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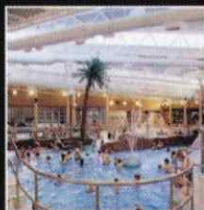
Nationwide League Division Two

## Luton Town

Saturday 30 November 2002  
Kick Off 3.00pm at Prenton Park

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## this issue

Nationwide League Division Two  
Versus Luton Town  
Saturday 30 November 2002

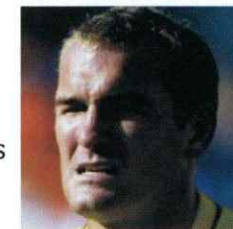
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# benchtalk

Firstly welcome to Joe Kinnear, his players, directors and staff and of course welcome to all the Luton fans who've made the long journey up here today.

We go into this game on the back of an excellent performance and result in the league last weekend, when we finally got that all important win away from home, beating Wycombe 3-1 at Adams Park.

It was an excellent performance all round with the defence doing well against some very tough strikers, the midfielders battling well and winning possession and three great goals from the strikers. We have been threatening that result in recent weeks and we were unlucky not to take all the points at Swindon in our last league away match but it was nice to finally see the hard work pay off.

I've said it many times but Stuart Barlow is a great predator inside the box and he showed it in that match scoring two excellent goals and I was delighted to see Simon Haworth also get on the scoresheet because there's was no one who worked harder on the day.

We are obviously all disappointed to go out of the FA Cup at Cardiff but I was very pleased with the players attitude and commitment in both of the matches against very good opposition and on another day it could easily be us looking forward to the

second round match at Margate.

Decisions can change matches and that was certainly the case on Tuesday and people know how I felt about some of them but at the end of match I was pleased with what we saw from the players.

I said to the players afterwards that with the effort and commitment they put in then there's not many teams in this division who would be able to live with them. We proved against one of the best sides in the division that we can create chances, score goals and put in a good performance. Now we've just got to carry on that form starting today against Luton.

The bad news from the last two matches are the injuries to both Sean Connelly and Simon Haworth, who are both doubtful for today's match. Sean felt his hamstring go at Wycombe while Simon's struggling with a groin strain.

Our home form has been excellent this season, and is bettered only by Cardiff and Bristol City. We have certainly succeeded in turning Prenton Park into a fortress and it's been helped by the great support we've had.

I've said it many times before but it really does help the players to hear the encouragement from the fans and you can play a huge part in the team getting the right result this afternoon, so get behind the lads right from the off as we aim to continue where we



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## from the top

After an excellent away win last Saturday, Tuesday night was doubly disappointing - not just because of our defeat after such a promising start but because we must now cope without even more first team players due to injuries and suspension.

Simon Haworth now joins Sean Connelly, Jason Price, Andy Parkinson and Alan Navarro on the injured list and Mickey Mellon, John Achterberg and Christian Edwards all face suspension during the next fortnight.

Obviously all clubs face similar problems from time to time but we seem to have been hit with more than our fair share of restrictions on team selection so far this season.

As a result, the players have barely had a chance to settle as a team. Injuries and suspensions have forced the Manager to chop and change almost match by match. We haven't had the benefit of stability. So far 30 players have been involved in our campaign this season - compared to 24 at Oldham and 18 at Cardiff and Wigan.

Ray Mathias has the Board's support to make new signings - both permanent and temporary - but inevitably they will mean even more change.

Much of Ray and Ned's time has been spent trying to find short term replacements for injured and suspended players. Thankfully we have the resources to make this possible. Next season, however, new regulations proposed by The Football League could prevent us bolstering the squad in this way. You may have read that The Football League Executive have asked chairmen to give their approval, in principle, to a players' salary cap mechanism to be implemented next year based on 50 percent of a club's "relevant income". Our players'

costs (ie. wages, bonuses, signing on fees, etc) already represent a far higher percentage than this so we would be forced to cut the players' wage bill by the start of next season. Failure to cut wages by the required amount would mean a very hefty fine for every pound spent on players' wages in excess of the prescribed limit.

Players' wages certainly did get out of control at many clubs in the 1990's and the collapse of the ITV Digital deal has caused all Football League clubs to re-consider their whole cost base and attempt to bring spending in line with income. But surely this is just common sense - normal business practice in any other industry. Surely those running football clubs shouldn't need to be told how much they can or cannot spend on players' wages.

Clearly some Boards struggle to control their club's finances and some feel they need a mechanism to hide behind in order to cut the amount spent on players' wages without incurring the wrath of supporters. A mechanism enshrined in Football League regulations would stop many directors being put under pressure from coaching staff, supporters and the media to invest in the squad. The rules simply would not allow the directors of a club like Tranmere Rovers to spend any more on players' wages. In fact, we would be forced to make a significant cut in the wage bill before the start of next season.

The proposed mechanism will be costly and difficult (perhaps impossible) to monitor and will damage clubs at all levels. Those at the top of the First Division will be badly prepared for survival in the Premiership and those with lower income levels will be held back.

A mechanism based on a percentage of

income will only increase the gap between small and large clubs. Those with more revenue - perhaps because they are in city centres or let their ground to other clubs or have more non-footballing revenue - will be able to attract the better players and afford bigger squads. If the proposed regulations are implemented it would mean that at times when many players cannot be involved due to injury or suspension - as we have faced this season - it would not be possible to bolster the squad if the extra spending takes the players' costs above the set limit. The proposal is not only unfair on clubs and supporters but obviously on players themselves. I hope it is rejected but, at present, it seems likely it will be approved. That means, if we are to compete with bigger Football League clubs, it is essential we generate significant new sources of non footballing revenue. The review we are conducting at the moment of options for redevelopment of Prenton Park or alternative sites could not be more timely.

On Monday Tony Adams and I met with members of the Club and Liaison Support Group. Many interesting issues were raised relating to the whole matchday experience, the programme, Club marketing and profile. I know the members would welcome feedback on the ideas discussed. They will be available in Aldo's on Monday evening at 7.00 pm.

Finally, I hope you will join me in welcoming the Directors, Manager, players and supporters from Luton Town to Prenton Park this afternoon.



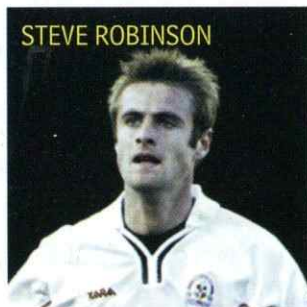


# oppositennumbers

The delight of winning promotion last season was just one more chapter in a series of ups and downs that Luton Town have experienced in their history. They have enjoyed life at the very top, and suffered the indignity of twice tumbling all the way from the highest division to the lowest. Now, with a new board at the helm and manager Joe Kinnear instilling a never say die spirit within the playing staff, they hope to be on their way back, after finishing runners up to Plymouth Argyle in division three last season.

The club have had to cope with all sorts of difficulties in the last few years, including almost going out of existence when they were in receivership in the summer of 1999.

They survived however, and a year later former director, and long serving fan of the Hatters, Mike Watson-Challis returned as Owner and Chairman with the promise of better things to come. He and his colleagues on the board made an inspired choice when they decided to appoint the respected and highly experienced Joe Kinnear as manager in February 2001. It was too late to prevent relegation to division three, which had unfortunately been on the cards since the



STEVE ROBINSON

early days of the season, but on the day of relegation, the first time he had ever experienced relegation in his career, Kinnear promised the Kenilworth Road faithful 'We'll be promoted in 12 months time...' Brave words, but Joe kept his promise to make it as brief a stay as possible in division three with a promotion run of 30 league wins, 12 coming consecutively and 15 of those away from home.

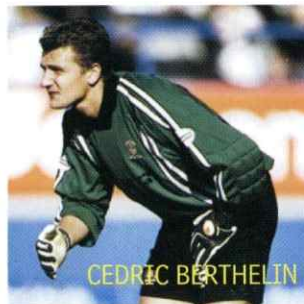
This season has been a steep learning curve for Kinnear's charges, and like us they are slowly beginning to adjust to life in division two. A good run of form though has seen them within touching distance of a play off spot, and indeed it could be these two teams who form part of the play off drama come April/May.

We take a look at the Hatters of Kenilworth Road;

#### Goalkeepers.

**MARK OVENDALE(1).** The arrival of a new board of directors enabled Luton to break an all too familiar pattern set over the last few seasons of having to sell their best players, and not replacing. Ovendale was signed in 2000 from Bournemouth for a club record fee for a goalkeeper of £425,000. Last season he was one of two very capable keepers fighting for the jersey, although this season he has fallen out of favour.

**CARL EMBERSON(16).** Wanting competition for the first team goalkeeper's shirt, Kinnear signed Emberson in the summer of 2001. Ironically, Plymouth, who went on to edge Luton out of the third division championship a few months later were also interested in the keeper who chose to leave Walsall under a Bosman



CEDRIC BERTHELIN

#### Free.

**CEDRIC BERTHELIN(0).** Signed on a month's loan from French side Lens, Berthelin has been ever present since, keeping three clean sheets in the process. Kinnear is looking to keep the stopper until the end of the season.

#### Defenders.

**EMERSON BOYCE(17).** One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS in 1995, and became a regular in the first team midway through season 99/00.

**ALAN NEILSON(3).** Former Welsh international Neilson was signed on a free from Grimsby in February of this year. A vastly experienced defender, he has played at the highest level for Newcastle, Southampton and Fulham, as well as winning Welsh caps at youth, u-21 and full levels.

**CHRIS COYNE(12).** The centre half was playing for Perth Soccer Club when he was selected for the Australian under 17 squad for the 1994 youth world cup, and came to the notice of then West ham manager Harry Redknapp. Coyne signed for the Hammers as a teenager, but premiership chances were few and far between, and

after loan spells at Brentford and Southend, Coyne went to Dundee. Luton then signed the defender for £50,000 in 2001, and quickly became a crowd favourite.

**SOL DAVIS(24).** It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town, and a coup for Luton Town, when the highly rated defender decided to leave the County ground after his contract expired at the end of last season. Although a new deal was on the table for him at Swindon, Sol decided to move across country and join Kinnear's Hatters, and the tough tackling left back has impressed ever since.

**IAN HILLIER(23).** No-one was more surprised than the Welsh under 21 international himself when he made his league debut for Luton in the second game of last season. The day before he had been training with Spurs, where he was captain of the reserves, but a crop of injuries at Luton led to Joe Kinnear taking the right back on loan, and Hillier settled in so quickly that Luton soon decided to buy him for a bargain £30,000 fee and he has become a regular squad member.

#### Midfielders.

**MATTHEW SPRING(4).** Spring has been at Luton since he was a schoolboy, and was the driving force behind the side that reached the FA Youth cup semi finals in 1997. After a league debut when still only 17, he soon became a regular in Luton's side, and his first 100 appearances were clocked up whilst still only 20.

**KEVIN NICHOLLS(8).** The tough tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee at Charlton and quickly made an impact skipping the England under 18, under 19 and under 20 sides. Kinnear signed him after a spell at Wigan fell sour and he has since become team captain. A ferocious tackler with bags of 'enthusiasm', Nicholls is always at the mercy of the officials and opposition alike.

**STEVE ROBINSON(11).** Having rebuilt his side to win promotion from division three, Joe Kinnear knew that an even stronger squad was needed for this season, and one of his first signings of this summer was midfielder Steve Robinson, for £50,000 from Preston. Capped five times by Northern Ireland, the attacking midfielder made his name at Bournemouth. He hit 60 goals in 286 appearances for the Cherries before Preston paid £375,000 to take him to Deepdale. **AHMET BRKOVIC(18).** The Croatian midfielder joined Luton in the summer of 2001 on a free from Leyton Orient. Bitterly disappointed at missing out on promotion

with the 'O's, the former HNK Dubrovnik player finally won promotion with Luton and is starting to make an impact at a higher level.

