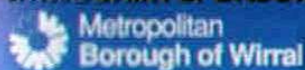


OFFICIAL SHIRT SPONSOR



OFFICIAL KIT SUPPLIER



Nationwide
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Rovers Review



Gareth Roberts

You should see the best 11 players he's ever faced! Page 17 for details.

Middlesbrough Mangled

Worthington Cup Action

Millennium Moments

Peter Bishop reflects on times that have shaped Rovers' history - so far!

Blues Banter

At last! Tony Evans' review of the Brummie Programme!

Park Life

reveals our longest-ever winning and losing streaks.

And Much More!

Today's Sponsors include

ADS GRAPHICS

STEPHEN VAUGHAN PROMOTIONS

TRANMERE COMPUTERS



Tranmere Rovers
vs
Swindon Town

Tuesday 28th December 1999 Kick Off 3.00 p.m.
Nationwide league, Division One





TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Prenton Park, Prenton Road West,
Prenton, Wirral, CH42 9PY
Telephone: 0151-608 4194
Fax: 0151-608 4385

Chairman & Chief Executive:

..... Lorraine Rogers

Directors: Mick Horton

..... Richard Hughes

Associate Directors: Tony Adams

..... Norman Wilson

Secretary: Mick Horton

Manager: John Aldridge

Assistant Manager: Kevin Sheedy

Reserve Team Coach: Ray Mathias

Goalkeeping Coach: Eric Nixon

Physiotherapist: Les Parry

Coach & Chief Scout: Dave Philpotts

Youth Development Officer:

..... Warwick Rimmer

Youth Team Coach: John McMahon

Youth Liaison Officer: Ron Taylor

Centre of Excellence Manager:

..... Steve Mungall

Head Groundsman: Andy Quayle

Safety Officer: Paul Mason

Medical Officers: Dr. Mike Azurdia

..... Dr. John Delaney

Football In The Community

Liaison Officer: Steve Williams

Club Chaplains: Canon Alan Poulter

..... Father Gerry Courell

P.A. Announcers: Richie Tierney

..... Howard Hughes

Designed, Edited & Typeset by: Nick Sample

(Tel & Fax: 0151-652 7782)

Photography: Frazer Bird; Action Images;

..... Focus; Associated Sports Photography

Repro & Printing: Tech Litho

(Tel: 0151-922 5999; Fax: 0151-922 4448)

28th December....

REMINISCING ROVERS

It Happened Today

1929 Division 3 North Att: 4,528
ROTHERHAM UNITED 5
TRANMERE ROVERS 0

1935 Division 3 North Att: 13,529
TRANMERE ROVERS 3
NEW BRIGHTON 1

Scorers: Woodward, Urmsion, O.G.

1946 Division 3 North Att: 16,000
ROTHERHAM UNITED 6
TRANMERE ROVERS 0

1959 Division 3 Att: 8,920
YORK CITY 3
TRANMERE ROVERS 0

1963 Division 4 Att: 3,334
BARROW 1
TRANMERE ROVERS
Scorer: Manning

1979 Division 4 Att: 2,547
TRANMERE ROVERS 4
BRADFORD CITY 0
Scorers: Beamish (3), Peplow

1997 Division 1 Att: 19,533
BIRMINGHAM CITY 0
TRANMERE ROVERS 0

1998 Division 1 Att: 14,076
BRADFORD CITY 2
TRANMERE ROVERS 0

Tranmere Birthday Boys

1921 – Noel Kelly

This Irish International inside forward moved to Rovers from Nottingham Forest in 1955, and later that same year, he became the Club's first-ever Player Manager. he remained in this position until September 1957, by which time he had made 54 first-team appearances and scored 7 goals. Noel moved on to Ellesmere Port Town.

Tranmere Swansongs

1946 – Frank Prescott

Centre-forward Frank was signed from St Annes in 1946, and made just 2 appearances for Rovers in the same year.

1946 – George Shone

Signed from local non-league football in 1946, George was a centre-forward who played 4 times for Tranmere.

1976 – Tommy Young

Tommy came to Prenton Park from Falkirk in 1972. He played at centre-forward and in midfield, scoring 29 goals in 193 outings before being transferred to Rotherham.

Happy Birthday to...

Born 1856

American President during World War 1

Woodrow Wilson

Born 1914

Actor best remembered as Stan Ogden in "Coronation Street"

Bernard Youens

Born 1932

Labour M.P. who was also his Party's Deputy Leader, now an Author and Journalist

(Lord) Roy Hattersley

Born 1934

Award-winning stage and screen actress, twice an Oscar winner and nominated twice more

(Dame) Maggie Smith

Born 1956

Violinist and fanatical Aston Villa supporter

Nigel Kennedy

The World of Music

1937 Death of French Composer Maurice Ravel in Paris.

1970 George Harrison was at No 1 in the U.S. singles chart with "My Sweet Lord".

1983 Death of Beach-Boy Dennis Wilson, the only real surfer in the group. He drowned at the age of 39

The World of Sport

1967 Alec Rose completed a 14,500 mile long voyage from Britain to Australia.

And Elsewhere...

1694 Queen Mary II died of Smallpox.

1879 90 people were killed when the Tay Railway Bridge from Fife to Angus collapsed as the Edinburgh - Dundee train crossed it.

1950 The Peak District was designated as Britain's first National Park.

1963 The B.B.C. broadcast the satirical television show "That Was The Week That Was" for the last time.

"I'd like to think this club is going into the next century in as strong a position as it has ever been in"

After our last home game against Norwich, I think everyone was suffering a slight reaction from what had happened earlier in the week. Three games in six days is a lot to ask, especially when the first two are high-profile games against Premiership opposition. Of course, it was disappointing to lose at home after such a good run, and to go down to a last-minute goal was a bitter pill to swallow, but the lads have nothing to be ashamed of. They've been a credit to themselves and the club and although we weren't at our best against Norwich I didn't think we deserved to lose the game. Norwich battled very well, and in the end they had the legs on us in the last five minutes. We definitely ran out of steam in the second half, and couldn't find the vital spark - we were lacking a yard of sharpness. I felt that at half time, even though we were one up and had controlled the game, we were likely to need a second goal. The game was a scrappy affair overall, so I hope that we can end this century with a better performance this afternoon.

At this time of year it's usual for everyone to take a step back and see what has been achieved, and what the future holds - and of course this year with the Millennium, it's even more prevalent. I'd like to think that this club is going into the next century in as strong a position as it has ever been in. We have a board that have a solid plan for the future, and a firm grasp of the realities of running a football club. We have an exciting squad of players that give an ideal blend of youth and experience, and with the average age of the squad being in the early twenties, these are players that can and will grow in stature as the club progresses. We have a stadium that, compared with the old Prenton Park of just a few years ago, will last well into the next century, and when it's full, as in the recent home game with West Ham, can create an atmosphere that is better than that in many of the new stadiums across the country. Last but certainly not least, January sees several huge games coming up - a semi-final in one cup competition, and a home draw with one of the teams of the season in the other, both of which should provide the opportunity to show what we can do to the rest of the country, as well as being another huge financial boost for the club.

Of course, the old cliché says that the next match is always the most important, and I'd like to welcome another Irish striker who's turned his hand to management, Jimmy Quinn, his players and staff from Swindon to Prenton Park for this afternoon's game. For many of you, I'm sure this fixture will bring back memories of our clashes in the early nineties when both clubs were going hard for promotion - and personally, I still don't know why a goal I scored at the County Ground in our play-off clash was disallowed! Times change though, and at the moment Swindon find themselves at the wrong end of the table, but traditionally they have always provided tough opposition for us, so we'll have to be at our best to get the right result this afternoon.

On behalf of the players and the rest of the coaching staff, I'd like to wish you all a very happy new year (when it comes), and let's hope that we can make some history in the twenty-first century! Thanks for coming, enjoy the match, and get behind the lads - again!

John Aldridge



Rovers Review

1999/2000 Season - Issue 20

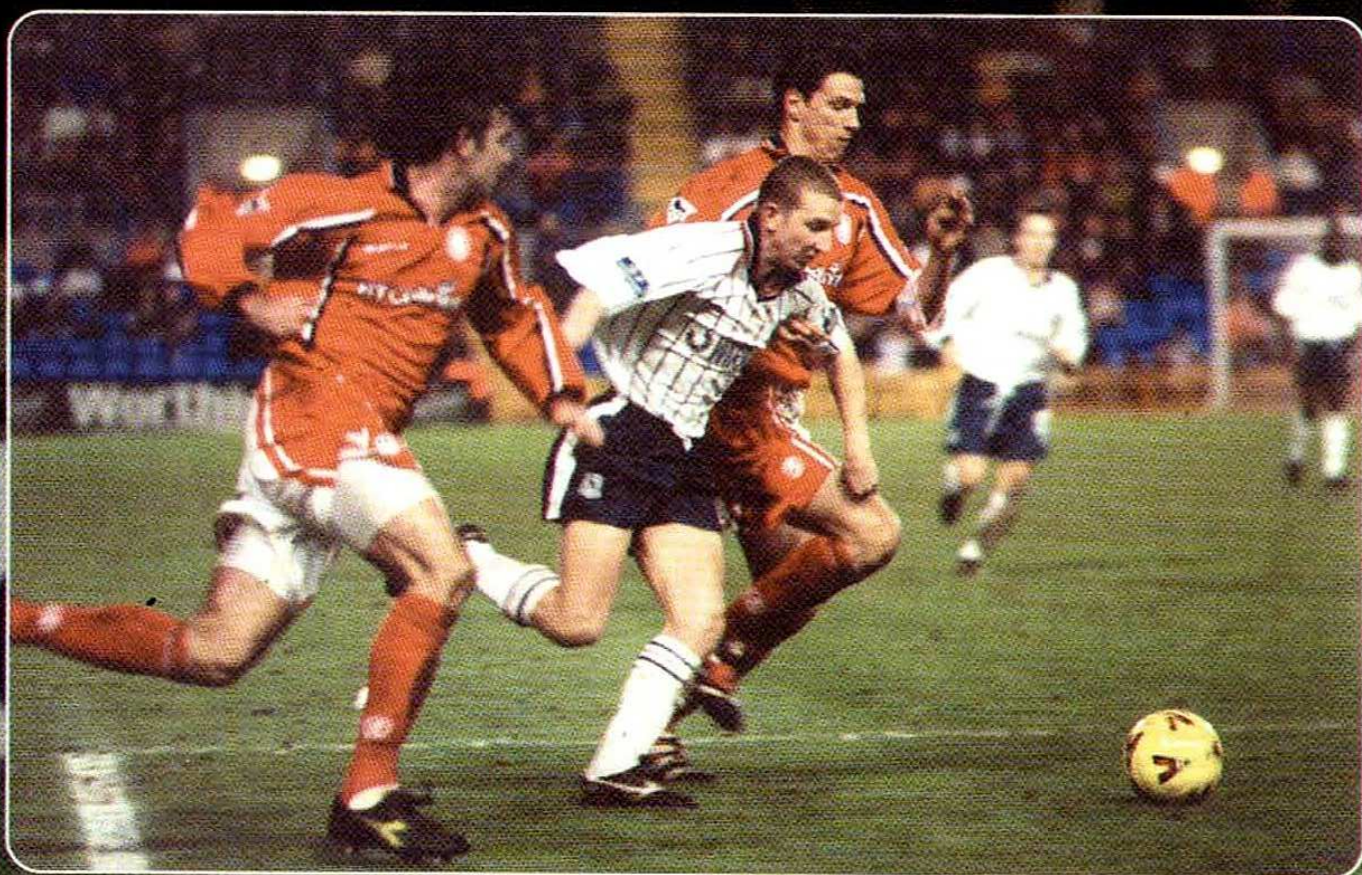
Contents

28th December	Page 2
Carol Datzel looks back to this day in Rovers history	
John Aldridge	3
...looking to the future	
Boro Buried	4/5
Match action from our Worthington Cup Quarter-Final win over Robbo's Riverside Reds!	
Planet Football	7
Unfortunately omitted from the Barnsley programme, a review of Birmingham's matchday mag by Tony Evans	
Park Life	8
Prenton Park prattle from the editor	
From the Boardroom	9
Lorraine Rogers	
The Treatment!	11
It's the man in the T-shirt! Les Parry	
Quiztime	12
Twelve teasers for half time from Ian Kennedy	
On The Rebound	13
Peter Bishop looks back at some of the moments that have shaped where we stand today	
Head To Head	14
Wayne Allison up against Town's Iffy Onoura	
Behind The Scenes	15
Backroom Banter with Glyn Salmon	
The Alternative Factfile	17
Filling-in the questionnaire - Gareth Roberts	
Millennium Moments	18/19
Continuing Peter Bishop's look back on twentieth century events at Prenton Park	
A Game Too Far	20/21
Match action from our fighting performance in Rovers' last home match against the Canaries	
"The Robins"	22-25
Dave Knott turns the spotlight on Swindon Town (another millennium moment to remember...?)	
Passing Back	25
Club connections with Peter Bishop	
Pontins League Review	26
Andrew Stratton reports on Rovers Reserves	
Young Rovers	27
The Next Generation of Tranmere Players	
Girls Talk	28
Tony Coombes on a bad day darn sarf...	
TRFC's Community Matters	29
Steve Williams with the latest	
Tranmere Midfielders	30
Malcolm Jones with the latest club news	
Prenton Pups	30
Les Sands surrounded by screaming kids!	
Unobstructed Views	31
Tim Healey's off on another one...	
Player Sponsorship	33
Roverstats	34/35
Everything you needed to know about TRFC this season!	
Prenton People	36
Men of the matches and other such stuff!	
Hammer time	37
Even more action from our 1-0 defeat of the Hammers. Pics by Fraser Bird And Geoff Davies	
Tickets and Travel	38
Ticket information and how to get to Fulham, and details of tickets for our FA Cup 4th Round tie	
Coming Next	39
Mike Hesp looks forward to the visit of Sunderland	
Match Of The Day	40
Today's teams, officials and other matches	

“...Just as it seemed grim form and order might win through, Boro... ..conceded the kind of impossible, wonder-boy to the rescue, eleventh hour super goal that has all but disappeared from our polarised and predictable national game. Andy Parkinson's incredible dash, dribble and strike was as exhilarating as it was romantic, as brilliant as it was nostalgic.

You couldn't help but reflect that British cup games used to routinely produce such heroics. Minnows used to scupper sharks. Football used to be so fair and innocent. Tranmere weren't just beating Middlesbrough, they were celebrating beating the times...”

Danny Baker, The Times, Saturday 18th December.



Super Parky's Wonder Goal

the memories of all those who were present at Prenton!



Main Pic: Parky's shot flies towards the corner of the 'Boro net to put Rovers two up on the night, and produces scenes of celebration not seen at Prenton Park for years.

Far Right: Another dart into the fray as Parky powers past an Irishman and a German.

Right: Remember the name! The Borough Road goes ballistic, before Andy is mobbed by Gareth and Ned before Scotty tries to beam the lot up!



buries Robbo's Riversiders!

 **PATRICK®**

A Pedigree in Soccer



OFFICIAL KIT SUPPLIER

Design and Production

A glance at the front cover of City's programme does seem to provide a distinct contradiction between the prominent title "blues" and the red-shirted figure of winger Jon McCarthy!

There is also a slight problem with the colour in the photograph used to illustrate the "As It Happened" feature.

Although our thrilling Leyland Daf Cup Final against Birmingham took place only eight years ago, the shot of The Blues' matchwinner at Wembley that day looks a good deal older, judging by how John Gayle's shirt has faded into a peculiar shade of green!

Fortunately the rest of the photographs and the design and production in general are far more impressive. The distinctive print style used on the front cover is reproduced inside for titles and captions. The dominant colour used for print, titles, borders and backgrounds is fairly obvious given the magazine's title and the name of the editor...Sue DENIM!

Category score — 16

Accuracy, Research and Away Team Coverage

Surely one of the most frequently printed words of late is "millennium" so it's disappointing to see it mis-spelt in a large title advertising the revamped Beau Brummie Club for City's young supporters. A few mis-prints have slipped through the net too, presumably including The Travel Club coach fare for the short trip up the M6 to Wolves which is shown as a staggering £8 for non-members and a bargain £6 for members! Blues fans would be advised to start saving now if they hope to be able to afford the marathon journey to see the return fixture at Prenton Park in March!

Although the layout for the four-page Rovers coverage is fairly dull, the content is well researched and illustrated with a good variety of up-to-date photos. The departure of trialist Pedro Matias is not noted nor is Ryan Williams' loan move to Chesterfield. Gary Jones no doubt enjoyed reading his Carling Opta statistics in his one-to-one comparison with Marcelo, but was probably less pleased to be described as "a well rounded forward"!

The score for this section include a bonus mark for the clever title on the visitors' page - "Who Are Ya?"

