

Tranmere Rovers



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

BARROW AFC

Sky Bet League Two

Saturday 5 August 2023 / Kick-off 3.00pm



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MATCHDAY



Tranmere Rovers versus Barrow AFC



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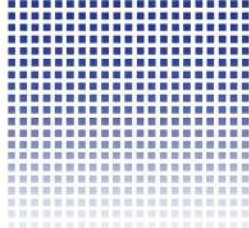
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TRANMERE ROVERS / OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME / SEASON 2023/24

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

Mark Paliós



It's great to see everyone back at Prenton Park for the kick-off of the new season, and I would like to welcome Barrow and the Bluebirds' supporters who have made the trip for this opening fixture.



We've had a busy summer and I would like to formally welcome all of the new first team players who have joined us - Kristian Dennis, Luke Norris, Luke McGee, Jake Leake and Josef Yarney. I believe that all of them have the capability to make a real impact in this campaign, and I look forward to watching them play.

It's undoubtedly going to be a tough division this time round, particularly with the likes of Wrexham, Stockport, Bradford, and Notts County all in the League 2 mix. The division has a distinctly north-west geographical bias, which should make for some great well attended and noisy matches. You can play your part by making sure that the SWA is in full voice, especially at times where the players may need a lift. The awful Covid season where matches were played behind closed doors showed what a difference the fans can make, and we need to turn that to our advantage at making this Fortress Prenton Park.

This year, we have decided that in addition to selling hard copy programmes, we will also be distributing free of charge an electronic copy of the programme, which I hope will mean that all of our supporters

can access the matchday content, as well as giving greater visibility to our sponsors and advertisers.

There has been lots of work going on behind the scenes during the close season, the most visible of which is the progress on the new fan park. Now that the arches are going up, I think fans can get a real sense of what a fantastic space it is going to be. We continue to work closely with TROSC and the Supporters' Trust to improve your matchday experience, including bringing more live music in the

TROSC bar, aesthetic improvements to the areas underneath the Kop Stand and some additional beer outlets so that you will be able to buy German Kraft beer from within the stadium, as well as in the fan park.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their season ticket for the coming campaign. At a time when we know budgets are tight for many, this is not something we would ever take for granted. Thanks for your support.

Ubi Fides Ibi Lux et Robur.





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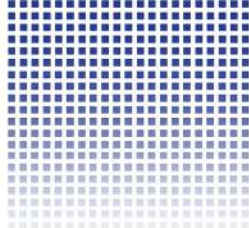
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Ian Dawes



Good afternoon and welcome to Prenton Park for our opening Sky Bet League Two fixture of the season against Barrow.

A new season is upon us, and we've been working hard with recruitment in this transfer window to upgrade the squad and improve the balance between youth and experience, which I believe we have done well. The squad have shown great character and application in the pre-season and look physically and tactically ready for the start of the new campaign.

The pre-season games have been positive exercises and with the variety of styles of play of the opposition, it gave us an opportunity to work on different aspects of our way of playing, both in and out of possession. We have a good squad with healthy competition for places and will still look to upgrade if the right players become available.

Since my last programme notes we have signed defenders Jake Leake and Joe Yarney. Jake, on a season-long loan from Hull City, is a promising young left back who made a good impression during a loan spell with Scunthorpe United last season and has integrated into the left back position seamlessly. 25-year-old Joe, an imposing centre half who the recruitment

team have been monitoring for a while, earned Oldham's Supporters' Player of the Season last term. Hopefully both will play important roles for us.

Ethan Bristow has left the Club, joining MLS side Minnesota United. In his first season in senior football, he became an important part of the first team. The coaching team worked closely with Ethan on his individual development, and he put 100% into every training session and game, so it was no surprise that his improvement through the season attracted interest from clubs. Whilst we are sad to see him go, other players will see how we are a club where the culture and environment support not just winning games but also have a focus on developing players which will help us to recruit more players with great potential. I wish him all the best in the USA.

Today's fixture is the first of 46 in the league campaign and whilst it's not how you start it's where you finish, we are fully focused on this game and aiming to achieve three points in a positive start to the season.

The players can't wait to walk out to a large and noisy support at Prenton Park. This Club has a fantastic fanbase who are real football people and your support both home and away is always appreciated by myself, the staff and the players. We will always give you maximum effort and commitment on the pitch and strive to give you a style of play to get the ground rocking, the players feed off that energy and it can make all the difference.

We want to create more great memories for you, and hopefully this afternoon is the start of a positive league campaign. Thank you again for your brilliant support and enjoy the game.





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Today's Matchday Mascot



We welcome today's matchday mascot, who is Leo Morris from Bebington.

Leo was 7 years old on Thursday, and is football mad.

He started attending games at Prenton Park from the age of 5 and he and his sister Bella have season tickets in The Kop with their Dad.

His favourite players are Kieron Morris and Josh Hawkes.

This season Leo is excited to attend his first away games.

If he's not playing football outside he's playing in football in the house!

Leo goes to school at Brackenwood Juniors and plays in midfield for Higher Bebington Celtics FC, and was part of the winning team who won The New Ferry Rangers tournament this summer and had the trophy presented by ex Tranmere player Alex Hay.

Leo even has his own personal celebration for when he scores a goal!

We hope you have a great day with us, and bring us some luck with all three points as a belated birthday present!

Happy Birthday!

A very happy 60th birthday to long-time supporter Colin Turner – or 'Wookie' as he so fondly known to regular followers of Rovers.

Not only a regular season ticket holder at Prenton Park, he's also renowned for his own 'season ticket' at Glastonbury every season! A colourful character who is always armed with his rattle at most home and away games!

We hope you have great day Colin, and round of your celebrations with a win this afternoon!

Happy 58th birthday to supporter Dave Blackwood!

While supporting Rovers, Dave also made his contribution to today's programme (Page 51), having taken on

the additional duties of photographer at nearby non-league neighbours Cammell Laird 1907 FC recently.

Have a great day today Dave!

A belated Happy Birthday to life-long supporter and former programme contributor, Tony Evans, who celebrated his big day last Monday.

Tony is indeed a familiar face to many, and over the decades at both Prenton Park and at away games.

Best wishes to you from the Club and all your friends!

Farewell Dr Huddleston

The Club would like to wish Dr Sam Huddleston the very best of luck as he leaves us to take up a new role at Manchester United.

Sam has been the Club Doctor at Tranmere Rovers for almost a decade and has played a key role behind the scenes with the medical provision provided for players.

In addition to always being at the end of the phone for support for players, Sam was heavily involved in devising the Club's Covid protocols which enabled training and games to continue to take place as safely as possible.

Good luck Sam and we hope to see you back at Prenton Park soon.



Super White SNAPSHOTSHOTS



This is Cleo Lamb - Born 16/06/2022 - then 1 year later with her favourites, giving them her autograph - from Hollie Myles and Wayne Lamb



This is a picture of our dad there "pops" taken with 2 of his 5 grand kids to their 1st but certainly not their last Tranmere match. Hopefully we can get all 5 there at the same time this season.



Three generations of Tranmere fans all at Vauxhall Motors pre-season - Paul, James and Teddie Dolphin



From Mike Clague



Sam Edwards - with the players at Vauxhall Motors



Away day mascot @ leyton orient for Macy's 13th birthday

Email us your photos along with words (maximum 40) to: tonyc@tranmererovers.co.uk no later than 8 working days before each home game.



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Opposition Luke Birch

Current Barrow manager Pete Wild joined from Halifax Town last summer, where he had spent three years in the National League.



Barrow AFC

Barrow finished in ninth place in the League Two table last season, their first under Wild, a vast improvement on The Bluebirds' finish of 22nd the season prior.

The Lancashire side were in a promotion push in the early part of the season, peaking in second-place, before falling away in the winter.

Barrow concluded their League Two campaign with four consecutive defeats, their worst run of the season, leaving them 13 points short of play-off football.

The Bluebirds won their first four pre-season games in-a-row in 2023/24, including a 1-0 win over second-tier Preston North End at Holker Street.

That run was followed by a 5-0 loss at home to Championship Blackpool, a 1-1 draw against Oldham Athletic, and an impressive win over Newcastle United's U21 side.

Wild, 39 had a brief spell in charge at Oldham Athletic in 2019, initially as caretaker manager.

He led Oldham to a 2-0 win over Tranmere at Boundary Park in 2019, breaking Tranmere's seven game unbeaten run under Micky Mellon.

Wild took charge of the England Amputee team between 2012 and 2015.

Born in Royston, Greater Manchester, Wild never played football professionally and started coaching at the age of 18.

He spent many years coaching in the Oldham Athletic academy, and rose up through the ranks.





The Present & The Past

THE PRESENT / PAUL FARMAN

Experienced goalkeeper Paul Farman won Barrow's player's player and supporters player of the season awards for 2022/23, and will be a crucial piece in Pete Wild's team in the forthcoming season.

