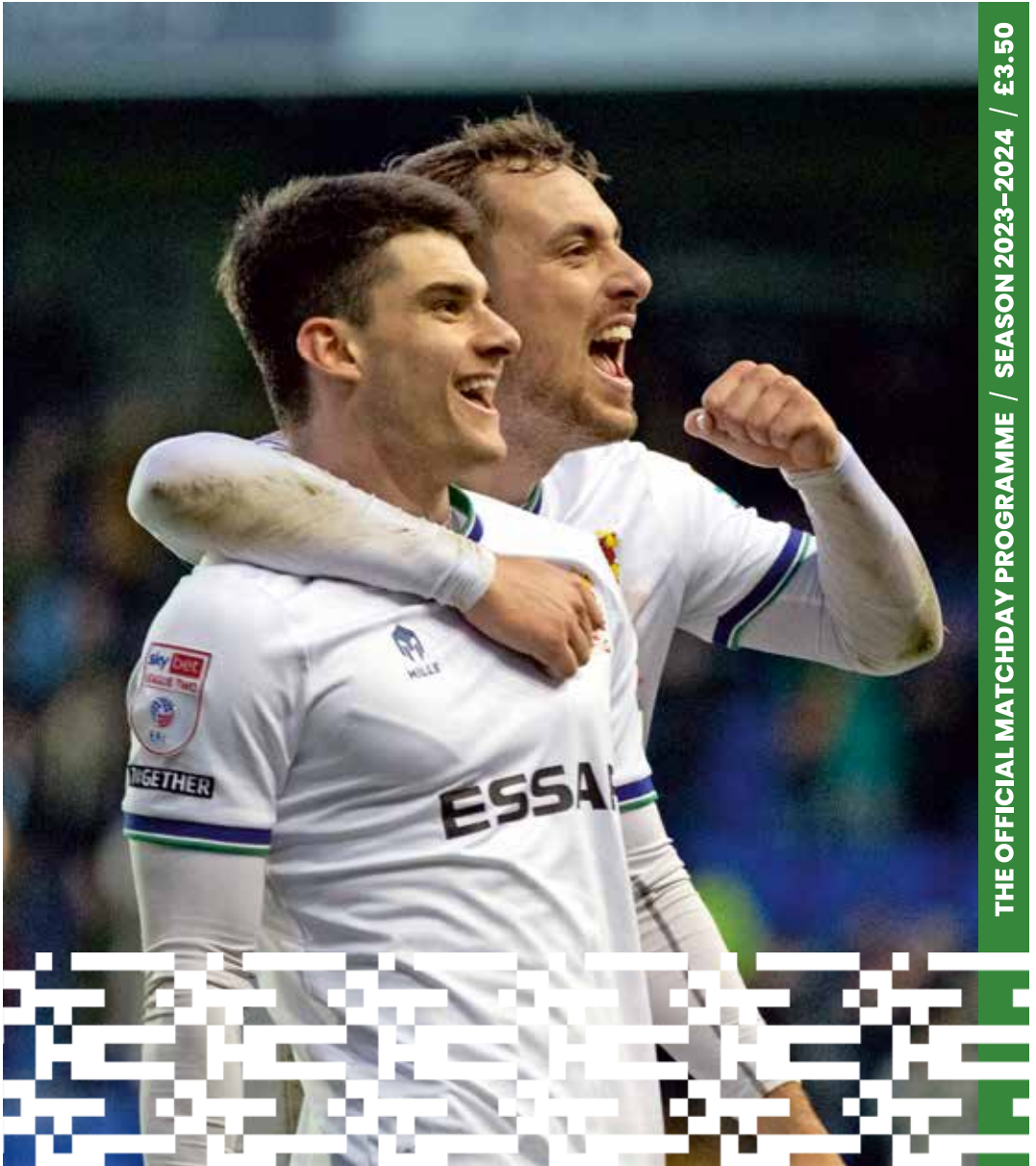


Tranmere Rovers



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



NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 9 December 2023 / Kick-off 3.00pm



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MATCHDAY



Tranmere Rovers versus Newport County AFC



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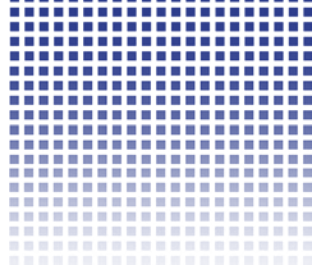
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TRANMERE ROVERS / OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME / SEASON 2023/24

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

Mark Palios



After a torrid start to the season, I am sure we were all very relieved to see the stability that Nigel Adkins has been able to bring to the squad, leading to us going unbeaten in the League in November. Nobody is complacent - we still have a long way to go to make up lost ground - but two wins at home and two draws on the road have gone a long way to restoring some much needed confidence into the team. Let's hope the unbeaten run can continue today and we can start looking up the table instead of down.



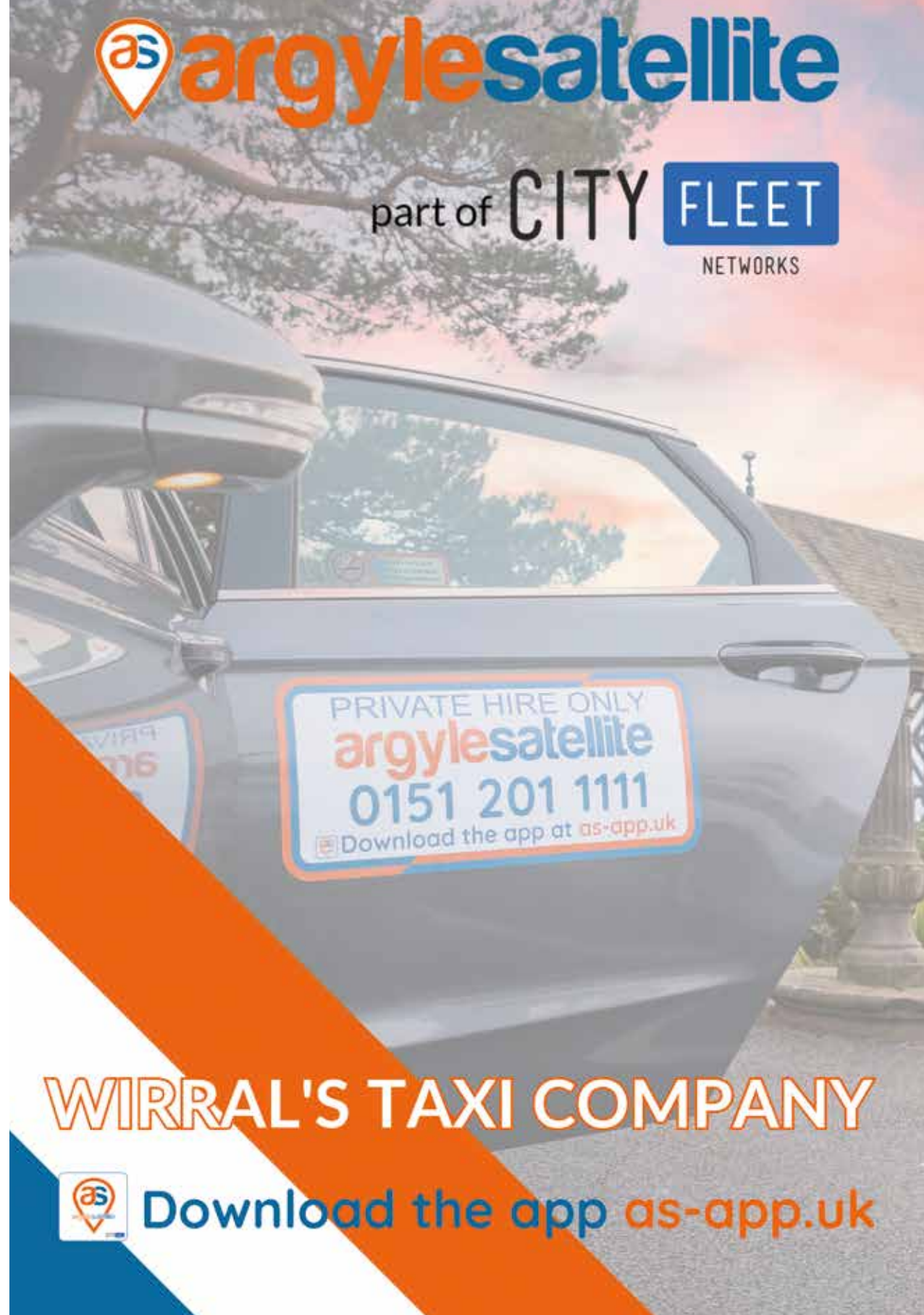
Our opponents, Newport, will also be coming into the game full of confidence, having beaten Stockport and Morecambe in their last 2 League fixtures, so I am under no illusion that this will be anything other than a tough game. Hopefully, the support of the SWA will give us the edge we need to get us over the line. As ever, I would like to give a warm welcome to the travelling fans - it is an expensive time of year for everyone and I hope those who have made the journey to support their team are rewarded with an exciting game. It is difficult to believe that after today we

have only one more home match before Christmas. It is a time of year when the Club, and the fans, always try to step up and make sure that the disadvantaged in our community are able to join in the festivities, and this year is no different. Today we have our childrens' Christmas parties, and players, staff and volunteers have also been busy ensuring that hampers of food and presents will be delivered to families in need over the holiday period. I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this happen, by donating money, food or gifts, or by volunteering to spend time with the various activities we have on offer. Nigel has emphasised the importance of togetherness since he took over the managerial reins, and that is something that can be equally applied to the Club, fans and community. I'm proud that each year we try to make sure that we all stick together in support of those less fortunate than ourselves.

THE CHAIRMAN

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Club Partners

Nigel Adkins

Good afternoon and welcome back to Prenton Park for today's League Two fixture against Newport County. We extend a warm welcome to manager Graham Coughlan, his staff, side and travelling supporters for what we expect to be another challenging contest as we lead up to the festive season.

I was delighted with our previous away league performance at high-flying Mansfield Town and have continued our momentum with an undefeated run of four games. We are now proving hard to beat and it is great testimony to the players and staff who have been working so hard together in the name of the cause that is Tranmere Rovers.

Developing an identity takes time, we can see that the players realise it is special to play for Tranmere Rovers and what it means. They are working so hard in representing the Club and the supporters. Yes, we will make honest mistakes, the physical data we are producing now on a regular basis is a result of the players' attitudes and behaviours to work hard consistently on a daily basis to improve and put the team before themselves.

Forwards Charlie Jolley and Harvey Saunders both epitomised this and stepped up to the plate on a cold Tuesday evening at Mansfield and ran with an intensity, desire and enthusiasm. Our first line of defence became such a threatening force on the counter attack, with Charlie scoring and Harvey forcing the Mansfield goalkeeper to make two outstanding saves, preventing him from also registering. Rob Apter, another exciting, young, attacking player who is flourishing at the moment while on loan from Blackpool, also produced elite level high intensity running, and put us in front following another superb pass from the ever-improving Brad Walker.

