was general agreement between all parties that the function of the group should be to provide the opportunity for like-minded Tranmere fans to socialise, and where the chance arises to also raise funds for the club, it should not be ignored.

The next meeting has been arranged for Thursday, October 7th at 8pm in the Vice Presidents' Lounge, so please come along. Have a look at the notice below, too!

Congratulations

Congratulations from everyone at Tranmere to our Anglican Chaplain, Rev. Alan Poulter, on his recent appointment as Rural Dean of Birkenhead.

PROGRAMME FAIR

The 14th Annual Southport Football Programme Fair takes place in the Lounge Bar at the Floral Hall Complex, the Promenade, Southport on Sunday, 26th September from 11am to 3pm. Admission is free and there will be a licensed bar available. The fair covers all aspects of football memorabilia, such as badges, books and magazines - further information from David Howgate on Southport (0704) 27518.

SUPPORTERS' SPORTS FORUM

Tuesday, 28th September
Doors Open at 7.30pm - 8pm start
in the Vice Presidents' Lounge with
Players & Directors from
Tranmere Rovers
and
Local Journalists & Broadcasters
Don't Miss It!

First Aid facilities at this ground are courtesy of the British Red Cross Society

Travellers Tales

SUNDERLAND 2 TRANMERE 0

Once again we set off on our journey to the land of spaghetti western and once again we begin with a match that is so far away we may as well just go straight to Italy, do not pass go, do not collect £200.

With the attendances involved last year it would have been sensible to play the games in England on a regional basis (e.g. Tranmere, Bolton, Stoke in one group). Anyway, nothing was going to keep me away from such an exotic match and the chance to eventually see such famous Italian players as Gino oh Gino Ginelli and Buitoni Ravioli.

On a night when the crowd was never going to be big (even at Sunderland) we arrived in plenty of time for a 7.45 kick off. Somebody must have phoned up Sunderland and asked what the kick off time was and the club replied "what time can you get there".

Once again we were in a different corner of the ground, the third switch in three games! Sunderland just can't make up their mind where to put the away fans (except in the case of Newcastle in which case the answer is hospital).

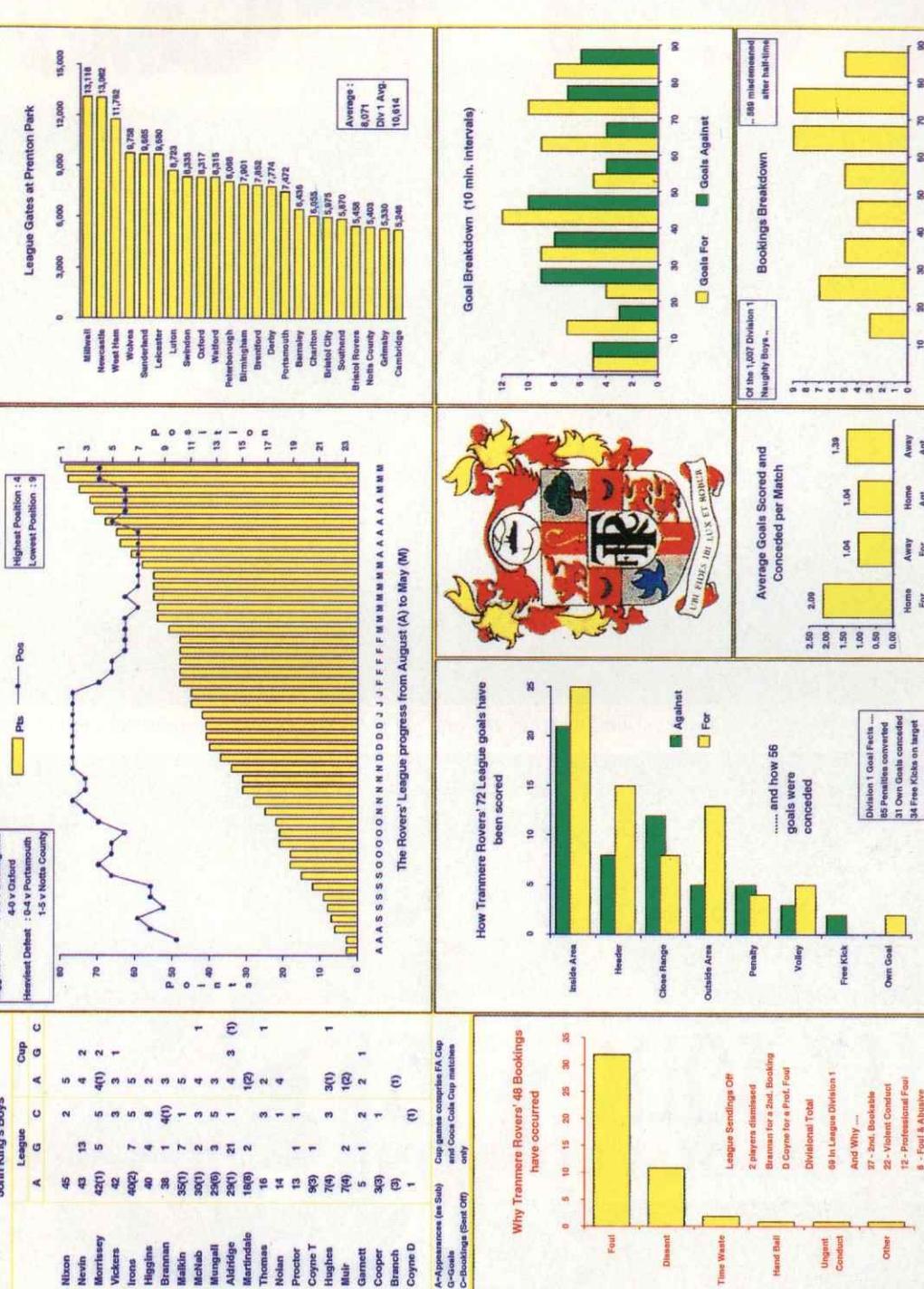
At 7.40 the crowd changes were announced to the teams and we were all set to go. Within two minutes of the kick off the worse possible scenario for a Mackem (Sunderland fan) had occurred. A Newcastle fan (Vickers) had scored against Sunderland. We all thought the ball was well PASTA the line, but with the luck we had been getting lately it was no surprise when the goal was disallowed, probably for some vague reason like 'the whole of the ball did not roll down the back of the net'.

