

Rovers Review

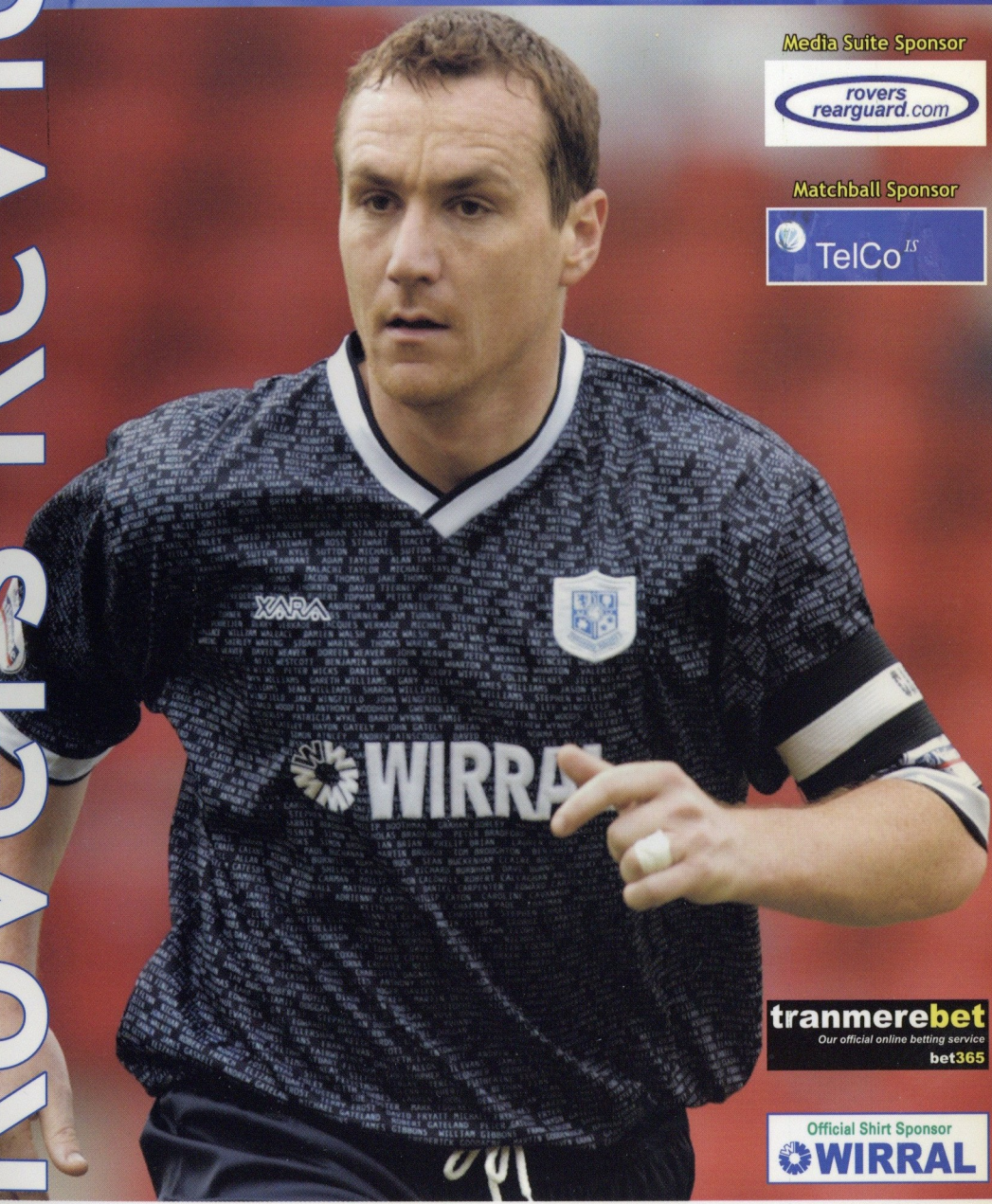
Tranmere Rovers
versus Luton Town
Saturday 10 April 2004
Kick Off 3.00pm



Media Suite Sponsor



Matchball Sponsor



The Official Tranmere Rovers Matchday Programme Season 2003-04

Price £2.50

www.tranmererovers.co.uk

Your Last Chance...

...TO BE CROWNED WIRRAL'S KARAOKE KING OR QUEEN

We've got our first four finalists
and are now looking for the
rest of the contenders for our
grand final on April 29

COME & JOIN LORRAINE
AND THE BOYS FROM
THE BUZZ BREAKFAST SHOW
AS THEY HOST THE SECOND
AND FINAL HEAT
THIS THURSDAY

DON'T FORGET IT'S THE AUDIENCE THAT
DECIDES WHO GOES THROUGH TO
THE GRAND FINAL

DOORS OPEN AT 7.00PM
& WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF DRINKS ON OFFER,
INCLUDING STELLA AT JUST £1.00 A BOTTLE!

FOR MORE DETAILS RING 0151 609 3390.

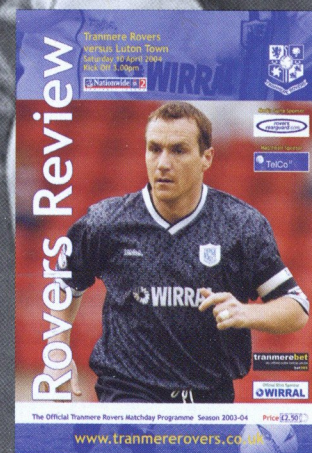
SEE YOU THERE!



THURSDAY
15TH APRIL
DOORS OPEN
AT 7.00PM
ADMISSION
FREE



Page 12...



Look out for...

- 9 **Opposite Numbers**
Hatters brimming with confidence over a play-off charge
- 12 **24-7 Tranmere**
Paul Hall
- 38 **SWA On Manoeuvres**
Derby Day - on National Day!
- 40 **Players - Past & Present**
Mark McCarrick

Versus Luton Town
Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 10 April 2004

This Issue...

- 4 **Little at Large**
Looking forward to today's game
- 7 **From The Top**
Lorraine Rogers
- 15 **The Slaughter House**
Les Parry
- 16 **What's In Store?**
Now at the Club Shop
- 17 **Club News - CH42**
News from the home front
- 18 **The Younger Generation**
Reserves and Youth in focus
- 22 **Anorak's Paradise**
Club/Divisional Statistics
- 25 **Commercial Break**
With Ruth Grocott
- 26 **Piece of the Action - 1**
QPR 6/4/04
- 28 **Centre of Attention**
Chris Dagnall
- 30 **Celebrity Dinner**
The Jeff Winter Evening
- 35 **Community**
Football In The Community
- 37 **Passion For Programmes**
Peterborough 20/3/04
- 43 **Fan Base**
Tony Morris - in black and white
- 47 **The Next Instalment**
Coming next - home and away
- 49 **Just The Ticket**
Ticket Office Announcements
- 50 **Super White Stats**
First Team Statistics
- 53 **Supporting Rovers**
Caught on camera: Notts County
- 54 **Feature**
Player of the Season preview: 2
- 56 **Team Selection**
Today's squads



Tranmere Rovers Football Club

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

GENERAL NUMBER

0151 609 3333

FAX NUMBER

0151 608 6114

TICKET OFFICE

0151 609 3322

CLUB SHOP

0151 609 3311

CONFERENCE & FUNCTIONS

0151 609 3316

PRESIDENT

Peter Johnson

THE BOARD

Lorraine Rogers CHAIRMAN
Mick Horton CHIEF EXECUTIVE/SECRETARY
Richard Hughes FINANCE DIRECTOR
Tony Adams ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Norman Wilson ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

Ruth Grocott

MANAGER

Brian Little

CLUB HONOURS

Worthington Cup Finalists 1999-2000
Leyland DAF Cup Winners 1989-90
Leyland DAF Cup Finalists 1990-91
Welsh Cup Winners 1934-35
Welsh Cup Finalists 1933-34
Division Three North Champions 1937-38
Promoted to Third Division
1966-67, 1975-76, 1988-89
Division Three Play-off Winners 1990-91

PHOTOGRAPHY

© Action Images

ALL MATERIAL

© Tranmere Rovers F.C.
Views expressed by some contributors may
not reflect those of the Directors &
Management of the Club

EDITORIAL / TYPESET / PRODUCTION

Tony Coombes, Becky Ashton, Ruth Grocott
& Tranmere Rovers Football Club

PRINTING

Colourplan Design & Print Tel: 01744 753335

MATCHDAY MUSIC



top dog for music:dvd-games

Little at Large

“This afternoon I'd like to welcome Mike Newell, his players, staff, and the fans that have made the trip up for today's game.

We were outstanding here on Tuesday and were unlucky not to have taken all three points after being the better side on the night

Every player on the pitch was excellent and I couldn't have asked for anything more from them, during a very exciting match, where on another night we could have scored four or five goals.

Eugene was unlucky not to have had a hat trick himself but the important thing was that we were creating the chances and that he in particular was getting in some excellent positions.

The players have proved all season that they can play against the best in the division and we've had some excellent results against the teams in the top six, now it's all

about finding that consistency.

Our form at the moment has been very pleasing, not only has the defence been excellent keeping five clean sheets in a row, but going forward we are creating more and more chances with each game we play.

When I arrived here I indicated that I wanted to bring wingers in to the side, because I really felt they would benefit the play and I bought in David Beresford and Paul Hall who have done well for me.

But they're not the only players who can do that job with Ryan Taylor, Iain Hume and more recently Gareth

Roberts all doing well in that position.

We know to expect another tough match this afternoon, with the opponents another side desperate for points to keep their promotion push alive.

When you look at the table you realise just how close the division is Luton are currently in ninth place but only one point behind Bournemouth, who we also still have to play, in sixth.

We have already played Luton twice, although one was before I arrived, but we have had tough games on both occasions.

The FA Cup match

down at Kenilworth Road was a very difficult encounter with very little between the two sides and in the end it took a great solo effort from Mickey Mellon to win the tie.

We will be expecting more of the same today and if we play anywhere near as well as we did on Tuesday then we can expect a very entertaining match.

Your support really has been excellent this season, both home and away and it is really appreciated by myself and all of the players, so make yourself heard once more this afternoon. ”

“Our form at the moment has been very pleasing, not only has the defence been excellent keeping five clean sheets in a row, but going forward we are creating more and more chances with each game we play.

When I arrived here I indicated that I wanted to bring wingers in to the side, because I really felt they would benefit the play and I bought in David Beresford and Paul Hall who have done well for me.”



Have you subscribed to Tranmere World yet? If not then why not? Do you know what you're missing out on?

Tranmere World is the only place where you can hear full 90 minute commentary from every Tranmere Rovers league match both home and away. Commentary is supplied by BBC Radio Merseyside with Derek Jones joined for every match by a member of the Rovers squad.

You can hear exclusive interviews from players and coaches alike including Brian Little's pre and post match interviews in full.

You can see goals and highlights not only from every Tranmere match but indeed every goal in the Football League

With over 20,000 clips in the archive you can view goals and chances from every player currently plying their trade in the Football League for the past two seasons.

So what are you waiting for?
Sign up now,
see the official website for more details.



**WATCH ALL OF
ENGLAND'S GAMES
IN EURO 2004 LIVE
ON THE BIG SCREEN
IN ALDO'S**

**SUNDAY 13TH JUNE, FRANCE v ENGLAND, 19.45 KO
THURSDAY 17TH JUNE, ENGLAND v SWITZERLAND, 17.00 KO
MONDAY 21ST JUNE, CROATIA v ENGLAND, 19.45 KO**

**DOORS OPEN 1 HOUR BEFORE KICK OFF
GREAT OFFERS ON BEER
FOOD AVAILABLE**

Plus check out England's form prior to the tournament kicking off in Portugal as they meet Japan on Tuesday 1st June (KO 20.00) and Iceland on Saturday 5th June (KO 15.30)*

***THIS GAME WILL BE SCREENED IN TRANMERE SUITE**

From The Top



“ I'd like to welcome Mike Newell and the Directors, players and supporters from Luton Town to Prenton Park this afternoon. Mike knows us well having spent a short spell with us as reserve team manager. He has gone on to achieve success as a manager at both Hartlepool and Luton Town and we are honoured even in the two games we have played at Kenilworth Road so far this season.

Luton are just one point from a play off place and will desperately want the points this afternoon. I hope it's as entertaining as Tuesday night's game.

The QPR game was full of action and incidents but sadly without the goal we clearly deserved.

It's pleasing to be in the top half of the table and to see the team playing with such commitment. I hope this will continue for the remaining six games of the season.

