

Tranmere Rovers



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THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME / SEASON 2023-2024 / £3.50



AFC WIMBLEDON

Sky Bet League Two

Saturday 20 April 2024 / Kick-off 3.00pm



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MATCHDAY



Tranmere Rovers versus AFC Wimbledon



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At each home game there is a designated Safeguarding Lead on duty and there are also a number of Safeguarding Stewards who can be identified by wearing a purple Safeguarding armband.

Contact David Hughes
controlroom@tranmererovers.co.uk

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TRANMERE ROVERS / OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME / SEASON 2023/24

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Some of the views expressed in this programme may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Club

Mark Paliios

It's hard to believe we are already at the last home game of the season - I would like to thank you all for sticking with us despite the poor start we had to this campaign.

In recent months we have shown what we are capable of doing - In 2024 we have defeated all 3 clubs who will almost certainly be promoted automatically, beating Stockport 4-0 and Mansfield 2-1 at home, and defeating Wrexham 1-0 away at the Racecourse Ground, but isolated errors at both ends of the pitch have cost us too many points against others. Although we have undoubtedly under-performed, I am looking forward with a sense of optimism to next season. In Nigel we have a manager with vast experience and I have every confidence that given a close season to mould the team as he would like it, we have every chance of mounting a strong challenge, particularly given that 3 of the biggest spending teams in League 2 will have moved up to League 1 and the financial playing field should be more level.

There are many people I would like to thank for their work this season, including all of the staff who have worked hard to ensure that things run smoothly, but high amongst those I need to thank are the Supporter Liaison Officers, Nina and Louise, who have, as ever, been tireless in their efforts to ensure that supporters questions are answered and any issues are dealt with, Adam Siddorn and all of those who have presented on iFollow alongside him, Rob Edwards for his work in the lounges, and all the other volunteers who work behind the scenes for this Club. Without you all, we would undoubtedly be diminished.

Today is the last appearance of Les Roberts who has been the man behind (or, should I say inside!) Rover the mascot for 30 years.

We are enormously grateful to him for the hours that he has put in, in particular, with the young supporters of the Club, and I would like to thank him for all his hard work, and wish him a happy retirement.

After today's game, we will be hosting an end of season awards event in Dixies, which is an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of players, staff, volunteers and fans alike. I do hope you will be able to join us.

Next Friday sees another gathering, but this time to celebrate the life of Peter Johnson. It would be lovely to see a good turn out of the SWA at this final opportunity to say farewell to a man who did so much for Tranmere in its hour of need, and gave us all the fantastic years in the Championship when we so nearly made it to the Premier League.

But before all of that, we need to turn our attention to today's game against Wimbledon, who are still in with a chance of making the play off places. The reverse fixture was one of our early heavy defeats, in a game where we played 40 minutes with only 10 men, and former Tranmere alumni, Ali Al Hamadi scored a hat trick for the Dons, since when he has departed for high flying Ipswich. I am hoping we can avenge that defeat today, and send the SWA home with a smile on their faces.

Thank you for your support this season. Thanks to all of you who have already signed up for the next season on the 'Tranmere Rovercoaster'.

Ubi Fides Ibi Lux et Robor.





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Club Partners



Nigel Adkins

Good afternoon and welcome back to Prenton Park for our final home game of the season. We extend the welcome to Wimbledon manager Johnnie Jackson, his staff, side and travelling supporters for what we anticipate to be another challenging contest in the EFL. Wimbledon still have aspirations of a play-off place.

Thank you to all the SWA supporters who travelled down to Newport for last Saturday's victory in Wales. It was our first win at Newport and the second time this season we have won on Welsh soil, following up the 1-0 derby victory away at Wrexham. Another memorable experience for those who were able to travel.

We have had some memorable away performances this season. The 5-1 demolition of Salford over the enjoyable record-winning Christmas period, as well as a cracking win at Harrogate in terrible weather conditions. You all made your voice heard singing 'Robbie Apter, we want you to stay', and great credit to the Club as we were able to extend the loan period in the January transfer window. Congratulations to Robbie who won the League Two Young Player of the Season award. This may be his last game at Prenton Park, although we would like him to stay with us for next season's campaign.

We have had some memorable victories here at Prenton Park this season. The four goals we scored against high-flying Notts County on New Year's Day provided the belief that we had the momentum going in the right direction. The wins against the league leaders at the time Mansfield and especially the 4-0 win over Stockport County proved we have a team capable of beating all the promoted sides, however consistency and injuries are factors that must be taken into consideration as we prepare for our 140th-year campaign.

We have turned it around and managed to win games having been behind to show that resilience, passion, perseverance and desire to keep going.

Connor Jennings has been inspirational and has led by example



every day in training, scoring 11 goals of the 63 goals we have scored this season. Kieron Morris has had a cracking season scoring a record nine goals whilst midfielder Regan Hendry, another player under contract for next season, has grown from strength to strength, also scoring a record five goals.

Luke McGee has been consistent in goal for us this season and has made some fantastic saves, as good as scoring a goal. I'm pleased he is also under contract for next season along with the experienced Joe Murphy who has been a steady influence on Luke's form.

On the injury front, Jordan Turnbull with a shoulder, and Brad Walker with an ankle, have had surgery to make sure they are fully fit for the return to pre-season training. Both

have been instrumental for us during our winning period this season; Jordan forming a formidable partnership with Captain Tom Davies at the heart of the defence, and Brad complimenting Regan Hendry in the engine room of midfield.

Central defender Joe Yarney picked up an ankle injury at Bradford and with Tom Davies also being out, it has provided a fantastic opportunity for Jean Belehouan, who made his third appearance, and Ben Hockenhill who made his league debut in the win at Newport, gaining valuable experience of league football.

We have played some exciting football this season, scored some cracking goals, and given the SWA plenty to cheer and sing about. There has been the opportunity to travel the length and breadth of the country and regularly visit Prenton Park with family and friends supporting our team. Like in life there needs to be a balance, and I appreciate that with the good memories there also come some disappointments.

A football season is a rollercoaster of a journey. I want to take this opportunity to thank the players the staff and all their families for the commitment, time and effort that they have put in over the season. We have a TEAM culture at Tranmere Rovers, putting the needs of the team before yourself.

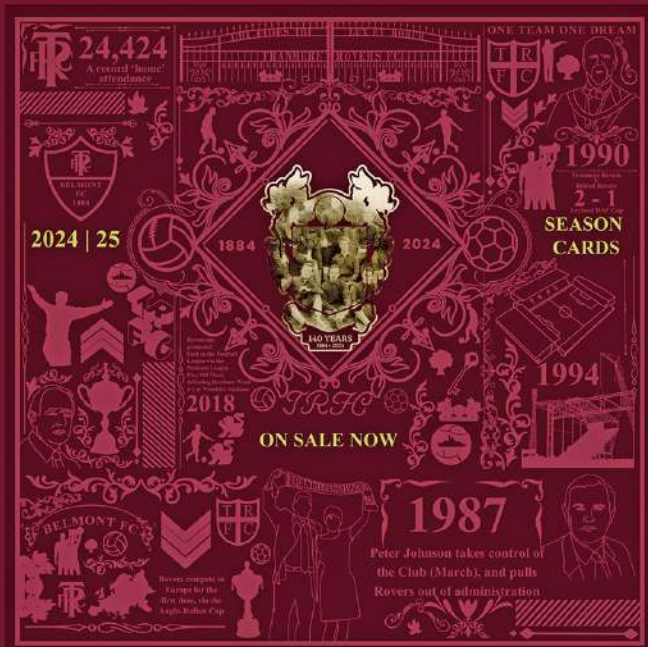
Together Everyone Achieves More. I want to thank you, the supporters, the SWA for your support, encouragement, and understanding since I returned to the Club I supported and played for. I really appreciate it.

Enjoy today's game.

We are Tranmere Rovers.

Nigel

"Celebrate 140 Glorious Years of Tranmere Rovers" Secure Your 2024/25 Season Card Now!



Join us in commemorating 140 years of Tranmere Rovers as we proudly announce the launch of the 2024/25 season cards!

Tranmere Rovers stand tall at 140 years, and we're inviting you to be a part of this incredible journey. Join us as we celebrate our storied history, marked by triumphs, challenges, and unwavering support from our dedicated fanbase.

In honour of our 140th anniversary, Tranmere Rovers are thrilled to announce a Price Freeze on the 2024/25 season cards!
Lock in your tickets at the current early bird prices.

This season, we're extending the Early Bird period to give you more time to secure your season card at the best rates.

Don't miss out on the chance to be part of the action from the very beginning
— renew or purchase your season card early and you can save up to £56 compared to regular prices.

We understand the importance of flexibility.

That's why we're proud to continue to offer supporters the opportunity of a paying by monthly subscription starting from just £33 per month.
Make supporting Tranmere Rovers a part of your monthly routine without straining your budget.

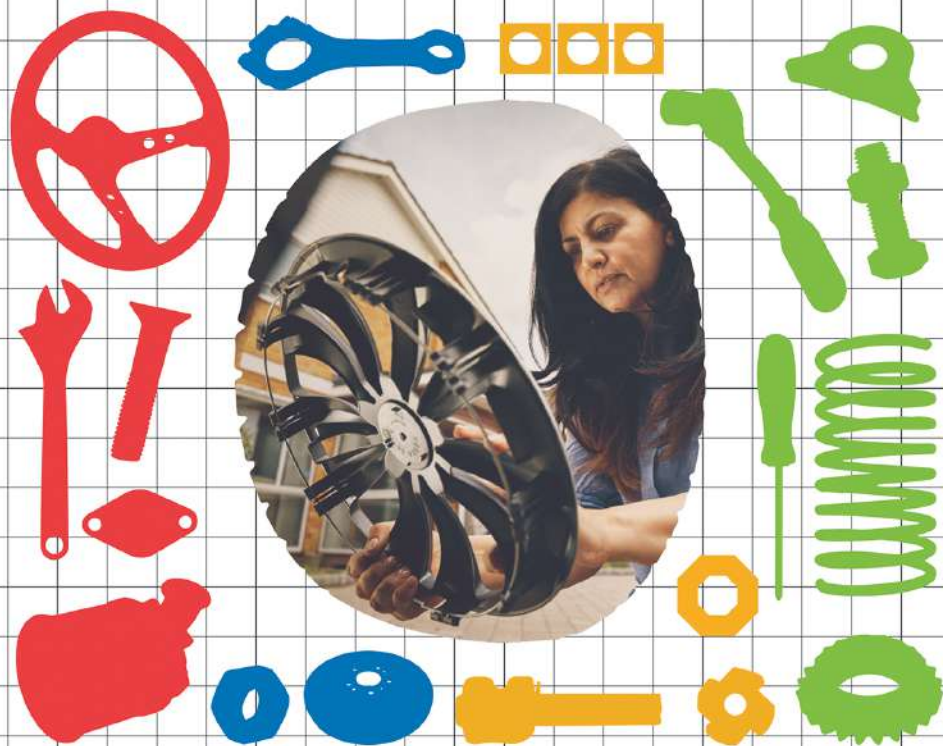
Time is of the essence! You have until Wednesday 24th April to secure your 2024/25 season card
at the early bird price as the deadline will not be extended.

Tranmere Rovers invites you to be a part of our 140-year legacy by securing your 2024/25 season card today.
With a Price Freeze, an extended Early Bird period, significant savings, and convenient monthly instalment options,

There's never been a better time to pledge your support.
Don't forget, the deadline is the deadline — act now and guarantee your spot in the stands
for what promises to be an unforgettable season!

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Messageboard>>>

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TRANMERE REMEMBERS

Pete Edwards

Pete sadly passed away on 31 March at the Countess of Chester hospital, having been taken in from his nursing home in Chester a week earlier.

Pete was in his early 80's when he died and had been supporting Tranmere since the age of 9.

He was well known by many fans, who used to shake his hand, as he progressed around the ground to the Johnny King entrance. Some six or so years ago, fans close by noticed Pete used to leave at half time and when asked why, he would comment that 'he had to walk up to Rock Ferry station to get the train and a bus home in Chester!' As Pete also lived with his sister, she would always worry if he was out too late.

Not happy with seeing him ever miss a game, fans would then give him a lift home so he could watch the whole game.

By the end of that season fans had organised a collection to buy Pete a season ticket (£80) in the Johnny King Stand. This continued for the next few seasons up to the point where Pete could no longer attend.

However, when Pete resided to a nursing home, the fans continued to organise follow payments so he could still watch and listen to games, alongside his flask and butties which were set out like he was at the match!

John Lawrence

Last weekend we sadly lost long-time supporter, John Lawrence (front left). John was a season ticket holder for many years and despite his recent absence from Prenton Park he kept an eye on results and kept in touch with the lads. Sincere condolences to his family, friends and all his SWA mates. John, you'll be greatly missed and always loved by everyone who knew you.

The Club offers its deepest condolences to both Pete and John's families, and all those who knew them – especially here at Prenton Park.