**PETER HOLMES(20).** A midfielder who was once destined for stardom, he is a product of the FA school of excellence, from the same year as Michael Owen Holmes has had a fight to stay in pro football. He was on the fringe of Luton's promotion squad last season and is hoping to establish himself this campaign.

**PAUL HUGHES(21).** A promising career that began at Chelsea under the watchful eye of Glen Hoddle, Hughes worked his way up at Stamford Bridge from youth to premiership. When Hoddle moved to Southampton, Hughes followed until a serious groin injury sidelined him for nine months. He signed for Luton just before the season kicked off.

#### Strikers.

**TONY THORPE(9).** It was a case of coming home for the striker when he joined Luton for the Fourth! Time this summer from Bristol City. Spells at Leicester, Fulham and Bristol City have been interspersed with various spells at Luton, which has seen the striker net 60 goals in just 144 games.

**STEVE HOWARD(19).** Joe Kinnear swooped on deadline day March 2001 to sign the tall striker from Northampton for £50,000, and the deal looks a bigger bargain with each game. Last season he netted 24 times to top the third division scoring charts and earn him the Hatter's fans player of the year.

**ANDREW FOTIADIS(14).** A local discovery, Fotiadis chose to stay at school and gain GCSE and A-levels before becoming a pro footballer. He won England caps at under 15 and under 18 level and has developed into an old fashioned centre forward, with good physique and power. Injuries and fierce competition for places have kept his chances limited however.

Other players in the Luton squad include former Cardiff City centre half Russell Perrett who is out with a groin strain at the moment, and former Norwich City winger Adrian Forbes.

We cannot finish without mentioning Luton Town's longest serving player, Marvin Johnson. In his 15th season as a first team regular at Luton, he is the only member of the staff to have played for Luton in all four divisions, making his debut at Goodison Park in 1988 in the old first division. Now coaching part time as well as playing, he has made over 440 appearances for his only club.



ANDREW FOTIADIS



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For Kevin Gray the last few months have been frustrating, after an injury firstly forced him out action before being unable to break back into the side due to the form of the man bought in as cover, Christian Edwards.

# kevin gray

Gray suffered a calf strain way back in the 3-1 win over Brentford on September 14th and Rovers boss Ray Mathias acted quickly to bring in Edwards as a replacement on a months loan but so was the form of the Welsh International that he's still at Prenton Park and meant Gray had to wait longer than expected to get back into action.

While the Rovers skipper has been on the sidelines we've also seen the addition of Sean Connelly to the back four and ironically it's an injury to him that has seen Gray back in the starting XI:

"Players do get injured and other players come in and the defence has been doing really well so I've got no qualms about anything really but it is nice to get back playing when you've been out and it's been a long time for me."

He replaced the former Wolves full back against both Cardiff and Wycombe and he was delighted to see the side finally secure that elusive away win:

"It was great to finally get three points last weekend, our recent away form hasn't been the best but the last two league games away from Prenton Park have been good, with two good results."

"It was a good all round team performance, the lads set off brilliantly and wore Wycombe down a little bit and then managed to get a few goals in the second half."

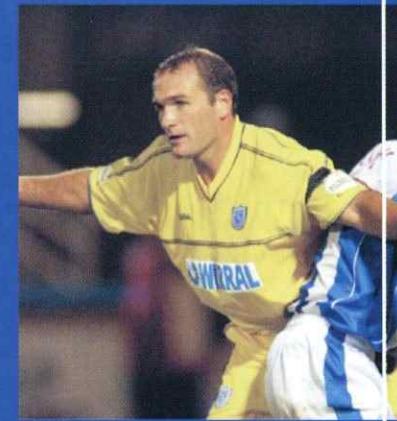
The start of the season saw Rovers playing a 3-5-2 formation with Gray alongside Sharps and McGibbon, with Allen and Nicholson playing as attacking full backs, since then we've seen appearances from Hinds, Roberts and now

Edwards but as Gray explains the changes were expected: "Obviously Dave Watson left before the season started and the new gaffer has come in and he's got his own ideas so teams and formations can change and they'll change again before the end of the season."

"It's good to have consistency in the back four and I think the gaffer has had that for the last seven or eight games and it's proved to work for us. Barring one or two enforced changes due to injuries or suspensions the team has been pretty settled recently and if we can stay clear of injuries I can't see too many changes."

"We've got a strong squad here now and there's a good mixture of youth and experience and the manager has options in every position now."

Today's game with Luton is a good tester for Rovers, with Joe Kinnear's man currently on joint points in the table, so a win is essential to start that surge up the table and the Rovers skipper is full of confidence for the season: "Over the last few games we've done well, we're on a good run, our only problem has been away from home and we've improved that over the last few games, winning one, drawing one and only narrowly losing out at Cardiff. "Our home form has been brilliant this season, winning the majority of matches and only losing once against Wigan and if we can keep that going and get our away form right as well then I can't see why we can't be challenging for promotion."



"Over the last few games we've done well, we're on a good run, our only problem has been away from home and we've improved that over the last few games, winning one, drawing one and only narrowly losing out at Cardiff..."



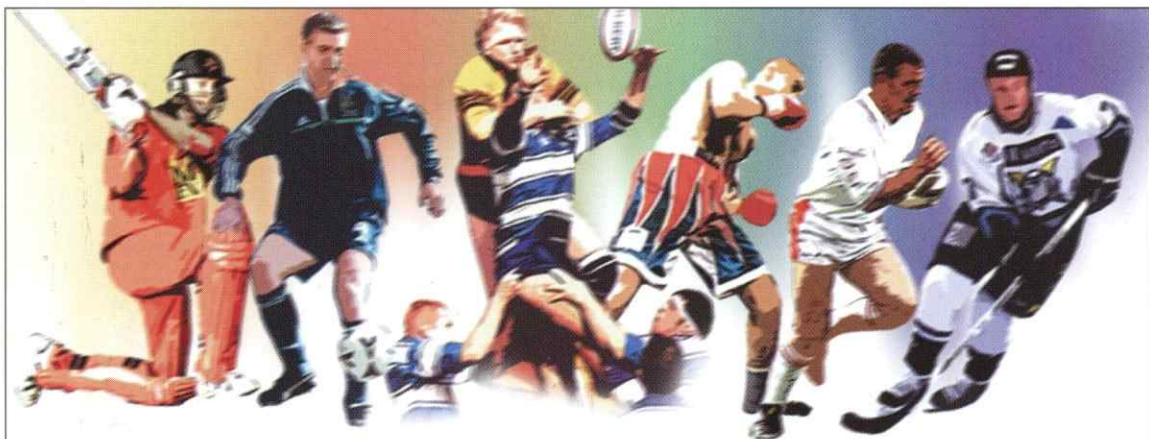
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# theslaughterhouse

Do you remember the bar in Star Wars full of all the weirdo's with two heads and bits of their bodies all stuck on the wrong places? Well that's what the gym looks like every morning at the moment when the injured lads are doing their work.

I know that I always have a go at how ugly a squad (and staff) we have at the club but if I would have hand picked a group of uglier men to place around a village pond to stop the kids going near I couldn't have done a better job. The way injuries are going at the moment, I'll soon have enough bodies to circle West Kirby boating lake never mind a pond.

Our latest two additions, Sean Connolly and Simon Haworth jus add that final touch, that Bride and Groom statue on top of the wedding cake or that piece o watercress on the side of the plate in a posh restaurant. Sean pulled up sharply at Wycombe clutching his hamstring having thought somebody on the terraces had shot him. As it would inevitably happen, before the ball went out of play and we could get him off, they played the ball over his head to the flying little left winger and he tried to run after him. I've always wondered why somebody like Douglas Bader never played professional football, now I know. Sean hobbled about five paces before squealing and falling in a crumpled mess on the floor. I don't think he's done it badly enough for it to be one of those six-week jobs but I'm sure he won't be available for today or next week. Mind you I've been wrong millions of times.

Simon Haworth has never pulled a groin before in all the years he has been playing. He got married 6 weeks ago and he has also never been married before? Now I don't like drawing conclusions but it does make

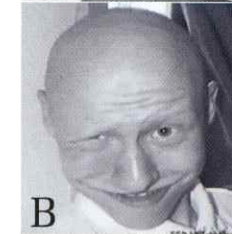
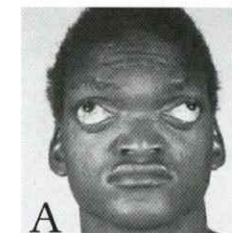
you think doesn't it? It wouldn't be the first time that the two were linked. When Danny Coyne first met Wanda he started to suffer from groin injuries for the first time in his life and when George Santos's wife Leticia came over to England after not seeing him for three months he spent the next five weeks on the treatment couch with the ultrasound head constantly stuck to his groin. There must be a link between active periods in your life and groin injuries. Funny enough the Boss was saying that he had never suffered from a groin injury so I suppose that proves my point. Anyway, Simon is still suffering from the event, can't believe he did it, is probably mentally scarred and may never recover from it. But at least his groin injury will get better. At the time of writing this, it is still too early to say how badly he has pulled his groin muscle but the description he gave of feeling it 'go' isn't a great sign. We'll just have to wait and see.

There aren't many home matches between now and Christmas, and as I have so many injured player at the moment, I've decided to do a Christmas competition. On the right you will see pictures of most of the players I have with me at the moment, but they have been disguised a little bit.

What I want you to do is to write the letters A-E on a piece of paper and put names of who you think each picture is next to the letters. Send your answers to me here at the club. The winner will receive a SIGNED FOOTBALL.

Don't forget to put your name and address on your answer sheet. (To help you a little, the initials of the player I have at the moment are; AN, JP, AP, SC, SH, RH, TR)...

LES PARRY

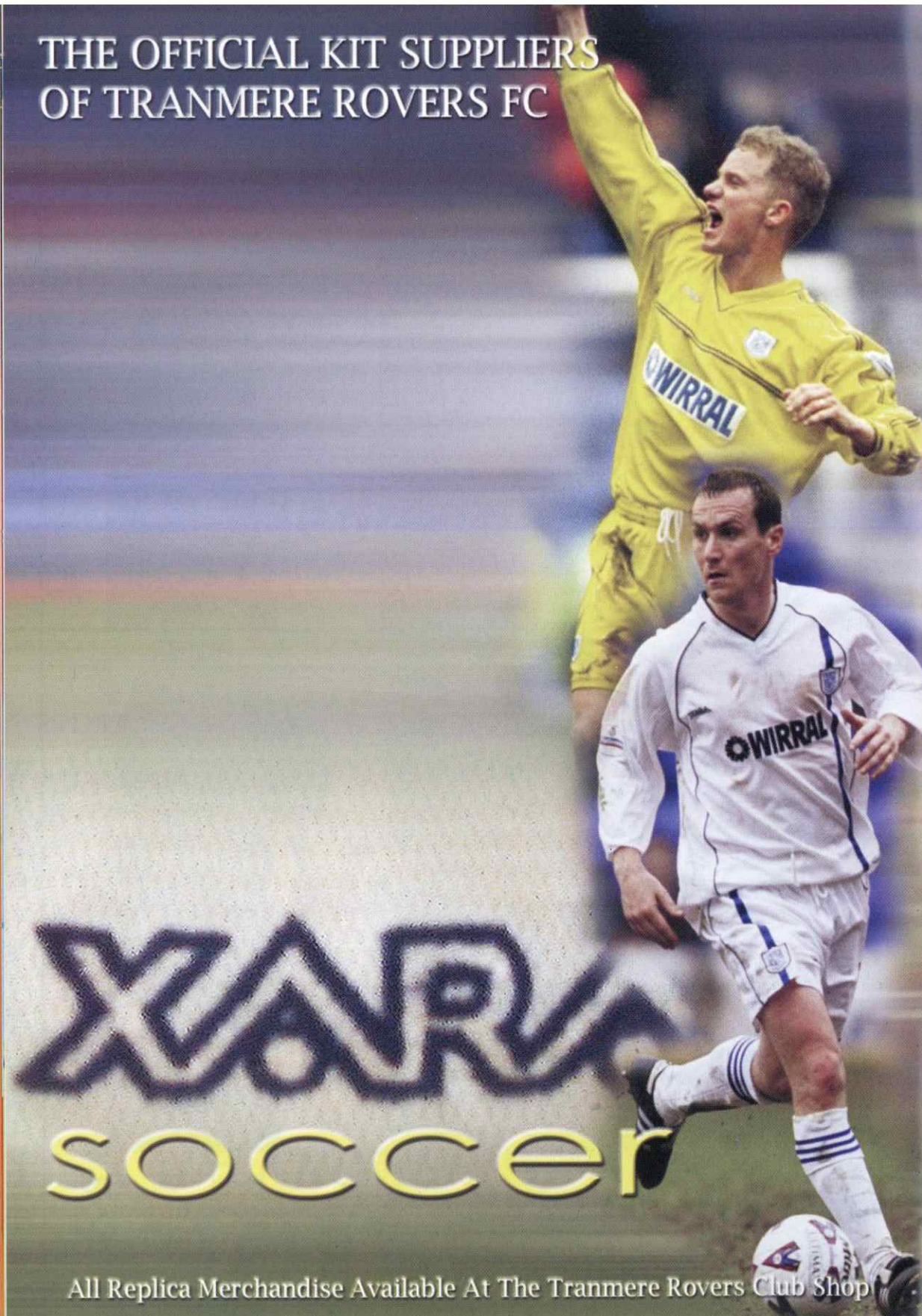


# les parry





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Matchdays - 10am to kick off, then  
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# reservesandyouth