Category Score — 17

Other Content

Criticising the referee who had recently awarded two penalties to Portsmouth in their match against Birmingham, the "Watcher's Brief" column includes

the following quote:-

"I credit Mr Bennett with the bravery to give penalties when most refs turn a blind eye to such minor infringements unless they occur on the half-way line. However, if you are going to be that strict there would be about eight penalties a game and there would be a distinct possibility that the home side would be culpable occasionally as well".

Coincidentally The Blues had also had a player sent off at Fratton Park so perhaps the genial Mr Winter had simply decided to demonstrate that bad refereeing decisions even themselves out over a season and very kindly warned Andy Parkinson in advance!

Like ourselves, City were looking forward to entertaining West Ham in a cup tie and Manager Trevor Francis was hoping to have some of his walking wounded back in action for the Worthington Cup clash. No doubt he was left wincing as the punches were being thrown during the unscheduled boxing match in the centre circle!

Blues' recent away draws at Grimsby and QPR are given excellent photographic coverage and forthcoming fixtures are also well detailed.

Category score — 15

Statistics

Amusing titles are again in evidence with City's First Team details appearing under the heading "Anoraks' Almanac" while the colourful Football Information Services display is entitled "Stat's The Way It Is". The Reserves, who are one of our rivals in The Pontins Premier Division, have their own page, but there is no mention of any youth team progress.

Category score — 16

Value For Money

Blues fans get 48 pages for their £2. The 21% taken up by adverts doesn't include the numerous pages which are used to promote City's commercial activities and club products. Consequently there is a disappointing quantity of substantial reading matter which is definitely deserving of another penalty award from Mr Winter!

Category score — 14



TOTAL: 78 (last season 75)

Planet Football

NEWS, VIEWS AND UNSOLICITED ALLEGATIONS FROM THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL

WINS, DRAWS, LOSSES...

After we'd beaten Crewe at home this season, and got the double over them for a second successive year, it got me thinking - (makes a change, I know, but bear with me)... and I got around to wondering what was the longest sequence of wins we've had against any one side. Thanks to the database put together by Steve Wilson for his and Gilbert Upton's 'Tranmere Rovers - A Complete History 1921-1997', I have my answer - or answers, as Steve also included the record sequence of draws and losses.

The most consecutive (league) wins we've had against any team is seven. We beat Southport seven times on the trot between 1925-26 to 1928-29, and had the 'Indian sign' over Rochdale for the same number of games between 1963-64 and 1966-67. Rochdale seem to have been our favourite opposition, as we also beat them six times in a row between 1930-31 to 1932-33 (a feat we've also achieved against accrington Stanley, Barrow, Blackpool and Hartlepool United).

Seven is also the most consecutive draws Rovers have had against any one team - the opposition this time being Swansea City, between 1970-71 and 1975-76. Next come Barnsley (69/70 - 71/72), Blackburn Rovers (72/73 to 74/75), Doncaster Rovers (80/81 to 88/89) and Grimsby Town (91/92 to 93/94), all on five consecutive draws.

The Tykes also feature as one of four teams to have beaten us six times in a row - QPR, Scunthorpe United and Torquay United being the others - but one club stands head and shoulders above the rest, having inflicted NINE consecutive defeats on Tranmere between 1936-37 until 1948-49. Stand up and take a bow the club from Millmoor - Rotherham United.

Thanks to Steve and Gilbert for setting the record straight. Incidentally, if you'd like to know anything about our past history, and you're online, then look up the new-look official TRFC Website at <http://www.tranmererovers.co.uk> - and you'll find that Steve has made his database available to all comers, for FREE!

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999 (JUST!)

Okay, I know that it's slightly late notice, but have you any plans for after the game tonight? Well cancel them, and get down to Aldo's, where the TRSA 'Post Christmas, Pre-Millennium' Bash is taking place, starting at 7.30 p.m. Food, a disco, Raffle and one FREE welcome drink will be provided on production of a ticket (£2.50).

Further info on the TRSA can be obtained by writing to TRSA, P.O.Box 1, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 2SH.

SUPPORTING THE GIRLS...

No, this is not an advert for anything that crosses your heart or lifts and separates. You may not know this, but Fulham's Ladies team has just been given some dough to play with - £100,000 worth. Meanwhile Rovers, who play in the top division in the country, are looking for a little less in sponsorship to cover the costs of their away trips to Croydon for the F.A. Cup Fourth Round Tie on January 9th, and League Cup Semi-Final on January 23rd. The opportunity of a live appearance on Sky in the final awaits the Girls if they can overcome their Sarf London opponents. If you can help ease their course to the finals in any way, please contact Steve Williams on 0151-608 2354 or 0411 880 144.

SUNDERLAND TICKETS...

Following the terrific support against West Ham and Middlesbrough, the powers that be (Gawd bless 'em) have announced that there will be no price increases for the F.A. Cup Fourth Round Tie versus Sunderland - our next home match. In a further break with recent tradition, the Wearsiders will only be allocated half of the Kop, allowing our fans to try and out-shout the Mackems.

This is an ALL-TICKET GAME, and tickets are now selling fast. No tickets will be sold on the day of the game (hopefully there won't be any left anyway), and the Ticket Office will be open after today's game, and Tuesday - Friday next week between 9.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. - so if you haven't got your seat yet, don't delay!

... AND BOLTON DATES

At the time of going to press, the dates for our Worthington Cup Semi-Finals had not been absolutely finalised - as one or both may be shown live on Sky. We know that we are 'Away' in the first leg, on Tuesday 11th or Wednesday 12th January, and 'Home' two weeks later on either Tuesday 25th or Wednesday 26th. As soon as we know, you'll know - and about Reebok prices and so on.

CRAVEN COTTAGE DIFFICULTIES

Fulham have been in touch with a warning for fans travelling to Craven Cottage for our first match of the next century on January 3rd. Apparently away fans are often delayed getting into the ground, for the following reasons, and Fulham will not delay a kick-off unless there has been serious travel disruption. (And when ISN'T there serious travel disruption in London, I hear you ask cynically?) ...Anyway, please take note that:

- The walk from the nearest Underground Station and Pub takes between 10-20 minutes.
- Turnstiles are situated on just one side of the ground, which can lead to queues and congestion. The turnstiles are also old and can be slow to operate.
- All fans will be searched on entry, causing further delays.
- Traffic can be very busy in this part of London (!!!)
- Even though January 3rd is a Bank Holiday, the pay-and-display parking restrictions will be in force around the ground.

If you'd like any further information, contact Fulham FC on Tel: 0207 893 8383, or Fax: 0207 384 4715, or on their website at www.fulhamfc.co.uk.

STEVE RICE R.I.P.

The club was saddened to hear recently of the death of Steve Rice, the owner of Typebase Limited, who undertook the typesetting and reprographics for 'Rovers Review' for many years. Along with his colleague Peter Outten, Steve's commitment and dedication to the programme was long-standing, helping to develop 'Rovers Review' into the award-winning publication that it has become in recent years. On behalf of our former editor Peter Bishop and all the contributors to 'Rovers Review' over many years, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

For up-to-date information, news and views from the club, ring Tranmere Rovers Clubcall on

09068-12 16 46

Calls cost 60 pence per minute, and if you don't pay the bills on the phone that you use, please remember to ask permission before you dial!



TRANMERE ROVERS F.C.

Prenton Park, Prenton Road West, Prenton, Wirral CH42 9PY.

Telephone: 0151-608 4194 . Facsimile: 0151-608 4385



It's difficult to get this close to the end of the year without reflecting on the last twelve months and considering what the future might hold in store for Tranmere Rovers in the year 2000. We will certainly start the new year in a more promising and settled position than we began 1999.

In some respects our performance in recent months both on and off the pitch has perhaps been better than expected, but I am concerned to read reports which suggest that, due to our recent Cup success, the Club's financial worries are over. I frequently refer to the Club's three year business plan because I don't want people involved with the Club to be under any illusions - in my view three years (of which we have had six months) is a realistic forecast of the time it will take to turn the financial situation around - so we still have another 2½ years to go.

I am totally confident that we will succeed but it will be a long hard slog. The Cup run has not - as yet - made a significant impact on our finances primarily because we haven't been involved in a draw that has produced what to us would be the equivalent of a lottery win i.e. our share of a 40,000 gate at an average cost of, say, £20 per person.

If you are not familiar with the economics of Cup competitions you might find the actual numbers for Tranmere of interest. Our share of the net gate revenue from the eight Cup ties we have been involved in so far this season amounts to less than £90,000 in total.

Once V.A.T., stewarding costs, police and other expenses have been deducted, 10 percent goes to the Cup "pool" and we take 45 percent of what is left. The players additional Cup bonuses (approximately £66,000 so far) are then deducted from this leaving just £86,000.

The real financial boost for Tranmere will come from live national television coverage and/or - dare I say it - a place in the Final. At the time of writing I understand that not one of our three Cup ties in January has been selected to be on live national television. We are told that our Worthington Cup semi-final with Bolton is of regional rather than national interest.

It emphasises to me the power of those who take such decisions at the BBC, ITV and Sky - and demonstrates how easily they could make or break a small club such as ours. We will of course continue to present our case to the appropriate people at the Football League and the television companies, but they have total discretion.

So, looking to next year I would prefer to say that the future is promising rather than comfortable or rosy. However, I will make two predictions for the year 2000. Firstly, I predict that the club will make provocative comments - such as the one about the name change - in order to remind the Wirral public and local media that we're here. Secondly, I predict that we will continue to offer excellent value for money - especially for children - possibly the best in the area.

On behalf of everyone at Tranmere Rovers, I would like to wish you a very happy new year

LORRAINE ROGERS
CHAIRMAN



**Fast, Friendly,
Efficient
Service**

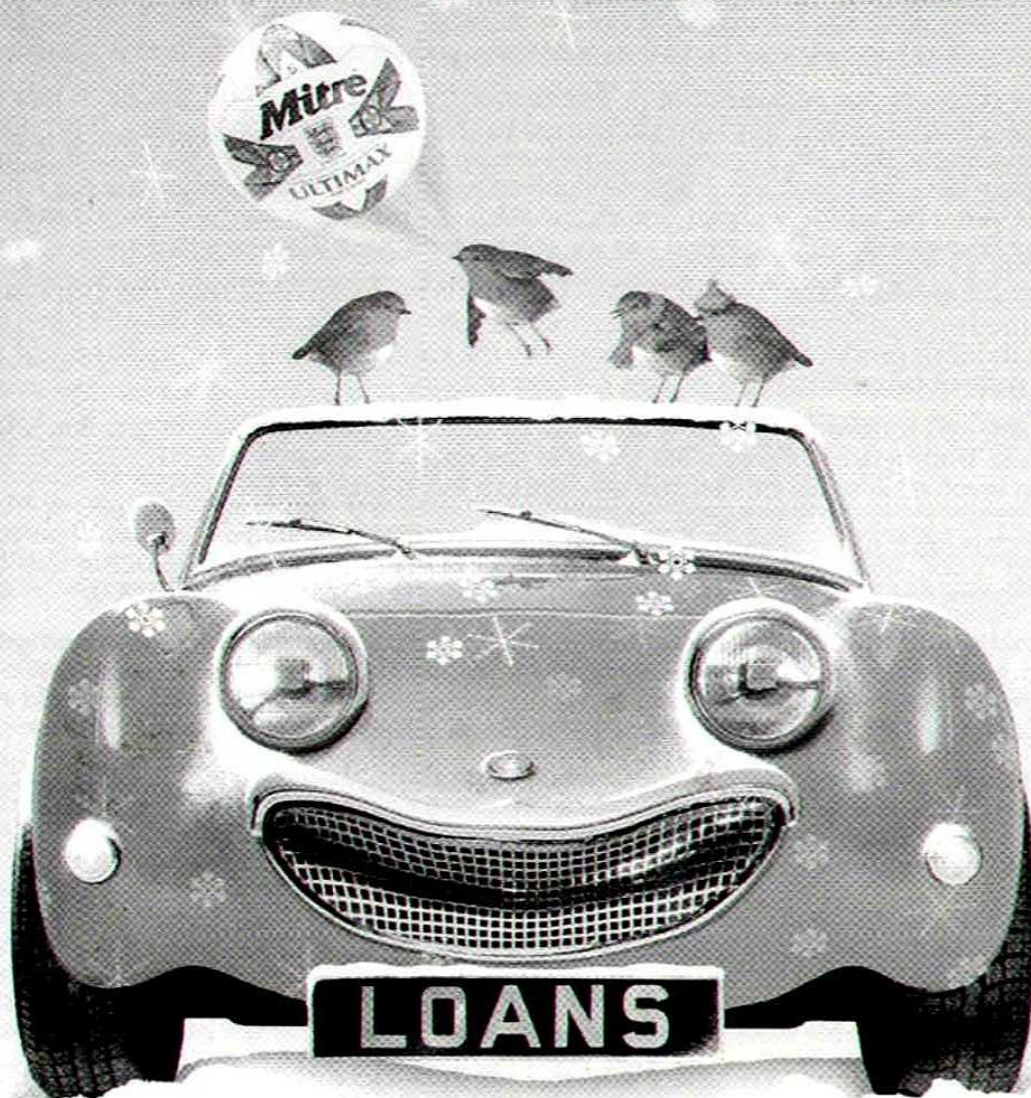
ARGYLE TAXIS

The official Taxi Service for Tranmere Rovers FC
'The' Superior 24-hour Car & Courier Service

0151 647 5454

Licensed by
Wirral Borough Council

Celebrate with our lowest ever Personal Loan rates



Phone us **FREE** on
0800 11 88 55

quoting reference number NS92

or find us on
www.nationwide.co.uk



Financial services for everyone

Personal Loan, typical example: £5,000 over 3 years at 11.7% APR (fixed), 36 monthly repayments of £163.97. Total amount payable £5,902.92. Loans available up to £15,000. Rates from 9.7% APR. Secured Personal Loan, typical example: £8,000 over 10 years at 8.5% APR (variable), 120 monthly repayments of £97.76. Total amount payable £11,731.20. 8.5% APR (variable) is only available for Nationwide members. 9.5% APR (variable) for customers who are not Nationwide members. Loans available up to £25,000. Credit facilities provided by and written quotations available from Nationwide Trust Limited, Nationwide House, 20 Lower Dagnall Street, St Albans, Herts AL3 4RR. Nationwide Trust Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nationwide Building Society. All loans are subject to appraisal of an applicant's financial standing and are only available to those aged 18 or over. Security will be required for Secured Personal Loans. APRs correct at the time of printing.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

The Treatment!

THE ONE & ONLY LES PARRY

Safety Notice

I'm at a bit of a loss and don't know what to do. Normally at this time of the year I borrow my mother in law's crystal ball to do my column as I have to write it about two weeks early. Unfortunately the old witch won't lend it to me this year because somebody in her coven has borrowed it to try to see next week's lottery numbers so I'm having to rely on the old tea leaf job. That gives me a problem in itself as we only drink coffee in our house so finding a tea leaf may well prove difficult.

Anyway, I hope you all had a great Christmas and didn't overdo the turkey and mince pies. We had our Christmas party last night and I'm feeling a bit fragile this morning so don't expect anything too loud. Steve Yates got up and gave us a medley of choruses because he didn't know any song all the way through. He then spent the rest of the night walking around singing "I'm not boring any more" because he had got a standing ovation. Just to finish on that I must give a quick mention to a couple of young lads who had to get up and perform. Most of them were pathetic but Paul Walsham and Paul Aldridge were magnificent and both got a richly deserved standing ovation when they had finished.

Just going back to Steve Yates. He played a full 90 minutes in a practice match on Saturday (18th) and came through that OK. He will probably play

against Bury reserves later on this week and then hopefully will have played Walsall on boxing day. He'll be made up to see the last of me, as will his wife Louise, because I think they are a bit fed up of taking stick in my column. It's just as well he's fit again as I'm running out of things to say about him.

If you remember in my last column, we weren't sure if Joe Murphy had broken his collar bone or not. As we thought at the time, he did have a break and so will be out until the end of February next year or so. I've let him go back to Ireland for the Christmas break the main being is that I don't like him that much and so he wouldn't ruin my Christmas if he had still been here. He's having another x-ray in two weeks and if it hasn't started to heal properly he will have a plate put on it to help it repair. That shouldn't alter the time he will be out though. Joe will also have a knee operation while he is out. He has had a torn cartilage for several months now but it hasn't been troubling him to much so we have put off having it trimmed. Now that he is out with his shoulder we may as well use that time to get his knee done as well. It's complicated this isn't it? The bottom line is Joe will be out until Feb/March next year with whatever he has got wrong with him.

I've just had a phone call from the printers to say they are ready to push the button to start printing this so I will have to finish here. So dead quick, Lee Jones should be training by the time you read this as should Andy Thompson and no doubt I will have a new batch of injured players by that time as well. Sorry this is boring and factual but no time to think.

