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Chairman's Comments



This afternoon we welcome to the County Ground the Directors, Players and Supporters of Tranmere Rovers and hope after the recent break in football because of the abnormal weather conditions that we all enjoy a good game with plenty of excitement.

Our last game away at Wrexham was a disappointment to everyone at the Club after the tremendous performance against Chesterfield in our last home game on New Years Day.

Last week I attended a meeting of League Clubs in London to hear the proposed offer to us in connection with Television and the Pools. If I may first outline to you that with Television it would appear that the Companies would only seem to be interested in offering more money in exchange for more live matches on Sunday afternoons and the overall census of opinion was that for the amount of money being offered that maybe we should lose more in the long term through spectators staying at home to watch rather than having to come out in weather that we have just been unfortunate to experience and a further meeting has been arranged for February.

The Pools agreement with an 'increase' in the royalty paid was generally accepted as being reasonable although some doubts were expressed at the wisdom of an ll ½ year agreement although as was pointed out this gives security to both sides.

With the loss of the last two weekends we are now well behind with fixtures at all levels and there will need to be quick re-arrangements to programme those postponed by bad weather. In fact, the first of those has already been rearranged, this being the Third Round F.A. Youth Cup match versus West Ham United which will be played on Tuesday next, 29th January, kick off 7.30pm.

On Tuesday last we visited Torquay United in the newly sponsored competition the Freight Rover Trophy and we came away with a welcome 1-1 draw which must give us an advantage on the home second leg on Tuesday, 5th February.

In the first half of this game our players were rather subdued but in the second half they gave an accomplished performance pulling the one goal deficit back and were in fact unlucky not to have further goals. We must now be optimistic in the second round.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation to those of you who are still supporting us both home and away in these very trying weather conditions and I would like to imply to importance of such support continuing both from the point of view of maintaining the players confidence and, of course, from the financial aspect.

Enjoy your afternoon.

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Co-operative Corner

By Sandra Cobern - Secretary

'Win a 1985/86 Season Ticket'

May I first of all remind members that the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Supporters Co-operative will be held in the Supporters Club on Monday 28th January 1985 at 8pm.

Membership is now renewable at £1 for Adults and 50p for Juniors, forms are available from the club office. With an excellent discount scheme from local traders available you will soon recover the initial £1.

As a boost to our membership drive the Directors have kindly offered two season tickets for the 1985/86 season and a draw will be made for these from all of those people who join the Co-operative by 31st May 1985.

Our aim for the year ahead is to raise as much money as possible and with advice from the Manager we will direct this money in the most beneficial way to aid the playing activities of Swindon Town Football Club.

Last year we paid towards the rent and rate of Shrivenham Road Training Ground as it was questionable if the Club could afford to keep a Youth Team. As you are aware we have had three youth team players making an appearance in the first team, Mark Gardiner, Mark Hughes and Mark Payne, so we feel that our efforts have indeed "Paid Off".

Our half time Champagne draw is now going very well and we would like to thank Mr Jasper Holmes of Magnum Wines, Commercial Road who kindly donates the Champagne for every home game.

On Monday March 11th we are having a sports Quiz in the Rendezvous Club with three teams comprising of Players, Directors and Supporters. This should be an entertaining evening and we look forward to seeing you.

There will also be a sponsored Fun Run for Junior Supporters on Sunday 31st March with Special Prizes for those collecting the most sponsor money as well as for the winners. The route will be between the Shrivenham Road Training Ground and the County Ground extension, avoiding all roads except one where Marshalls will be available to keep the children away from the roads.

This is open to all under 16 years old. Some of the players will be taking an active part on this day and it should be good fun for all involved.

Entry will be 50p with Sponsor and Entry forms available from the Office.

Please fill in an entry form and return it to the office by Saturday 16th March.



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Welcome to Tranmere Rovers

BY DAVE KING

Living in the shadows of First Division giants Everton and Liverpool, who are just a ferry ride across the Mersey is a formidable task for any football Club. For a Fourth Division Club the task is an even more onerous obstacle. To the credit of the Directors, Players and Supporters of the Birkenhead Club, they not only survive, but during the last few seasons they have threatened to mount a sustained challenge for promotion.

The form displayed over recent seasons is due mainly to the astute leadership portrayed by our former midfield player Northern Ireland International Bryan Hamilton who is the Prenton Park Clubs

Manager.