## RESERVES

### Fixtures & Results

Wed 14 Aug A Rotherham United	W 2-1
Wed 21 Aug H Sheffield United	D 1-1
Wed 4 Sep H Bury	D 3-3
Wed 18 Sep A Macclesfield T.(CSC1)	D 2-2*
Wed 25 Sep A Wrexham (LC)	D 2-2
Thu 3 Oct H Huddersfield Town	L 0-1
Wed 9 Oct H Macclesfield T.(CSC1R)	W 1-0
Wed 16 Oct H Preston North End**	W 3-1
Wed 13 Nov A Walsall	D 1-1
Tue 19 Nov H Woodley Sports (CSC2)	W 7-1
Wed 27 Nov H Oldham Athletic**	P - P
Wed 4 Dec H Wolverhampton W.	
Wed 11 Dec A Barnsley	
Wed 18 Dec H Mansfield Town (LC)**	
Wed 8 Jan A Sheffield United	
Wed 22 Jan A Chesterfield (LC)	
Wed 29 Jan A Bury	
Wed 5 Feb H Rotherham United**	
Wed 19 Feb A Huddersfield Town	
Wed 26 Feb H Burnley**	
Wed 12 Mar A Preston North End	
Wed 26 Mar H Walsall**	
Tue 1 Apr A Oldham Athletic	
Mon 14 Apr A Wolverhampton W.	
Wed 23 Apr H Barnsley	
TBC A Burnley	
TBC A Crewe Alex. (CSCSF)	
TBC A Runcorn (LSC2)	

\*\*Matches played at Vauxhall Motors FC Kick Off 7.30pm  
\*AET 1-1



Next Home Game

## Wolves Reserves

Avon Insurance Premier Division  
Wednesday 4 December 2002  
Kick Off 7.00pm  
**NOW AT PRENTON PARK**



18 roversreview

### Tranmere Reserves 7 (2), Woodley Sports & Social 1 (0)

Cheshire UniBond Senior Cup Second Round

Tuesday 19 November 2002 at Prenton Park. Att: 177

**Tranmere:** Palethorpe, Hinds, Ashton (Tremarco), Linwood, Baker, McGuire, Dunbar, Jennings (Hooper), Carroll (Griffiths), P. Robinson, Brown.

Rovers cruised into the semi-finals of the Cheshire UniBond Senior Cup following a thumping 7-1 win over Woodley Sports & Social, of the North West Counties League.

Paul Robinson's hatrick was the highlight of a game that could have easily entered into double figures.

The home side started well, taking the lead on 18 minutes through Karl Dunbar. A Rovers barrage on the visitors goal soon followed, with Woodley 'keeper Keith Jones making a string of excellent saves from the young Rovers frontline.

They then doubled their advantage as Jamie McGuire let fly a spectacular shot, on 39 minutes.

Rovers piled forward in the opening stages of the second half, as Paul Robinson then scored the first of his three goals on 47 minutes - the shot taking a wicked deflection off a Woodley defender.

There was no mistaking his second though (55 minutes), as a fine header gave Keith Jones no chance. Paul Brown got himself

on the scoresheet, scoring Rovers fifth (57), as he surged through the Woodley defence and curled a neat shot past Jones.

Robinson's hatrick came on 76 minutes - a great solo effort, turning past several defenders, and neatly placed his shot beyond the grasp of Jones.

Woodley managed to salvage some pride with a late consolation (89) through Mike Norton, but it was Karl Dunbar who rounded things off with an injury time seventh goal.

Rovers will now travel to Gresty Road in the New Year to face Crewe Alexandra,

while the other semi-final sees Stockport County entertain Northwich Victoria.

Stockport were reinstated to the competition following their defeat to Chester City, but City were subsequently thrown out of the competition after fielding an illegible player.

Tranmere's next home Reserve game will be here at Prenton Park this coming Wednesday when they entertain Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserves...

### PAUL ROBINSON HATRICK



### Oldham Athletic U19 3 (1) Tranmere Rovers U19 3 (0)

Football League Youth Alliance North West Conference

Saturday 23 November 2002

**Tranmere:** Palethorpe, Hooper (Martin), Griffiths, Linwood, Ashton, Dunbar, Scott, Jennings, Brown, Dagnall, Carroll. **Subs Not Used:**

For the first time this season, Rovers Youth didn't win - as they finally met their match last Saturday with a North West Conference League game against Oldham Athletic Under-19's.

It was the first time in 14 consecutive games that Tranmere's youngsters had failed to win, but actually that pleased coach John McMahon at the close, and hailed it as good preparation for the rest of the season.

A Karl Dunbar brace, was aided by an Alan Griffiths goal, but it was the home side who took the lead in controversial circumstances, at the close of a scrappy first half.

Rovers' Steven Jennings appeared to be fouled in the midfield, with the loose ball then fed through to the Latics' striker. Looking to be in an offside position, the flag then stayed down, and a cool strike put Oldham one goal to the good.

Despite Rovers looking the more dominant force in the second half, they found themselves 2-0 down, against the run of play, on 63 minutes.

A long clearance following on from a Tranmere attack saw Ged Scott left one-on-one with the Oldham striker, when an unfortunate ricochet let him

in and he fired past Philip Palethorpe. Rovers were finally rewarded though shortly after, when Alan Griffiths found Karl Dunbar at the far post and he finished well to get Rovers back into the game. They then drew level with seven minutes remaining, as Dunbar claimed his and Rovers second, following some clever play by Chris Dagnall.

Three points now looked an extreme possibility, Joe Fowler then gifted Oldham with their third goal, as his sloppy cross-field pass was intercepted and fired beyond the Rovers keeper again.

Tranmere battled on though, and their hard work was rewarded immediately when Alan Griffiths headed home a Steven Jennings free kick.

On Tuesday night, Rovers travel to Adams Park for their FA Youth Cup Third Round tie with Wycombe Wanderers - with a home fixture against Cheltenham Town awaiting the winners in the next round.

The Lancashire FA Youth provides Rovers with a First Round test away to Burnley - details of which are printed below...



**LANCASHIRE**  
fa youth cup



Lancashire FA Youth Cup First Round  
**Burnley Youth v Tranmere Rovers Youth**  
Monday 9 December 2002, Kick Off 7.00pm at Turf Moor  
Admission: Adults £3 Concessions £2  
**For more details please ring 0151 609 3334**

### Fixtures & Results

Sat 17 Aug A Rochdale	W 4-1
Sat 24 Aug H Wigan Athletic	W 4-1
Sat 31 Aug A Macclesfield T. (ACG)	W 2-1
Sat 7 Sep H Wrexham (ACG)	W 5-2
Sat 14 Sep H Chester City (ACG)	W 6-0
Sat 28 Sep A Stockport County (AC2)	W 4-0
Sat 19 Oct H Burnley	W 6-1
Thu 24 Oct A Northwich Vics (FAYC1)	W 6-0
Sat 2 Nov H Oldham Athletic	W 6-1
Wed 6 Nov H York City (FAYC2)	W 2-0
Sat 9 Nov A Blackpool	P - P
Fri 15 Nov H Bury	W 7-0
Sat 23 Nov A Oldham Athletic	D 3-3
Sat 30 Nov A Burnley	
Tue 3 Dec A Wycombe W. (FAYC3)	
Sat 7 Dec H Carlisle United	
Mon 9 Dec A Burnley (LFAYC1)	
Sat 14 Dec A Preston North End	
Sat 21 Dec H Preston North End	
Sat 4 Jan A Stockport County	
Sat 11 Jan H Blackpool	
Sat 18 Jan H Rochdale	
Sat 25 Jan A Wigan Athletic	
Sat 1 Feb H Stockport County	
Sat 8 Feb A Bury	
Sat 15 Feb A Carlisle United	

Merit Division Matches Begin Sat Feb 15



Next Home Game

## Carlisle U19

Football League Youth Alliance  
North West Conference  
Saturday 7 December 2002  
Kick Off 11.00am  
At Ingleborough  
Ring 0151 609 3333 For Details



roversreview 19



# ch42news

## Reserves Swap Over

The game involving Tranmere Reserves' home fixture with Wolves has now been reinstated to its original date slot - This Wednesday, 4 December 2002, here at Prenton Park. Kick off is at 7.00pm, and the usual league reserve admission rules apply. Tranmere's game with Oldham Athletic Reserves, which should have been played last Wednesday night was postponed due to Oldham's involvement in an FA Cup replay with Burton Albion, and will now be rearranged for a later date. The Youth Team meanwhile are looking forward to a tough trip to Wycombe Wanderers on Tuesday night, in the FA Youth Cup third round. Victory will earn them a home tie with Cheltenham Town in January, and with a win in every match played so far, they look a good bet to do the business at Adams Park. Following this they then travel to Turf Moor on Monday 9 December, to face Burnley's youngsters - the kick off there is 7.00pm and admission is £3 Adults and £2 Concessions, if you arte thinking of attending.

## What Are You Doing New Years Eve?

Planned your night out yet? Why not come along to the Prentonian on the night of all nights and celebrate the New Year here on the clubs' doorstep. Tickets are available, priced £10 each, along



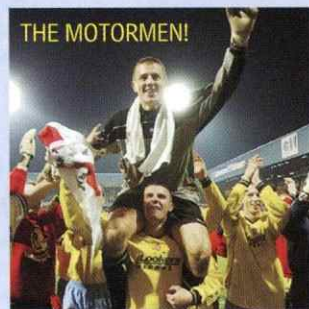
with additional details, by ringing Sue on 0151 609 3333 (subject to availability).

## Motormen In Cruise Control!

Well done the Motormen of Vauxhall Motors FC, following their dramatic replay victory over Second Division QPR, in the FA Cup on Tuesday night. QPR took an 18th minute lead through Andy Thompson, but Vauxhall's stormed back just minutes later through ex-Liverpool trainee Phil Brazier. The plucky visitors held on till the 90th minute, and through extra time to earn themselves a penalty shoot out. The drama then took hold as firstly ex-Tranmere keeper Andy Ralph saved the first spot kick, before the Motormen wrapped up a 4-3 victory as Karl Connolly missed his chance. They go onto a second round meeting with Macclesfield Town at Moss Rose - with a 5.35pm kick off for Sky TV. Better still, with Tranmere's LDV fixture now put back to Tuesday 10 December and not Saturday 7 as stated by the Football League, why not go along and give Wirral's only other major club your support...