As in previous games we dominated the second half and were well worth their win, although some of the scenes which unfolded were straight out of badly dubbed kung-fu movie. Don Goodman resumed his favourite hobby of walking on big Eric's head, but took time out to put a stunning goal past him. It was during the second half that Jon Kenworthy (try putting that on the back of a small shirt) was given his big chance to get into Trivial Pursuits' sports section. He came on as a substitute and a quarter of an hour later was substituted himself because Sunderland wouldn't let him play with the ball. Mind you, you can't blame the lad. The fact that we were hammered was a team performance. Just what the Italians will make of a Sunderland accent is anybody's guess, they had enough trouble with our accent. If they get over there I'm sure the phrase "yer a reet canny lass" will become part of the Italian vocabulary.

In the meantime the competition is a bit of a joke (because we're out of it) and it's now up to somebody else's fans to see if they can drink the hotel dry.

PS This was the night of my biggest ever score on Gameboy. **Dave Goat**

Tranmere - A Statistical Look at 1992-93 Season



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Get the Team Talk on Rovers Clubcall - 0891 12-16-46

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ACTION



Off the mark at last . . . Aldo watches the ball go in for the equaliser against County



Tony Thomas joins the Rovers attack in the Notts County game

Photos by Bob Bird Photography and Peter Fardoe

TONY THOMAS

Talented full-back Tony Thomas is praying for an injury free campaign to put behind him the disappointments he has suffered over recent seasons.

Plagued with almost constant injuries or illnesses, Thomas has been a frustrated spectator for the best part of the last three years as Tranmere have enjoyed the most successful spell in their history.

As the new season gets underway, Thomas is hopeful that all his problems with injury are now in the past:

"I am just desperate to get a decent run in the side because I have had two or three years of serious injuries. I don't mind picking up the groin strains or the pulled hamstrings every now and again but I hope I have seen the back of the serious knocks.

"It is always difficult when you are not playing because being in the first team is the only place to play. If you aren't in the first team then you aren't really part of what is happening at the club, and I have felt like that for too long now and I am determined to do well this year."

Prior to Thomas being struck down with his first injury he had managed to form an excellent partnership with John Morrissey on the right side of the field and it is something Tony is keen to rekindle:

"I don't think I have played with Mogsy for about two years now and I would love to get the partnership I had with him going



again. If we can get him back into the team as soon as possible then it will only help the team's chances of doing well this season.

"It is certainly going to be harder to do well this season because there are a lot of good team's who think they can gain promotion. If we can get a few players back from injury and maybe bring in a new signing if the squad needs strengthening, then we will have as good a chance as any. We just need to stick at it and see what happens but we are all very hopeful."

Thomas has enjoyed praise from all quarters since making his debut at the age of 17, and he was even mentioned as a possible contender for the England U-21 side before he was struck down with injury:

"It is always nice when people say good things about you but at the moment I am just concentrating on getting a regular run in the side and getting my fitness up to what it used to be.

"Getting back onto the England scene is the furthest thing from my mind at the moment although if I am playing well then you never know who is watching you."

Along with several other players at the club, Tony committed himself to Tranmere over the summer by signing a new three year contract. Everyone at Prenton Park will be hoping that the next three years will see the young defender go on to fulfil the massive potential he has shown already in his short career at the club.

PAUL EATON

CENTRE SPOT



RVERSTAR



TONY
THOMAS

PRENTONIAN SUITE

Another tremendous night was had by everybody at our last monthly cabaret night held in the Belmont Suite. The star for the evening was the comedian Paddy Green who in his own riotous fashion brought the house down.

Our second star cabaret night is on Saturday 9th October and will feature international ventriloquist and comedian Neville King. Neville was the main supporting act in last year's pantomime at the Liverpool Empire and is in great demand throughout the country, it really is an act not to be missed. Tickets will be on sale as of tomorrow and including supper will be priced at £7.00. There has already been a demand for tickets, so please book early.

This coming weekend we are presenting two top acts. On Friday we feature local group "Too Drunk To Funk" (It must have been so easy in the past to just announce Joe Loss



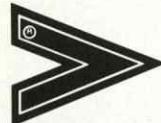
"Sideshow" - a top group who have appeared at the club on several occasions and will next perform on New Year's Eve.

and his Orchestra!!), and on Saturday we have for the first time at the club top group "Ave Ya See Em", a good weekend in prospect, look forward to seeing you there.

PS: Don't forget Sky on Monday. Watch top football in luxury, with beer at only £1.10 a pints, it's got to be good.

Nobby Abbott

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Friday 24th September

KARAOKE

Saturday 25th September

LOST BOYS

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AT THE CLUB

ACTION

REPLAY



County's Steve Cherry dives in bravely to stop Pat Nevin scoring



Marco who? Ian Muir shapes up to score his brilliant goal against County

Photos by Bob Bird Photography and Peter Fardoe

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MATCHFACTS

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	pts
Charlton	6	3	0	7	1	1	1	1	4	7	13	
Middlesbrough	4	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	10	5	12	
Crystal Palace	5	2	1	0	7	1	1	0	1	4	4	10
Southend	5	1	1	0	4	1	1	1	1	7	5	8
West Brom	5	2	1	0	8	5	0	1	1	1	2	8
Nottm Forest	5	1	1	0	6	4	1	1	1	3	4	8
Trammere	5	2	0	0	4	1	0	2	1	1	3	8
Wolverhampton	5	2	0	1	7	4	0	1	1	4	5	7
Birmingham	5	1	1	1	7	6	1	0	1	3	3	7
Derby	5	2	0	0	6	0	0	1	2	1	7	7
Leicester	3	2	0	0	6	1	0	0	1	0	1	6
Grimsby	5	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	5	6	6
Bristol City	4	2	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	1	4	6
Millwall	5	1	0	1	3	4	1	0	2	2	7	6
Portsmouth	6	1	1	1	5	5	0	1	2	4	9	5
Stoke	4	1	0	1	2	2	0	2	0	4	4	5
Bolton	4	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	3	5
Peterborough	5	1	1	1	6	4	0	0	2	1	5	4
Barnsley	6	0	1	2	4	8	1	0	2	3	6	4
Watford	4	0	1	1	2	4	1	0	1	4	4	4
Notts County	4	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	1	2	4	4
Oxford Utd	4	1	0	1	5	5	0	0	2	1	4	3
Sunderland	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	6	3
Luton	3	1	0	1	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	3