Testimony to his astute knowledge is borne by the free transfer signings he made last summer of strikers John Clayton and Colin Clarke who have developed into the Fourth Divisions deadliest double act. Between them they have scored 39 goals in League and cup matches. This puts them well ahead of other successful pairings in the Division where Tony Adcock and Keith Bowen of Colchester have netted 30 goals, followed by Stewart Phillips and Ollie Kearns of Hereford United with 29 goals. On the same total are Craig Madden and Wayne Entwistle of Bury, while Ernie Moss and Bob Newton of Chesterfield have scored 20 goals. With such a lethal combination they provide dangerous opposition.

The Prenton Park Club have certainly put the adage that a settled side brings success to the test this season, having used no fewer than 29 players in their League campaign to date this season!

At home Rovers have defeated Crewe, Rochdale, Torquay and Colchester 3-1, Blackpool 3-0, Aldershot 4-3, Exeter City 3-2, Scunthorpe 2-0, Halifax 1-0 and Peterborough 4-0. Losing 2-1 to Hartlepool and Northampton and 2-0 to Swindon.

In away matches they have defeated Chester 4-2, Southend 3-2 and Stockport 2-0. Drawn 0-0 at Mansfield and losing 4-2 at Chesterfield, 2-1 to Port Vale, Hereford and Darlington, 4-0 to Wrexham, 1-0 at Peterborough and 3-0 to Bury.

Having used 29 players it would be virtually impossible to introduce all of the players utilised. The following have appeared in Rover's recent matches. In goal has been JOHN PLATT who has appeared in the last seven league matches following an injury to Nigel Adkins, who appeared in

the first seventeen League games. John made 109 League appearances for Oldham Athletic after joining the Latics from Ashton United. He had to wait two years before his first League match in 1975. After seven seasons at Boundary Park he joined Bury on a free transfer, appearing in twenty League matches during a two year stay. John joined Bolton on a free transfer last season making ten appearances. Made his debut for Rovers at Southend on December 1st. John is 30 years old.

Full back STEVE MUNGALL has made 167 League appearances for Tranmere. Now in his sixth season at Prenton Park, 26 year old Steve joined the Club from Motherwell for whom he had made 20 League appearances. Scots born Steve has made only four League appearances this season following injury.

Liverpool born DAVE BURGESS was 25 last Sunday. A model of consistency he missed last season, only two League matches during the two previous seasons he was ever present! This season Dave has missed four League matches. Dave made his 156th League appearance in Rovers last match at home to Peterborough. Scored his only League goal on April 10th 1982 from the penalty spot in a 3-1 home win over Blackpool. This season has been somewhat unfortunate for Dave for after being sent off in the home match with Blackpool on October 23rd he was again dismissed in the away match with Bury on December 29th.

Also sent off in the away match with Bury, was 24 year old central defender JOHN WILLIAMS. Now in his seventh season with the Club, John along with John Clayton and Colin Clarke is ever present this season. He has now played in 154 League matches for Rovers, while the two goals he has scored this season at Chester and Southend has taken his total of League goals to eleven.

Needing little introduction to County Ground regulars is 25 year old GARY WILLIAMS once the subject of a £40,000 transfer to the County Ground from Blackpool in the Summer of 1981. Gary made 38 League appearances for the Town scoring three goals. He has now played in 70 League matches for Rovers. Gary has scored twice from the penalty spot this season. Played one match for Rovers in the 1976-77 season before signing for DJUGARRDEN where he spent three seasons before signing for

Blackpool.

The third player to be sent off this season for Rovers was 30 year old BILL RODAWAY who suffered the ignomy in the away match at Stockport on September 8th. Bill joined the Club in the close season from Blackpool. Born in Liverpool, the former England Schools Cap joined Burnley as an apprentice. In ten seasons at Turf Moor he made 209 League appearances. Bill joined Peterborough United in 1981, in two seasons at London Road he made 81 appearances in League matches. Played in 41 League matches at Bloomfield Road last season. This season Bill has played in 15 League matches for Rovers, scoring once, in the 3-0 home win over Exeter City.

Hong Kong born DOUG ANDERSON joined Rovers from Oldham Athletic, where he made only nine League appearances in four seasons. Twenty one year old Doug, has missed only the opening day match at Peterborough since joining the Prenton Park Club. His only League goal came in the 3-0 home win over Blackpool in October.

Leading goalscorer last season with 14 goals was 25 year old JOHN ASPINALL, born

in Birkenhead John made his 90th League appearance in the Clubs last home match with Peterborough United. His only two League goals of this season, both came in the first home match of the season with Crewe on September 1st.

No close signings could have paid such immediate dividends as the striking duo of JOHN CLAYTON and COLIN CLARKE. With 18 goals to date John joined Rovers from Chesterfield, where he had scored only five goals in 33 League matches, a former Derby County apprentice, John made 24 appearances in four seasons Baseball Ground. Elgin born John is 23 years old, he has appeared in all of Rovers League games this season. John spent one season in Hong Kong after leaving Derby.