Today's Matchday Mascots

Our Matchday mascots this afternoon, sponsored by First Choice Utilities, are firstly Blake Robinson, who is 8 years old - and is obsessed with all things football! Blake is from Farndon near Chester - he plays for AFC Waverton Rockets team. Alongside playing for AFC Waverton, Blake represents his school team Farndon Primary School at annual football tournaments. As well as football, Blake enjoys running cross country and in 2023 he won overall Silver for Year 3 boys in the West Cheshire Athletic Club School Cross Country Series.

Blake started playing football when he was 3 years old, and he makes sure he plays every day. He enjoys working on skills and tricks at every chance he gets. Blake's favourite position to play in is right midfield so he can really put his speed, agility, and skills to the test. When Blake is not playing football, he is watching football, Match of the Day, or playing FC24. Blake is keen to watch as many matches as possible no matter who is playing as he likes to pick up tips and tricks which he will then go out into the garden to practice.

The first football match Blake went to see was Tranmere Rovers vs AFC Wimbledon in 2022. His favourite Tranmere Rovers players are Jake Leake and Josh Hawkes. Blake's Premier League team is Liverpool, and he was lucky enough to get tickets to watch them play Newcastle United at Anfield on New Year's Day. Blake is so excited and grateful to be able to play the role of Mascot for Tranmere Rovers and fulfil a dream of walking onto a stadium pitch to the sound of cheering fans.



THIS IS YOUR PAGE

Our second mascot is Emme Collings, from Bebington.

Emme is 10, and attends Year 5 at Poulton Lancelyn Primary School. Her favourite player has always been Connor Jennings, even the last time he was here. She's also a big fan of Luke McGee this season.

Emme comes to the match every week with her Dad, Grandad and cousin Caidan coming along often. She also gets to see her other grandad, Rob, as he is a steward on the Players' Entrance. Emme trains each week with AJ sports at school on Saturday mornings, and is a keen swimmer and swims for Ellesmere Port swimming club, and also dances with 'G Force Dance' troupe based in Bromborough.

We both hope you enjoy your day with us – and bring us some luck with all three points today!

Welcome To Our European SWA Supporters!

...From Holland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Belgium who are all here in numbers once again to cheer on and support the Rovers and the SWA.

A SWA New Arrival!

Welcome to a new arrival at Prenton Park – young Alex Oakes from Crosby.

Alex is 10 months old and his Uncle Gary and Auntie Leanne - season ticket holders in the Ray Mathias Lounge - are making sure early on that his football passion will be on the right side of the water!

We look forward to seeing you again Alex after becoming the newest member of the SWA!



TRANMERE ROVERS LEGENDS VS. WIRRAL RADIO FC
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KIRAN NYE MEMORIAL TROPHY
In aid of The Martin Gallier Project

Happy Birthday!

To long time supporters Tony Smith, aged 66 last Tuesday 16 April – we all hope you had a great day, and the lads can round the week off perfectly with all three points this afternoon!

Congratulations!

To supporters Andy Cubbin, Michael Corbett, Rob Jones and Kev Stock who all successfully completed the 10K Mersey Tunnel run Liverpool to New Brighton last weekend.

Thank You To All Everyone!

A massive THANK YOU once again to all those (listed on our Club Information page) who contributed to the matchday programme this season – and of course our club matchday photographer Richard Ault, as well as Phil Bryan and Chris Stading, both of who have assisted us with additional images throughout 2023/24. We always say we couldn't have done it all without you - your help has been indeed invaluable!

We are also looking to recruit more contributors towards next season's programme - if you would like to assist, please contact Tony Coombes at tonyc@tranmererovers.co.uk

Legends Charity Match

Once again, the annual Legends Charity Match will be staged at the Ray Parker Stadium, Villa Park, Ashville FC in Wallasey with the proceeds going towards the Martin Gallier Project.

It's a good opportunity see some former Rovers names all competing for a worthy cause!

THE MARTIN GALLIER PROJECT PRESENTS
AN EVENING WITH LES PARRY
An evening with Tranmere Rovers Legend Les Parry including dinner, Q&A, entertainment, auction and raffle.
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Lycium Club, Port Sunlight
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Today's Match Sponsors

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Opposition Luke Birch

AFC Wimbledon have spent most of the season in play-off contention, and still have a chance of extending their season.



AFC Wimbledon

The Dons have won one of their last five league games, a 1-0 victory over Salford City.

AFC Wimbledon have recently suffered defeats against Stockport County, Newport County, and last Saturday away to Swindon Town.

In the FA Cup, AFC Wimbledon thrashed Cheltenham Town 5-1 in the first round, before defeating non-league Ramsgate in the second round.

In the third round, AFC Wimbledon lost 3-1 at home to Championship title challengers Ipswich Town.

The Dons defeated Championship side Coventry City 2-1 in the first round of the Carabao Cup, thanks to two late goals Omar Bugiel and Ryan McLean.

The second round saw The Dons take the lead at Chelsea through James Tilley, before succumbing to goals from Noni Madueke and Enzo Fernandez.

AFC Wimbledon manager Johnnie Jackson took over in 2022, and has since extended his contract until 2026.

Jackson, 41, helped AFC Wimbledon to stave off the chance of a double relegation last season.

In November 2022, Jackson won the League Two Manager of the Month award as AFC Wimbledon manager.

He began his managerial career as twice-caretaker manager at Charlton Athletic, the second time, Jackson took over after the departure of current Tranmere manager Nigel Adkins.

After winning nine of his 13 matches in caretaker charge, Jackson was handed the job on a permanent basis, before departing five months later.

During his playing career as a defender, Jackson featured for Tottenham Hotspur, Colchester United, and Notts County.





The Present & The Past

THE PRESENT / RONAN CURTIS

Former Portsmouth winger Ronan Curtis has hit the ground running since signing for AFC Wimbledon in January 2024.

Curtis, 28, has scored four goals in 14 league games for The Dons, and earned two assists.

He has scored big goals for AFC Wimbledon, notching against high-fliers Mansfield Town, Barrow, and Milton Keynes Dons.

The 6'0" left-winger is hard-working, athletic, and has an eye for goal.

Curtis began his career at League of Ireland Premier Division side Derry City.

He made his debut for The Candystripes in 2015, and went on to score 18 goals in 91 league appearances with the club.

The winger almost signed for Swedish side Ostersunds FK, during his time at Derry City, but failed to agree personal terms.

Curtis scored in the Europa League first qualifying round for Derry City against FC Midtjylland in 2017.

In 2018, he signed for League One Portsmouth, helping Pompey to their EFL Trophy final victory over Sunderland later that season.

He was a consistent performer for Portsmouth in his first four seasons with the club, before struggling to get games in his final Pompey campaign.

Curtis spent five years with Portsmouth, scoring 42 goals in 184 league appearances.

Born in London, Curtis grew up in the Republic of Ireland.

He made his debut for The Boys in Green against Northern Ireland in an International Friendly in 2018.

Curtis has earned seven caps for Ireland, the last of which came in 2021.



THE PAST / AARON RAMSDALE

Current Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale had a brief loan spell with AFC Wimbledon, while on-loan from AFC Bournemouth in 2019.

Ramsdale made 20 appearances for The Dons in League One, keeping seven clean sheets.

This helped AFC Wimbledon to stave off relegation to the fourth tier, having been bottom of the table in December.

He played three FA Cup games for AFC Wimbledon, including a 4-2 fourth round win over West Ham United.

Born in Stoke-on-Trent, Ramsdale came through the youth setup at Sheffield United, but never made a league appearance in his first spell with The Blades.

He signed for AFC Bournemouth in 2017, making his Premier League debut on the opening day of the 2019/20 season, a 1-1 draw against Sheffield United.

Ramsdale re-signed for Sheffield United in 2020, and he was named Sheffield United Player of the Year for the 2020/21 season.

The goalkeeper signed for Arsenal in 2021, and has made 78 league appearances for The Gunners to date.

Ramsdale was included in the 2022/23 PFA Team of the Year.

The 25-year-old helped Arsenal to win the 2023 Community Shield against Manchester City on penalties.

He has spent most of Arsenal's 2023/24 league campaign on the bench, after The Gunners signed former Brentford goalkeeper David Raya last summer.

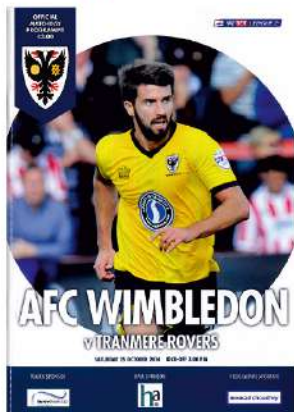
Ramsdale made his England debut against San Marino in 2021.

He has since featured three further times for the Three Lions against Italy, Hungary, and Scotland.





Three Previous Encounters



AFC WIMBLEDON 2 TRANMERE ROVERS 2

**Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 25 October 2014**

In 2014, an Armand Gnanouillet double helped Tranmere to rescue a draw at AFC Wimbledon in the first-ever meeting between the teams.

Jack Smith's deflected shot gave The Dons the lead, before Gnanouillet hit a long, low strike.

Barry Fuller's cross found Adebayo Akinfenwa to head home, before Gnanouillet's header then secured a point.

TRANMERE ROVERS PRESENTS

TRANMERE ROVERS



TRANMERE ROVERS 1 AFC WIMBLEDON 0

**Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 21 December 2019**

In 2019, Rushian Hepburn-Murphy scrambled home an equaliser to help Tranmere to defeat AFC Wimbledon 1-0 at Prenton Park.

Hepburn-Murphy scored on the rebound after Connor Jennings' shot was saved by AFC Wimbledon goalkeeper Nathan Trott.

The win came on the 21st December, and was Tranmere's first League One home win in three months.

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF AFC WIMBLEDON

COYD

FOOTBALL MANAGER



AFC WIMBLEDON 4 TRANMERE ROVERS 1

**Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 30 September 2023**

In 2023, AFC Wimbledon came back to defeat visitors Tranmere Rovers 4-1, thanks to an Ali Al-Hamadi hat-trick. Tranmere academy product Al-Hamadi notched three neat finishes either side of the half for the home side, after Armani Little had equalised.

Connor Jennings had opened the scoring in the fourth minute after stabbing home from a Tom Davies flick-on.

Five Notable Numbers

1

...Total number of wins for Rovers in six meetings – AFC Wimbledon themselves have won two, to add to three draws...

2002



...the year AFC Wimbledon were founded as a phoenix club (30 May) following Wimbledon being controversially relocated to Milton Keynes...

48



...Points accumulated by AFC Wimbledon in League Two last season, helping them to avoid relegation by five points...

36



...Years since Wimbledon defeated Liverpool in the 1988 FA Cup Final at Wembley...

9215



...The current capacity of AFC Wimbledon's home close to the original Plough Lane, which they left in 1998, and which was then demolished in 2002...



TRANMERE ROVERS



AFC WIMBLEDON

MATCH FACTS & TOTAL CARDS

Tranmere have won just one of their six Football League games against AFC Wimbledon (D3 L2), with that a 1-0 victory in December 2019.

91

5

96

6

AFC Wimbledon are looking to win successive Football League meetings with Tranmere for the first time, after their 4-1 victory in this season's reverse clash.



GOALS



EXPECTED GOALS



GOALS
CONCEDED



EXPECTED GOALS
AGAINST



CLEAN
SHEETS



SHOTS



AVERAGE
POSSESSION %



SHOT CONVERSION
RATE %



POINTS GAINED AFTER
TRAILING



POINTS DROPPED
AFTER LEADING

GOAL TIMES

	SCORED	CONCEDED		SCORED	CONCEDED
	14	11		9	10
0-15	11	10	0-15	7	4
16-30	6	9	16-30	9	1
31-45	13	8	46-60	7	10
46-60	10	13	61-75	9	12
61-75	9	13	76-90	16	10
76-90					

Data excludes games played after April 15th.



Opposition Dream Team

Charlie Stubbs selects a Wombles 'Fantasy Eleven'



1 - Goalkeeper: James Shea

James Shea starts between the sticks for Wimbledon's eleven. He played three seasons between 2014 and 2017, keeping 33 clean sheets. The Arsenal academy graduate left in 2017, after Wimbledon's first season in League One. He joined then-League Two side Luton Town and is now with the side, in the Premier League.

2 - Right Back: Barry Fuller

Fuller is The Dons' all time appearance maker, making over 200 league appearances between 2013 and 2018. He went through Charlton's academy, but signed from Barnet in May 2013. He helped Wimbledon win the League Two play-offs in 2016, beating Plymouth Argyle 2-0. He may have only scored once throughout his five seasons, but he was a key player nonetheless.

3 - Centre Back: Will Nightingale

Home-grown academy talent Nightingale started out in the AFC Wimbledon academy in 2004, and has gone on to play 175 times for the London club. Nine years and seven goals later, including the first in front of fans at the new Plough Lane, he was loaned out to Scottish Premiership side Ross County for the 2023-24 season.

4 - Centre Back: Paul Robinson

Millwall legend Paul Robinson joined the Dons in 2015, after a season long spell at Portsmouth. 102 league appearance later, Paul was a mainstay in the Wimbledon defences of the start of

their only stint in League One. His Wimbledon career ran until the end of the 2017-18 season, and now he is a coach for the Millwall under-23s.