Make sure you have a great New Year and make sure you stay sober.

Hoping there is nothing to report next time.

Les Parry

In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at Prenton Park and must be observed at all times:

- Glasses, bottles, drink cans, canisters, knives, darts, tools, fireworks, large umbrellas, cameras, playpools or any other article likely to cause injury are not permitted to be brought into the ground.
- Encroachment onto the playing area is forbidden.
- Any spectator acting in contravention of these conditions is liable to arrest.
- Closed circuit television is in use and any spectator found acting in a disorderly manner is likely to be arrested or ejected from the ground.
- In the event of an emergency, a message will be given via the public address system. This will be preceded by a bing-bong sound. Please remain where you are and listen carefully to the instructions.
- Comply immediately if it affects your area. Stewards and Police Officers will direct you to safe areas.
- Above all, REMAIN CALM and DO NOT MOVE unless the announcement concerns your area of the ground. Spectators must follow the instructions given.
- First Aid and Medical Facilities are provided at the ground, in the event of medical attention being required the assistance of a Steward or Red Cross Officers should be sought.
- The Family Enclosure Paddock has been designated as a NO SMOKING AREA.
- Spectators are asked to keep all aisles and staircases clear and to comply with all requests made by the Stewards.

Your co-operation in ensuring that these conditions are met would be appreciated.

E. P. MASON — Safety Officer





BROMBOROUGH PAINTS AND BUILDING SUPPLIES LTD

THE BUILDER'S MERCHANT

Suppliers of building materials to the trade and DIY. Stockists of plasters, plasterboards, sand, concrete, bricks, blocks, fence panels and posts, insulation, garage doors, bathroom suites, tiles, guttering, plumbing and a timber department!

BUILDING MATERIALS DEPOT AND SHOWROOM AT:

**Bridle Road Eastham.
Telephone: 0151-327 5661**

AND MORE

THE DECORATOR'S MERCHANT

The largest independent paints merchant in the North with daily deliveries from Mid Wales to Southern Scotland. Over 10,000 colours available from stock plus all the famous woodcare names. 2,000 wallcoverings in stock with 20,000 more available on 24hr delivery.

**TRADE COUNTER & SHOWROOM AT
Village Road, Bromborough
Telephone: 0151-334 1237**

BEST PRODUCTS BEST SERVICE



21 Valuable Cash Benefits

Kick off the Millennium with

+ Medicash

7 Sir Thomas Street,
Liverpool L1 6HE

Tel: 0151-236 7051

Cover starts at just £1.50 per week

Half Time - Let's Get

QUIZZICAL!

Questions set by Ian Kennedy. Answers at bottom of page

1. Which former Rovers player managed Swindon between 1983 and 1984?
2. The Robins' youngest-ever player had his career highlight when he scored the winning goal in the 1995 F.A.Cup Final. Who is he?
3. Which well-known former jockey is an Associate Director at the County Ground?
4. Which two goalkeepers have saved penalties in the F.A.Cup Final? (Sorry John).
5. Talking of penalties, who was the first man to score in a penalty shoot-out in a British match... and who was the first man ever to miss?
6. How many teams called 'United' are there in the Football League? Name the oldest one... and the youngest.
7. ...and when was the first time that two clubs named 'United' met in the F.A.Cup Final?
8. Two men have coached three different teams in the final stages of the World Cup. Name the two men.
9. Who won the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1995?
10. In Germany's recent friendly against Norway, Lothar Matthaus equalled whose international appearances record of 143 caps?
11. Who has replaced Gary Megson as manager of Stoke City?
12. Which former England international has an underground Italian collective of left-wing artists and political activists named after him?

Supporting their local team!

LEVER

are proud to sponsor
Tranmere Rovers' Official Supporters' Club



- Quarterly newsletters.
- Become a matchday mascot, with full Replica Kit & Tickets.
- Discounts in the Club Shop.
- Priority H & A Match Tickets.
- Meet the Players.
- Quarterly Prize Draws.
- Discounts on Function Rooms.
- Free Car Stickers.
- Juniors - signed Birthday Cards.

Have YOU joined yet?

Quiz Answers: 1) Ken Beardsley, who scored the winner for Everton against Manchester United. 2) Paul Rideout, who scored the first goal for Tranmere against Swindon. 3) Willie Carson. 4) Dave Beasant and Mark Crossley. 5) George Best was the first to score, and Denis Law the first to miss. 6) Fifteen. Sheffield are the oldest (1889), and Oxford the youngest (1960). 7) 1999 - Manchester against Newcastle. 8) Boro Milutinovic and Alberto Ferrero. 9) Notts County. 10) Thomas Ravelli (Sweden). 11) Claudio Thorndorson. 12) Luther Blissett.

Millennium Moments

A selection of those defining moments that shaped our past and laid the foundations for the future.....

*** September 16th 1885.** The day it was announced in the local paper, the Birkenhead News, that Belmont had changed their name to 'Tranmere Rovers'. "The Belmont has changed its name and will now be known to the world as Tranmere Rovers. It sounds more consequential than the old name, and will be altogether better". That brief note, discovered by historian, Gil Upton, over 100 years later finally proved how and when the current club came into being.

*** March 9th 1912.** The current Prenton Park was opened by the Mayor of Birkenhead, Councillor George Proudman, before the match with Lancaster Town. Rovers won their first game at new ground 8-0. The pitch was 120 yards x 75 yards and surrounded by an 8 feet wide cinder track. There were two stands, each holding 800 spectators. The original mainstand (on the same side as the current one) housed the Directors and Press boxes. The high bank behind the Bebington goal was instantly christened the Spion Kop with its capacity of between 10,000 and 15,000.

*** August 27th 1921** After 36 years of dawdling around various local Leagues, Tranmere Rovers at last achieved Football League status following two seasons in the Central League. Our first ever League encounter, against Crewe Alexandra, on August 27th resulted in a 4-1 victory at Prenton Park. As a club we had finally arrived and fulfilled the dreams of its founding father, James Hannay McGaul.

*** December 26th 1935.** The day records tumbled and Tranmere Rovers went into the history books. Despite the passage of time no other game has ever produced more than the 17 goals that hit the back of the net that day as poor Oldham clearly couldn't, being thrashed 13-4 at Prenton Park. Robert 'Bunny' Bell took all the plaudits with new a individual scoring record of nine goals- it should have been ten but he missed a penalty-as nine man Oldham struggle to hold on. The 11,456 crowd were treated to further goals from Woodward (2), MacDonald and Urmson.

*** May 7th 1938.** Though Rovers had won League titles in their non league days and the Welsh FA Cup, a major Championship trophy had eluded them until the night of May 7th when a 1-1 draw at Doncaster clinched the Third Division (North) championship. Led by the prodigal son of Prenton Park, Tom 'Pongo' Waring, the title went to the wire.

Indeed had they lost at Doncaster the championship would have gone to the Belle Vue outfit. The all-important goal was scored by Ronnie Dellow, but much of the credit for assembling a such good team had to go to Secretary/manager Jim Knowles. Birkenhead celebrated like never before with Hamilton Square packed to see the team with the trophy on the balcony of the Town Hall.

*** April 30th 1958.** Another defining moment in Rovers history as the team clinched a place in the newly formed Third Division thanks to a 2-1 victory over Wrexham in front of the largest audience for a League match at Prenton Park, 19,615. Having potted around the Third Division (North) following their immediate relegation from Division Two at the end of 1938-39 season, Tranmere's eleventh place finish was good enough to avoid being placed in the newly constituted Fourth Division. This success was to prove the highlight of Peter Farrell's tenure as Player/manager.

*** February 21st 1968.** One of the greatest nights in our long history. Even after being held to a 1-1 draw at Highfield Road, no doubt Coventry City still fancied their chances at Prenton Park in a 4th round F.A. Cup replay but magnificent Rovers had other ideas! Despite the loss of Johnny King through injury, George Hudson, a former Coventry player, scored along with his striking partner George Yardley in front of almost 21000 fans. Heralded in the national papers, victory ensured a money spinning 5th round tie at Everton- the first time Rovers had reached such giddy heights in the competition.

*** October 2nd 1973.** When the score came across the TV screen many Football fans will have assumed it was a misprint; little Tranmere Rovers couldn't possibly have beaten mighty Arsenal in their own back yard, could they? It was no mistake; beat Arsenal they did and the following morning images of celebrating Rovers players adorned all the front and back pages of every National newspaper. If ever one game put us in the spotlight it was this result. Still able to field the nucleus of their title winning side from two years earlier with the addition of Alan Ball, Arsenal were formidable opponents and yet a single goal from Eddie Loyden tamed them on the night. It was the greatest triumph of Ron Yeats' managerial career.

Continued on Pages 18&19...

On the Rebound!

SELWYNS

COMMITTED TO QUALITY



STANDARD AND EXECUTIVE COACHES IN VARIOUS SIZES FROM 18-73 SEATS

Facilities can include:

- WC/Washroom.
- Video, Stereo
- Mobile Phone
- Hot/cold catering service
- Air Conditioning
- Servery/Fridge
- PA System
- Steward/ess Service

We pride ourselves on the diversity of services we provide for the group organiser. In addition to private charter, we undertake educational and corporate outings and visits, specialist entertainment travel, days out, and have a Tour Planning Service dedicated to your package travel requirements.

Tel: 01928 564515 EMail: sales@selwyns.co.uk

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.selwyns.co.uk

Offices in Runcorn and Manchester

LEWIS REED UNITED



THE WINNING TEAM



Lewis Reed

MOTOR VILLAGE

474 WOODCHURCH ROAD, PRENTON,

TEL: 608 9933

Head to Head

Wayne Allison v Iffy Onuora

1999-2000 Nationwide Football League Statistics Only

First Division frontmen don't get much burlier than Wayne Allison and Iffy Onuora — and the brawny pair go head-to-head in today's all-important clash at Prenton Park.

Allison, whose stats here include the games he played for Huddersfield Town at the start of the season, has been an incredibly astute signing, scoring eight league goals already from his 29 efforts on or off target, producing a very healthy 28 per cent strike rate. And more than half of his efforts have hit tested the goalkeeper which represents a terrific effort.

It's been a bit more of a struggle for Glasgow-born Onuora — and indeed for Swindon as a whole, languishing at the foot of the table and knocked out of the FA Cup at Charlton earlier this month. He has had no lack of shots but just 13 per cent of them have hit the back of the net, indicative of Town's lack of forward thrust. Five league goals from home tell its own sorry story.

With both men being the target for plenty of long balls, it's hardly surprising that their pass competition rates are around the 50 per cent mark. There will be plenty of flick-ons which do not find a team-mate so a low pass competition percentage is only to be expected.

But they have both been composed figures when running with the ball. Allison completing four out of five dribbles and Onuora at 64 per cent. His tackling has also been excellent, with 73 per cent of his challenges retrieving possession for the Robins.

Allison has clearly benefited from having two strike partners in Ned Kelly and Andy Parkinson, while Onuora is currently having to make do with 40-year-old player-boss Jimmy Quinn with Guiliano Grazioli a long-term injury victim. But it would be foolish for Rovers fans to underestimate the threat of the big man.

	Allison	Onuora
Minutes on Pitch	1,364	1,576
Goal Attempts		
Goals	8	4
Shots on Target (inc goals)	16	15
Shots off Target	13	15
Blocked Shots	7	4
Strike Rates		
Shooting Accuracy %	55%	50%
Goals-to-Shots Ratio %	28%	13%
Passing		
Goal Assists	1	2
Total Passes	552	461
Pass Completion %	51%	56%
Crossing		
Total Crosses	8	14
Cross Completion %	25%	0%
Dribbling		
Dribbles & Runs	15	36
Dribble Completion %	80%	64%
Defending		
Tackles Made	8	15
Tackles Won %	38%	73%
Blocks	9	1
Clearances	13	14
Interceptions	5	1
Discipline		
Fouls	33	31
Offside	13	13
Yellow Cards	1	2
Red Cards	0	0

CARLING OPTA



Nationwide
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Backroom Banter...

BEHIND THE SCENES

Dreamland

"Would you like to come and coach the U10's at Tranmere Rovers?" these are the words I longed to hear, although my wife (who actually pushed me into coaching once I retired from playing) painfully regrets Warwick making the phone call which changed our lives completely.

Now each day instead of "What would you like for breakfast darling". I am met with the words "Where are you going today? oh! don't tell me Tranmere Rovers".

So true to form every minute I have off from my full time job, I give to the club I so dearly love. I have a whole host of jobs that I can do, coach the children, keep up with the ever increasing administration, train with the YTS, catch up on club gossip and at times find a place on the "Parry" treatment table.

On a recent visit there Alan Morgan (whom my daughter adores) was receiving treatment to a dead leg he received in a recent game. It gave me great delight listening to his expletives once Les started the "hand on" treatment. Unfortunately Alan had the last laugh, as Les started to work on my thigh strain, the louder I screamed the louder he laughed.

Whilst on the matter of training with the YTS both myself and John Mac had been shown a sit up routine by Danny Coyne with the use of a medicine ball. Basically during the sit up I was to catch this heavy ball at a given moment, but John threw it at the wrong time and it hit me full in the face causing uproar amongst all the lads and sparking me straight out, what a great fellow.

Warwick is one of the most respected men in his field, and I feel it is an honour to work for this hard working gentleman whose knowledge is so vast, and his tales of times gone by are legendary around Tranmere Rovers. One evening recently Warwick kept approx 15 of us amused for hours with his stories

past and present and not always soccer related, the jaw and belly ache from laughing were only interrupted by visits to the bar.

Of all the great double act's "Rimmer and Taylor" must rank among the best. Ronnie, who works hard on the scouting for the youth is a very funny man himself, his humour lies in a no punches pulled approach to many situations. It is hilarious to see Warwick and Ronnie start on their "banter" with each other, myself Mungy and John McMahon step back and cry with laughter. Ronnie quite often phones me after 11pm to discuss "matters arising", and he is given a "don't we ever get any peace in this house" from my beloved, but those who know Ronnie know that he can charm anybody with that scouse tone and wit, and unfortunately for me it usually costs me money, "he's told me he is going to buy you a new frock" is his favourite line, thanks Ron.

With the change of staff within the school of excellence I was promoted to the position of technical director for U9's-U12's, this meant working hand in glove with an old friend (who used to coach me!), Mr Tranmere Rovers, Steve Mungall.

"Braveheart" is a very caring and dedicated man with a wicked sense of humour, which I can vouch for after a recent trip to Scotland with him (I can hear him laughing now).

Recently the club offered me a part time contract, I was to say the least overjoyed and ecstatic (as was my son, "Do you know Aldo?, does he speak to you?" he said) not only did this tie me to the club but it thrust me into "dreamland", I was eligible for the staff football team!

There I was on a hot and blazing Sunday afternoon at Ingleborough lining up with Nixon-Rimmer-Philpotts-Mungall-Mathias-Sheedy-Parry-McMahon and finally the

"gaffer" Mr John Aldridge. I could barely hold my water never mind play football with all these stars, it will be a day I will remember for the rest of my life, Oh! we did win 5-4 and the boss scored twice.

All the people mentioned in this article have a terrific sense of humour and this is mirrored by many throughout the club. I thank you all, and I know that with our manager and chairman the ship is being steered to a safe port.

By the way my dear wife is a very warm and caring person and I love her with all my heart, unfortunately both her and her mother are from the clan "dragon" family.

I do hope you enjoyed this brief insight into a few individuals and myself. I wish you all good health and happiness.



PRINT • DESIGN • REPRO

*Printers of the
Award Winning
TRFC Programme*

2 Lipton Close
Brasenose Road Industrial Park
Liverpool L20 8PU
Tel: 0151-922 5999
Fax: 0151-922 4448

Glyn Salmon

...we'd like to introduce you
to the pick of the bunch.

Wirral

Somewhere central, with excellent communications, modern premises and solid business support deserves a look. A place in the northwest of England, surrounded by a motorway network, with two airports a realistic 40 minutes away and a mainline railway you can get to faster than the time it takes to check your briefcase. A place with serviced and waterfront sites, modern premises - and as you will discover everything your business needs is in place.

Find out more about Wirral as your
business location, by contacting:



Scorton House, Tower Road,
Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 1FN,
United Kingdom.

Tel: 0151 650 6915

Fax: 0151 650 6967

Int Tel: +44 151 650 6915

Int Fax: +44 151 650 6967

email: relocate@wirrald.u-net.com

Internet: <http://www.actionmm.co.uk/wdirect/>

Conver II Programme
This project is being part-financed
by the European Community
European Regional Development Fund

The Alternative Factfile

GARETH ROBERTS

Full Name: Gareth Roberts
Nicknames: Gaz - Welshman.