Congratulations are due to some of our players who've attracted national and international attention in the last fortnight. Ian Goodison, Gareth Roberts and Iain Hume were all singled out for international duty and on Tuesday The Football League announced that Iain Hume had won the

Division Two player of the month award for March - sponsored by Umbro Isotonic this is the official award of The Football League. Millwall's Tim Cahill picked up the award for Division One and Huddersfield's Efe Sodje was Division Three's winner.

It's the time of year when Tranmere supporters get the chance to vote for their own player and goal of the season. The Club's official awards are presented at a dinner attended by Brian Little and the squad on Wednesday 5 May and voting is well under way (via e-mail or forms at the Club Shop). It's interesting to monitor the voting as it changes from day to day - there's no clear leader so far.

Tyrone Loran, Danny Harrison and

Ian Sharps won Man of the Match awards from our match sponsors and executive room members on Tuesday night. Naturally supporter and media attention tends to focus on our forwards but there have been many occasions this season when our midfielders and defenders have deserved the praise and the glory.

As the season has progressed our confidence and self belief have increased. This augurs well for 2004/5 and it's exciting to consider how we can build on what we've achieved this season.

I hope you have an enjoyable Easter break and will come back for our last two home games of the 2003/4 season against Barnsley and Grimsby.

Happy Easter.

Train with the Professionals!

ONE DAY GOALKEEPING COURSE HOSTED BY TRANMERE ROVERS' YOUTH COACHES

Course Director Alan Thomson
with tips from John Achterberg

THIS Tuesday 13 April

10.00am - 4.00pm,
Youth Training Ground, Ingleborough Road
(2 mins from Prenton Park)

FOR JUST £22!

LUNCH INCLUDED

NO NEED TO PRE-BOOK - YOU CAN REGISTER ON THE DAY, JUST COME INTO MAIN RECEPTION BETWEEN 8.30 AND 9.45AM ON TUESDAY MORNING AND COLLECT YOUR TICKET, OR VISIT THE CLUB SHOP AFTER TODAY'S GAME

SUITABLE FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 10-16

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE



Opposite Numbers

Luton Town

Luton are another team desperate for points as they look to continue their promotion push, but they will also know that it will be anything but easy at Prenton Park this afternoon.

Tranmere have already beaten Plymouth, Bristol City, Brighton and Swindon here and thoroughly deserved all three points in Tuesday's match with QPR. As it was they had to settle for a point so everyone will be looking for the win today.

Rovers have now kept five clean sheets on the bounce and although Luton managed three goals at Hartlepool they'll find things tougher against a defence in impressive form.

Despite managing three goals away from home they went down 4-3 at Victoria Park, conceding a penalty in the 90th minute, which was duly dispatched by Adam Boyd.

The defeat leaves them slightly off the pace in ninth place but only one point off the final play-off position, an excellent achievement for a side who have spent time in administration and under a transfer embargo.

Mike Newell has been forced to wheel and deal shrewdly in the transfer market, although he was forced to register

himself as a player earlier in the season as the Club endured an injury crisis.

The two sides have already met twice this season, once in the league and once in the FA Cup, with the club's level on one win apiece.

The league match at Kenilworth Road came just after the departure of Ray Mathias, seeing John McMahon take charge of his first away game.

After beating Wycombe 2-1 in his first game in charge hopes were high going into this one but in the end the only positive was Chris Dagnall's first senior goal as Rovers went down 3-1 live on television.

The second meeting was the Fourth Round of the FA Cup, when Rovers, fresh from beating Bolton at the Reebok Stadium, travelled down the M1 for the second time but this time they had more success with Mickey Mellon netting the only goal of the game to set up the home tie with Swansea in the Fifth Round.

Luton's last visit to Prenton Park ended in an impressive 3-1 win, when goals from Spring, Brkovic and Howard in the last 20 minutes cancelled out an early strike from Gareth Roberts in one of only three home defeats all season.

Since the arrival of Brian Little we have endured only one home defeat, that coming last month against Chesterfield but Rovers are now unbeaten in their last five matches and the plan is to keep the run going.

Meet The Manager...

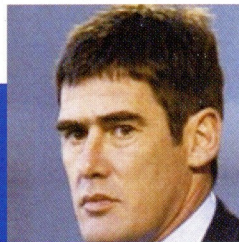
Mike Newell

Newell was appointed as the Hatters boss in the summer of 2003, returning to the club he had previously served as a player in the mid-eighties.

Newell has been in football for more than 20 years, beginning as a striker at Crewe before joining Wigan. After three years at Springfield Park he moved to Luton for £80,000 in January 1986. He was recruited as a replacement for Mick Harford, who was on the injured list. Luton were then in the old First Division, now the Premiership, and Newell flourished at top level, with 19 goals in 68 matches for the Hatters.

He racked up a succession of big money transfers after that: £350,000 to Leicester, £1.1million to Everton, £1.1 million to Blackburn, where he won a Premiership winner's medal, and £900,000 to Birmingham. West Ham, Bradford, Aberdeen, Crewe again, and Blackpool were also grateful for his goal-scoring abilities before he moved into coaching here at Prenton Park.

In November 2002 he was given his first job as a manager, at Hartlepool. He guided them to promotion a few months later, but surprisingly his contract was not renewed. But Luton fans hadn't forgotten him, and gave him a huge welcome back when he took charge.



Opposite Numbers



Morten Hyldgaard >>>

The 6' 6" stopper arrived at the Hatters in January 2004 on a free transfer from Scottish Premier League side Hibernian. He began his career with Danish First Division side Ikast before a £200,000 move to Coventry City followed. He appeared just over thirty times for the club in a four-and-a-half year stay at Highfield Road. During that time he also had loan spells with Scunthorpe United and Grimsby before he made the switch north of the border during the close season.



Keith Keane <<<

A naturally more attacking player, the promising seventeen-year-old has deputised admirably for the deadleg victim Kevin Foley at right-back in recent weeks. He made his debut whilst only sixteen against Rushden in the LDV Vans Trophy back in October and in February he earned a call-up to Republic of Ireland Under-19 squad and returned to the first-team to turn in some impressive displays. Keith has been a key player in Luton's youth squad over the past two seasons, and has displayed great versatility by operating variety of outfield positions during that time.



Chris Coyne >>>

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 Harry Redknapp, then manager of West Ham. 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. A £50,000 cheque persuaded the Scottish Premier League club to let the defender move to Kenilworth Road in September 2001 and Coyne rapidly became a crowd favourite in the promotion run that followed. He has worn the skipper's armband since Kevin Nicholls picked up an injury at the start of the season and the Australian defender has turned in some commanding displays at the back again this year.



Emmerson Boyce <<<

One of the many to come through from Luton's schools and youth development programme, the defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995, and made the breakthrough to the League squad at the age of nineteen midway through the 1999/2000 season after occasional appearances following a debut in the Auto Windscreens Shield in January 1999. He became a regular at right back, with a liking to attack on the



overlap, and signed a new contract in the summer of 2002. However it is in the centre of the park that he has made his mark this season, serious injuries to Bayliss, Perrett and Neilson left the Hatters short of central defenders and Boyce has stepped inside to form a formidable partnership with Chris Coyne.

Sol Davi s>>>

It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town, and a coup for Luton, when the highly-rated defender decided to leave the County Ground after his contract expired at the end of the 2001/02 season. Swindon boss Andy King failed in attempts to persuade him to sign a new deal, and Luton manager swooped for the tough-tackling left back. Davis had joined Swindon as a trainee in the summer of 1998, and made rapid progress through the youth and reserve teams to become a regular in the Nationwide League.



Alan Neilson <<<

Experience and versatility has made Neilson a valuable member of Luton's squad, and he has filled any role asked of him with dependable consistency - anywhere in the back four, or in midfield. The former Welsh international was signed from Grimsby in 2002 as part of a cost-cutting exercise.



His international career began with appearances for Wales at youth and Under-21 level, followed by five full caps, and he enjoyed a good career in the Premiership, with his first club Newcastle and then with Southampton and Fulham. The German-born defender has been forced to spend a long spell on the sidelines in recent months, with a niggling calf injury preventing him from being involved but returned to the side in March and his experience will invaluable during the run-in.



Steve Robinson <<<

Looking to add experience to a young midfield department, Luton snapped up a man who had earned respect wherever he played. They paid £50,000 to Preston North End in the summer of 2002 for a player who had been capped five times by Northern Ireland. He had made his name at Bournemouth after joining the Cherries on a free transfer from Spurs, where he had been a trainee. He hit 60 goals in 286 appearances for Bournemouth, an enviable strike rate from midfield, and Preston paid £375,000 for him. But he failed to make the same impact in two years at

Deepdale, and jumped at the chance to get his career moving again when Luton came in for him. After eight months out with a persistent back problem Robinson was reluctantly reviewing his career options after being told he would have to retire from football but a trip to see a specialist for a third opinion resulted in a remarkable turnaround and the popular midfielder was back playing again ten days later. His return to the football field, and his preferred central-midfield berth, have resulted in some impressive performances, and coupled with some important goals, he is certainly making up for lost time.

Ahmet Brkovic >>>

Believing a move would be good for his career, the Croatian midfielder refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer. Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999. He was bitterly disappointed when Orient failed in the play-offs to win promotion to the Second Division, and decided he might have a better chance if he joined Luton. He was right, playing a valuable role, mainly on the right flank, to help Luton return to the Second Division at the first attempt however it is on the opposite side of midfield that he has spent most of the current campaign, his hardwork and determination down the left have made a valuable contribution to the Hatters success this season.



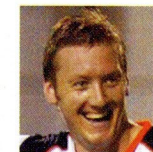
Kevin Foley <<<

Having progressed through the junior ranks at Kenilworth Road he found himself thrown into the first team picture during pre-season but has never looked back. Despite still being eligible for youth football he has established himself in the Hatters squad with a series of fine displays, equally at home at right back or on the right hand side of midfield his composure belies his years and he has settled in rapidly. In the Autumn he was called into the Eire Under-21's squad however an ankle injury denied

him the opportunity to make his international debut. He has continued to impress and in March 2004 he was rewarded for his efforts with a two-and-a-half year contract.

Steve Howard >>>

Rarely can £50,000 have been better spent in football than the fee Luton paid Northampton on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the bustling striker away from the Cobblers. He has been Luton's leading marksman in each of the past two seasons and is a huge favourite at Kenilworth Road - he was the fans player of the year in 2002, and the players' player of the year 12 months later. Howard had cost Northampton a then record fee of £120,000 when they recruited him from Hartlepool two years previously. They grudgingly accepted a third of their asking price for a player who would have left for nothing soon afterwards under the Bosman ruling. Howard exploded into action in his first full season with Luton, and his twenty-four goals made him the Third Division's top league marksman as Luton won promotion.



Star Man...

Enoch Showunmi

The big striker soon established himself as popular figure on the terraces and was rewarded with a two-and-a-half-year contract in February 2004 after the Football League gave the Club permission to sign him permanently.



He had originally joined the Hatters on non-contract terms on the eve of their trip to Notts County in September 2003 after impressing on trial with the club.

He had appeared for Luton during pre-season however the Hatters weren't in a position to sign him at the time because of a transfer embargo which had been imposed on them in the summer.

In the autumn they received special dispensation from the Football League following an injury to Kevin Nicholls, which would rule the midfielder out for over four months.

The London-born forward joined the club fresh from non-league football with Willesden Constantine - the same side that nurtured the early years of Barry Hayles career - after completing university.

With seven goals in 13 league starts he's certainly the man in form and one Rovers must watch out for.

Current Form...

Nationwide League Division Two
13/3/04

Luton Town 3 (Boyce, Holmes, Showunmi)
Blackpool 2 (Dinning, Blinkhorn)

16/3/04
Port Vale 1 (Cummins)
Luton Town 0

20/3/04
Luton Town 1 (Coyne)
Plymouth Argyle (Adams)

27/3/04
QPR 1 (Furlong)
Luton Town 1 (Showunmi)

3/4/04
Luton Town 1 (Showunmi)
Oldham Athletic 1 (Crowe)

6/4/04
Hartlepool United 4 (Sweeney, Boyd 2, Robertson)
Luton Town 3 (Howard, Leary 2)

Last Time Around...