With thirteen goals, former Peterborough United striker COLIN CLARKE has proved the ideal partner with John Clayton. A former Ipswich Town apprentice, Colin made his League debut on joining Peterborough. In three seasons with the London Road Club, 22 year old Colin scored 18 goals in eighty two League matches.



Back Row: Ronnie Goodlass, Ray Woods, Nigel Adkins, Bob Wardle, Mark Ferguson, Mark Palios.

Middle Row Standing: John Aspinall, Colin Clarke, Mark Hilditch, Dave Philpotts, John Clayton, John Williams, Doug Anderson, Dave Higgins, Dave Burgess.

Middle Row Seated: Andy Lee, Seamus Heath, Bryan Hamilton (Player/Manager), Billy Rodaway (Captain), Ray Mathias (Player/Asst. Manager), Steve Mungall, Neville Powell.

Front Row: Vincent Duff, Martin Filson, Kevin Brookes, Tom Doherty, Tommy Cross.

"A Year of Upheaval"

BY DAVE KING

That was the year that was, on reflection 1984 was one of footballs most traumatic. A year when big brother was elbowed aside, as Everton took over from Liverpool. A year when Lira robbed English football of some of its brightest stars. A year to say goodbye to some of the big names for various reasons - Kevin Keegan, Trevor Brooking, Keith Burkinshaw and Malcolm MacDonald among others.

It was a year of comebacks - Charlton 1984. Tommy Docherty, Johnny Giles, Don Revie (almost) and England.

A year when football gained a new foe, the taxman and a year when the League blew the whistle on the activities of Anton Johnson.

But above all it was the year of Robert Maxwell the publisher who attempted to put his finger in every pie that took his fancy. Chairman of Oxford, take-over noises at Birmingham, Manchester United (in the wake of 10m) and Derby. In the end he was content with the Daily Mirror and Oxfords "Club of the Year" award as Jim Smith guided them towards Division One.

Smith, nicknamed 'Bald Eagle' must be a leading contender for 'Manager of the Year' after the way he has quietly picked up the pieces of his career after his sacking at Birmingham. He will be closely challenged by Howard Kendall who started 1984 fearing the sack and ended challenging for the First Division title and the F.A. Cup locked in the trophy cabinet at Goodison Park.

After losing Graeme Souness to Italy, a deal that robbed the Anfield Club of its most dominant force. Joe Fagan tried to fill the void with John Wark, Jan Molby, Paul Walsh and Kevin McDonald.

Mark Hateley England's most exciting centre forward find for several years joined the Italian exodus along with Ray Wilkins of Manchester United, while Steve Archibald went to Spain. Their departure, linked with the retirement of Keegan and Brooking and long term injuries to the likes of Ian Rush, Alan Devonshire, Graham Rix, Glen Hoddle, Gordon Cowans, Paul Walsh and Frank Stapleton robbed the game of some of its glitter.

Compensation arrived notably with Gordon Strachan and Jesper Olsen at Old Trafford and the dramatic First Division entrances of Kerry Dixon and Chris Waddle.

After a Russian victory at Wembley Bobby Robson's future looked in doubt until he turned the formbook on its head with a summer victory in Brazil, while two emphatic World Cup qualifying wins have put the National side well on course for the Mexico Finals.

the departure of several The year saw top managers, notably Terry Venables to find success and fame at Barcelona, Malcolm Allison ran out of rope at Middlesborough where his high living contrasted with the Clubs empty coffers, a vain attempt to claim for unfair dismissal resulted. Others to be sacked were Tony Barton at Villa Park, John Toshack at Swansea, John Bond at Burnley, Peter Taylor at Derby, Larry Lloyd at Notts County, Alan Durban at Sunderland and Graham Hawkins at Wolves, while Alan Mullery managed to surpass them all and suffer twice at Crystal Palace and then at

As usual money was a major preoccupation, even more so last year with
the taxman staging a 'witch hunt' against
Clubs who could least afford to resist.
Winding up orders were fired into court
with Charlton, Hartlepool and Derby all
coming close to extinction, that they all
survived was a blessing.

Others staging a comeback were 'The Doc' at Wolves, Jack Charlton was pulled away from his countryside pursuits to take over his beloved Newcastle and Johnny Giles along with Norman Hunter and Nobby Stiles returned to West Brom to inject steel into Albion and revive their fortunes.

The enticing prospect of England and Scotland staying on course for Mexico in '85' while their progress in 1984 is the best memory to cling onto. But better to recall the stuffing of the turkey last Christmas than the unsavoury 'Saints' punch-up. The perennial crowd troubles where the country fails to accept it is a national social disease. But after all Governments only react but never act, while the selfish behaviour of some of footballs spoilt stars did little for the games image.