GROWING UP:

What was the first professional match you ever went to watch?: **Liverpool vs Man. Utd.**

Which school did you go to?:
Ysgol Dinas Bran Llangollen

What was your best subject, and what "O" Level / GCSE Grade did you get?:
Woodwork - I just passed.

What was the name of your first girlfriend and where did you meet her? (Be honest!)
Alison - we met at Primary School.

Where did you buy your first alcoholic drink, and how old were you at the time?
In my local pub, when I was 14.

What was the first medal you ever won playing football, and did any others in the team also become professional players?
Corwen School v Gwyddelwern School Under-11s Winners. No-one else made the grade.

Growing up, my football idols were:
Kenny Dalglish.

Back then, I supported: **Liverpool.**

Favourite childhood football memory?
Scoring goals - I don't score many!

When you were younger, what other positions did you play in? **Central Midfield & Centre Forward**

What other sports did you play, and were you any good at them? **Cricket, Tennis and Rugby - I was mingling at all of them!**

TALKING FOOTBALL:

In a 4-4-2 formation, compile the best possible team from all the players you've ever played against: **Mark Crossley; Hill, Nesta, Neil Ruddock, Sinisa Mihajlovic; Attilio Lombardo, Paolo Di Canio, Joe Cole, Pavel Nedved; Salas, Christian Vieri.**

What's been the biggest development in the game while you've been playing football?: **Dave Challinor's long throw.**

The best football advice anyone ever gave me: **'Always look after number one!'**

The worst football advice anyone ever gave me: **'Listen to everyone's opinion'.**

My football fantasy is to: **Play at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, with Wales..**

One word that describes my playing style:
Aggressive.

My best friends in football are:
There are no mates in football.

Favourite ground I've played at:
Rome - The Olympic Stadium.

Best time of my career:
Winning the F.A. Youth Cup with Liverpool.

Worst time of my career: **In Greece.**

If I could pick one person to build a team around, it would be: **Rivaldo.**

My TRFC room-mate on away trips is:
Alan Morgan.

...and his worst habit is:
There are too many to mention!

My pre-match meal is: **Bacon, Egg and Toast (when we play at home - so Les can't see!).**

What do you do differently to everyone else when you prepare for a match (ie, any superstitions, etc?): **I put my left sock, left shin pad and left boot on first. I wear Liverpool tie-ups.**

The highlight of my career so far has been:
Playing against Lazio in the European Cup Winners' Cup Quarter Finals last season.

My most embarrassing moment in football has been: **Kicking the corner flag when taking a corner.**

LIFESTYLE:

My favourite piece of clothing is:
My Welsh Shirt.

When I was 18, I had a crush on:
Catherine Zeta-Jones.

I can only really relax when: **I'm in a pub!**

When it comes to real food, I love: **KFC**

I stay at home to watch: **Dream Team.**

My favourite film/video is: **Blade.**

My favourite CD is by: **Stereophonics.**

My favourite movie actress is: **Julia Roberts.**

My first car was a: **Metro.**

At home, when was the last time you:

- a) Cooked a meal? **Never.**
- b) Ironed a shirt? **Never.**
- c) Did the shopping? **Never.**

I'd give a year's salary to meet: **No-one.**

If I could spend a day with any historical figure, it would be: **John Charles.**

I spend money foolishly on: **Beer.**

If I could change one thing about myself, it would be: **To be a little bit taller.**

If I had to pay to watch any other sportsman, it would be: **Michael Schumacher.**

If I wasn't in football, I'd probably be:
Struggling!

After finishing my playing career, I'd like to: **Make a video with all the goals I have scored.**

When I'm 64, I see myself:
In my local.

Few people know this, but:
I once won £90 on the Lottery by getting 4 numbers!





November 10th 1982. After trying to secure the club's long term future by inviting Birkenhead born millionaire and American businessman Billy McAtteer to become President, Gerry Gould and the directors admitted defeat announcing the deal was off for legal reasons and the club would close in two weeks. Said Mr Gould, "We're flogging a dead horse!" Other than those close to the club, nobody had suspected Tranmere to be in such mortal danger. News of the club's potential demise spread like wildfire through the town and the national news network. Within hours fans had formed a fighting fund to help pay wages and as donations poured in so some breathing space was bought with the bank. Horrified that a fellow club should face extinction, clubs such as Wolves, Manchester United, Liverpool and Everton offered money-spinning friendlies which helped save the day. From the ashes emerged a new, more democratically run club, with a supporters representative on the board and a £200,000 loan from the local Council. Had the fans failed the club at that time there is no doubt Tranmere Rovers would have gone the way of Accrington Stanley into oblivion.

*** March 21st 1987.** A true defining moment in our history as Peter Johnson and his then friend Frank Corfe walked through the doors of Prenton Park to complete the take over from American Lawyer Bruce Osterman, courtesy of the Administrator appointed to stop the club trading insolvently. Persuaded to become involved by Secretary Norman Wilson, remaining local director George Higham, and supporter Dave Patterson, Peter Johnson revealed a thirty-year-old soft spot for the club and eventually decided to make a go of it providing Corfe joined him.

*** May 8th 1987.** The revolution nearly failed before it had even got underway as Rovers, starved of funds and relying on a handful of journeymen and non contract players, found themselves within one match of relegation to the Vauxhall Conference, six games into John Kings return to the helm. It was a case of all or nothing as Rovers went into the final match against Exeter City at Prenton Park needing victory. Inspired by a then capacity crowd, a moment of brilliance from Ian Muir made the vital goal for fullback Gary Williams to head home with 13 minutes left. We've never looked back since...



*** April 16th /17th 1988.** The press may not have thought much of the Football Leagues' 100th birthday celebrations at Wembley, but even they had to admit without Rovers at the Twin Towers for the first time the whole event would have flopped. From the time we ousted Cup finalists Wimbledon 1-0 courtesy of Dave Martindales's goal in the opening game, to the moment Ian Muir saw his penalty saved during the semi-final shoot out with Nottingham Forest, Rovers and our band of ecstatic fans, were the life and soul of the party in the half empty stadium. In between, mighty Newcastle including a fledgling Gazza, was vanquished 2-0 with goals from John Morrissey and Ian Muir. Suddenly, players believed in their own ability; if they could beat the best at Wembley then they could beat anyone in their own division. For us the Mercantile Credit Festival was a watershed in our history.

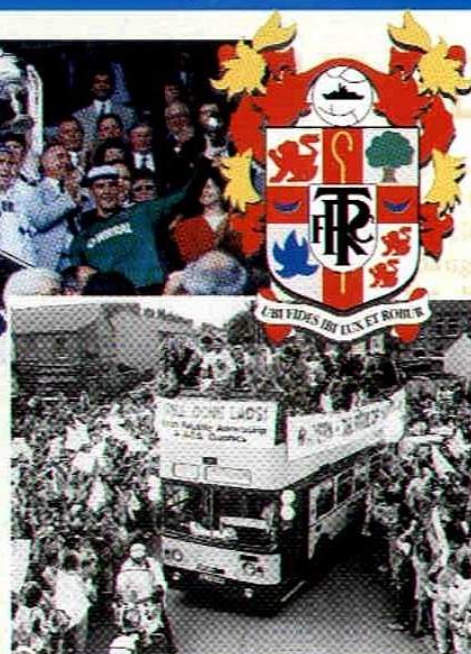




* **May 20th 1990.** Victory over third division champions Bristol Rovers in the final of the Leyland DAF Cup in front of 48,000 at Wembley brought Rovers first major trophy in 52 years. Goals from Ian Muir and Jim Steel cancelled out the Pirates response via Devon White to sent Birkenhead into raptures as the team toured the town on an open topped bus. The Football world was beginning to take Rovers, and Peter Johnsons' involvement, seriously.



victory and an appearance in the Coca-Cola Cup final against Manchester United and maybe even European football would have led? Had we



* **June 1st 1991.** A true Millennium moment in Tranmere Rovers history. Beaten the previous week at Wembley attempting to defend their Leyland DAF Cup, the team returned to face Bolton Wanderers for the biggest prize of all- promotion to the then Second Division. The record books state Chris Malkin scored the all-important goal in extra time but that bare fact sells short the achievement and the effort from



won at Villa I firmly believe we would have gone on to be promoted and PJ would never have left for Everton. As it was the disappointment was hardly bearable for both players and fans and I believe neither party has ever fully recovered from that blow. If only Bosnich - who many argue shouldn't have been on the park anyway- had failed to stop Liam O'Brien's spot kick our history, and future, would have been so different, which makes it THE defining Tranmere Rovers moment of the last millennium.



Finally, we could not let some of those wonderful moments that have made us laugh pass without mention. Remember old Charlie Lindsay and his walking stick thrashing of the Bournemouth keeper in 1979? Or what about Gerry Casey getting sent off on his debut at Torquay for knocking out John Bond (and who could blame him for that!), likewise Eddie Bishop on and off again at Bury inside a few minutes after thumping Ronnie Mauge. And who can forget Richie Tierney's choice of music (The Electric Light Orchestra) on the night Swindon returned to Prenton Park after the infamous failed lights debacle?

**All moments that make this club special.
Here's to the new Millennium!**

every corner of the club to make it happen. As the fans chanted "we are going up, say we are going up" the realisation dawned that after decades



of failure we were finally back in the big time, with most of the credit going to two men, John King and Peter Johnson.

* **February 27th 1994.** An emotional rollercoaster of a day that few Tranmere fans will ever forget. Though you never know in this game, that was as close as we might ever get to real glory. Who knows where



Rovers 1 Canaries 2



ames, but the Canaries are t'ried by Iwan Roberts' late winner



Main pic: Matt Jackson takes evasive action as, following a pinball-style exchange in the Norwich area, Wayne Allison powers home Rovers' goal.

Top: Another tussle between the two captains.

Middle: No way through! Parky's dash is halted by City defender Daryl Sutch.

Bottom: Seconds out, Round Five! Jones the cruiserweight is stopped by Norwich 'keeper' Andy Marshall - who actually held on to something for a change - before Gary can land one on chief nark Iwan Roberts.

THE Robins

Introduction

This afternoon's visitors are crisis club Swindon Town who, with reported losses of £25,000 a week, are at serious risk of going out of business if they cannot attract new investment to the club. Crowds are now down to around the 6,000 mark which is increasing the financial pressure and the Chairman Cliff Purfett recently issued a plea in the local press for Swindon's lost supporters to return to the club in their hour of need, and also more notably questioned where the 30,000 supporters who celebrated promotion to the Premier League in 1993 had disappeared to.

Against this background boss Jimmy Quinn is struggling to keep the club in the First Division. The Robins have cashed in on George Ndah by selling him to Wolves for £1m to help placate the bank manager, and the wage bill has been further reduced by allowing Mark Walters to leave on a free transfer to Bristol Rovers. New recruits obviously have to come from the free transfer or loan market and Quinn has added Andy Williams (Southampton), and currently has midfielder Michael Carrick on loan from West Ham. Whether or not he plays today depends on Quinn getting an extension to his stay at the County Ground.

As well as the financial pressures he faces, Quinn is also under pressure from some of the Swindon Town support. Many believe that little has changed since he took over from Steve McMahon, and point to the fact that the club were sixth from bottom when he was appointed and are now propping up the division. Whether or not a new manager would be able pull rabbits from hats in Swindon's current plight is open to question.

Swindon arrive at Prenton Park this afternoon with one of the worst away records in the division. They have won only once, at Crystal Palace, and managed only five goals on their travels so far. However recent

draws at Wolves and Birmingham show what they are capable of and Rovers will have to be on their mettle to

ensure a three point return.

Recent Form

With the result of the Boxing Day fixture at home to Portsmouth unknown as this article went to press, Swindon will arrive here this afternoon having either just ended a run of nine games without a win OR still searching for their first win since the end of October, when they beat Port Vale 2-1 at the County Ground. Following that victory they failed to score in their next three outings losing away at Bolton (0-2) and Huddersfield (0-4) before a 0-0 draw at home to Norwich. The goal drought was broken at Molineux when Iffy Onoura scored in a 1-1 draw, but they could not build on this result and three days later lost 2-1 at home to Charlton. A trip to Birmingham brought another point, Onoura on target again in the 1-1 draw but the following week two further home points were dropped against Walsall in another 1-1 stalemate. The FA Cup did not provide any respite, Charlton knocking the Robins out at The Valley in Round Three with another 2-1 victory. In their last outing before the holiday programme they visited Maine Road and were on the end of 3-0 defeat, although reports suggested the scoreline flattered City.



Main Pic: Last season's leading scorer **Iffy Onoura** needs to find his shooting boots again.
Above: Midfielder **Bobby Howe** came to the County Ground via Forest & Ipswich (loan).

enter the twenty-first century holding up the First Division

The Squad

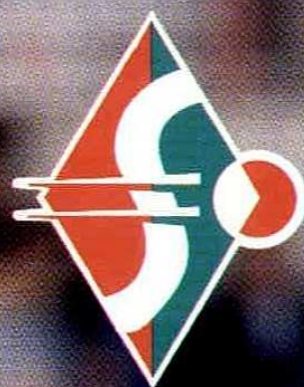
It is difficult to predict which of Swindon's three senior keepers will be selected for this afternoon's match. Aussie **Frank Talia** was recalled for the recent trip to Maine Road but made two errors which gave City goals and his position could be under threat. Talia who joined the club in 1992 from Blackburn had replaced home grown youngster **Steve Mildenhall** who had played in the previous two matches. Earlier in the season **Jimmy Glass**, Carlisle's last day saviour last term, was given a run but an error in the defeat at Bolton saw him dropped to the bench for the next game and he has since submitted a transfer request.

When selecting his defence the Swindon boss can call on some experienced campaigners. **Alan Reeves** has seen top flight action with Wimbledon while **Gareth Hall**, a Welsh international, has played in the Premier League for both Chelsea and Sunderland. **Mark Robinson** was the club's record signing at £600,000 when he joined from Newcastle in 1994 and has been a consistent performer ever since. **Gareth Davies** has struggled with injuries since arriving last season from Reading but returned to the side for the Man City game after a spell out. Left sided defender **Sol Davis** has come through the junior ranks and is now in his second season as a professional, and is an established member of the Swindon first team squad. Recent signing from Southampton **Andy Williams** was employed for his versatility. He can fill either of the full back slots or play as a winger. Youngster **James Williams** who was born in

Liverpool is a promising right back and has featured more often than was initially expected when the season

started. **Adam Willis** has made a handful of starts this term but seen most of his football as a substitute.

Midfielders **Scott Leitch**, **Lee Collins** and **Bobby Howe** were all brought to the club by Steve McMahon. Leitch, the club captain, and Collins were recruited from north of the border, from Hearts and Albion Rovers respectively, while Howe arrived from Nottingham Forest. As mentioned in the intro highly rated youngster **Michael Carrick** will participate this afternoon if **Harry Redknapp** is prepared to extend his loan spell. He had scored twice in his six starts prior to



Main Pic:
Melbourne-born Australian 'keeper **Frank Talia** who began his English career with Blackburn.

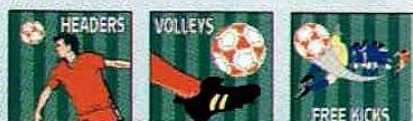
Below Left: Club captain **Scott Leitch** joined the Wiltshire side from Hearts.

Below:
Another Scot, **Chris Hay**, who came south from Glasgow Celtic.



Robinstatattack

Robins' Goals For & Against



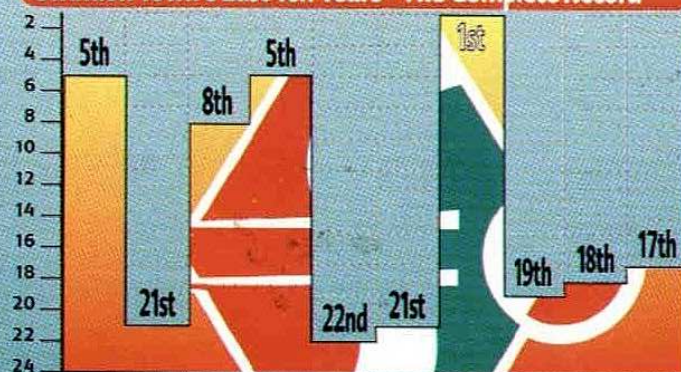
Robins' Rogues

Robinson	5	McHugh	1
Davies	4	Onuora	1
Reeves	4	Willis	1
Thirwell	4		
Davis	3		
Hall	2		
Hay	2		
Howe	2		
Walters	2		
Williams A.	2		
Hulbert	1		

n.b
League
Details
Only

Walters...1

Swindon Town's Last Ten Years - The Complete Record



Div.	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99
F.A.	3	4	5	3	3	4	5	3	3	3
W.C.	4	3	4	3	3	SF	2	3	1	1
L.S.	Shearer	Shearer	Shearer	Maskey	Fiorioft	Fiorioft	Allison	Allison	Hay	Onuora
Goals	20	22	22	18	12	16	17	11	14	20
Ave Att	9,433	9,507	9,871	10,489	15,011	9,408	10,602	9,265	9,505	8,651

Robins' Timing - Goals Scored & Conceded



County Ground Attendances

Forest	8,203	Walsall	7,186	Ipswich	6,195
Norwich	7,405	Bolton	6,711	Port Vale	5,703
Blackburn	7,354	West Brom	6,565	Sheff Utd	5,504
		Charlton	6,515	Stockport	5,318

Christmas. Ty Gooden is now the club's longest serving player having been signed by John Gorman in 1993 from Wycombe. James Hulbert who started the season in the first team but lost his place has been a regular on the bench recently. Other midfielders on the books include Philippe Cuervo who has been on the injured list for the past fourteen months with a broken ankle, and first year pro Frazer McHugh.