## FC Birkenhead Are The Champions

With initial thanks to a current season ticket holder and Tranmere nut, the Gloucester-based team, have just won the Bentham Indoor 5-a-side Monday Division Two League



Formed by Tranmere supporter Graeme Hickey, the team is made up of brother Steven and Graeme's favourite former school friends. They took the title winning all eleven games, scoring 129 goals and conceding 39. The tournament is very popular with over 240 teams taking part in what is probably the biggest indoor 5-a-side tournament in Europe. Pictured below are the victorious team - well done lads!

## Answers On A Postcard?

The Football Postcard Collectors Club (founded in 1990) is dedicated to recording and preserving football postcards featuring players, teams, match action and ground views from 1900 onwards. The club issues a quarterly 48-page journal, containing a wide range of articles and news and views on ancient and modern football postcards. The FPCC also produces its own exclusive Limited Edition postcards. These are also free to club members and very few of them find their way onto the open market. (World Cup 2002 item illustrated). If you are interested in either taking up the hobby or want to know more about an existing collection, please contact them via David Ticehurst, 6 Penstone Close, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 9AR.



All written correspondence to:  
Tranmere Rovers F.C, Prenton Park,  
Prenton Road West, Birkenhead, Wirral CH42 9PY

## LEVER FABERGÉ



# prentonpups

A warm Prenton Pup welcome to the Junior Hatters for today's match with Luton Town, one of our rivals for a Play-Off position in the league table. We hope you enjoy your visit to Prenton Park and have a safe journey home.

## Kennel

Apologies to the Pups who have called into the Kennel to have a look at The Daily Post cuttings from the Halloween party at the Tranmere Suite. Unfortunately, I failed to get them to Debbie on time but members will be able to see if they are featured in the photographs with Gary Jones, Christian Edwards, Ryan Taylor and Jamie Maguire. Matthew and Michael Stewart are named in a great photo with Pup President, John Achterberg so they may want to order a copy from the local paper with the best Rovers coverage. Tickets for the eagerly awaited Christmas Party on Thursday December 5th are now on sale at an incredible £1.50 for a couple of hours of festive fun and games from 7pm, a visit from Father Christmas and an exclusive Prenton Pup present. The party will be split into - GOAL! - ONE MICKEY MELLON,

THERE'S ONLY ONE MICKEY MELLON, ONE MICKEY MELLON, THERE'S ONLY ONE MICKEY MELLON. Yes, Rovers have taken the lead at Ninian Park in the FA Cup replay v. Cardiff as I type. It looks good for the few hundred who have managed to make the trip. Now where was I? Oh yes the party. It will be split into two age groups with the youngest fans in the VP Lounge and the elder and more boisterous in the Tranmere Suite. While you are in the Kennel Debbie and the gang will give you all the latest information on forthcoming events including the post-turkey 'Awayday' to the McAlpine Stadium for the match with Huddersfield on Boxing Day. A great opportunity to pack a treat of Turkey butties, mince pies and left over selection boxes and watch the Rovers as well! Don't forget the Tuck Shop for all your sweets and enter the Kennel Matchday competition. Debbie looks forward to seeing you all before every home game from around 1pm to 30 minutes before kick off.

## Birthdays

The November birthdays conclude with



Andrew Getty of Birkenhead who was 5 on 20th, Jacob Smailes from Little Neston, also 5 years of age, on 24th and Adam Swanick of Moreton who celebrated his 12th birthday on 27th. All Pups receive an exclusive Prenton Pup birthday card signed by many of the first team squad and with membership costing only £2.50 is almost worth the fee on its own. Application forms are available from Debbie or by contacting Sue Beedles at the Club.

## Cardiff update - DOH!

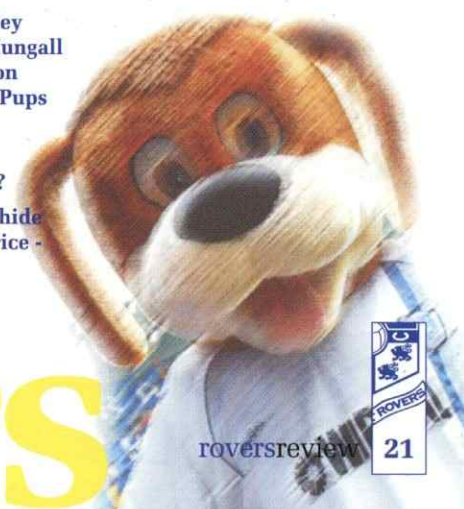
Well things haven't gone too well since I took time out to listen to the match - The sheep are bleating! They're winning 2 - 1 now and Pup favourite, gentle Dutch giant John Achterberg has been sent off for flattening Andy Campbell on the edge of the box. He must have dived - he had enough practice at Prenton in the first game! Just waiting for the final result as Vauxhalls go into extra time with QPR - Great stuff Motormen! C'mon Rovers!.....Not to be I'm afraid - we're out.

After that disappointment how can we raise a smile - I know. Another old photo!

A young Peter Gateley looks on as Steve Mungall - 'The Lion of Prenton Park' - signs for the Pups in 1989!

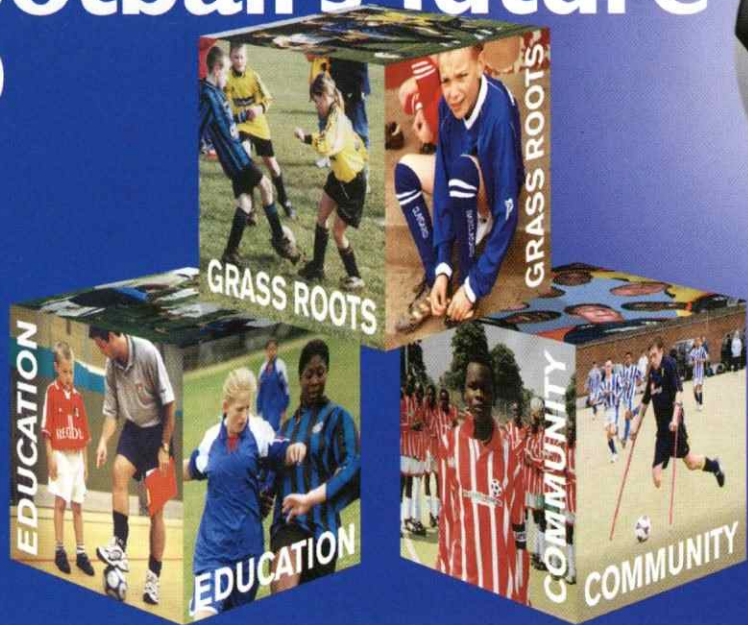
Anyone else like to identify themselves?

It's no use trying to hide at the back Allen Price -



# football's future

# building



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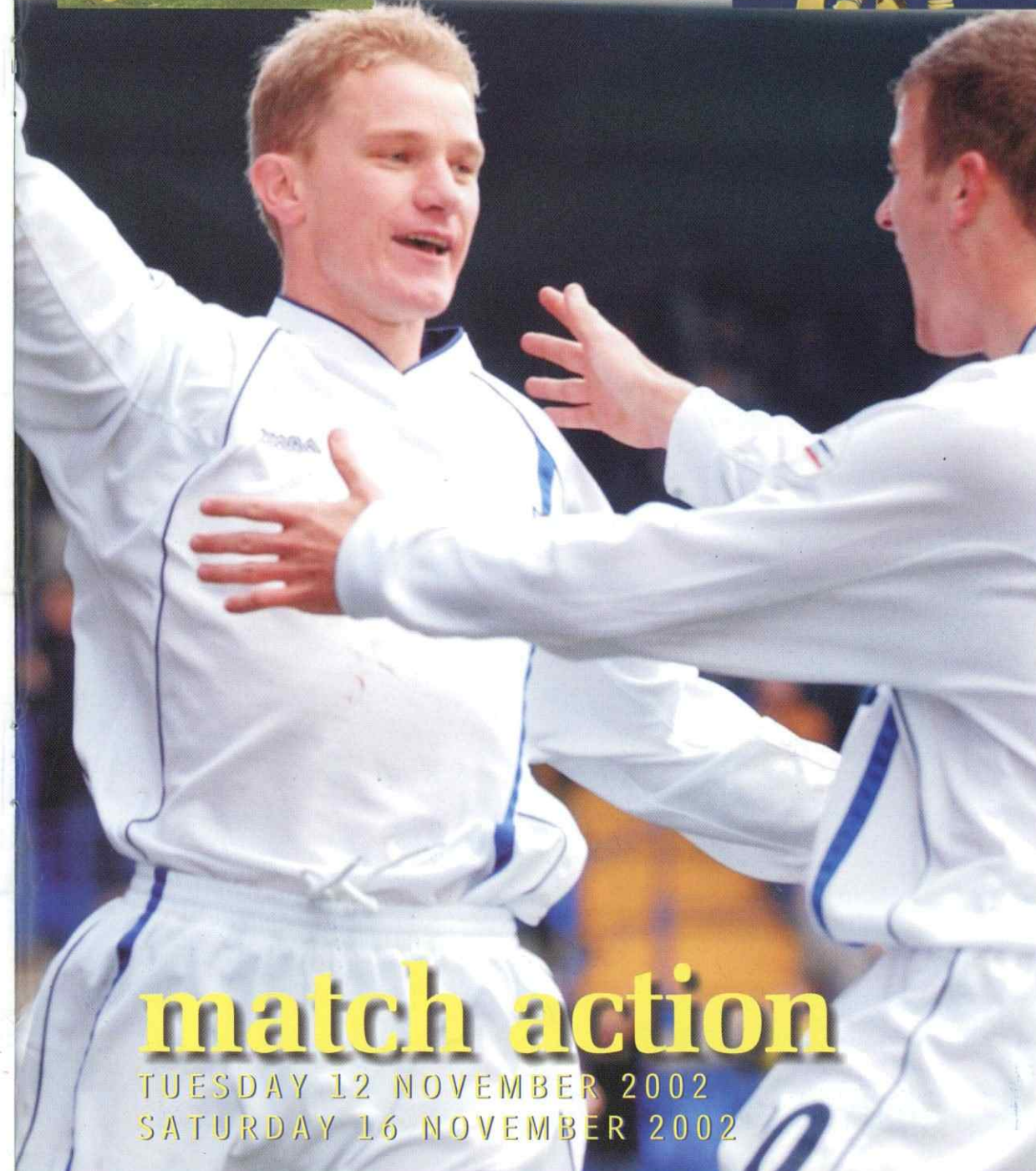
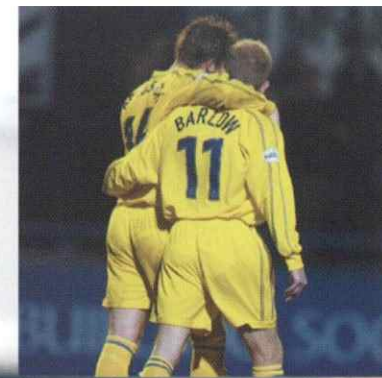
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# match action

TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2002

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2002



## match action

Tuesday 12 November 2002

**Macclesfield 1**

(Tipton 4)

**Tranmere 2**

(Barlow 67, 117 golden goal)

At Moss Rose Att: 1,145

Saturday 16 November 2002

**Tranmere 2**

(Barlow 7, Haworth 62)