2003/4
FA Cup Round 4
24/1/04
Luton Town 0
Tranmere Rovers 1 (Mellon)

Nationwide League Division Two
6/10/03
Luton Town 3 (Perrett, McSheffrey, Forbes)
Tranmere Rovers 1 (Dagnall)

2002/3
Nationwide League Division Two
5/4/04
Luton Town 0
Tranmere Rovers 0

30/11/02
Tranmere Rovers 1 (Roberts)
Luton Town 3 (Spring, Brkovic, Howard)

24/7 Tranmere



What really annoys you and why?

Thinking that I could have done more in a match.

What do you think is your most annoying habit and why?

Biting my nails! No explanation needed- Ed

What CD is on in your car at the moment?

I have a mix tape of hip-hop and reggae playing

in there at the minute, with Sean Paul, Elephant Man and Beyonce etc.

What song can't you get out of your head and why?

'Can't Get You Out Of My Head' by Kylie for obvious reasons!

What was the last film you watched and was it any good?

I watched a movie called 'Honey' - it was really good.

What programme do you never like to miss and why?

I don't like to miss 'Eastenders' or 'Coronation Street'. I'm a soap fanatic!

What was the last thing you bought?

My mix tape.

What do you spend the most money on?

Music.

What is your most treasured possession in the world and why?

If you call them possessions, then my children Paul and Corey.

Where did you go on your last holiday and did you have a good time?

Cyprus, I had a good time and the kids loved it!

If you could have any meal today what would it be?

It would be my favourite rice, peas and chicken.

What other sporting event would you pay to watch and why?

The tennis at Wimbledon, because I just like tennis.

What was the last concert you went to

and was it any good?

I went to see R&B artist 'Joe' and I really enjoyed the evening.

Who has the worst dress sense at the club and why?

I haven't been here long enough to answer that. A few of the lads have pointed out the leading contenders though!

What is your favourite item of clothing and why?

My sheepskin coat because it always keeps me warm!

If you could meet anyone past or present who would it be and why?

Muhammad Ali, I think he's the greatest sportsman and entertainer ever.

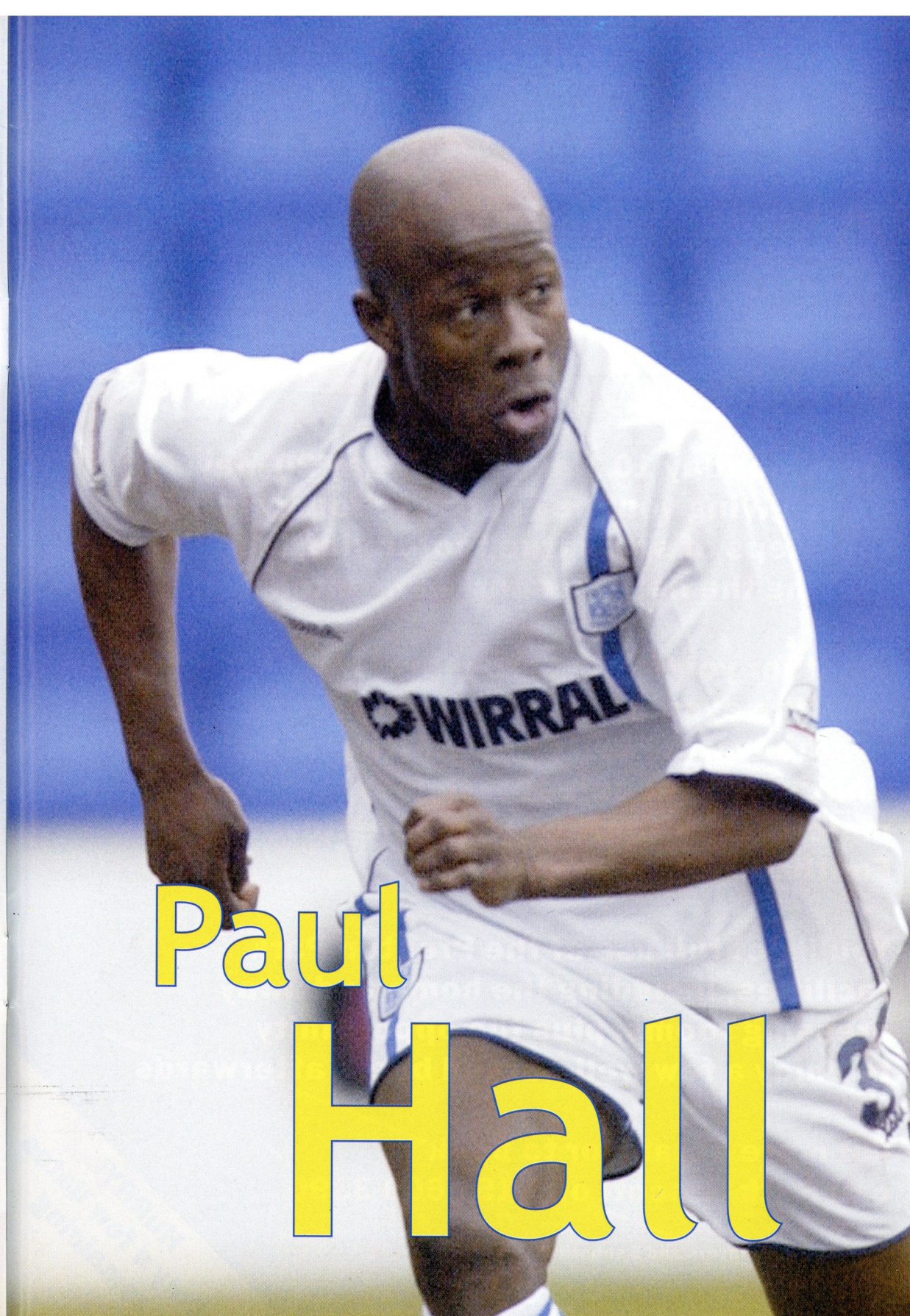
Do you have any hidden talents?

Obviously not as the answer was blank - Ed

Tell us one thing about you that we didn't already know?

I made a record and video once for the Jamaica World Cup song - I've destroyed all evidence of it now though!

Our latest recruit Paul Hall has already made a good impression since making his debut recently. He then took time out to participate in our player question and answer session, and reveals his faves in Cyprus, Honey and Beyonce - but denies any involvement with the cd/video for the Jamaican World Cup song!...



PITCH FOR HIRE

Always wanted to play
at Prenton Park?

Well now you can!

From Monday 10 May to Thursday 20 May,
we're giving you the chance to follow in the
footsteps of some true footballing legends by
gracing the hallowed turf at Prenton Park.

Whether you'd prefer to play during the day
or in the evening we've got something to suit
everybody with packages starting at just £800
(that's £25 per person*) to play a full scale
match at the home of Tranmere Rovers
Football Club

You'll get full use of the Prenton Park
facilities, including the home and away
dressing rooms, plus the opportunity
to enjoy a few well-earned beers afterwards

For more details or to book
call Ruth Grocott on 0151 609 3390

*Based on 11 players and 5 substitutes per team

HURRY!
Only a few dates
remaining

“ I'm fed up with these programmes coming along together like No. 77 buses. We don't have a home match for five fixtures on the bounce and then you are expected to write two in the space of three days. I'd better not mention the production team having Easter off. A couple of years ago, I gave our old printers stick for making us write our columns early due to Easter and it nearly caused a strike. I don't know about our new ones, so I'd better leave it this year.

It's not long till the Player of The Season Evening (Only a few tickets left and all the players will be there so don't miss out), and last year I had to present a 'Tart of the Year Award' for the biggest baby at the club. Sean Connelly won it by a mile and although he accepted it graciously on the night, I don't think he was over the moon really and even brought his older brother down to do me over. That made me rethink my strategy and selection policy and I've decided to let the fans pick this year's winner. I've decided that it will be the best pitch performance after an injury, I've had to run on the pitch 80 times so far this season so there should be some candidates in there. I've drawn up a short-list of candidates and you can vote which one you think is the most deserving.

Simon Haworth - Brentford (Away).

For the pathetic way he banged his fist into the ground as he shouted for me. As I ran on I was looking around for Mick McManus, I thought he may have had him in a Boston Crab the way he was pounding the pitch. OK, he had broken his leg and it was facing the wrong way but let's be British and keep our dignity. I'm sure Simon looks back in embarrassment and is sorry he let us all down.

Sean Connelly - Hartlepool (Home).

For the pitiful vacant look on his face and theatrical wobbly feet when he stood up after butting an opponents elbow. Normally I don't think head injuries are funny, but I can't believe that somebody with a swede as big and knobbly as Sean's can be bothered by such a little inoffensive thing as an elbow. When I got to Sean he had that 'Little boy lost' look on his face and

came out with that pathetic opening line, "Where am I?" and quickly followed it up with "What score is it?". Now I know you are thinking that he should have been taken off but to be honest he wasn't having the best of



...Ian Goodison has got a great taste in t-Shirts!

performances and I thought that if he didn't realise he was Sean Connelly, he may have thought he was somebody decent and started to play a bit better so I left him on. It worked as well because he started passing to our players.

Ian Goodison - Millwall (Away).

For the gay wave over to the bench

when he had kicked their striker's studs, for one minute I thought it was the Queen who had been injured. The to make it worse, he made Johnny Achterbung drag him off the pitch behind the goal. With it being right on half time, he let me and John carry him to the dressing room and deposit him on the treatment couch before jumping off after the gaffer's talk and going out and finishing the second half as if nothing had happened. At least it proved one thing to me, sucking on a carpet roll of ganja can help to cope with pain, it just stinks the dressing room out.

Iain Hume - Sheffield Wednesday (Away).

For the histrionics and squeals after getting slapped in the mush. The lad took a chance in the first place by slapping Iain in the mouth, it's like giving a sugar lump to a rabid horse, it could take your fingers off, luckily he escaped with grazed knuckles. It was a good job that it had been raining because if the ground had been hard, Iain could have hurt himself the speed he hit the deck. When I got to him there was a bit of blood on his lip and he informed me he had 'lacerated' his lip. Well if that was a laceration I'm going to have to make sure I have a plastic surgeon on standby the next time I have a shave, I couldn't even see it.

So they are the 4 nominations, just write in or send an e-mail to the club with your vote and we will see who wins the 'Tart Of The Year Award', and don't forget to get your tickets.

Hoping there is nothing to report next time.

The
Slaughter House
Les Parry

What's In Store?

...Kittens can get kitted out

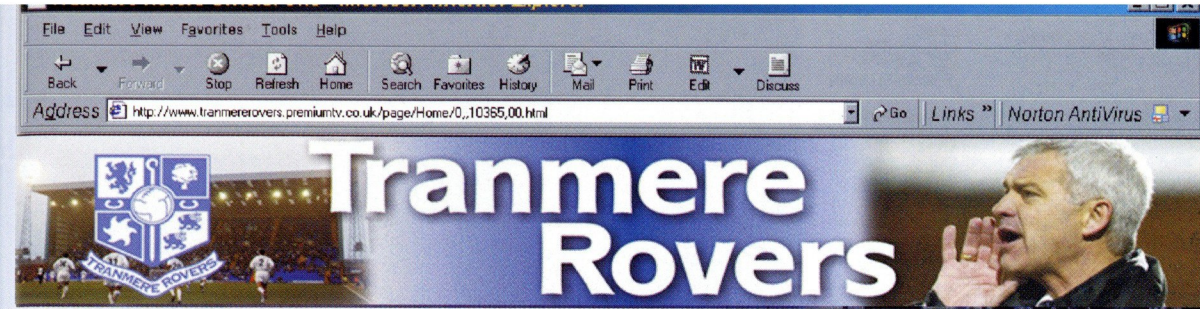
THIS IS PRENTON PARK

New TRFC Ladies Fitted Tops

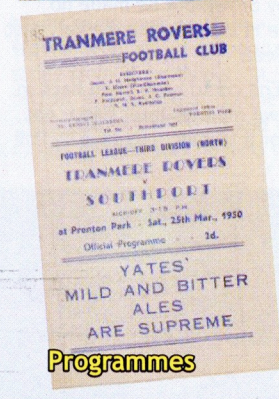
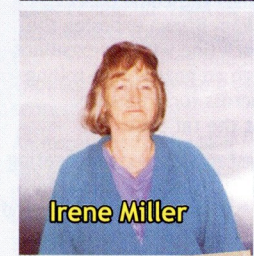
£14.99 Various Sizes Available

0151 609 3311

Online Shop: www.trfcshop.co.uk Email: shop@tranmererovers.co.uk
Opening Hours: Matchdays 10am to Kick Off & 30 minutes after the game
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm Non-Match Saturdays 10am to 1pm