5 - Left Back: Darius Charles

The start of a spell of putting players out of position, Darius Charles will need to slot in on the left, which is a position he played 47 times throughout his career, scoring three in the process. However, at centre back is where he will be more fondly remembered at. He played over 70 times for the Dons, scoring twice in the process, and even returned as caretaker manager in 2022.

6 - Right Midfield: George Francomb

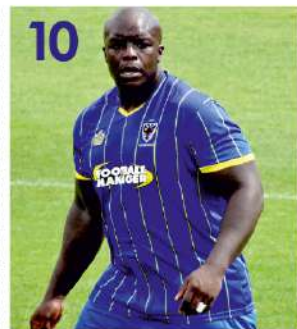
Playing a little bit more forward that he is used to, the Hackney-born Francomb graduate from the Norwich City academy in 2009, and signed after being released from the club, in 2013. He had a fifteen game stint at the club in 2012, however was recalled before the winter window. He was part of the team who won the League Two play-off final, however did not feature in the final.

7 - Centre Midfield: Luke Garrard

A popular figure with the Wimbledon faithful, Luke Garrard made over 100 appearances since signing in 2006, from Northwood. He was a mainstay in the side until his injury in November 2008. Upon his return, he played the occasion game up until he was allowed to join former side Boreham Wood, in 2010. He went on to play 140 times upon his return, and became their manager in 2015.

8 - Centre Midfield: Jake Reeves

The Lewisham-born midfielder has been a favourite at the club throughout his three spells at the club, one in 2012, the second between 2015 and 2017 and the third this season. His dominative style, playing defensively when needed, meant he has played over 120 times for the club, and even notched in with a few goals including an incredible dipping volley at home to York.



9 - Left Midfield Lyle Taylor

With three strikers trying to fill the two spots, Lyle Taylor will have to settle for a spot out on the left-hand side. The Montserrat international played for the club between 2015 and 2018, scoring 44 in 131 league games, including 20 in their play-off promotion winning season of 2016. Affectionately known as the Montserratian Messi, he played for his country thirteen times, scoring 10, none of these coming whilst at the Dons.

10 - Striker: Adebayo Akinfenwa

Although a journeyman throughout his career, he signed for the Dons in 2014, aged 32, after over a year of chasing his signature. He scored some key goals for the club, including one against his beloved Liverpool, in the 2015 FA Cup Third Round, and a last-minute penalty in the 2016 League Two Playoff Final. His charisma and reputation as the world's strongest football player led to him being not just a fan favourite but a favourite throughout the English game.

11 - Striker: Joe Pigott

Partnering The Beast up front is the prolific Maidstone-born Joe Pigott. Signing in 2018 for a contract of undisclosed length and for an undisclosed fee, he hit the ground running. He scored on his Wimbledon debut after four minutes, in a 2-0 victory against Blackpool, after coming on as a 73rd-minute-substitute. He also scored after 77 seconds in the EFL Cup against Premier League side West Ham United, although they went on to lose the game 3-1.



Rover Retires



Today's game is the final game of our current 'Rover the Dog', before 'Rover' changes for next season, so we spoke to 'Rover' himself about how much he has enjoyed coming along as our mascot over the last 30 years.

TC: Rover, how much do you enjoy it on a matchday here at Prenton Park?

RTD: I thoroughly enjoy it. It's been the best experience of my dog life really. I enjoy every part of it, particularly before the games. I'll get out at maybe quarter past two if it's a three o'clock kick-off. I enjoy going round and meeting all the fans and hearing the stories they tell me. Many want shirts or programmes signing, and some have a little mini Rover that they want me to introduce myself to!

The other thing that's really great is when I take one of the balls round and give people a header, which they really enjoy!

TC: Give us an insight into your day and what you do as our club mascot on a matchday.

RTD: When Rover's all ready to go out, I always have a helper because sometimes, what people don't realise is that Rover the dog can't always see everything if the sun's in his eyes, or if it's a night-time game, the floodlights. Sometimes people are waving and shouting, and I don't always see or hear them.

I have a helper with me who always says, 'Rover! There's someone here, a little boy or girl!'

I'll go around to every part of the pitch including the away fans, I always go and see them! Sometimes they want photographs taken as well.

When I get to the halfway line, I always go and meet the mascot, and we have our photographs taken together. It's great to be able to see that.

I go over to those with disabilities to meet

them and have a chat. There are some who are able to head the ball, so I throw the ball to them, we talk about the game, and then go to the wheelchair bay in the Kop, I always go and see them to have photographs.

Sometimes, maybe about five minutes before kick-off, I try and get the crowd going, and dancing!

We always have different schools coming in, so I go down and meet those, and then I'm ready to stand by the tunnel.

As the players come out, I give them a high-five!

I have a photograph taken in the middle with the mascot and Tom Davies if he's captain or whoever it is for the game.

Nigel Adkins is always on the touchline and gives us a big hug! >>>





TC: What are your favourite parts about being our mascot?

RTD: My favourite part is when different parents come or helpers, and say this is the first time their son or daughter has been to the game, so I make a big fuss of them! Sometimes they'll bring a little drawing or a painting that they've done for me, or dog chews, so I tell them I'll save it for later on! I just try and make the experience really special for them. Some adults and children find it really difficult because of disabilities, so I try and involve them as much as possible, no whether they can head the ball back to me, or if they can throw the ball. I'm just there really to make it special and make them feel that everyone is included. Just to put a smile on their faces, as simple as that for me!

TC: If you had to pick one stand-out moment from your time as mascot here at Tranmere, what would it be?

RTD: All of those times when we could have got in the Premiership were fantastic, but for me it was Boreham Wood. I was at Wembley three times! We'd been the year before when we

were beaten by Forest Green. When I'd got back from meeting fans, I didn't realise we'd had a player sent off and we were down to ten men! When we won and we were back in the Football League, it was unbelievable. As the players had gone up to get the trophy and come back down, I was there to give them high-fives on the way down! There has been some fantastic moments when we've had big cup wins, playing Premier League teams, but for me it was getting back in the Football League, where Tranmere belong.

TC: Who are the some of the best people you've met during your time as our mascot?

RTD: It's easy to say the players, but some of the fans come from all over the world with Tranmere's fanbase! One of the most poignant memories was little Nate who came with his mum and dad. Taking him on the pitch, and seeing him score, that was really something for me, and then when we scored in the sixth minute as he was aged six. It's been so long! Rover is a 30-year dog. Meeting people like Alan Shearer before



games and so many different players over the years, and all the different Tranmere players that have gone through to the current squad. There's been so many, it's hard to pick one, but they're all happy moments for me.

TC: So Rover, what do you think of Les Roberts, the Tranmere fan?

RTD: I'm biased, obviously, because I do know him! I think he's fantastic! He said the cheque's going to be in the post for saying that about him!



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Tranmere Rovers In The Community

Wirral school team representing Tranmere Rovers win Utilita Girls Cup at Wembley

A team from Wirral Grammar School for Girls representing Tranmere Rovers were victorious in the EFL Utilita Girls Cup national final on the pitch at Wembley, prior to the Bristol Street Motors Trophy final.

The girls' team progressed all the way from our local finals at Weatherhead High School against Wirral schools, on to the area finals where they beat North West-based teams such as Wrexham, Stockport County and Stoke City.

They then progressed to the regional finals where they defeated the likes of Sunderland, all the way to the national final against Norwich City.

The team took to the pitch ahead of the Bristol Street Motors final between Peterborough and Wycombe Wanderers.

After a tightly contested goalless draw, the game went to penalties, and in Rovers colours, the girls defeated Norwich on penalties by a score of 7-6 after a save from Ella Wright.

Former England midfielder Izzy Christiansen, Utilita Girls Cup ambassador, handed over the trophy to the winning side from Wembley's Royal Box.

The Utilita Girls Cup is one of the country's biggest national tournaments – which has seen around 7,000 girls and over 700 teams

take part this year – linked to the regions of the 72 EFL Clubs. Wirral Grammar School for Girls' Head of Year 8

and the team's coach, Mrs Shields, said: "It was an incredible weekend. The whole experience was so special.

"The girls and staff were treated like a professional team. From the night in the hotel to having the kits hung in the changing rooms ready for the big game.

"It was an incredible match and the girls kept their nerves in check despite having a big crowd in the stands. Each girl stepped up for their penalty with determination, I am so proud of each one of them.

"This has been one of the best weekends of my teaching career.

"The support from Shirley (Tranmere Rovers in the Community) has been fantastic and I would like to thank her for all her support throughout the tournament."





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Dele Alli said this week that he is targeting a place in the England squad for the 2026 World Cup.

"I have a reminder on my phone every single day at 11 o'clock - World Cup 2026," he told Sky Sports. "I know people will be like 'He hasn't played in a year' but that's my aim. I know where my level is."

The question is, does anyone else? Alli's last game of any variety came for Besiktas in February 2023, but a combination of personal issues and injury problems mean it is high on five years since anyone saw the 28-year-old at his best.

Back then, Alli was mentioned in the same breath as Harry Kane, alongside whom he'd burst onto the scene at Tottenham.

Signed from MK Dons for £5m in January 2015, he was loaned back to the Buckinghamshire side for the remainder of the season. A few weeks later I went to interview Karl Robinson, the Dons' manager, and asked if there was any possibility of Alli returning on loan the following year.

"Well, I'd love that," said Robinson. "But honestly mate, I think he'll go back to Spurs and he'll play next season. He's that good. And after that... whoosh - you watch him go."

How right he was. There were moments - whole seasons, even - when Alli appeared destined to stand alongside England's great goalscoring midfielders.

Paul Gascoigne, Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard; at his peak, Alli appeared to combine a little bit of all of them.

Effortless grace. Impudent skill. A poacher's instincts and an eye for the spectacular. In his first three seasons at Spurs, he scored 46 goals. In 2018, he was a fixture in the England side that reached the World Cup semi-finals.

"Dele was an amazing player for us," said then-Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino. "The hunger and the energy and the aggression. With the charisma as well, he was like our Maradona or Ronaldinho."

Alli has since opened up on the unravelling of his career, from spending time in rehab due to a sleeping pill addiction and mental health issues, to the long-term trauma resulting from being sexually abused as a child.

On the pitch, contractual wrangles and persistent injuries have blighted his three years at Everton, which will come to an end this summer after just 13 appearances.

Alli says he has not given up hope of earning a new deal at Goodison Park, or of remaining in the Premier League. But at a time when even the richest top-flight clubs are counting the pennies, who would risk signing a player whose best days may be long gone? Alli knows his level. We've all seen his level. What nobody knows is whether he is capable of reaching that level again.

Perhaps the best course of action would be to forget about the Premier League altogether and follow the example of Harry Winks.

Like Alli, Winks was a rising star under Pochettino at Spurs before - for different reasons - disappearing from view. Capped ten times by England, the 28-year-old took many by surprise when he joined a Leicester side just relegated from the Premier League last summer, but has thrived in the Championship and rediscovered both confidence and form.

Would that have happened in the top flight? Not at the sort of clubs Winks could have joined, and the same is true of Alli.

A dominant side in the Championship offers the former Spurs man a much better chance of returning to his best than a struggling Premier League team who never have the ball. He will just need to swallow his pride - and stop worrying about World Cups that are two years away.

By Chris Dunlavy, reporter, The Football League Paper



MATCH IMAGES

v Newport County AFC, Saturday 13/4/2024

...Rovers take all three points at Rodney Parade - for the very first time in fact since the clubs first met there in February 2015. Rob Apter is also on the scoresheet with a first-half brace to add to a all-round excellent performance by everyone. Go to our official Facebook pages for more images from our club photographers this season...

Photos: Tony Coombes



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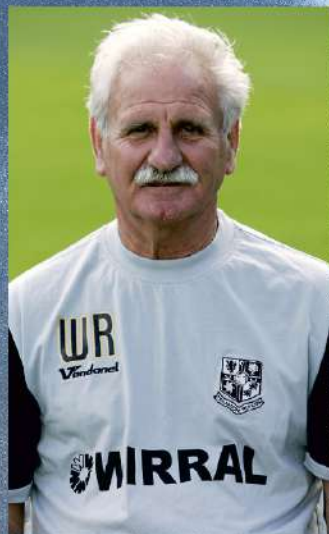
of Prenton Park

Warwick Rimmer carved out a unique place in Tranmere Rovers' history.

The Birkenhead-born defender did not make any of 597 career League appearances for his hometown club, instead providing loyal service to Bolton Wanderers and Crewe Alexandra between 1960 and 1979.

Rimmer's work as a manager took him to Africa, where he ran the Sierra Leone national team, via a change at Crewe.

But when he accepted the new owner's offer to revive and run the youth development operation at Prenton Park in 1987, Rimmer began a 20-year commitment that had a profound impact on Tranmere's fortunes.