**Cardiff 2**

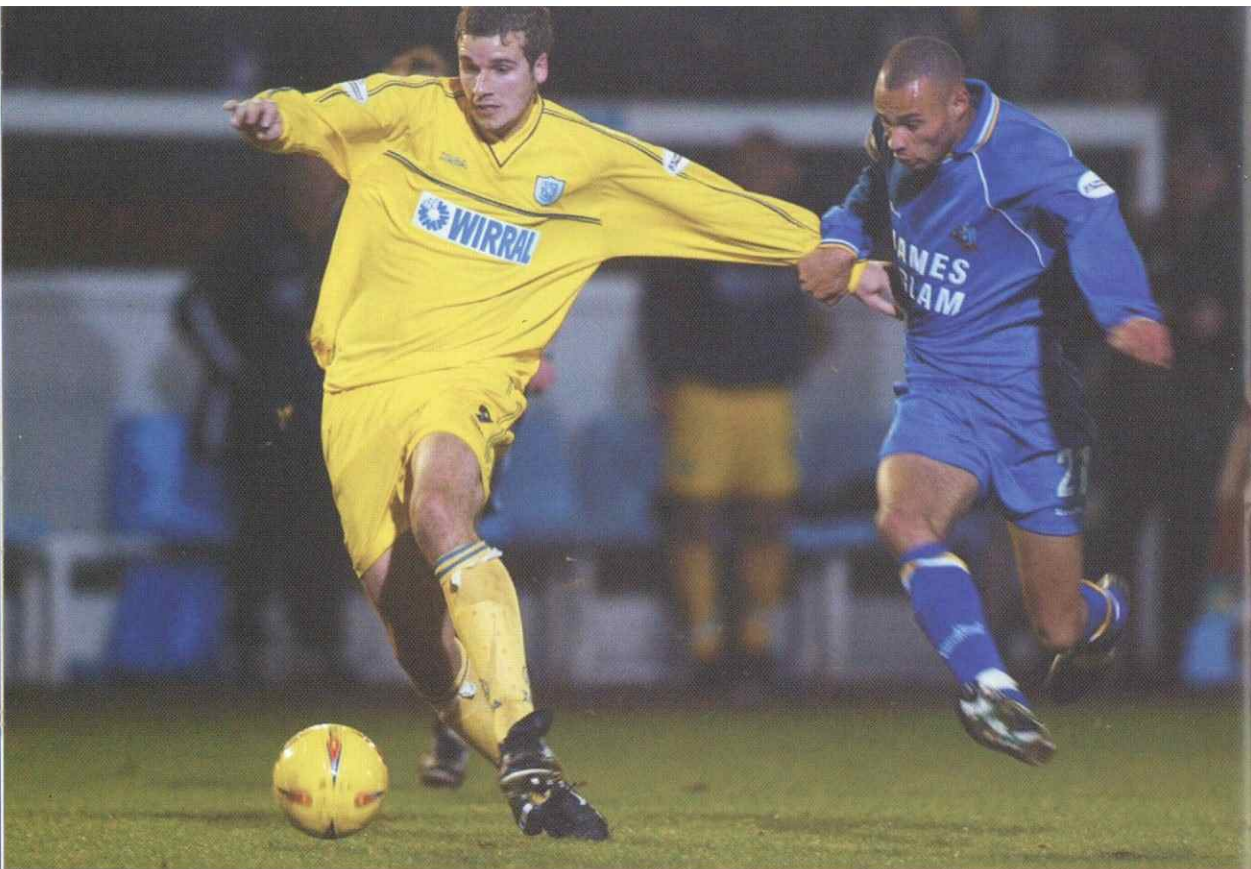
(Collins 34, Kavanagh 44)

At Prenton Park Att: 5,592

Barlow 'goalden shot' is enough to outdo the Macc lads...

...While a 2-2 draw in the FA Cup First Round hands both Rovers and Cardiff another crack of the whip...

# supportingrovers



1

Tranmere Rovers  
versus Peterborough  
29.10.02

1 - Mascots and Officials line up  
for the cameras...



2

2 - Our Dixie Dean members  
awarded Iain Hume as their Man  
Of The Match following the  
nights' proceedings...



3

3 - Match Sponsors CUFF  
ROBERTS SOLICITORS also chose  
Iain as their worthy winner...



4

4 - Media Suite Sponsors  
WIRRAL DIRECT made it a hatrick  
for Iain, rewarding him for his  
efforts...



5

5 - Finally our VP Members chose  
Christian Edwards for their  
award...



6

6 - Mr. R. Williams scooped the  
evenings' Equaliser jackpot,  
claiming exactly £621.00 with his  
winning ticket...

# sponsors

# CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS



AT THE PRENTONIAN



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Book Now For These Dates To Avoid Disappointment!



Saturday 7 December - Aldo's

Thursday 12 December - Belmont

Thursday 19 December - Belmont

Friday 20 December - Aldo's

To Book, Call Sue Beedles on 0151-609 3333



## in the community

FOOTBALL



### SMOBY National Table Football Championship

The Smoby Table Football Championship is now underway. This is a national competition, which is run by Community schemes across the country and over 10,000 children took part last year.

Tony Stott was our winner last year and he went to Blackburn to represent Tranmere Rovers in the Area finals, unfortunately he didn't progress any further and it was Daniel Ellis representing Derby County who became the National Champion in the finals at Anfield.

Smoby, who are Europe's leading manufacturers of football tables, will again provide us with our very own table to stage the local competition. We visit 5 special schools across the Wirral and have a mini competition at each school, which provides us with a winner to go through to the finals at Tranmere Rovers.

The first school to get the competition going was Stanley Special where Gareth Roberts came along and gave the children a few warm up matches before the real games got underway. Gareth enjoyed the afternoon and stayed to referee the final. The two children who made it through to the final were Kyle Jenkins and Craig Orme with Kyle defeating Craig in a very exciting final 5-2. Kyle will now go on to represent Stanley in the next stage with the rest



of the children who took part coming along to support him. The children all had a great afternoon of Table Football that was made that extra bit special with the visit of Gareth.

### Railtrack 6 A'Side Update

Yesterday the finals of the Railtrack 6 a'side competition was played. There were 15 schools involved in the final and they were split into 3 groups of 5 with the winner plus best runner up going through to the semi finals. With the finals being played yesterday we don't have the results but we will give you full details in the next programme.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
Sacred Heart	Birkenhead Prep	Redcourt
Arrowe Hill	Woodchurch CE	Egremont
Greasby	St Peter's (Hes)	Raeburn
Gorsthills	St Albans	Sandbrook
Ladymount	Stanton Road	Dawpool

### New Year Tots Course

We are running a New Year Tots course on Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd January 10.00am to 12pm which will be held at Acre Lane Education Centre. It is for boys & girls age 5 & 6 and costs £10.00.

If you require any further information or would like an application form ring the community office on 608 2354.



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# community



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## CSLG Meeting

Everyone Welcome  
 (Subject To Availability)  
 This Monday 2 December 2002  
 At Aldo's At 7.00pm

fanbase

MATTHEW BALNAVES  
 & BARBARA JONES

# SUPPORTERS



As a member of the Club and Supporters Liaison Group(CSLG), it is really pleasing for me to report back to the fans with the excellent progress we have been making. Our meetings with both Lorraine Rogers and the fans have given us plenty of things to debate about. Ranging from clearing up old financial issues to thinking up ways of making matchdays at Prenton Park a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

As a group we think we have made good progress so far, but we need you, the fans, to give us your input into how to make Tranmere better. The CSLG was formed to give supporters a chance to have an influence in their club and you can do this by coming to our next meeting and submitting your views.

At the next meeting with the fans we will be

discussing loads of things that will make Tranmere Rovers a better team. We will cover subjects like improving the pre-match and half time entertainment, how to improve Tranmere's public image and many others. We really need positive input from the fans that will improve our club. Our next meeting is on this coming Monday and every Tranmere fan is welcome to come along and help improve our team.

Since I last wrote for our programme, Rovers have had a bit of an upturn in form. I'm sure it isn't just coincidence that we've improved since 'Ned' Kelly has joined as assistant manager. Since his arrival, I think the players look hungrier to win than they have for a long time. Their celebrations when they score or when they win a match are of pure joy and this competitive edge is

something we've missed out on recently. It's obviously something that all of the coaching staff are working hard on.

We really need to maintain this desire to compete and win every match, home or away and against any team. We know that the players can win any of the teams in our division, because on paper we do have a decent enough squad of players. If we can couple our quality with some fire and competitiveness, we can become a much better team. So let's hope Ray, Ned and everyone else can keep it up.

Today's game against Luton Town is one that we should be looking to take all three points. So let's get behind the lads and help them to claim the prize.

Come on Rovers...

**Matthew Balnaves**

The Club and Supporters Liaison Group (CSLG) have now met three times, and discussions have been long and varied giving members an insight into the club, and the club a very broad selection of views from the stands.

The initial meetings served to clear up many historical facts and a number of misunderstandings not to mention the odd urban myth. Yes even Rovers have them!

In turn the feedback meetings have also been buoyant with the CSLG passing on the relevant information and drawing on more topics for discussion

Already we have seen the club produce a question and answer document regarding club finances and other issues.

The issue of Rovers in the local media has

been a subject that has been raised a number of times and the club have agreed to produce a definitive list of news sources, which might actually surprise you.

On Monday 2 December the CSLG hold another of their feedback meetings to which every fan is welcome (with in the limitations of Aldos). As well as reporting back the results of the latest meeting with Lorraine Rogers and

Tony Adams we are hoping to move into a more positive phase of discussion.

This is our club, but how could it be better? How can we encourage younger fans to come and watch Rovers? How could the matchday experience be improved? Is there anything we would like to see in the match day programme?

It's already up there winning awards but is there anything you feel is missing? Is it time to change the Rockford Files?

And if you feel that these kinds of things are superficial, then do you feel that the club should set in motion a legal mechanism to prevent any purchase of the club taking our football off the Wirral? Could there be life after

Prenton Park? How do you feel about wage capping? What about the issue of safe standing?

Join the CSLG in Aldos on Monday 2 December at 7pm and air your views. We would be particularly interested to hear from any of the younger section of fans who have opinions on the match day experience.

**Barbara Jones**







# wycombe

Some photos © Tony Coombes

### 'Fantasy' (Pre-match betting!)

I spy with my little eye something beginning with 'W'. No not Wycombe, but 'win' as it happens. I open with this line due to the feel good factor that was felt strongly during the days leading up to today's game. I'd already heard several Tranmere fans hedging their bets on a 2-1, even a 3-1 scoreline to the Rovers - and this was on the previous Wednesday! Buckinghamshire beckoned, and with a click of the fingers, it was off to visit the Adams Family...

### 'Let's Groove' (The Ground)

The most recent home of the Chairboys, Adams Park, probably serves as a good testament to what the Deva Stadium should have looked like, once Chester City were forced out of their Sealand Road home way back in 1990. Irony then, as what we have here is an almost identical scenario to Bumpers Lane, as one straight road leads you in and out from the ground - and located at the end of an industrial estate. The Roger Vere Stand offers a fantastic view of the action to be honest, while the much bigger Woodlands (two-tier) Stand ensures a major focal point to the ground. The latter was improved several seasons ago, as promotion from the Third Division saw their crowds almost double to an average of around 6,000. Elsewhere, the much more basic Greene King Terrace and Seymour Taylor Stand may look to struggle to accommodate a big match crowd, but are nonetheless smart enough to be included in this bang up to date, small, but impressive venue. Those football connoisseurs among you will of course know that Wycombe have only graced the Football League fields since 1993, and even prior to this possessed a much more humble home than the one they have now. I'd have to say personally that this ground must be in the top ten in both Divisions' Two and Three, and barring the long walk from car to the doorstep of turnstiles 1 & 2, I've never ever had a problem visiting Adams Park. However, there is also a slight drawback to what surrounds a pleasant day out in Buckinghamshire, as the majority of essential items are priced over the odds and in particular

left many Rovers fans with a financial headache. A £16 ticket for second division football is just about bearable, but with juniors under 16 and senior concessions charged at £13, this was nothing short of scandalous. This however wasn't the half of it, as many souvenirs such as pennants (£7) and scarves (£8.99) wouldn't have looked out of place at say Highbury. Add to this the half time food - £3 a burger, plus pies at £2 and a programme costing you £2.50. All in all a very expensive day all round. Ironically, many Wycombe followers hate the 'London-based' tag but funnily their club doesn't do much to discourage promoting the regional price rating!