- Home
Princes Trust
Supporters RIP
Match Programmes
Reserve Games



CH42 - THE LATEST CLUB NEWS

Tranmere In Trust
Scottish Power Learning and the Prince's Trust are helping young people to achieve their goals in life with additional support from Tranmere Rovers FC!
Scottish Power Learning delivers the Prince's Trust 'Team' programme, which is a free opportunity for 16-25 year olds in Merseyside. The course helps team members gain new skills, improve their confidence and earn some national qualifications, whilst having fun and meeting new friends.
Prince's Trust teams also enjoy a residential activity week, work on projects in the local community, stage a presentation event and get some help planning for their futures.
Tranmere Rovers, have provided a series of special activities for Birkenhead Team 3, including a 'Healthy Eating' session with club physio Les Parry, and a venue for the Final Presentation.
The team recently celebrated finishing their 12-week course with a special Presentation in the Belmont Suite at Prenton Park on Thursday 11th March.
Team Leader, Dave Middleton said: "The Team really progressed from their first day together and the standard of the presentation showed how their skills and confidence have improved over the three months."
Lorraine Rogers, Chairman, at the club said: "We are delighted to support The Prince's Trust, which does so much to help young people in the local community."
Birkenhead Team 4 will start on Monday 26th April and is open to anyone aged 16-25. A new team based at The Beechwood Community Centre, Beechwood, Wirral and will be starting on Monday 10th May. For more information call Steve Gaulier, the Delivery Partner Manager for ScottishPower Learning on either 0151 633 2947 or 07753 622 258 or visit www.princes-trust.org.uk

Supporters RIP
We were sad indeed to hear of the passing of not just one, but two more supporters in recent weeks.
Irene Miller (pictured left), who had been a regular here at Prenton Park since the 1950's. Irene had become very ill towards the end of her life, but still insisted on attending games, of which her family were very proud of indeed.
Our sympathies go out to all her family friends, including Wally and Suki Miller, who informed us of her passing.
At the same time, Peter Taylor, who was aged 73 and a resident of Fleetwood, passed away suddenly leaving behind many family and friends who will miss him dearly.
Peter, a shareholder and Vice Presidents Member, was considered very generous and a fervent follower of Rovers even from as far a field as Blackpool, where he resided, and travelled from, for many years after moving from his original Port Sunlight home. Once again, our sympathies go out to all those concerned.

Steven Cook RIP
In relation to the last article, it hasn't been the best of times really - for we also lost a valued member of one Tranmere's matchday company partnerships, Willow Catering.
Steven Cook, aged just 35, passed away suddenly last Monday, and had worked with the company since its introduction to Prenton Park over 14 years ago. A familiar face not only amongst Tranmere staff, but also our regular supporters on matchdays, Steven will be missed indeed by many. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends.

Missing Match Programmes
The Editor is currently looking to complete a collection of Tranmere Rovers match programmes going as far back as the mid-late 1940's. With now just a few gaps to fill, and in order to complete the missing sections of the second-to-last instalment of the Tranmere Rovers Match Programme Guide, he is looking to purchase any copies from fans willing to part with them. For more details, please ring 0151 609 3334 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).

Reserve Games Reschedule Reminder
Just to remind you - in return for progressing to the Semi-finals of the Pontin's Holidays League Cup, several home reserve games have now been rescheduled to accommodate them.
The visit of Huddersfield Town has now been moved to Monday 19 April, with a 2.00pm kick off. The Semi-Final versus Sheffield United has now been marked for Wednesday 21 April, kick off 7.00pm.
The rearranged home game with Barnsley (which was abandoned shortly after half time) now takes place on Monday 26 April, kick off 7.00pm at Prenton Park, while our last home league game with Hull City Reserves now kicks at 2.00pm instead of the originally stated 7.00pm, on Wednesday 28 April. For more details, please ring 0151 609 3333.
Incidentally, on the subject of the League Cup Semi-Final, if Rovers beat Sheffield United, they will be paired with Sheffield Wednesday in the Final, after the Owls second string comfortably despatched Wrexham Reserves last Monday evening 6-0!

More club news in our next programme.
If you can't wait until then, why not log onto the club's new-look official website at www.tranmererovers.co.uk

The FA Women's Cup Final in partnership with Nationwide

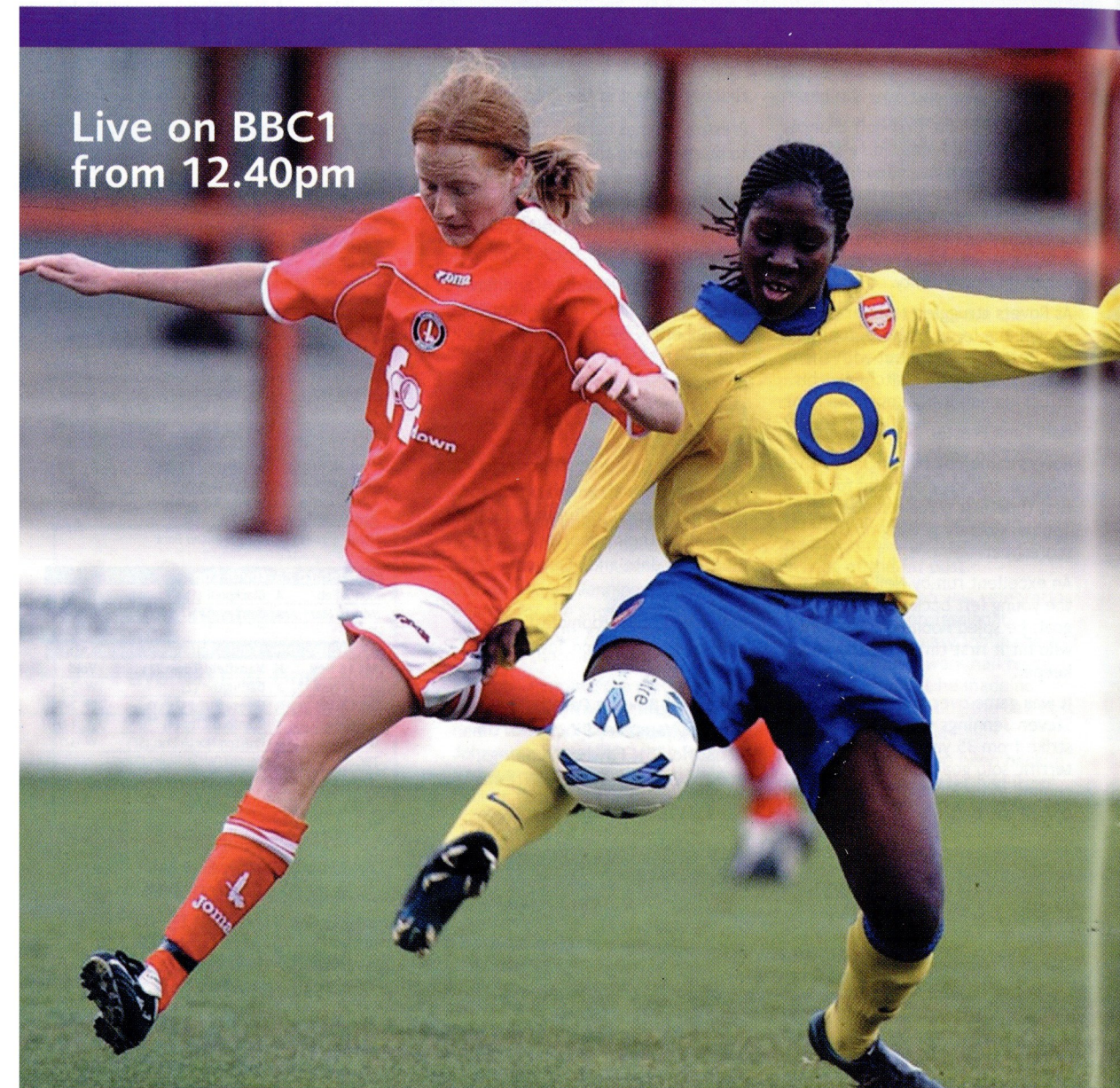
Arsenal v Charlton Athletic

Bank Holiday Monday May 3rd 2004, 1.00pm
Loftus Road, QPR FC

TheFA.com/women



Live on BBC1
from 12.40pm



Tickets: £3 adults and £1 concessions (£5/£1 on the day)
Call the ticket hotline on 0870 112 1967



Our matchday mascot for our game versus Notts County was **Lewis Draper** - who enjoyed the day, including the great result...

Prenton Pups

Sponsored by
LEVER FABERGÉ

Hello and welcome to this afternoon's game against Luton Town, and a big Prenton Pups welcome to all Luton fans especially all the Junior Hatters - we hope you enjoy your visit to Prenton Park, and have a safe journey home.

Kennel Open

The kennel will be open as always before today's before the game until 15 minutes before kick off. There will be plenty of sweets and drinks on sale, so if you haven't started on your Easter Eggs just yet, why not call in and stock up for the game.

The usual kennel competition will be up and running so why not pop in and have a go. Today incidentally will also be the last chance for you to vote for your Pups Player of the Year, as this will be presented at our last meeting of the season on Thursday 29th April, which will be held in the Tranmere suite at 7.00pm.

Our Recent Matches

Another good result last Saturday, which resulted in not a long overdue win away from home this season, but at Wrexham altogether.

It was nice to Ian Sharps getting himself on the score sheet for the first time this season, as the win saw us more further up the table and ease the relegation fears. On Tuesday, it ended up being a tough, but exciting game against QPR in which we came away with a point.

Our Visitors

Today's opponents, Luton, are currently pushing for a play off place and are just outside those positions - they will be pushing hard for a win here today, so it is up to us try and halt the push, and maybe grab all three points for ourselves.

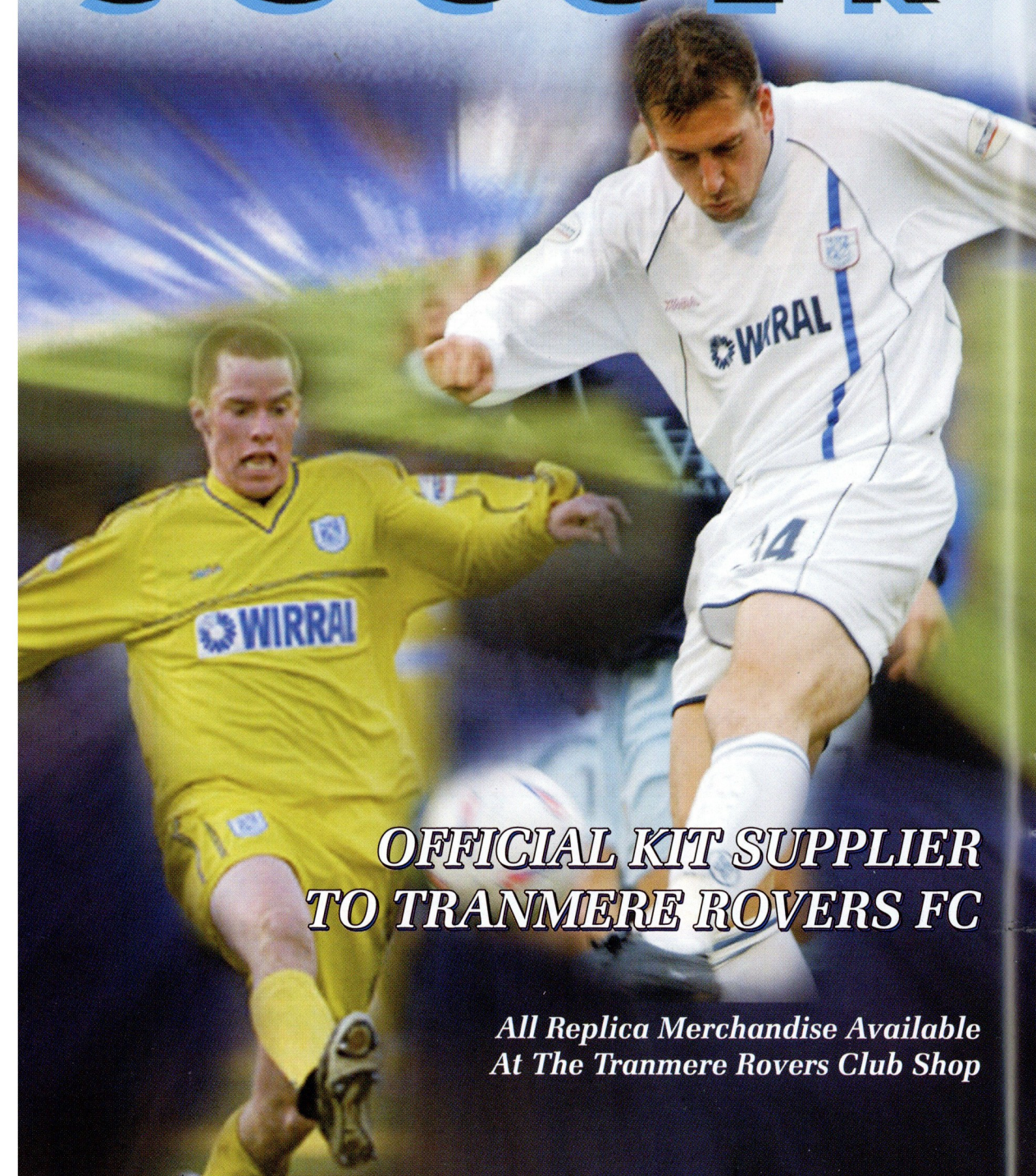
Lets get behind the lads right from kick off, and cheer them on to hopefully another good win.