Now the new year is with us we should celebrate that the game is very much alive as we enter 1985 and may it always be so. Happy New Year to you all.



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FOCUSION FOUR

BY DAVE KING

With weather conditions inflicting a compulsory mid season break, the Cannon Football League programme has been decimated. Among the casualties was our last home match with Hartlepool United.

Although the action has been limited on off field activity field, the touch of continues with more than a becoming apparent frustration Peterborough United. Still striving to close the gap that continues to exist between the London Road Club and the four Clubs that continue to dominate the four leading positions. John Wile the United manager caused a surprise by placing their two leading goalscoreres Errington Kelly and Francis Cassidy on the transfer list.

The decision followed the recent 4-0 defeat that Peterborough experienced when visiting our opponents at the County Ground today Tranmere Rovers. At the time John Wile said that Kelly had not shown the right attitude at Prenton Park.

The latest hiccup in the career of Errington Kelly is only a further chapter in a series of ups and downs he has experienced since being told he was not up to standard by Hereford United while on trial from West Midlands League Club Ledbury Town. He went to Bristol Rovers instead. He later had spells with Bristol City and Coventry City, he is now Peterborough's leading marksman.

Two of the goalkeepers who have been on loan to us this season, Alistair Sperring of Southampton and John Hallworth of Ipswich Town, have now joined Third Division Clubs on a similar agreement. With Sperring joining Reading, while John Hallworth has joined Bristol Rovers.

Several transfer deals that have gone almost unnoticed over the last few weeks have taken full back Barry Blankley from Frist Division Southampton to his home town Club Aldershot. While Jim Iley the Exeter City manager has signed full back Ian Davies who left Second Division Carlisle United earlier this season. Also adding former Millwall and Colchester United defender Phil Coleman to the St James Park Club payroll.

West Bromwich striker Mick Perry joined a Fourth Division Club for the second time this season when he joined Northampton over the holiday period. Earlier he spent a loan period with Torquay United.

Chester have been active in the transfer market allowing their prominent defender Peter Zelem to join Second

Division Wolverhampton Wanderers on a months loan. With the Molinuex Club's manager Tommy Docherty stating that he would pay Sealand Road Clubs asking fee of £12,500, when the player's loan period ends. Earlier the player had been set to move to Bolton Wanderers until manager John McGovern left the Lancashire Club.

The on and off deal involving Bristol Rovers striker Paul Bannon and Chester was finally called off when Chester decided they could not meet the Player's personal demands. Rovers were under the impression that Bannon would be moving to Sealand Road after the Clubs had agreed a £5,000 move. The player had actually spent a few days training at Chester.

It did not take long before Caretaker Manager Mick Speight filled the void by signing Stewart Rimmer the striker who played a major part in Everton's F.A. Youth Cup run last season. Stewart has dropped 91 places in the Football League by moving on a months loan from the First Division leaders to Bottom of the Fourth Division Chester.

Further deals transfer have seen Bournemouth defender Everald La Ronde join Peterborough United on loan. Promotion contenders Chesterfield were negotiating with Sheffield United for their former defender Martin Henderson, he was with the Recreation Ground Club before joining Port Vale last season. Martin was previously Rangers, with Glasgow Hibernian and Leicester City.

The most notable achievemnet on the field of play in the last two weeks in which play was curtailed to a minimum, saw Halifax record a surprise 4-1 home win over the League leaders Bury. A match which saw Simon Lowe the Halifax Town striker score the first hat trick of his League career. Despite the convincing scoreline, the Shakers were always in contention, for two goals in the last three minutes gave the final result a more decisive look.

In one of the few Third Round F.A. Cup replays to be played Darlington defeated neighbours Second Division Middlesbrough in front of their highest attendance for twenty five years, at Feethams. When just over 14,000 witnessed a 2-1 victory. The Quakers entered the Fourth Round for the second successive season. Goals from former Ayresome Park players Gordon McDonald and Phil Lloyd were enough to ensure the Feethams Club of being hosts to



non League Telford United in the next round.

Two of our former players are the subject of transfer moves, with 34 year old Ray McHale joining Third Division strugglers Swansea from Sheffield United. Ray became one of recently appointed Vetch Field manager John Bond's first signings when he signed an eighteen month contract.

Our former full back Kevin Baddeley is in demand in Non League circles. For after the briefest of spells with Gola League Club Wealdstone after leaving the County Ground, he then moved to Southern League Cheltenham Town. Now Yeovil Town manager Gerry Gow, a former Club mate of Kevin Baddeley's at Bristol City, has given seven days notice of approach to the Whaddon Road Club in his bid to add Kevin to the Gola League Club's staff.