### 'Boogie Wonderland' (The Away Support)

What looked like around 200, actually turned out to be a figure of 400 impressive indeed. I wondered if our slight turn around in results both home and away enticed some faces to rejoin forces with the die-hard SWA followers, and those who made the trip weren't to be disappointed. It has to be said that the first half though failed to raise the roof vocally, as many of the youngsters 'indicated' to their fellow and much older followers alongside them. Giving it their all, they moved house for the second half, and this seemed to have the desired effect, as the masses then joined in as 'they now knew the words', and by the time it was becoming apparent that the three points were going back to Birkenhead, the stand was awash with noise, clapping and the like which in turn was lapped up by the players when the goals hit the back of the net. When things aren't exactly going to plan, it's always nice to see some sort of enthusiastic backing so love 'em or loathe 'em, the kids deserve some credit for pushing their elders into some sort of 'crowd participation'. Keep it up boys!...

### 'After The Love Has Gone' (The Match)

With the 'Fox In The Box' now on form after a barren spell, maybe it was no surprise that it would be Stuey who would grab the headlines, and score not one but two goals. It could have been even better had Sean

Connelly's rasping shot not smashed the cross bar in the first half, and saved the blushes of an already tiring Wycombe side. We virtually dominated this game to be honest, and it would have been a travesty if we'd even drawn or lost - Wycombe just weren't at the races, and it was left to both Barlow and Haworth to do the major damage. The goalless first half had its frustrating moments, and it was only until just after the hour mark that the first goal came. Christian Edwards' assist allowed the Fox to race onto his pass, holding off Andy Thomson, and perfectly lobbing 'keeper Martin Taylor. It took just four minutes for the lead to be increased, as this time Simon Haworth was in a perfect position to finish off a close-range scramble from just ten yards out. Wycombe's best spell followed, and within their allotted time slot managed to claw a goal back through Michael Simpson, on the 72 minute mark. Thoughts of a draw passed through several SWA minds, but all fears soon evaporated, as Barlow repeated the earlier lobbing feat, to confirm all three points right on full time. Deserved it all was, as the Chairboys were left standing alone...

### 'Celebrate' (The Final Word)

It was almost like a great weight had been lifted off everyone's shoulders by the time 4.45pm arrived, as despite a below-par show from the hosts, you just couldn't fault our lads for taking full advantage and scooping all three points with three great goals. 'About time too' I hear some of you say, as seven defeats on the road in the League alone, while occupying eleventh place in the league, just three points behind sixth place is bizarre I know. But what the hell, enjoy the moment everyone! In just a few hours we'll be hitting the road once again, returning to Ninian Park once gain (as I though we would) to eliminate Cardiff City from our path to the Second Round of the FA Cup. How hopeful are we? Well, if it's a win, please come and see me in the Kop on Saturday afternoon against Luton - £3 on the nose at 14-1 we'll win. Score? That's easy, 2-1. How confident am I?!..



# awaydays

# nostalgia page

Still in a state of euphoria four days after Rovers' welcome and long overdue success at Wycombe last Saturday, I've allowed myself to indulge in a nostalgic ramble down Memory Lane and have been trying to work out just how many times in my 44 years a Rovers nut I've experienced the delights of the 'jingle bells' effect.

I don't possess documentary evidence of exactly how many times I've seen Rovers on tour but I have managed to come up with a few approximations. Including visits to former league clubs and FA Cup ties on non-league grounds. I reckon I've seen Rovers in action (or sometimes in action) on around 400 occasions on 98 different grounds, while I've tasted victory around 95 times on 60 of those grounds. We all cherish memories of our favourite away performances and, for the purposes of this excessive, I've dug deep into my memory bank to come up with the following first five of my top ten all-time personal favourites.

**1) Arsenal 0, TRANMERE 1 (Loyden),**

*League Cup Round Two, 10 October 1973.*

It was a toss up between this and the Goodison triumph, but because Rovers were plying their trade in the old Third Division and the Gunners winning the 'double' three seasons previous, I opted for this match. First Division teams took this competition seriously in those days, and Arsenal lined up with a full strength side, missing only the injured Charlie George. All eleven Rovers players proved to be heroes, none more than the defensive paring of the 'Two Ronnies' - Moore and Yeats, while Dickie Johnson was faultless in goal. Striker Eddie Loyden scored a well-crafted decisive goal and could have doubled his tally had he not lost out in a one-on-one with Bob Wilson late in the game.

**2) Everton 0, TRANMERE 3 (Yates 2, Koumas),**

*FA Cup Round Four, 27 January 2001.*

Still very fresh in the memory - and the stuff of legends. If we'd had been Welsh they would have written a song about it for posterity. How this side managed to get themselves relegated remains one of life's great imponderables.

**3) Southampton 2, TRANMERE 3 (K. Williams 2, McDonnell),**

*League Division Three, 11 April 1959.*

I had to include this one as it was my first-ever experience of the joys of a Rovers away win. It came

at the back end of the inaugural national Third Division season, one in which Rovers had been moulded into a very attractive side by player/manager Peter Farrell. Rovers out-footballed a prolific goalscoring and upwardly mobile Saints outfit in their own backyard. A week later, we thrashed Accrington Stanley 9-0! I am privileged to have sunk a pint or three with our own two goalscorers in recent times - Charlie Mac and Keith remain the best of mates and are both alive and well and still on the Wirral, or should I say the 'Wirral'!?

**4) Hereford United 1, TRANMERE 4 (G. Williams, Morrissey, Anderson, Ashcroft),**  
*League Division Four, 14 December 1985.*

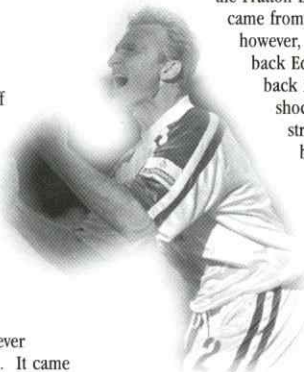
In the midst of a tumultuous campaign under Frank Worthington's cash strapped managerial career, came this little gem. With half-an-hour or so remaining, with the score at 1-1, Rovers had Mark Hughes sent off. To the travelling fans surprise and delight, Rovers made a mockery of their numerical disadvantage and the wily old 'Worthy' inspired a brilliant fightback, hardly allowing the home side a kick. They swept forward incisively and scored three superb goals all resulting from flowing, passing movements.

**5) Portsmouth 2, TRANMERE 5 (Flood, Moore, Allen, Palios, James),**  
*League Division Three, 5 November 1977.*

Rovers were developing a liking for Fratton Park, having recorded a convincing 3-0 victory there the previous season. The three-goal margin was maintained although at half time, the odds against this happening on a wet and gloomy Guy Fawkes Night were infinite. Pompey had eased into a 2-0 lead and

Russ Allen had lifted a penalty kick into the Fratton End Stand. All the fireworks came from Rovers in the second half, however, after a rare strike from left back Eddie Flood had put them back in contention. Shell-shocked home fans were streaming out of the ground by the time substitute John James scored Rovers' fifth goal with his first touch, ten minutes from time.

I'll continue my fond reminiscing in the Notts County programme on 21 December...



*Happy Away Days  
(or 'The Jingle Bell' Effect)*

Tranmere Rovers v Luton Town

Location <http://www.soccer-stats.com/headtohead>

SP For/Against Goalscoring Home/Away Top Scorer Form Guide Discipline Attendances Swings/Margins Miscellaneous

### Clubs Comparison

9	Shots	15
6	Headers	7
5	Volleys	3
0	Penalties	2
0	Free Kicks	0
1	Own Goals	0

### Where Goals Scored

3	7	10	14	1
---	---	----	----	---

### Where Goals Conceded

2	9	6	13	7
---	---	---	----	---

### When Goals Scored

Time	Rovers	Hatters
0-15	0	0
16-30	0	0
31-45	0	0
46-60	0	0
61-75	0	0
76-90	0	0

### Form Guide - Last 6

3	Won	2
2	Drawn	3
1	Lost	1
8	For	4
8	Against	5
11	Points	9
0	Goal Difference	-1

### Yellow & Red Cards

27	Yellow	37
3	Red	3

### Seasonal Progress Comparison

### 2002-2003 Attendances

Team	Aggregate	Hatters
Rovers	64,050	68,403
	8,153	9,477
	5,980	6,004
	7,117	6,840
	43	69

### 10 Year Record

Team	Avg Pos.	Hatters
Rovers	37.5	53.3
	8,095	7,878
	7,117	6,840
	-12	-13

### Top League Scorers

Player	League Goals	Hatters
Haworth	6	8
Howard	16	18

### 2002-2003 Figures

29	Players Used	33
3	Clean Sheets	8
7	Failed to Score	5
3	Goals scored from...	4
3	Corners	2
3	Free Kicks	2
5	Goals conceded from...	1
2	Corners	2
	Free Kicks	

### Luton Town's 10 Year History

Season	Leading Scorer	Ave Att
01/02	Howard	24
00/01	George	7
99/00	George	14
98/99	Douglas	9
97/98	Thorpe	14
96/97	Thorpe	28
95/96	Guentchev/Marshall	9
94/95	Marshall	11
93/94	Dixon	9
92/93	Gray	19

it's all archived... at www.tranmererovers.co.uk

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### GROUND JUMBLE

Identify four league grounds from this jumble, ... the colours will give you a clue.

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**GAMBIT REDFORDS**

**TOUR FROM**

**FAR PORK BROTHER**

**WHO WON THE CUP?**

easy selle **CRIMINAL GRAB**  
artillery gasp

**PLAIN CUE** sonny rabor **APACHE HILLMEN**

**CANAL LED YAWN** **KHRUSH GAME**  
new bible everest cub **ATE MERLIN**

unscramble these players names to identify which team won the FA Cup... can you name the year too?

### TRUE OR FALSE?

Apart from Cardiff, Swansea and Wrexham, three other Welsh teams have also competed in the played football league - Newport, Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare Athletic.



### did you know?

Between October 1980 and June 1984, Crystal Palace appointed **EIGHT** managers - Terry Venables, Ernie Walley, Malcolm Allison, Dario Gradi, Steve Kember, Alan Mullery, Dave Bassett and Steve Coppell.

**GROUND JUMBLE:** Hull City - BOOTHEERY PARK, Man Utd - OLD TRAFFORD, Leyton Orient - LEITON STADIUM, Chelsea - STAMFORD BRIDGE.  
**HALF TIME QUIZ:** 1. Arsenal, Man Utd, Blackburn, 2. Ricardo Villa (Spurs 1981), 3. Queens Park (Scotland) & Southampton, 4. Man Utd, Barnet, Charlton, Gillingham, 5. Southampton & Blackburn, 6. Arsenal, 7. Southampton, 8. Garry Speed & John Hartson, 9. National League, 10. Mike Newell, 11. Coventry (1989), 12. Harry & Jamie Redknapp (AFC Bournemouth).  
**WHO WON THE CUP?** Man Utd, 1990; Les Sealey, Paul Falloon, Bryan Robson, Neil Webb, Brian McClair, Mark Hughes, Danny Wallace.  
**SOCCER DINGBATS:** Manchester City.  
**TRUE OR FALSE?** True.  
**WHO'S THE BOSS?** Graeme Souness - Blackburn.

1. Which three teams have won the Premiership?
2. Who was the first overseas player to score in an FA Cup final?
3. Which two teams from outside England have competed in an FA Cup final?
4. Name Welsh boss Mark Hughes' six clubs as a player.
5. Who is manager of Macclesfield?
6. In which country are the World Cup Finals in 2006 due to be staged?
7. Which Middlesbrough player was recently linked with a return to Hajduk Split?