Farman signed for Barrow in 2021 from local rivals Carlisle United, and has made 89 league appearances since, becoming a vocal figure in Pete Wild's team.

At 6'5" tall Farman has been an immense goalkeeping presence around the lower leagues since he made his debut for Blyth Spartans in 2008.

The North Shields native is probably best known for a successful stint with Lincoln City, which lasted from 2011 to 2018. A part of the Lincoln team that regularly did battle with Tranmere in the National League, Farman has conceded 16 goals in 11 career appearances against Tranmere.

Farman kept 22 clean sheets during the 2016/17 season under Danny Cowley as The Imps were promoted to League Two.

He played in every game of Lincoln City's impressive FA Cup run that season, including their memorable 1-0 win at Burnley, and quarter-final away at Arsenal.

He was also a part of the Lincoln squad that won the 2017/18 EFL Trophy. Farman made his first Football League appearance with Lincoln in the 2017/18 season, at the age of 27. He departed Sincil Bank at the end of the season having made 209 league appearances for The Imps.

The goalkeeper has also featured for Washington, Gateshead, Boston United, and Stevenage.



THE PAST / RON YEATS

Ron Yeats signed for Barrow in 1975 as a player-manager one year after leaving Tranmere Rovers. He occupied the same position at Tranmere Rovers from 1971 to 1974.

Arguably the greatest achievement of Yeats's reign was a 1-0 win over Arsenal at Highbury. Ahead of the match, Yeats encouraged current Tranmere chairman Mark Palios to man-mark Alan Ball, and it paid dividends, as Arsenal's star man struggled to play with his usual freedom. 'Big Ron' was also talismanic at the back for Tranmere that night, winning every header as Arsenal were forced to play the long-ball.

After making 110 appearances as a player, Yeats departed the club, and was succeeded by Johnny King as manager.

Yeats spent two years at Holker Street before departing for the Los Angeles Skyhawks of the then-booming American Soccer League. The defender is most well-known for his spell as a centre-back for Liverpool from 1961 to 1971.

He made 358 league appearances for Liverpool, and was a favourite of manager Bill Shankly. Shankly nicknamed him 'The Colossus' and he carried a reputation as a fearsome, aerially-dominant defender.

After helping The Reds to get promoted out of the second division, Yeats won two league titles and an FA Cup with Liverpool. Born in Aberdeen, Yeats only featured twice for Scotland as a player, due to the Scottish FA preferring domestic players at the time.

He made 96 league appearances for Dundee United before signing for Liverpool, but spent the rest of his career outside of Scotland.





Three Previous Encounters



BARROW AFC 3 TRANMERE ROVERS 4

Saturday 9 January 2016
National League

In January 2016, Tranmere came back from 3-1 down on 90 minutes, to defeat Barrow 4-3 in a thriller at Holker Street. A half-volley from Lois Maynard got Rovers' revival underway, before Jeff Hughes rounded the goalkeeper for Tranmere's second, and Jake Kirby's deflected strike sealed it in injury time.



TRANMERE ROVERS 1 BARROW AFC 0

Saturday 9 September 2017
National League

In September 2017, a 90th minute drilled shot from James Norwood helped Tranmere to edge past Barrow at Prenton Park. It was Norwood's first goal of a season which would eventually yield him 24 in all competitions, as Tranmere were promoted to League Two.



BARROW AFC 1 TRANMERE ROVERS 2

Thursday 29 December 2022
Sky Bet League 2

In December 2022, the last meeting between the teams, ten man Tranmere won 2-1 away at Barrow thanks to goals from Kane Hemmings and Jordan Turnbull. Paul Lewis was sent off in the 77th minute for a high boot on Barrow goalkeeper Josh Lillis.

Noteable Numbers

92

Meetings between Tranmere Rovers and Barrow in all competitions.

28

Barrow wins over Tranmere Rovers in all competitions.

4

Consecutive seasons competing in the EFL, since rejoining in 2020.

16,874

The record attendance for any Barrow game played at Holker Street - against Swansea Town (City) in a 1954 FA Cup Third Round tie.

9

Aggregate goals in the highest scoring meeting between the two clubs - via a 7-2 victory for Tranmere on New Years Day 1927, and played at Prenton Park.

48

Years spent outside the EFL before promotion in 2020.

62

Points total from last season's campaign in Sky Bet League Two.

47

Number of league goals scored during the 2022/23 season.

**TRANMERE ROVERS****BARROW****MATCH FACTS & TOTAL CARDS**

Tranmere are unbeaten in their last eight Football League games against Barrow (W6 D2), this after failing to win any of the previous eight such meetings before that run (D3 L5).

70**3****89****4**

Barrow have lost their last four away visits to Tranmere in the Football League, with their last such victory coming via a 3-0 win in September 1968 in the third tier.

**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**

0-15	5	8
16-30	8	6
31-45	8	14
46-60	8	4
61-75	6	9
76-90	10	7

**SCORED****CONCEDED**

0-15	9	8
16-30	8	8
31-45	8	4
46-60	7	8
61-75	6	10
76-90	9	15

Includes data from the 2022-23 season.

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Opposition Dream Team

Charlie Stubbs selects a former Barrow fantasy 'eleven'

1 - Goalkeeper: Peter McDonnell

McDonnell starts between the sticks for this dream Barrow XI. He joined the Cumbrian side at the end of his career, first signing in 1985, before coming back for six years, starting in 1986. He won the 1990 FA Trophy at the club, but whilst he was Liverpool's backup, he won the 1977 European Cup, under Bill Shankly.



2 - Right Back: Brian Arrowsmith

The first of our back four is Brian Arrowsmith, playing in the position he started his career in. Across two spells, he played 512 games between 1961-71 and 1974-78.

The hometown hero, turned captain and player-manager, is widely loved at the club and even has the main stand at Holker Street named after him.



3 - Centre Back: Paul Jones

Superwhites academy graduate Paul Jones comes in at centre back for the Barrow XI. Across two spells in Cumbria, he was a leader in the side, becoming club captain and a temporary player-manager in 2007. During his spells, he won two promotions, both from the sixth tier, in 1997-98 and 2007-08, and the FA Trophy in 2010.



4 - Centre Back: Dan Jones

Despite the plethora of talent, Port Vale's Dan Jones comes in as the left centre back. First signing for the Bluebirds in 2017, he impressed Paul Cox, Micky Moore and Adrian Pennock due to his work-rate. He left in 2019, to join Salford City, only to return on loan in 2020, to play four games in Barrow's covid-impacted 2020 National League Title.

5 - Left Back: Kevin Proctor

Just like his right back, Kevin Proctor is another hometown hero of the club, playing 375 times. Brought through by reserves manager, Brian Arrowsmith, he made his debut at the age of 18, in 1975, and was even named Player of the Year in 1988.

6 - Centre Midfield: Kenny Lowe

Player-turned-manager Kenny Lowe

started his career in 1981, part-time at Hartlepool, whilst training as an apprentice pipe-fitter and welder. It wasn't until 1987 that he joined the Cumbrian side. He was a key player for the side across his three seasons, however a bid of £40,000 saw him leave the club, heading to Barnet. He joined as a manager in 1999, guiding the club through administration before his eventual departure in 2003.

7 - Right Midfield: Jason Walker

Another position and another hometown boy, as Jason Walker fills in at the right midfield spot. Growing up in the area, he was spotted by a Dundee scout, age 16, which saw him move north. He returned to his hometown, aged 23, who were in the Conference North at the time. 140 games, 46 goals, a 2008 promotion and a 2010 FA Trophy winner followed before his eventual departure to Luton.

He returned in May 2014 for two seasons, helping the club win the 2015 Conference North Title.

8 - Left Midfield: Neil Doherty

Just like his fullbacks and his winger, Neil Doherty fills in on the left, and is Barrow-born. He played eight seasons across three stints (1990-94, 1998-1999 and 1999-2002.) 1992 saw the Bluebirds relegated to the Conference National. Despite Barrow's efforts, promotion wasn't happening so Doherty left to join Birmingham City, for £40,000. He returned, initially on loan, which was made permanent in 1999, and went on to make 446 appearances for the club.

9 - Centre Attacking Midfield: John Rooney

Younger brother of Wayne, John Rooney may have only played three seasons for Barrow, but was an instrumental part of the team when he played. Across 110 league games, he scored 32 goals, 17 of which were in Barrow's National League winning season, which he formed a lethal partnership with one of the strikers in this team.

10 - Striker: Colin Cowperthwaite

For any of the visiting supporters today, this should be the easiest name on the team. Voted Barrow's all-time greatest player, he played for the club from December 1977 to December 1992. In this time, he played 704 times, scoring 282, including a then-record fastest recorded goal in the English game, scoring after 3.5 seconds against Kettering Town. He was a part of the side that won the 1990 FA Trophy, scoring in a 3-0 win against Leek Town, at Wembley.