PLAYER	1993/94 LEAGUE		1993/94 CUPS		T.R. CAREER TOTAL	
	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS
John Aldridge	5	1	1	-	102+1	67
Graham Branch	-	-	1	-	1+9	-
Ged Brannan	5	1	2	-	108+4	5
Danny Coyne	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tommy Coyne	-	-	-	-	9+5	1
Mick Edwards	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Evans	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shaun Garnett	-	-	1	-	46+3	3
Dave Higgins	5	-	2	-	328+3	10
Mark Hughes	-	-	-	-	322+10	11
Kenny Irons	5	-	2	-	155+15	27
Phil Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gary Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-
Martin Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jon Kenworthy	+2	1	1+1	-	1+3	1
Chris Malkin	5	1	2	1	155+58	48
Dave Martindale	5	-	1	-	156+46	12
Alan Morgan	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Morrissey	-	-	-	-	356+31	54
Ian Muir	+1	1	1+1	-	325+25	162
Steve Mungall	-	-	1	-	544+24	16
John McGreal	-	-	-	-	3+1	-
Pat Nevin	5	-	1	-	68	16
Eric Nixon	5	-	2	-	313	-
Ian Nolan	2+1	-	2	-	65+1	1
Mark Proctor	3	-	-	-	18	2
Tony Thomas	5	-	1	-	168+1	11
Steve Vickers	5	-	1	-	377+2	19

DATE	V	OPPONENTS & EVENT	F-A	ATT.	POS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	GK	Referee
Sat 14 Aug	A	Crystal Palace	0-0	14,785		Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Martindale	Vickers	Nevin	Aldridge	Malkin	Proctor	Thomas	Nolan	Kenworthy	Jones M.	G. Poll
Sat 21 Aug	H	Leicester City	1-0	8,777	8	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan	Irons	Martindale	Vickers	Nevin	Aldridge	Malkin 1	Proctor	Thomas	Nolan	Kenworthy	Coyne D.	G. Peck
Tues 24 Aug	A	Charlton Ath.	1-3	6,666	-	Nixon	Higgins	Brannan 1	Irons	Martindale	Vickers	Nevin	Aldridge	Malkin	Proctor	Thomas	Nolan	Kenworthy	Coyne D.	M. Pierce
Sat 28 Aug	A	Grimsby Town	0-0	4,793	9	Nixon	Higgins	Nolan ⁵⁰	Irons	Martindale	Vickers	Nevin	Aldridge	Malkin	Brannan	Thomas	Muir	Kenworthy	Coyne D.	K. Lupton
Tues 31 Aug	A	Sunderland (A.I.C.)	0-2	6,771	-	Nixon	Higgins	Nolan	Irons	Martindale	Vickers	Nevin	Aldridge	Malkin	Brannan	Thomas	Muir	Kenworthy	Coyne D.	A. Hart
Sat 4 Sept	H	Notts County	3-1	6,317	6	Nixon	Higgins	Nolan	Irons	Martindale	Vickers	Nevin	Aldridge 1	Malkin	Brannan	Thomas	Muir 1	Kenworthy 1	Coyne D.	R. Shepherd
Tues 7 Sept	H	Bolton Wanderers (A.I.C.)	1-2	2,786	-	Nixon	Higgins	Nolan	Irons	Mungall	Garnett	Kenworthy	Muir	Malkin 1	Brannan	Branch	Hughes	Edwards	Jones M.	J. Lloyd
Sat 11 Sept	A	Stoke City																		
Tues 14 Sept	H	Luton Town																		
Sat 18 Sept	H	Barnsley																		
Tues 21 Sept	H	Oxford United (C.C.C. 2/1)																		
Sat 25 Sept	H	Oxford United																		
Sat 2 Oct	A	Southend United																		
Wed 5 Oct	A	Oxford United (C.C.C. 2/2)																		
Sat 9 Oct	H	Bolton Wanderers																		
Sat 16 Oct	A	Nottingham Forest																		
Fri 22 Oct	H	Bristol City																		
Sat 30 Oct	A	Portsmouth																		
Tues 2 Nov	H	West Bromwich Albion																		
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Sat 20 Nov	A	Millwall																		
Sat 27 Nov	A	Birmingham City																		
Sat 4 Dec	H	Peterborough United																		
Sat 11 Dec	A	Luton Town																		
Fri 17 Dec	H	Crystal Palace																		
Mon 27 Dec	H	Wolverhampton Wanderers																		
Tues 28 Dec	A	Middlesbrough																		
Sat 1 Jan	H	Watford																		
Mon 3 Jan	A	Derby County																		
Sat 15 Jan	H	Nottingham Forest																		
Sat 22 Jan	A	Bolton Wanderers																		
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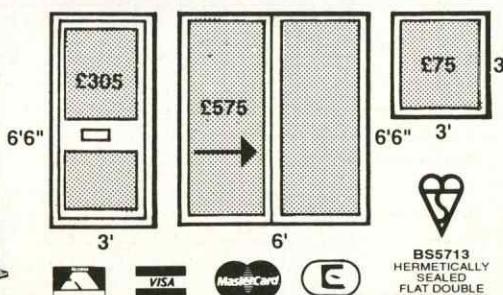
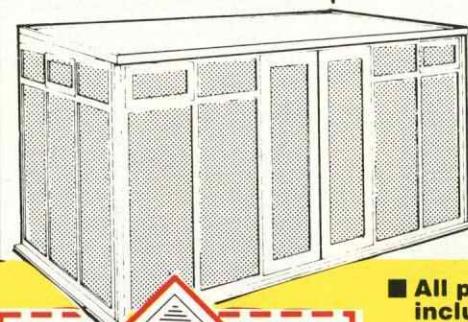
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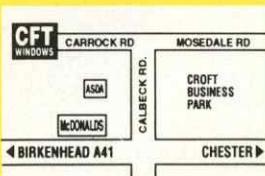
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Coming Next
BARNSLEY FOOTBALL CLUB
Saturday, 18th September

For the last three seasons I've been buying and keeping Monday's Daily Telegraph for its unrivalled coverage of the weekend's sport. However, I've never discarded them, saying to myself that one day I might need them. Well, sure enough that day has arrived.