Up front Swindon have struggled to find the back of the net so far this term, and they have not been helped by the loss to injury of summer signing Giuliano Grazioli who started the season with two goals in his first five games. In Grazioli's absence Quinn has selected various combinations (including himself recently) as he searches for a winning formula, the latest pairing at Maine Road being Scot Chris Hay who joined the club from Celtic a couple of years ago and twenty year old Charlie Griffin who made his first start of the season. Griffin scored on his full debut last term after being picked up from non-league Chippenham Town in January with a formidable scoring record, but he has been introduced to life in the first division slowly. Top scorer is Iffy Onuora a £100,000 buy from Gillingham in 1998, with just four goals. Last term he struck twenty and Swindon desperately need him to recapture that sort of form. Steve Cowe is yet to make his mark at the club since arriving from Aston Villa in 1996 but he did enjoy a successful loan spell at Conference club Hereford last season.

The Gaffer

When Jimmy Quinn was appointed to succeed Steve McMahon at the County Ground last autumn it was a case of returning to his footballing roots, having cut his teeth as a pro at Swindon in the early eighties. He spent three seasons with the club before the first of many transfers took him to Blackburn Rovers in 1984. Whilst at Ewood Park he won the first of 48 caps for Northern Ireland. In 1986 Swindon spent £50,000 to bring him back to Wiltshire, and forty three goals in eighty two starts grabbed Leicester's attention. Unfortunately his time at Leicester was not a success and after only nine months at the club moved on to Bradford. Nine months later and he was on the move again this time joining West Ham where he spent a season and a half scoring 22 goals. His next port of call was Bournemouth and the goals kept on coming, 24 in 54 matches, but after just a season he was transferred to Reading. At Elm Park he finally put down some roots, staying with the club for five years. In that time he took his first steps into management when he was appointed joint-manager alongside Mick Gooding in the 94/95 season. Whilst in charge, Reading narrowly missed promotion to the Premiership losing the '95 Play Off Final to Bolton. After a poor 96/97 campaign Quinn resigned and joined up with Barry Fry at Peterborough. He was assistant manager at Posh when Swindon came calling.



Swindon in the 90s

Like our last visitors Norwich the past ten years have provided Swindon fans with more than their fair share of highs and lows both on and off the pitch. The decade started with Ossie Ardiles in charge of the Wiltshire outfit having been the surprise choice to succeed Lou Macari. The season was progressing well when reports of a betting scandal surfaced which implicated the former manager. Further allegations of improper payments also came under investigation by the FA Football League and Inland Revenue, but despite this backdrop the team maintained a strong push for promotion to the top flight. They eventually qualified for the play-offs, winning the Wembley final against Sunderland 1-0, Alan McLoughlin scoring the winner. Ten days later the League demoted the club to Division Three, with Rovers one of the beneficiaries being promoted to Division Two. On appeal the sentence was reduced and Swindon remained in Division Two, but the whole episode left a nasty taste especially as the League allowed 72,000 people to spend hard earned cash on a meaningless Wembley final. The traumatic summer of 1990 was plainly demotivating and in 90/91 the team came perilously close to relegation finishing only two points clear of the drop zone. Ardiles, who had seen players sold to reduce debts, left towards the end of the season and Glenn Hoddle was given the task of restoring confidence to the club.

The new player manager turned things around almost immediately and Swindon were up with the front runners by the autumn. Hoddle's presence in midfield was a significant factor but while he was out with a long term injury the club lost ground on the leaders, and when finances forced the sale of striker Duncan Shearer their chances of a play off place left with him. Despite just missing out on the play-offs in 1992 optimism about another promotion challenge in 92/93 was guarded. However the club made a bright start and a play-off place was always likely and duly achieved. In the semi final The Robins came up against Rovers, and emerged with a 5-4 aggregate victory to take them to Wembley. The gloss was somewhat removed as speculation grew surrounding Hoddle's future at the club and within days of their 4-3 victory over Leicester the manager had departed for Chelsea. Assistant manager John Gorman was appointed in his place and left to plan the club's forthcoming Premiership campaign.

All that can be said for the club's single season of Premier League football is "better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all". The team lost their opening four matches and never managed to escape from bottom position in the league table for even one week. It took them sixteen games before they recorded their first win, at home against QPR who were also the victims of their only away win. The defence conceded 100 goals but to their credit they kept to their principles and were always entertaining. 1994/95 saw Swindon relegated for a second successive season. They started reasonably and by mid October looked as if they would be challenging for the play-offs, however from then on league form nose dived and fourteen games without a win sent them spiralling down the table. John Gorman paid the inevitable price to be replaced by Steve McMahon, who could not arrest the club's declining league form. He actually managed to alienate himself from the Swindon faithful by selling Jan Aage Fjortoft (for a club record £1.3m) who represented the club's best chance of avoiding the drop. Surprisingly given league results, Swindon reached the semi finals of the league cup where they were beaten by Bolton 4-3 on aggregate.

In his first full season in charge McMahon put the club back on the rails, winning the Division Two championship with nine points to spare. They were only briefly unseated at the top of the table twice and also enjoyed a run to the fifth round of the FA Cup where they lost in a replay to Southampton. Top scorer at the County Ground in 95/96 was a certain Wayne Allison who hit twenty. Back in the First Division Swindon experienced an up and down season in 96/97, which by March looked as if it may end with a play off place. However eight defeats in the last eleven matches saw the team finish nineteenth. They were also the victims of a giant-kill by Stevenage in the F.A.Cup. The following season was inconsistent to say the least for the Robins, and unrest was rife at the club, after finishing just one place better off than the previous season. It was only due to the players' persuasive powers that saw McMahon stay in charge, but then last season Swindon began so badly that Steve McMahon left the County Ground in October to be replaced by Jimmy Quinn, and a finish in seventeenth place was eventually achieved.

Back Passing

League Landmarks

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	19	10	6	3	36	23
Away	19	2	5	12	18	34
Total	38	12	11	15	54	57

Landmarks

First Meeting	18 October 1958 (A) 2-1
Last Home Win	2-1 1996-97
Last Home Draw	0-0 1998-99
Last Home Defeat	0-2 1984-85
Biggest Home Victory	3-0 1974-75 & 97-98
Heaviest Home Defeat	3-5 1968-69
Biggest Away Victory	3-2 1998-99
Heaviest Away Defeat	1-4 1978-79

Last Time Here

Friday 25th September 1998 Rovers 0 Swindon 0

John Aldridge was so upset after failing to beat Swindon he refused to talk to the press. Rovers struggled to create anything but the fact they got a point was largely down to John Achterberg who pulled off several saves. All in all a game to forget for the 5,501 crowd.

Tranmere: Achterberg, Allen, Hill, McGreal, Challinor, Irons, Koumas, Santos, Parkinson (Morrissey), O'Brien (C Jones), L Jones (Mahon)

Swindon: Talia, Robinson, Willis, Davis, Reeves, Borrowes, Walters, Ndah, Cuervo (Cowe) Bullock, Gooden.

The "Ex" Files

Despite the miles between us there are still plenty of connections. Given our success with Ian Muir, you wonder if Swindon, who had Muir briefly, ever considered where they went wrong.

Ex-Rovers boss Bryan Hamilton had a spell coaching at the County Ground as did Ken Beamish who was actually Manager for a short period.

In the 1970's John Kelly and Gary Williams were two Scousers to earn the respect of Wiltshire folk, likewise winger Steve Peplow. Goalie Scott Endersby is another from further back, full back Stewie Williamson - who settled in the town - Pat Jackson, Abe Rosenthal, Alf Day and Arthur Briggs were other names to switch between Prenton Park and the County Ground.

Another connection is that ex-Swindon boss Steve McMahon and Rovers Youth Coach John McMahon share the same father!...And of course Wayne Allison, who is the most recent player to have represented both teams, let's hope he gets one against his old club today.

Side Issues

Over the past few years it would be fair to say Swindon have enjoyed a few 'lucky' breaks against us. In the 1992-93 Play Off semi-finals, John Aldridge had a good goal wiped out at the County Ground leaving us with a mountain to climb after a Steve Vickers howler. Then losing to a John Aldridge double (2-1 up) in 1992 the lights went out and the game was abandoned. When it was finally replayed Rovers said goodbye to the three points! Given recent events you wonder if the far Eastern betting syndicates were at work even then.

Visitors Club Record

Biggest Victory	9-1 v Luton 1921
Heaviest Defeat	0-9 v Torquay 1952
Most Appearances	John Trollope 889
Record Crowd	32,000 v Arsenal FAC 1972
Most Capped Player	Rod Thomas (Wales) 30

1999

Wed 11 Aug	Preston NE (A)	2-0 (Black, Williams)
Wed 18 Aug	Huddersfield T. (A)	0-2
Wed 1 Sept	Port Vale (H)	0-3
Wed 8 Sept	Stoke City (H)	4-0 (Black, Parkinson, L. Jones, Matios)
Tues 28 Sept	Oldham Ath (A)	2-1
Wed 6 Oct	Preston NE (H)	1-1 (Parkinson, Nogan)
Wed 27 Oct	Burnley (A)	1-1 (Taylor)
Wed 3 Nov	Wolves (H)	1-0 (Kelly)
Tues 16 Nov	Grimsby Town (A)	2-1 (Taylor, Koumas)
Wed 15 Dec	WBA (A)	2-0

2000

Wed 19 Jan	Oldham Ath (H)	-
Wed 26 Jan	Port Vale (A)	-
Wed 2 Feb	Huddersfield T. (H)	-
Wed 23 Feb	Man. City (H)	-
Mon 28 Feb	Stoke City (A)	-
Wed 15 Mar	WBA (H)	-
Wed 29 Mar	Birmingham C. (A)	-
Wed 12 April	Burnley (H)	-
Mon 17 April	Wolves (A)	-
Wed 26 April	Grimsby Town (H)	-
T.B.A.	Man. City (A)	-
Wed 1 Dec	Birmingham C. (H)	-

West Brom Reserves 2, Rovers Reserves 0

This was a disappointing result for Rovers second string who had been going so well in recent Pontins Cup and League matches.

Their fate was finally sealed by an injury time penalty. Ahead of that the visitors created numerous opportunities but could not find the finish to gain any reward.

Apart from the keeper Eric Nixon, Graham Allen, Steve Frail and Jason Koumas it was very much an inexperienced Tranmere line-up.

Tranmere could well have grabbed an early lead but Ian Sharps saw an effort tipped over the bar by keeper Chris Adamson.

Further neat approach work went unrewarded and it was Albion who broke the deadlock a minute before half-time with Max Lezzi beating Nixon with an angled shot from fifteen yards.

More opportunities were frittered away by Rovers in the second period and they literally paid the penalty in time added on. Richard Hinds was judged to have brought down Fabian de Freitas inside the box. The referee pointed to the spot and it was de Freitas himself who made no mistake with the shot at goal.

Rovers Reserves: Nixon, Baker, Holmes, Hinds, Allen, Frail, Hume (Dreves 81), Aldridge, Sharps, Koumas, Gibson. Subs: Walsham, Ralph, Thornton, Farren.

January games so far are at home to Oldham on the 19th and at Port Vale on the 26th.

PRESS RELEASE

Please note the following fixture change:

PONTINS LEAGUE CUP

Tranmere Rovers v Bury
THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER 1999. K.O. 2.00PM

This match will now be played at Runcorn FC
Admission for this game will be free

MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT


LIVERPOOL

ECHO

The best-selling newspaper on Merseyside

DAILY POST

**UNBEATABLE COVERAGE OF
TRANMERE ROVERS**



THE OLD COLONIAL
BRIDGE STREET • BIRKENHEAD

SERVING THE
FULL RANGE OF

CAIN'S

**TRADITIONAL
BITTER,
DARK MILD &
FORMIDABLE ALE**

IMPORTED FAXE PREMIUM
LAGER ON DRAUGHT,
A WIDE CHOICE OF GUEST
BEERS AND SPECIALITY
BEERS IN BOTTLE.

*A
Robert Cain
Ale House*

CAIN'S

Up & Coming



TRANMERE ROVERS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Youth Alliance Fixtures
13 December - 18 December 1999
All Kick Off times 11:00 unless stated

Friday 17 December 1999
North East Conference
Scunthorpe United v Scarborough (12:00)
North Central Conference
Sheffield United v Port Vale (12:00)
North West Conference
Tranmere Rovers v Carlisle United (12:00)
South Central Conference
Notts County v Cambridge United (12:00)

Saturday 18 December 1999
North East Conference
Darlington v Hartlepool United
Grimsby Town v York City
Hull City v Bradford City
North Central Conference
Mansfield Town v Stockport County
Wrexham v Chester City
North West Conference
Blackpool v Oldham Athletic
Burnley v Preston North End
Bury v Wigan Athletic
South East Conference
Brentford v Gillingham (10:45)
Brighton & Hove Albion v Colchester United
Portsmouth v Barnet
Southend United v Leyton Orient
South Central Conference
Luton Town v Wolverhampton Wanderers

Walsall v Northampton Town
West Bromwich Albion v Shrewsbury Town
South West Conference
Swindon Town v Torquay United

Youth Alliance Results
10 December - 11 December 1999

Friday 10 December 1999
North Central Conference
Sheffield United 1 v 1 Chester City
Wrexham 2 v 2 Rotherham United
North West Conference
Preston North End 1 v 1 Wigan Athletic

Saturday 11 December 1999
North East Conference
Bradford City 0 v 2 York City
Scarborough 2 v 0 Hartlepool United
Scunthorpe United 1 v 1 Halifax Town
North Central Conference
Mansfield Town 2 v 0 Chesterfield
North West Conference
Burnley 0 v 1 Blackpool
South East Conference
Barnet 4 v 3 Brentford
Gillingham 2 v 4 Southend United
Wycombe Wanderers 0 v 1 Brighton & H.A
South Central Conference
Oxford United 2 v 2 Luton Town
South West Conference
Plymouth Argyle 0 v 1 Cardiff City
Swansea City 3 v 2 Swindon Town

Last Sunday 5th December was the last game before the mid-season break and because of the weather only 2 teams played. The opposition were Oldham who under the guidance of Peter Lowe and his staff always produce teams capable of giving the best in the country a good match and Sunday was no exception. The U16's were held to a 1-1 draw and a lot of the play from both sides on a wet and heavy pitch was a joy to watch and I think in the end it was a fair result. In the other game the U15's lost 2-0 in an evenly contested match, they might have scored a couple of goals with a little bit more luck but it wasn't to be, and full credit to Oldham who just about deserved the result.

The mid-season break runs from 5th December to the 22nd January but during this time with no games the boys will still carry on being coached for most of the period so as when they come back they will be on the ball when the games restart.

I have to mention that the first half of the season has gone very well and there are a few people whom Ronnie and myself would like to thank for all their help and support during the season.

Firstly there is Warwick Rimmer who this season has been involved with the U16s for his ear when we need his help, and his advice as always helps us tremendously.

Glyn Salmon for making things easier for us by looking after the lower age groups. Glyn does a tremendous job and no one can work as hard as he does throughout the year. A very big thank you to all the coaches who do a tremendous job coaching the kids as well as many other things, the boys couldn't be in better hands. We must thank all the boys at the centre for making our jobs so pleasurable watching them develop the way they have done, we have without doubt a great bunch of boys with a lot of talent, they are a joy to work with. Thank you also to the parents who might not think it but contribute to the success of the club, without your help and understanding things wouldn't run as smoothly as it does.

Finally we must thank Elaine in the office for all her hard work throughout the year, it certainly makes the paperwork side of it a lot easier for us.

Wishing everyone a Merry Xmas and the best New Year ever.