Brad is forming a formidable and complimentary partnership with the talented Regan Hendry in midfield. The midfield quartet is completed by the likeable and talented Kieron Morris, who is also producing disciplined, hard-working and intelligent performances.

Captain Tom Davies and fellow centre back Jordan Turnbull look excellent at the heart of our defence and, along with goalkeeper Luke McGee, are forming an important understanding. Unfortunately, Jordan misses the next two games following an injury time second booking and dismissal.

Full-backs Lee O'Connor and Connor Wood have both been in excellent form, driven by the competition for places with Jake Leake now returning from injury. Dan Pike and James Norris are also pushing hard every day to be ready to play.

I must highlight that the lads who haven't been in the starting 11, or even the matchday squad, have shown the positive attitudes required to be ready when called upon, with all the staff, notably Alan Morgan and Mark Cowan, supporting them and making sure every session is utilised to its maximum level.

Lastly, Luke Norris has now had successful surgery and will still play an important part around the group as he goes through his rehabilitation stages over the coming months.

Enjoy the game. We are Tranmere Rovers.

Nigel



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Tranmere Remembers

Ray Walker

Ray was an unsung hero to the youth/academy during his time with the club. His loyalty, commitment and work ethic was given in a voluntary position to many including Warwick Rimmer and John McMahon – all of which spanned a period of over 20 years. From Jason Koumas, Clint Hill to Dale Jennings and Max Power Ray's input into these and many of the other boys that especially went on to play for the club. As remembered by former player and coach Shaun Garnett "From a personal point of view I can only thank Ray for his support during my time as Youth coach. I must say a big thank you to his wife Kathy ('The Queen') who always supplied us with a 'Bacon on' every Saturday.



A true gentleman who will be sadly missed by everyone. My sincere condolences to his wife and family."

The sentiments are echoed by all those at TRFC who knew him, and offer their deepest sympathies to all of Ray's family and friends.

Roger Davies

The Club was sad to hear of the passing of lifelong supporter, 90-year old Uncle, Roger Davies.

Roger (pictured second from left) had followed Rovers for over 78 years, but unfortunately in recent seasons, had been unable to be able to get to matches – but still kept up his support via iFollow where possible.

He was delighted indeed though when former legendary player Dave Higgins wished him a happy 85th birthday, this during Dave's TV commentary at an away game.

Roger was in fact one of 3 brothers who followed Tranmere home and away for a good many years, while his daughter and niece Lesley Roach are still fervent season ticket holders.

From everyone here at TRFC, our thoughts and deepest sympathies go to all of Rogers family and friends.



Today's Matchday Mascot



We would like to welcome this afternoon our Matchday Mascot, for today's game against Newport, who is Leo Jones from Prenton.

Leo is 9 years old, and attends nearby St Joseph's Primary School.

He is a keen footballer (A left footed 'unicorn' as his uncle likes to call him!) and plays both on the left wing and upfront for Shaftsbury Boys Under-10s. He also enjoys both cross country and junior park running.

An avid watcher of watching TRFC at home, he's also attending wrestling events when he can, and playing 'Fortnite' with his friends.

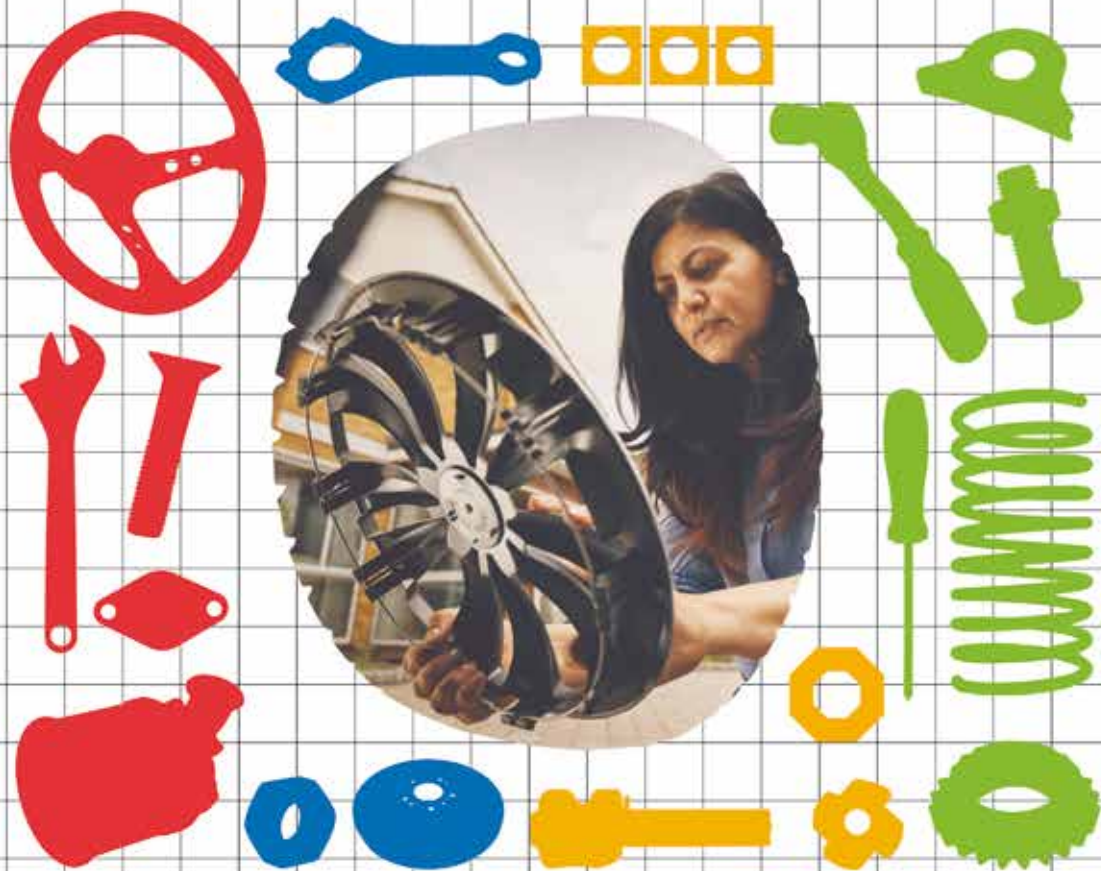
His favourite Tranmere players are Connor Jennings and Tom Davies.

We hope you have a great day with us Leo, and bring us some luck with three more points to keep our current unbeaten run going!

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Prentonian Personal Effects

As part of the club's collection of items we often come across - and coupled with an occasional look back at other 'firsts and lasts' - today now takes us back to 1987/88, a season already monumental for the Club following their first visit to Wembley Stadium in the Mercantile Credit Football League

'Cardiff City and Swansea City were still contesting their challenge for promotion to the next level, while the only other professional club in South Wales, Newport County, were heading in the other direction suffering a rapid decline which would ultimately lead to not only their demotion from League football but their overall demise shortly after that.

As the season was drawing to a close, Newport County's plight was at desperation point and relegation from Division Four to the Conference was a mathematical certainty with the club a massive 19 points adrift of next placed Carlisle United.

Rovers, meanwhile, were still aiming to cement a mid-table finish at the very least following their successful exploits at Wembley. Previously in late November 1987, Newport had already visited Prenton Park for their last Friday night encounter as a league club and were languishing at the bottom of Division Four, four points behind third from bottom Rovers.

Despite the fact Rovers were additionally staging a benefit night for 'Children In Need' they were in no charitable mood when it came to the opposition. Tranmere's new look

side then gave the fans a bonus with a thumping 4-0 victory.

It was a third successive league win in a row, and although Newport battled hard, they were completely outclassed with Rovers three goals to the good as early as the first half-hour before easing up afterwards. As the season progressed, Rovers rolled on while County scraped by week after week just managing to survive, this leading to Saturday 30 April 1988 when County's former home of Somerton Park then played host to what would be the last ever meeting between the two clubs. Around 600 Rovers supporters made up a rather heart breaking and meagre overall attendance of just 1,110 who went on to witness a rather one-sided encounter.

Tranmere's eventual triple goal blast, including two from Ian Muir, all but pushed suffering Newport to the brink of a unwanted record breaking exit from the Football League, as having already conceded 36 goals in the previous nine games and 104 all season, the certainty of the drop to non-league football was now accompanied with the worst defensive record in league history. If Rovers' finishing had been up to scratch Newport might have overtaken the goals against record,

which had been set previously by Bradford Park Avenue in 1969. Eddie Bishop, who had come in to replace Jim Harvey was deemed as the culprit as he missed three good chances before finally burying one in the 73rd minute after Dave Martindale had split Newport with a through ball to substitute Eddie Murray.

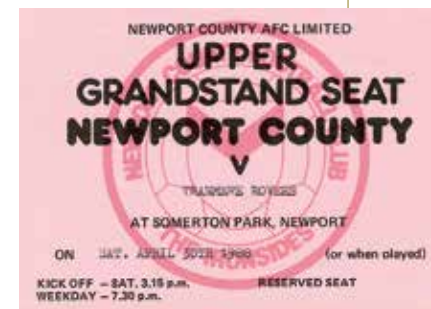


Muir provided the 24th minute lead then wrapped it up with a fine header in the 76th minute.

With all ground regulations rather loosely observed, the large, wide open and sparse areas of Somerton Park even allowed many of the travelling Rovers supporters to venture around the ground at half-time almost at their leisure, as having congregated at one end they then moved to the opposite sections when the teams changed ends leaving the beleaguered home support restricted to one covered section of terracing for the entire match.

Sadly, Somerton Park was later demolished in line with the winding up of Newport County shortly afterwards.

The upside to today's story however now recognises the re-invention of Newport AFC, then Newport County AFC in later years, which happily managed to regain some respectability to the town's interest in soccer.



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Opposition Luke Birch

After winning three of their opening five league games, Newport's season has stuttered, and they now find themselves in mid-table in League Two.



Newport County AFC

Newport have recently recorded an impressive 1-0 win at home to high-fliers Stockport County.

In their previous games Newport had lost against Mansfield Town, drawn against Milton Keynes Dons, and defeated Micky Mellon's Oldham Athletic in the FA Cup.

The Exiles hosted National Division Barnet last Saturday in the second round of the FA Cup, and were two minutes away from securing victory when the Bees levelled through Danny Collinge. They will now meet again this Tuesday, with Eastleigh awaiting the winners.

In the League Cup, Newport defeated League One Charlton Athletic 3-1 at Rodney Parade in the first round.

Newport lost 4-1 on penalties to Premier League at home to Brentford in the second round, having scored a 96th minute equaliser in normal time.

Newport are now out of the Bristol Street Motors Trophy, having won only one of their group phase games, coming against Cheltenham Town.

In that competition, Newport's defeats came against West Ham U21 and Bristol Rovers.

Newport County manager Graham Coughlan joined the club in October 2022, after the sacking of previous manager James Rowberry.

Coughlan has won 21 of his 61 games as Newport County manager.

The Irishman has previously had spells in-charge of Bristol Rovers, and Mansfield Town.