Next week we play Barnsley Football Club and their self-appointed number one supporters, professional Yorkshireman, Peter Ustinov-raconteur-type-character and dropper of more names than Brucie is of balls is a columnist for the aforementioned paper. Have you guessed who? Give us a clue? No. I'll tell you; his name is Michael Parkinson.

Whatever Parky's brief is that week you can almost guarantee that Barnsley's past glories and players, with suitable anecdotes, will be mentioned.

A typical type of copy from him might run like this "Oh, Pele, if you had an 'aporth of nous, you'd know that John Arlott and Neville Cardus would be worth a place in the world football XI versus Mars. When I were a youth, going to Oakwell on a Saturday, with my Hovis butties, I saw the great inside forwards, players like Shackleton and Mannion. It were a time of great individual artistry, whimsy and eccentricity. Not like in your day Pele or yours Cruyffie. Those were the days."

Parky's Memory Lane trips about Barnsley are (to borrow one of his own phrases) a lot of "religio-psychobabble".

Having said that I like Parky, he's a football enthusiast and full of conviction, but we all have memories and anecdotes of our respective teams; the history is indeed important, it puts the present into perspective but Barnsley's present is like Barnsley's past.

They are struggling to progress as they have always done. The South Yorkshire club have completed more seasons in the second flight than any other and this season could prove to be an extension of that record.

At the time of writing the Tykes have suffered four consecutive defeats and new player-manager, Viv Anderson, so used to the comforts of top clubs and not having to take the rap for a team's poor performance, is undergoing a baptism of fire.

However, he said that he had no illusions when he took the job but, "it's been difficult, more difficult than I thought".

"It's so much more frustrating when you lose as a manager because the buck stops with you. You have to sort it out. No one else will", said Anderson.

Particularly frustrating it must be for Anderson who enjoyed being one of the lads, the joke in the dressing rooms of Forest, Arsenal and United.

Anderson's last club, Sheffield Wednesday was also player-managed and the incumbent Trevor Francis' advice for the new boss and his dual role was to separate the playing from the managing.

On the strength of last week's defeat at Millwall, Anderson jokes that he'll remain a player for only a week longer.

His main task is to plug the leakiest defence in the division, this despite Anderson's own almost peerless displays (and a couple of goals) so far.

Barnsley seem to be long on experience and short on pace, with Anderson himself the most experienced and perhaps the slowest.

The other most experienced player is Danny Wilson, who Anderson brought with him from Wednesday. Wilson was highly-rated by his previous manager and is ex of Luton, Bright and Forest to name but a few.

Another Forest old boy is Gary Fleming. The Northern Irish international was ever-present last season and was voted Barnsley's player of the year. He plays in defence with the solid Charlie Bishop, ex-Bury. Other players seen before at Prenton Park include the penetrative winger and reverently named, Owen Archdeacon bought from the religiously and fervently supported Celtic.

Up front there is Wayne Biggins, last season's top scorer with 14, who scored for us on television and who plays alongside Teesside-born David Currie, both of them have been on the scoresheet this season.

There is a smattering of local talent and youth. In goal Barnsley-born, 19-year-old David Watson playing behind Sheffield-born, 20-year-old defender, Nick Eaden.

Now I wonder if Parky will be at the game to support the new manager during this difficult period or at least to increase his stock of stories. Or will he be at home reminiscing?

Funnily enough, I'm much the same as the former chat show host. I was recently described as a professional Northerner, I've always got a (tall) tale to tell, I drop names and I have to get Tranmere into everything I write or say.

I wonder too if in years to come this reminiscing lark will hit me and I'll write about the glory days of Tranmere under Johnny King with the proven internationals and the star turns of Aldridge and Nevin, Morrissey and Nixon.

"Aye, Giggsy, you don't know what you're talking about. Steve Mungall was the best full back to grace a football field. You and Barnsley never skinned him. Those were the days".

Oh, I seem to have strayed from the point, being, Barnsley need to halt their depressing slide, Tranmere need to carry on the momentum of last season. I hope you will forgive the above 'whimsy' and 'eccentricity', but there will be more next time.

Jonathan Caswell

96.7 City FM

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QUIZ TIME

Questions by Ian Kennedy of Radio Merseyside

- 1 Which were the last team to win the European Cup at Hampden Park?
- 2 Who sored Ipswich Town's winner in the 1978 FA Cup Final?
- 3 From which club did Liverpool sign David Burrows?
- 4 Who did Andy Roxburgh succeed as Scotland's manager?
- 5 Which team play at Glanford Park?
- 6 Who has made most League appearances for Everton?
- 7 Who scored five times for

England against Cyprus in 1975?

- 8 The holders of the European Cup Winners Cup are?
- 9 Tranmere beat which team 13-4 in 1935?
- 10 Who is the only player to score twice in an FA Cup Final against Liverpool, but still end up on the losing side?

Answers on page 39

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BELMONT F.C.

Belmont Football Club were the predecessors of the present Tranmere Rovers Club.

As the 1884 Cricket season drew to a close, the cricketers of Belmont and Lyndhurst Wanderers C.C. decided to extend their rivalry to a winter pursuit, Association Football. They called a joint meeting, so legend has it, in a ditch which ran between Steeles Field and the lane which has now become Borough Road. Those present were:-

J. Morgan, C. McAfee, A. Buckley, G. Sheridan, A. Muir, W. Caton, C. Briggs and A. Blackburn of Belmont while from Lyndhurst ranks W. Littler, A. Littler, H. Sheridan, R. Rothwell, A. Mayor, F. Lightfoot, J. Broadfoot, T. Beard and A. Almond attended.