C'mon You Whites!

Diane

Membership still available
Please ring 0151 609 3333

XARRA SOCCER



**OFFICIAL KIT SUPPLIER
TO TRANMERE ROVERS FC**

*All Replica Merchandise Available
At The Tranmere Rovers Club Shop*

Commercial

Ruth
Grocott

Break



LIVE FOOTBALL AT PRENTON PARK THIS SUMMER

Tranmere may only have two more home games after today until the season ends but the football doesn't stop on May 8th. All summer we'll be showing live football on the big screen in Aldo's. Kicking off with the play-off finals over the bank holiday weekend at the end of May, and culminating with the Euro 2004 Championships in Portugal in June, the football just keeps coming. And when you throw in the culmination of the Premiership too, there's something for everyone:

- Friday April 16 - Newcastle v Arsenal (KO 4.05pm)
- Saturday April 17 - Portsmouth v Man United (KO 12.30pm)
- Sunday April 25 - Newcastle v Chelsea (KO 14.00pm) followed by Tottenham v Arsenal (KO 4.05pm)
- Saturday May 29 - Division One Play-off Final*
- Sunday May 30 - Division Two Play-off Final
- Monday May 31 - Division Three Play-off Final
- Tuesday June 01 - England v Japan (KO 8.00pm)
- Saturday June 05 - England v Iceland (KO 3.30pm)*
- Saturday June 13 - France v England (KO 7.45pm)
- Thursday June 17 - England v Switzerland (KO 5.00pm)
- Monday June 21 - Croatia v England (KO 7.45pm)

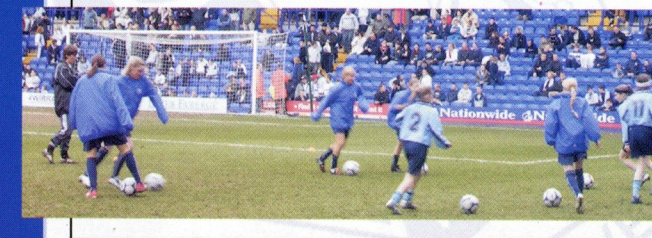
Don't forget bars open an hour before kick off and there's always a great offer to be had on beer.

**Game will be screened in Tranmere Suite*



A BIG THANKS...

...To all the women and girls who made it to our Ladies Day on March 27th. The day was a great success and approx 15% of the gate was made up of women and girls. The pre-match demonstration before kick off by members of the Tranmere Rovers Ladies' and Girls' teams showed exactly why our Ladies team have made it to the Cheshire Shield Final (on Thursday 29 April at Christleton FC) for the ninth year running. Thanks very much to Louise and Shirley for their assistance in organising things on the day!



FATHER'S DAY

Don't forget about Tranmere Rovers when you're planning that perfect gift for your Dad this Father's Day. It may still be a good few weeks away but these things have a habit of creeping up on you. Why not check out the Tranmere Rovers Club Shop today for a great selection of gifts ranging from watches at £32.99 to new style polo shirts at £21.99 to ties at £12.99.

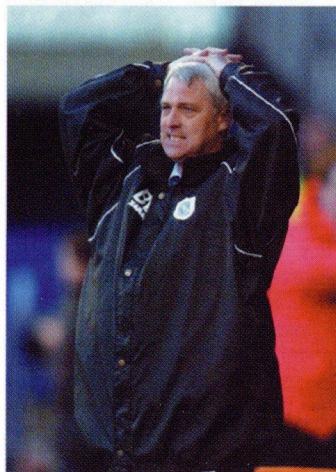
Piece Of The Action

Tranmere 0

QPR 0

Tuesday 6 April 2004

Nationwide League Division Two



Tranmere: Achterberg, Loran, Allen, Sharps, Roberts, Hall (Hume 60), Mellon, Goodison, Harrison, Dadi, Jones.

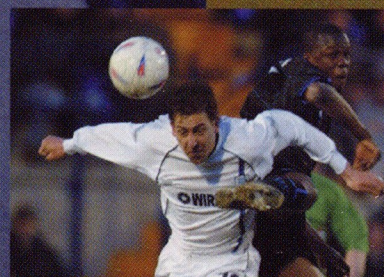
Subs not used: Howarth, Connelly, Navarro, Beresford.

QPR: Camp, Bignot (sent off 76), Carlisle, Gnohere, Edghill, Rowlands (Rose 81), Bircham (Palmer 64), Bean, Ainsworth, Furlong, Gallen.

Subs not used: Day, Thorpe, Cureton.

Attendance: 7,699

Referee: J. Robinson



**Centre
of Attention**



**Chris
Dagnall** 27

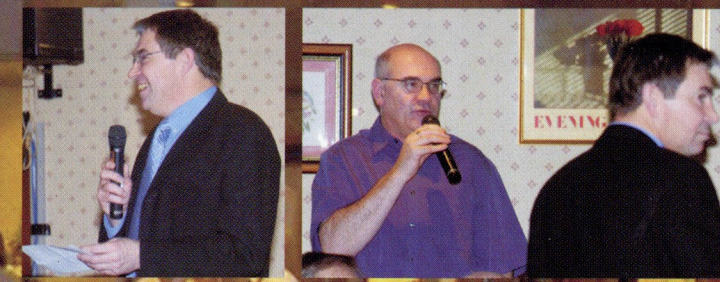
Monday 22nd March saw the reappearance of a once familiar sight at Prenton Park: the celebrity dinner. Some may have thought the celebrity guest, Jeff Winter, would steal the day, but those in the know had their eye (and ear) on Tranmere's very own Les Parry. He did not disappoint.

The evening began with a drinks reception in Aldo's before the assembled guests took their seats in the Belmont Suite., where they enjoyed a fabulous four-course meal.

As the evening wore on, and the wine flowed, compere Graham Beecroft took to the floor to introduce first Les and then Jeff. Both were hugely funny and with an open Q&A session at the end the evening followed by the drawing of the prize raffle it was with great reluctance that we made our way home!

The next dinner is already being planned. Keep your eyes posted on the next programme for more details!

An Evening With Jeff Winter



LOOKERS...VAUXHALL'S DRIVING FORCE IN THE UK



For the best deal in new
and Network Q used
Vauxhall cars...

try *our* sales pitch

www.lookers.co.uk

Sales • Service • Parts • Bodyshop

Lookers
Customers for Life

BIRKENHEAD
Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead
Tel: 0151 200 9000



Thanks To Our Sponsors



Media Suite Sponsor



Backing Tranmere All The Way This Season!

Matchball Sponsor



Telephone:
0151-545 4600

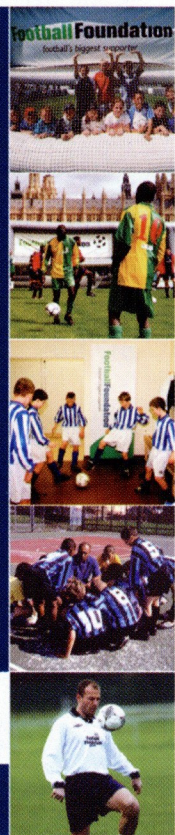
Supporting Tranmere Rovers Throughout 2003/4



Football's Future

Cash in on our support for:

- pitches
- social inclusion projects
- changing rooms
- education schemes
- kit and equipment
- pavilions



Football Foundation
football's biggest supporter

www.footballfoundation.org.uk Helpline 0800 0277766

THE SEASON MAY BE ALMOST OVER BUT OUR MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT GOES ON...

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY IN THE MONTH THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE SUMMER:

THURSDAY 13 MAY

THURSDAY 10 JUNE

THURSDAY 8 JULY

& THURSDAY 12 AUGUST

ALDO'S (PRENTONIAN)

DOORS OPEN 7PM

- LOADS OF GREAT OFFERS ON BEER
- PRIZES FOR THE TOP THREE TEAMS
- £1 PER PERSON TO ENTER
- SNOWBALL POT NOW WORTH OVER £100!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CALL RUTH ON 0151 609 3390

Categories:

- > Football
- > Music
- > Sport
- > TV & Films
- > Picture Board
- > General Knowledge
- > The Week's News

Shane, Paul And Sean Go Back To School

Christ the King in Bromborough recently received a visit from three Tranmere Rovers first team players. Shane Nicholson, Sean Connolly and Paul Hall (who was making his debut school visit) called in for a question and answer session with the children from years three to six. Shane and Sean always bring a bit of humour to the visits and Paul was no different when he explained to the children that he would have liked to have been a musician because they made more money than him and he used to practise by singing into his hair brush in front of the mirror. Well I suppose he would have to use his hairbrush for something!

The lads discussed with the children the different paths they took to becoming professional footballers and how important it is to believe in yourself. They all agreed that you have to work hard but they also stressed that it is important to keep up with your school work because you just never know what will happen and you always need something to fall back on just in case.

Paul explained to the children that you have to practise a lot when you are younger and it is very important that you work hard and listen to your coaches because this will help you become a better player. I think some of this advice may have sunk in as the girls football team later that day went to play in the finals of a football competition at Bebington High Sports College held in conjunction with ourselves and the Schools Sports coordinator scheme.

Numerous High Schools held their own competition using their feeder primary schools with the winners from each competition playing in the finals at Bebington High Sports College. Christ the King was up against some very strong opposition in Raeburn, Stanton Road, West Kirby, Woodchurch Road and Poulton but they were strong enough to go on and win the competition. What a great day all round for Christ the King!

Bidston Taking The Healthy Option

We recently visited Bidston Avenue Primary School to help promote their health week at school. We dealt with the year two children to give them some coaching sessions and also explained the importance of keeping fit and getting lots of exercise. The children all had a great time and were very pleased with the certificates they received for taking part in the sessions before they went off to take part in some more energetic activities.

Girls Primary School Football Competition

Our annual Girls Primary School Football Competition in conjunction with Leisure Services is now underway. We have forty schools taking part in the competition with six schools already having made it through to the finals, which take place on 15th May as part of Wirral's trials for the Mini Youth Games. The teams already through to the final stages are Liscard, Townfield, Our Lady's, Meadow, Sandbrook and Woodchurch CE. There are still places up for grabs with two more rounds taking place after the Easter holidays with some very strong schools still to play. Good luck to all these teams and we will keep you updated on how the competition has progressed.

Welcome to Today's Special Guests

Our special guests for today's game is Our Lady Of Lourdes Primary School from Leasowe. The school have recently taken part in our school coaching programme where they received three football coaching sessions for the year four children. The children were very appreciative of it as was Head Teacher Ann Melville who we have had numerous dealings with over the years at the different schools she has taught at on the Wirral. I am sure they will enjoy the game and get right behind the lads cheering them on to victory.



Concorde Trophies Cheshire Ladies Shield Final versus Stockport County Ladies

Thursday 29 April 2004 - Kick Off 6.30pm at Christleton FC*

Admission - Adults £3 Concessions £2 (includes match programme)

*Ring 0151 608 2354/609 3334/07745 300 043 for further details

Wirral has so much to see and do!

With literally miles of beautiful coastline, 16 golf courses and driving ranges, 10 museums, 8 sport centres, 4 theatres, 3 country parks, 2 marine lakes, a collection of historic warships, off-shore islands and the famous "Ferry Across the Mersey" cruise!



There is something for everyone in Wirral!

(and just 20 minutes from Chester and Liverpool)

For information about all of these and a full events listing contact our



Tourist Information Centre on **0151 647 6780**

www.wirral.gov.uk

(please quote ref 202MAR03PJ)

WIRRAL ...home to the 2006 Open Golf Championship!