As a player, Coughlan was a centre-back and featured for the likes of Blackburn Rovers, Plymouth Argyle, and Sheffield Wednesday. He hung up his boots in 2013.





The Present & The Past

THE PRESENT / OMAR BOGLE

Striker Omar Bogle joined Newport County in the summer of 2022, and has scored six goals in 15 league games thus far this season.

At six feet, three inches tall Bogle is an immense aerial threat, coupled with his natural talent on the ground, which includes dribbling and scoring with either foot.

Bogle opened his account for The Exiles with a debut goal against Sutton United in August 2022.

The 30-year-old also notched in Newport's 2-1 victory over Tranmere Rovers last August.

In October 2023, Bogle notched both of the goals in The Exiles' 2-0 win away at Gillingham.

The striker rose to prominence in non-league football, scoring 62 goals in 111 league appearances for Solihull Moors.

In 2016, Bogle scored two goals in the National League play-off final, helping Grimsby Town to defeat Forest Green Rovers 3-1.

After impressing in the lower leagues, he then had spells with Wigan Athletic and Cardiff City, including having a myriad of loan stints while on the books of the latter.

One of those was a five-game loan stint with Dutch Eredivisie side ADO Den Haag, before the season was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Dutch side were then managed by former Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew. Bogle's only goal for the club was the opening goal of Den Haag's 2-2 draw at SC Heerenveen.

After being released by Cardiff City, Bogle stated in 2020 that he likes writing music in his spare time, and that it is 'like therapy'.

Bogle has since had permanent spells with Charlton Athletic, Doncaster Rovers, and Hartlepool United.



THE PAST / JOHN ALDRIDGE

Former Tranmere Rovers striker and manager John Aldridge started his professional playing career with Newport County.

Aldridge joined The Exiles aged 20 in 1979 having previously spent time playing for non-league South Liverpool.

The striker scored twice against Tranmere Rovers in his second appearance for the club, and went on to score 70 goals in 170 appearances for Newport.

'Aldo' was an exceptional header of the ball and was known for his intelligent link-up play, as well as his ability to score goals.

The Liverpoolian joined Tranmere Rovers in 1991 to bolster Johnny King's squad after promotion to the second tier.

Aldridge, now 65, scored 138 goals in 243 league games for Tranmere, before hanging up his boots in 1998.

He managed Tranmere between 1996 and 2001, it remain his only managerial role to date.

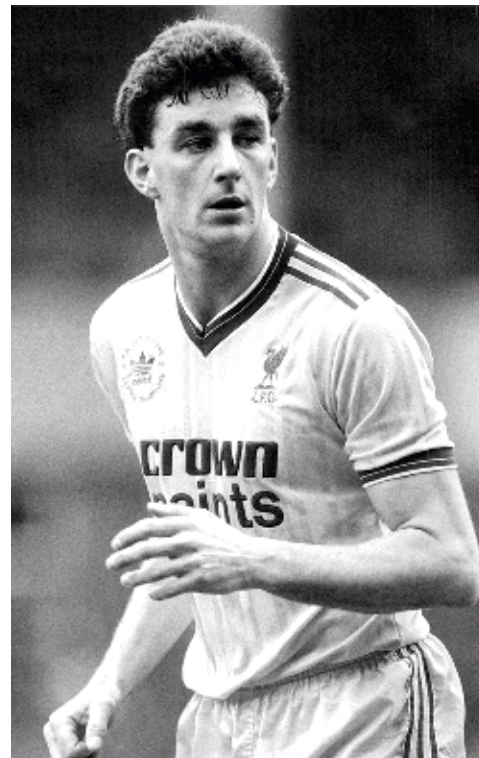
Aldridge played for Liverpool between 1987 and 1989, scoring 50 goals in the 83 league games for The Reds.

Born in the city, 'Aldo' was a boyhood Liverpool supporter and he helped The Reds to the First Division title in 1988.

Finding himself as third-choice striker behind Ian Rush and Peter Beardsley, Aldridge joined Spanish La Liga side Real Sociedad for £1 million in 1989.

Aldridge qualified for the Republic of Ireland through his grandmother, and he earned 69 caps for The Boys in Green, scoring 19 goals.

Now 65, 'Aldo' writes about Liverpool FC for the Liverpool Echo, and regularly communicates with his followers via Twitter.



Three Previous Encounters



NEWPORT COUNTY 0 TRANMERE ROVERS 1

**Sky Bet League Two Play Off Final
Saturday 25 May 2019**

In 2019, Tranmere defeated Newport County in extra-time to earn promotion to League One at Wembley Stadium. Connor Jennings scored the only goal of the game, a cross-goal backpost header in the 119th minute of the game.

This secured back-to-back promotions for Micky Mellon's side, having defeated Boreham Wood at Wembley the previous year.



TRANMERE ROVERS 1 NEWPORT COUNTY 0

**Sky Bet League Two
Tuesday 2 March 2021**

In 2021, Tranmere recorded their most recent victory over Newport a 1-0 victory at Prenton Park.

Liam Feeney's grass-cutting right-footed finish was the only goal of the game, as Tranmere retained their second-place position in the League Two table.

Tranmere have lost each of their four most recent encounters against Newport.



NEWPORT COUNTY 4 TRANMERE ROVERS 2

**Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 26 February 2022**

In 2022, Tranmere Rovers' promotion hopes suffered a set-back as they suffered defeat, 4-2, at Newport County. Aaron Lewis put Newport ahead, before Dom Telford doubled their advantage from the penalty spot. A Josh Dacres-Cogley goal and a Mickey Demetriou own goal restored parity, before late goals from Finn Azag and Dom Telford handed the win to Newport.

Five Notable Numbers

3

The total number of wins away from home this season for Newport County and in league matches - against Forest Green Rovers, Gillingham and Morecambe.

10

The numbers of league wins for Tranmere over the old Newport County - this from 1958 up until 1988, and over a total of 22 meetings.

1993

The year Somerton Park was sadly demolished - as having seen the current club previously play there for two seasons.

6

The number of wins for the current Newport County against Tranmere from all 10 league meetings played since the 2014/15 season.

1989

The year the current club was 'reformed', competing in the Hellenic League, Southern League, Conference South, National Division and the EFL.



TRANMERE ROVERS



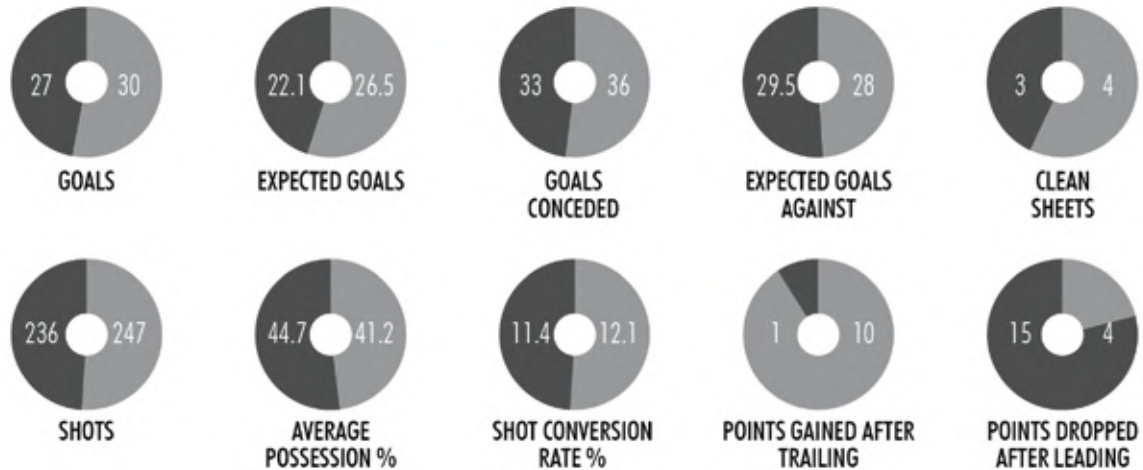
NEWPORT COUNTY

MATCH FACTS & TOTAL CARDS

Tranmere have lost each of their last four League Two matches against Newport County – their longest ever losing run against the Exiles.



Newport County have won on three of their last four league visits to Tranmere Rovers (L1), including each of their last two. They are looking to make it three consecutive away wins at



GOAL TIMES

Time	Tranmere Scored	Newport County Scored	Tranmere Conceded	Newport County Conceded
0-15	5	5	5	7
16-30	6	4	4	7
31-45	2	4	4	4
46-60	4	6	6	7
61-75	6	7	7	4
76-90	4	7	7	7



Opposition Dream Team

Charlie Stubbs selects a former County/Exiles 'Fantasy Eleven'



6 - Centre Defensive Midfield: Joss Ladabie

Former Tranmere midfielder Ladabie starts in midfield. Captain since the end of the Great Escape Season, he scored an 89th minute winner against Crewe to kick off their valiant effort. He also was man of the match in an inspiring performance against Tottenham in the FA Cup Fourth Round. He left at the end of the 2021 season, after losing the League Two playoff final to the Superwhites.

7 - Centre Defensive Midfield: Mark O'Brien

The Irishman is in this team for one reason alone, scoring the goal that kept the Exiles up in their Great Escape season of 2018, scoring an 89th minute winner, performing a chest and volley into the side netting. Although mainly a centre half, he has been known to fill in at defensive midfield when needed

8 - Right Midfield: Steve Lowndes

Stints at the start and end of his career means Steve starts on the right hand side. Just as capable to play on the left, he joined the club. He was part of the Welsh Cup and Promotion winning side of 1980, and the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finalists, in 1981.

9 - Left Midfield: Christian Jolley

He may have only played 61 times in the league across a half season loan and two seasons signed at the club, but he scored some key goals. He scored the first goal of the 2013 all-Welsh Conference National play-off final, in a 2-0 victory over Wrexham, securing a return to the football league after a 25-year absence.

played over 280 appearances for the South Wales side, scoring 25, with the most important coming with a penalty to kick off the survival efforts of the last game of the season.

5 - Left Back: John Relish

Huyton-born John Relish starts on the left not just due to what he did playing for the side, but also on the sidelines. He first joined the club in 1974 to spend thirteen years at the club. During the most successful period of the club's history, which saw promotion and a Welsh Cup win in 1980, and reaching the quarter finals of the 1981 European Cup Winners' Cup. However, financial crisis in 1986 saw him take on different roles. Caretaker manager in 1986, alongside a stint from 1989-1993 from the Hellenic League shows John Relish is important for this side.

10 - Striker: Reg Parker

Record scorer Reg Parker starts just as he did from 1948 to 1954. Serving in the second world war, he played for Cardiff in their wartime fixtures before his service. He left the club in 1948 to move to the Exiles, where he scored 99 in 201 games.

11 - Striker: John Aldridge

The man known all across Merseyside, John Aldridge starts as the second striker. Newport County was his first professional club, signing for the fourth division side in 1979. He went on to score 70 goals in 170 games across his five seasons.