11 - Striker: Scott Quigley

Alongside the greatest player in Barrow history, we have the top goalscorer of the club upon their return to the football league in 2019-20, Scott Quigley. The Shrewsbury-born forward scored 35 goals across 73 games for Barrow, achieving club top scorer in both of his seasons, and league top scorer in his first.



Luke McGEE

New goalkeeper signing Luke is our first interviewee of the new season...

Welcome to Tranmere Rovers, how has your first pre-season been?

I've really enjoyed it; the lads are a great bunch. All the staff have been welcoming and I really like the area.

How has the transition been from living in the south to the north?

I was born in Edgware in London and grew up in Potters Bar, but we've been everywhere; Portsmouth, Bradford, Bath. Everyone is friendlier up here. My little one, my missus and the dog are enjoying walking, we're really looking forward to getting our house sorted soon. However, I'm waiting for the sun

to come out, it's the wettest pre-season I've ever had!

You came through the Academy at Tottenham, what are your favourite memories from your time there?

Perry Suckling was my goalkeeper coach, he was my biggest influence for the whole decade I was there, he's always had my back and been good with me, especially off the pitch. For my last year I went on loan to Peterborough, but the two years before that I trained with the first team. It was great to learn from the likes of Brad Friedel, Michel Vorm and Hugo Lloris, seeing how they trained was a big help.

You won promotion with Forest Green Rovers in 2022, what did you learn from that season that you can bring to Tranmere?

The changing room atmosphere is so important. We had a rough patch towards the end, but you think back to how good we were before then, and the lads all stuck together and got us promoted, so the experience of overcoming those setbacks can only benefit me. You have to get the right people in the door, and the gaffer and the team behind the team have done brilliantly, we're all on the same page and pushing towards the same goal.

>>>



How would you describe yourself as a goalkeeper?

I'm very vocal on the pitch, that was instilled in me at Tottenham. The lads know 80-90% of the stuff I'm shouting at them, so most of it is reaffirming to them that they're doing the right thing, but there may be occasions where they don't see a runner for example, and then they go and deal with it which makes my job easier. Communication is so important for me, but I love making saves too!

You're vocal on the pitch, but who's the most vocal in the changing room?

Tom Davies and Harvey Saunders are loud, but Paul Lewis goes under the radar because he's sly about it, he likes stitching you up every now and again!

Who have you grown close with at the Club?

Regan Hendry. We were together at Forest Green, and he's helped me settle in massively. I've played golf with Kieron Morris and Josh Hawkes to name a couple. You get on well with people within the football environment, but

away from football is where you really get to know them. I've spoken to and got on well with everyone, it's such a great bunch.

What's your favourite meal to have after a training session or match?

Deliveroo at the moment as I've been in the hotel. I don't eat meat, so I go for a yasai katsu or tofu rice curry from Wagamama's. When we're settled into the house, it'll be spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread pre-match and then I don't really have a set meal for afterwards.

Which artist are you listening to when you're arriving at The Campus in the morning?

It's only a 15-minute drive at the moment, I call my missus and the little one hands-free until it cuts off in the tunnel! For the remainder, it's whatever is on the personalised Spotify playlists, usually JP Cooper!

Favourite song of all time?

JP Cooper – 'The Only Reason' – that

was our first dance when we got married.

What movies or TV shows have you been watching recently?

Kane Hemmings recommended I watch 'Silo'. Weird show. The first six or seven episodes were really good, but it got strange towards the end!

Favourite footballer of all time?

Iker Casillas for what he's done, but I love Gianluigi Buffon. His longevity epitomises the sacrifices you make in football, you can tell he loves the game. If I can go that long, I'll be happy!

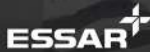
And finally, who would you consider to be your role model?

My parents. They gave up so much when I was young for me to play football and they felt the difficulties of that, I can't repay them enough. Also, Perry Suckling at Tottenham. Without him I wouldn't be a goalkeeper. Our goalie for my local team didn't turn up one morning so I volunteered. A Tottenham scout happened to be there and then Perry saw something in me.





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BEST JOCKEYS OR BEST HORSES

During the break from football I have had few enjoyable days at the races. I don't bet - but just enjoy watching and trying to pick the winner in my own mind. I take the family and quite often there is an artist or band playing after the last race which makes it a good day out. At one of them we were in a sponsor's lounge where a pundit was answering questions from the racegoers. The reply that interested me most was about some of the factors to consider when trying to predict the winner.



The first piece of advice was 'don't expect to make money following jockeys' - although there are plenty of punters who do...through 'thick and thin' mainly 'thin' I think...so not a good idea. When I first got interested my friends used to give me tips based on who the jockey was - and many of the reasons seemed plausible. Willie Carson was one of the best of his generation and could ride at low weights in handicaps so follow him when he was riding at 7-13 and below. Pat Eddery was great on courses with an uphill finish and Steve Cauthen was a specialist on front-runners - all sounding very logical.

Having said that I thought I would share some of the top tips given to me about jockeys by my expert that separate the best jockeys from their colleagues in the weighing room.

1. They break from the stalls in a way that allows the horse to get to its optimum position in a race.
2. They make sure their horse steers clear of trouble.
3. They keep their horse on the best ground during the race.
4. They make sure their horse will get a good passage when making its effort.
5. They understand the right energy distribution for their horse and get the fractions right (are they a front-runner, do they require an even pace, do they need holding up for the finish).
6. They understand the quirky tracks and intermediate distances such as 7 furlongs and 1 mile 1 furlong.

7. They make their effort with the horse at the right time.

8. They get their horse in a relaxed mode in the early stages of the race (not pulling hard and wasting energy).

9. They get their horse to change their legs at the right time (important on tracks with lots of turns and undulating ground).

10. They have the ability to keep their mounts running in a straight line when making their effort, which is arguably one of the most important.

And don't forget that some are just better than others - like in any sport. Some jockeys seem able to ride any sort of horse, are better at some courses than others and click with certain trainers. Others have better win strike rates in a certain class of race or are better in a small field than larger ones. There are so many variables. But if you are going to follow a particular jockey the advice was to always base your assessment on facts, not perception. If your horse is likely to race from the front then the importance of the jockey is lessened. On the other hand, if your horse usually settles somewhere from off the pace to back in the field then the significance of the jockey increases. Moderate and poor jockeys on horses that need to make up ground in the straight to win are usually poor propositions.

A day at the races can be a lovely family day out and we are lucky to have a number of great courses locally which we can enjoy for fun.



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Tranmere Rovers In The Community

Ollie and Max from TRIC's Adult Disability football session volunteer at Special Olympics.

Ollie and Max, who attend Tranmere Rovers in the Community's weekly Adult Disability Football session, travelled to Berlin recently to volunteer at the Special Olympics with their school, Claremount Specialist Sports College.

Ollie has been coming along to our disability sessions for eight years, coming through our junior sessions and moving up to our adult provision, and follows Rovers home and away with his dad. Max, Ollie's friend from school, joined him at the session in 2019 and has come along ever since.

The pair demonstrated inclusive activities in Berlin, and were involved in several events around the German capital around the Special Olympics, the world's largest inclusive sports event where thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities compete together.

"We helped out with the Special Olympics over two days," Max told us. "We had a really good time. I really enjoyed it, it was good for me and for the school as well and it was a good opportunity."

"I was really surprised how much I enjoyed it, like meeting all the different countries, getting out there and going to different places," Ollie added.

"I've been coming for about seven or eight years and I've really enjoyed it. I'm slowly

getting better, Faye (Premier League Primary Stars) has really helped me a lot, and I'd love to come for a few more years hopefully as I really enjoy it."

Faye commented: "I'm extremely proud of Ollie and Max for promoting inclusivity at the Special Olympics. They are two people who have massively benefited from our sessions here and grown during their time with us, so it's great to see them going out and volunteering in Berlin."

If you'd like to find out more about our junior or adult disability football sessions, you can contact Faye by email at FayeJ@tranmererovers.co.uk.



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD GAMES
BERLIN 2023**



MATCH IMAGES

22/7 & 28/7/2023

Goals from Connor Jennings and Harvey Saunders were part of an entertaining home pre-season, as both Everton and Wigan Athletic provided the opposition at Prenton Park - with both matches ending all square, and via identical 1-1 scorelines.

Photos: Richard Ault/Tony Coombes



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GIANTS



of Prenton Park



NICK HILTON'S ROVERS RETROSPECTIVE

JAMES HANNAY MCGAUL

1

Any consideration about the most influential figures in Tranmere Rovers' history has to start with James Hannay McGaul. Or, as he became known locally, simply "Pa" - an affectionate acknowledgement of his standing as father of the club that sprang to life during the 1880s.



Birkenhead born of Scottish parents, McGaul was a building contractor by way of trade and business, a churchgoer and an enthusiast for the game of Association Football that rapidly gained popularity during the later decades of the 19th century.

He was president of the club from its inception until Tranmere Rovers became a limited company in 1911.

McGaul was not among the group of young Birkenhead cricketers, members of Belmont CC and Lyndhurst Wanderers CC who, in 1884, formed a football team so they could enjoy sporting activity during the winter months as well as the summer.