WARWICK RIMMER RONNIE TAYLOR

JOHN McMAHON STEVE MUNGALL

Le Bebbington Prescott Crosby Kirkdale Bebbington Prescott Crosby Kirkdale Bebbington Prescott Crosby
Bottle Toxteth New Brighton Bottle Toxteth New Brighton Bottle Toxteth New Brighton
Kirkby Haylake Chester Widnes Kirkby Haylake Chester Widnes Kirkby Haylake Chester
Anfield Huyton Liverpool Runcorn Anfield Huyton Liverpool Runcorn Anfield Huyton Liverpool Runcorn
Warrington Warrington CHILDWALL Warrington Warrington CHILDWALL Warrington Warrington CHILDWALL
St Helens St Helens St Helens St Helens St Helens St Helens St Helens St Helens
Widnes Widnes Widnes Widnes Widnes Widnes Widnes Widnes
Ellesmere Port Runcorn Warrington Ellesmere Port Runcorn Warrington Ellesmere Port Runcorn Warrington
Warrington Birkenhead St Helens Warrington Birkenhead St Helens Warrington Birkenhead St Helens
Southport Huyton CHILDWALL Southport Huyton CHILDWALL Southport Huyton CHILDWALL
Bottle Haylake Kirkby Everton Bottle Haylake Kirkby Everton Bottle Haylake Kirkby Everton
Ellesmere Port Chester Bebbington Ellesmere Port Chester Bebbington Ellesmere Port Chester Bebbington

Your Rovers Station - Morning, Noon and Night.

95.8 FM **BBC** RADIO MERSEYSIDE

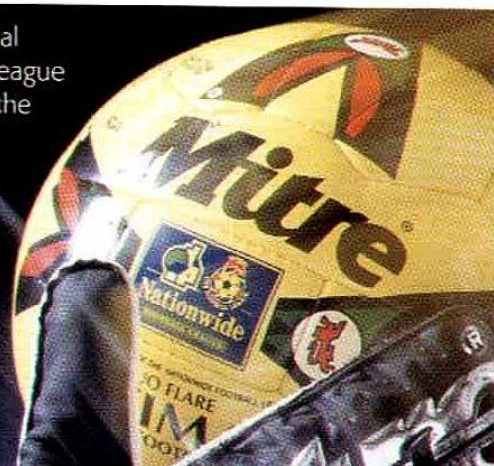


Sun 29 Aug	Arsenal	H	3-2	Smith, Dunn, Copeland
Weds 1 Sept	Liverpool	A	0-1	
Sun 5 Sept	Croydon	A	0-1	
Sun 12 Sept	Southampton S.	H	2-0	Smith, Anderton
Sun 19 Sept	Millwall Lionesses	A	1-1	Dunn
Sun 26 Sept	Ipswich T. (LC1)	H	4-2	Smith (2), Waring, Newman
Sun 3 Oct	Aston Villa	H	5-0	Smith (2), Gardner, Anderton, Copeland
Sun 24 Oct	Doncaster Belles	A	1-4	Copeland
Sun 31 Oct	Barnet (LC2)	H	2-1	Davies, Gardner
Sun 7 Nov	Millwall Lionesses	H	5-0	Smith (3), Anderton, Gardner
Sun 14 Nov	Croydon	H	1-5	Anderton
Sun 21 Nov	Southampton S.	A	2-0	Anderton, Gardner
Sun 28 Nov	Southampton (LC3)	A	8-1	Anderton (3), Preston (2), Smith (2), Gardner
Sun 5 Dec	Liverpool	H	6-1	Smith (3), Merola, Anderton, Preston
Sun 12 Dec	Arsenal	A	1-8	Smith
Sun 19 Dec	Reading Royals	A	-	
Sun 9 Jan	Croydon (WFAC4)	A	-	
Sun 23 Jan	Croydon (LCSF)	A	-	
Sun 30 Jan	Doncaster Belles	H	-	
Sun 13 Feb	Everton	H	-	
T.B.A.	Reading Royals (H), Everton (A), Aston Villa (A).			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Doncaster Belles	11	8	1	2	38	10	+28	25
Croydon WFC	9	8	1	0	28	5	+23	25
Arsenal	11	8	0	3	50	10	+40	24
Tranmere Rovers	12	6	1	5	27	23	+4	19
Everton	7	4	1	2	31	12	+19	13
Liverpool	10	3	3	4	7	15	-8	12
Southampton	9	2	2	5	7	15	-8	8
Millwall Lionesses	7	1	2	4	6	17	-11	5
Reading Royals	10	1	2	7	6	51	-45	5
Aston Villa	10	0	1	9	4	44	-40	1

The original
Football League
deserves the
best.

ULTIMAX
The
world's
best
football*.



Catch more of the best at
www.mitre.com

Mitre >
The authority...

*Independent tests carried out by Messinger Sports University found the ULTIMAX to be the most accurate, most accurate, and most comfortable ball when measured against other matches.

New Millennium Holds Tough Matches Ahead

The Girls' team suffered their heaviest defeat of not only this season, but overall since entering the Women's Premier League way back in 1995.

On Sunday December 12th Rovers travelled to Arsenal - a team we had beaten on the first day of the season 3-2 and lost 1-8, despite a not-too-bad performance. The difference between the two side was really the Gunners' lethal finishing, and from a team containing class players throughout, six different players scored for the London club, with Angela Banks bagging a hat-trick. Tranmere's solitary reply was a well taken goal by Sue Smith in the first half. Jane Foster made several impressive saves to keep Arsenal's goal tally down, but couldn't prevent the Gunners taking the scoreline to 5-0 within 50 minutes.

Rovers were left to pick up the pieces for our next trip, to Reading Royals on the 19th. However, the bad weather forced the postponement of the game in Berkshire, and left the Ladies with time to take stock over Christmas and prepare for a tough opening to the new Millennium.

January will see the Girls make two very tough trips to Croydon - firstly in the AXA FA Women's Cup Fourth Round on Sunday January 9th, and then make the journey back to South London to face the same opponents in AXA Premier League Cup Semi-Final on Sunday January 23rd.

If Tranmere manage to win that particular tie, a Final appearance against either Everton or Arsenal awaits in March (due to be played at Huddersfield's McAlpine Stadium, so rumour has it).

Tranmere have lost both our League games to Croydon this season, 1-5 and 0-1, and would dearly love to get one over the in-form team, in either of these forthcoming meetings.

Rovers then end next month with a home game against Doncaster Belles on Sunday January 31st (KO 2.00pm) at Heswall.

The remaining games following this are matches at home to Everton and Reading Royals, plus away fixtures at Everton, Aston Villa and Reading Royals. Dates for these are yet to be confirmed, but will be printed in forthcoming issues of the programme.

Incidentally talking of programmes, the Girls' own "White and Blue" Issue was entered for honours in the Best Non-League programme category for 1999-2000. If you would like any of the back issues from previous games, to see for yourself, write to TONY COOMBES c/o Tranmere Rovers FC, enclosing cover price (£1 each) plus a large S.A.E.



Community News

STEVE WILLIAMS

Challinor Challenge The Grand Final

The Grand Final of the Challinor Challenge will take place on the pitch before today's game.

Six children under sixteen will attempt to throw the ball as close to Dave Challinor's World Record as possible. Dave's record will no doubt stay intact but some very long throws will be achieved judging by the distances achieved at the preliminary stages.

Five children qualified from each heat and Rover the Dog will choose the sixth competitor from each age group from today's crowd so keep your eyes open for Rover.

The competition will commence at 2.00pm. So good luck to all concerned.

The finalists are as follows:

Under 11's

Danny Holmes
Steven Corris
Mark Murray
Thomas Brookes
Brenton Blakeborough

St Michaels And All Saints
Devonshire Park
Broadgreen C/P
Greenleas
Devonshire Park

Under 16's

Matthew Dabbs
Philip Dabbs
Toni Harrold
Laura Barnes-Ellis
Kyle Robinson

Wirral Grammer
Wirral grammer
Oldershaw
Neston
Rock Ferry

Our Special Guests Wirral Schoolteachers

On September 18th we were fortunate to be given the opportunity to use the main sponsors lounge to invite some very special guests on behalf of Football In The Community.

Having invited thousands of schoolchildren to games over the years we thought it would be a nice gesture to welcome to Prenton Park some of the people who have given us tremendous backing and help in making our scheme a success.

Twenty two local headteachers and schoolteachers attended the game as our guests and thoroughly enjoyed the whole afternoon (apart from the result). The hospitality was superb and our guess certainly used it to the full - including the bar!

Although most of our work is done with school children none of this would be possible without the backing and support of teachers throughout Wirral. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of them for their continued support over the last eleven years.



Happy New Year.

Indoor Tots Coaching Course

Football In The Community have organised an Indoor Tots Soccer School to be held at the Woodchurch Barn. The course is for five to eight year olds and runs over four consecutive Wednesday evenings between 4.00pm - 5.00pm. Starting on January 12th. The course fee is £8.00 and further details and application forms can be obtained by phoning Louise Edwards on 608 2354.

AgrID FENCING

*Quality Assured.
Technology Leaders.
All Works to BS Standards.
Manufacturers.
Unbeatable for
Quality Service & Value.*

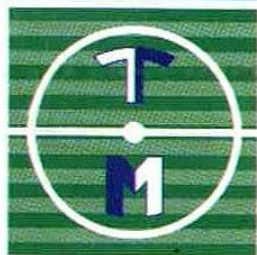
**SUPPLY/INSTALL TO LOCAL
AUTHORITIES, BUSINESS PARKS,
CONTRACTORS,
AND TO INDUSTRY**

0151-343 1515

MOBILE: 0831 523550 . FAX 0151-343 1919
e-mail agrid@compuserve.com
Chicken Corner Farm, Raby Mere
Road, Wirral CH43 4JQ



Want to know more? Call 0151-608 2354



Tranmere Midfielders

Well another one bites the dust!!!! It's a great time to be a Rovers supporter, let's face it, we're patient enough and deserve something to shout about. What a great result and lets hope we can carry on against Middlesbrough. You might have guessed that I'm writing these notes before the game on Tuesday.

Another thing is why do we seem to draw the same teams over and over again in the cup competitions. Anyway, I'm sure that Sunderland will be once again "no problem" (that's a quote from Georges Santos before the last cup tie against Sunderland)

WELCOME

A very big, warm welcome from all midfielders to our furthest flung member, Kayla Thomas. Kayla lives in Norwich but is an avid Rovers fan. She has come for tonight's game and will be sitting in the Kop with the home fans, I met Kayla at the game at Carrow Road last season, and hope that she will be as enthusiastic as then. We all hope that you enjoy the game and have a safe journey home.

AWAY TO HUDDERSFIELD

Don't forget that we are looking to go to this game on 22 January. Unfortunately, we had to turn some people away from the Bolton trip as it was full, don't let this happen to you for Huddersfield. Ring me on 336 5400 to book your place and you can secure your seat with a min £5 deposit at the meeting in January.

NEXT MEETING

Don't forget that the next meeting is on 10th January 2000. This is one week later than normal, but will be at the usual time 8.00.

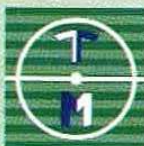
Anyway, as this is the last home game before Christmas, I would like to wish all our members and their families, fellow Rovers supporters and all at the Club a very Happy Christmas.

Enjoy today's game and lets hope that we are in the semi's of the Worthington Cup by the time you read this programme.

I would like to wish all the readers a successful New Year.



**Tranmere
Midfielders**
operates in association with
McDonalds



Prenton Pups

Good afternoon and a warm Prenton Pup welcome to you all. The Pups hope everyone had a fabulous time at Christmas and enjoy the rest of the holiday period.

To all the Swindon fans here today, young and old, enjoy your visit and have a safe journey back to the West Country. The Pups are looking forward to the return match in April when, hopefully, the weather will be a little warmer.

COMPETITION

Pop into the Kennel today, and have a guess as to the total of the Swindon starting eleven today by adding their shirt numbers together — there's one for the calculator. Chris Hallam (Wolves), Trevor Goodwin (West Ham) who, incidentally, was a ball boy v Middlesbrough and Stephen Taylor (Middlesbrough). There was no winner v Barnsley.

BIRTHDAYS

The final Pups' birthdays of 1999 were celebrated recently by Marcus Donnelly, who lives in Norway and Joshua Brown, a little closer to home in Bebington. We hope they had a great time.

THANK YOU

As we near the end of another year the Prenton Pups would like to thank all those who have helped the kids enjoy themselves through their time and effort. There are a great many behind the scenes but Debbie, in the Kennel and at meetings, works so hard to keep things going and deserves a special mention, as does Jan, who is always on hand for the preparation of the Tranmere Suite for meetings. Thanks also to Pup President, Lee Jones, for his assistance in getting the players along to our meetings and to all the mums and dads for their support.

The Wirral Globe has played an important role too, with their continued sponsorship and coverage of Pup's activities. Thank you Dave Williams and his team.

As we enter the new century it's worth reflecting the progress the Prenton Pups have made. It was ex-Chairman and present owner, Peter Johnson, who not too long after his arrival to Prenton Park asked the supporters to rally and look to the future. Through Allen Price, now an important part of the Supporters Association, contact was made with those involved in the former Junior and Intermediate Supporters to see if a new young section could be formed. Alan and Sue Beedles kick started the process and the Prenton Pups were born.

The meetings have been a huge success and started with guest players Eric Nixon and Steve Mungall. How many players have visited the kids over the years is anybody's guess, but everyone has been greatly appreciated by the youngsters — and the parents! The Pups have helped local charities with their fundraising and supported Rovers with numerous sponsorships. It would be interesting to hear from those first members and their recollections of the early days — don't be shy, let's hear from you.

Finally, from the Prenton Pups to you and all at TRFC, especially Aldo and his team

A VERY HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR



We're proud to
sponsor Rovers'
Official Club for
Youngsters

A beef with Lebouef

We all love Big Georges and Didier Deschamps seems like a decent bloke, call them honorary Englishmen if you will, but if you mention Vieira, Labouef, Petit, Anelka, Ginola, Cantona, Dacourt, what do you think of? A clue, it's not undoubted football quality. That's right, they're all a pain in the posterior. Always getting booked / sent off, always mouthing off in the papers (usually from the safety of their own country) about how tough the English game is (ah, there, there, mummy will kiss it better), often caught spitting at other players. What is their problem?

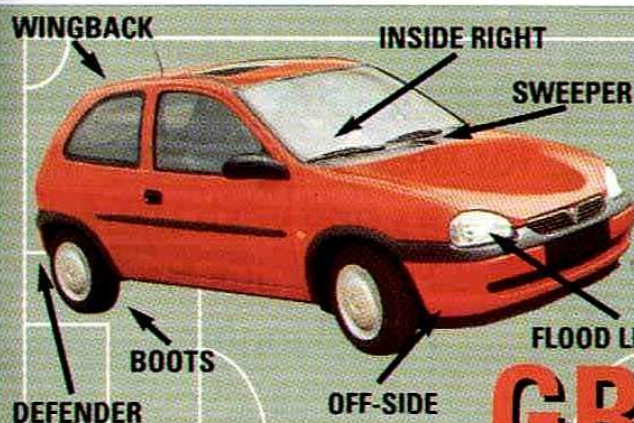
So you can imagine the incredulity when the French coach, Roger Lemerre, is defending the latest outburst of petulance, Lebouef getting sent off by bravely stamping on Harry Kewell as he lay injured on the ground and Petit gobbing at John

Hartson, by saying "Ah well, zis is ze French way, we are passionate people". Without going down the obvious road by mentioning a couple of instances this century when the French passion seemed to desert them, but I think you know what I mean, if that's French passion then you can stick your Edith Piaf and Jean Paul Satre where the sun don't shine.

Now you read that Marcel Desailly will quit Chelsea at the end of the season. Great, hopefully that will start the trans-channel exodus back. Basically we all know that they are here for the money, but you don't mind the likes of Juninho, Zola, Vialli, even Ziege (and, of course, Big Georges), because a) they're great players and worth the admission money etc. but also b) because they genuinely seem to like being here and just get on

with it. But there can be nothing more galling (pun intended) than these French geezers coming here for big bucks and taking every opportunity to run down our game and have a pop at the things the French are always banging on about; i.e. we are thugs, uncouth, uneducated, crap food & weather. Well naff off then.

That's why I really hope that Leeds, or even Man United, win the title. Obviously they're predominately English, or British, or even Commonwealth, but when was the last time you heard one of them whining in the papers. Maybe David Beckham, but then again when your missus is getting so much abuse you'd be pretty naffed off. I reckon the sooner they get a big, juicy bit of british beef down their neck washed down with a few pints of Cains, the better we'll all get on.



New Vauxhall Corsa from

£6,945

GREAT SAVE!!