His 1977-83 stint was certainly more successful than his second stint, as he joined a club that had been expelled from the league system three seasons prior.

8 - Striker: John Aldridge

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Mikey Davies

Mikey Davies signed his first professional contract with Tranmere in the summer, a dream moment for a young man who has supported the Club for his whole life. He speaks with Alex Bullions about his time with Rovers, both as a fan and footballer.

As a boyhood Tranmere fan, Mikey Davies is living out a footballing fantasy. The young full-back signed his first professional deal in the summer with Rovers, following his time studying and playing at the Club's Education Hub. Memories of Wembley, promotion and legends of Prenton Park ran through the 19-year-old's head as he held aloft a white and blue scarf on the stadium's sacred turf. Pictures snapped, announcement made, Tranmere player. "It was surreal," says Davies. "I didn't believe it at first but then it sunk in. I had a meeting with the education staff, and they told me the Club wanted to offer me a pro contract. "I told my dad first, cause he's a massive

Tranmere fan as well, then my mum and grandad. They were all absolutely made up." Mikey began supporting the Club at the age of four alongside his father, Mike. The youngster attended all three of Rovers' Play-Off finals, first against Forest Green Rovers before the back-to-back wins against Boreham Wood and Newport County. "Those are like the best years of your life," he says with a smile on his face. "Following them up and down the country. To play for them now and wear the shirt is just brilliant. "I used to love Ian Goodison growing up. Then Bas Savage as well, with his half-red half-blue hair! He was amazing."

Sentiment aside, Mikey is a footballer with great aspirations in the game. His time at Tranmere so far has been rewarding and is contributing in a hugely positive way to his development as a player. The defender made his professional debut against Wigan Athletic in the Bristol Street Motors Trophy. He came off the bench for the second half and scored a penalty in the shootout, after a 0-0 draw in regulation time. "I knew the day before that I was going to play, so I was nervous," he explains. "Once you get on the pitch, you forget. You do your role. I was made up to make my debut and score the penalty as well. >>>



"I celebrated, but I probably shouldn't have! It was something truly special, though. I'd played at Prenton Park as a kid, and against Nantwich last season for the first team so it was great to get a taste. However, making my professional debut was amazing."

Additionally, the opportunity to play under a former Premier League manager in Nigel Adkins is a chance that the defender is making the most of. Working with the gaffer and the squad at The Campus allows Mikey to absorb all the insight he can to push himself going forward.

"He makes me aware of what I need to do and helps me with it. He's had some big clubs in the past so for my development it's really good.

"He speaks to me every couple of days,

tells me what I need to do. You need it, to be honest. It's good and helps me to improve every day."

It's not just the manager that is a big influence for Mikey, but his teammates too. Like all young players stepping into a professional environment, observing how seasoned pros train and commit to the cause can only be a good thing for the early stages of his career.

"I was getting a taste of training with the first team last year as well. It was a reward for me to train with them. I was always looking forward to it and gave my best.

"Being out there with them every day is just amazing. Take Connor Jennings for example. You want to train and work as hard as he does every day, so he's a perfect role model to look up to. The

lads have been brilliant with me and I'm very grateful."

Mikey is the embodiment of working hard to achieve your dreams. A committed youngster whose career is pointing firmly in the right direction. This footballing fantasy is very real, and this youngster is ready to make a mark.



MAKE IT A DATE THIS CHRISTMAS!

TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

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FROM A PRESS PERSPECTIVE

SIX & OUT

I absolutely love those stories that you find it difficult to believe and a cricket story from Australia left me with just such a feeling. It was a cricketing miracle that could sit alongside Ian Botham 1981 or Ben Stokes 2019. But instead of Headingley, this latest incredible comeback took place in the humble surroundings of the Carrara Community Centre on Australia's Gold Coast.



Club side Surfing Paradise had a victory in their grasp against Mudgeeraba in the Gold Coast's Premier Division Three. Chasing 179, they needed just five runs from the final over with six wickets in hand to win.

Mudgeeraba captain Gareth Morgan had other ideas, taking six wickets in six balls to seal the unlikely of victories. 'The umpire told me I need a hat-trick to win this one. It was a bit of a laugh at the time, I thought it was extremely unlikely,' Morgan told the BBC. 'When we won it was very chaotic. My team-half of who are under 19 – were excitedly running around. I was in a state of disbelief. The umpire just shook his head, walked up to me and said 'that's unbelievable'. 'Afterwards in the clubhouse, everyone kept coming up and asking me the story, the beers kept appearing on the table in front of me.' Morgan joked he is 'considering never bowling again', adding: 'I've got two games this weekend and I feel I'm already a marked man, I have had messages from people I am playing. Cricket is a great equalizer. I could end up finding myself with two golden ducks and if I do get talked into bowling I could go for 50 runs.'

The 'chaos' began when opener Jake Garland, a reporter for the Gold Coast Bulletin, smacked the ball straight to mid-wicket to depart for 65. The next two batters were caught at mid-on and short mid-wicket to make it three in a row – but Morgan was not done there. 'Before I knew it, I had a hat-trick and I was sitting there trying to contain the excitement of the guys in my team saying there is only one shot here and we lose the game,' he said. The next batter was

caught at point to leave Surfing Paradise wobbling on 174-8. Morgan then needed no further help from his team-mates in the field, with the final two batters clean bowled. 'I think that final ball is when I felt most comfortable,' he continued. 'The ball was coming out well. The last batsman was going to need to play a shot if they're going to win this game, I just put it on the stumps to see what he does. And fortunately, he played a shot to try and take the win and he missed it.'

For reporter Garland, he had broken a golden rule of journalism by becoming part of the story. Not that he minded too much on this occasion. 'I mean all you can really do now is laugh about it,' he wrote on X, formerly Twitter. 'Always wanted to be part of history with sport somehow, didn't think it would be for this reason.'

Incredibly, this is not the first time Morgan has been involved in some bowling heroics. Writing on the club's Facebook page, Morgan's father Huw said: 'A proud father here. Gareth won't tell you, but as a young bloke, he once took five wickets in an over! He didn't get six, because there was only five wickets left at the start of the over.'

The most wickets taken in an over in professional cricket is five, which has been achieved on three occasions. Neil Wagner playing for Otago in 2011, Al-Amin Hossain for a Bangladesh Cricket Board XI in 2013 and Abhimanyu Mithun for Indian state side Karnataka in 2019.

'I have (kept the ball),' Morgan added. 'My club president told me to give it to him and he'll make sure to mount it on something special.'

DEREK JONES

BBC RADIO Merseyside



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MATCH IMAGES

v Gillingham, 25 November 2023

The unbeaten record goes on, as Gillingham fall to a Rob Apter double and Connor Jennings' header hands the hosts all three points, with a 3-1 victory

Photos: Richard Ault



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IS JAMESON
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GIANTS



of Prenton Park



...No one has played more senior games for Tranmere than Ray Mathias.

His 627 appearances covered a period running from March 1968 to September 1984.

When you consider that Mathias, having signed for Rovers as a teenager, spent more than three seasons in the reserves before making his Football League debut, then his time on the Prenton Park books as a professional stretches to close on 20 years.

NICK HILTON'S ROVERS RETROSPECTIVE

briar studios

Mathias then began a second career in football, as a coach, manager and scout that spanned another 30 years and more. It included two spells at Tranmere as a coach, working under managers Johnny King, John Aldridge and Dave Watson, then as manager in his own right.

In all Mathias dedicated 35 years of his working life in football to Rovers and also served as a coach or manager at Wigan Athletic, Chester, Bury, Stockport County, Macclesfield Town, Milton Keynes Dons and Blackburn Rovers (where as assistant to Paul Ince, he worked in the Premier League).

Mathias then moved on to working as a scout for a number of Football League clubs while attending matches at Prenton Park whenever he could.

A young Ray Mathias first arrived at Prenton Park in the middle of the swinging sixties, as part of a youth development initiative driven by manager Dave Russell.

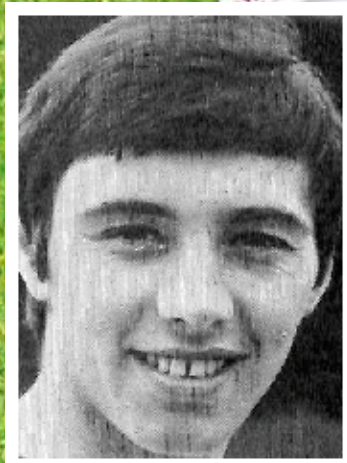
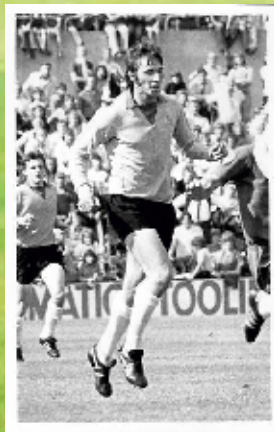
The Scot understood the benefits of finding young local footballers of talent and nurturing them into professionals capable of playing regular games for the first team, or raising revenue from their sale in the transfer market.

Mathias was spotted by Rovers scout Wally Skinner playing for Ellesmere Port Town as a 15-year-old. Three years later, in 1964, Huyton-born Mathias signed his first professional contract at Tranmere.

As a player, Mathias's virtues were versatility and consistency. He could be dropped into a number of positions: left back, right back, central defence, just about anywhere across midfield, and do the job the manager asked of him.

He did those jobs so well that he became an automatic pick for season after season through the 1970s under a succession of managers: Jackie Wright, Ron Yeats and Johnny King. Mathias played in all 46 of Tranmere's League games in five seasons during the decade: 70/71, 71/72, 75/76, 76/77 and 77/78. In two other seasons, 72/73 and 78/79, he missed just one League game.

By 71/72 the right back spot had become Mathias's regular position and in 75/76 he enjoyed the only promotion of his playing career when Johnny King's team climbed from the Fourth to the Third Division.



RAY MATHIAS

11

During the 80s, when Tranmere stumbled along the precipice of financial collapse, Mathias wasn't picked for the first team quite so often but found himself volunteering to do any number of jobs, some of them of a football nature. Anything to help save the club a few precious pounds.

During the 84/85 Division Four campaign in which Mathias played his final Tranmere game, he also embarked upon a new phase of his footballing life as a coach and manager.

He was appointed the team's acting manager in February 1985, following the departure of Bryan Hamilton. Under his command, Tranmere won 11 out of 22 games and finished sixth in Division Four.

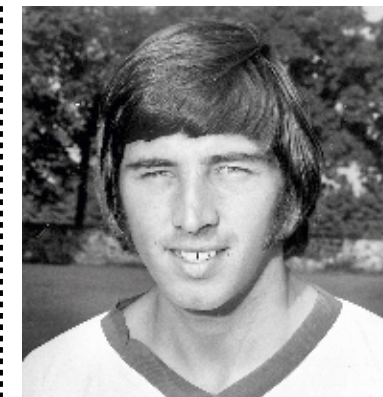
Such a record might have earned Mathias the chance to carry on as a manager the following season. But Tranmere had been bought by a San Francisco lawyer named Bruce Osterman, who wanted to announce his arrival with a glamorous big-name appointment. So Frank Worthington, the former Leicester and England striker, was brought in as player-manager and Mathias departed.