With the Fourth Division programme of matches decimated by the adverse weather conditions last weekend. The only match played last Saturday saw Hartlepool entertain Port Vale in a 2-2 draw with the Victoria ground striker Kevin Dixon scoring twice.

Colin Bailie will be looking for a change of fortune in todays match for in the two matches between the Clubs last season he was credited with own goals in the matches at Prenton Park and here at

the County Ground.

Hereford United manager John Newman twice Fourth Division Manager of the Month in the past year made a plea on behalf of his less fortunate colleagues when he said, 'This time of the year can be difficult for managers and I wish a few more Clubs would keep their heads when things start to go wrong instead of thinking the best way to solve a problem is by sacking the manager. Clubs qo through managers far too quickly because Directors can't face failure themselves. They don't like people taking the mickey when their Club is doing badly and as a result start to panic'.

He added, 'Sacking the manager has never proved to be an instant cure'.

John Newman has only been out of work four months in a playing career with Birmingham City, Leicester City, Plymouth Aggyle and Exeter City. And as a manager with Exeter, Grimsby Town, Derby County and Hereford. That came following his dismissal at Derby in 1982 and his appointment as Hereford manager in March 1983. Since then Hereford born John has taken his home town Club from the bottom of the Fourth Division to a place in the promotion category.



TODAY'S

THE CANON LEAGU

TEAM CHANGES	SWINDON TOWN	
	SCOTT ENDERSBY	1,
	CHRIS RAMSEY	2'
	COLIN BAILIE	3
	LEIGH BARNARD	4
Sce	NIGEL GRAY	5
	ANDY ROWLAND	6
	MIKE GRAHAM	7
1	PETER COYNE	8
	COLIN GORDON	9
	P BATTY	10
	GARY NELSON	11
	LOU MACARI	12

Referee: Mr M.L. James (Horsham, Sussex)

Linesmen:

Red Flag: Mr I.W. Gumbleton (Bath) Yellow Flag: Mr R.J. Pardoe (Windsor)



5 LINE-UP

AGUE DIVISION FOUR

	TRANMERE ROVERS	TEAM CHANGES
1,	JOHN PLATT	
2	STEVE MUNGALL	
3	DAVE BURGESS	
4	GARY WILLIAMS	
5	BILLY RODAWAY	
6	NICK SINCLAIR	
7	ANDY LEE	
8	JOHN ASPINALL	P. P.
9	COLIN CLARKE	
10	JOHN CLAYTON	
11	DOUG ANDERSON	
12	MARK PALIOF	

REFEREE:

JAMES, MIKE - Regional Manager for Electronic Component Distributor. Married with two children. Commenced refereeing in 1971 progressing via Sussex County and Southern League. Enjoys all sports, gardening and reading. President Horsham Referees' Society. Refereed Southern League Cup Final in 1978/79, lined F.A. Cup semi-final in 1982 and a European Cup Winners' Cup match.

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PHOTO CALL BY DAVE EVANS



Town defender Nigel Gray heads just wide in the match against Chesterfield.



Two-goal Colin Gordon tries for more against Chesterfield at the County Ground.

John Ward talks to Andy Rowland

"I've known both sides of the coin at Swindon." said Andy Rowland "Forty-five minutes from Wembley and the League Cup Final and now mid-way in the Fourth Division table." He continued to reminisce for a while. "Bob Smith was right to try and tighten up at the back. He identified a defensive weakness in the team but went for the wrong players. He should have Third experienced defenders. It is always a problem for a First Division player to play in the Third. That is why you see so many upsets in the Cup. It takes time to adjust. To get out of a division you need the best players for that division and then when you are promoted the manager has to strengthen the team again for the higher leaque."

ATTACKING THE BALL

I asked Andy about his own game so far this season. I had spoken to him earlier, before it began, when he told me how much looking forward to playing alongside Simon Gibson. "It's a great pity it didn't work out," Andy said. "It seems he must have let himself go a bit in the close season and when he came back he was enormous. He just did not seem able to take the weight off in training. I've never seen anyone have so much difficulty before. It was not made any easier when he was out of the team and so not getting regular match practice. So until Nigel Gray came in I was attacking the ball at centre half. I was the biggest even though I am less than six feet! It didn't worry me although I hadn't played position much before. If the ball is there I am happy to attack it whether I am at centre-half or centre forward. I haven't minded doing it but always wondered whether someone with the extra inches might not do it better."