Those mostly teenage players shared a connection to Higher Tranmere Wesleyan Chapel, and were smart enough to understand that their venture would benefit enormously from the input of a figure with local stature, influence and a little wealth.

They knew just the man, a fellow member of their church in Whitfield Street. McGaul was in his early 40s at the time. While the building business was based in Liverpool, his personal and social life was anchored in Birkenhead and a modest home in Thompson Street, Higher Tranmere.

The authors of "Tranmere Rovers – the Complete Record" – Gilbert Upton, Steve Wilson and Peter Bishop – recorded that McGaul was deeply entrenched in the public and civic life of the town.

They wrote: "McGaul devoted his free time to the Higher Tranmere Wesleyan Chapel, football and public office, twice becoming mayor of Birkenhead.

"A lifelong bachelor and a Conservative, he was also a Justice of the Peace and a Freemason.

"With a dry sense of humour, some thought of him brusque, yet he was said to be a man of simple tastes whose life was devoted to useful deeds and benefaction."

The authors argue it is more than likely McGaul was responsible for the change in name, from Belmont to Tranmere Rovers, announced in the Birkenhead News prior to the start of the team's second season, in September 1885.

That's because McGaul had a previous involvement with a different club named Tranmere Rovers CC (Association Football Section) which played one season in 1881/82 before dropping the "Rovers" from their title. This club played on until 1888 before disbanding.

The Tranmere Rovers that evolved from Belmont, meanwhile, went from strength to strength.

They played their early friendly games on

open farmland off Borough Road and then at a field in Chester Street.

They entered the Liverpool and District Challenge Cup for the first time in 1886/87 and then the regular competition of the West Lancashire League in 1889/90.

From then on Tranmere began climbing the regional ladder of organised football, through the Liverpool and District League, the Lancashire Combination, the Liverpool Wirral and District League and others.

Along the way, McGaul stepped in on a number of occasions when financial problems threatened, keeping the club solvent. He was more determined than anyone to keep the club in the Prenton area.

Two years after Tranmere established a home on a site of the Devonshire Park School in Borough Road in 1887, an internal row developed about the pitch and facilities at the first incarnation of Prenton Park.

The majority of players left to form rival club Birkenhead FC.

McGaul, club secretary Alf Mayor and team secretary Jack Dodd scrambled to put a team together for the new season but entered a lower rated league, the Lancashire Alliance, than they had originally prepared for.

Tranmere rode out the storm, many of the defecting players returned to the fold and the club recorded a first championship in 1907/08 when they won the Combination, a 14 team league made up of teams from the Wirral, Cheshire and North Wales.

McGaul stepped down as president in 1911 at the age of 70. Happily his dream that Tranmere Rovers would gain entry to the Football League was realised less than a year before his death in December 1921.

"The Complete Record" reports how the Birkenhead Advertiser paid fulsome tribute, describing McGaul as "the most rugged personality in the public social and religious life of Birkenhead over the past 30 years."



Connor
Jennings

18

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.

OUR LATEST WINNING NUMBERS



SATURDAY 29.7.2023

The winners of our prize draws for are:

£40 gift voucher: **Andrew Magney**

£20 gift voucher: **Allan Sutton**

£15 gift voucher: **Neil Pritchard**

£10 gift voucher: **John Davies**

£10 gift voucher: **Terry Foy**

Well done to all this weeks' winners!

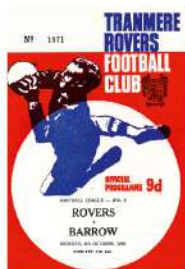
Your prizes can be collected from the Club Store, or please get in touch via lottery@tranmererovers.co.uk



COVER TO COVER

ANDREW STURGEON ON BARROW V TRANMERE 1969/70

The first meeting of these two teams goes back to the days of the Lancashire Combination Leagues, before the formation of the Division 3 North. Both teams were founder members of this division in 1921, and it was here that the majority of battles took place between the sides, until the north/south divide was scrapped, to form Divisions 3 and 4.



The teams parted ways as Tranmeres' top half finish (11th) meant they were placed in Division 3, whilst Barrow in 18th went to Division 4.

Following promotion in 66/67 Barrow maintained equity with the Rovers once again, and stayed in Division 3 until their relegation at the end of the 69-70 season.

It was within this season, that both teams chose a goalkeeping image for the front cover of their programmes. The Tranmere cover is predominantly red, with a central white circle, and the image of a keeper holding the ball jumping up; whilst the blue cover of the Barrow programme shows the keeper diving, but missing the ball, which goes behind them to form the 'O' in the spelling of Barrow AFC, placed vertically on the left hand side.

With Tranmere winning 3-0 at Holker Street and 5-0 at Prenton Park, perhaps the programme covers of this season, did provide inspiration for the players.

The 'Outlook' is a 16-page programme, priced at one shilling,

and provides plenty of reading material including four pages of "Chatter Box", which takes us through the off season happenings at the club. A page is dedicated to the Pen Pics of the visitors, the majority of which eulogises George Yardley, whilst young Trevor Storton is described as a 'red haired pivot'. Team line-ups in the centre pages are in white on blue ink, the only colour within the programme itself.

The goalkeeping theme continues with a page on Barrow's new keeper George Heyes and his unusual pastime of 'rug-making' which he suggests has come in handy for his new home.

The teams met again at Prenton Park, in early October. The Tranmere programme was priced at 9d and was rather heavy on the advertising front, which accounted for over 50% of the 20 pages.

The back page was reserved for the Co-op, who on this occasion sported a smiling cartoon of another jumping goalkeeper, accompanied by the tagline, "save at the Birkenhead Co-op". On the inside cover, Sir Robert Lloyd & Co

take out a half-page advert, asking "Is your 'goal' a new home[?]". Not to be outdone in terms of football related puns, Max Spielmann take out a full page text based advert, suggesting "The Best Shots" are made by them.

On their programmes, both teams place their crest towards the top right of the programme and although these have both been 'modernised' in recent years, the ships remain. Whilst other teams may have sea vessels on their crests, Barrow and Tranmere remain the only sides in the league to maintain homage to the local ship building industries, in this way.

Unbeknown at the time, the October meeting would be the last time the teams would meet in the football league for another 50 years. Of course towards the end of those intervening years they did clash in 'non-league' action. Therefore, making Barrow along with Wrexham the only teams to be ever present opposition, for Tranmere, when they have played in both Division 3 North and the National League.



Tranmere Rovers Supporters Club



Good afternoon, and a happy new season to you all. It only feels like yesterday that we sat and watched Northampton celebrate promotion at Prenton Park, and yet here we are. I hope you've all enjoyed the close season. A warm welcome to to the Barrow supporters.



Thanks to everyone who has signed up with us for the new season. If you're still waiting to sign up, you can do so via the club's ticketing website. Simply login with your TR number as you would when buying tickets and select 'Memberships'. From there you should find the process fairly simple but please get in touch via supportersclub@tranmererovers.co.uk with any queries. If you've already signed up, you can collect your membership pack from

Aldo's before today's game if you're reading this early, or prior to the Harrogate and Salford games later this month.

As ever, we will be providing coaches for away games, we've had great responses to the coaches for Barnsley and MK Dons - both of which are sold out! Please keep an eye on our social media channels (see bottom of the page) for details of future coach trips as they are announced and remember that all TROSC members receive a discount on each coach.

It may be a new season but as ever we will be in Aldo's, with our hub offering continuing to complement the draught bar. We are open pre-game for all home fans, and during the game (3.15pm onwards) if you're in the Kop. As well as our usual great offers, you can expect lots of live music this season post-match, so what better way to celebrate home win after home win? And it begins today with Rigsby's Cat so why not



call in after the game? You won't regret it.

During the off-season we took pre-orders for our latest retro offering, completing the 89-91 range with the yellow away shirt. The interest in these was huge so thank you to all those who have ordered and please keep an eye out for more info once we firm up delivery times. Enjoy the game, here's for a great start and hopefully a successful season ahead.
SWA



Tackling Mental Health On Home Ground

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Mental health is a topic much talked about these days with a lot more awareness and sensitivity towards it. In the past it has always been viewed as a stigma and has been grossly labelled a taboo to communicate about openly.

Here we would like to provide a safe space to share experiences and hope to help others in any way we can as talking and sharing are ultimately the best ways in helping people with their mental health needs and moving forward.

We would like our fans to get in touch and discuss what it means for them to talk and how they've overcome any problems or ongoing issues they still deal with and hope to provide some help in any way we can.

There are a lot of services out there that might suit our needs very well that we are just not aware of at all or in which way to best access it. It's about knowing and learning what can best help us in leading fulfilling lives.


So from here on please get in touch, anonymity and sensitivity will be applied to anyone and everyone who would like to talk about how their lives or someone else's has been affected by mental health. We can all help each other in some way.