The outcome of the meeting was the formation of Belmont Football Club with John Morgan elected as Honorary Secretary, though he was soon succeeded by young Alf Mayor. Though

Belmont certainly took Wirral Football by storm, winning ten of their 15 'friendly' fixtures during 1884-85 season and losing just once. Described in the Birkenhead News as a "flourishing club of great prowess", the "Belmonties" as they were referred to, practiced on Steeles Field five nights a week and meant to "carry all before them". In September 1885 though, a second meeting was held in Saintys Cocoa Rooms another dry room, at the rear of Birkenhead Market and the decision was taken to change the clubs name.

The Birkenhead News of Wednesday 16th September 1885 made the official announcement:

"The Belmont has changed its name, and will now be known to the world as the Tranmere Rovers. It sounds more consequential than the old name, and will be altogether better. As a team that is likely to place itself in the front rank of local football, it should at the very least honour the name of the club with that of

name Tranmere Rovers.

In 1881 there existed in Birkenhead a cricket club by the name of Tranmere Rovers C.C., and one of their members, Walter Edwards formed a football team under the umbrella of the Cricket Club which became known as Tranmere Rovers.

They played just one season, 1881-82 under that name using a field which has now become part of Mersey Park, before dropping the "Rovers" tag, thereafter to simply be known as "Tranmere" until they disbanded in 1888. The name "Tranmere Rovers", abandoned by the original club, was revived three years later by Belmont, the connection being Mr. J. H. McGaul,

who had been a Vice-President of the original Tranmere Rovers Cricket Club, and he suggested that Belmont adopt the name which had remained until this day.

THE A-Z OF TRANMERE

the Birkenhead News' columnist later suggested the title, 'Belmont' came from a street name, it could be that it came from the Belmont Lounge, the dry room of the 'Beekeepers' Public House which stood on the site of what is now the junction of Woodchurch Lane, Prenton Park Road, and Prenton Road West, opposite the present ground.

The Licencee of the "Beekeepers" was William Steele and he rented three fields in the vicinity including two directly behind the Beekeepers on the site of the present Temple Road School - one of which was sub-let to Belmont for cricket and football.

Most of the players and their newly elected President Mr. J. H. McGaul, JP, attended the Wesley Chapel (Methodist) Sunday School in Tranmere. The average age of the players was 15, hence the reason they used the "Beekeepers" which was a "dry" public house (today it would be a cafe) as their headquarters.

Using a room at the rear as changing rooms, the Belmont would pass the field used by Tranmere Rugby Club (later to become the original Prenton Park) to Steele's Field on what is now the townside of the Temple Road - Borough Road corner.

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PRENTON PUPS Together We Make A Great Team!

The Prenton Pups hold their second meeting of the season this Thursday (September 16) at the Tranmere Suite here at Prenton Park (7pm-8.30pm).

And three members of Rovers' first team squad will be calling in to chat and answer the volley of

questions which the enthusiastic members of Tranmere's official youngsters' club always have ready to fire!

Veteran utility man Steve Mungall – the longest-serving member of the Prenton Park playing staff and an ardent supporter of the Pups –

will be meeting the youngsters, along with Jon Kenworthy, the young winger whose early season performances have attracted praise from all quarters, and Danny Coyne, Rovers' talented reserve goalkeeper who last week was

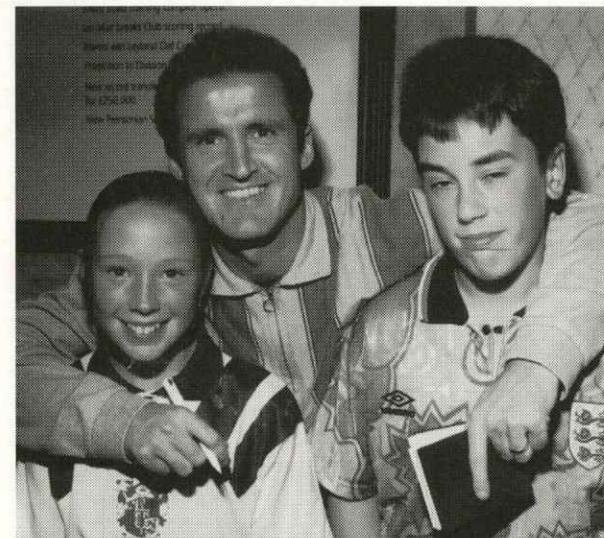
again on international duty with the Welsh Under-21 team.

Membership cards for this year are being posted out this week and the next big date in the Pups' calendar is Saturday, September 18, when Barnsley visit Prenton Park. A half-time five-a-side competition between the Pups and their Barnsley counterparts is being planned – further details will be revealed at this Thursday's meeting.

Finally, congratulations to the following Prenton Pups who have celebrated birthdays in recent weeks:

David Kelly, James Kenyon, Peter Tyler, Rhobet Blackburn, Jonathon Marsden, Steven Webster, Lee Goodacre, Julie Kennaway, Michael Edge, Richard Smith, Nicola Triggs, David Short, Jenna MacDonald, Stephanie Cookson, Laura Ian Winton, Antony Hughes, Daniel Thomas, Andrew Jones, Christopher Turner, Christopher Mellor, Emma Marsh, Philip Roberts, David Baldwin, David Cooper, Alexander Rotchell.

Enjoy tonight's match – see you all on Thursday!



Mark Proctor ready to sign autographs for two lucky Pups at the first meeting of the season.



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PONTINS LEAGUE IN RESERVE

TRANMERE ROVERS 3 GRIMSBY TOWN 0

Rovers maintained their impressive start to life in the Pontins Division Two League with an excellent win at Prenton Park on Wednesday evening.

It was mainly down to the youngsters with so many players injured or unavailable and they knuckled down to thoroughly outplay their opponents on the night.

The Mariners managed only three worthwhile goal opportunities and each time Danny Coyne was equal to the task as he saved well from Simon Dunlop, Craig Shakespeare and Craig Maddison.

The pace of Graham Branch proved troublesome to the visitors but the winger got himself unnecessarily cautioned after 84 minutes for dissent. Gary Jones was another booked for a first half foul on Paul Agnew.

Rovers included only two players with real first team experience and Mark Hughes and Steve Vickers generally snuffed out the Grimsby attack. Unfortunately Vickers had to be helped off with a leg injury with only moments remaining.