He headed off to Wigan Athletic to work as a coach and then spent three years as manager there from 1986 to '89.

He was tempted back to Prenton Park by Johnny King, his former manager and neighbour (both men lived on the same street, close to Arrow Park, for many years). After King was relieved of his duties as manager in 1996, Mathias returned to Wigan for a second spell in 1998, where he led the Latics to victory in the Football League Trophy final at Wembley and to the play-offs in the division now known as League One. Even so, Mathias lost his job and returned to Tranmere to work as a coach under John Aldridge.

When Aldridge resigned in March 2001, Mathias and fellow coach Kevin Sheedy stepped up as joint caretaker managers for the remainder of the season but could not prevent Rovers being relegated from the second tier.

Mathias finally won the chance to manage



Tranmere in his own right in the summer of 2002, taking over from Dave Watson.

Working with coaching assistant David Kelly, Mathias led Tranmere to a seventh place finish with 80 points, matching the club's best total in the Football League, during the 2002/03 campaign in League One.

However, when Tranmere made a faltering start to the following season, Mathias lost his job.

Thereafter he worked fleetingly as manager in a short spell at Chester.

But his career took an unexpected turn when he was appointed as assistant to Paul Ince at Macclesfield in 2006. The two men engineered an unlikely escape from relegation for the Silkmen, earning them a move to MK Dons, where they won the League Two title and the Football League Trophy.

When Ince was hired by Premier League club Blackburn Rovers in the summer of 2008, Mathias went to Ewood Park with him. However, Ince could not keep the run of success going at Blackburn and by December he was sacked with Mathias and fellow coach Archie Knox also asked to leave.

Mathias briefly returned to management at Stockport County in 2011 and thereafter, worked in football as a scout for a number of Football League clubs, his vast experience and knowledge of football respected

TOM
DAVIES

13



Supporting Tranmere Rovers in the Community and local causes

MORE THAN A LOTTERY

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
**NATE'S
TICKETS**

We are proud to confirm the Tranmere Rovers fundraiser will support Nates tickets formerly the community scheme that has been renamed in honour of Nate Gidman, a five year old supporter who sadly passed away earlier this season following a battle with brain cancer.

We are supporting the scheme which will now be known as Nate's tickets and we will continue to provide a football experience through organised charities and groups to families whom would not have the opportunity due to financial or other circumstances since launching the scheme seven years ago we are proud to have welcomed 23,500 people to Prenton Park through the original community ticket scheme.

The winners of our prize draws for are:

£40 gift voucher: **Ben Humpherys**

£20 gift voucher: **Richard Lavin**

£15 gift voucher: **Glynis**

£10 gift voucher: **Matthew Norman**

£10 gift voucher: **Tony Rowlands**

Well done to all this weeks' winners!

Your prizes can be collected from the Club Store, or please get in touch via lottery@tranmererovers.co.uk

OUR LATEST WINNING NUMBERS



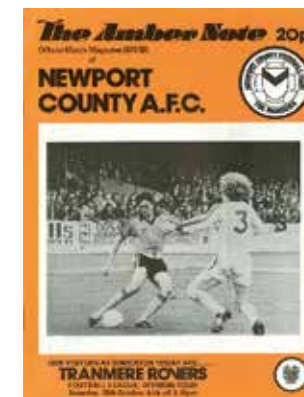
SATURDAY 2.12.2023



COVER TO COVER

ANDREW STURGEON ON **NEWPORT V TRANMERE 1979/80**

The 1979/80 season is likely to evoke happy memories for Newport fans, as they secured promotion; however, for Tranmere fans the memories of that season may be based more on the newspaper style programme, rather than league success.



County's programme titled 'The Amber Note', was priced at 20p for 16 pages (and included the national On-Target 8-page supplement). The colour which surrounds the framed match action photo on the front cover, looked like it was an attempt at amber, but was significantly lighter than the teams' shirts, and two of the pages within, which were printed on an amber background.

Whilst there are over forty advertisements for local Gwent based businesses throughout the programme, due to their small ad style size, these do not detract from the articles and match action photos within.

In the inside cover, the column from manager Len Ashurst is titled 'Amber Talks'. Within his notes, he praises the newcomer to the side, who has done himself proud by breaking into the team and scoring a brace in the previous game versus Aldershot. Len is delighted Newport stepped into sign him, ahead of Tranmere, from South Liverpool. The man in question being - John Aldridge.

Indeed, it was not unusual for Rovers to take on local talent, as the club spotlight on Tranmere notes. This states "that 13 of the 15 players to have appeared for Rovers this season are from Merseyside or its immediate districts". A highly cropped photo of the Tranmere team, is squashed into the top quarter of the page, allowing for advertisements and further statistical information on the Rovers underneath.

Happily, for Rovers fans it notes the last visit to Somerton in January 1976 ended in 5-1 victory for the visitors. However, this time it was not to be for Rovers, as goals from Aldridge and Lowndes secured a 2-0 win for Newport. The score line would be replicated when County visited Birkenhead in February 1980.

'The Prenton' was billed as the "Official newspaper programme of Tranmere Rovers FC".

The first ten issues of the season were based on an A3 style but this, was subsequently reduced to an 8-page A4 format. The producers SportsScene struggled to maintain style and consistency throughout the season, resulting in seven issues covering more than one match. This included for the visit of Newport County, as Issue Number 19, also covered the rearranged game against Wigan Athletic, which ironically was postponed again.

The centre page spread is therefore dedicated to the two visiting teams, the large headline notes "Welcome to Newport ... and Wigan are coming too!". Both teams have their team photos, with another large style headline underneath, for Newport this

reads Promotion candidates?

There is limited information on the visitors, but the suggestion is that Ashurst might have the nucleus of a promotion team.

On the top half of the rear page either side of the Tranmere team line ups are those of Newport and Wigan. The lower half of the rear page provides advertisement space for Wirral Colt (New Chester Road) who are advertising 'the new fabulous ColtLancer'.

At the end of the season SportsScene and their newspaper style programmes were no more, and thankfully Rovers have reverted to a more traditional programme style since.

+ Incidentally, towards the end of the season Tranmere & Newport would be shared companions, within Issue 24 of the Dale programme. Rochdale were also using SportsScene as publishers and their newspaper template that season. The headline on the visitors' pages of course being "Welcome to Newport... and Rovers are coming too!"



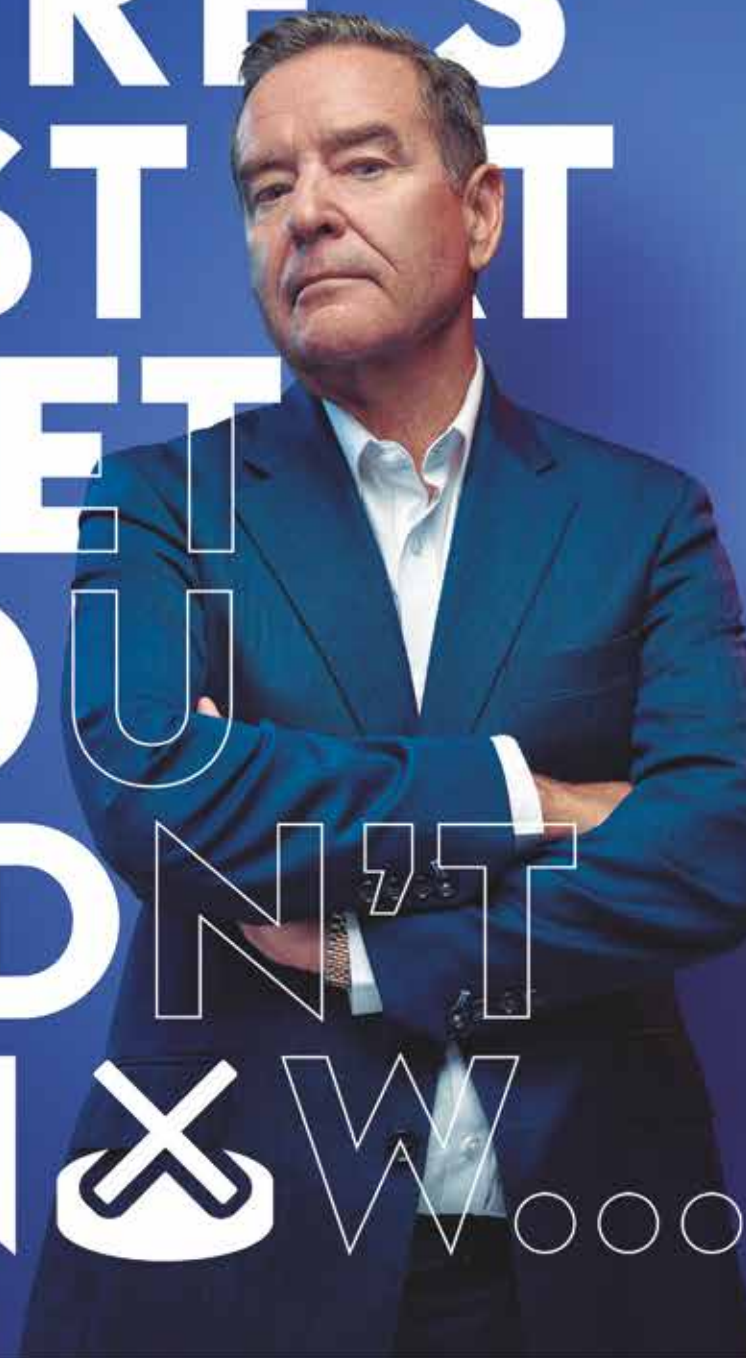


SUPER WHITE SNAP SHOT

5.12.2013 ...An alternative view of the customary pre-match warm-up, this time at Macclesfield last Tuesday evening prior to our Cheshire Senior Cup second round meeting...

PHOTO: TONY COOMBES

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- CHRISTMAS DINNER AT PRENTON PARK ON CHRISTMAS DAY (FOR 30 CARE LEAVERS)
- CHRISTMAS DINNER AND TICKET VS SWINDON TOWN (FOR 80 HOMELESS/ISOLATED/ELDERLY PEOPLE)



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IN THE MEDIA

The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

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Coming through November unscathed used to be the holy grail for an under-fire football manager. Three international breaks had come and gone, and with them the chance to spend a fortnight searching for a new saviour.

By December the fixtures were piling up, transfer targets were locked in, and owners had departed to spend Christmas on the slopes of St Moritz or the shores of St Tropez.

The festive period offered respite from the omnipresent axe, at least until March served up the final international break of the season and one last chance to roll the dice in pursuit of that new manager bounce.

During the early days of his ill-fated spell at Newcastle, Steve Bruce openly admitted that managers viewed international breaks with the same enthusiasm as their tax return.

"It's always the time when managers are sacked," said the former West Brom, Aston Villa and Hull boss. "It gives clubs two weeks to get a new manager and it always seems to happen then.