"It's very difficult to get results until you have a settled side and pattern of play," Andy continued. "Last season we turned it on for two or three games in the Cup. We were under no pressure so we just went out to enjoy it. That will always happen but what counts is consistency over the season. We simply weren't good enough to achieve that. This season Lou Macari and Harry Gregg have certainly created some interest and everyone will just have to be patient until the right players come along."

FOOTBALL CAREERS ARE NOT PLANNED

What, I wondered, did he make of being captain? "Every Club needs someone to mediate between the players and the management," Andy replied. "I suppose two or three times a season I will be called in for consultation as the players' spokesman. Player-manager is probably the most difficult job in football. The relationship with the other players is difficult and a player-manager needs an older figure to tell him how he has done himself."

This is not a role which Andy coveted for himself. "I cannot see myself as a manager," he admitted "but possibly as a coach. I was invited to be player-coach by Ken Beamish but I turned it down because I wanted to concentrate on playing. I thought it was too early to take up coaching.

One thing I have learned over the years is that careers in football planned. Look at Chic Bates for example (who played up front with Andy before Alan Mayes appeared on the scene for the first time at Swindon). Of all the players who have been at Swindon he is just about the last person I would have expected to become a manager. Yet there he is doing a good job at Shrewsbury. It's a mixture of natural progression and luck and it's a perfect example that in football it's not what you know but whom you know that counts. Chic goes back to his old Club as a player. He is a great mate of Graham Turner so helps with the coaching.

THE PFA

Finally we talked about developments in generally. "There divisions in football now," said Andy. "The First and the rest. In the last five or six years there have been a few players earning thousands of pounds a week, more than some clubs have actually got to run on. It's only through sponsors coming in that the clubs are still here in such numbers today." Andy's reaction to this become involved in the has been to the Professional players' union, Footballers' Association. "The hope is," he explained, "that union representation can give some sort of protection when the clubs are in such a serious financial situation, that it will get the players' interest thought about."

COMMERCIAL BREAK

BY DOUG BUSWELL

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THE NATIONAL SPORTS POOL

A very important meeting will be held at Crystal Palace F.C. on the 24th January. This meeting will probably determine the final details of the "Top Score" competition due to start at the beginning of the 1985/86 season. I shall attend the meeting along with Mr Dave Cooper and will keep you all informed of the progress of this exciting development. Remember this National Competition will be run by the Football League Clubs and ALL the profits made will be ploughed back into our own Clubs on a pro rata basis.

4th SPORTING DINNER

After our three successful Dinners in 1984, our Fourth one will be held on Monday 18th of February and will once again be sponsored by John Jeffcoat and his friends from SWINDON CAR AUCTIONS. If there are any of you who have not been to the previous Dinners but would like to attend the 4th in the series then please contact me on Swindon 31510 or any Club Director. All of our regular Diners will be informed. Tickets £12.50 each. The Guest Speakers will be Mr Tommy Docherty

On the ball

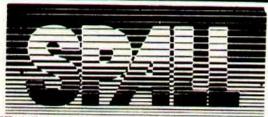


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FACTS AND FIGURES

ELASHBACK

BY MIKE SKINNER

Full Football League results:

HOME	SEASON	AWAY
18 Oct 1-2	1958 - 59	1-3 Mar 7
18 Apr 1-1	1959 - 60	2-2 Apr 15
31 Aug 1-0	1960 - 61	2-2 Aug 22
2 Sep 3-1	1967 - 68	2-3 Nov 13
18 Feb 1-0	1968 - 69	5-3 Jan 24
30 Oct 1-1	1976 - 77	1-0 Feb 21
2 Jan 1-0	1977 - 78	1-1 Mar 31
24 Mar 4-1	1978 - 79	1-1 Aug 21
2 Nov 4-2	1982 - 83	0-2 Feb 28
3 Mar 1-1	1983 - 84	1-2 Oct 17

Swindon travelled to Prenton Park in January 1969 trying to improve on their fourth place spot, not having won since December 21st, and to increase their lead over Rovers to more than just goal average. 8,353 turned out to see Tranmere take an early lead, due mainly to the slippery surface. Stan Harland, having gained control of the ball in the corner of his own area, attempted to turn and pass back rather than clear, and in so doing slipped, allowing George Hudson to gain possession. Hudson then angled a low centre for Joe Prichard to blast into the roof of the net.

At this stage Swindon were having difficulty in containing Rovers lively but gradually regained their poise, Don Rogers testing the home defence the 32nd minute but failing to capitalise. One minute later and Rogers found another gap, only to see his shot pushed away by Jimmy Cumbes, but Chris Jones netted the rebound for his first League goal since joining the Town. Five minutes later and Don Heath reached the bye-line before crossing for Jones to head his second. Rovers could find no answer to the Town's attack, and one minute from half-time Rogers collected a lose ball, avoided two tackles, and shot past the advancing Cumbes to make it 3-1, and to register his 100th League goal.