Hopefully in this column we can discuss more and have our own fans doing what we do best and support each other.



**Please get in touch via email jamie.porter.trfc@gmail.com
or on twitter @JamiePorterTRFC**

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The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

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This time last year Alex Scott was on the fringes of the Bristol City first team and Chuba Akpom didn't even have a squad number.

As I write, midfielder Scott is on the cusp of a £25m move to Bournemouth and Akpom is one of the Championship's most feared forwards after plundering an incredible 29 goals to seal the Golden Boot.

So who will be this season's stars? Who has a point to prove? As The Football League Paper relaunches this weekend after its summer hiatus, we pick out four players to watch:

Jobe Bellingham - Sunderland

Even at the tender age of 17, much is expected of Bellingham. Big brother Jude joined Dortmund for £25m at the same age, and is now a Galactico at Real Madrid.

Little wonder then that eyebrows were raised when Birmingham accepted a £300,000 offer from Sunderland and sent young Jobe on his way. They didn't retire his shirt, either.

In truth, the deal was largely driven by Birmingham's desire to work with Mike Dodds, the Sunderland development coach whose work in the Birmingham academy is often cited by the Madrid

man as being of pivotal importance. Yet it has also left many pondering Birmingham's willingness to let Bellingham depart, and whether - despite a stylistic similarity to his brother - he has the talent to match his illustrious name.

Conor Chaplin - Ipswich

Chaplin, 26, has just signed a new three-year deal at Ipswich after a remarkable season which saw him plunder 29 goals and win League One's Golden Boot - despite not even playing as a striker.

At just 5ft 6ins, what he lacks in height he makes up for in pace and tenacity, revelling in a relatively free No.10 role that frequently sees him storm into the box to finish off chances.

Much like Chuba Akpom at Middlesbrough, Chaplin is the team's attacking pivot and if the tipsters backing Ipswich to take the Championship by storm are to be proved correct, much will depend on him recreating last year's form.

Matus Holicek - Crewe

Crewe's legendary production line has



dried up in recent years but Holicek is widely regarded as the most exciting player to emerge from Gresty Road in a generation.

Aged 18, the Slovakian Under-20 star signed a long-term deal in January and made his league debut two months later. It's early days, and manager Lee Bell has urged supporters to show patience as he gradually beds Holicek into the team.

Nevertheless, the teenager's technique and vision (he has said he models his game on Kevin De Bruyne) offers a threat in any advanced midfield role.

Nick Powell - Stockport

Powell has spent much of the last five years making the Championship look easy, and was regularly linked to Premier League sides during his time at Wigan and Stoke.

So it came as a considerable surprise when - still aged just 29 - he pitched up at League Two Stockport last month.

A former Crewe wonderkid who joined Manchester United as a teenager, Powell has been hampered by injury in recent years. But if the elusive forward plays anywhere close to his elegant and implacable best, League Two defences



A successful preseason campaign so far for the Girls...

Tranmere Rovers Women kicked-started their pre-season campaign with a trip to Rhyl and took home a 4-0 victory.

Two weeks later and it was a trip over the Welsh border again to take on Connaught Quay. It was another successful run out with a clean sheet and four goals for Rovers.

Just last week both our first team and development team took part in the Britannia Cup tournament. Going undefeated in the group stages and progressing to the semi-final both Rovers teams faced each other.

After a tough battle between the two sides, it was the first team who progressed to the final to face Blackpool Ladies FC.

Izzy Arrowsmith opened the scoring to give Tranmere the lead early on and just moments later she picked up her second to give Rovers a comfortable lead.

On the stroke of the final whistle, Tranmere got their third goal and confirmed their victory defeating the Tangerines 3-0.

Winning every game without conceding a single goal, Rovers lifted the trophy and were crowned champions of the Britannia Cup.

Three fantastic run-outs for the girls so far as they prepare for the new 2023/24 campaign getting much-needed minutes in their legs.

Preparations continue as we look ahead to the new campaign with fixtures against FC United, Mossley Hill and TNS, with the official season starting on Sunday 20th August.



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**Next Home Game
v Mossley Hill**

Sunday 6 August 2023

Pre-Season Friendly

Kick-off 2.00pm

Ellesmere Port Sports Village

Free Admission

Free Parking



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ROBINSON



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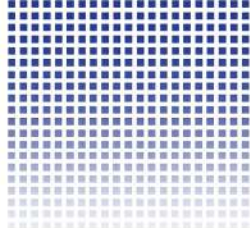


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Steve Bower



HOME GROWN GUEST WRITER

Happy new season! - First of all, I'd just like to say that it's fantastic to be involved in a small way this season, sharing some thoughts from the footballing and sporting worlds for your pre-match pie and pint ritual.

Having been broadcasting for over 30 years in football I've heard some stories and gone through some experiences, but everyone in the media will tell you, once you've switched off professionally you always head straight to your club's score and report if you aren't lucky enough to be at the game itself.

I've been watching Rovers for almost 45 years. Ingrained into me from an early age by my dad, who's been a season ticket holder for over 60 years and starts another season with one today. My uncle, brother and now my two sons are all in the ritual, we all know what it means when it's your club. I try to explain to colleagues all over the country how special our club is and that it's something that never leaves you.

I am extremely fortunate to have spent the early part of my career covering and commentating on Rovers in my Radio City days, those are some of the fondest memories I have, the influence on my life from Johnny King and lifetime friendships which are still going strong today.

I tell my sons about the Play-Offs, constant Wembley visits, and look at recent examples like Luton Town. As a fan you can always dream.

That feeling we all have before a ball is kicked. That adrenaline and enthusiasm thinking this could be our season again. Why can't it be with Ian Daves, the return of Nigel Adkins to his spiritual home, and some exciting new faces?

Players and managers at all levels tell me how difficult a place Prenton Park is to go for the opposition. Let's hope that's the case today and that feeling of positivity is boosted further.

Enjoy the game!

SWA



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

Barnsley

Carabao Cup First Round
Tuesday 8 August 2023
Kick-off 7.45pm



Match Admission

Barry Murphy North Stand (Covered Seating).
Advance Sales: Adults £10, Seniors £5, Under 19 £5,
Under 14 £5 (must be accompanied by an Adult).
Matchday Sales: Adults £12, Seniors £7, Under 19 £7,
Under 14 £7 (must be accompanied by an Adult).
Tickets now on general sale.

Club Coach Travel

Departs Prenton Park 4.15pm.
Adults £30 Concessions £28.
Seats subject to availability.

Stadium Location & Main Contact

Oakwell Stadium, Grove Street, Barnsley S71 1ET
Main Telephone: 01226 211 211.

Milton Keynes Dons

Sky Bet League Two
Saturday 12 August 2023
Kick-off 3.00pm



Match Admission

North Stand Upper Tier (Covered Seating).
Advance Sales: Adults £24, Senior (Over 65) £18,
Under 25 £12, Under 21 £6, Under 14 £3 (must be
accompanied by an Adult).
Matchday Sales: Adults £26, Senior (Over 65) £20,
Under 25 £14, Under 21 £8, Under 14 £5 (must be
accompanied by an Adult).
Tickets now on general sale.

Club Coach Travel

Departs Prenton Park 9.30am.
Adults £36 Concessions £34.
Seats subject to availability.

Stadium Location & Main Contact

Stadium MK, Stadium Way, Milton Keynes MK1 1ST
Main Telephone: 01908 622 933.

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Fancy taking your first step into football coaching?



Tranmere Rovers will soon launch our 'Football for Change' project which will offer 12 young people the opportunity to gain the FA accredited 'Introduction to Coaching Football' qualification free of charge. This is an internationally recognised qualification and a prerequisite to the UEFA C Licence.

The qualification will be offered as part of a wider project that will also include weekly sport and education workshops, guest speaker sessions and an end-of-project trip to the National Football Museum in Manchester where participants will have the opportunity to explore the history of 'The Beautiful Game' and celebrate gaining their qualification. Participants must be aged between 18-24 and not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and be able to commit to attending all sessions for a 16-week period.

Sessions are likely to take place every Wednesday between September and December (TBC) and will be delivered from Prenton Park and The Campus.

Head of Business Development and Community Matt Houghton said 'This is a great opportunity for any young person who's interested in football coaching to come down to the club and get involved in a range of activities whilst also working towards a qualification. Young people will benefit from being within a professional sporting environment and will also get to hear firsthand from club staff who have a wealth of experience in the industry. I'd urge anyone aged 18-24 who haven't gone to college or university or haven't got full-time work to get in touch for more information.'

What's on offer?

- ** FA accredited 'Introduction to Coaching Football'
- ** Weekly sport and education workshops (Wednesday)
- ** Guest speakers from Tranmere Rovers
- ** Day trip to the National Football Museum, Manchester (Dec/Jan)
- ** Potential pathways to work experience/employment opportunities

Your Commitment

- ** Attendance at all weekly workshops
- ** Desire to learn and develop
- ** Commitment to complete the coaching qualification

There are no costs associated to the project and all sessions will be delivered by qualified staff from Tranmere Rovers.