"I shouldn't say it, but a lot of managers think "I have to get to the breaks, then I have to get past the next break".

"You usually get away with September, but October is a bad month and this one at the end of November is flaming awful. But get through that and we tend to think we have gone past that hurdle of getting the sack."

Not any more. While November had its customary share of bloodshed, the current campaign has seen the carnage extended into December.

Cambridge boss Mark Bonner was relieved of his duties at the back end of November, to the considerable dismay of the club's supporters.

Swansea's Michael Duff and Sunderland's Tony Mowbray then bit the dust within hours of each other on Monday, a day before Paul Heckingbottom was finally put out of his misery by top-flight Sheffield United.

Sadly for managers and head coaches, this may be the new reality. Historically, there was very little sense in wielding the axe so close to the January transfer window because it left insufficient time for



the new man to assess his squad and identify targets.

Similarly, the sheer volume of fixtures prohibited meaningful training time, making it impossible to instil new ideas and tactics.

Now, those issues are less restrictive. The majority of clubs - Sunderland, Swansea and Cambridge included - operate a sporting director model, where recruitment and playing style is largely dictated in the boardroom.

The whole point of this method is to make the manager - or rather head coach - more expendable, minimising the sort of expensive rip-it-up-and-start-again rebuilds once commonplace whenever a change was made. That's the theory, anyway.

Valid or not, the reality is that clubs like Sunderland and Swansea have already identified their January transfer targets, chosen to fit a specific profile that will not change regardless of the man in the dugout.

The upshot is that the festive safe haven is no more, and the season to be jolly is just another hurdle for a manager to clear.

By Chris Dunlavy, reporter, The Football League Paper

Development side lose out to Woolton in home league defeat.



The Tranmere Rovers Development team suffered a 0-5 defeat at home to second place MSB Woolton.

The hosts got the game underway, but it wasn't to be long before Rovers were behind after a defensive error allowed the Woolton forward to nip in behind to give the visitors an early advantage.

Tranmere immediately looked for an equaliser and so nearly got it when striker Phoebe Fogarty was played through on goal, but she was denied one on one by a great stop.

Woolton would double their advantage on 19 minutes with a low drive from the edge of the area which beat Daisy Jones in goal.

Minutes later Rovers came close to pulling one back when Emily Beattie headed over from a Molly Davin corner before Davin was called into action at the other end with a well-timed tackle to deny Woolton on the break.

Woolton would take a three-goal lead into the half-time interval when their number 19 charged forward and fired in a low drive just inside the area.

Seemingly buoyed by the half-time team talk Tranmere started the second half with purpose attacking Woolton from the off with Milly

Chesters causing Woolton problems down the right and playing in a succession of crosses toward the far post which just evaded Shaney Bond.

10 minutes into the second half Woolton extended their lead with a lobbed finish over the keeper. Rovers weren't going to give in and went close when Millie Chesters beat the Fullback at pace and played another ball to Bond on the left who cut inside but found her shot blocked before Bond would find Fogarty moments later who was also denied.

Woolton would add a fifth with 15 minutes left on the clock with a finish inside the area before completing the scoring minutes from time with a looping header after a corner on the right.

Up next for the Tranmere Rovers Development Team is a return to Cup action away to Ormskirk FC Galaxy Women at JMO Sports Park on 17th December, 3pm Kick Off.

The First Team are back in league action at home tomorrow after a break, and at Ellesmere Port Sports Village when they take on West Didsbury & Chorlton. Kick-off is at 2.00pm with admission free to all spectators.

Words: Joe Stanley
Photo: Tegan McMahon.



Scan here for the latest Women's team news

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Next First Team Game v West Didsbury & Chorlton Women
Tomorrow
Sunday 10 December 2023
Kick-off 2.00pm
Ellesmere Port Sports Village
Stanney Lane
CH65 9LB



Scan here for the latest North West Women's Regional League results & league tables

TRANMERE ROVERS FC WOMEN



Katie BOWERS-FOLAN



Anna JONES



Izzy ARROWSMITH



Amelia SIZE



Lorna STRATTON



Lindsay SMITH



Kiah SULLIVAN



Cloe ROBINSON



Keris McROBERTS



Anya McCREEDY



Amy SHANNON



Hannah PEDDER



Izzy HAILEH



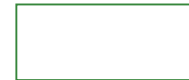
Holly JONES



Ellie DOYLE



Elisha PRICE



Jess BRADY



Evie PAGET



Liz ROBERTS



Darcie AITKEN



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Steve Bower

He's One Of Our Own



Today is the day not just when the boys hopefully gain another three points but also when our record goalscorer releases his autobiography. Ian Muir's 'Striking Back' will be a brilliant read and a perfect festive gift. I haven't read it yet but I am slightly biased. 'Muiry' was the first real footballing hero I had as a kid.



Today is the day not just when the boys hopefully gain another three points but also when our record goalscorer releases his autobiography. Ian Muir's 'Striking Back' will be a brilliant read and a perfect festive gift. I haven't read it yet but I am slightly biased. 'Muiry' was the first real footballing hero I had as a kid.

I would have been 11 years of age when Frank Worthington brought him to the club. In that dark blue kit at the time. I can remember him being different, something about him that I instantly loved and of course goodness me he could finish, ice in his veins in front of goal.

He was the man I was always trying to be in the playground, I was always number ten in my teams because of him, if we had names way back then, those four letters would have been on my back.

I can remember attending the infamous Exeter City match with my dad, my first taste of real nerves as a young fan! Muiry had a hand in that Gary Williams goal and off he went on his incredible journey with the club. 142 goals in 314 games over ten years was outstanding with so many magical memories.

Our first visit to Wembley in 1988 in the Football League Centenary Tournament was a main example. I remember being there and vaguely the results, but I remember Muiry being at home on the big stage and of course scoring. Fittingly, it wasn't his last Wembley goal. I was fortunate enough to spend a lot of time years later

with Frank Worthington, he loved him. He loved telling stories about him, and he had a genuine sense of pride in Muiry's success.

He really flourished of course under Johnny King, who never tired of telling me how he'd encouraged him to do his work in the penalty area and sniff out chances just as King's dog used to sniff out the rabbits!

As I started my broadcasting career, as I've said before covering Tranmere, I developed lifelong friendships with players and staff alike - something I cherished immensely. When I met and was around Muiry though I felt like that 11-year-old all over again, a source of great amusement to his teammates at the time!

Not only was he a top goalscorer but I also discovered he was a great lad and a top human being.

It's unheard of in the modern game for a player to spend a decade with any club. We should cherish the fact that this man did and I think it's fitting and well deserved now that we can have a pre-match drink in the Ian Muir lounge.

When people say, 'Don't meet your heroes', I can only tell the story of my first one and he didn't disappoint.

All the best with book Muiry, I look forward to reading it. Enjoy the game

Steve

Tickets & Travel News

ADMISSION PRICES 2023/24

Main Stand – Bebington End & Town End

Age Category/Status	Advance	Matchday
Adult	£26.00	£28.00
Senior (65+)	£21.00	£23.00
Young Person (18-22)	£19.00	£21.00
Disabled & Personal Assistant	£19.00	£21.00
Junior (Under 18)	£9.00	£11.00
Accompanied Junior (Under 12)	£5.00	£7.00

Town Paddock (including 'Bunny Bell' Bar)

Age Category/Status	Advance	Matchday
Adult	£24.00	£26.00
Senior (65+)	£19.00	£21.00
Young Person (18-22)	£17.00	£19.00
Disabled & Personal Assistant	£17.00	£19.00
Junior (Under 18)	£9.00	£11.00
Accompanied Junior (Under 12)	£5.00	£7.00

Kop, Bebington Paddock & Johnny King Stand

Age Category/Status	Advance	Matchday
Adult	£23.00	£25.00
Senior (65+)	£18.00	£20.00
Young Person (18-22)	£16.00	£18.00
Disabled & Personal Assistant	£16.00	£18.00
Junior (Under 18)	£9.00	£11.00
Accompanied Junior (Under 12)	£5.00	£7.00

The Ian Muir Bar

Age Category/Status	Advance	Matchday
Adult	£51.00	£53.00
Personal Assistant	£25.00	£27.00
Junior (Under 18)	£29.00	£31.00

The Ray Mathias Lounge

Age Category/Status	Advance	Matchday
Adult	£66.00	£68.00
Personal Assistant	£40.00	£42.00
Junior (Under 18)	£44.00	£46.00

*Please note: Matchday prices listed above are before 12.00pm
*There are no cash admissions on the turnstiles

AWAY GAMES 2023/24

Walsall

Sky Bet League Two.
Saturday 16 December 2023.
Kick-off 3.00pm.



Match Admission

North Stand (Covered Seating).
Adults £23, Seniors Over 60 £19, Under 21 Years £18, Under 18 Years £12, Family (One adult + One Under 18 Tears) £25 (these are only available in advance).
Tickets now on general sale. PLEASE NOTE: Prices increase on matchday purchases. This stadium is ALL CASHLESS.

Club Coach & Travel

Departs Prenton Park 11.15am.
Non-Season Card holders £29, Season Card Holders £27.
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: Poundland Bescot Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 4SAMain Telephone: 01922 622 791.

Salford City

Sky Bet League Two.
Boxing Day, Tuesday 26 December 2023.
Kick-off 3.00pm.



Match Admission

North Stand (Covered Seating – TRFC Season Card Holders Only – 216 available) & East Stand (Covered Terrace – 1,150 available).
Prices (For Both Areas): Adult (22-59): £15, Senior (60+): £10, Young Adult (18-21): £10, Junior (14-17): £5, Child (Under-13): £1, Under-5s Seating: £1, Under-5s Standing: FOC, Carer: FREE.
Tickets will be available on general sale only shortly. At time going to print, any further details will be announced.
PLEASE NOTE: There will currently be no tickets available on the day unless otherwise stated nearer the fixture date.

Club Coach & Travel

Departs Prenton Park 12.00pm.
Non-Season Card holders £24, Season Card Holders £22.
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: The Peninsula Stadium, Moor Lane, Salford M7 3PZ.
Main Telephone: 0161 241 9772.



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DISABLEDROVERS

Tranmere Rovers Disabled Supporters Association

Hello and welcome back to Prenton Park to the Super White Army. A warm welcome is also extended to all Newport fans for making the trip up from South Wales. We hope you enjoy your day on the Wirral.



Let's End Discrimination

As a disabled supporters' association, we are proud to celebrate inclusivity in football. We ask all to join us in creating a positive atmosphere, where everyone is welcomed and has a fantastic matchday experience.

It is imperative that no-one faces discrimination based on their race, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Ableism is the word used to describe discrimination based on the grounds of disability - this covers physical disabilities, but also other impairments you might not be able to sense at first glance, such as long-term medical conditions, neurodiversity, audio-visual impairments, and learning difficulties.

Not every disability is visible either and it isn't always immediately apparent why someone might need a reasonable adjustment to use accessible infrastructure.