NICK HILTON'S ROVERS RETROSPECTIVE

He put together an operation that very quickly produced a prolific flow of young players good enough to play for the first team and make the club serious money on the transfer market. As much as chairman Peter Johnson's financial investment and manager Johnny King's talent for team building were cornerstones of Tranmere's unprecedented success during the late 1980s and 90s, the club would probably have found it impossible to sustain 10 seasons in English football's second tier without the production line of talent from the youth team. It delivered year, after year, after year. Consider some of the first-team players who came through Rimmer's hands: Tony Thomas, Kenny Irons, Ged Brannan, John McGreal, Danny Coyne, Gary Jones, Ian Moore, Alan Rogers, Dave Challinor, Clint Hill, Andy Parkinson, Steve Simonsen, Jason Koumas, Ian Sharps, Richard Hinds, Joe Murphy, Iain Hume, Danny Harrison, Ryan Taylor, Chris Dagnall, Steve Jennings, Steve Davies, Craig Curran. And many more.

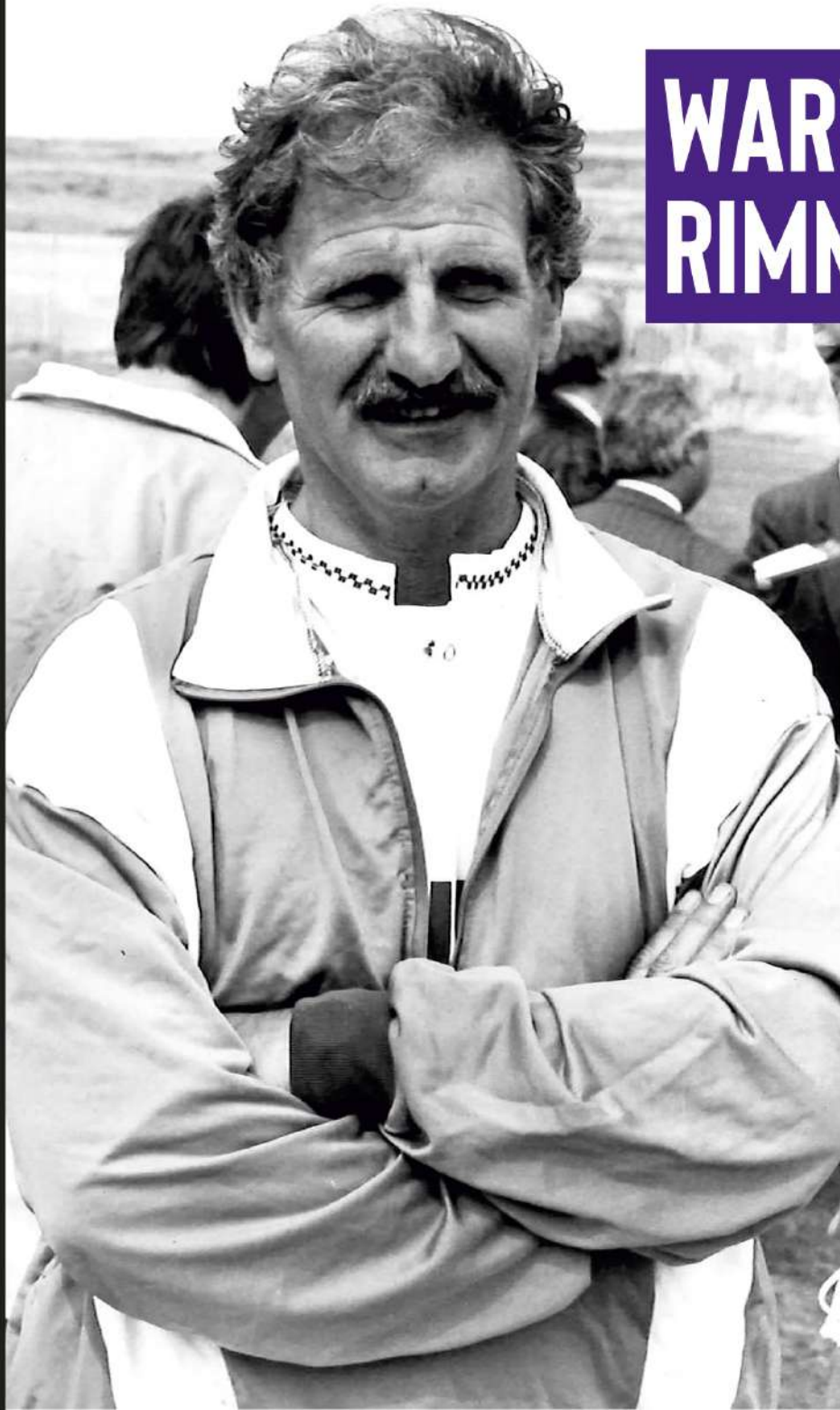
The transfer fees Tranmere banked from the homegrown players who were sold topped £14 million. Often, Tranmere managers could take some comfort in releasing the bright young stars of Prenton Park to bigger clubs because they knew fresh prospects were about to emerge from the youth team.

Beyond generating good players and hard cash, Rimmer and his department also earned for Tranmere a reservoir of respect, admiration and goodwill across all levels of the professional game.

development. One coach of international standing, who regarded Rimmer's record as "incredible", reckoned his secret was the "paternal style" relationship he built up with young players.

Brain Flynn, who was in charge of the Wales under 19 and under 21 squads from 2004 to 2010 said: "Every boy who came under Warwick's wing saw him as an uncle – the best uncle they ever had."

Peter Johnson found Rimmer working in Tranmere's commercial department when he bought control of the club in 1987 and quickly suggested a change in role. Aware that Tranmere had once boasted a successful youth development department, set up by Dave Russell in the 1960s and which had withered away as the club's financial fortunes declined during the 70s and 80s, Johnson asked Rimmer to revive it.



WARWICK RIMMER

23

NICK HILTON

Rimmer accepted, in spite of his limited experience in the youth field. He recalled later, in an interview with the Liverpool Daily Post: "There was no blueprint lying around on how to set up the youth development system from scratch."

Shaun Garnett, later to head up the youth department himself, was the only YTS apprentice on the books at Tranmere in 1987. Rimmer had some guidance from his own memories. He had not forgotten how impressed he had been with Bolton's handling of young players during a happy time as an apprentice at Burnden Park in the 1950s. "I tried to take that approach in the work I did for Tranmere," he said.

"In terms of building the structure, we had to work it out as we went along and the first job was to recruit a few boys. We had a big piece of luck because South Liverpool had just lost their YTS programme and they had some boys who were looking for somewhere to go. Tony Thomas was in that group.

"Back then, youth team training with Alec Muir on Tuesday and Thursday nights was with a mixture of boys aged between 15 and 18 and older. We had people like Chris Malkin, who worked in a bank, training with us.

"The next problem was: what did we do for the year after? So we decided to set up an under-16 team for the following year.

"We gradually expanded downwards until after several years we were running teams from the age of nine."

Rimmer admits to another piece of luck when a school of excellence run by Cheshire County Council was closed down. They had boys aged from nine to 14.

"We went to speak to the people involved and overnight we transferred them to Tranmere's school of excellence," Rimmer recalled.

"All of a sudden we had a full complement of age groups. Those Cheshire boys included Gary Jones and Dave Brammer, who went on to play for Wrexham."

The first crop of Rimmer's graduates were harnessed by manager Johnny King and became increasingly influential in driving Tranmere's progress, via two promotions and five Wembley visits, to the division now known as the Championship by the early 1990s.

Meanwhile, youth football across the professional game expanded and became better organised and more tightly regulated by the Football League and government agencies, who provided financial support. A structure for weekly school of excellence games, played on Sundays, was put in place. Rimmer's own role began to change as his department expanded and he orchestrated the work of dozens of coaches, scouts and voluntary helpers.

He said: "Without the work of those full-time and part-time staff year on year, too many to mention by name, it would have been impossible to achieve what we did. Only people involved in youth football can appreciate the amount of work involved in the job.

"When a boy comes through the ranks it has been through the work of a combination of people working at all levels. Then it needs the people at the top of the club to be confident enough to give the lad a chance, and at Tranmere they always did that."

Rimmer added: "Once we took a player into the club, I felt as though each one had my name on his back. I told every player that. I always said to them: "No one other than your parents will want you to succeed more than me."

Warwick Rimmer stepped down from a full-time role at Tranmere in 2008.

FOOTNOTE: In all probability, Football League clubs will not see the likes of Warwick Rimmer again.

In 2012 The Premier League employed some financial muscle to force the Football League clubs to accept the Elite Player Performance Plan. It changed the way youth academies worked and negatively affected the youth development business model for clubs in the lower divisions.

Under the EPPP, clubs in the lower divisions can do little to stop top flight clubs from taking youth players from where they please, when they please and at a younger age (from nine upwards) while paying modest compensation on a fixed sliding scale.

As a consequence, many lower division teams no longer invest in youth development.

Nick Hilton

Prentonian Personal Effects

For our final Personal Effects column this season, we now wind back to the early 1970s and the FA Cup competition of 1971/72. It is quite hard to imagine in the current footballing era that all three Merseyside clubs could ever stage home matches all on the same day, and at the same time – but on Saturday 5 February 1972, that is exactly what happened.



129,182

THREE SIDES OF THE MERSEY ALL IN ONE DAY!



The FA Cup Fourth Round draw had paired Rovers with First Division Stoke City; Everton with Third Division Walsall, and Liverpool with Division One rivals Leeds United.

Within a five-mile radius, surprisingly enough the local police had voiced no real concerns that any trouble would ensue – but on the day, sheer chaos at Liverpool Lime Street station saw the three respective visiting clubs almost come together having alighted from special trains from both the West and South, with the surrounding roads around the station coming to an almost complete standstill from approximately 12.30pm that day. Reports that 'the police had their work cut out' to contend with the situation were realised though, as multitudes of fans then made their way through the city centre.

Tranmere Rovers 2, Stoke City 2 (24,424)

Having disposed of non-league Skelmersdale United, Mansfield Town (over a replay) and Charlton Athletic (again via a replay), the tie with City was to be their 96th FA Cup tie since entering the Football League in 1921. Shortly afterwards, the game was declared as an all-ticket affair, taking into consideration Stoke's request themselves having sold 30,000 tickets alone for their League Cup Semi-Final Second Replay with West Ham United at Old Trafford on Wednesday 26 January. Around 5,000 City fans then descended on an already crammed Prenton Park, as the sold-out tie would produce record gate receipts of £8,982, thanks to the club record-breaking figure of 24,424 – ensuring just enough space available for those there to witness the dramatic events on the pitch which saw Rovers grab a last gasp equaliser to deservedly earn a replay the Victoria Ground four days later.

The visitors looked to have taken control of the contest from the kick-off, but Tranmere's confidence grew within the first half thanks to the heroics of several players and taking the two sides to a goalless half-time break.

City's breakthrough after 67 minutes through Terry Conroy swung the tie in favour in the visitors. Seven minutes later, it looked beyond Rovers to salvage anything, when John Richie headed in from Eric Skeels' cross to make it 2-0.

However, Tranmere's cup giant-killing pedigree came to fruition, as set to the backdrop of a vociferous home crowd, they were roared onto an unlikely draw as Ron Yeats (after 78 minutes) and Ken Beamish two minutes from time ignited magnificent scenes and a large-scale pitch invasion – and rubber stamped yet another memorable match into club folklore.

Everton 2, Walsall 1 (45,462)

Everton had claimed victory in Round Three over Crystal Palace, and in a replay, which saw them drawn at home again this time to Tranmere's fellow Division Three side Walsall, who themselves had knocked out non-league Dagenham, Brighton (over a replay) and AFC Bournemouth. Although initially allocated over 6,000 tickets for the visit to Goodison Park, Walsall eventually returned half that figure prompting transport issues as the reason for a reduced attendance.

Everton's game against Walsall was their 250th FA Cup tie since first entering in October 1887, and progressed to the following stages with what was considered by the press to be a 'dreary affair' with the Saddlers - who themselves were perhaps a tad unlucky not come away with at least a draw, as the match finished 2-1 to the Toffees.

The plucky visitors had matched their hosts for large periods of the game, as it the hosts took 65 minutes to break the deadlock, this through David Johnson. Three minutes from time, Everton looked to have sealed their passage to Round Five, when Alan Whittle spectacularly headed in from Joe Royle's hooked shot.

Walsall's only consolation from their brave efforts saw Mick Evans capitalise on a loose ball lost from within a chaotic and crowded Everton defence, and smash home in the dying moments.

Everton's cup run was eventually halted by a 2-0 home defeat to Tottenham, played the same month.

Liverpool 0, Leeds United 0 (59,296)

The only goalless Merseyside cup match that weekend was reserved for the all-Division One clash involving Liverpool and Leeds United, the latter of whom would be not only the eventual winners of the competition, but Division One runners-up come the end of the season.

Liverpool's game against Leeds was their 240th FA Cup tie since first entering in October 1892, but here, the 0-0 outcome here was one though of more relief than jubilation to the Reds fans. Having already tasted defeat in the Charity Shield, a pre-Christmas exit from Europe, and elimination from the League Cup, Liverpool's last real hope of silverware came on the back of victory at Oxford United in Round Three. Leeds on the other hand were on the up and were determined indeed to extend their successful season with victory at Anfield.