For more information and to register your interest, please contact Matt Houghton by emailing matthoughton@tranmererovers.co.uk



TRDSA

Tranmere Rovers Disabled
Supporters Association

FOOTBALL FOR ALL

Hello and welcome back to another new season of football at Prenton Park to the Super White Army. It's been a long summer without League Two action and I, for one, am glad to be back cheering on the Rovers, as I'm sure many of you are too. A warm welcome is also extended to Barrow's fans for making the trip across from Cumbria and we hope you enjoy your day on the Wirral.

New Disability Identifiers

We are delighted to be launching a new scheme whereby fans who have either a visible or hidden 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 from 4th August onwards. 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.

Open Day Success

We'd like to thank everyone who came to visit our stall at the Open Day a few weeks ago. We'd also like to thank those who donated some excellent prizes to make our tombola a big success.



Expertly managed by Vice Chair Naomi and non-executive committee member Harry, it was great to see so many of you and raise much-needed funds to support our work to improve things at Tranmere for disabled fans and those who come with them.

New Food 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.

Whatsapp Group

Last summer, we set up 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 us a line on TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com.

Easy Access 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.

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

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. Which former Rovers midfielder recently moved to Saudi Arabian second division side Al-Qadsiah?

2. Returning hero Connor Jennings netted a superb volley against which local side during our 2018/19 FA Cup run?

3. Which player scored the winning goal in Rovers' famous 4-3 victory against today's opponents in January 2016?

4. Other than Erling Haaland, which Manchester City player scored a Premier League hat-trick last season?

5. Can you name the former Rovers centre back that joined Barrow in 2021 following a three-year spell at Prenton Park?

6. Former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard recently took charge of which Saudi Arabian club?

7. What was the score the last time Rovers faced Barrow here at Prenton Park?

8. Which Welsh Premier League side did Rovers' head coach Ian Dawes manage in 2016?

9. In which league position did Barrow finish the season they were promoted to League Two (2019/20)?

10. Which League One side was Luke McGee loaned out to last season?

WORDSEARCH...

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

BARROW
BRADFORD CITY
CRAWLEY TOWN
GILLINGHAM
GRIMSBY TOWN
MANSFIELD TOWN
MORECAMBE

NEWPORT COUNTY
NOTTS COUNTY
SALFORD CITY
SUTTON UNITED
SWINDON TOWN
WALSALL

KIT OF
THE DAY

>>>>>



Which year
is this kit
from?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 57...

Today marks the commencement of the 2023/24 Sky Bet League Two season. The unpredictable twists and turns, the last-minute winners, the cheering, the chanting and all things in between have returned.



The new arrivals from League One will be planning a swift return to the third division this campaign. They consist of MK Dons, Morecambe, Accrington Stanley, and Forest Green. MK Dons finished the highest of the four, but were relegated to the fourth division by the narrowest of margins, concluding the season a singular point from the survival zone.

A win on the final day of the season would have guaranteed Morecambe safety, but they were defeated 3-2 away at Exeter City, as Fulham loanee, Jay Stansfield's hat-trick sealed Derek Adams' side's fate. Joint on points with them was Accrington Stanley, who departed League One with a final three points, as Aaron Pressley's 85th minute winner against

Oxford United was not enough to maintain their position in the division.

Forest Green will play their football in League Two again this season, after they failed in their bid to survive in the third division after winning the fourth division title in 2022, finishing a stellar season with 84 points.

Alongside the three new recruits who were relegated, are two teams who experienced the polar opposite emotions last campaign: Wrexham and Notts County.

The former clinched the National League title in style, ending a magnificent season with a remarkable 111 points. The Welsh outfit gained the world's attention after being taken over by Hollywood stars, Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenry, and will have aspirations of a consecutive promotion this time around. Notts County enjoyed a fantastic season themselves, and deservedly won the play-off final in dramatic fashion after accumulating 107 points. They progressed to the final at



Wembley with a 3-2 win over Boreham Wood, scoring in the seventh minute of injury time to send it to extra-time, and then in the 120th minute to book their place in the final.

The final was equally as exciting, as County defeated Chesterfield on penalties to seal their return to the Football League after a four-year absence.



THE NATIVE NON-LEAGUE SCENE



Our local non-league neighbours Cammell Laird 1907 are the focus of our first feature this season - thanks to club photographer and Rovers follower Dave Blackwood - this following requests via our close season fans survey for an overview of local grass roots football.

The reincarnated club of recent times followed on from where they finished 11th at the close of season 2013/14, but issues off the pitch prompted a decision to resign from the NPL due to owner ship issues, and a new club Cammell Laird 1907 was formed.

The new club successfully applied for a place in the NWCFL, and began the 2014/15 season at home to Atherton Collieries but despite a goal from Joe Holt the visitors took the points with a 2-1 victory.

Tony Sullivan was replaced by Paul McNally in October and he guided the club to promotion in April.

Sullivan returned as manager in February 2016 with the club 16th in the NWCFL Premier League table and finishing the season 15th.

The 2016/17 season saw Neil Prince replace Sullivan as manager but with most of the squad leaving the club struggled Mick McGaah took over in September but could not turn it around as the club finished bottom with just 3 wins in their 42 league games (first league win coming in March) and a goal difference of -100 so suffered relegation.

It was a tough ask of McGaah to turn his young side around, the 2017/18 season started well with a 4-1 victory over Malton in the FA Cup and a 3-2 home victory over FC Oswestry Town in the first home game, but slowly McGaah managed to turn things round with the club finishing 6th and gain a place in the play offs, a fantastic 4-1 victory at Prestwich Heys in the semi-finals saw the reach the final, but sadly lost 2-1 at Whitchurch Alport - seen as a fantastic effort after the trauma of the previous season.

McGaah fantastic work was noticed and



Vauxhall Motors came knocking resulting in him joining the Motormen.

Phil Burton taking over for the 2018/19 season, the club couldn't repeat the feats of the previous season finishing 15th but they did reach the Cheshire Cup Final facing Nantwich Town in the final at Altrincham but Nantwich just as they did in the Vase Semi Final in 2006 came out on top winning 5-2.

The 2019/20 was abandoned due to COVID with the club 13th in the table after 29 games

The 2020/21 season was another Covid hit season with the club only managing to play 7 games before the season was abandoned.

Normality resumed for the 2021/22 season Stuart Keir was the new



manager as the season was memorable for the cup runs reaching three finals, finishing 14th in the league the cup completions took over, the first one was the Wirral Cup Final played at Kirklands against Heswall a double from Kieran Hamm and a goal from Pablo Martinez Palacios gave the new Lairds their first trophy since reforming with a 3-0 success.

In the Macron Cup after victories over Stockport Town a fantastic away win at Vauxhall Motors, a 3-2 defeat of Wythenshawe Amateurs plus another 3-2 victory this time over Congleton Town in the semi-finals Lairds faced Charnock Richard at Chorley but lost 5-0. In the Edward Case Cup (First Division Cup) Lairds hosted Ilkley Town in the semi-finals, with a 2-2 draw earned a place in the final after winning 5-4 on penalties.

The final was in the Isle of Man and a Jacob Crook goal was enough to give the Marx side the trophy

The 2022/23 season saw the club finish just above the relegation zone and in the cups saw the club defeat

Wythenshawe Amateurs on penalties, Retford on penalties in the FA Vase, but go out at Squires Gate. The Macron Cup saw a last minute winner in the Wirral derby against Ashville in the First Round but a heavy 4-1 defeat by South Liverpool in Round Two, they also went out of the Edward Case Cup in the 2nd round losing at home to Abbey Hey.

The 2023/24 season kicked off with Andy Cass in new man in charge and after knocking a few goals in during pre-season (9-3 away to Hawarden Rangers) the season kicked off with a frustrating 1-0 defeat to Stafford Town, but I've a feeling they will turn things around with a promotion challenge this season.

***Lairds have once again offered Tranmere season card holders half-price admission to their home games this season, in respect to when Rovers are on the road and/or on days/evening that don't clash with matches here at Prenton Park. They have also reintroduced the printed copy of their matchday programme, priced £2, and thanks mainly to the ongoing and invaluable efforts of editor Patrick Burke.**



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A League Of Our Own

John Adamson...and Milton Keynes Dons

Do you ever hanker for the England of the days before concrete ruminants, when the now city of Milton Keynes was but a sketch on a piece of paper and a twinkle in a planner's eye?

No? Fair enough. But a few years before the first sod was cut in the northern Buckinghamshire countryside, a certain Roland R. Callingham was developing his own village just fifty-four miles away in Beaconsfield. Roland was a London accountant with personal wealth, a large country pile, disposable income and an obsession with models. Not that sort, but miniature ones. The question is, did his hobby inspire the architects of MK as well as a famous children's author?