Passion for Programmes

Peterborough United

Nationwide League Division Two, Saturday 20 March 2004

Peterborough's "The Posh" (the "THE" should prevent us being sued by Victoria Beckham!) can't be far off being renamed after manager-owner Barry Fry. I counted eleven photos of his smiling face, not to mention countless mentions in print, but I doubt if many readers would have any complaints because he's such a popular figure within the game. My favourite reference to him was the advert for this weekly spot on local radio, cleverly called "Barry Fry-Day." I wish we could tune in here!

Chairman Alf Hand, whom I suspect, along with his fellow Directors, finds it difficult to get a word in edgeways during Board Meetings, in the presence of the aforementioned Mr Fry, does have a voice in the programme and used it to good effect. He explained how the club had recently donated £8000 from its share of the F.A. Community Shield proceeds to the Cystic Fibrosis Unit at the world-renowned Papworth Hospital. Mr Hand's daughter, a former secretary at London Road, had herself died there 41/2 years ago.

Alf also gave a revealing insight into the current financial difficulties being experienced by Rushden and Diamonds, who, of course, were forced to release several players prior to the transfer deadline including our own Paul Hall. Incredibly, The Diamonds are attracting fewer fans in the second division than they did in the conference. With their Chairman, Max Griggs, unable to continue his substantial financial subsidising of the club owing to a restructuring of his own Dr Martens company, the club will appreciate, like our own Board the need to cut its cloth accordingly.

GOALS

BEST ARTICLE: Player-coach Andy Legg, whose long throws caused havoc in the strong winds has his own "Coaching Perspective" feature in which he gives the lowdown on the key skills and tactics which had been evident in recent games. **BEST QUOTE:** It has to come from Barry Fry! Following his side's recent 0 - 2 defeat at Plymouth the Posh boss had apparently not been too impressed with the match official "I told the

referee after the game that he was a "homer" and that Plymouth didn't need any assistance and he laughed at me!"

BEST PHOTOGRAPH: A fine action shot from our FA Cup Quarter-final replay against Millwall showing that Mickey Mellon was impatient to wait until the end of the game to swap shirts, as he grabs hold of The Lions' Marvin Elliott.

BEST ORIGINAL IDEA: The programme itself, while interesting enough, had nothing particularly original, but I liked the incentive used to help to clear the stock of the current home and away kits in the club shop when the design changes at the end of the season. For £15 fans can have their shirt customised with a written message from their favourite player.

BEST ROVERS REFERENCE: In "Head to Head History" there was a fascinating selection of memories from previous encounters with Peterborough.

YELLOW CARD:

Although I consider using a double page for a detailed report from a recent match to be unnecessary duplication of facts already read several times elsewhere, on this occasion The Posh fans were probably delighted to relive yet again in words and pictures the 6 - 1 home win against Wrexham!

RED CARD:

None

The sharp-eyes amongst you may recognise the goal-keeper depicted in the colour print on the front cover at Peterborough's programme for the visit of Tranmere in October 1983. If you haven't worked out his identity yet, imagine a pony-tail trailing from his head and you should be able to see a young David Seaman making his mark in league football with The Posh.

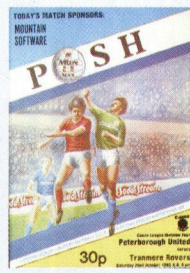
Peterborough's player-manager at the time was former West Brom centre-half John Wile and he used his "Balls Brief" column to churn out a host of excuses for recent indifferent results. He needn't have worried, because his luck was about to turn with Rovers on the receiving end! The 20 page programme cost 30p and contained a good mix of photos and reading material. An unusual touch was to see all the board of

directors brave enough to have their photographs printed on the club directory page! I can think of several clubs where that wouldn't be the case today!

The player of the centre of the action in black and white shots from the previous home match against Doncaster was none other than leading goal-scorer, Colin Clarke, who would, of course, soon become a hero at Prenton Park when he paired up with John Clayton for an exciting, if all too brief, goat-laden period.

Most advertising was for small local companies with the notable exception of Canon, the camera and business machine manufacturers, who had recently taken over as sponsors of the Football League.

Incredibly, Bryan Hamilton's Tranmere side had not conceded more than one goal in a match prior to their visit to London Road and that record might have stayed intact had Owen Brown not seen his fourth minute penalty saved by Seaman. The fact that John Wile had conceded the spot-kick for a trip on Mark Hilditch was doubly fortuitous for the player-manager and his good fortune continued when Les Parry (no, not that one!) Was dismissed ten minutes later. Rovers' ten held out until the 57th minute, but eventually lost 0 - 2 to leave them just above mid-table in Division Four.

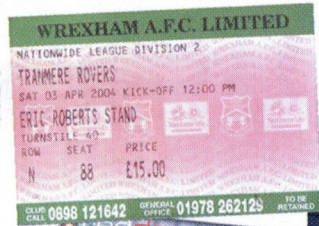


PRICE :- £2.50
PAGES :- 64 (26% Adverts)
VALUE FOR MONEY RATING :- ***

Scoreboard	
Design and production	15
Photographs	14
Tranmere Coverage	15
General Content	15
Statistics	14
TOTAL	73
(Last Season)	73)

Tony Evans

Super White Army On Manoeuvres



1-0 Wrexham

...No its not Gary Cooper - just supporter Billy Jones re-counting his High Noon showdown with our nearby Welsh neighbours last Saturday, which saw Rovers break a 39-year hoodoo, and come away with all three points...

With confidence high following two great wins during the past week or so, we headed off for the derby clash with old foes Wrexham.

As you know it's only around 40-50 minutes travelling time by car or just over an hour by train from Bidston.

Like so many other fans we arrived at the ground around 10.30am. Parking close to the Racecourse, we headed for Sainsbury's for a drink, and to meet my friend Jane, and her two sons Joseph and Matthew who had travelled all the way from West Derby.

With kick off 40 minutes away we headed back towards the ground, with this being a local, I thought at this time it would very busy indeed, but it was strangely very quiet.

The food prices inside the ground were much the same as other grounds this season. But the boys were gutted, as there were no hot dogs or burgers for them.

Inside the ground the 'Super White Army' were in full voice and out-signing, I must say, a very surprisingly sparse home support.

As the teams take the field, its noted that Brian has made just one change from the previous Saturday - as Gareth Roberts returns in place of Ian Goodison, who had only just returned from a week away on international duty with Jamaica.

Looking around the Racecourse, it's rather is heartening to see so

many empty seats. Over the many years I have been coming here the gates would be more close to the 10,000-mark, rather than the 4,500 or so here today for this game. The stay-away fans at Wrexham should have been ashamed of themselves really for not supporting a team that is currently going for promotion.

On the other side of things, it was nice to see the lads sporting our special season ticket holder strip once again, for today's match. You hope now that the performance matches it.

The first half to be fair sees both defences working hard well as both teams created very few chances in the first 45-plus minutes. Maybe like in previous games, it could be a 'match of two halves' for ourselves.

As it turns out, the second half was so much better - lots more movement and attacks coming down both flanks, we looked so much more dangerous now.

David Beresford brings out a good save from the Wrexham keeper Michael Ingham, delivering a crisp shot from just outside the area.

It's beginning to look more like the Tranmere seen in the last couple of games. The tempo has lifted since the break, and with crosses coming from both flanks, the Wrexham defence are looking more and more ragged by the minute.

Just after the hour mark, Ingham somehow pulls off two great saves - the first from a Eugene Dadi

drive, while he manages to block Gary Jones' effort off the line. It's almost now as if the Super White Army could sense the goal we all wanted wasn't too far away.

Paul Hall is fouled, as Gareth Roberts puts in a wicked cross from the resulting free kick, which is duly met by the head of Ian Sharps, and from close range, pots it home - the Wrexham keeper has no chance at all.

From this point you could see the fight had gone from the majority of Wrexham players and they cause was not helped by Paul Edwards who got himself red carded, after being booked twice within the space of five minutes.

I must say that in the end Wrexham were very poor, considering their position in the table, as they created very few chances throughout the whole match. But to our credit, the lads played some neat football in the second half that would have beaten most teams in our division.

It looks as if there is now plenty to play for even yet, as we find ourselves only nine points from the play off position. You never know, with a little bit more luck on our side, we could still make a push for a day out at Cardiff yet.

If you were there, I hope you enjoyed the game as much as we did, as it's off to the 'Pant Yr Ochain' for a celebratory lunch.

Bring on QPR!



Players: Past & Present

Mark McCarrick



Mark McCarrick played just short of 160 games for Tranmere Rovers. For fans new to Prenton Park, that might seem a relatively short time to be carrying a player shoulder high as a cult-hero, but for those regular to nights under the old Cow Shed, 'Crackers' would be one of the first names in your all time XI.

Radio City Sport's Peter McDowall catches up with him.....

The Liverpool born left back started his formative footballing years as an apprentice with West Bromwich Albion, he was under the guiding hand of a pre-Man United Ron Atkinson in those days, but things didn't work out and he tried his luck further a field.

"Sometimes you come across hard times as a footballer and you have to look beyond what you had planned," Mark reflects.

"I ended up playing in Finland, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Canada, all with the hope of getting some experience to come back home and get myself a club."

As luck would have it, Tranmere were one of the clubs who came through when the then Winsford-based McCarrick began the laborious task of mail-shotting a group of them with his CV. The offer of a three-month deal was talked up to 12, and the deal was struck.

"It was the start of a dream for me," Crackers smiles

"It was practically a new team from the one that had kept Tranmere in the league, I can remember us going on an awful run where we lost the majority of our first 13 or so league games.

"Things clicked eventually, I'm sure a lot of that was to do with those famous Friday nights!" He says.

His debut and the first trip to Wembley were just a season apart, Liverpool, Newcastle and Nottingham Forest were together in the mixer with an uncompromising Fourth Division Tranmere - Kingy's men pushed them all the way.

"Marto (Dave Martindale) scored in the win over Wimbledon, and of course, we hoped to get Liverpool but Newcastle beat them on 'pens'.

"They had some great experience Newcastle too, the likes of Gazza and Glenn Roeder were playing for them, but we turned them over," Mark recalls.

"The supporters probably thought they would only get a day out of it, little did they know they'd be going back to Birkenhead only to return the next day!

"The wives and girlfriends even came over on the Saturday for a big party but we had to leave early to go back to the hotel to rest for the next day!"

The following season followed suit for McCarrick and his Tranmere team-mates, they would go on a glorious run to set up their promotion to the old Third Division. We all

remember what happened on the final day against Crewe, but what about the penultimate game at home to Grimsby? It was pure Roy of the Rovers!

"It was a bobbly pitch and we needed the win to set ourselves up for the final day against Crewe.

"The game started really badly and we went two goals down, I just remember doing my collarbone in and being in some awful pain by the time we got the equaliser. It was in injury time and we had a corner, I just flung myself at it and it flew into the bottom corner. We won the game 3-2 and I spent the next day in hospital!" He laughs.

McCarrick played more than his part in that victorious season, missing only five games and chipping in with three goals. He would feature prominently in the back-to-back promotion side too that secured Second Division football the following season.

Tranmere pursued a path with Ged Brannan as first choice left back at the beginning of the 1991 season, and McCarrick found himself surplus to requirements.

Despite being offered a trial at both Rochdale and Stockport, Mark decided to call early time on his career at the age of 30.

"It's something I regret now of course, but when you have close to 200 league games behind you, it's not all that attractive having to prove yourself on a trial.

"I always say to lads I know in the game now to play as long as you can"

Outside of football, Mark bought a bar in Magaluf, from there it was a career in landscaping in Orlando, USA. He's home on a brief stop now to promote a new business he has formed with property developers in the US.

Gone but not forgotten, he still gets stopped whenever close to his roots to reminisce about old times.

"It's great to talk about my time at Tranmere. I've had people come up to me telling me they had named their cat after me, called it 'Crackers'! It shows I was appreciated." He laughs.

You can contact Mark for information on property opportunities in the US at mccarrickinc@msn.com



Retail, Commercial and Industrial Waste Collection



- Free Waste Management Audit
- Competitive rates
- Local service provider, family owned and managed
- FEL, REL, RO/RO, Compaction
- Re-cycling advice
- Special waste advice
- Registered waste carrier since 1990



0151 346 2900

Fax: 0151 346 1309

Head Office: Port Causeway, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 4SY • sales@bagnallandmorris.com

In black and white

Base Fan

Tony Morris

Before last Saturday's win at Wrexham, Brian Little admitted that all he wanted was points on the board, because the sooner his side were mathematically safe then the sooner he could give some promising youngsters a taste of the action.