Mike Edwards and John Morgan were impressive for the winners who generally gave quite a mature display.

It was a scoreless opening period although Branch twice, Morgan and Jones went close for the home side.

Rovers gave notice to Grimsby when Dave Rodgers brought an excellent diving stop from Mark Clohessy a minute after the break.

The deadlock was broken in the 51st minute when Morgan netted with an angled shot from a powerful cross by Branch.

Rovers increased their advantage three minutes later with Edwards heading in from a right wing cross following a throw-in.

Branch was just off target with a 25-yarder after 83 minutes and Morgan brought the save of the match from Clohessy in injury time.

From the subsequent corner by Branch, Hughes headed a third for Rovers to give the scoreline a more conclusive look.

"I thought the boys did excellently against a strong Grimsby side which included many with a lot of senior experience. Full credit must go to the youngsters and also the professionals Steve Vickers and Mark Hughes for the way they encouraged the others along. There were some very good performances throughout the side. We almost got caught in the first few minutes and learned from it", commented manager Ray Mathias.

The Reserves were in action against last night at Bradford City.

ANDREW STRATTON

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PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION 2 FIXTURES

Wed 18th Aug	Rotherham	1-0	G. Jones
Wed 25th Aug	Oldham	2-2	G. Jones, Muir
Wed 8th Sep	Grimsby	3-0	Morgan, Edwards, Hughes
Mon 13th Sep	Bradford City	-	
Wed 22nd Sep	Port Vale	-	
Wed 29th Sep	Burnley	-	
Thur 7th Oct	Stoke	-	
Wed 13th Oct	Hull	-	
Wed 20th Oct	Blackpool	-	
Wed 27th Oct	W.B.A.	-	
Tues 2nd Nov	Man City	-	
Wed 10th Nov	Huddersfield	-	
Wed 17th Nov	Barnsley	-	
Wed 24th Nov	Middlesbrough	-	
Mon 29th Nov	Preston	-	
Wed 8th Dec	Mansfield	-	
Tues 14th Dec	Oldham	-	
Mon 20th Dec	Barnsley	-	
Wed 5th Jan	Scunthorpe	-	
Wed 12th Jan	Hull	-	
Wed 19th Jan	Stoke	-	
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Wed 9th Mar	P.N.E.	-	
Wed 16th Mar	Port Vale	-	
Wed 23rd Mar	Burnley	-	
Wed 30th Mar	Scunthorpe	-	
Wed 6th Apr	Rotherham	-	
Wed 13th Apr	Man City	-	
Wed 13th Apr	Huddersfield	-	
Wed 27th Apr	Middlesbrough	-	

HARD EARNED DRAW

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIV 1

Saturday 4th September
Blackpool 2 Tranmere 2

Warwick described this as a very hard game, and a satisfying result. Young Mick Edwards gave us the lead after 15 minutes, only for the experienced Robinson (ex-Newcastle) to equalise a quarter of an hour later. Then, within 5 minutes, he scored again to give Blackpool a 2-1 interval lead. But 15 minutes into the second half Gavin Allen equalised, with 2-2 probably a fair result.

Team: M. Jones; Evans, Johnson, Gerrard, D. Rogers, Garnett, Branch, Allen, G. Jones, Edwards, Parkinson.

Sub: Moore.

Scorers: Edwards, Allen.

Record: Played 2, Won 1, Drawn 1. Goals for 6, Goals against 3. **Scorers:** Branch 2, Allen 2, D. Rogers 1, Edwards 1.

QUOTE:

Howard Wilkinson

"It is my opinion that youngsters play too much high-pressure, competitive football . . . you drive the exuberance and freshness out of the game."

No doubt Warwick Rimmer would agree – but would youngsters, and more particularly, parents?

WINNING WAYS CONTINUE . . .

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIV 2

Tranmere 2 Everton 0

With two wins and defeats of Oldham and Crewe, Rovers continued their winning ways in a

a fairly physical game, with Simon Watt and James Hughes scoring the decisive goals.

Team: Biggs, Cassidy, Jardine, Hammond, A. Rogers, Davies, Bate, Donnachie, Watt, Hughes, S. Smith.

Subs: McKenna, Lepts.

Scorers: Watt, Hughes.

Record: Played 3, Won 3, Goals for 7, Goals against 0. Appearances: M. Jones 1, Cousins 1, Biggs, Cassidy 3, Jardine 2, Hammond 3, A. Rogers 2, Davies 2, Bate 3, Donnachie, 2, Watt 2, Hughes 3, Smith 3, McKenna 2, Lepts 2, Gerrard 2, Parkinson 1, I. Rogers 1, D. Rogers 1, Allen 1, Moore 1.

Scorers: Parkinson 1, McKenna 1, Hammond 1, Hughes 2, D. Rogers 1, Watt 1.

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There will be a certain spring in Luton's step tonight. All they have to do is cast their minds back a season and recall the almighty shock pulled off here to give Rovers their first home defeat of the First Division campaign.

That result was significant in many ways for boss David Pleat in the fight against relegation that they won against the odds and the form book. Their young side had taken some bad beatings on their travels, but grew up considerably that day.

For Luton to beat the drop was a real achievement. They had lost key men and found that relegated teams get in the habit of losing. However they rallied and a season on their young men should be more mature and able to handle the challenge ahead. Their early results once more illustrate their potential while underlining that they still have some way to go.

Their financial plight has not improved and more of their best players moved on. Phil Gray brought in a large sum when he defected to Sunderland, while Chris Kamara got the free transfer he wanted and proved his worth by joining Sheffield United where he is now skipper.

In their place have come more kids, with the tried and trusted faces making them tick. It is more likely that they will have to sell again before they buy, making this season another uphill struggle. Still Pleat has acquired the knack of bringing the best out of what limited resources he has.

THE MANAGEMENT . . .

At this stage it should be put on record that David Pleat is a fine chap. He took the time to thank this programme for their hard but fair analysis of his club's situation last year. Not many bosses would recognise our efforts, never mind put it in writing. Nice one.

Pleat has kept his dignity through some trying times in his football management career. He

was a bright young thing in his first Luton spell, producing a superbly skillful side that made the top flight and hung on. He was obviously a thinker and it is interesting that one pupil, Brian Horton, has just got the Manchester City job.