His train set may have been the final straw. His wife, who didn't totally share his enthusiasms, asked him nicely to move the burgeoning project outside. Rather than disturb the existing garden, and as one does when one's wife tells one what has to happen, he bought an extra four acres of Buckinghamshire land. In 1929, Bekonscot Model Village opened to the public.

Locals have it that it was not the template for MK as Roland had forgotten to add a traffic flow system of over 130 roundabouts. However, they argue vehemently that Bekonscot inspired something of even greater significance. We are talking Noddy's adopted hometown, Toyland, which didn't emerge from the Blyton imagination until 1949. The contention is unsubstantiated, and the honour claimed by at least one other competing venue.

Noddy was a misunderstood but kind toy to the end. His last words from his deathbed were "Let not poor Enid starve."

Soon after, the little man in his red and yellow car

was on his final journey, across the toy Rainbow Bridge and on to literary immortality. He took with him a deep concern for the dear if rather controlling Mrs Blyton.

He need not have worried. When she died in 1968, her estate was valued at almost £18,000,000 in today's terms.

Toyland continues to speak into latter-day culture. In the first book, Enid reveals that Noddy's home was provided courtesy of a certain Big Ears, whose name alone would result in a home visit from Social Services as well as issues with the birth certificate. The eco-consciously carved Noddy ends up in court after Toyland residents feel he is not one of them. The judge may have regretted finding for Noddy, as several run-ins with PC Plod then ensued.

Plod, you may recall, is permitted to lock up his suspects at will in Blyton's vision for her new town. And yes, other than rampant issues of identity, exclusion, rejection, extremism, institutional racism, and police oppression, Toyland is paradise on earth.

Times move on and Bekonscot is less relevant as a model for 2023 new town designs. MK, though, would make a great backdrop for wannabe children's authors creating 'Noddy and The Mysterious Cowpat', or even 'Five Go Mugging'. 'Biggles Flies Undone' would be a total no-no.

Either way, Plod would bang them and the MK planners up as nutters.





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Season 2023/24



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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
MIKEY DAVIES	23/09/2004	England	Youth/College	28	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOM DAVIES	18/04/1992	England	Bristol Rovers	5	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KRISTIAN DENNIS	12/03/1990	England	Carlisle United	14	STR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOSH HAWKES	28/01/1999	England	Sunderland	11	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KANE HEMMINGS	08/04/1992	England	Burton Albion	10	STR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REGAN HENDRY	21/01/1998	Scotland	Forest Green Rovers	8	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0
CONNOR JENNINGS	29/10/1991	England	Wrexham	18	STR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARLIE JOLLEY	13/01/2001	England	Wigan Athletic	12	STR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAKE LEAKE (L)	20/02/2003	England	Hull City (L)	3	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAUL LEWIS	17/12/1994	England	Northampton Town	22	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REECE McALEER	12/02/2002	Scotland	Norwich City	23	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LUKE MCGEE	02/09/1995	England	Forest Green Rovers	1	GOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHRIS MERRIE	02/11/1998	England	Wigan Athletic	16	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KIERON MORRIS	03/06/1994	England	Walsall	7	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOE MURPHY	21/08/1981	Ireland	Shrewsbury Town	13	GOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LUKE NORRIS	03/06/1993	England	Stevenage	9	STR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEE O'CONNOR	28/07/2000	Ireland	Celtic	2	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HARVEY SAUNDERS	20/07/1997	England	Bristol Rovers	19	STR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAM TAYLOR	23/12/2004	England	Youth/College	20	STR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JORDAN TURNBULL	30/10/1994	England	Salford City	6	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRAD WALKER	25/04/1995	England	Port Vale	4	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOE YARNEY	08/10/1997	England	Oldham Athletic	21	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OWN GOALS	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0

The Factual Figures From Season 2022/2023

132

Substitutions made in all games played so far

5

Own goals in favour of Rovers in all competitions

33

Goals scored at home in all competitions

27

Goals scored in all competitions in the second half of matches

Quiz Zone Page: Answers from Page 49

10 x Questions

1. Max Power.
2. Southport.
3. Jake Kirby.
4. Phil Foden.
5. Mark Ellis.
6. Al Ettifaq.
7. 1-0.
8. Bangor City.
9. 1st.
10. Derby County.

Kit Of The Day

The season was 2012/13.



2023/2024



MN	DATE	H/A	OPPOSITION	COMP	RESULT	POS	ATT	AWAY	GOALSCORERS	REFEREE
1	Sat 5 Aug	H	BARROW	SBL2	3.00pm					
2	Tue 8 Aug	A	Barrow	CC1	7.45pm					
3	Sat 12 Aug	A	Milton Keynes Dons	SBL2	3.00pm					
4	Tue 15 Aug	H	HARROGATE TOWN	SBL2	7.45pm					
5	Sat 19 Aug	H	SALFORD CITY	SBL2	3.00pm					
6	Sat 25 Aug	A	hotts County	SBL2	3.00pm					
7	Sat 2 Sep	H	WREXHAM	SBL2	12.30pm					
8	Tue 5 Sep	A	Fleetwood Town	EFL1-NGO	7.00pm					
9	Sat 9 Sep	A	Colchester United	SBL2	3.00pm					
10	Sat 16 Sep	A	Crawley Town	SBL2	3.00pm					
11	Sat 23 Sep	H	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	SBL2	3.00pm					
12	Sat 30 Sep	A	AFC Wimbledon	SBL2	3.00pm					
13	Tue 3 Oct	H	BRADFORD CITY	SBL2	7.45pm					
14	Sat 7 Oct	H	GRIMSBY TOWN	SBL2	3.00pm					
15	Tue 10 Oct	H	LEICESTER CITY U21	EFL1-NGO	7.00pm					
16	Sat 14 Oct	A	Crewe Alexandra	SBL2	3.00pm					
17	Fri 20 Oct	H	DONCASTER ROVERS	SBL2	7.45pm					
18	Tue 24 Oct	A	Morecambe	SBL2	7.45pm					
19	Sat 28 Oct	A	Stockport County	SBL2	3.00pm					
20	Sat 4 Nov		EMIRATES FA CUP ROUND 1							
21	Sat 11 Nov	H	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	SBL2	3.00pm					
22	Tue 14 Nov	H	WIGAN ATHLETIC	EFL1-NGO	7.00pm					
23	Sat 18 Nov	A	Sutton United	SBL2	3.00pm					
24	Sat 25 Nov	H	GILLINGHAM	SBL2	3.00pm					
25	Tue 28 Nov	A	Mansfield Town	SBL2	7.45pm					
26	Sat 2 Dec		EMIRATES FA CUP ROUND 2							
27	Sat 9 Dec	H	NEWPORT COUNTY AFC	SBL2	3.00pm					
28	Sat 16 Dec	A	Walsall	SBL2	3.00pm					
29	Sat 23 Dec	H	SWINDON TOWN	SBL2	3.00pm					
30	Tue 26 Dec	A	Salford City	SBL2	3.00pm					
31	Fri 29 Dec	A	Harrogate Town	SBL2	TBC					
32	Mon 1 Jan	H	NOITTS COUNTY	SBL2	3.00pm					
33	Sat 6 Jan	A	Barrow	SBL2	3.00pm					
34	Sat 13 Jan	H	MILTON KEYNES DONS	SBL2	3.00pm					
35	Sat 20 Jan	A	Swindon Town	SBL2	3.00pm					
36	Sat 3 Feb	H	CREWE ALEXANDRA	SBL2	3.00pm					
37	Sat 10 Feb	A	Doncaster Rovers	SBL2	3.00pm					
38	Tue 13 Feb	H	MORECAMBE	SBL2	7.45pm					
39	Sat 17 Feb	H	STOCKPORT COUNTY	SBL2	3.00pm					
40	Sat 24 Feb	A	Forest Green Rovers	SBL2	3.00pm					
41	Sat 2 Mar	H	SUTTON UNITED	SBL2	3.00pm					
42	Sat 9 Mar	A	Gillingham	SBL2	3.00pm					
43	Tue 12 Mar	H	MANSFIELD TOWN	SBL2	7.45pm					
44	Sat 16 Mar	A	Wrexham	SBL2	3.00pm					
45	Sat 23 Mar	H	CRAWLEY TOWN	SBL2	3.00pm					
46	Fri 29 Mar	A	Bradford City	SBL2	3.00pm					
47	Mon 1 Apr	H	COLCHESTER UNITED	SBL2	3.00pm					
48	Sat 6 Apr	H	WALSALL	SBL2	3.00pm					
49	Sat 13 Apr	A	Newport County AFC	SBL2	3.00pm					
50	Sat 20 Apr	H	AFC WIMBLEDON	SBL2	3.00pm					
51	Sat 27 Apr	A	Accrington Stanley	SBL2	3.00pm					



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

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ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE TWO TOP FIVES**GOALS**