Lookers

BIRKENHEAD

6 WOODCHURCH ROAD, BIRKENHEAD, MERSEYSIDE

0151-200-9000



Match Sponsors

SUPPORTING TRANMERE

Main Match

ADS Graphics

Carton Printers and Manufacturers

Point of Sale, Design and Screen Printers

Advertising Concepts and Full Media Planning Service

Unit B1, North Cheshire Trading Estate,
Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 3DU

Telephone 0151 608 9811

Fax 0151 608 9616

Unit 31, First Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park,
Deeside, Clwyd CH5 2NU

Telephone 01244 281880

Fax 01244 281882

enquires @ads-graphics.com

Prenton Suite

STEVE VAUGHAN PROMOTIONS

wish everyone
a Happy
New Year

Media Suite

Match Ball

TRANMERE ROVERS

would like to thank
all their sponsors and fans
for their support over the
years and wish them a
Prosperous New
Millennium.

TRANMERE COMPUTERS

748 Borough Road, Prenton
Wirral CH42 9JF

Tel: 0151 608 6690

Fax: 0151 200 6818

32

First Aid
Cover at
Prenton
Park is pro-
vided by



**British
Red
Cross**
Merseyside Branch

Visually
Impaired
Facilities
Supplied
by

**STAR
SIGNS**

Disabled
Enclosure
Sponsor



Medicash

Matchday
Music
Supplied
by



**Megastores
Birkenhead**

For further information on sponsoring a match, contact The Commercial Department on **0151-608 4194**

Player Sponsorship

SUPPORTING TRANMERE



Dave CHALLINOR
CHARLES STEPHENS
Funeral Directors
Tel: 0151-645 4396

Boot Sponsor: **HARRIET HANSEN**



Alan MAHON
HEATON STATIONERY LIMITED
TELEPHONE 0151 649 6000

Boot Sponsor: **LYNDSEY & LEANNE JONES**



Andy THOMPSON

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd.
Grange Road East & Upton By Pass
Supporting your team in the local community

Boot Sponsor: **NEAL LOVELL**



John ACHTERBERG
WIRRAL TREE & HEDGE CO LTD
PLANTING/PRUNING/REMOVAL
Trees & Hedges Supplied
Office: 639 7541 Direct: 0966 456 366

Boot Sponsor: **THE DAVIDSON FAMILY**



Ian SHARPS
Your organisation's
Name & Logo HERE
Your organisation's Name, Address & Tel. No. HERE

Boot Sponsor: **BOB TOMLINSON & ALLEN PRICE**



Joe MURPHY

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd.
Grange Road East & Upton By Pass
Supporting your team in the local community

Boot Sponsor: **PRENTON PUPS**



Scott TAYLOR

ASHWORTH MAIRS GROUP
INTERNATIONAL CHARTERED (ACC. ADJUSTERS) (S.E. & G.A.S.T.)

Boot Sponsor: **ANDY & LESLEY COWELL**



Lee JONES
Sage Accounting Software
PHOENIX BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
Tel: 0151 513 0911

Boot Sponsor: **PETER DAVID ARNETT**



Gary JONES

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd.
Grange Road East & Upton By Pass
Supporting your team in the local community

Boot Sponsor: **SAM TURNER**



Clint HILL
CARR FARM GARDEN CENTRE
For all you gardening and leisure needs
Tel: 0151-632 1457

Boot Sponsor: **Abba School of Motoring - 678 7825**



David KELLY
REDCOURT - ST. ANSELM'S
Nursery & Day School for Girls &
Boys aged 3-11 years
TEL: 652 5228

Boot Sponsor: **LIAM ALDRIDGE MASON**



Stephen FRAIL

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd.
Grange Road East & Upton By Pass
Supporting your team in the local community

Boot Sponsor: **GRAHAM & MARION BODEN**



Alan MORGAN
THINGWALL NURSERIES
PLANT CENTRES LTD.
Lower Thingwall Lane, Thingwall,
Barnston, Wirral CH61 1AZ - 648 0281

Boot Sponsor: **ALEX BOZMAN**



Tommy HOLMES
BARTON BUILDERS
All aspects of Building &
Renovation Work Undertaken
07970 423925

Boot Sponsor: **MD ENGINEERING - 647 8820**



Steve YATES
BROMBOROUGH
CROSS CAR SALES

Boot Sponsor: **P & L MOTORS - 650 1811**



Perry TAYLOR
GRAHAM WEBSTER
BIRKENHEAD
THE CUSTOMER IS KING

Boot Sponsor: **ROBIN ABRAHAM**



Nick HENRY
APEX
CLEANING

Boot Sponsor: **McDonald's Restaurants Ltd.**



Jason KOUMAS
WILLIAM JOHN
PATTERSON
Heswall

Boot Sponsor: **DURACELL DISCO'S 334 8556**



Richard HINDS
PENINSULAR (NW) LTD
Building Contractors
12 Leigh Rd, New Ferry, Wirral
TEL: 644 0106

Boot Sponsor: **JENNY LIGHTFOOT**



Reuben HAZELL
Your organisation's
Name & Logo HERE
Your organisation's Name, Address & Tel. No. HERE

Boot Sponsor: **ANDREA, GORDON & MARION**



George SANTOS
Ben Chapman MP
Member of **Parliament**
Wirral South
32 Bebington Rd, New Ferry, Wirral L62 5BQ - 643 8797

Boot Sponsor: **ANDREW & IAN MORRISON**



Andy PARKINSON
SHAUN HERBERT
Supporting Tranmere
for years

Boot Sponsor: **COPYFAX SERVICES-632 3182**



Ryan WILLIAMS
DIRECT
VIEW

Boot Sponsor: **PRENTON PUPS**



Neil GIBSON
Your organisation's
Name & Logo HERE
Your organisation's Name, Address & Tel. No. HERE

Boot Sponsor: **MR GARNETT CONSTRUCTION 01745 888 435**



Graham ALLEN
Manufacture & Repair of Dry
Suits for all weather sports
Protec Tel: 0151-639 1390
www.protec-uk.com

Boot Sponsor: **RICHARD SAMPLES (TRSA Bristol)**



Michael BLACK
PETER NEDERLOF
A Long Time Rovers
Supporter

Boot Sponsor: **JAMES FISHER & PHIL MOSS**



Wayne ALLISON

DESIGN, ADVERTISING, GRAPHICS 0151-652 7782

Boot Sponsor: **COLIN CLEUGH & PETER GATELEY**



Ian JOY
LA JOLLA
SONGS INC.

Boot Sponsor: **EASTERN DELIGHT**



Eric NIXON
FEEDWATER

Boot Sponsor: **ANN POTTER**



Gareth ROBERTS
EXPRESS
TAVERNS
Outside Caterers

Boot Sponsor: **MIKE ROBERTS**

Roverstats

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	pts
1 Huddersfield Town	23	14	4	5	42	23	+19	46
2 Manchester City	23	14	3	6	35	19	+16	45
3 Ipswich Town	23	12	6	5	40	26	+14	42
4 Charlton Athletic	22	12	5	5	38	24	+14	41
5 Barnsley	22	12	3	7	42	35	+7	39
6 Stockport County	23	10	7	6	28	30	-2	37
7 Fulham	23	8	11	4	24	18	+6	35
8 Queens Park Rangers	23	8	9	6	32	28	+3	33
9 Birmingham City	22	8	8	6	33	25	+8	32
10 Wolverhampton W.	22	8	8	6	25	21	+4	32
11 Bolton Wanderers	23	8	7	8	32	27	+5	31
12 Norwich City	22	8	7	7	21	20	+1	31
13 Blackburn Rovers	22	7	9	6	27	22	+5	30
14 TRANMERE ROVERS	23	8	5	10	32	34	-2	29
15 West Bromwich Albion	23	5	11	7	23	27	-4	26
16 Crystal Palace	23	6	8	9	30	36	-6	26
17 Crewe Alexandra	23	7	5	11	23	30	-7	26
18 Grimsby Town	23	7	5	11	24	38	-14	26
19 Nottingham Forest	23	6	7	10	24	27	-3	25
20 Sheffield United	23	6	6	11	27	39	-12	24
21 Port Vale	23	5	8	10	26	31	-5	23
22 Portsmouth	23	5	7	11	25	36	-11	22
23 Walsall	23	4	7	12	21	37	-16	19
24 Swindon Town	23	3	8	12	16	37	-21	17

Player	Birthplace & Date	Signed from	Date & Fee	TRFC Debut & Date
John Achterberg	Utrecht 8.7.71	Eindhoven	09.98 - Free	v Swindon 25.09.98
Wayne Allison	Huddersfield 16.10.68	Huddersfield	09.99 - £300,000	v Barnsley 03.09.99
Graham Allen - E.Yth	Bolton 8.4.77	Everton	08.98 - £300K P/E	v Bristol City 29.08.98
Michael Black - E.Sch	London 6.10.76	Arsenal	08.99 - Free	v Bolton 07.08.99
Dave Challinor - EU18	Chester 2.10.75	Brom. Pool	07.94 - Free	v Stoke 28.02.97
Stephen Frail - Scot U21	Glasgow 10.8.69	Hearts	01.98 - £75,000	v Man City 31.01.98
Neil Gibson - W.U21	St. Asaph 10.10.79	Ex.YTS	06.98 -	v Norwich 21.11.98
Tony Grant	Liverpool 14.11.74	Everton	09.99 - Loan	v Barnsley 03.09.99
Reuben Hazell	Birmingham	Aston Villa	07.99 - Free	v Bolton 07.08.99
Nicky Henry	Liverpool 21.2.69	Sheffield Utd	07.99 - Free	v Bolton 07.08.99
Clinton Hill	L'pool 19.10.78	Ex.YTS	07.97 -	v Forest 18.10.97
Richard Hinds	Sheffield 22.08.80	Ex.YTS	08.98 -	v Grimsby 01.05.99
Tommy Holmes	Woodchurch 01.09.79	Ex.YTS	07.99 -	
Gary Jones - FL U21	Chester 10.5.75	Ex.YTS	07.93 -	v Millwall 20.11.93
Lee Jones - Wales	Wrexham 29.5.73	Liverpool	06.97 - £100,000	v Southend 28.3.97
Ian Joy - U.S.A.	San Diego 14.07.81		07.99 -	
David Kelly - Eire	Bir'ham 25.11.65	Sunderland	08.97 - £350,000	v WBA 09.08.97
Jason Koumas	Wrexham 25.9.79	Ex.YTS	07.98 -	v Carlisle 18.08.98
Alan Mahon - Eire U21	Dublin 4.4.78	Ex.YTS	03.95 -	v Huddersfield 03.02.96
Pedro Matias	Madrid 11.10.73	Free Agent	08.99 - Trial	v Stockport 14.08.99
Alan Morgan - W.U21	Aberystwyth 2.11.73	Ex.YTS	07.92 -	v Ipswich 17.04.96
Joe Murphy - Eire U16	Dublin 21.08.81	Ex.YTS	07.99 -	v Oxford Utd 12.10.99
Eric Nixon - FLX1	Manchester 4.10.62	Wigan Ath.	07.99 - Free	v Barnsley 30.11.1999*
*3rd period with Tranmere Rovers. Original Debut:				
Andy Parkinson	L'pool 27.5.79	Liverpool	05.97 -	v Carlisle U 25.03.1988
Gareth Roberts	Wrexham 06.02.78	Panionios	08.99 - Free	v Wolves 22.10.97
Georges Santos	Marseille 15.8.70	Toulon	08.98 - Free	v Stockport 14.08.99
Ian Sharps	Warr'gton 23.10.80	Ex.YTS	07.97 -	v Sunderland 22.08.98
Perry Taylor	B'head 29.01.81	Ex.YTS	07.99 -	
Scott Taylor - FL U21	Chertsey 5.5.76	Bolton Wand.	10.98 - £50,000+	v Oxford 10.10.98
Andy Thompson	Carnock 9.11.67	Wolves	07.97 - Free	v WBA 9.08.97
Ryan Williams E.U18	Chest'field 31.8.78	Mansfield	08.97 - £70,000+	v Stockport 20.03.99
Steve Yates	Bristol 29.01.70	QPR	08.99 - Loan	v Bolton 07.08.99

▲ First Substitute ■ Second Substitute ◆ Third Substitute
(Substituted Players in solid, replacements in outline).
Goalscorers - Number in shape. SO = Sent Off. OG = Own Goal

Date	V	Opponents & Event	F-A	Att.
Sat 7 Aug	H	Bolton Wanderers	0-0	7,674
Tues 10 Aug	A	Blackpool (WC1-1)	1-2*	3,298
Sat 14 Aug	A	Stockport County	1-2*	6,555
Sat 21 Aug	H	Huddersfield Town	1-0	6,728
Tues 24 Aug	H	Blackpool (WC1-2)	3-1	4,800
Sat 28 Aug	A	Port Vale	0-1	4,657
Mon 31 Aug	H	Sheffield United	1-3	5,436
Fri 3 Sept	A	Barnsley	0-3	12,865
Sat 11 Sept	A	Blackburn Rovers	0-2	17,899
Tues 14 Sept	H	Coventry City (WC2-1)	5-1	6,759
Sat 18 Sept	H	Portsmouth	2-4	5,870
Weds 22 Sept	A	Coventry City (WC2-2)	1-3	12,433
Sat 25 Sept	H	Charlton Athletic	2-2	5,846
Sun 3 Oct	A	Crewe Alexandra	2-0	6,169
Sat 9 Oct	A	Queens Park Rangers	1-2	9,357
Tues 12 Oct	H	Oxford United (WC3)	2-0	5,328
Sat 16 Oct	H	Manchester City	1-1	13,208
Tues 19 Oct	H	Grimsby Town	3-2	5,004
Sat 23 Oct	A	Crystal Palace	2-2	18,645
Tues 26 Oct	A	Charlton Athletic	2-3	19,491
Sat 30 Oct	H	Crewe Alexandra	2-0	5,987
Sat 6 Nov	H	West Bromwich Albion	3-0	6,623
Fri 12 Nov	A	Ipswich Town	0-0	14,514
Sat 20 Nov	H	Nottingham Forest	3-0	6,693
Tues 23 Nov	A	Birmingham City	1-3*	22,132
Sat 27 Nov	H	Wolverhampton W.	1-0	8,017
Tues 30 Nov	H	Barnsley (WC4)	4-0	7,039
Sat 4 Dec	A	Bolton Wanderers	3-2	13,534
Sat 11 Dec	H	West Ham United (FAC3)	1-0	13,629
Tues 14 Dec	H	Middlesbrough (WCQF)	2-1	10,581
Fri 17 Dec	H	Norwich City	1-2	5,863
Sun 26 Dec	A	Walsall		
Tues 28 Dec	H	Swindon Town		
Mon 3 Jan 2K	A	Fulham		
Sat 8 Jan	H	Sunderland (FAC4)		
11/12 Jan	A	Bolton Wanderers (WCSF)		
Sat 15 Jan	H	Stockport County		
Sat 22 Jan	A	Huddersfield Town		
25/26 Jan	H	Bolton Wanderers (WCSF)		
Sat 29 Jan	H	Port Vale		
Sat 5 Feb	A	Sheffield United		
Fri 11 Feb	H	Barnsley		
Sat 19 Feb	A	Wolverhampton Wanderers		
Sat 26 Feb	A	Portsmouth		
Sat 4 Mar	H	Blackburn Rovers		
Tues 7 Mar	A	West Bromwich Albion		
Sat 11 Mar	H	Birmingham City		
Sat 18 Mar	A	Nottingham Forest		
Weds 22 Mar	H	Ipswich Town	*Own Goal for TRFC	
Sat 25 Mar	H	Walsall		
Sat 1 April	A	Norwich City		
Sat 8 April	H	Fulham		
Sat 15 April	A	Swindon Town		
Sat 22 April	A	Manchester City		
Mon 24 April	H	Queens Park Rangers		
Sat 29 April	A	Grimsby Town		
Sun 7 May	H	Crystal Palace		

99-2000 League Apps
99-2000 Lge Sub Apps
99-2000 League Goals
99-2000 Cup Apps
99-2000 Cup Sub Apps
99-2000 Cup Goals
TRFC Career Apps
TRFC Career Sub Apps
TRFC Career Goals



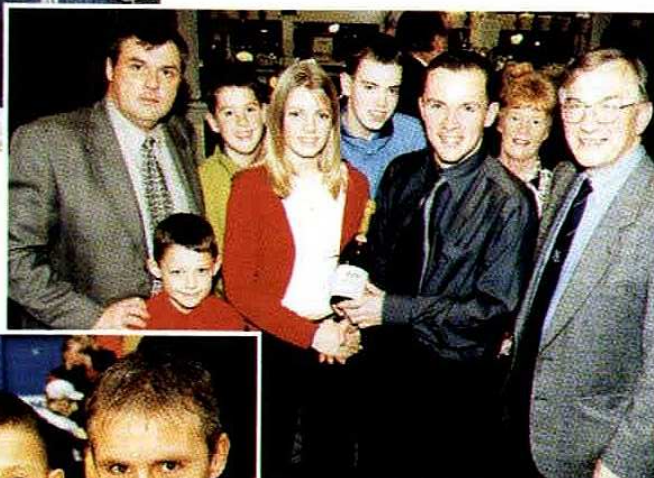
Above: Alan Morgan picked up the Vice Presidents' Suite MOTM Award on behalf of his fellow Welsh Under-21 team-mate Gareth Roberts. Isabel Hill presented the Award.