The hosts were dominant in certain stages of the game, but this contest then turned out to be Liverpool's sixth goalless match from eight games already played. Leeds efforts meanwhile rescued the pattern for the rest of the game, as they threatened on several occasions to overrun the Liverpool defence and score. A defiant Ray Clemence in goal however thankfully came to the rescue.

Any real headlines though were concentrated on Liverpool's high-profile star Steve Heighway and his unthinkable and glaring miss late on – and instead, directed attention towards a replay at Elland Road, for which the Reds were not considered as the usual favourites to continue their FA Cup journey. Sure enough, Liverpool succumbed to an unstoppable home performance from United, as a 2-0 victory saw them march on to Round Five, and a home meeting with Cardiff City.

The all-round record breaking day did receive some attention from the local press, but nationally, it can be noted though that all three games may have been overshadowed by events in the same competition elsewhere in the UK – thanks to the now-celebrated Hereford United versus Newcastle United replayed Third Round tie, itself the subject firstly of several controversial postponements, before being eventually played on the day scheduled for the Fourth Round fixtures, and a match which produced that historic and magnificent strike from Hereford legend Ronnie Radford.

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COVER TO COVER

ANDREW STURGEON ON WIMBLEDON V TRANMERE 1980/81

In October 1980, just two days after his appointment as Tranmere player/manager, Bryan Hamilton named himself in the starting eleven to face Wimbledon. A match which also happened to be the first encounter between the sides.



Following the previous seasons' newspaper issues, Rovers reverted to a more traditional programme style for the 80/81 season. Titled 'The Rovers Review', this was priced at 25p for sixteen pages.

Within the dark blue cover frame, were four colourful photos of 'Life at Prenton Park'. These images remained consistent throughout the season, despite the departure in early September of Johnny King, who was included in the top right image.

In the opening page a 'Club Comment' article was used in the area where the managers column would normally reside. After celebrating Rovers' away win against Bradford, under 'Caretaker Team Manager' Eddie Robertson, it went on to note:

"Hopefully the team will go into tonight's match knowing the name of the man who is to chart their immediate future and equally hopefully there will be a determination to give that person, whoever he may be, the total commitment he is going to need."

Two pages are given over to Wimbledon, with the team photo, taking up a single page, which ironically was printed on yellow paper, whilst on the adjacent page, printed on blue, there were pen pics of The Dons squad, along with

information on the nights' referee – Keith Hackett.

'Prenton Profile' used an entire page which included a large picture of the profiled John Kelly. Despite being born in Bebington, the article notes he would qualify to play for the Republic of Ireland through parentage.

An advert for the upcoming Tranmere Rovers Firework Carnival, takes up two thirds of a page, whilst the rest of the page, randomly sets out the season ticket prices of the other 91 football league teams.

Bookmaker, Henry Jones of Neston, has a full-page advert in the inside rear cover page, whilst the back cover, which is set out in a horizontal format, includes the team lines ups, either side of large advert for Rothmans cigarettes.

A 3-0 win for Rovers ensured a winning start for Hamilton, but there was no upturn in form over a longer period, and Rovers were still near the foot of the table, when the return fixture took place at Plough Lane in March 1981.

The self-titled Wimbledon programme, cost 30p for sixteen pages. The yellow and blue club colours prominently reflected on the cover were also used within the internal pages. Three match action photos dominate the centre of the cover, which themselves are sandwiched between the title heading in large blue text and match details below.

A young-looking Dave Basset opens the programme with his cryptic notes suggesting "If we are to succeed, we must be prepared to meet all forms of tactics as well as changing weather conditions and any other peculiarities that may arise".

Within the 'Plough Lane Talk' article it is noted "The pleasing news, that the Board of Directors have decided not to proceed with an application to the Football League to play matches at Crystal Palace FC as the board are resolved in

maintaining the club's independence in all respects."

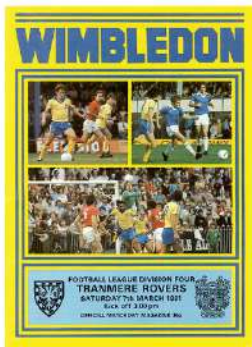
'Who's Kitting Who?' – lists the player sponsors for this season. Publican - Jimmy Rose, who sponsors: Armstrong, Beasant, Gage and Morris, under the guise of the Plume of Feathers and the Horseshoe Inn, is also noted as the days' match sponsor.

A packed centre page spread welcomes the visitors with an introduction on the seasons' results, pen pics, club details and the team photo. Headlined "Tranmere in precarious position," this notes the poor league position and away form of Rovers – with the win at Bradford in September remaining their solitary away victory, alongside four draws and twelve defeats.

The left-hand side of the rear page has the team line ups, whilst the right-hand side has an advertisement for John Manley (Turf Accountants).

Rovers' poor away form would continue as The Dons would win 2-1.

At the end of the season Wimbledon would win promotion after finishing fourth. Conversely, Rovers would finish fourth from bottom and were required to seek re-election to the league, for the following season.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW?

James Norris

- 1: Which Club is James currently on loan from?
- 2: Against which team did James make his Rovers debut?
- 3: Which of James' Rovers teammates did he play in our under-9 team with as a youngster?
- 4: Which member of the current coaching staff was in charge of James' Tranmere under-9 team?
- 5: How old is James, 19, 20, or 21?



- 6: True or false – James has represented England at youth level.
- 7: Against which team did James make his League Two debut for Rovers?
- 8: Against which team did James make his senior debut for Liverpool in the quarter-finals of the EFL Cup in December 2019?
- 9: Which city is James from?
- 10: True or false – James played the full 90 minutes of our 4-2 win over Notts County on New Year's Day.



ANSWERS
1: Liverpool. 2: Fleetwood Town - EFL Cup. 3: Rob Apter. 4: Mark Cowan, Sport Scientist. 5: 21.
6: True. 7: Crawley Town. 8: Aston Villa. 9: Liverpool. 10: True.

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A STAT
I BET
YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW...



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FROM A PRESS PERSPECTIVE

IT'S JUST NOT CRICKET

In times gone by it wasn't unusual for a footballer to play football in the winter and cricket in the summer. The history books are full of double internationals with Denis and Leslie Compton the most famous of them all but John 'Jack' Sharp is probably the most recognisable name from our own patch. 'Jack', as he was known, played both football and cricket for his country, playing 3 Test matches in 1909 as well as winning 2 England caps. As a footballer he played on the right wing and signed for Everton from Aston Villa spending 11 seasons at the club. He also spent 15 seasons playing for Lancashire and was a member of the County Championship winning side in 1904. He was a Director at Everton for many years and many of you will remember the 'Jack Sharp' sport shop that he started in Whitechapel. His career at Everton was in the early 20th century but the idea that you could become a dual top class sportsman isn't totally consigned to history.

Although it's impossible to envisage Trent Alexander-Arnold or Jordan Pickford having two top flight careers there are more recent examples of footballers who have managed to play county cricket in the summer months and cricketers who have turned their attention to football in the winter months. Sir Ian Botham's name springs to mind – he managed 11 games in the Football League for Scunthorpe before he became a household name for his cricket exploits.

From a Tranmere perspective goalkeeper Jim Cumbes is the most obvious example making 137 appearances for the club before going on to play for West Brom and Aston Villa. He then headed to America to play for the Portland Timbers where he even faced footballing legend, Pele. During his cricketering career as a fast-medium bowler he often found it difficult to juggle time between the two sports but he still played 161 first class matches for four counties and later became Lancashire's Chief Executive.

Liverpool has a long association with cricket and in Aigburth Cricket ground boasts the oldest amateur



sports club in Merseyside and the pavilion is the oldest at a first class cricket ground. In 2011 with Old Trafford under renovation Lancashire played 6 matches at the ground and this coincided with their first County Championship title since 1950!

There is also a football connection to the ground, it staged an international exhibition game between England and Ireland in 1883 that the hosts won 7-0 BUT did you know that the only man to score a hat-trick in a World Cup Final, Sir Geoff Hurst played cricket for Essex at Aigburth? His only first-class appearance was in 1962 although it wasn't a successful one. Four years before he became a World Cup winner he made '0 not out' in the first innings and was bowled by Colin Hilton for a 'duck' in the second.

Although he played 23 times in the Essex 2nd XI, mainly as a wicketkeeper between 1962 and 1964 his choice of a footballing career was clearly the right decision.

In the 21st century though a double international seems highly unlikely.



Tranmere Rovers Supporters Club



Good afternoon, and welcome to Prenton Park for the last time this season. And a warm welcome to our visitors from AFC Wimbledon who have made the long trip north.

This season might not have quite panned out how we would have liked, but we can all take comfort in the fact that we pulled well clear of any relegation battle, which at one point looked like quite the risk. It has been very much a season of highs and lows, but nonetheless we will take some great memories with us such as the wins at home to Stockport and away to Wrexham, the return of Connor Jennings, the scintillating form of Rob Apter, and many miraculous saves by Luke McGee to name just a few.

Next week we will make our final away trip of the season, with a nice short journey to Accrington. At the time of writing, there is space on our TROSC coaches so please get in touch via supportersclub@tranmererovers.co.uk to book on. Our coaches have been a huge success this season, with great numbers making long journeys regularly even in these late stages where we had nothing left to play for. With our improved coaches proving hugely popular via our new supplier, there are plenty of reasons to travel with us. A reminder that TROSC members receive a £2 discount on fares, so if you join the TROSC and travel with us six times you've already made your money back!

After today's game we will be presenting the Johnny King award for TROSC player of the season in Dixie's Lounge. A big thank you to everybody who voted, and

congratulations to the player who will take home the trophy – to be revealed later!

Everyone involved with the TROSC was deeply saddened to hear of the sad loss of Aldo's regular John Lawrence this weekend, after a long illness. Our deepest sympathies are with his family and friends. John was well known to many TRFC supporters and he will be sadly missed. Please join us in keeping John's family in your thoughts at this difficult time.



As the season draws to a conclusion, we would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the TROSC this season – be that as a member, as someone who has bought our merchandise or cans of beer in Aldo's, retweeted posts advertising coaches or if you bought the Ian Muir autobiography – which many of

you did. The TROSC is only a worthwhile organisation if it is doing things that fans care about – we hope we have achieved this but please do get in touch with any suggestions, or indeed if you'd like to join the committee and get involved. Keep your eyes on social media for details of next year's memberships and much more. In the meantime, enjoy your summers and we will see you right back here in August!

SWA!

Tranmere Rovers Women recorded back-to-back victories in a 'double header' with Blackpool in their final competitive matches of the season.



It was a double header to finish off the league campaign for Tranmere Rovers Women playing two fixtures in a single afternoon.

Rovers got the first game underway at a warm Ellesmere Port Sports Village starting with attacking intent and leading on four minutes when Anya McCreedy headed home from close range after great work by Katie Bowers Folan down the right.

Minutes later one became two when Anya McCreedy found the net again this time with a drive from distance finding the bottom left corner after great build up play by Amy Shannon.

Rovers continued to attack at will peppering the Blackpool goal with efforts from wingers Bowers Folan and Shannon, but neither could beat the keeper.

The second half started the same as the first with Anya McCreedy completing her hattrick after she bullied her way through the Seaside's defence and bundled the ball over the line despite the defender's attempt to hook the ball clear.

Blackpool started to grow into the game during the second half going close with a couple of long-range efforts before they did break the

Rovers defence with a strike into the roof of the net from distance 15 minutes from time, but Rovers held on to claim all three points from game one.

There was a quick turnaround for game two which like the first game was started by Rovers but this game saw five changes to the starting line-up and a change in formation.

Tranmere were immediately on the front foot when Keris McRoberts played in the returning Laura Williams who cut inside but she found her shot saved by the keeper at the near post.

Blackpool were more threatening in game two putting pressure on the Tranmere goal in the opening 10 minutes, despite this they were unable to break through the resolute Rovers defence.

Both teams would continue to exchange efforts, but it would be goalless at the break.

Much like in game one, Tranmere scored immediately after the interval, and who else to break the deadlock but Anya McCreedy with another long-range effort this time finding the top corner.

Buoyed by the goal Rovers would go close again through efforts by Jess Brady, Katie Bowers Folan and Keris McRoberts - but they were unable to hit the target.

Tranmere did get a second goal twelve minutes from time when the returning Laura Williams raced through onto a great ball by Keris McRoberts, her first effort was saved but she managed to round the keeper and finish from a tight angle to wrap up a second set of three points and finish off the league campaign on a high.

Up next for the Tranmere Rovers Women's Team is Wrexham AFC Women on Sunday 28 April at the Ellesmere Port Sports Village in an end-of-season friendly.

Thank you to all our sponsors, and everyone who attended our matches home and away this season - it's very much appreciated!

Words: Joe Stanley

Photos: Tony Coombes



Scan here for the latest
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Steve Bower

He's One
Of Our Own



In recent programmes, we have heard how world-renowned broadcaster and Rovers fan Steve Bower started following Tranmere and how he got his start in journalism. Here's the final chapter of his story, including some advice for aspiring broadcasters...