1		28	ANDY COOK
2		22	SAM HOSKINS
3		20	KRISTIAN DENNIS
4		17	OMAR BOGLE
5		16	DANIEL AGYEI

TOTAL SHOTS

1		140	SAM HOSKINS
2		126	ANDY COOK
3		121	OMAR BOGLE
4		117	CALLUM HENDRY
5		109	LUKE ARMSTRONG

% OF GOALS INVOLVED IN

1		57.1	ANDY COOK
2		46.8	SAM HOSKINS
3		43.8	DANIEL AGYEI
4		37.3	LUKE ARMSTRONG
5		36.2	JOSH GORDON

DRIBBLES COMPLETED

1		73	DANIEL AGYEI
2		70	OWEN MOXON
3		67	LUKE BOLTON
4		65	PAUL SMYTH
5		56	REMEAO HUTTON

ASSISTS

1		16	OWEN MOXON
2		16	ELLIOT WATT
3		12	BEN WHITFIELD
4		12	REMEAO HUTTON
5		10	TOM NICHOLS

CHANCES CREATED

1		125	ELLIOT WATT
2		98	OWEN MOXON
3		93	MITCHELL PINNOCK
4		82	RICHARD SMALLWOOD
5		76	BEN WHITFIELD

SUCCESSFUL PASSES

1		2254	ELLIOT WATT
2		1958	THEO VASSELL
3		1873	RICHARD SMALLWOOD
4		1809	IDRIS EL MIZOUNI
5		1686	OMAR BECKLES

SAVES

1		138	SOLOMON BRYNN
2		123	HARRY LEWIS
3		118	JONATHAN MITCHELL
4		112	MAX CROCOMBE
5		109	BEN KILLIP

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT

Accrington Stanley have only lost one of their last six MD1 league matches when played at home (W3 D2), a 0-2 defeat to Gillingham in 2018-19.

Tranmere have only enjoyed one win on MD1 in their last seven Football League seasons (D3 L3), beating Walsall 1-0 in 2021-22.

Includes data from the 2022-23 season.

Pos	Club	Home Record						Away Record						GD	PTS	
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A			
1	Leyton Orient	46	15	6	2	32	13	11	7	5	29	21	27	91	C	
2	Stevenage	46	17	2	4	40	16	7	11	5	21	23	22	85	P	
3	Northampton Town	46	12	6	5	31	20	11	8	4	31	22	20	83	P	
4	Stockport County	46	11	9	3	32	16	11	4	8	33	21	28	79		
5	Carlisle United	46	11	8	4	34	21	9	8	6	32	22	23	76	P	
6	Bradford City	46	9	10	4	33	23	11	6	6	28	20	18	76		
7	Salford City	46	10	5	8	28	23	12	4	7	44	31	18	75		
8	Mansfield Town	46	9	8	6	37	31	12	4	7	35	24	17	75		
9	Barrow	46	12	3	8	29	19	6	5	12	18	34	-6	62		
10	Swindon Town	46	9	6	8	31	24	7	7	9	30	31	6	61		
11	Grimsby Town	46	7	10	6	24	25	9	3	11	25	31	-7	61		
12	Tranmere Rovers	46	10	6	7	27	20	5	7	11	18	28	-3	58		
13	Crewe Alexandra	46	11	6	6	32	26	3	10	10	16	34	-12	58		
14	Sutton United	46	11	5	7	26	21	4	8	11	20	37	-12	58		
15	Newport County AFC	46	6	7	10	27	30	8	8	7	26	26	-3	57		
16	Walsall	46	9	9	5	28	19	3	10	10	18	30	-3	55		
17	Gillingham	46	11	5	7	21	20	3	8	12	15	29	-13	55		
18	Doncaster Rovers	46	11	1	11	27	30	5	6	12	19	35	-19	55		
19	Harrogate Town	46	6	10	7	31	32	6	6	11	28	36	-9	52		
20	Colchester United	46	6	9	8	25	23	6	4	13	19	28	-7	49		
21	AFC Wimbledon	46	7	7	9	26	30	4	8	11	22	30	-12	48		
22	Crawley Town	46	9	7	7	31	30	2	6	15	17	41	-23	46		
23	Hartlepool United	46	5	10	8	27	36	4	6	13	25	42	-26	43	R	
24	Rochdale	46	5	5	13	29	38	4	6	13	17	32	-24	38	R	

NEXT UP...



Harrogate Town are the next side to travel to Prenton Park, as Simon Weaver's men are set to give their all in search of three points on Tuesday 15th August.

Town survived the drop last season by four points, and will be looking to build on a 19th-place finish.

To achieve this goal, the club have made a number of signings, including highly-rated attacking midfielder, Abraham Odoh. The 23-year-old signed for an undisclosed fee after former side, Stockport County, were relegated, featuring in all but one league fixture for County last year.

Manager, Weaver, has been in charge of the club since 2009, after joining the Yorkshire outfit as player-manager 14 years ago. He led Town to their first ever promotion to the National League, and repeated his promotion heroics by guiding his side to their first ever season in the Football League in 2020.

Tuesday 15 August 2023

Kick-Off 7.45pm - Tickets On Sale Now



23 Images

We open this new season with our first image unearthed from the Club's photo archive – and from the 1984/85 season, which includes both our chairman Mark Palios, regular match goers Dave Higgins and Ray Mathias - and Nigel Adkins, who has of course returned home full circle to the base of his football origins in recent months.



It may seem like any ordinary team photo, but from one of many stories behind the actual photo shoot that day, one resulted in the Wirral Football Association obtaining a copy for their Centenary season of competition – which led to Rovers facing a 'Wirral XI' to celebrate this achievement.

Prenton Park staged the match on Tuesday 16 October 1984, with just over 500 spectators turning out to watch the 'away' side, a near-Rovers first team sporting their all-red away strip, take on a collection of household names drafted from the local non-league scene such as Poulton Victoria, Cammell Laird and West Kirby.

While history will record that Tranmere Rovers spoil the Wirral FA's celebrations, the beaten Wirral side were at least

consoled by the thought that the damage was inflicted by local league player Chris Camden, who was guesting for Rovers on the night.

Camden's brace of neatly executed goals, the first, an overhead shot at the near post courtesy of Doug Anderson's corner in the 36th minute and the second a 57th minute header, again set up by Anderson.

The Wirral FA side though could have well shared the honours or even won, during a late rally which saw ex-Rovers striker Kenny McKenna and Heswall's Jimmy Kelly spurn some gift wrapped opportunities.

McKenna though did get it right after 66 minutes when he was first to react having won a contest of courage for a through ball with substitute 'keeper Ian Douglas.

Tranmere: Adkins (Douglas), Hamilton, Edwards, Higgins, Humphreys, Lee, Aspinall, Camden, McMullen, Anderson.

Wirral FA: John Kelly, Cass (Thompson), Owens (Fitzmaurice), Woodcock, Hickson, Ley, Wiggins, Jim Kelly, Penrose, McGuire, McKenna.

Referee: J. Blakemore.

**TOGETHER FOR ACCESS
TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY
TOGETHER FOR INCLUSION
TOGETHER FOR DIVERSITY**

EFL  **TOGETHER**
FOR THE GAME WE LOVE.



#EFLTOGETHER

Tranmere Rovers



Manager: Ian Dawes
White Shirts
White Shorts and White

- 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
- 10 Kane HEMMINGS
- 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
- 28 Mikey DAVIES

Barrow AFC



Manager: Pete Wild
Black Shirts
Black Shorts and Black

- 1 Paul FARMAN
- 3 Mazeed OGUNGBO
- 4 Dean CAMPBELL
- 5 George RAY
- 6 Niall CANAVAN
- 7 David WORRALL
- 8 Kian SPENCE
- 9 Jamie PROCTOR
- 10 Gerard GARNER
- 11 Elliot NEWBY
- 12 Josh LILLIS
- 13 Tom WHITE
- 14 Courtney DUFFUS
- 15 Robbie GOTTS
- 16 Sam FOLEY
- 20 Emile ACQUAH
- 21 Tyrell WARREN
- 24 Rory FEELY
- 29 Junior TIENSIA
- 34 Ben WHITFIELD
- 35 Owen BRAY
- 36 Malakai REEVE
- 37 Sean ETALUKU

Match Officials

Referee:
Ollie Yates

Assistant Referees
Grant Taylor
Oliver Bickle

Fourth Official
Stephen Wade

Fixtures



Saturday 5 August 2023

Accrington Stanley
v Newport County
Colchester United
v Swindon Town
Crawley Town
v Bradford City
Crewe Alexandra
v Mansfield Town
Doncaster Rovers
v Harrogate Town
Forest Green Rovers
v Salford City
Grimsby Town
v AFC Wimbledon
Morecambe v Walsall
Stockport County
v Gillingham
Sutton United
v Notts County
Tranmere Rovers
v Barrow
Wrexham
v Milton Keynes Dons

All games kick-off
at 3.00pm unless stated



Next Game at Prenton Park

Tranmere Rovers versus Harrogate Town
Sky Bet League Two / Tuesday 15 August 2023 / Kick-off 7.45pm