### half time quiz?

8. Who scored Wales two goals in their superb Euro Championship qualifier victory over Azerbaijan?
  9. In 1982 which organisation became the first sponsors of the Football League Cup?
  10. Which former Everton and Blackburn striker has just been named manager of Hartlepool?
  11. Which team were beaten in the FA Cup by non-league Sutton United just two years after they had lifted the trophy?
  12. Which father and son were manager and player together at a south coast club in the late 80's?
- 12 BRAIN TEASERS TO KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED AT HALF TIME.



Can you name the team from this dingbat?

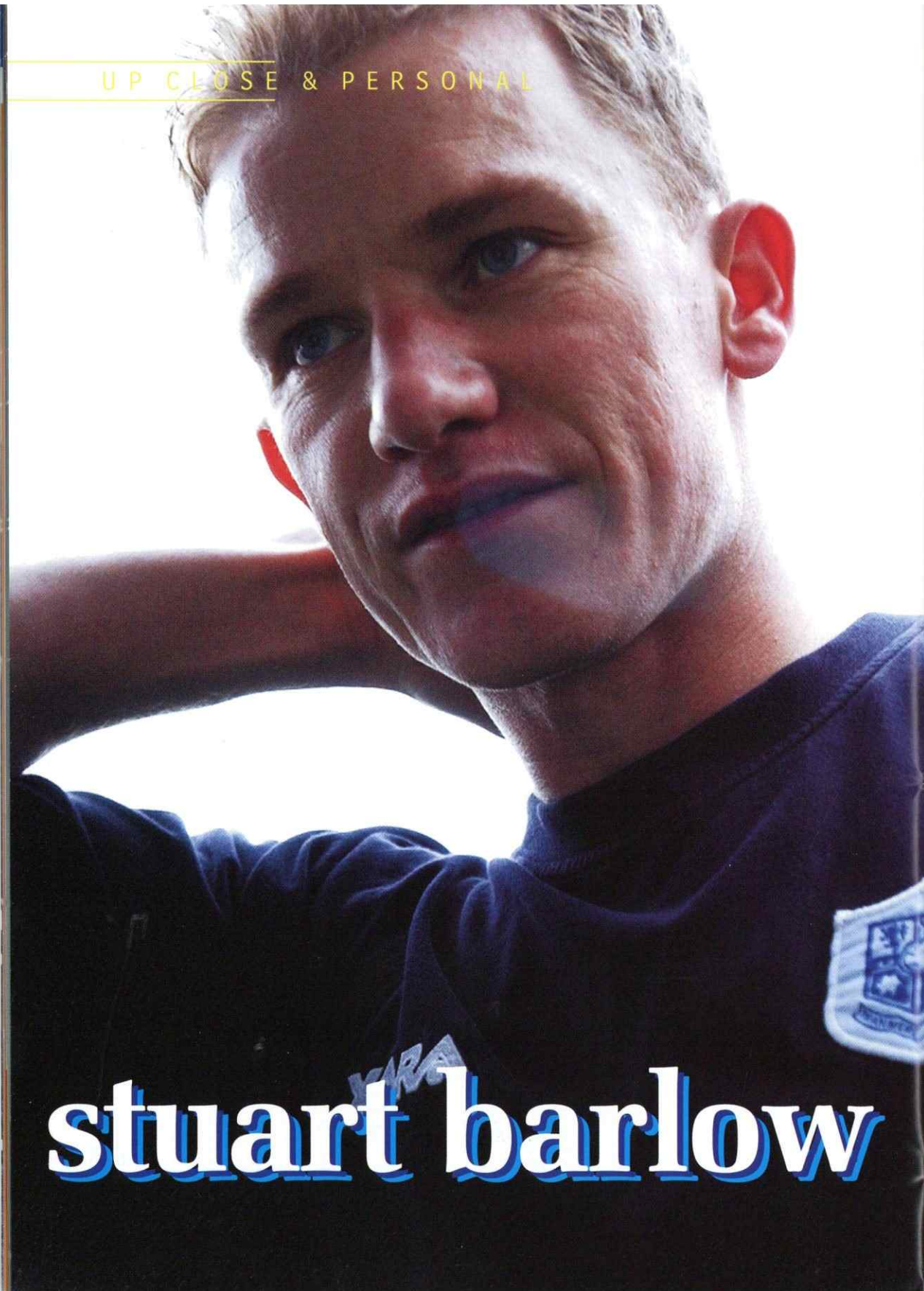
### COMING SOON.. TEAM MATES

a brand new football website to help you track down all your old footballing pals!  
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### WHO'S THE BOSS?



Can you name this famous football boss from the "retro" picture above and clues below?  
Born: Edinburgh - 06.05.53  
Midfielder - played for: Tottenham, Middlesbrough, Liverpool, Sampdoria, Rangers.  
Managed in UK: Rangers, Liverpool, Southampton and currently ??



stuart barlow

**Who was your favourite Team when you were growing up?**

Liverpool - because my family supported them

**Who was your favourite player when you were growing up?**

Paul Duggan (Sherwood Park) because every time I was kicked he would fight my battles for me, always before the 90 minutes were up.

**What the best ever goal that you've seen?**

I'd have to say Simon Haworth's in the play off final against Gillingham when we were at Wigan

**What's the best ever game that you've seen?**

Liverpool v Everton in the FA Cup back in 1991, when it finished 4-4

**What's the best game you've played in?**

It's got to be Tranmere v Southampton in the FA Cup, when we came back from 3-0 down to win 4-3.

**What's the best goal you've scored?**

It has to be the nest three goals, when I scored all three for Oldham in a 3-0 win over Bradford who had Eric Nixon in goal, I'll leave that one with you... oh and by the way Nicko one was a chip.



RONALD KOEMAN

**Who is the toughest opponent you've faced?**

Ronald Koeman, when he played for Feyenoord

**What was the first Football match you ever went to?**

It was too far back to remember!

**What's the funniest incident you've seen?**

Paul Rideout coming on in a match wearing Sean Flynn's shirt about two seasons ago (he was fined £150 too, ha ha!)

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

I was getting ready to come on as sub and I realised I didn't have a shirt on!

**What's the best piece of advice you've been given?**

"Get in the box and score a goal" My six year old son Josh says it to me before every game.

**Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**

My dad, Graham Smith and Jimmy Gabriel.

**Who are your best friends in football?**

Simon Haworth, Gareth Roberts and Andy Parkinson

**Who do you room with and what are their worst habits?**

Simon Haworth and the big problem are his rancid smelling feet but I've made him buy a new pair of trainers, so it's ok for now.

**What do you hope to do after you finish playing?**

Improve my golf handicap and win the lottery!



STUART BARLOW



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## nationalwide league division two

Date	Opponents	Res	Attn	Away	Goalkeeper													
Sat 10 Aug	A Port Vale	W 4-1	5,629	989	Weich(1)	Hinds	ALLEN	Gray	Sharps	Nicholson	Navarro	Mellon(2)	KOUMAS	Price(3)	HAWORTH			
Tue 13 Aug	H Colchester United	D 1-1	7,499	110	Feuer	Allen	Mellon	Gray	Sharps(1)	Price(2)	KOUMAS	Haworth	Navarro(3)	Nicholson	McGibbon			
Sat 17 Aug	H Cheltenham Town	W 1-0	6,807	328	Feuer	Allen	Mellon	Gray(3)	Sharps	Price(1)	Haworth	Navarro(2)	Harrison	Nicholson	McGibbon			
Sat 24 Aug	A Oldham Athletic	L 0-2	5,933	1,086	Achterberg	Allen	Gray	McGibbon	Navarro(1)	Nicholson	Sharps(2)	Koumas	Mellon	Price(3)	Haworth			
Mon 26 Aug	H Huddersfield Town	W 2-1	7,534	1,011	Achterberg	Sharps(1)	McGibbon	GRAY	Allen	Navarro(2)	Mellon	Koumas	Nicholson	Haworth(3)	Barlow			
Sat 31 Aug	A Bristol City	L 0-2	9,849	402	Achterberg	Allen	Mellon	Gray	Sharps(1)	Haworth	Barlow	Hinds	Nicholson(3)	Jones	Curtis(2)			
Sat 7 Sep	A Blackpool	L 0-3	6,834	1,338	Achterberg	Allen	Gray	Sharps(1)	Hinds	Jones	Mellon	Curtis(2)	Nicholson(3)	Barlow	Haworth			
Sat 14 Sep	H Brentford	W 3-1	6,626	198	Achterberg	Allen	Sharps	Gray(1)	Taylor	Jones	Mellon	Curtis(2)	Roberts	HAWORTH 2	PRICE			
Tue 17 Sep	H Wigan Athletic	L 0-2	8,153	1,461	Achterberg	Allen	Roberts	Mellon	Sharps	Price(1)	Haworth	Barlow	Taylor	Jones	Curtis(2)			
Sat 21 Sep	A Crewe Alexandra	L 0-2	6,875	1,231	Weich(1)	Allen	Roberts	Mellon	Price(2)	Haworth	Barlow	Taylor	Edwards	Jones	Curtis			
Sat 28 Sep	H Stockport County	W 1-0	7,513	837	Whitehead	Allen	Roberts	Taylor	Edwards	Mellon	Hay	Jones	Curtis	HAWORTH	Barlow			
Sat 5 Oct	A Mansfield Town	L 1-6	3,668	545	Whitehead	Taylor	Allen	Edwards	Nicholson	Mellon	Jones	Curtis	HAY	Haworth#	Parkinson			
Sat 12 Oct	A Chesterfield	L 0-1	4,111	563	Achterberg	Taylor	Allen	Edwards	Harrison	Mellon	Jones	Connelly	Nicholson	Hay(1)	Haworth			
Sat 19 Oct	H Barnsley	W 1-0	6,855	466	Achterberg	ALLEN	Mellon	Barlow(2)	Harrison	Taylor(1)	Nicholson	Connelly	Edwards	Jones	Curtis			
Sat 26 Oct	A Cardiff City**	L 0-4	12,096	202	Achterberg	Allen	Roberts(2)	Mellon(1)	Olsen	Harrison	Taylor	Nicholson	Connelly	Edwards	Proudlock			
Tue 29 Oct	H Peterborough United	D 1-1	5,980	107	Achterberg	Connelly	Allen#	Edwards	Nicholson	Taylor	Harrison	Jones	Roberts	Proudlock	Barlow(1)			
Sat 2 Nov	H Plymouth Argyle	W 2-1\$	7,083	575	Achterberg	Allen	Mellon	Haworth	Harrison(2)	Taylor(3)	Nicholson(1)	Connelly	Edwards	Jones	Proudlock			
Sat 9 Nov	A Swindon Town	D 1-1	5,077	481	Achterberg	Allen	Edwards	Connelly	Nicholson(2)	Roberts	Mellon	JONES	Price(1)	Haworth	Proudlock			
Sat 23 Nov	A Wycombe Wanderers	W 3-1	5,386	483	Achterberg	Allen	Roberts	Mellon	HAWORTH	BARLOW 2	Nicholson	Connelly(1)	Edwards	Jones	Proudlock			
Sat 30 Nov	H Luton Town																	
Sat 14 Dec	A Northampton Town																	
Sat 21 Dec	H Notts County																	
Thu 26 Dec	A Huddersfield Town																	
Sat 28 Dec	H Queens Park Rangers																	
Wed 1 Jan	H Oldham Athletic																	
Sat 4 Jan	A Colchester United																	
Sat 11 Jan	A Cheltenham Town																	
Sat 18 Jan	H Bristol City																	
Sat 25 Jan	A Queens Park Rangers																	
Sat 1 Feb	H Port Vale																	
Sat 8 Feb	H Swindon Town																	
Sat 15 Feb	A Plymouth Argyle																	
Sat 22 Feb	H Blackpool																	
Sat 1 Mar	A Brentford																	
Tue 4 Mar	A Wigan Athletic																	
Sat 8 Mar	H Crewe Alexandra																	
Fri 14 Mar	H Cardiff City																	
Tue 18 Mar	A Barnsley																	
Sat 22 Mar	A Peterborough United																	
Sat 29 Mar	H Chesterfield																	
Sat 5 Apr	A Luton Town																	
Sat 12 Apr	H Wycombe Wanderers																	
Sat 19 Apr	A Notts County																	
Mon 21 Apr	H Northampton Town																	
Sat 26 Apr	H Mansfield Town																	
Sat 3 May	A Stockport County																	