From Radio City, I was talked into going to Key 103 in Manchester as the Head of Sport there. At 24, I was the youngest Head of Sport in the country at the time. It was quite a challenge covering United, City and Bolton. I did that for two or three years.

I'd been approached before and said no, but Manchester United's club TV channel was starting up and they had big plans. They had access that looking back, was ridiculous, that certainly doesn't happen now. That involved staying with the team, travelling with the team to all the Champions League games and pre-season tours, on the team coach, sitting there with the players! There was just myself and a cameraman, not even a producer back then. There was no social media, there was no short-form content.

Relationship-building, gaining people's trust, when they had a right out I was always invited and treated

as one of them, it was incredible really, looking back. At the time you just thought it was the norm, but club media now don't get any of that, and understandably so.

While I was working at United, they allowed me to do talkSPORT, I did the old Century Radio commentaries as well, I did a little bit for Sky as well as they were part-owned by Sky. I started to develop other irons in the fire, a bit of experience. Setanta Sports started up and made me a pitch about how it was exciting, they were taking on Sky, all kinds of rights and they wanted me to present and commentate, carry on doing both which was great, so I took the leap there.

They, I must say again, were really happy times. We had all sorts of games and it was a really good team, a lot of people I still work with now and again in the industry. Eventually, they were the television equivalent of Portsmouth at the time, who were

just spending what they didn't have really and it all came crashing down. After that, both Sky and Match of the Day wanted my services. I think I've been doing 16 years on Match of the Day. I went with Match of the Day, and I also worked for ESPN who got the rights from Setanta, so did some Premier League and foreign football for them.

About 2014, the Premier League channel was getting a bit bigger and they asked me to start doing some shows down there presenting. Seven or eight years ago, they said to me they wanted me to be the lead presenter for matchdays around the world in the studio, so I've been doing that for eight years alongside the BBC work. It keeps me more than busy!

In any line of work, you don't get anywhere without making the sacrifices and putting the hard work in. I hear modern people say, 'I can't believe I'm working on a Sunday', and I'm thinking, 'This is Arsenal against Manchester City, broadcasting to billions of people, what are you talking about?'. You've got to know what's coming. Follow your passion but be prepared to put in the hard yards.

The biggest piece of advice I was given, and this is exactly right is - just get as much hands-on experience as you can.

It's the genuine passion, knowledge and hands-on experience now that will set you apart from somebody that potentially hasn't got that.

Now in media, there are so many more doors to knock on, it's a lot more diverse, and there are a lot more opportunities than certainly my generation had to get that experience.



Tranmere Rovers

International



Following a very successful March, April has been another busy month. We began with a sold-out week as the Easter holidays were in full swing. Groups from across North America took to the Wirral despite the drizzly conditions.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend we entertained Ballistic United who joined us alongside Travel and Play, they were treated to a hospitality package at Prenton Park as Rovers took on Colchester United. The boys even got to name Kieron Morris as Man of the Match.

It was then the turn of Spanish side Intercity to join us on the Wirral. A packed schedule saw the Alicante based team take part in a seminar before stepping onto the 3G pitch for an energy-filled training session.

The same week we welcomed Padua College and Mansfield School, rounding out the Easter period with a distinctly Australian feel. They even brought the weather with them for a few hours!

Later this month, Ajax United Boys will head over the Atlantic for two days with us –

taking part in both a training session and a high-energy 9v9 fixture.

We will then round out the month with visitors from New England and Nordic Soccer facing local youth sides at The Campus.

The season may be drawing to a close soon, but our work is just getting started! Matt and Dan will be heading to Indonesia in May, looking to further strengthen ties between the Club and our Indonesian partners. It promises to be an exciting few weeks.



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DISABLEDROVERS

Tranmere Rovers Disabled Supporters Association

Hello and welcome back to Prenton Park to the Super White Army. Wow, our last home game of the season - that's gone very fast indeed! We hope you enjoy today's game and maybe we'll see you next Saturday at Accrington. Have a great summer!



A warm welcome is also extended to AFC Wimbledon's fans for making the trip up from south-west London. We hope you enjoy your weekend on the Wirral.

Thanks For Your Backing This Season

Thanks to everyone has supported us throughout the course of the season, including at our annual bucket collection at the Sutton Utd game and our evening in March with Rob Palmer, the Premier League and La Liga commentator.



These events raised over £1,000 to allow us to continue our activities to support disabled Tranmere fans and those who come with them.

Blankets And Sensory Packs

We're delighted that this season we've been able to fund disability identifier lanyards, blankets to keep our supporters with reduced mobility warm and sensory packs for neurodivergent supporters.

This builds on the accessible food ordering system for the accessible seating area of Bebington Paddock and the Kop that we were able to organise last season and the improvements to the signage in the Bebington we funded as well.

Alongside these projects, we try to constantly advocate for disabled supporters and their needs with the club and endeavour to create a community for disabled Tranmere fans and those who come with them.

FOUR TASKS FOR THE SUMMER!

1) Help Us At The Open Day

Every year, the club hosts an open day in the summer. It's a great opportunity for people from the local community to find out about the club and its supporter groups.

We're looking for volunteers to help tend to our stall there on the day. If you think that this is something you might like to help with, please contact us on TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com.

2) Tins, Tins, Tins

We're still running our collection tin fundraiser and, in fact, we've got some new reusable tins and stuck our new design of labels on them too.

The idea is simple: take a tin from us, fill it with whatever change you have, and hand it back to us when it's full. The funds will be used towards supporting disabled members of the SWA.

Thanks to the staff and customers of the Stork pub in Birkenhead for filling their tin with over £30 of coins - spare change makes change! Maybe you know of a local shop or pub that might like to participate. If so, please do get in touch.

3) Badges

Our DSA badges are still available now. They cost £3.50 and are a limited-edition design.

Please contact us on TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com if you would like one and we can sort out collection or delivery.

4) Join Our Whatsapp Group

Last summer, you may not know that we have a WhatsApp group, so we can chat as disabled Tranmere fans and share our opinions on everything from the football on the pitch to our matchday experiences. If you'd like to join our inclusive, informal group, please drop me (Ellis) a line on 0797 29 28 929.

Enjoy the game this afternoon and if we don't see you at Accrington next weekend, have a great summer and we'll see you next season! SWA

If you have any concerns this afternoon about access or accessibility, please feel free to ask one of our stewards who'll only be too happy to help.

Any queries relating to the experience of disabled supporters - and those who come with them - can be directed to TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com.

QU?Z ZONE



CAN YOU HELP JUNIOR FIND THE ANSWERS? >>>

10 X QUESTIONS...

1. Who scored Manchester United's second goal against Liverpool recently?
2. What was the score in the recent Old Firm Derby at Ibrox?
3. Which side did Arsenal take on in the UEFA Champions League Quarter Finals?
4. Who is the current manager of Brentford?
5. Which side has won the National League this season?
6. Which MLS side did former Rovers full-back Ethan Bristow join in 2023?
7. Which Lioness scored England's only goal in their 1-1 draw with Sweden recently?
8. Which nation is set to host the 2024 UEFA Euro Tournament?
9. Which side won the Cymru Premiership this season?
10. Which former Rovers star is currently at the helm at Vauxhall Motors?

OPPOSITION WORDSEARCH...



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HAYDONS ROAD
JOE KINNEAR
JULIUS CAESAR
KINGSMEADOW

MERTON
PLOUGH LANE
SUTTON UNITED
TERRY EAMES
THE WOMBLES

KIT OF THE DAY



From which season(s) is this kit from?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 57...

Matchday 44 of the 2023/24 Sky Bet League Two season saw a number of teams' fate decided as the celebrations of promotion for those at the top of the table were juxtaposed by the commiserations handed to those who seem doomed at the other end.



Stockport County put one hand on the trophy with a comfortable victory over Morecambe on home soil. Isaac Olaofe eased the nerves around Edgeley Park with a sliding volley past the 'keeper at the back-post. Fraser Horsfall then doubled County's lead on the stroke of half-time by nodding in from a corner at the back-post. The hosts maintained



their lead, with fans invading the pitch at the full-time whistle to mob their heroes. Wrexham also clinched promotion to the third division with a 6-0 thrashing of relegation-threatened Forest Green. An Elliot Lee strike accompanied by a Paul Mullin brace saw the Welsh outfit claim a comfortable lead early on, as a Ryan Inniss own goal only deepened the visitors' wounds. Ryan Barnett and Jack Marriott got on the scoresheet after the interval as the Red Dragons went up in style. The result all but seals Steve Cotterill's side's relegation from the league,

as they enter the final two games rock bottom, five points adrift of safety.

The race for the play-offs is hotter than ever as, at the time of writing, only three points separate 7th and 12th, with all five teams vying for a place in League One next season. Doncaster Rovers are the form team at the moment, having won their last eight league fixtures.

The Rovers climbed to eighth with a 4-0 drubbing of Accrington Stanley to extend their hot streak. Hakeeb Adelakun set the tone of the afternoon inside six minutes with a powerful



strike past the 'keeper. Joe Ironside made it two, fifteen minutes later by tapping home from close-range. James Maxwell added a third on the hour mark with a sweeping finish after the ball was pulled back to him on the edge of the box. Owen Bailey completed the scoring on 71 minutes to further bolster Doncaster's promotion hopes.





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A League Of Our Own

John Adamson...and Accrington Stanley

Reg Dwight probably never played a concert in Accrington, and Norma Jean Mortensen may have missed the town out of her 1956 summer visit to England, some six years before her candle burned out but a legend never did.

Both had a global audience under stage-names. Dwight was better known as Elton John, whose classic "Candle in the Wind" laments that Mortensen (Marilyn Monroe) is not remembered for other attributes than the obvious, but one of her philosophical sayings resonates strongly in the Stanley's hometown. "Sometimes good things fall apart so better things could fall together."

One item which sometimes falls apart is a modern cardboard soapbox. Old ones were made of wood. When the soap was all sold, the container made an excellent platform for politicians, religious leaders, campaign crusaders and hardened nutcases to climb on.

234 miles away from Accrington, London had special locations for them to vent fury, bad-mouth their neighbours, highlight social injustices, save souls or procure pecuniary profit. The hard-up working class flocked there during their scanty leisure time. It led to trouble on occasion.

Inflammatory words were like a candle flame used to ignite the anger of those whom the treadmill of life had left with no one to turn to, never mind what the weather was like.

Common in the sunnier era of Monroe's UK visit was a street-cred must-have for ambitious children wanting to go places. It was known as a trolley, a cart, a buggy or a dilly, but for some posh kids it was called a bogey. They were the ones which got up people's noses.

Construction was basic, featuring a set of old pram

wheels, a plank of wood in between, a piece of string on each side of the front axle for negotiating corners, and something to sit on. The GTX models came with a wobbly wooden handbrake and a cushion which went on – you've guessed it – an old soapbox.

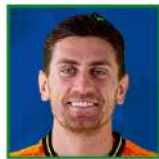
In the end, the risks posed by the growing number of motor vehicles brought these halcyon days of carbon-zero transport to a close.

Back in Accrington, they and a few other venues woke up to their (and our) heritage. A crowd of over 15,000 turned up in 2022 to see 26 modern trolleys racing over a 558-foot course. Obstacles included water jumps and hurdles, with pit stop options available when things went pear-shaped. The Chicken-Run-themed winning entry achieved a remarkable time of 17 seconds, proving Marilyn's mantra right.

If the press hadn't hounded her, Marilyn would have enjoyed the peculiarly English soapbox tradition on Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, just a few miles up from her Surrey base. She might even have borrowed a soapbox to address listeners whose focus may not have been on her wise words.

Her UK schedule precluded that dream trip to Accrington, but if she had made it, the town's film buffs would have crawled out from the woodwork to see her. Once there, she would have felt no loneliness. Even when the rain came in.