Swindon started the second-half as they had finished the first, but failing to take their chances and allowing Tranmere to pull one back - Gerry Casey beating Peter Downsborough with a header off the underside of the bar. Rovers, finding new life, go all out for an equaliser, but it was Swindon who scored next - an Owen Dawson free-kick being pushed out only as far as Roger Smart who scored with a neat chip. Five minutes later, in the 78th minute, Peter Noble got the fifth from a

Jones centre, and Rogers nearly made it six five minutes from time, but it was disallowed for off-side. Two minutes later Roy Sinclair scored with a low drive to make it 5-3 to the Town.

Swindon:- Downsborough, Dawson, Thomas, Butler, Burrows, Harland, Heath, Smart, Jones, Noble, Rogers.

Ten years later Swindon were again pushing for promotion, although an offform Town had slipped to seventh place. It was no surprise when Tranmere, second from bottom, went one down after only four minutes, Andy Rowland blasting a Bryan Hamilton free-kick into the far corner. But instead of calming a jittery Town side, it got worse and, against a better team than Tranmere, Swindon would have been punished for wayward passing and miskicks. As it was Rovers equalised in the 20th minute, John Kerr heading past Swindon continued Jimmy Allan. in a disjointed fashion until injury-time, when after Ian Miller's run down the right wing, Rowland knocked the resulting cross into the path of Alan Mayes to net his 6th goal in seven games.

Although the Town hardly deserved their interval lead, it was a different side in the second-half. After 5 minutes a Brian Williams corner found Rowland at the near post to make it 3-1. At this stage Tranmere fell apart, looking like the relegated side they were to be, and Swindon ran them ragged with Roy Carter, Andy Ford and Hamilton all going close before the fourth was added in the 77th minute. An attempted back-pass by Ray Mathias was intercepted by Mayes who knocked it into the path of Ray McHale for him to score from the edge of the area.

Swindon:- Allan, Hamilton, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Rowland, Mayes, Williams (Sub Bates), Attendance 5,678.



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Junior Robins Page

The Junior Robins meeting on Monday January 7th was certainly a resounding success. I thought the bad weather might reduce the attendance, but I need not have worried; Robins are not worried by a bit of cold. The turn out was tremendous and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. It is often said that adults enjoy themselves as much as children at these occasions and I think this was certainly true of Monday.

There are an awful lot of people to thank and if I miss anyone I apologise. Kempster and Son who always supply records for match days were very kind in supplying us with records. The Directors laid on a super spread of food that even this happy hoard could not finish off, and when everyone was give a bag of crisps, curtesy of the Supporters Co-operative everyone was smiling. I am sure much of the fun for members came from the way Lou Macari and the players who came along joined in. I was amazed at the number of budding Mike Yarwoods who had a go at the "Lou Macari Impersonation Competition." Thanks are also due to Chris, Sandra, Claire and Mandy who helped with organising the game and to the Reverend Nigels Samms who travelled through some nasty weather conditions at Newbury to come and lend a hand.

Now a request for some help. As you know the Supporters Co-operative works very hard to raise money for Swindon Town. If any Junior Robins were willing to help deliver letters to their street, or locality, it would help trememdously. If any of you would be willing to help in this way please let me know, either through a letter addressed to me at the Club Office or by having a word at one of our meetings.

I am hoping to organise a coach party to visit Wembley Stadium for a tour round ground sometime in the Easter holidays. I will try to give fuller details in a few weeks time, and will publish them in this column, and in the next News Sheet which will go out towards the end of this month. This News Sheet will contain information about some competitions and will also contain a questionaire about the sort of things you would like the Club to do. Please try to fill it in a return it as only by finding out what you want can we try to please.

Finally, we have had 'Blockbusters' on television, 'Ghostbusters' at the cinema, so have we got any 'Codebusters' at the County Ground? A competition for all Junior Robins. Can you find the names of the football grounds in code below? A signed team photograph to the first member who can supply the names of the grounds and the Clubs that play there. Entries to me as soon as possible.

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- K3JKD5TB
- 1QH32NG
- WK2 G2NN
- WK2 X1NN2B

Dick Mattick, Organiser Junior Robins.