The spell at Spurs was a roller-coaster ride of emotions, including an FA Cup final defeat. That political club has spat out many bosses down the years and Pleat became one of them. However he

was not chewed up entirely and quickly bounced back with Leicester. They were unable to win promotion, but once more were pleasant to watch.

There are few better bosses at improving kids and while he seems condemned to a battle for survival, there should always be an opening somewhere for Pleat.

THE NEW FACES . . .

Kerry Dixon is a well-known face



Key central defender John Dreyer.

Photo Action Images



who gives some experience to the young Luton ranks. However such is their financial state that Luton have only got the goalsmith on a trial basis. Southampton signed Dixon for a small fortune a year ago, but soon got rid.

However Dixon could always score and has the pedigree that few can better. If the legs can still get him away from defences his way will be paid in goals.

The chances are Dixon will join eventually on a knockdown fee basis, similar to what happened to David Speedie when he found Southampton had changed their

minds fast.

The only other new face is young midfielder **Scott Houghton**, recruited on a free transfer from Spurs reserve team. He will be looking to make his mark in a new environment.

THE STARS . . .

It is always hard to pick out Luton's stars as they are usually in the making and get plucked before anyone's household can consider them a name. Take Matthew Jackson for one. Everton did.

continued overleaf



Midfield dynamo David Preece.

Photo Action Images

LUTON

TOWN

VISITORS

LUTON TOWN ROLL CALL

So who are the babes to watch this time. **Paul Telfer**, a young Scot, made a big impression here last season and has become an established Under-21 international.

Ceri Hughes is a young Welshman with precocious talent who seems to have got stuck while the likes of old team-mate **Mark Pembridge** have moved on to bigger and higher-paid things. Hughes still has the ability to come good and can only be learning from his experiences.

Wales has been a good hunting ground for Luton with **Jason Rees** and **John Hartson** coming through. Hartson is the next discovery to make waves, scoring in one of his first games and causing the scouts to note his name.

The likes of **Julian James** and **Marvin Johnson** have become worldly-wise beyond their years, cutting their teeth at the top level and taking it on from there. Both have a future if they continue to progress.

On the experienced side there is the ever-excellent **David Preece**. How he is still at the club is a mystery, worse players have moved on and there are certainly not many better midfield generals in the top division.

Trevor Peake gives the side backbone and stability, although his best years were definitely at Coventry where he helped cost Pleat the Cup. He is a good old-fashioned stopper with few wishes to attack.

John Dreyer is back in favour after a time in exile. He, too, has ability and will need it as the side's back four should be under some pressure for much of the campaign.

In goal there has been the arrival of the American **Juergen Sommer** who has taken over from **Alan Nixon**. The big Yank has seen off **Andy Petterson** for the job left vacant by Chamberlain's departure.

Chamberlain was freed on a technicality, a costly exercise for a club in their state. Sunderland stepped in quickly for the former Colchester and Everton man.

We welcome them all to Prenton Park.

ALAN NIXON

Player/Squad No.	Transfer	Int	93-94	Lge		
Birthplace/Date	Pos	Fee/Date	Previous Clubs	Hons	Apps	Gls
Andy Petterson (1)	-		East Fremantle, Aus; Swindon (L), Ipswich (L)	-	+1	-
Bromsgrove 21.7.63	(G)	Dec 88				
Juergen Sommer (13)	-		Luton	-	3	-
New York 27.2.69	(G)	Sept 91				
Martin Williams (2)	-		Leicester City	-	2+1	-
Luton 12.7.73	(D)	Sept 91				
Marvin Johnson (3)	-		Ex YTS	-	3	-
Wembley 29.10.68	(D)	Nov 86				
Julian James (4)	-			Eng		
Tring 22.3.70	(D)	July 88	Ex YTS, Preston (L)	U21	3	-
Trevor Peake (5)	£100,000		Nuneaton, Lincoln, Coventry	Eng		
Nuneaton 10.2.57	(D)	Aug 91		SP	3	-
John Dreyer (6)	£140,000		Oxford; Torquay (L), Fulham (L)	-	3	-
Ainwick 11.6.63	(D)	July 88				
Des Linton (19)	P/E					
Birmingham 5.9.71	(D)	Oct 91	Leicester City	-	-	-
Ceri Hughes (12)	-					
Pontypridd 26.2.71	(M)	July 89	Ex YTS	Wales	2	-
David Preece (10)	PE+£150,000			Eng		
Bridgenorth 28.5.63	(M)	Dec 84	Walsall	B	3	-
Jason Rees (18)	-			Wales		
Aberdare 22.12.69	(M)	July 88	Ex YTS	U21	1+1	-
Paul Telfer (7)				Scot		
Edinburgh 21.10.71	(M)	Nov 88	Ex YTS	U21	3	1
Scott Houghton (26)	Free					
Hitchin 22.10.71	(M)	Jul 93	Spurs; Ipswich (L)	-	1+2	-
John Hartson (14)	-					
Swansea 5.4.75	(F)	July 93	Ex YTS	-	1	1
Kerry Dixon (22)	N/A					
Luton 24.7.61	(F)	Aug 93	On loan from Southampton	Eng	3	1
Scott Oakes (8)	P/E					
Leicester 5.8.72	(F)	Oct 91	Leicester city	-	2	-
Ian Benjamin (9)	£80,000		Sheff Utd, WBA, Notts Co, Pboro, Nptn, Cbridge, Chester, Exeter, Send	Eng		
Nottingham 11.12.61	(F)	Nov 92	Y	+1	-	