**Luke
McGEE**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT

Larne Wallissson
Sweden 





**Lee
O'CONNOR**

FULL KIT

Sol-Britt Wallissson
Sweden 



**Brad
WALKER**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT



**Tom
DAVIES**


BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT



**Jordan
TURNBULL**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT

Jim & Calum
Hanrahan





**Charlie
JOLLEY**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT

Ian & Denise Lally



**Joe
MURPHY**

HOME KIT

The Abraham
Family

BUSINESS SWA2






**Kristian
DENNIS**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT







**Ben
HOCKENHULL**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT





**Chris
MERRIE**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT

Phil Hughes

Geoff Meeson





**Kieron
MORRIS**

FULL KIT



BUSINESS SWA2





**Regan
HENDRY**

FULL KIT

Steve & Tim
Shephard
Foxboro USA

BUSINESS SWA2



**Luke
NORRIS**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT







**Reece
McALEAR**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT



**Josh
HAWKES**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT

Liv Harding



**Rhys
HUGHES**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT



**Connor
JENNINGS**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT

Ian & Denise Lally

Larne Wallissson
Sweden 

Double Trouble
(Phil & Mark)





**Harvey
SAUNDERS**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT

The Uniform Shop

Liv Harding



**Sam
TAYLOR**

BUSINESS SWA2 AWAY KIT HOME KIT



**Paul
LEWIS**

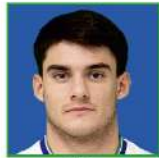
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PARKINSON**

FULL KIT

Ian & Denise Lally



**Rob
APTER**

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Josh & Maddison
Lally

Luca-Cole
McDonnell



**Jean
BELEHOUAN**

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Ian & Denise Lally



**Joe
YARNEY**

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**Dan
PIKE**

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**Conor
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TRANMERE ROVERS CAMPUS TRAINING GROUND
• WALLASEY • CH45 8LW

PLAYER	D.O.B.	NAT	PREVIOUS CLUB	SN	POS	SBL2		FACUP		CCUP		EFLT		TOTAL	
						GMS	GLS	GMS	GLS	GMS	GLS	GMS	GLS	GMS	GLS
Rob Apter (L)	16/01/2003	Scotland	Blackpool (L)	25	MID	35	11	1	1	0	0	2	0	38	12
Jean Belehouan	01/09/2000	England	Sheffield United	30	DEF	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	0
Mikey Davies	23/09/2004	England	Youth/College	28	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Tom Davies	18/04/1992	England	Bristol Rovers	5	DEF	37	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	40	3
Kristian Dennis	12/03/1990	England	Carlisle United	14	STR	28	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	32	2
Josh Hawkes	28/01/1999	England	Sunderland	11	MID	34	6	0	0	2	0	1	0	37	6
Kane Hemmings +	08/04/1992	England	Burton Albion	10	STR	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Regan Hendry	21/01/1998	Scotland	Forest Green Rovers	8	MID	42	6	1	0	2	0	1	0	47	6
Ben Hockenhill	03/09/2001	England	Brentford	15	DEF	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rhys Hughes	21/09/2001	Wales	Everton	17	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
Connor Jennings	29/10/1991	England	Wrexham	18	STR	41	11	1	0	2	0	1	0	45	11
Charlie Jolley	13/01/2001	England	Wigan Athletic	12	STR	23	4	1	0	1	0	3	0	28	4
Ousmane Kane	23/07/2001	Senegal	AS Douanes (Sen)	32	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jake Leake (L)	20/02/2003	England	Hull City (L)	3	DEF	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	0
Paul Lewis	17/12/1994	England	Northampton Town	22	MID	14	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	18	0
Reece McAlear	12/02/2002	Scotland	Norwich City	23	MID	23	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	28	0
Luke McGee	02/09/1995	England	Forest Green Rovers	1	GOL	42	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	44	0
Chris Merrie	02/11/1998	England	Wigan Athletic	16	MID	15	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	18	0
Kieron Morris	03/06/1994	England	Walsall	7	MID	38	9	1	1	2	0	2	0	43	10
Joe Murphy	21/08/1981	Ireland	Shrewsbury Town	13	GOL	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	5	0
James Norris (L)	04/04/2003	England	Liverpool U21 (L)	26	DEF	13	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	17	0
Luke Norris	03/06/1993	England	Stevenage	9	STR	18	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	20	5
Lee O'Connor	28/07/2000	Ireland	Celtic	2	DEF	38	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	39	0
Dan Pike	09/01/2002	England	AFC Pylde	24	MID	15	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	19	0
Conor Robson	05/07/2004	England	Stoke City	29	GOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harvey Saunders	20/07/1997	England	Bristol Rovers	19	STR	36	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	38	2
Joe Starbuck	03/08/2002	England	Sheffield United	31	MID	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sam Taylor	23/12/2004	England	Youth/College	20	STR	17	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	22	3
Jordan Turnbull	30/10/1994	England	Salford City	6	DEF	37	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	41	2
Brad Walker	25/04/1995	England	Port Vale	4	MID	28	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	31	0
Connor Wood	17/07/1996	England	Colchester United	27	DEF	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0
Joe Yarne	08/10/1997	England	Oldham Athletic	21	DEF	24	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	28	0
OWN GOALS	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	3

+ No longer with the club

The Factual Figures So Far From Season 2023/2024

161

Substitutions made
in all games played so far

5

Penalties in favour
of Rovers in open play
and in all competitions

40

Goals scored at home
in all competitions

34

Goals scored
in all competitions in
the second half of matches

Quiz Zone Page: Answers from Page 49

10 X QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. Kobbie Mainoo.
2. 3-3.
3. Bayern Munich.
4. Thomas Frank.
5. Chesterfield.
6. Minnesota United.
7. Alessia Russo.
8. Germany.
9. The New Saints.
10. Danny Holmes.

KIT OF THE DAY

1982/83 Away Kit



2023/2024



+ Live on Sky Sports # Live on BT Sports



MN	DATE	H/A	OPPOSITION	COMP	RESULT	POS	ATT	AWAY	GOALSCORERS	REFEREE
1	Sat 5 Aug	H	BARROW	SBL2	L 1-2	17th	6,584	557	Hawkes (63 pen)	Ollie Yates
2	Tue 8 Aug	A	Barrow	CC1	D 2-2*	--	4,243	439	L. Norris (23), Taylor (47)	Thomas Kirk
3	Sat 12 Aug	A	Milton Keynes Dons	SBL2	L 0-1	23rd	5,831	819		Sunny Sukhvir Gill
4	Tue 15 Aug	H	HARROGATE TOWN	SBL2	W 3-0	17th	5,278	83	L. Norris (24), Taylor (26), Morris (89)	Lee Swabey
5	Sat 19 Aug	H	SALFORD CITY	SBL2	L 3-4	19th	5,594	197	Jennings (6), Dennis (36), Jolley (87)	Scott Tallis
6	Sat 26 Aug	A	Notts County	SBL2	L 1-2	21st	10,174	805	Hawkes (88)	Thomas Parsons
7	Tue 29 Aug	H	LEICESTER CITY	CC2	L 0-2	--	6,610	1,441		Ben Toner
8	Sat 2 Sep	H	WREKHAM	SBL2	L 0-1	21st	10,630	2,074		Martin Woods
9	Tue 5 Sep	A	Fleetwood Town	EFLT1-NGD	L 0-2	--	664	81		Scott Simpson
10	Sat 9 Sep	A	Colchester United	SBL2	L 0-2	22nd	3,474	185		Declan Bourne
11	Sat 16 Sep	A	Crawley Town	SBL2	L 2-3	23rd	2,961	285	Jolley (21), Taylor (66)	Alan Young
12	Sat 23 Sep	H	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	SBL2	W 2-0	23rd	5,980	354	Hawkes (14 pen, 49)	Sam Parkins
13	Sat 30 Sep	A	AFC Wimbledon	SBL2	L 1-4	23rd	7,367	444	Jennings (5)	Daniel Middleton
14	Tue 3 Oct	H	BRADFORD CITY	SBL2	W 2-1	22nd	5,672	872	Hendry (24), Morris (83)	Scott Oldham
15	Sat 7 Oct	H	GRIMSBY TOWN	SBL2	D 2-2	22nd	5,968	581	Morris (16), Jennings (61)	Martin Coy
16	Tue 10 Oct	H	LEICESTER CITY U21	EFLT1-NGD	L 0-1	--	678	16		Adam Herczeg
17	Sat 14 Oct	A	Crewe Alexandra	SBL2	L 0-2	21st	5,826	1,193		Ross Joyce
18	Fri 20 Oct	H	DONCASTER ROVERS	SBL2	L 1-2	21st	5,835	386	Jennings (70)	Ben Speedie
19	Tue 24 Oct	A	Merecambie	SBL2	L 0-1	22nd	3,678	526		Paul Howard
20	Sat 28 Oct	A	Stockport County	SBL2	L 0-2	23rd	9,735	782		Christopher Pollard
21	Sat 4 Nov	A	Stevage	FAC1	L 3-4	--	2,404	177		Neil Hair
22	Sat 11 Nov	H	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	SBL2	W 3-0	22nd	6,416	170	L. Norris (28 pen), Apter (55), Morris (90+1)	Edward Duckworth
23	Tue 14 Nov	H	WIGAN ATHLETIC	EFLT1-NGD	D 0-0**	--	1,142	472		Ross Joyce
24	Sat 18 Nov	A	Sutton United	SBL2	D 1-1	22nd	3,548	483	Own Goal (Goodfille 17)	Lee Swabey
25	Sat 25 Nov	H	GILLINGHAM	SBL2	W 3-1	22nd	5,283	328	Apter (43, 60), Jennings (53)	Marc Edwards
26	Tue 28 Nov	A	Mansfield Town	SBL2	D 2-2	22nd	6,421	187	Jolley (13), Apter (62)	Matthew Corlett
27	Sat 9 Dec	H	NEWPORT COUNTY AFC	SBL2	W 2-1	21st	5,861	245	Morris (57), Jennings (88)	Seb Stockbridge
28	Sat 16 Dec	A	Walsall	SBL2	L 0-1	21st	5,190	717		Alan Young
29	Sat 23 Dec	H	SWINDON TOWN	SBL2	W 2-1	18th	5,894	266	Morris (55), Davies (72)	Sunny Sukhvir Gill
30	Tue 26 Dec	A	Salford City	SBL2	W 5-1	18th	3,435	1,244	Saunders (12), Morris (35), Jennings (50), Hendry (64), Hawkes (90)	Ben Toner
31	Fri 29 Dec	A	Harrgate Town	SBL2	W 2-0	17th	3,105	805	Jolley (54), Davies (70)	Tom Reeves
32	Mon 1 Jan	H	NOTTS COUNTY	SBL2	W 4-2	15th	7,828	864	Morris (6), Jennings (44, 90+3 pen), Saunders (56)	Ollie Yates
33	Sat 6 Jan	A	Barrow	SBL2	L 0-1	16th	4,023	696		Adam Herczeg
34	Sat 13 Jan	H	MILTON KEYNES DONS	SBL2	L 1-2	18th	6,861	344	Morris (12)	Darren Drysdale
35	Sat 27 Jan	A	Grimby Town	SBL2	W 2-1	17th	6,421	401	Apter (35), Own Goal (Mullarkey 54)	Paul Howard
36	Sat 3 Feb	H	CREWE ALEXANDRA	SBL2	D 0-0	16th	7,169	1,045		Carl Brook
37	Sat 10 Feb	A	Doncaster Rovers	SBL2	L 1-2	18th	6,389	884	Hawkes (60)	John Busby
38	Tue 13 Feb	H	MORECAMBE	SBL2	L 2-3	18th	5,486	294	Apter (4), Jennings (10 pen)	Ben Speedie
39	Sat 17 Feb	H	STOCKPORT COUNTY	SBL2	W 4-0	17th	7,882	2,035	Davies (30), Turnbull (55, 63), Jennings (85)	Alex Chilowicz
40	Sat 24 Feb	A	Forest Green Rovers	SBL2	L 0-1	17th	2,308	558		Dale Baines
41	Tue 27 Feb	A	Swindon Town (formerly 20/1)	SBL2	L 1-3	18th	7,245	292	Apter (25)	Martin Woods
42	Sat 2 Mar	H	SUTTON UNITED	SBL2	W 1-0	18th	5,423	146	Hendry (87)	Ruebyn Ricardo
43	Sat 9 Mar	A	Gillingham	SBL2	D 1-1	17th	6,077	207	Hendry (4)	James Linnington
44	Tue 12 Mar	H	MANSFIELD TOWN	SBL2	W 2-1	16th	5,418	535	Hendry (12), Apter (56)	Ben Toner
45	Sat 16 Mar	A	Wrexham	SBL2	W 1-0	14th	12,519	1,151	L. Norris (8)	Scott Oldham
46	Sat 23 Mar	H	CRAWLEY TOWN	SBL2	L 1-3	15th	5,829	142	Morris (21)	Stephen Parkinson
47	Fri 29 Mar	A	Bradford City	SBL2	L 0-2	17th	18,009	1,121		Rhife Watkins
48	Mon 1 Apr	H	COLCHESTER UNITED	SBL2	D 1-1	17th	5,923	167	Morris (7)	Scott Tallis
49	Sat 6 Apr	H	WALSALL	SBL2	L 1-3	17th	5,849	757	Hendry (24)	Seb Stockbridge
50	Sat 13 Apr	A	Newport County AFC	SBL2	W 2-1	17th	4,549	274	Apter (25, 36)	Craig Hicks
51	Sat 20 Apr	H	AFC WIMBLEDON	SBL2	3.00pm					
52	Sat 27 Apr	A	Accrington Stanley	SBL2	3.00pm					



KEY: ■ Played ● First Sub ● Second Sub ● Third Sub ● Fourth Sub ● Fifth Sub SO Sent Off

*Won 7-6 on Penalties:- Scored: Hawkes, Jennings, Hemmings, McAlear, Saunders, Leake, Lewis. Missed: Hendry (saved).

**Lost 5-6 on Penalties:- Scored: Morris, Hughes, Jolley, James Norris, Mikey Davies, Missed: Saunders (bar), Taylor (saved), Pike (saved).