KEY OF THE BOARD

- Chester v Southend
- Chesterfield v Scunthorpe
- Colchester v Bury
- D Crewe v Mansfield
- Exeter v Aldershot
- F Peterborough v Wrexham
- Port Vale v Torquav
- Rochdale v Hartlepool
- I Everton v Doncaster
- J Grimsby v Watford
- Manchester Utd. v Coventry
- Nottm. Forest v Wimbledon
- Orient v Southampton
- Sheffield Wednesday v Oldham
- York City v Arsenal
- West Brom. Albion v Q.P.Rangers
- Shrewsbury v Fulham
- Bournemouth v Plymouth
- Bristol City v Cambridge Utd.
- Reading v Bristol Rovers

1984-85

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BY DAW KING

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BEHIND THE SCENES

BY BOB JEFFERIES

SUPPORTERS CO-OPERATIVE

payment what-so-ever.

excellent

I have been asked to mention that the Co-operative are holding a Football Quiz night in the Rendezvous Club on March 11th between teams representing the Players,

Simon who, I am sure, will offer an

Incidentely, souvenir sales will continue to be handled by Chris Ealy and Bob O'Niel who have in fact dealt with this operation for some twenty years without any form of

thanks lads.

service. Many

Directors and Supporters.

They are looking for 3 people to form the supporters team and if you are interested in taking part please send in your answers to the questions below. The questions have been set by Paul Plowman and Chris Scott.

All correct entries will be put in the hat and the first three names drawn will represent the supporters.

Please send or take your entries to the Office, Club County Ground "Supporters Co-operative Quiz" not later than 3pm on 16th February, 1985, the day we play Tranmere Rovers.

- 1. Two strikers with Northern Premier Club Hyde United last season subsequently joined Football League Clubs. One was Peter Coyne of Swindon Town, who was the other.?
- 2. The record goal scorer for Swindon Town in a single season was Harry Morris during 1926/27 season. How many goals did he score in League and Cup games?
- Which Club inflicted Swindons' heaviest F.A. Cup defeat?
- 4. Who was the Manager in May, 1984 who returned to his old Club only four days after leaving it?
- 5. Which Club successfully applied for reelection to the Football League for a record 14th time in June 1984?
- Due to the Freight Rover Trophy match being played at Torquay on Tuesday, 22nd January the Co-operative have cancelled their Sports night on Monday, 21st 1985. Their Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, 28th January, 1985 in the Supporters' Club.

FREIGHT ROVER TROPHY

We now have news that the Associate Members Cup Competition, which in future will be known as the Freight Rover Trophy, will commence on Tuesday, 22nd January when we played the first leg of the First Round away to Torquay United. The second round will be played here on the County Ground on Tuesday, 5th February, 1985.

The Competition is being sponsored by Freight Rover Company of Birmingham to the value of £50,000. £30,000 will be allocated to a prize fund and the two finalists will each win one of Freight Rover's 15 seater Sherpa Mini-Buses worth about £10,000 each. The vehicle being liveried in the respective Club's colours. The Competition has also significantly obtained the status of a Wembley Final which will be played on the 1st June, 1985.

With this sponsorship, coupled with a Wembley Final there should be a surge of interest in this Season's Competition. Even in the First Round supporters and players will realize that the Wembley dream is only a handful of matches away when it could be our turn for a big day out.

PROGRAMME SALES

Three of our regular supporters, Mike Skinner, Andrew Skinner and Simon Mathews, have until recently operated their own football programme business but have now kindly donated their programme stock to the Club. They have, from the commencement of the new year, operated programme sales on our behalf from the Souvenir Shop. We now have a very interesting collection on sale and I hope that all programme collectors will call upon Mike, Andrew and

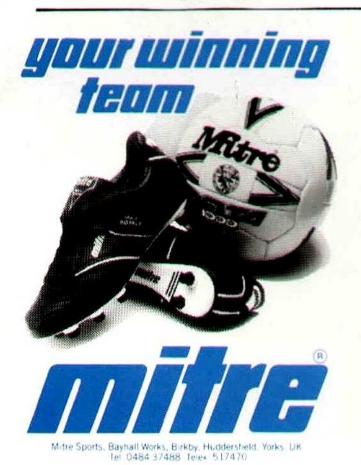
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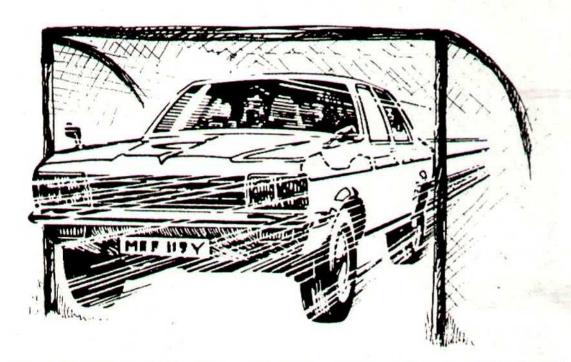
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