Despite Iain Sharps' late header securing a win that lifted Rovers above the 50-point mark, we're unlikely to see the boss 'giving the kids a go' just yet, but with the way we're playing that position of safety will surely be reached sooner rather than later. The manager's caution is understandable. For while 50 points is reckoned to be the standard required for safety in this division, Tranmere's points haul of 51 achieved with victory against Wrexham isn't a guarantee of survival.

In season 2000-01, Bristol Rovers were relegated from the second division despite amassing 51 points, an agonising one point behind fifth from bottom Swindon and a massive 11 points above the team immediately below them, today's visitors, Luton Town.

Given that the previous season the Bristolians amassed 80 points and yet missed out on a place in the play-offs, going down with so many points in the bag must have been hard to take.

The blue and white Rovers from Bristol are one of only two sides in the last 10 seasons to miss out on the second division play-offs after reaching the 80-point mark. Supporters of the white Rovers from Wirral will need no reminding who the other side are.

80 points this time around would surely guarantee any team a place in the play offs but it just hasn't quite happened for Rovers. Pride is still at stake and Brian will still be sending his first choice side out against Luton for another clash with a

high-flying team.

The Hatters bounced back from relegation at the first attempt, finishing second behind Plymouth, and like Argyle have promotion to the first division in their minds. Luton are one of a clutch of teams fighting to reach the top six and are currently just one point off the pace.

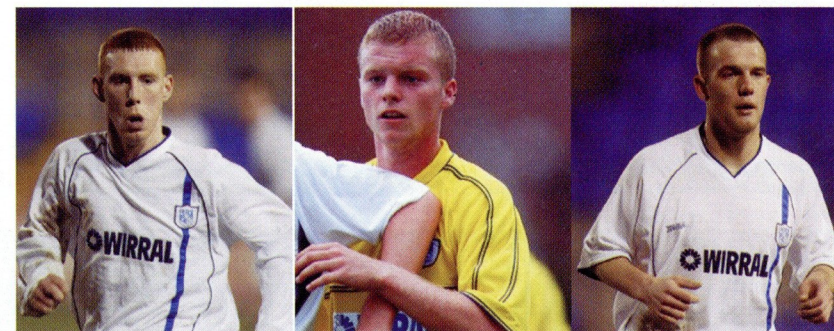
Luton's form this season is remarkable given the off-the-field problems that have bedevilled them. Last year the club was bought by a mysterious consortium whose first act was to sack manager Joe Kinnear and his popular assistant, former Hatters favourite Mick Harford.

A consortium spokesman then announced plans to build a new ground that would incorporate a Formula 1 track, and floated proposals to merge the club with Milton Keynes-Wimbledon. Even by football's recent standards this was bizarre stuff, not to mention worrying to Luton fans.

Thanks in large part to the supporters, reality now seems to have returned to Kenilworth Road, and although money's tight the picture seems a lot rosier.

Hatters boss Mike Newell has performed a minor miracle in forging a largely inexperienced squad into play-off contenders. Promotion would be a just reward for all those who've worked hard to keep Luton Town in business and playing football, and it would show that some hard luck stories - unlike Bristol Rovers' - have a happy ending.

Get behind the lads and enjoy the game.



*If you fancy contributing to YOUR page, please contact the Editor on 0151 609 3334



colourplan **design** & print

Printers of
Tranmere Rovers
Matchday Programme



11 Waterside Court,
St. Helens Technology Campus,
St. Helens, Merseyside WA9 1UA

t: 01744 23868
f: 01744 753316
e: info@colourplan.com

The Next Instalment

Home...



Barnsley

Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 24 April 2004 Kick Off 3.00pm



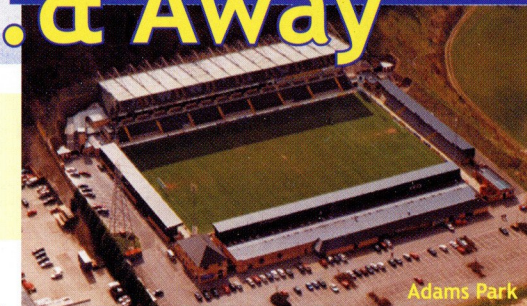
Reinvigorated Barnsley make the trip from South Yorkshire for the next action here at Prenton Park. This season has seen sweeping changes at Oakwell, which has seen them secure their future.

Ex-Leeds chairman, Peter Ridsdale, bought the club earlier in the season and has since replaced manager Gudjon Thordarsson with former Nottingham Forest boss, Paul Hart, after the team's form dipped, seeing them drop down the league from the promotion pack to 11th just four points ahead of Tranmere at the time of writing.

Last time the teams met here at Prenton Park, Graham Allen's second minute goal was all that separated the sides, but earlier in the season it was the Tykes' that emerged victorious, courtesy of a 2-0 win at Oakwell.

Can our home form continue to impress as we look to improve our league position and gain mathematical safety?

... & Away



Adams Park



Wycombe Wanderers

Nationwide League Division Two
Monday 12 April 2004
At Adams Park, Kick Off 3.00pm

By Car: M53/M56/M6/M42/M40. From M40 exit at Junction 4 and take A4010 following Aylesbury signs. Go straight on at 3 mini-roundabouts then bear sharp left at the 4th roundabout into Lane End Road. Fork right into Hillbottom Road at the next roundabout. The ground is at the end of the road - Hillbottom Road is on the Sands Industrial Estate.

Car Parking: At ground and within the Sands Industrial Estate (charged).

By Train: From Liverpool Lime Street to London Euston, then to High Wycombe. For more details, please ring 0845 7 48 49 50.

Visitors Section: Roger Vere Stand (all seated).

Club Shop: At ground and also in the Town Centre.

Disabled Supporters: 50 spaces in total for both Home and Away fans in the Family Stand (disabled section). Free for the disabled - full price for the helper. Bookings are necessary - ring 01494 472100.

Website: www.wycombewanderers.co.uk

Main Telephone: 01494 472100 **Ticket Office:** 01494 441 118.

Matchday Programme: £2.50 (correct at time going to press).

Last Season: (H) Won 1-0, (A) Won 3-1.

This Season: (H) Won 2-1.

A trip to the Causeway Stadium lies ahead on Easter Monday as Rovers take on relegation threatened Wycombe Wanderers.

Since taking over earlier in the season, former Arsenal and England legend Tony Adams has had his work cut out in trying to keep the Chairboys alive in Division Two. His predecessor, Lawrie Sanchez, was sacked immediately after Wycombe's 2-1 defeat at Prenton Park in September, having only won one league to that date. However, Adams' reign has yet to change the fortunes of the struggling side, having won only four more games in the league, which sees them rooted to the bottom of the table.

Last season's trip bore fruit as a brace from Stuart Barlow, and a Simon Haworth strike earned us a 3-1 win.

It is conceivable; depending on results from the time of writing, that a Rovers win could send Wycombe down to Division Three. With Brian Little calling on the team to improve our away form in the final run-in at the end of the season, could we add to our low number of away wins?

Mark McKean & Tony Coombes

Our name stands for

Quality Reliability & Value

Don't stand for anything less



SELWYNS.

COACH CHARTER



- 12 to 73 Seaters
- Standard, Executive Coaches
- Private Hire • Corporate
- Transfers
- Touring UK & Continent
- Tour Planning Department
- Transport Solutions for Conference & Corporate Event Organisers



email: sales@selwyns.co.uk

CONTACT OUR
RESERVATION
CENTRE



01928 564515

Cavendish Farm Rd, Weston, Runcorn Cheshire WA7 4LW

www.selwyns.co.uk



Just the Ticket



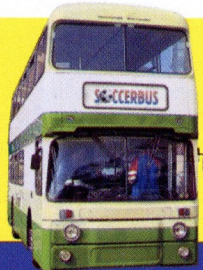
0151
609
3322

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

SOCCERBUS



leave the car at home on matchday



- **SOCCERBUS to Prenton Park** for all Tranmere Rovers League and Cup matches - whatever day of the week!
- **SOCCERBUS** - frequent shuttle buses from Hamilton Square and Birkenhead Central stations, on the Merseyrail Wirral Line.
- **SOCCERBUS** will run for 1½ 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 journey will cost just 50p.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING 0870 608 2 608

FREE TO VALID TRIO, SOLO, SAVEAWAY OR MERSEYTRAVEL FREE TRAVEL PASS TICKET HOLDERS

Be homesafe



improve your home security
protect your home and reduce the risk of burglary

- Always lock your windows and doors when you go out
- A visible and good quality burglar alarm will act as a deterrent
- If you have an alarm always remember to set it before you go out
- Use internal timer switches for lamps, radios and TV's - this gives the impression that the home is occupied
- Don't leave keys under a plant pot or doormat - burglars know all the 'hiding' places
- Keep all your keys (car, widow lock keys and house keys) in a safe place and away from windows and doors
- Security mark your belongings



merseyside police on the wirral working with tranmere rovers to reduce crime

For further crime prevention advice, contact your Crime Reduction Officers on 777 2282/3.

Home

Versus



Barnsley

Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday
24 April 2004
Kick Off 3.00pm

Match Admission Prices

Normal matchday conditions apply

Versus



Grimsby Town

Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday
8 May 2004
Kick Off 3.00pm

Match Admission Prices

Normal matchday conditions apply



Pontin's Holidays League Cup
Semi-Final

Tranmere Rovers versus

Sheffield United

Wednesday 21 April 2004
Kick Off 7.00pm
at Prenton Park

Admission:
Adults £3, Concessions £1



Next Home Game v Barnsley

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 24 April 2004, Kick Off 3.00pm

Versus

Wycombe Wanderers

Nationwide League Division Two, Monday 12 April 2004
Kick Off 3.00pm at Adams Park

Match Admission Prices

Seats Only: Roger Vere Stand
Adults £15, Seniors £12, Students £12 (with Card), Juniors £11
**Discount can be obtained on the above prices if bought in advance. Please ring the Wycombe Ticket Office - 01494 472100*

Club Coach Travel

Departs From Main Car Park 9.00am

Travel Club Members

Executive Only : Adults £16.00 Concessions £14.50

Non-Members

Executive Only: Adults £17.00 Concessions £15.50



Away

Versus

Bournemouth

Nationwide League Division Two, Saturday 17 April 2004
Kick Off 3.00pm at The Fitness First Stadium

Match Admission Prices

Seats Only: East Stand
Adults £15, Seniors £7, Students £5 (with Card), Juniors £7

Club Coach Travel

Departs From Main Car Park 7.00am

Travel Club Members

Executive Only : Adults £21.50 Concessions £20.00

Non-Members

Executive Only: Adults £22.50 Concessions £21.00



Away

PLEASE NOTE NEW OPENING HOURS: CLUB SHOP / TICKET OFFICE
Monday - Friday (at Club Shop) 9.30am - 5.00pm Matchnights (At Ticket Office) 1.00pm - Kick Off
Matchday (at Ticket Office) 9.30am - Kick Off

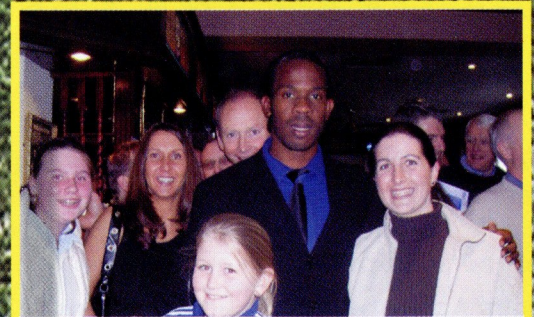
YOU'VE INHERITED A POTENTIALLY FATAL CONDITION FROM YOUR FATHER. STIFF UPPER LIP. GENERATIONS OF MEN HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP TO NEVER ADMIT A PROBLEM. CUT YOUR KNEE AS A KID AND YOU'RE TOLD TO SHAKE IT OFF. CRY AS A TEENAGER AND YOU'RE CALLED A GIRL. SAY YOU CAN'T COPE TO YOUR ADULT MATES AND YOU'RE LAUGHED OUT OF THE PUB. OVER 1,000 DEPRESSED YOUNG MEN KILL THEMSELVES EVERY YEAR. THAT'S NOT A LAUGHING MATTER. YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU LIKE TO CALM. NO ONE WILL JUDGE YOU OR PREACH TO YOU. TRAINED COUNSELLORS WILL SIMPLY LISTEN IN CONFIDENCE TO WHAT YOU SAY AND

OFFER PRACTICAL HELP, LIKE PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL SUPPORT. JUST SPEAKING OPENLY WITHOUT FEAR OF RIDICULE MAY BE ENOUGH ON ITS OWN. BECOME THE FIRST GENETICALLY MODIFIED MAN. START TALKING. CALL 0800 58 58 58 ANYTIME BETWEEN 5.00PM AND 3.00AM.