Disability Identifiers

This season, we're launched a scheme whereby fans who have either a visible or invisible disability can opt to wear a disability identifier during matches at Prenton Park. Staff are aware that anyone wearing ID may need additional support. Any fan who feels they might benefit from this can choose either a green lanyard OR a more discreet silicone wristband. These can be collected from the Club Shop free-of-charge anytime.

We're delighted to supporting this scheme with the Supporter Liaison Officers, so if you have any questions about how it'll work, please drop us or the SLOs a message on FB, Twitter or email.

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.

Accessible Food Ordering System

If you're a disabled supporter sitting in the accessible seating area of Bebington Paddock or the Kop, we're delighted to say that, after talking to Cowsheds' Catering, we've been able to sort out food and drink orders to your seats.

It's all the usual good grub, available to order and eat in the accessible seating area of Bebington Paddock or the Kop.

Away Tickets

Just a quick reminder that if you are a fan with mobility difficulties who attends away games, it's really easy to get a seat that suits your support needs by selecting the "Easy Access" filter on the ticketing website.

This way, you can make sure you get a seat that suits you and your needs in a hassle-free fashion.

Please feel free to drop us a line with any experiences, positive or negative, of your experiences as a Tranmere fan so we can feed that back.

Also, if any of our disabled supporters are going to watch women's games, home or away, please do get in touch as we'd be keen to hear your experiences and feed this back to Level Playing Field, the national level group for disabled supporters associations.

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.

Maybe you know of a local shop or pub that might like participate. If so, please do get in touch.

Ideas Wanted

We're always open to new ideas and fresh thinking to support our work as a disabled supporters' association.

If you've got any ideas about how you might be able to raise funds to support our work, improving things for disabled supporters and those who with them, drop us a line.

FOOTBALL FOR ALL

QU?Z ZONE



CAN YOU HELP JUNIOR FIND THE ANSWERS? >>>

10 X QUESTIONS...

1. In which season did Rovers and Newport meet in the League 2 Play-Off Final?
2. Who scored the winning goal in extra time that day?
3. What was the score when Manchester City faced Tottenham Hotspur last weekend?
4. Which Spurs man scored in both ends during that match?
5. Which three nations were England drawn alongside ahead of UEFA EURO 2024?
6. In which country are the upcoming 'Euros' being held?
7. Micheal Duff was sacked by which Championship side earlier this week?
8. Which famous derby is set to take place in the third round of the FA Cup?
9. Which two sides have Rovers defeated in our last two home fixtures?
10. At which stadium did Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland's women's teams meet at last Tuesday?

WORDSEARCH...

G	R	A	H	A	M	C	O	U	G	H	L	A	N
N	E	W	P	O	R	T	S	T	A	D	I	U	M
R	S	O	M	E	R	T	O	N	P	A	R	K	T
O	E	H	E	K	I	E	I	A	L	S	C	A	H
D	P	R	Y	Y	U	F	O	H	A	E	H	I	E
N	U	P	T	L	L	E	L	N	Y	E	K	U	E
E	C	D	E	E	D	L	U	O	O	U	F	M	X
Y	H	G	A	J	R	E	C	N	F	R	U	E	I
P	S	A	P	A	T	E	K	O	F	O	U	W	L
A	L	U	D	M	T	E	K	E	F	P	D	R	E
R	E	D	O	E	P	O	A	P	I	E	U	O	S
A	W	S	L	S	A	R	Y	L	N	N	N	U	M
D	D	O	S	O	U	T	H	W	A	L	E	S	T
E	O	I	S	N	M	J	E	F	L	P	A	W	E

EUROPE
GRAHAM COUGHLAN
KYLE JAMESON
NEWPORT STADIUM
PLAY OFF FINAL

SOMERTON PARK
RODNEY PARADE
SOUTH WALES
THE EXILES
WELSH CUP

KIT OF THE DAY



From which season is this kit from?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 57...

Matchday 20 of the 2023/24 Sky Bet League Two season produced a host of cracking ties across the division. The pick of the fixtures occurred at the Wham Stadium, where Swindon Town narrowly survived a late onslaught to secure three points against hosts, Accrington Stanley.



Two goals in each half saw Swindon comfortably leading 4-0 as the board for injury time went up, but drama followed. Korede Adebayin got one back in the 92nd and Bradley Hills then scored a three-minute brace to make it 4-3. The miraculous comeback didn't quite happen though, and Town left with all three

points in dramatic fashion. Notts County came from behind to see off midtable Crawley Town at Meadow Lane. The visitors took the lead through Adam Campbell, who sent a rocket into the top left corner from 25-yards out in the tenth minute. David McGoldrick equalised ten minutes later, placing the ball into an

empty net after the 'keeper left his line and got caught in no-mans-land. Jim O'Brien put County ahead on the hour mark, heading home at the near-post after getting on to the end of a tempting set-piece. Junior Morias added a third with 20 minutes remaining as he slotted the ball past the Crawley shot-stopper to capitalise on a sloppy pass from the 'keeper.



On the stroke of half-time, Dean Cornelius halved the deficit with a tidy finish from just outside the area. The scores were level only two minutes later as Anthony O'Connor nodded in from a perfectly placed free-kick to ensure the points were shared.

The Welsh outfit travelled to Harrogate Town, who completed a rapid comeback to earn a point. Andy Cannon fired home from the edge of the box to break the deadlock and give Wrexham the lead, with Elliot Lee doubling their lead five minutes later by bundling the ball in from a poorly defended corner.



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A League Of Our Own

John Adamson...and Walsall

Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick doctor once went camping near Walsall. They arrived, pitched the tent, and exhausted after a day's detecting, they fell asleep.

In the middle of the night, Holmes prodded Watson. "Wake up! Look up and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see thousands and thousands of stars."

Holmes peered at his colleague. "What does that tell you?"

Watson thought for a few moments. "Well, Holmes, firstly, I wonder who knows how many stars are out there, never mind the named and unnamed planets, too numerous to count. Next, for me, it points to the Great Creator, a supernatural power beyond us humans. Finally, what I see suggests that the forecast for the coming day will be good."

Holmes prodded him again. "I know it's two o'clock in the morning, but do you think you might be missing something?"

Watson stroked his chin. "No."

Holmes' look turned from incredulity to exasperation. "You idiot, Watson, someone has stolen our tent."

Sherlock's remark revealed a superior sense of self-assurance, leaving poor Watson proportionately doubting his own ability - and identity - as a detective.

Years later, Walsall had its own fictional policeman who never suffered any such misgivings under his boss. The town produced one of television's most identifiable detectives in Z-Cars' John Watt, played by actor Frank Windsor.

Frank moved to London for speech (advisable anyway for both Yam Yams and Brummies?) and drama training. A successful TV career ensued.

Holmes, like born and bred Liverpoolians, had no doubts about his identity. Woolly-back Watsons are from a lower league. But did you know that the same light-hearted folk notion of an allegedly superior people group is rampant in Birmingham, where the sheepish are labelled after a repeating root vegetable?

You did? Thought so. Cue the Yam Yams of Walsall and other Black Country towns. Brummies are only from Brum.

Strangely, Walsall's Yam Yams have no obvious legacy of songs eulogising the joys of life within the town's borders, but they loved Liverpool's Spinners when they played their local folk club in the early sixties.

They undoubtedly belted out 'In My Liverpool Home' and the wistful 'Leaving of Liverpool'.

Shipping in the Walsall area is rare, but the band probably also performed 'Maggie May'. This was not the one Rod Stewart woke up for a word in 1971, but a nautical cautionary tale warning disembarking sailors of onshore temptation and trickery.

Another Spinners' classic, Johnny Todd, became the Z-Cars theme tune in 1962. The lyrics do not reveal if Johnny was a scouser or not.

Our hero may have sailed the ocean wide, but he was taught a lesson when he left his true love weeping by the Liverpool tide. When he got travelling out of his system, he returned to find his bride-to-be was wedded to another.

Holmes might have deduced from the facts that Todd was soft in the head, although he may have phrased it differently. In Birmingham, they would have had him down as a Yam Yam.






**Luke
McGEE**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Larne Wallisson Sweden 
 REHAB CENTRES UK



**Lee
O'CONNOR**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Sol-Britt Wallisson Sweden 



**Brad
WALKER**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2



**Tom
DAVIES**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2



**Jordan
TURNBULL**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Jim & Calum Hanrahan
 CURNAN EMBRACE THE WAVE



**Charlie
JOLLEY**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Ian & Denise Lally



**Joe
MURPHY**

HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 The Abraham Family



**Kristian
DENNIS**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Ian & Denise Lally
 MV
 CASE & CASE



**Ben
HOCKENHULL**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 PAVING SHOPPER



**Chris
MERRIE**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Phil Hughes
 Geoff Meeson
 DIRECT COLOUR



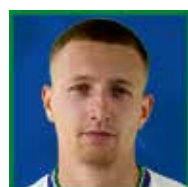
**Kieron
MORRIS**

FULL KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Bet Press Sweden 
 Joshuas Independent Jewellers



**Regan
HENDRY**

FULL KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Steve & Tim Shephard Foxboro USA



**Luke
NORRIS**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 MV
 MJH RATING CONSULTANCY



**Reece
McALEAR**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2



**Josh
HAWKES**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Liv Harding




**Rhys
HUGHES**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2



**Connor
JENNINGS**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Ian & Denise Lally
 Larne Wallisson Sweden 
 Double Trouble (Phil & Mark)



**Harvey
SAUNDERS**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Midlands SWA
 Liv Harding



**Sam
TAYLOR**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Ian & Denise Lally



**Paul
LEWIS**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2

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Season 2023/24



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DAVIES**

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 ZEGO



**Joe
YARNEY**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 Nina Armstrong



**Jake
LEAKE**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2
 UKsmiles



**Dan
PIKE**

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
 BUSINESS SWA2



**Conor
ROBSON**

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ADKINS**

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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	12	4	1	1	0	0	2	0	15	5
Jean Belehoun	01/09/2000	England	Sheffield United	30	DEF	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	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	19	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	22	0
Kristian Dennis	12/03/1990	England	Carlisle United	14	STR	17	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	21	2
Josh Hawkes	28/01/1999	England	Sunderland	11	MID	17	4	0	0	2	0	1	0	20	4
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	19	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	23	1
Ben Hockenhull	03/09/2001	England	Brentford	15	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	19	5	1	0	2	0	1	0	23	5
Charlie Jolley	13/01/2001	England	Wigan Athletic	12	STR	13	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	18	3
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	8	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	12	0
Reece McAlear	12/02/2002	Scotland	Norwich City	23	MID	8	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	13	0
Luke McGee	02/09/1995	England	Forest Green Rovers	1	GOL	18	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	21	0
Chris Merrie	02/11/1998	England	Wigan Athletic	16	MID	10	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	8	0
Kieron Morris	03/06/1994	England	Walsall	7	MID	18	3	1	1	2	0	2	0	23	4
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	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	6	0
Luke Norris	03/06/1993	England	Stevenage	9	STR	6	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	8	3
Lee O'Connor	28/07/2000	Ireland	Celtic	2	DEF	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	0
Dan Pike	09/01/2002	England	AFC Fylde	24	MID	9	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	13	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	16	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	19	0
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	13	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	18	3
Jordan Turnbull	30/10/1994	England	Salford City	6	DEF	18	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	22	0
Brad Walker	25/04/1995	England	Port Vale	4	MID	12	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	15	0
Connor Wood	17/07/1996	England	Colchester United	27	DEF	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Joe Yarney	08/10/1997	England	Oldham Athletic	21	DEF	13	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	17	0
OWN GOALS	--	-	--	-	-	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	2

The Factual Figures So Far From Season 2023/2024

100

Substitutions made in all games played so far

3

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

20

Goals scored at home in all competitions

16

Goals scored in all competitions in the second half of matches

Quiz Zone Page: Answers from Page 49

10 Quiz Questions:

- 2018/19.
- Connor Jennings.
- 3-3.
- Son Heung Min.
- Serbia, Slovenia, and Denmark.
- Germany.
- Swansea City.
- The Tyne & Wear derby.
- Gillingham and Forest Green Rovers.
- Windsor Park.