## fa cup

Date	Opponents	Res	Attn	Away	Goalkeeper													
Sat 16 Nov	H Cardiff City (1)	D 2-2	5,592	466	Achterberg	Allen	Roberts	Mellon	HAWORTH	BARLOW	Taylor(1)	Nicholson(2)	Connelly(3)	Edwards	Jones			
Tue 26 Nov	A Cardiff City (1R)	L 1-2	6,853	104	Achterberg#	Allen	Roberts	MELLON	Gray	Haworth(1)	Barlow	Taylor(2)	Nicholson(3)	Edwards	Jones			

## worthington cup

Date	Opponents	Res	Attn	Away	Goalkeeper													
Tue 10 Sep	A Hartlepool United (1)	W 2-1	2,778	117	Achterberg	TAYLOR	Allen	Gray	Sharps	Roberts	Mellon	Jones	Curtis	HAWORTH	Barlow(1)			
Wed 2 Oct	A Southampton (2)	L 1-6	16,603	614	Whitehead	Taylor	Roberts(1)	Edwards	ALLEN	Harrison	Jones	Mellon	Curtis	Hay(2)	Barlow(3)			

## ldv vans trophy (northern section)

Date	Opponents	Res	Attn	Away	Goalkeeper													
Tue 22 Oct	H Hartlepool United (1)	W 5-0	3,387	67	Achterberg	Connelly	Allen	Edwards(1)	Nicholson	TAYLOR	HARRISON	Mellon	Curtis(2)	ROBERTS(3)	JONES 2			
Tue 12 Nov	A Macclesfield Town (2)	W 2-1>	1,145	683	Achterberg	Roberts	Mellon(1)	Gray	Haworth	Taylor(2)	Nicholson	Connelly	Edwards	Jones	Proudlock			
Tue 10 Dec	A Bury (QF)																	

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	Referee
Nixon	Harrison	Barlow	Hume	Olsen	S. Baines
Hume	Barlow	Harrison	Parkinson	Nixon	M. S. Pike
BARLOW	Parkinson	Hume	McGuire	Achterberg	M. Cooper
Harrison	Hume	Barlow	Welch	Hinds	G. Laws
Hume	Harrison	PRICE	Welch	Hinds	G. Salisbury
Hume	Parkinson	Price	Harrison	Nixon	M. Warren
Hume	Parkinson	Price	Welch	Olsen	P. Robinson
Barlow	Parkinson	Welch	Hume	Olsen	P. Dowd
Hume	Parkinson	Welch	Olsen	Edwards	S. Mathieson
Nixon	Parkinson(3)	Hume	Sharps	Harrison	A. Kaye
Sharps	Parkinson	Olsen	Harrison	Nixon	C. Wilkes
Olsen	Barlow	Harrison	Sharps	Achterberg	B. Curson
Barlow	Whitehead	Hinds	Olsen	Sharps	M. Fletcher
Parkinson	Roberts	Sharps	Hay	Whitehead	R. Styles
Barlow	Parkinson	Gray	McGuire	Whitehead	C. Penton
HUME	Gray	Hay	Olsen	Whitehead	E. Evans
ROBERTS	Price	Hume	Gray	Palethorpe	S. Dunn
Taylor	Barlow	Harrison	Howarth	Gray	F. Stretton
Gray	Howarth	Hay	Harrison	Taylor	M. Thorpe

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	Referee
Hay	Harrison	Gray	Haworth	Olsen	M. Fletcher
Hume	Howarth	Hay	Sharps	Harrison	M. Fletcher

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	Referee
Hume	Price	Parkinson	Welch	Harrison	M. Clattenburg
Hinds	Olsen	Parkinson	Achterberg	Sharps	P. Taylor

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	Referee
Gray	Olsen	Hume	Barlow	Whitehead	M. Warren
BARLOW 2	Harrison	Sharps	Hay	Palethorpe	P. Joslin

## Nationwide 2 TABLE 2002/03

	Home					Away					Pts		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		A	GD
1 Wigan	19	5	3	1	17	9	7	2	1	16	4	20	41
2 Cardiff	19	8	1	1	19	5	4	3	2	12	10	16	40
3 Oldham	19	6	1	3	21	7	5	4	0	11	5	20	38
4 Bristol City	18	7	0	1	18	3	5	1	4	20	18	17	37
5 Crewe	19	6	1	3	12	6	4	3	2	16	9	13	34
6 QPR	19	6	1	2	17	2	5	3	11	11	10	30	
7 Brentford	19	4	4	2	12	5	4	1	4	13	17	3	29
8 Luton	19	3	4	3	17	13	4	2	3	10	13	1	27
9 Blackpool	19	5	2	2	16	10	3	1	6	8	17	-3	27
10 Chesterfield	19	6	2	1	12	5	2	1	7	4	16	-5	27
11 Tranmere	19	6	2	1	12	7	2	1	7	9	23	-9	27
12 Northampton	19	5	2	3	16	7	2	2	5	5	17	-3	25
13 Plymouth	19	4	3	3	16	14	2	3	4	11	14	-1	24
14 Wycombe	19	4	2	4	20	18	2	3	4	5	10	-3	23
15 Barnsley	19	3	4	2	11	13	3	1	6	11	16	-7	23
16 Port Vale	19	3	2	4	10	13	3	3	4	11	15	-7	23
17 Swindon	19	3	2	4	11	10	3	2	5	12	19	-6	22
18 Stockport	19	3	3	3	15	14	3	0	7	8	14	-5	21
19 Colchester	19	3	3	3	8	7	2	3	5	11	19	-7	21
20 Notts County	18	1	5	4	13	18	2	4	2	11	9	-3	18
21 Cheltenham	19	2	2	5	9	14	2						

COMING SOON



# thenextinstalment

## HOME



### Notts County

Saturday 21 December 2002  
Nationwide League Division Two  
Kick Off 3.00pm at Prenton Park

We entertain the Magpies of Meadow Lane at Prenton Park next, in what will be the continuation of a long running saga between the oldest club in the football league, and some say the world, and the super white army of Tranmere Rovers.

This fixture has decided many a promotion and relegation over the years, and this will no less vital. Bill Deardon's side have had their difficulties both on and off the pitch recently, with ownership wrangles, and the unfortunate position of administration to deal with, alongside an alarming dip in form and some frightening injuries.

With the small matter of a 3-0 away drubbing by County last season to avenge, the lads will be up for it, but with striking talent of the likes of Danny Allsop in their side, this will be no walk in the park...



## AWAY



### Bury

Saturday 7 December 2002  
LDV Vans Trophy Northern Section Quarter Final  
Kick Off 3.00pm

**By Car:** Exit the M66 at Junction 2, take Bury Road (A58) for 0.5 miles, then turn left into Heywood Street and follow this into Parkhills Road until its end, turn left into Manchester Road (A56) and then left into Gigg Lane

**Car Parking:** Street Parking

**By Train:** Liverpool Lime Street to Manchester Victoria or Piccadilly. Metro Service (Northbound) to Bury Interchange - Approx. 1 mile from ground.

**Visitors Section:** Manchester Road Stand.

**Club Shop:** At Ground located on Gigg Lane

**Disabled Supporters:** Must be booked in advance. Ring 0161 764 4881

**Website:** www.buryfc.co.uk

**Main Telephone:** 0161 764 4881 (All enquiries)

**Last Seasons' Results:** League - Home: Lost 1-2, Away: Won 1-0



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BOX OFFICE



Tuesday 10 December 2002 - LDV Vans Trophy Northern Section Quarter Final - KO 7.45pm

### Bury (Away)

Admission: Cash on the Turnstiles - Adults £10, Concessions £5.  
**Special 'Family' Ticket:** Adult + Child £12. These must be purchased from the Bury Ticket Office prior to the game. Ring 0161 764 4881 for more details.  
For All Coach Details, Please Contact The Tranmere Ticket Office - 0151 609 3322  
Matchday Programme: £1.00 (Correct at time going to press)



Saturday 14 December 2002 - Nationwide League Division Two - KO 3.00pm

### Northampton Town (Away)

Admission: Adults £14, Seniors/Students £9.50, Under 16 £9.50  
Official Coach Travel: Executive Travel Only. NOW DEPARTS 10.15am  
Members: Adults £13.50 Non-Members £12.00  
Non-Members: Adults £14.50 Concessions: £13.00  
Matchday Programme: £2.00 (Correct at time going to press).



Tranmere Rovers Ticket Office **0151 609 3322**

Merseytravel

Take the train to Hamilton Square or Birkenhead Central station and board the Soccerbus to Prenton Park

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- **SOCCERBUS** to Prenton Park for all Tranmere Rovers League and Cup matches - whatever day of the week!
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- **SOCCERBUS** will run for 1 1/2 hours before each match (last bus from Hamilton Square is approx. 20 min. before kick-off) and for 20 min. after the final whistle (subject to availability).
- Pay as you board the **SOCCERBUS** - a return journey will cost just 50p.

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# next tickets





# teamselection

## Tranmere Rovers v Luton Town

John Achterberg	1	Mark Ovendale	
Graham Allen	2	Aaron Skelton	
Gareth Roberts	3	Alan Neilson	
Mickey Mellon	4	Matthew Spring	
Kevin Gray	5	Russell Perrett	
Ian Sharps	6	Marvin Johnson	
Jason Price	7	Adrian Forbes	
	8	Kevin Nicholls	
Simon Haworth	9	Tony Thorpe	
Alan Navarro	10	Carl Griffiths	
Stuart Barlow	11	Steve Robinson	
Andy Parkinson	12	Chris Coyne	
Russell Howarth	13		
Richard Hinds	14	Andrew Fotiadis	
Iain Hume	15	Dean Crowe	
Alex Hay	16	Carl Emberson	
James Olsen	17	Emmerson Boyce	
Danny Harrison	18	Ahmet Brkovic	
Phillip Baker	19	Steve Howard	
Ryan Taylor	20	Peter Holmes	
Jamie McGuire	21	Paul Hughes	
Paul Robinson	22	David Bayliss	
Paul Linwood	23	Ian Hillier	
Karl Dunbar	24	Sol Davis	
Shane Nicholson	25		
Sean Connelly	26		
	27		
	28		
	29		
	30		
	31	Alan Kimble	
Eric Nixon	32		
Christian Edwards	33		
Gary Jones	34		
	35	Cedric Berthelin	
	36		

### The Officials

Referee:  
Mr. A. M. Penn

Assistant Referees:  
Mr. M. Matadar  
& Mr. G. T. Stott  
Fourth Official:  
Mr. J. F. Tattan

### Today's Fixtures



Friday 29 November  
QPR v Cardiff

- Saturday 30 November
- Barnsley v Oldham
  - Blackpool v Notts County
  - Bristol City v Crewe
  - Cheltenham v Brentford
  - Chesterfield v Huddersfield
  - Colchester v Plymouth
  - Port Vale v Mansfield
  - Stockport v Wycombe
  - Swindon v Peterborough
  - Wigan v Northampton



Next Home Game  
**Notts County**  
Nationwide League Division Two  
Saturday 21 December 2002 Kick Off 3.00pm



# teams



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