RESULTS & FIXTURES 2023/2024

MIN	LUKE ALGEE	LEE O'CONNOR	JACK LEANE	BRAD WALKER	TOM DAVIES	JORDAN TURNBULL	KIARAN ANDREWS	RIGAN HENDRY	LUKE NORRIS	KENNE HARRINGS	JOSH HAWKES	CHARLIE JOLLEY	JOE MURPHY	KIRILIAN DENNIS	BEN HOCKENHULL	CHRIS MERRIE	RHY HUGHES	CONNOR JENNINGS	HARVEY SAUNDERS	BEN TAYLOR	JOE VANLITY	PAUL LEWIS	REECE McALEER	DON PINE	ROB APTER	JAMES MORRIS	CONNOR WOOD	MILLY DAVIS	CONNOR ROUSON	JEAN BELEHOUAN	JOE STARBUCK	DOUGLASS KANE		
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ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE TWO TOP FIVES**GOALS**

1		26	MACAULAY LANGSTAFF
2		23	MATT SMITH
3		23	PAUL MULLIN
4		21	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
5		21	WILL EVANS

TOTAL SHOTS

1		164	MACAULAY LANGSTAFF
2		151	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
3		127	ANDY COOK
4		126	ISAAC HUTCHINSON
5		124	MATT SMITH


% OF GOALS INVOLVED IN

1		41.3	MATT SMITH
2		39.3	WILL EVANS
3		38.5	ANDY COOK
4		38.2	GEORGE THOMSON
5		37.2	MACAULAY LANGSTAFF

DRIBBLES COMPLETED

1		98	JAYDEN FEVRIER
2		79	AARON NEMANE
3		71	JODI JONES
4		65	DAVID MCGOLDRICK
5		61	DANIEL CROWLEY

ASSISTS

1		24	JODI JONES
2		10	DANIEL KEMP
3		10	DANIEL CROWLEY
4		10	ALEX GILBEY
5		10	STEPHEN QUINN

CHANCES CREATED

1		117	REMEAO HUTTON
2		96	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
3		90	KYLE MCALLISTER
4		88	DANIEL CROWLEY
5		87	REGAN HENDRY

SUCCESSFUL PASSES

1		3073	ADEN BALDWIN
2		2701	WARREN O'HORA
3		2486	KYLE CAMERON
4		2307	FRASER HORSFALL
5		2068	WILL WRIGHT

SAVES

1		164	COREY ADDAI
2		141	LUKE MCGEE
3		125	NICK TOWNSEND
4		117	ALEX CAIRNS
5		114	OWEN GOODMAN

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT

Gillingham have lost four of their last five away league matches (W1), as many defeats as they suffered in their previous 10 on the road combined.

Tranmere Rovers have lost two of their last three home league matches (D1), as many as the Merseyside club lost in their previous 11 (W8 D1 L2).

Data excludes games played after April 15th.

Pos	Club	Home Record						Away Record						GD	PTS	
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A				
1	Stockport County	44	14	5	3	44	15	12	6	4	47	29	47	89	C	P
2	Mansfield Town	44	12	7	3	41	21	11	6	5	46	24	42	82		P
3	Wrexham	44	16	3	3	60	24	8	7	7	24	27	33	82		P
4	Milton Keynes Dons	44	14	4	4	44	23	8	4	10	30	38	13	74		
5	Crewe Alexandra	44	11	5	6	35	32	8	8	6	33	29	7	70		
6	Barrow	43	11	7	3	26	16	7	7	8	32	33	9	68		
7	Crawley Town	44	10	3	9	35	30	10	3	9	34	35	4	66		
8	Walsall	44	12	6	4	33	22	6	5	11	33	43	1	65		
9	Doncaster Rovers	43	13	2	7	34	28	6	5	10	29	35	0	64		
10	Gillingham	44	9	8	5	23	21	9	1	12	20	32	-10	63		
11	AFC Wimbledon	44	10	6	6	36	24	6	8	8	21	23	10	62		
12	Harrogate Town	44	9	3	10	32	32	8	8	6	23	30	-7	62		
13	Bradford City	43	8	8	6	25	27	8	4	9	27	28	-3	60		
14	Notts County	44	11	2	9	50	42	6	5	11	38	43	3	58		
15	Morecambe	44	8	7	7	28	27	9	2	11	35	49	-13	57*		
16	Newport County	44	9	6	7	37	36	7	1	14	24	35	-10	55		
17	Tranmere Rovers	44	11	3	8	41	30	5	3	14	22	34	-1	54		
18	Accrington Stanley	44	9	5	8	30	26	6	4	12	27	40	-9	54		
19	Swindon Town	44	11	4	7	42	31	3	7	12	32	47	-4	53		
20	Salford City	44	5	7	10	35	44	7	4	11	28	36	-17	47		
21	Grimsby Town	44	8	5	9	32	41	2	11	9	23	31	-17	46		
22	Colchester United	43	6	6	9	32	36	5	5	12	25	38	-17	44		
23	Sutton United	44	5	8	9	31	32	4	5	13	22	46	-25	40		
24	Forest Green Rovers	44	4	4	14	18	38	5	5	12	23	39	-36	36		R

P - Promoted C - Champions R - Relegated *Three points deducted

MATCHDAY HOME & AWAY

Tickets & Travel News

FINAL AWAY GAME 2023/24



Accrington Stanley

Sky Bet League Two

Saturday 27 April 2024

Kick-off 3.00pm



Match Admission

Whirney Hill Studio Stand (Covered seating 548).

Prices: Adult £25, Concessions (+64) £20, Students with Valid ID £20, 12-17 Years £15, Under-12s £5.
Coppice Terrace (Uncovered terrace 500).

Prices Adult £25, Concessions (+64) £20, Students with Valid ID £20, 12-17 Years £15, Under-12s £5.
Tickets on general sale. Prices are the same on matchday in all categories, subject to availability.

Club Coach & Travel

Departs Prenton Park 11.30am.

Season Card Holders £24, Non-Season Card Holders £26.

Seats subject to availability. Please note that refunds on coach travel are not permitted after 48 hours prior to the game.

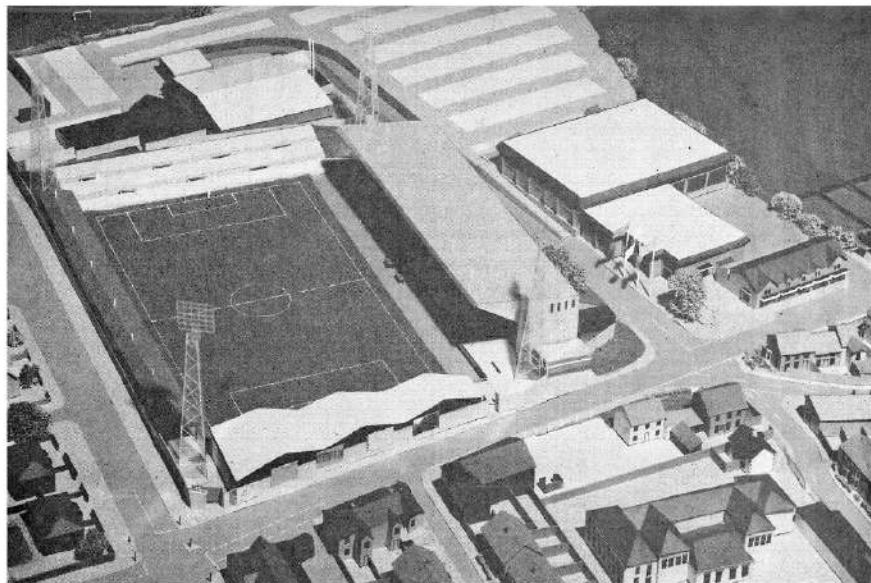
Stadium Location & Main Contact

Address: Wham Stadium, Livingstone Road, Accrington BB5 5BX.

Main Telephone: 01254 356 950.

23 Images

You may have read in our Colchester United programme recently, how we first recalled the Club crisis years of the early 1980s. To close this seasons' selection of photos then, we now consider what was an additional attempt to raise much needed cash to prevent Rovers from total closure.



Amidst the early years of struggle to cover financial losses and a mounting bank overdraft, it was in 1980 that the subject of land on the far side of the original and rugged car park area adjacent to the Main Stand was taken into consideration. Under a strong campaign to sell it off to interested parties, plans were drawn up by the St. Helens-based supermarket chain Lennons (now Gateways), who expressed the most attentiveness, who hoped to expand their franchise across the Northwest. The Club then lobbied support from the area and Wirral Borough Council, using both a pledging leaflet campaign and an architect's model, as seen here. The saga that followed however was one embroiled in controversy, with opposition from both residents and

nearby local trades people based along both Borough Road and the Wiend.

The planning authorities' failure to back the proposal continued, and was appealed by the Club in tandem with a public meeting staged at Birkenhead Town Hall on Wednesday 18 March 1981 - with the BBC and ITV paying close attention to the outcome by covering the event, and revealed backing by a large majority wanting to see the Club simply survive.

It still proved unsuccessful however, and with the plans shelved, the seasons that followed saw the Club heading towards a date with destiny - Saturday 27 November 1982 to be precise, and their home match with Hereford United - which could pinpoint the last ever game to be

contested before Tranmere Rovers would be forced to close its doors altogether.

Amidst a final endeavour for survival, the Club's immediate future then appeared secured thanks to a loan from the Council. The Greenall Whitley Brewery Company put forward a proposal soon after to build a modern style pub on the still available land, eager to rival the revamped 'Prenton Park' pub just 300-yards away, while capitalise on possible matchday sales.

The final application this time was a success - and so the 'Mersey Clipper' was born - and following a rapid construction schedule, the pub finally opened its doors on Thursday 25 August 1983, all in time for the league visit of Bury to Prenton Park two days later.



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next season

1000+

games
exclusively live



including every
Carabao Cup game

sky sports



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Tranmere Rovers



Manager: Nigel Adkins
White Shirts
White Shorts & White Socks

- 1 Luke MCGEE
- 2 Lee O'CONNOR
- 3 Jake LEAKE
- 4 Brad WALKER
- 5 Tom DAVIES
- 6 Jordan TURNBULL
- 7 Kieron MORRIS
- 8 Regan HENDRY
- 9 Luke NORRIS
- 11 Josh HAWKES
- 12 Charlie JOLLEY
- 13 Joe MURPHY
- 14 Kristian DENNIS
- 15 Ben HOCKENHULL
- 16 Chris MERRIE
- 17 Rhys HUGHES
- 18 Connor JENNINGS
- 19 Harvey SAUNDERS
- 20 Sam TAYLOR
- 21 Joe YARNEY
- 22 Paul LEWIS
- 23 Reece McALEAR
- 24 Dan PIKE
- 25 Rob APTER
- 26 James NORRIS
- 27 Connor WOOD
- 28 Mikey DAVIES
- 29 Conor ROBSON
- 30 Jean BELEHOUAN
- 31 Joe STARBUCK
- 32 Ousmane KANE

AFC Wimbledon



Manager: Johnnie Jackson
Blue Shirts
Blue Shorts & Socks

- 1 Nikola TZANEV
- 2 Huseyin BILER
- 3 Lee BROWN
- 4 Jake REEVES
- 5 Kofi BALMER
- 6 Ryan JOHNSON
- 7 James TILLEY
- 8 Harry PELL
- 9 Josh DAVISON
- 10 Josh KELLY
- 11 Josh NEUFVILLE
- 12 Alexander BASS
- 14 Armani LITTLE
- 15 Alex PEARCE
- 16 James BALL
- 17 Ryan McLEAN
- 18 Omar BUGIEL
- 19 John-Joe O'TOOLE
- 20 Quaine BARTLEY
- 21 Paris LOCK
- 22 Ben MASON
- 23 Josh HALLARD
- 24 Ronan CURTIS
- 25 Ethan SUTCLIFFE
- 26 Jack CURRIE
- 27 Morgan WILLIAMS
- 28 Marcel CAMPBELL
- 29 Aron SASU
- 30 Paul KALAMBAYI
- 32 Kai JENNINGS
- 33 Issac OGUNDERE
- 35 Robert Junior NKENG
- 37 Edward LEACH
- 38 John-Kymani GORDON

Match Officials

Referee:
David Rock

Assistant Referees:
Alan Clayton
Conor Brown

Fourth Official:
Lewis Raper

Fixtures



Saturday 20 April 2024

Crewe Alexandra
v Wrexham (12.30pm)

Doncaster Rovers
v Barrow

Grimsby Town
v Swindon Town

Harrogate Town
v Milton Keynes Dons

Mansfield Town
v Gillingham

Morecambe
v Forest Green Rovers

Newport County
v Salford City

Notts County
v Colchester United

Stockport County
v Accrington Stanley

Sutton United
v Crawley Town

Tranmere Rovers
v AFC Wimbledon

Walsall
v Bradford City

All games kick-off
at 3.00pm unless stated

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR VALUED SUPPORT THIS SEASON!
SEE YOU ALL HERE FOR 2024/2025**