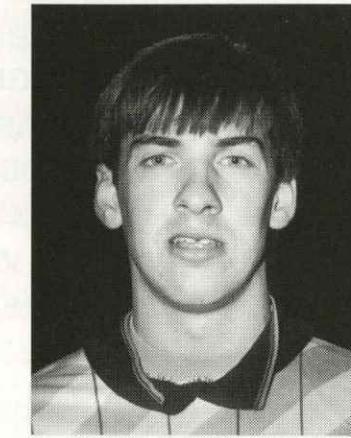
THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Season	Points	F.A. Cup Rnd	Top Lge Scorer	Av Attend	Result v. TR (H)
Division	Positon	Lge Cup Rnd	Overall Top Scr	Top Attend	Result v. TR (A)
1988-89	41	3rd v Millwall 2-3	Black, Wilson 9	9,350	-
One	16th	Finalists to Forest 1-3	Wegerle 12	12,117	-
1989-90	43	3rd v B&HA 1-4	Black 11	9,872	-
One	17th	3rd v Everton 0-3	Black, Dowie 11	12,620	-
1990-91	37	4th v West Ham 0-5	Lars Elstrup 15	10,275	-
One	18th	2nd v Bradford pens	Lars Elstrup 18	12,889	-
1991-92	42	3rd v Sheff Utd 0-4	Mick Harford 12	9,711	-
One	20th	2nd v B'ham 4-5	Mick Harford 12	13,410	-
1992-93	51	4th v Derby 1-5	Phil Gray 16	8,132	3-3 (H)
One (2nd)	20th	2nd v Plymouth 4-5	Phil Gray 16	10,959	2-0 (A)

VISITORS

TIE-UPS

Playing connections between Luton and ourselves are few and far between but two names stand out. **John Seasman** made his debut for Rovers in April 1973 in a 2-2 draw with Plymouth and went on to make 17 League appearances for us before Luton's boss at the time, Harry Haslam, picked him up for a mere £5000 in January 1975. After just 7 outings at Kenilworth Road,



Alec Chamberlain

HONOURS BOARD

Division Two Champions: 1981-82.
Runners-up: 1954-55, 1973-74.
Division Three Runners-up: 1969-70.
Division Four Champions: 1967-68.
Division Three (South) Champions 1936-37.
FA Cup Runners-up: 1957.
Football League Cup Winners: 1987-88.
Football League Cup Runners-up: 1988-89.
Simod Cup Runners-up: 1988.

RECENT MANAGERS

1966-68	Allan Brown
1968-72	Alec Stock
1972-78	Harry Haslam
1978-86	David Pleat
1986-87	John Moore
1987-90	Ray Harford
1990-91	Jim Ryan
1991	David Pleat

COMPLETE RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	6	3	0	3	8	9
Away	6	0	1	5	5	15
Total	12	3	1	8	13	24

LANDMARKS

First Meeting: 5th Nov 1938 (H) 2-3.
Last Home Win: 3-2 1969-70.
Last Home Draw: None.
Last Home Defeat: 0-2, 1992-93.
Biggest Home Victory: 2-0, 1965-66.
Heaviest Home Defeat: 0-2, 1992-93.
Biggest Away Victory: None.
Heaviest Away Defeat: 0-3, 1938-39.

OUR LAST MEETING . . .

February 13th 1993, Tranmere 0 Luton 2
Rovers served up a performance lacking in drive and enthusiasm to hand the points to Luton on a plate, though it has to be said they looked a useful side on the day. Phil Gray got the first on 17 minutes and when full-back Marvin Johnson notched the second Rovers gave up the ghost.

Rovers: Nixon, Higgins, Nolan, Irons, Mungall, Vickers, Morrissey, Aldridge, Malkin (Muir), McNab (Martindale), Nevin.

Luton: Chamberlain; Dreyer, James, Johnson, Hughes, Peake, Telfer, Rees, Oakes (Williams), Gray, Preece.

Seasman moved to Millwall and then Rotherham with great success, before stopping off at Cardiff, Chesterfield and Rochdale in 1988 where he linked up again with Ronnie Moore for a third time.

Goalkeeper **Alec Chamberlain**, recently released by Luton, had an excellent loan spell (from Everton) during 1987-88 season and his saves during some 15 appearances contributed to our march towards Wembley for the Mercantile Credit festival.

Well I didn't know that . . .

- Luton Town were formed after two of the leading local clubs of the area, Wanderers and Excelsior, decided to amalgamate in 1885.
- The new clubs earliest games were played on the old Excelsior club pitch in Dallow Lane.
- Luton's first colours were navy blue and pink halves for both shirts and caps, the headgear having to be worn by every player on the field.
- The club claims to have been the first professional club in the South of England. They formally adopted professionalism in 1891, the players being paid 2 shillings a week (10p).
- In 1889 they became known as the "Reds" after changing their colours to cochineal.
- Luton town were among the founder members of the Southern League in 1894. Three years later they secured a new ground at Dunstable Road and were admitted to the Second Division of the Football League. However, they dropped out after only three seasons and did not return until 1920 when the Third Division was formed.

QUIZ ANSWERS

from page 30

1. Bayern Munich, 1976
2. Roger Osborne
3. West Brom
4. Alex Ferguson
5. Scunthorpe
6. Ted Sagar (465)
7. Malcolm MacDonald
8. Parma
9. Oldham Athletic
10. Stuart McCall (Everton 1989)

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THE TEAMS



TRANMERE ROVERS

1	ERIC NIXON
2	DAVE HIGGINS
3	STEVE MUNGALL
4	KENNY IRONS
5	DAVE MARTINDALE
6	STEVE VICKERS
7	PAT NEVIN
8	JOHN ALDRIDGE
9	GED BRANNAN
10	IAN MUIR
11	TONY THOMAS
12	SHAUN GARNETT
14	JON KENWORTHY
GK	DANNY COYNE



LUTON TOWN

JUERGEN SOMMER	13
MARVIN JOHNSON	3
JULIAN JAMES	4
TREVOR PEAKE	5
JOHN DREYER	6
PAUL TELFER	7
DAVID PREECE	10
CERI HUGHES	12
JOHN HARTSON	14
KERRY DIXON	22
SCOTT HOUGHTON	26
MARVIN WILLIAMS	2
JASON REES	18
ANDY PETTERSON	GK

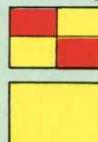
TODAY'S REFEREE

Mr. STEPHEN LODGE.

A local officer ... married with a baby son ... was appointed to the League list in 1988 and FIFA's panel in 1992 ... has refereed abroad extensively and last year was in charge of a World Cup qualifier - Faroe Islands v. R.C.S.



LINESMEN



J. Leech

J. P. Smith

Reserve Official: Mr. R. Garner (Wirral FA).

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