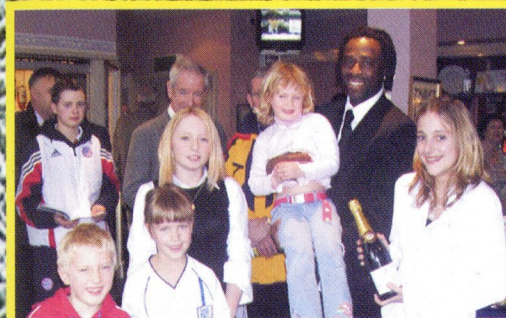
THE 'CAN'T TALK GENE', PRESENT IN EVERY 25 YEAR OLD MALE BODY.



Our Matchball Sponsors Aegis Alarms donated their signed matchball to Tranmere Rovers Ball Boys, who in turn passed it onto one of their team members Will Powell aged 9. Michael Burrows and Daniel Read, both aged 11, posed for the pre-match photo.



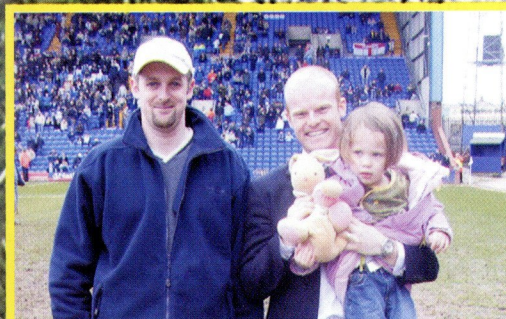
Our Vice Presidents Members got the ball rolling for Ian Goodison, as they presented him with the first man of the match award for that day...



Eugene Dadi won the award, as presented by our Dixie Dean guests, following an impressive performance against our visitors...



Ian Goodison was also the choice of our regular Mini-Sponsors Lewis Reed after playing his part in the 4-0 win over Notts County...



Sean Connelly pulled out the days' winning Equaliser on behalf of Mr. M. Bayley, who went on to pick up a cheque for £851.50...



Our Media Suite Sponsors for the day Smith & Sons Estate Agents made it a hatrick for Ian Goodison with their award...

Supporting Rovers

Versus Notts County
Saturday 27 March 2004

Player Of The Season

Following on from Tuesday's article we take a closer look at who else is in with a shout of picking up awards at the Player of the Season night.

John Achterberg has been an almost ever present once again, missing just one match so far, that coming away at Swindon last month.

18 clean sheets and an outstanding performance at Millwall in the FA Cup Quarter Final at Millwall grabbed the headlines for the Dutchman and could well grab your vote.

Graham Allen has been another consistent performer, skipping the side in the early part of the season before going on to play right across the back line.

Paul Linwood has this season emerged as a very bright prospect, after finally being given a chance of first team action.

The youngster was previously never considered for first team action that was until the arrival of Brian Little. Linwood was named in his first team, that took of Blackpool in the LDV Vans Trophy, since then he's racked up 25 appearances.

Ryan Taylor is another youngster who has been catching the eye so far. Impressing at both right back and right midfield he's made quite a name for himself in only his second senior season.

When you talk about consistent performers Sean Connelly's name always comes up. As a player who always gives 100% Connelly has done well wherever he's played be it centre half, right back or right wing back

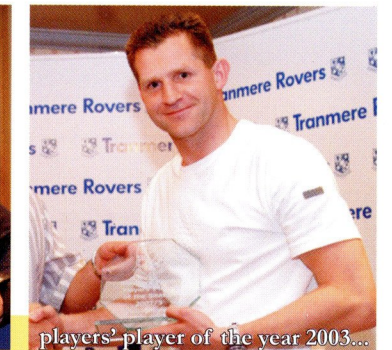
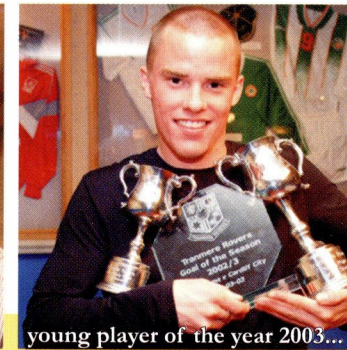
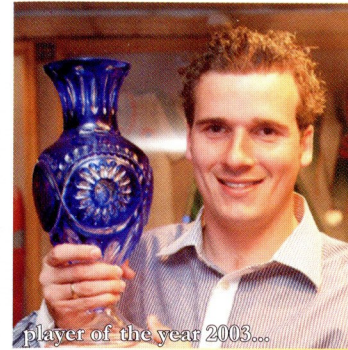
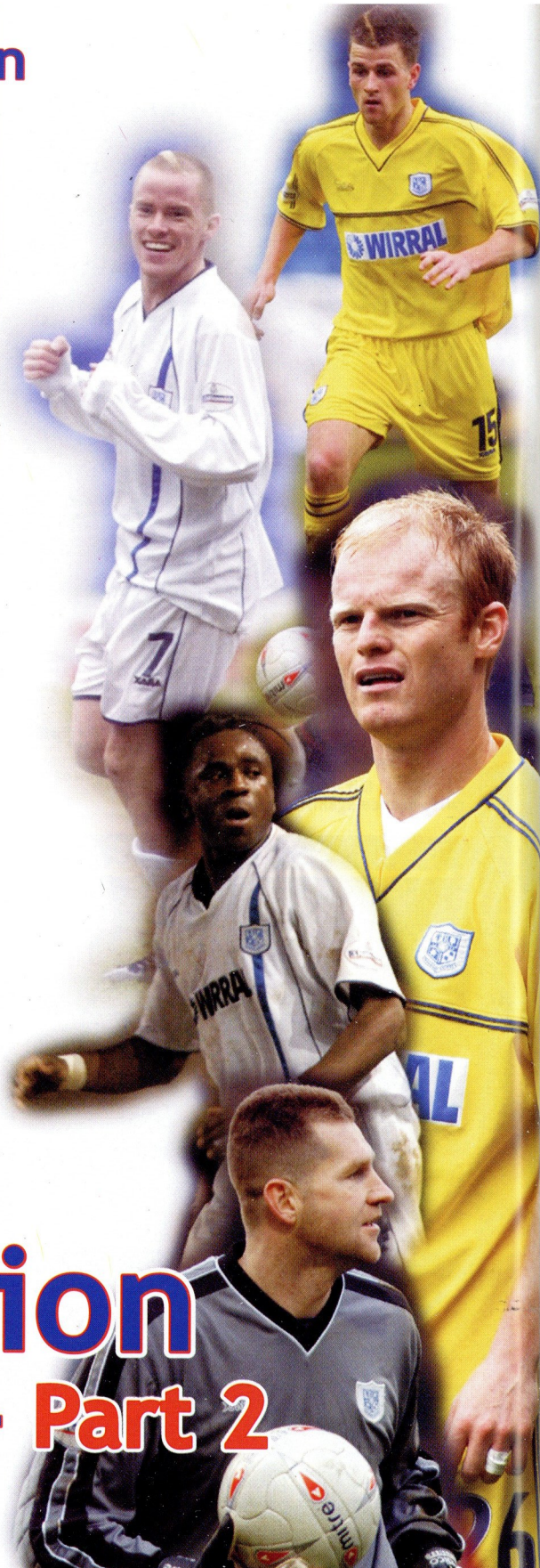
Finally a mention must go to skipper Mickey Mellon, who has led by example.

The Rovers midfielder has forged an excellent partnership across the middle with Danny Harrison and his winning goals against Chesterfield and Luton kept the FA Cup dream alive.

So who gets your vote? Make sure you make your choice count by voting now. You can pick up a form from the shop or ticket office or e-mail your vote to playeroftheseason@tranmererovers.co.uk.

Call Sue now on 0151 609 3305 to book your table.

Contention For Places - Part 2



Come and Meet The Tranmere Rovers Players and Coaching Staff

at the

Player Of The Season AWARDS DINNER

Wednesday 5 May 2004 - from 7.00pm

At the Belmont Suite, Prentonian, Tranmere Rovers FC

Includes three-course meal, prize raffle and auction

HOSTED BY WILLIE MILLER

Awards include:

- Player of the Season
- Goal of the Season
- Young Player of the Season

TICKETS ONLY £25

Dress code: Smart/Casual

To book call Sue on 0151 609 3305 or call into the club shop

HURRY! - LAST FEW TICKETS REMAINING

Team Selection

Nationwide League Division Two
 Saturday 10 April 2004
 Kick Off 3.00pm

Rovers

Luton Town

Season 2003/04
Priority Voucher
27
 Retain your vouchers

Manager: Brian Little

First Goalscorer

1 John Achterberg		👉	☐
2 Sean Connelly	33/1	☐	👉
3 Gareth Roberts	16/1	👉	☐
4 Graham Allen	50/1	👉	☐
5 Ian Sharps	33/1	👉	☐
6 Tyrone Loran		👉	☐
7 Iain Hume	9/1	☐	👉
8 Micky Mellon	25/1	👉	☐
9 Simon Haworth		☐	☐
10 Gary Jones	20/1	👉	☐
11 Shane Nicholson	33/1	☐	☐
12		☐	☐
13 Russell Howarth		☐	👉
14 Eugene Dadi	8/1	👉	☐
15 Ryan Taylor	40/1	☐	☐
16 Alan Navarro	25/1	☐	👉
17 Alex Hay	9/1	☐	☐
18 Danny Harrison	20/1	👉	☐
19		☐	☐
20		☐	☐
21 Paul Robinson		☐	☐
22 Paul Linwood	40/1	☐	☐
23 David Beresford	33/1	👉	☐
24		☐	☐
25 Neil Ashton	33/1	☐	☐
26 Steven Jennings		☐	☐
27 Chris Dagnall		☐	☐
28 Philip Palethorpe		☐	☐
29 Carl Tremarco		☐	☐
30 Ian Goodison		👉	☐
31 Paul Hall		👉	☐
32		☐	☐
33		☐	☐
35 Andy Hayton		☐	☐

Manager: Mike Newell

1 Morten Hyldgaard	☐	☐
2	☐	☐
3 Alan Nielson	☐	☐
4 Matthew Spring	☐	☐
5 Russell Perrett	☐	☐
6	☐	☐
7 Adrian Forbes	☐	👉
8 Kevin Nicholls	☐	☐
9	☐	☐
10	☐	☐
11 Steve Robinson	👉	☐
12 Chris Coyne	👉	☐
16 Enoch Showunmi	👉	☐
17 Emmerson Boyce	👉	☐
18 Ahmet Brkovic	👉	☐
19 Steve Howard	👉	☐
21 Paul Hughes	☐	☐
22 David Bayliss	☐	☐
23 Ian Hillier	☐	👉
24 Sol Davies	👉	☐
27 Peter Holmes	☐	☐
31 Curtis Davies	☐	👉
32 Lee Mansell	👉	☐
33 Dean Brill	☐	👉
34 Dean Crowe	☐	☐
36 David Deeney	☐	☐
37 Keith Keane	☐	☐
38 Michael Leary	👉	☐
39 Stephen O'Leary	☐	👉
41 Kevin Foley	👉	☐
43 Matthew Judge	☐	☐
44 Pary Okai	☐	☐
45 Leon Barnett	☐	☐
47 Rob Beckwith	☐	☐

The Match Officials

Referee:

Mr. M. A. Cooper

Referee's Assistant:

Mr. M. A. Astley

Referee's Assist

Mr. G. T. Stott

Fourth Official:

Mr. I. L. Faulkner

All information within this programme is correct at time going to print

This Weekend's Fixtures

Blackpool v Brighton
 Chesterfield v Stockport County
 Colchester United v Notts County
 Hartlepool United v Bournemouth
 Oldham Athletic v Peterborough United
 Plymouth Argyle v Wycombe Wanderers
 Port Vale v Wrexham
 Queens Park Rangers v Grimsby Town
 Rushden and Diamonds v Barnsley
 Sheffield Wednesday v Brentford
 Swindon Town v Bristol City

For The Record

HT: 1:0 FT: 1:0

Attendance: 3912

Goalscorers:

Jones

Next Home Game: **versus Barnsley**

Nationwide League Division Two, Saturday 24 April 2004, Kick Off 3.00pm