Kit of the Day:

1999/00 Away Kit.



ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE TWO TOP FIVES

GOALS

1		16	JAKE YOUNG
2		14	MATT SMITH
3		14	MACAULAY LANGSTAFF
4		12	ISAAC OLAOFE
5		11	ELLIOT LEE

ASSISTS

1		9	JODI JONES
2		8	DANIEL KEMP
3		7	DANIEL CROWLEY
4		6	WILL COLLAR
5		6	LIAM KELLY

TOTAL SHOTS

1		78	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
2		77	MACAULAY LANGSTAFF
3		68	JAMES TILLEY
4		68	ANDY COOK
5		62	MICHAEL MELLON

CHANCES CREATED

1		53	REMEAO HUTTON
2		49	KYLE MCALLISTER
3		47	DANIEL KEMP
4		42	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
5		38	DANIEL CROWLEY

% OF GOALS INVOLVED IN

1		50	MATT SMITH
2		47.1	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
3		46.5	JAKE YOUNG
4		44.8	ALI AL HAMADI
5		44	JOE IRONSIDE

SUCCESSFUL PASSES

1		1247	MATTHEW PALMER
2		1217	FRAZER BLAKE-TRACY
3		1164	ADEN BALDWIN
4		1143	UDOKA GODWIN-MALIFE
5		1127	FRASER HORSFALL

DRIBBLES COMPLETED

1		53	JAYDEN FEVRIER
2		36	LOUIE BARRY
3		35	DAVID MCGOLDRICK
4		32	OMARI PATRICK
5		31	JODI JONES

SAVES

1		69	MURPHY MAHONEY
2		68	LUKE MCGEE
3		66	HARVEY DAVIES
4		63	JAKE TURNER
5		61	CRAIG MACGILLIVRAY

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT

AFC Wimbledon have lost just one of their last six league matches against Swindon Town (W2 D3), although this loss came in the last meeting between the two sides – a 5-1 defeat in April.

After winning five out of six league matches against Barrow between November 1963 and April 1969 (L1), Gillingham have failed to win any of their last six against the Bluebirds (D3 L3).



Pos	Club	Home Record					Away Record					GD	PTS	
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F			A
1	Stockport County	20	7	3	1	20	7	6	0	3	20	13	20	42
2	Wrexham	20	7	2	1	33	19	3	5	2	9	12	11	37
3	Barrow	20	5	4	0	11	5	5	3	3	16	11	11	37
4	Mansfield Town	19	5	4	0	13	5	4	5	1	21	12	17	36
5	Crewe Alexandra	19	7	2	1	21	12	3	4	2	19	16	12	36
6	Notts County	20	8	0	2	26	17	3	3	4	16	19	6	36
7	Gillingham	20	6	1	3	12	11	4	0	6	7	15	-7	31
8	Swindon Town	20	6	1	2	23	12	2	5	4	20	24	7	30
9	Accrington Stanley	20	6	1	4	19	15	3	1	5	11	14	1	29
10	AFC Wimbledon	19	3	3	3	17	14	4	4	2	12	8	7	28
11	MK Dons	19	4	3	2	15	11	3	3	4	16	16	4	27
12	Morecambe	18	5	3	1	15	7	3	0	6	11	21	-2	27
13	Crawley Town	19	7	0	3	20	12	1	3	5	10	21	-3	27
14	Bradford City	20	4	3	2	10	9	3	2	6	14	18	-3	26
15	Newport County	20	4	4	2	19	15	3	0	7	11	21	-6	25
16	Harrogate Town	20	2	2	6	10	16	5	1	4	10	11	-7	24
17	Doncaster Rovers	19	5	2	3	15	12	2	0	7	10	19	-6	23
18	Salford City	20	2	2	5	14	18	4	2	5	16	15	-3	22
19	Walsall	19	3	4	2	10	8	2	2	6	14	23	-7	21
20	Grimsby Town	20	4	3	3	15	13	0	5	5	12	19	-5	20
21	Colchester United	20	3	2	5	17	21	3	0	7	11	19	-12	20
22	Tranmere Rovers	20	5	1	4	20	13	0	2	8	7	20	-6	18
23	Forest Green Rovers	19	2	1	8	13	23	2	2	4	7	12	-15	15
24	Sutton United	20	3	3	5	16	15	0	2	7	10	25	-14	14

NEXT UP...



Swindon Town are the next side to make the trip to Prenton Park, as Michael Flynn's men make the trip from Wiltshire in search of three points in the Sky Bet League Two on Saturday 23 December, with the tie kicking off at 3.00pm.

The Robins have started the season well, currently sitting eighth in the table, a point adrift from a play-off place. They survived a late scare in their last outing after going into extra-time 4-0 up. The reds conceded three after the ninety-minute mark but departed Accrington Stanley's Wham Stadium with all three points after a chaotic conclusion.

Manager, Flynn enjoyed a stellar playing career in which he had four separate spells at today's opponents, Newport County. The Welshman took charge of County in 2017. He managed them for four years before taking the reins at Walsall, and now finds himself in the Swindon dugout.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE



23 Images

Today's image from the club photo archives is rather more off beat than usual – but nevertheless a piece of Rovers history 'stateside'.



During the heady days of NASL (North American Soccer League) in the 1960s and 1970s particularly, a good number of British players headed stateside during the close seasons.

None more other than Tranmere Rovers – which boasted a good number of its players plying their craft in the NASL.

The very first Rovers player to head stateside was respected centre-half Tony Knapp, who joined up the Los Angeles Aztecs as far back as 1968, but the most notable Rovers names to take part were firstly Ronnie Moore, who spent the summer of 1977 with Chicago Sting. Ronnie's exploits saw him score all five goals in a 5-0 whitewash of the Vancouver Whitecaps, which went on to create an all-time NASL record.

Ronnie overall throughout his playing career actually participated between 1971-72 and 1978-79, alongside another former Rovers favourite, Steve Peplow, again with Chicago Sting as his NASL career stretched from 1973-74 through to 1980-81.

Russ Allen (1975), Clive Griffiths (1975 & 1979), John James (1976), Bobby Tynan (1977) all followed Ronnie and Steve's path in the amber and black colours of the Sting. In 1975, Paul Crossley enjoyed a brief stint with the Seattle Sounder, but then left Rovers in 1977 to return permanently to the US, while the Vancouver Whitecaps beckoned for Barrie Mitchell (1975 & 1976).

Chief Scout and former player Dave Phillpotts enjoyed a strong spell also, turning out for both New York United and the California Lightning in the

mid-to-late 1970s, to add to the brief records of Eddie Cliff and Paul Cahill. In the leagues' later years, those teams in weaker markets had problems with profitability, and either moved onto an almost yearly basis or just folded altogether. The new, rival indoor league, the MISL (Major Indoor Soccer League) now found itself competing with the NASL for players and popularity.

Teams continued to fold and by 1984, the league was down to 9 teams. Several methods were then tried to increase the championship from a single game to a three game series to draw attention, but it was too little, too late.

The Chicago Sting finally defeated the Toronto Blizzard on 3 October 1984, to take the championship 2-0 in the last NASL game ever played.

TONY COOMBES / CLUB PHOTO ARCHIVE

DANGEROUS & ILLEGAL BEHAVIOUR HAS NO PLACE IN OUR GAME.

FOOTBALL HAS COME TOGETHER TO TOUGHEN MEASURES ADDRESSING FAN BEHAVIOUR AT MATCHES

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR:

- ✘ Entering the pitch without permission
- ✘ Smoke bombs and pyros
- ✘ Throwing objects
- ✘ Drug use
- ✘ Discriminatory behaviour
- ✘ Football Tragedy Abuse

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:

- ⊕ Serious injury
- ⊖ Automatic club ban
- ⚖ Reported to the police
- ⚖ Criminal record
- ⚖ Education and employment at risk
- ⚖ Stadium ban and criminal prosecution

HELP US ENSURE MATCHES ARE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL



LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME.

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

Newport County AFC



Manager:
Graham Coughlan
Black Shirts
Black Shorts & Socks

- 1 Joe DAY
- 2 Lewis PAYNE
- 3 Adam LEWIS
- 4 Ryan DELANEY
- 5 James CLARKE
- 6 Declan DRYSDALE
- 7 Will EVANS
- 8 Bryn MORRIS
- 9 Omar BOGLE
- 10 Offrande ZANZALA
- 11 James WAITE
- 14 Harrison BRIGHT
- 15 Josh SEBERRY
- 16 Sam BOWEN
- 17 Scot BENNETT
- 18 Kiban RAI
- 19 Shane MCLOUGHLIN
- 20 Harry CHARLESLEY
- 22 Nathan WOOD
- 23 Kyle JAMESON
- 24 Aaron WILDIG
- 26 Jon MAXTED
- 28 Matthew BAKER
- 30 Seb PALMER-HOULDEN
- 33 Matthew BONDSWELL
- 36 Corey EVANS
- 38 Alfie YOUNG
- 40 Fraser NEEDHAM
- 41 Nelson SANCA
- 67 Ollie THOMAS

Match Officials

Referee:
Sebastian Stockbridge

Assistant Referees:
Alex Gray
Lee Freeman

Fourth Official:
Paul Marsden

Fixtures



Saturday 9 December 2023

Accrington Stanley
v Doncaster Rovers

AFC Wimbledon
v Swindon Town

Barrow v Gillingham

Bradford City
v Salford City

Colchester United
v Crawley Town

Forest Green Rovers
v Wrexham

Grimsby Town
v Crewe Alexandra

Mansfield Town
v Milton Keynes Dons

Morecambe
v Stockport County

Notts County
v Walsall

Sutton United
v Harrogate Town

Tranmere Rovers
v Newport County

All games kick-off 3.00pm
unless stated



Next Game at Prenton Park

Tranmere Rovers versus Swindon Town
Sky Bet League Two / Saturday 23 December 2023 / Kick-off 3.00pm