Above: Dave Challinor was selected as MOTM by Prenton Suite Sponsors ADS Graphics. William Johnstone, who also happens to be the Captain of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club, handed over the bottle to our long-throwing centre-back.



Above: A Very Happy Christmas for Doug Williams, who was in the Borough Road stand, and who scooped £1,178-50 in the bumper 'Equalizer' draw against West Ham. PA maestro Richie Tierney selected the winning ticket. (PS 'Hammer to Fall' by Queen at the end of the game - nice one Richie!)



Above: Alan Morgan grabbed another bottle on behalf of his Welsh team-mate, Gareth Roberts. This time the Dixie Dean Suite members voted Gaz as their MOTM. Gemma Toomey presented the Bottle.



Above: The Chief added to his growing collection of 'Cuvee Trammere' by scooping the MOTM Award from Media Suite Sponsors Total Recruitment Services. Steve Hayes was delighted to present the award.



Left: Ned with Rovers' mascot Luke Clark before the game against his old club (Ned's, that is!)



Above: John Charcol, Match Sponsors of the West Ham game, chose Alan Mahon as their 'MOTM' after our young midfielder's solid all-action performance against the Hammers. Richard McGarvey presented the award.

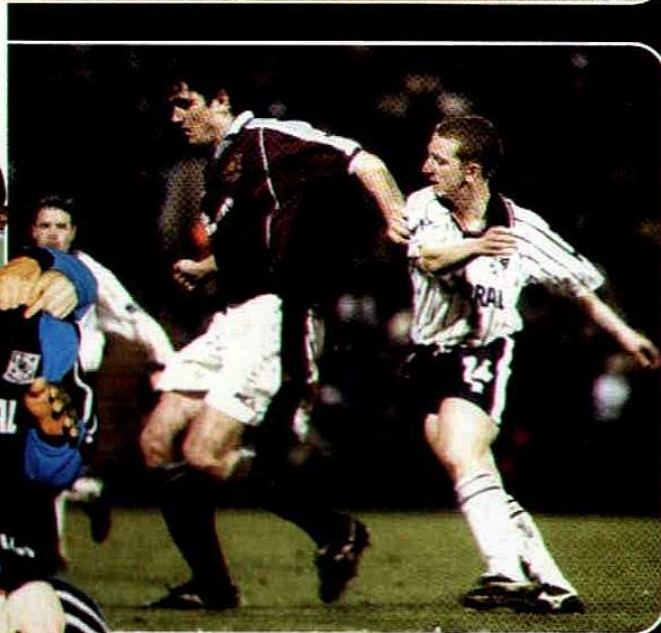
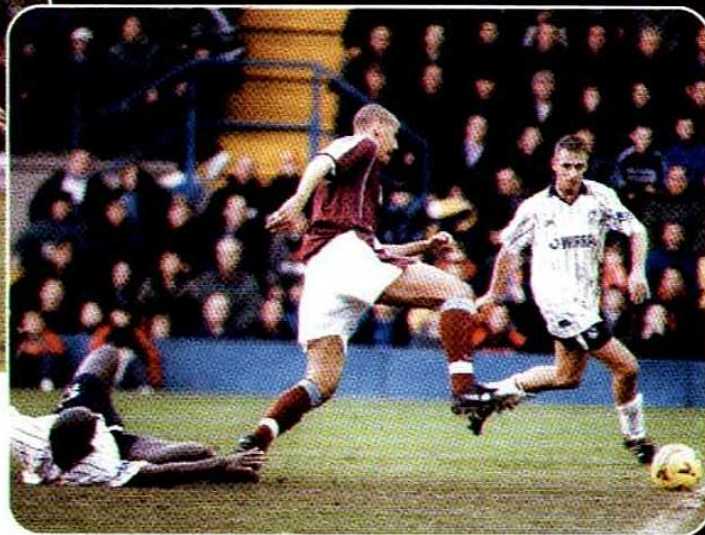
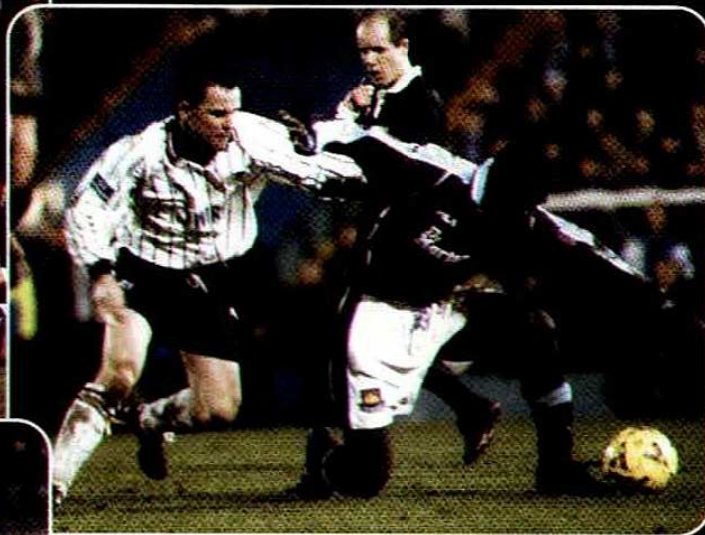


Above: Rover, The Chief, Referee Dermot Gallagher and his team, Hammers captain Steve Lomas - or is it actually 'Shaggy' from Scooby Doo? - and the mascots line up with Matchball Sponsors Crime Prevention Security Wardens Limited before the F.A. Cup tie began.

Hammered!

ROVERS ACTION

Photos by Geoff Davies & Fraser Bird



Tickets & Travel - Tel 609 0137

Fulham vs Rovers

Nationwide League Division One
Monday 3rd January 2000 K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Match Prices: Seats

Adults: **£16.00**

Concessions: **£8.00**

Match Prices: Terracing

Adults: **£12.00**

Concessions: **£6.00**

All payable at the turnstiles
on the day of the match.

Executive Coaches:

Adults - Members £14.50

Adults - Non-members £15.50

Under 16/60+ - Members £13.00

Under 16 / 60+ - Non Members £14.00

Coaches depart Prenton Park at 9.15 a.m.

N.B. SEE 'CRAVEN COTTAGE'

ARTICLE ON PAGE 8 for details about
the difficulties of getting to, parking at, and
getting in to Craven Cottage.



HOW TO GET TO CRAVEN COTTAGE

By Car, from the North (M53/M56/M6/M1 or M40/M25): Exit M25 at Junction 15 (s/p M4 Heathrow, Terminals 1,2 and 3, London (W)) onto the M4 eastbound. Remain on the M4, which becomes the A4, following signs to 'Central London' for 10.4 miles to Hogarth Roundabout. Here, take 2nd exit (s/p Central London, Hammersmith A4) remaining on the A4, passing the Griffin (Fullers) Brewery. At the Hammersmith flyover junction after 1.1 miles, keep on left-hand lane and exit the A4 (s/p Hammersmith(A306, A315, A219)). Follow signs to Oxford (A40) for 0.3 miles to T-junction in front of Hays Accountancy Personnel. This is the Hammersmith Roundabout. Continue round roundabout for 0.3 miles to where road runs underneath and parallel to the A4, and turn left (s/p Alternative Route via Putney Bridge) into Fulham Palace Road. Go straight on for 1.2 miles, and turn right into Bishop's Park Road, which leads to the ground.
Nearest Underground Station: Putney Bridge, District Line, Zone 3.

PARKING

Difficult. A pay and display system operates on nearly all the residential streets in the borough. There are traffic wardens around every corner, and some of the parking is for one hour only.

THE GROUND

Disabled Facilities: Space for about(?) five visiting supporters in the disabled enclosure between the Riverside Stand and the Hammersmith End. **Disabled Toilet:** Nearby. **Cost:** Free for disabled, terrace price admission for helper. **Booking:** Essential. **Parking:** None available. **For the Blind:** No special facilities.

Rovers vs Sunderland

F.A. Challenge Cup, Fourth Round
Saturday 8th January 2000 K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Match Prices

Main Stand:

Adults: **£14.00**

OAPs: **£3.00**

Juniors: **£3.00**

Other Areas:

Adults: **£13.00**

OAPs: **£6.00**

Juniors: **£3.00**



THIS IS AN ALL-TICKET MATCH.

Tickets must be bought from the Ticket Office on or before Friday 7th January. No tickets will be sold on the day of the game.

Bolton W. vs Rovers

Worthington Cup Semi-Final, First Leg
Tues 11th OR Weds 12th January 2000

Rovers vs Bolton W.

Worthington Cup Semi-Final, Second Leg
Tues 25th OR Weds 26th January 2000

WATCH LOCAL PRESS FOR TICKET DETAILS

Coach bookings should be made at least three days prior to travelling. After that date no guarantee can be given of seat availability.



How will you make your
mark this season?

Teletext on ITV page 108

www.itv.yearofpromise.co.uk



YEAR OF PROMISE

itv

Nationwide

Coming Soon!

NICK SAMPLE

Sunderland

Things couldn't be better down at the Stadium of Light. Third place in the Premiership, the country's top goalscorer banging them in left, right and centre, sell-out crowds every week - there's even talk of Europe.

And then a trip to Prenton Park looms. For some reason, the Wearsiders have never quite enjoyed their trips to the Wirral and many of the club's fans regard Tranmere as their bogey side. Sunderland's only league success in seven attempts at Prenton Park was back in April 1998 when goals from Kevin Phillips and Micky Summerbee avenged an Andy Parkinson settled FA Cup fourth round encounter.

How ironic that the two clubs should be thrown together again, two years on, at the exact same stage of the competition. Peter Reid's outfit will prove an even tougher nut to crack this time around having set the Premiership alight in the few months they have spent there so far. The recent 4-1 demolition of star-studded Chelsea illustrated just how far they had come from the crushing opening day 4-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge which had the gloom and doom antics predicting another roller-coaster season.

Their success has largely been based around the goals of Kevin Phillips and Niall Quinn, the little and large strike partnership. Phillips, with 19 goals to his name prior to Christmas, has matured into one of the most sought after goalscorers in English football and is arguably one of the best pieces of transfer business ever conducted by Reid who paid Watford just £325,000 for his services. Quinn, who has won over 60 caps for the Republic of Ireland, missed the majority of Sunderland's short stay in the Premiership last time around through injury but is making up for lost time now. Injuries to either of their first choice strikers could prove costly with former QPR and Sampdoria marksman Danny Dichio ruled out for the next two months with a back injury.

Reid has been credited with fine business acumen in assembling his side with the recent £2.5m purchase of West Brom winger Kevin Kilbane the latest piece in his jigsaw. The signing of Kilbane seems to confirm the eventual departure of Scottish international Allen Johnston who has been frozen out of the first-team picture after

failing to agree a new contract at the start of the season. Riding along the right hand side of midfield is Nicky Summerbee, who resurrected his career by moving to the North East from Manchester City where the burden of playing at the same club as his father appeared too great.

Kilbane, not eligible for this match having played for the Baggies in the third round, will compete with Swedish international Stefan Schwarz, who had a brief spell in England with Arsenal five years ago, was brought to the club for a record £4m at the start of the season from Spanish side Valencia. Occupying more central roles are former Evertonian Gavin McCann, who has blossomed under Reid's command, and Frenchman Eric Roy, a bargain £250,000 signing from Marseilles. Such has been the transformation in the midfield engine-room, club captain Kevin Ball recently ended his long association with the club to join up with Paul Bracewell's Fulham revolution.

Reid opted for experience when planning his Premiership assault during the Summer and picked up German international Thomas Helmer from Bayern Munich and Arsenal veteran Steve Bould to bolster the defence. Helmer failed to settle in the North East and was loaned to Hertha Berlin but Bould proved a more astute capture. Paul Butler, formerly of Bury is Bould's usual central defensive partner. Reid paid £500,000 to bring Chris Makin back from a spell with Marseilles. The ex Oldham right back suffered badly with injury during his first season at Sunderland but has now bounced back to produce some of the best form of his career. At left back is the stylish Michael Gray, who used to ply his trade further upfield as a winger. Gray made his England debut alongside Phillips last April and became the first Sunderland player to play for England at Wembley for over 23 years against Sweden in June.

Replacing cult-hero Lionel Perez inbetween the posts was never going to be an easy task but the form of Danish international keeper Thomas Sorensen has meant flamboyant Frenchman is all but a distant memory. Ex Wrexham custodian Andy Marriott provides cover.

Victory over the Wearsiders would provide a magnificent confidence booster for Tranmere going into the two-legged Worthington Cup semi-final against Bolton. With three Premiership side's already tasting defeat at Prenton Park this season, Reid will be anxious to ensure his side don't become the fourth giant to be felled by Aldo's boys.

Football. It's a game of two halves



Many sides play their football in magnificent stadiums. Others play theirs on park pitches.

At the Football Trust, we're here to make sure that everyone is a winner thanks to the grant aid we can offer at every level, from ground redevelopment and safety work at league clubs right down to the very grass roots.

And now pools income is boosted by annual contributions from The Football Association, The F.A. Premier League,

The Football League, the Professional Footballers Association and Sport England.

Together, we are working hard to ensure a healthy future for our national game... now, and for generations to come.

the football trust
helping the game

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST. E-mail: enquiries@football-trust.org.uk

Match Of The Day

Rovers

1	John ACHERBERG	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Graham ALLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Andy THOMPSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Wayne ALLISON	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Dave CHALLINOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Clint HILL	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Alan MAHON	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	George SANTOS	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	David KELLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Scott TAYLOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Nick HENRY	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Lee JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Joe MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Andy PARKINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Gary JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Alan MORGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Jason KOUMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Stephen FRAIL	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Ryan WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Richard HINDS	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Ian SHARPS	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Neil GIBSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Eric NIXON	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Michael BLACK	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Reuben HAZELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Steve YATES	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Gareth ROBERTS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Robins

<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank TALIA	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark ROBINSON	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gareth HALL	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott LEITCH	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gareth DAVIES	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael CARRICK	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bobby HOWE	7
<input type="checkbox"/>		8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Iffy ONUORA	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Giuliano GRAZIOLI	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ty GOODEN	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alan REEVES	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jimmy GLASS	13
<input type="checkbox"/>		14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris HAY	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee COLLINS	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve COWE	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve MILDENHALL	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adam WILLIS	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlie GRIFFIN	20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sol DAVIS	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robin HULBERT	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Philippe CUERVO	23
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sam CAMPAGNA	24
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frazer McHUGH	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicky BURKE	26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie MILLS	27
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ricky CULBERTSON	28
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alan FLANAGAN	29
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul McAREAVEY	30
<input type="checkbox"/>		31
<input type="checkbox"/>	James WILLIAMS	32

Tonight's Officials:

Ken Leach

A 47-year-old Police Officer in his seventh and final season as a referee, Ken started refereeing in 1969 with Warley Alliance and Sunday Festival League, and after 6 seasons as a Southern League linesman and seven years as a referee (five on the Panel League system), he was promoted to the F.L. Referees list in 1992. Married to Gill with twin 14-year-old sons, Ken keeps himself fit by running, cycling and playing squash. He has been the 4th Official at a number of high-profile games, including - all last season - a Worthington Cup semi-final, Play-Off matches and the Auto-Windscreen Shield Final. Ken's last visit to take charge of a match at Prenton Park was for our 0-1 defeat by Bradford City last season.



Ian Sham



David Unsworth



Steve Eaton



Exclusive Supplier of Match Officials Kit to the Nationwide Football League

Today's Other Games:

Nationwide League Division One	
Barnsley	vs Port Vale
Bolton Wanderers	vs West Bromwich Albion
Crystal Palace	vs Walsall
Huddersfield Town	vs Charlton Athletic
Ipswich Town	vs Stockport County
Manchester City	vs Grimsby Town
Nottingham Forest	vs Birmingham City
Portsmouth	vs Blackburn Rovers
Queens Park Rangers	vs Crewe Alexandra
Sheffield United	vs Fulham
Wolverhampton W.	vs Norwich City

F.A. Carling Premiership

Arsenal	vs Leeds United
Bradford City	vs Everton
Leicester City	vs Newcastle United
Liverpool	vs Wimbledon
Sunderland	vs Manchester United
Watford	vs Southampton
West Ham United	vs Derby County

Next Up at Prenton:

Saturday
8th January 2000
Kick Off
3.00 p.m.

F.A. Cup
4th Round



Scorers
Corners
Free Kicks
Yellow Cards
Red Cards

Half Time Score:

Full Time Score:

Attendance: