

# Tranmere Rovers



## Arsenal 0 Tranmere Rovers 1

League Cup Second Round  
Highbury  
Wednesday 2 October 1973



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



**BRADFORD CITY**

Sky Bet League Two

Tuesday 3 October 2023 / Kick-off 7.45pm



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# MATCHDAY



**Tranmere Rovers versus Bradford City**



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## CLUB INCIDENT LINE 07399 152 692

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

Contact David Hughes  
[controlroom@tranmererovers.co.uk](mailto:controlroom@tranmererovers.co.uk)

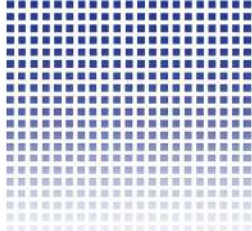
## SOCIAL MEDIA

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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



**I would like to welcome Bradford City back to Prenton Park, and especially the fans who have made it here despite the train strikes.**



After a great win against Accrington in the League it was disappointing to fall to a heavy defeat against Wimbledon on Saturday. We started that match playing some scintillating football and deservedly took an early lead, but a goal against the run of play gave Wimbledon a boost which they capitalised on. Going down to 10 men was always going to make it an uphill battle for us to get back in the game, and the Dons soon put it out of reach. I would like to thank the fans who had made the long journey south on another day of train strikes, and who stayed to applaud the players despite the loss.

In a season there will always be ups and downs and the key is not to get carried away with either. As Winston Churchill once said "Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts". I am sure Nigel Adkins, with his vast experience and positive attitude, will help the players to learn from Saturday, take the positives and move on to trying to take the points here at Prenton Park tonight. At the end of the day, there are certain things that happen in life that put football into perspective. Friday saw a tragedy all too close to home when Jessica Baker and Stephen Shrimpton died in the dreadful crash on the M53 which also saw at least one other child, from our partner school, Calday Grammar, suffering life changing injuries. The thoughts and prayers of everyone at the Club go out to the victims and their loved ones, and as a mark of respect there will be a minute's silence before the game.







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# Nigel Adkins

**Good evening and welcome to Prenton Park for tonight's League Two fixture against Bradford City. We extend a warm welcome to Mark Hughes, his side and the travelling supporters, for what we anticipate being another challenging contest in this division.**

We approach the game having returned from another long trip, this time to AFC Wimbledon at the weekend. Thank you to all the supporters who yet again travelled to get behind our team. It really is appreciated by the club, team, players and staff that the SWA is with us through thick and thin.

We started the match really well and I was delighted with the team's performance during the first 20 minutes of the game, with an intensity and attacking intention. We scored an excellent goal from a well worked and executed corner from the team, finished ruthlessly by Connor Jennings. We could have added to the score during that period; however, we allowed the hosts to square the game following a deflected shot.

We needed to defend better as a team during spells of the contest and it was frustrating to go into the interval 2-1 down. Again, we started the second half brightly and looked a threat. However, a big turning point was the dismissal of Jordan Turnbull following a committed challenge for the ball. We will look to learn the lessons from the match. We are under no illusions we must improve, especially from a defensive aspect. However, we must also remain upbeat with some of our attacking intention and strive to extend these periods of time during games.

Our previous home fixture resulted in an important and much deserved 2-0 victory against a competitive Accrington Stanley side. The players and staff have worked extremely hard in the short period of time since the

change in manager and have taken a lot of information on board. Basics done well to an elite level is a starting point for us.

A collaboration of everyone bringing the best of themselves every day, every training session, every game is vital if we want to perform consistently to the standards that are required for us to be successful in the long term. Goals are what we have managed to score lately. Two away at Crawley Town, two at home to Accrington, two away at Stockport County last week in the Cheshire Senior Cup victory, and another away goal at the weekend in Wimbledon.

We have exciting young forward players here at Tranmere Rovers and it's pleasing that they, as well as being a goal threat and working so hard for the team, are also scoring goals. Charlie Jolley, Josh Hawkes, Sam Taylor, Harvey Saunders and Rob Apter have all found the back of the net recently.

We have experienced strikers, role models to help our younger players in their development. They have also managed to get on the scoresheet this season. Connor Jennings, Kristian Dennis and Luke Norris possess a massive goal threat and will be very important for us over the long campaign.

We are striving for a level of consistency in everything we do. Our behaviours and attitude to develop, to learn, to perform, to work hard for the team, the supporters and Tranmere Rovers. Enjoy tonight's game, Nigel







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## Tonight's Matchnight Mascot



A very warm welcome this evening to our matchnight mascot, who is Archie Lewis from New Ferry.

Archie is 7 years old and goes to St Andrew's School in Bebington. He loves football and plays in goal for Higher Bebington Rangers, Liverpool Academy and trains regularly with The Goalkeeper Academy.

Archie is Tranmere mad and loves to attend as many games as he can, his favourite players are Luke McGee and Harvey Saunders. When Archie grows up, he wants to play for Tranmere Rovers.

We hope you have a great evening with us, and bring us some luck with all three points!

## Happy Birthday!



Happy 60th and 25th Birthday to Andy and Will. Both lifelong Tranmere Rovers supporters!

Best wishes also from all of us too here at TRFC – we hope you both have a great day (and evening!).

## Old TRFC Photos

We are always on the lookout for old photos and memorabilia relating to TRFC for pages in our programme -especially such as our 23 Games 23 Images feature (see page 62 of tonight's issue).

In the first instance, please contact [tonyc@tranmererovers.co.uk](mailto:tonyc@tranmererovers.co.uk) - and any items will of course be returned once scanned etc. here at the Club.

## TRANMERE REMEMBERS

### Sylvia Johnson

A good friend and Tranmere season ticket holder Sylvia Johnson sadly passed away recently. Sylvia was 85 in August and has been coming to Prenton Park for many years firstly with her dad and more recently with her husband Austin - pictured here taken on her 80th birthday.

The Club sends its condolences to all of Sylvia's family and friends, and of course of those who knew her here at Prenton Park.



## Congratulations - and Well Done!

A big well done to all of our alternative provision students who all PASSED their qualifications last year!

At the Education Hub @ Tranmere Rovers we offer an alternative provision programme led by Jordan Scott.

Alternative provision is a pathway for students who do not access mainstream education. We currently have links with Progress Schools, West Kirby Residential, The Observatory School, Kilgarth and Holy MAT (St Marys College and St Johns Plessington) where

we offer a range of NCFE qualifications; Employability, Certificate in Sport, Food and Cookery and a Coaching Award.

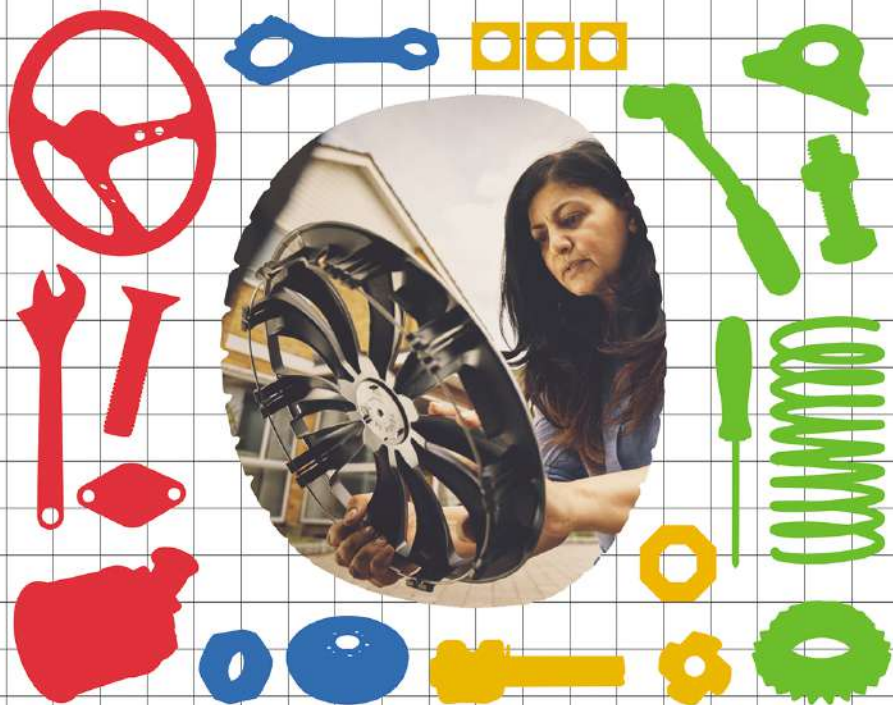
We offer these courses as we feel it enhanced students life and employability skills which will help them on their next step and journey into adulthood and work.

Well done to last years students; Dan, Demi, Jack, Caidan, Tommy and Mason on completing their qualifications to a high standard! We wish Dan, Demi and Jack all the best in their next step as they have not finished Year 11.

Well done all!



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# The Beautiful Game



**Isn't technology great? Tap something into a YouTube search relating to a goal you missed, a dirty tackle, a penalty shoot-out or an end of season celebration and you can more or less guarantee that it'll be there. You can then watch the footage that some random geezer uploaded on his mobile phone. It's unreal.**

The iFollow cameraman may have missed it but Dave down the road, he caught it all in full colour with Dolby digital sound to accompany the footage. That's the positive side of all this social media stuff. There are also many clips that you'd rather not watch relating to the game, although I do like to watch the clips of nasty tackles and legs and ankles bent where they shouldn't bend as a result of the said tackles. It's a little twisted I know but we all have weird little things don't we. It's no different to seeing an ambulance at the scene of a crash, en route to an away game and then slowing down to see what's kicked off – we all have a look to see what we can see don't we?

As well as the 'YouTube' facility, there's Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter) with which we can keep up to date with celebs and even the players. It's almost as if we're their best-mate-ever when we make a little comment and they reply! You've got to remember that all this is brand new to some of the older fans (like me). The best we used to get, if we couldn't make it to the match, was a crackling transistor radio held firmly against the lughole whilst fighting

with a telescopic rod (also known as an aerial) which never did what it should. It always crackled more when our boys were in attack and goal-bound. Let me tell you, these were frustrating times!

Nowadays, it's a click here and there or a touchscreen tap and within seconds you have LIVE action, blow by blow accounts of the entire game. Even football betting has been revolutionised and you can now bet on how many cups of tea the ref has at the half-time interval amongst other things. Once upon a time, to place a bet on the football, you had to walk to the bookmakers shop, fill in a slip with a pen that rarely worked, stand in a smoke filled environment polluting your lungs and all you had as options on the outcome of a game were H, A & D. Home win, Away Win or Draw. You placed a cross in a box, paid your stake PLUS TAX, and then waited until Monday if you were lucky enough to win to be able to pick up your fortune. (Bookies were shut on Sunday's back then). In this day and age, you can cash out at various stages of the game (if you're chicken!) and should you win, the

'cash' goes straight into your electronic account until you lose it the next day on the Man Utd v Southampton result which never goes to plan! How things have progressed eh?

Social media has its Pros and Cons for fans and even players alike. The incident at Italian club Napoli recently certainly didn't do the player or club any favours. Napoli striker Victor Osimhen was far from amused when a video of him missing a penalty was posted on TikTok. You would assume it was a Napoli fan who did the deed, upset by the tragic miss. Possibly one of the Bologna fans from the away end, mocking the striker, but no, the video was put on by someone within the media department at his own club Napoli! What's that all about? The player and his agent then spoke of legal proceedings against the club. Embarrassing for the club and its fans.

Note to self – think twice before uploading pics and videos to social media platforms. Although, saying that, a win tonight and I'll happily upload a selfie of myself with a mile-wide smile.





# COVER TO COVER

## ANDREW STURGEON ON **TRANMERE V BRADFORD CITY 81/82**

Whilst the 1981-82 season may not have been a particularly memorable Division 4 campaign for Tranmere, it would have been for Bradford City, who as runners up achieved promotion. What caught my eye in relation to the programme covers that season was the garish colours used along with the generic illustrations of footballers, somewhat reminiscent of the era.

The cover of the Rovers Review (30p, 20 Pages) seemed to have a busy feel to it, which included a welcome message printed towards the bottom. In this instance this gave a hearty welcome to current Bradford boss and ex-Rover Roy McFarland and suggested "our lads will be hoping for three points and a good game of football looks to be on the cards". Possibly made in reference to this season being the first season of three points for a win, to attract more attacking football.

The blue text on yellow background was used for the programme cover from the third match onwards, replacing the blue on white look used in the opening matches. The generic action footballer, located in top left corner of the cover, seems to sport a polka dot blue shirt, not particularly similar to the royal blue shirts Tranmere wore that season.

The programme opens with 'On the ball with Bryan Hamilton', whilst pen pics of the City team follow on the next two pages. Following this there is the 'news desk' along with a picture of the most recent Rovers Lottery winner, being presented with his cheque for £1000. The presentation party, in early November of course included Father Christmas and his glamorous space shuttle crew assistants. Some crazy ideas must have been happening at Prenton Park and Birkenhead Co-Op around this time!

The lottery winner would still have plenty of spare cash if he forked out (no pun intended!) - just £99, for the 44-piece silver cutlery set



advertised by the match sponsors Hugh Foulerton Cutlery. It would still be another couple of seasons and sponsorship deals before the company became the main shirt sponsors of Rovers.

For those who needed some half term entertaining, the centre pages, which were usually taken up with match action photos, on this occasion contained a word search of the players, in what I can only assume was a randomly selected game, between Scunthorpe and Tranmere played in September.

Team line ups of 1-11 with a blank space for Number 12 were listed on the back page, above an advert for 202 Radio Merseyside (Also on 95.8 VHF), for those that knew their radio frequencies.

The Bantams official match day programme (30p 16 pages, printed in Huddersfield) showed an illustration of three emotionless players in a 'spot the ball' like image. For the eagle eyed, the

match sponsors were noted as "Messrs. Peter & David Jackson (Bradford City and Tranmere Rovers ex-players)". The twin brothers played alongside each other at both Wrexham and Bradford City, before arriving together at Prenton Park in time for the 61/62 season.

The Club Directory, on page two is difficult to read, due to this being printed in a theatrical typography style, this sits alongside a short welcome message for readers. The inside cover page provides the only full-page advert in this publication. This is for Hammonds Sauce Group, with their cartoon of a 'supposed' Bantam kicking a football under the tagline "don't take any sauce from the opposition lads". 'Valley Parade welcomes Tranmere Rovers', takes up the centre pages. Whilst the text notes 17 Tranmere players, the accompanying team photograph only shows 14, which includes player/manager Bryan Hamilton and player/coach Ray Mathias, which shows just how threadbare "squad sizes" were at the time.

The team line ups listed on the back page, did however manage to list 12 Rovers players. With both sides having ex-international, player managers listed within the team line ups, there was certainly some experienced heads on the pitch. Underneath the teams, the reader possibly finds out more details than necessary of the match referee - Mr George Flint (Kirkby in Ashfield) including him being "A pit head baths superintendent with an interest in interior design and bowls". Times may have changed,



## Opposition Luke Birch

**Bradford City won two of their first eight league games of the season, and narrowly lost 2-0 to Middlesbrough last week in the Carabao Cup Third Round.**



## Bradford City

Bradford have drawn with Mansfield Town, Grimsby Town, and Harrogate Town in some of their most recent games. The Bantams only league victories this season have come in home games against Colchester United and Crewe Alexandra in August.

In the Carabao Cup, Bradford beat Accrington Stanley on penalties in the first round, before winning the same away at Wrexham in the second round.

Bradford City played host to Championship Middlesbrough in the third round.

The Bantams have bolstered their squad with former Tranmere defender Ash Taylor, midfielder Kevin McDonald, full-back Clarke Oduor, and midfielder Alex Pattison.

Bradford City finished in 6th place in League Two last season, losing to Carlisle United in extra-time of the play-off semi-final.

Manager Mark Hughes took over at Bradford City in 2022, after previously taking a break from football.

Hughes, 59, has managed teams such as Wales, Blackburn Rovers, Manchester City, Stoke City and most recently Southampton in 2018.

Born in Wrexham, 'Sparky' earned 72 caps for Wales between 1984, and 1999.

The attacker came through the ranks at Manchester United, then having spells at FC Barcelona, and Bayern Munich, before returning to Old Trafford and winning two Premier League titles.

He later featured for Chelsea, Southampton, Everton, and Blackburn Rovers, hanging up his boots in 2002.







# The Present & The Past

## THE PRESENT / RICHARD SMALLWOOD

**Bradford deep-lying midfielder and captain Richard Smallwood joined the club in 2022, and has played in all of Bradford's league matches thus far this season.**

He signed a two-year deal upon signing for Bradford, and appeared in 45 of The Bantams' league matches last season.

Smallwood, 32, was born in Redcar, and started his career with Middlesbrough.

He appeared 60 times in the league for Middlesbrough, before departing for Rotherham United on loan in 2014.

The midfielder joined The Millers permanently later that summer and went on to play 168 times in the league across his loan and permanent spells.

He helped Rotherham to promotion to the Championship in 2014, featuring in the play-off final which The Millers defeated Leyton Orient on penalties.

Smallwood joined Blackburn Rovers in 2017, and he played 78 times in the league for the club.

During his time with Blackburn Rovers, Smallwood had to go in goal against West Bromwich Albion in 2018.

Goalkeeper David Raya was injured after Rovers had made all three substitutions. Blackburn drew the game 1-1 and Smallwood survived the final 17 minutes without conceding.

Smallwood joined Hull City in 2020, and helped the club to the League One title in 2021, and he played 42 times in The Tigers' subsequent Championship season.

The 5'9" midfielder made one appearance for England U18 in 2008, a 2-0 win against Austria at Hartlepool United's Victoria Park.



## THE PAST / PAUL JEWELL

**Former Bradford City striker Paul Jewell, started his famous managerial career with The Bantams.**

Born in Liverpool, Jewell played for Bradford City between 1988 and 1998, making 269 league appearances, scoring 56 goals.

He spent time in the academy at Liverpool, before signing for Wigan Athletic.

Jewell played for Wigan for four years, making 137 league appearances, scoring 35 goals, prior to signing for Bradford.

After spending time on the Bradford City coaching staff during his playing days, Jewell took up the manager's job upon his retirement from playing in 1998.

In 1999, Jewell helped Bradford to promotion to the Premier League, finishing in second-place behind runaway champions Sunderland. Bradford's first season back in the top flight in 77 years, saw The Bantams embroiled in a tight relegation battle.

They narrowly avoided relegation on the final day, beating Liverpool 1-0 at Valley Parade, thanks to a David Wetherall header.

Jewell resigned following Bradford's great escape and took up the manager's position at recently relegated Sheffield Wednesday.

He struggled at Wednesday, and returned to Wigan Athletic in 2001.

Jewell helped Wigan to two promotions, one to the Championship and one to the Premier league, and he helped The Latics retain their Premier League status before resigning in 2007.

He later took charge of the infamous Derby County team that accumulated only 11 points in the 2007/08 Premier League, the worst since its inception in 1992.

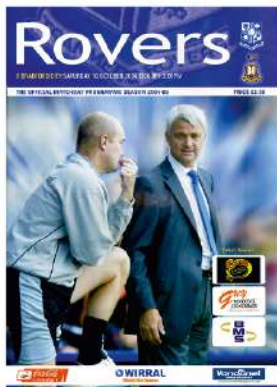
Jewell, now 58, was most recently Director of Football at Swindon Town, a post which he left in 2021.







# Three Previous Encounters



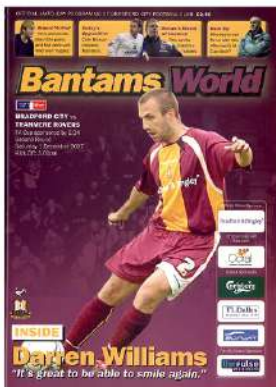
## TRANMERE ROVERS 4 BRADFORD CITY 5

Sky Bet League Two  
Saturday 16 October 2004

In 2004, Bradford defeated Tranmere 5-4 at Prenton Park thanks to a last-minute winner from David Wetherall.

Tranmere notched via an Iain Hume double, and goals from Ryan Taylor and David Beresford, as Rovers pegged Bradford back three times.

Steven Schumacher put the visitors ahead early on, Nicky Summerbee, Dean Windass, and Ben Muirhead also scored for The Bantams.



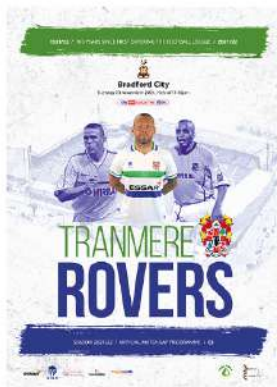
## BRADFORD CITY 0 TRANMERE ROVERS 3

FA Cup Second Round  
Saturday 1 December 2007

In 2007, Tranmere defeated Bradford 3-0 in the FA Cup at Valley Parade, thanks to a devastating Chris Greenacre double.

Steve Jennings opened the scoring for Tranmere with a terrific left-footed drive from long-range.

Chris Shuker set-up Greenacre's first with a neat dink over the defence, before Ian Goodison's long-ball found Greenacre for his second.



## TRANMERE ROVERS 2 BRADFORD CITY 1

Sky Bet League Two  
Tuesday 23 November 2021

In 2021, goals from Kieron Morris and Paul Glatzel helped Tranmere to defeat Bradford 2-1 at Prenton Park.

Levi Sutton opened the scoring for Bradford, weaving his way past Peter Clarke before slotting past Ross Doohan.

Nicky Maynard spurned an almost certain goal. A cross-goal Morris drive, and an instinctive finish from Glatzel got the win over the line.

# Five Notable Numbers

# 2

The total number of seasons City spent in the Premiership - promoted in 1998/99, they were ten relegated in 2000/01.

# 51



The total number of goals scored by Andy Cook in all competitions during two spells at Rovers - from 2016/17 to 2017/18, plus 2019/20 (on loan).

# 1949



The first year in their history that the club had to apply for re-election having finished bottom of Division Three North

# 37

The total number of victories secured by Rovers over the Bantams in all competitions

# 1903



The year the original 'Manningham FC' converts to football from rugby, and secure election to the Football League - and become 'Bradford City AFC'.

**TRANMERE ROVERS****BRADFORD CITY****MATCH FACTS & TOTAL CARDS**

Tranmere have won just one of their last eight home league games against Bradford City (D2 L5), a 2-1 victory in November 2021.

**20****0****20****1**

Bradford City won both of their league games against Tranmere last season, and could win three in a row against them in the Football League for the first time since October 2004.

**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

2

3

16-30

3

1

31-45

1

1

46-60

1

2

61-75

2

5

76-90

3

3

**SCORED****CONCEDED**

0-15

1

2

16-30

2

1

31-45

2

2

46-60

2

0

61-75

0

1

76-90

3

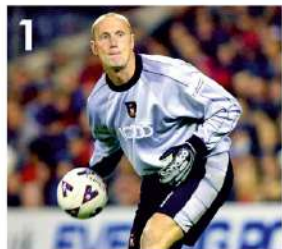
3

Data excludes weekend games.



# Opposition Dream Team

Charlie Stubbs selects a former Bantams fantasy 'eleven'



## 1 - Goalkeeper: Gary Walsh

Ex-Manchester United goalkeeper Gary Walsh goes in goal for this side in a star-studded Bantam side. Across ten years at Old Trafford (1995-2005), Walsh was largely a backup, playing 50 games and being loaned to Airdrieonians and Middlesbrough. It was 1997 when he joined Bradford. Three years of immense form followed, seeing the side get promoted to the Premier League. An injury in the Premier League saw him lose his spot to Matt Clarke.

## 2 - Right Back: Ces Podd

Born in Saint Kitts and Nevis, Ces was one of the first black players to establish himself in English football. He went through the Bradford City academy before signing his first professional deal in 1970. He spent fourteen seasons at Valley Parade, playing over 550 times, the club's all time record. He got promoted and relegated twice, playing in Division 3 and Division 4.

## 3 - Centre Back: David Wetherall

Sheffield-born David Wetherall takes the first centre-back spot in the team. Coming through at Sheffield Wednesday, he played eight seasons for Leeds and nine seasons for Bradford. Playing over 300 times for the Bantams, he joined for a then-record fee of £1.4 million. In his first season, he played every minute and scored the decisive goal to keep Bradford in the Premier League. He stayed with the club throughout their administration, and retired in 2008, in League One.

## 4 - Centre Back: Rory McArdle

Signing in 2012, McArdle played five seasons for the club. He was a key figure in Bradford's meteoric cup runs of the mid 2010s, including scoring a

header against Aston Villa in the 2012-13 Capital One Cup semi-final, he scored in the 2013 League Two playoff final, and started in the famous 4-2 win against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. He left in 2017, signing for League One side Scunthorpe United.

## 5 - Left Back: Wayne Jacobs

Sheffield-born Wayne Jacob starts at left-back and played over 310 games across eleven years. Signed from Rotherham, in 1994, he played for the club from League One to the Premiership, winning the 1996 Division Two playoff 2-0 to Notts County, and coming 2nd in the 1999 Division 1 season, and then straight back down by 2005. He scored 12 times from fullback.

## 6 - Centre Midfield: Bruce Stowell

Born in Bradford, Stowell played over 400 times between 1958 and 1972. He started in the amateur forms, became a part-time professional by December 1958, before becoming a full-time in June 1967. He became captain soon after, and by October 1970, he broke George Robinson's 55-year-old appearance record, when he made his 344<sup>th</sup> Football League appearance.

## 7 - Centre Midfield: Stuart McCall

The tireless box-to-box midfielder is a shoe in for this team. Stuart McCall played ten seasons for Bradford City, playing close to 400 games, scoring 45 goals. Despite his tough tackling and immense passion, he was rarely suspended, getting one red card in his career, in a 2-0 defeat to Charlton, in 2000. He was in the team that won the 1985 Third Division and was promoted from the 1999 First Division. He managed the side three times permanently, in 2007-10, 2016-18 and 2020.

## 8 - Attacking Midfield: Dean Windass

Dean Windass played for Bradford twice in his career (1999-2001 and 2003-2007) and climbed to the club's third highest scorer ever. He became Bradford's first seven-figure transfer when he first joined the Premiership-chasing side in March 1999. He scored 75 goals across over 210 league games



and ended up leaving due to Bradford's financial issues.

## 9 - Right Wing: John Hendrie

Scottish winger Hendrie played upfront and on the right and he'll play his later position in this team. He joined from Coventry City in 1984 on a free transfer, as manager Trevor Cherry tried to build a team to win Division Three. And they did just that, with nine goals from the right. However, the last game of that season, he played in the game of the Bradford City stadium fire. He continued to play most games up until his departure for £500,000 to Newcastle.

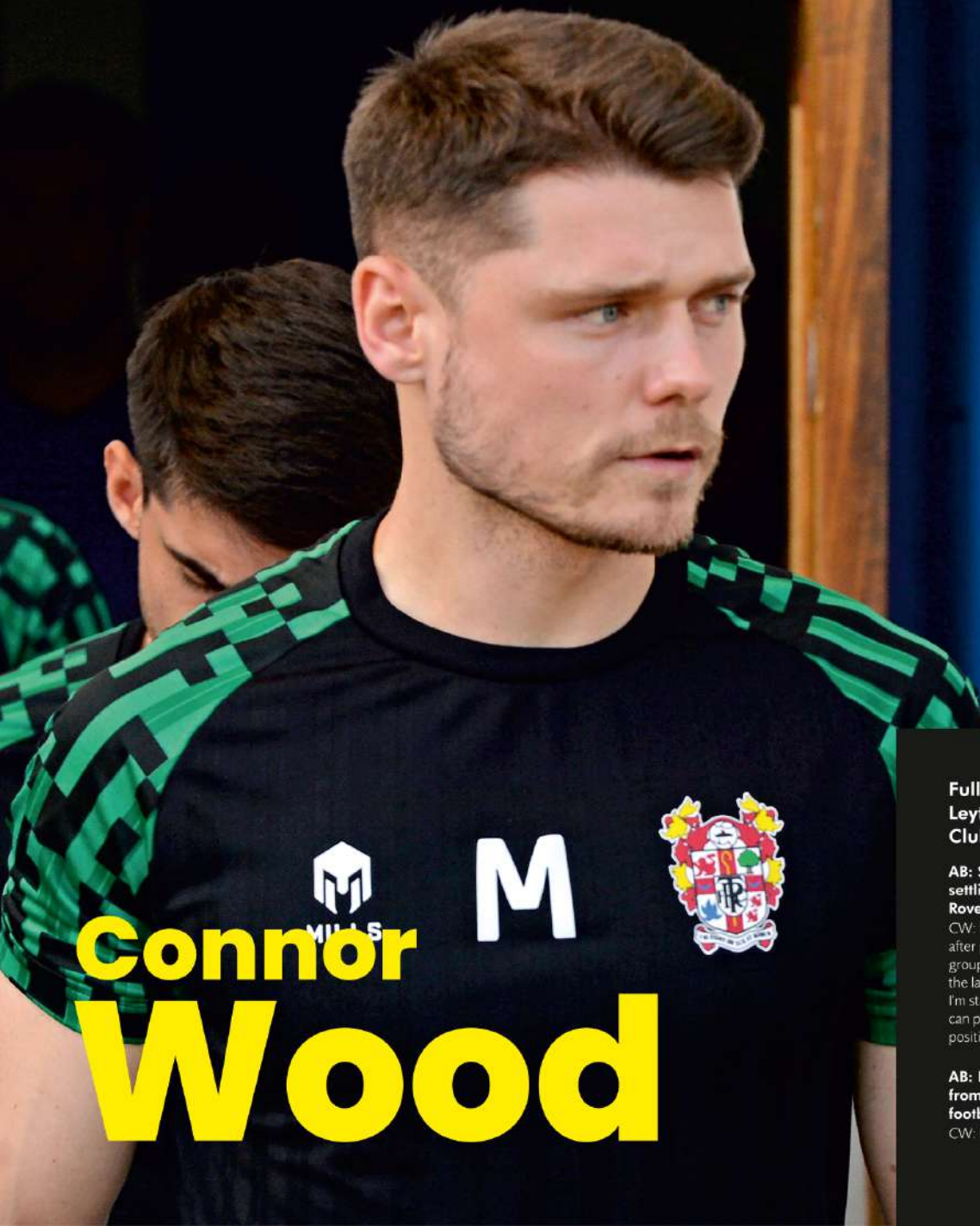
## 10 - Striker: James Hanson

Over 280 games for your hometown club means that Hanson leads the line for this Bradford XI. He scored 77 goals between 2009-2017, including 15 in Bradford's famous 2012-13 season, where they reached the Capital One Cup Final, scoring in the semi-finals against Aston Villa, and winning the playoff final, which he scored in. He was also in the team that beat Chelsea 4-2, in the 2015 FA Cup, where the Bantams reached the Quarter Finals.

## 11 - Left Wing: Peter Beagrie

Known for his media work with Sky Sports, ITV, and Norway's TV2, Peter Beagrie joined the club in 1997, aged 32, from First Division rivals Manchester City. He was first loaned out to former club Everton before returning to help the club win promotion to the Premier League in 1998-99. During his time, he played 132 times, scoring 20. Towards the end of his time, he was sent on loan at Wigan Athletic, before leaving the club upon their Premier League relegation, in 2001.





# Connor Wood



**Full-back Connor Wood signed for Rovers after departing League Two champions Leyton Orient in the summer..and now speaks to Alex Bullions about his time with the Club so far...**

**AB: So, Connor, how are you settling in to life at Tranmere Rovers?**

CW: I'm really enjoying it! I've come in after pre-season, so I'm quite late to the group. It's been good getting to know the lads, being around them, and now I'm starting to find my feet. Hopefully I can play some more games and get positive results.

**AB: How has the transition been from free agent to playing football again?**

CW: It's been quite tough. In the few

months I was a free agent, I was doing stuff off my own back. Nothing can really prepare you to go straight back in. I've put myself in the best position possible to make the transition smooth. Even now, I'm looking at the last few weeks and the next couple weeks as a mini pre-season. Since I got my first 90 minutes against Stockport County, I feel a lot better. Naturally, as the weeks go by, I'll be back up to speed.

**AB: How do you keep yourself busy and disciplined over the summer as a free agent?**

CW: I went to the gym near enough every day. One of my friends from school is a one-on-one football coach I also played five-a-side with my mates. Just little things to keep as fit as I can, as well as playing half-competitive football. Trying to replicate a routine you would have in a professional environment. You miss being in a group. Waking up with a purpose, training Monday to Friday and working towards something. I had to get my head round that, knowing something would come up. Day-by-day it gets repetitive, but it's about being mentally strong and sticking at it.





**AB: We play Bradford this evening, your former club, what are your memories of your time at Valley Parade?**

CW: I loved it there. I was there for three years. In my first season we got relegated, I felt my chances were limited. When we dropped down to League Two, that's when I played most of my football. I had a really good run of games for those next two seasons. I loved every second of it. Like Tranmere, it's a big club with a passionate fanbase. I admired that when I was there. Walking out at Valley Parade, packed out. It'll be a club that always has a big place in my heart.

**AB: How valuable has Nigel Adkins' experience been to you in your time with the Club?**

CW: His credentials speak for themselves. He's been at the highest level possible in this country. I've enjoyed absorbing as much information as I can from him. His day-to-day insights, how he sees the game and

individual players. Having that experience around you is extremely valuable.

**AB: You were in a squad at Prenton Park for the first time against Accrington Stanley, what were your thoughts on the stadium and the SWA?**

CW: I think I'd been at the Club for three weeks and still hadn't been there yet! It was really enjoyable, the team played brilliantly, and the atmosphere was really good. I'm looking forward to playing there in the near future.

**AB: Let's get to know your tastes, what do you listen to before a game?**

CW: I'm in a podcast phase at the moment. I listen to one where it's just two lads talking about anything for an hour, every Monday. It's just random stuff, but it's an easy listen. There's about 300 episodes so I'm just working my way through them.

**AB: Have you watched any TV shows or films recently?**

CW: Me and the missus are making our way through 'Breaking Bad'. We're just starting the final season now. I find it hard to stick with a series, but I've loved this. In terms of films, I'm a big fan of Marvel. Action films too. When I had some time off recently, I went to see 'The Equalizer 3' at the cinema.

**AB: And lastly, who would you consider to be your role models?**

CW: My parents, they sacrificed so much so I could get to where I am now. You don't really realise it at the time, but as you become older you do. Footballing-wise, I'm a big fan of Lionel Messi, and I admired Ashley Cole growing up. I was fortunate enough to meet him when he was at Roma. As a left-back, he was the top dog. Not just in this country, on a global scale. Him, Roberto Carlos, Marcelo. Those were the three I looked up to and wanted to play like when I got older.





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FROM A PRESS PERSPECTIVE

# DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE

**My BBC colleague Phil Dawkes has published a terrific story on the BBC Sport website about a Brazilian fan of Santa Cruz. On the final day of the 2022/23 Brazilian club's season it had all come down to one kick, one penalty to settle a shootout and send the club back to the state top flight for the first time in a decade.**



But, for Tiago Rech who had watched Santa Cruz for as long as he can remember, even when he was famously the only one, it was the culmination of something far greater. Born just five blocks from the club's 5,000 capacity stadium he was a regular supporter from the age of 10 watching with his father. As he became a teenager, school, university and a newspaper job eventually led to a life in state capital Porto Alegre, 120km away and a reduced diet of games. In 2012, though, Santa Cruz had an away match against Grêmio in his new resident city. When he arrived at the stadium 20 minutes before kick-off and headed for the away end he found out that no Santa Cruz fans were there yet. He went inside but 15 minutes passed and still nobody else. Santa Cruz score and it is only Tiago there to celebrate. The television team covering the game soon noticed the lone figure in the away end and picked him out. That was when Tiago's phone started buzzing with calls and texts from his parents and friends. Tiago explains: 'the game went on and Grêmio scored and they went on to win 4-1 – and I'm just there on my own the whole time.'

The next morning, an image of him sat alone in the

stand, a half-drunk plastic cup next to him, was on the front page of the paper at which he worked. 'Don't Leave Me Alone' read the headline. Soon, the image and story were heading around the world and drawing comments courtesy of online coverage and a YouTube clip that quickly rocketed past 1m views. But that wasn't the end of the story.

A year later and after Santa Cruz had just been relegated to the second tier, Tiago was living back home having left his job. A chance meeting with the then club president gave him the chance to turn his hobby into something more. He was offered a job at the club in communication and marketing, he describes it as a 'crash course in football administration'. Unlike many fellow supporters he now understood how difficult running a football club was 'lack of money, resources, sponsors, just a general lack of support'. He built relationships, produced a long-term recruitment plan for players and started to move the club on an upward curve. So when the time to elect a new president came around, at the age of 27 – Tiago was the man. His dream turned into a nightmare, though, the club started to run out of money, attendances dropped, debts increased and he started to use his own and his family's savings to keep the club going. Santa Cruz avoided relegation but his one year of presidency had taken a heavy toll. His doctor diagnosed Tiago as having depression and he stopped running the club. He moved back to Port Alegre and returned to journalism.

The club's fortunes did not improve and in 2018 were relegated to the third tier. Then a friend and business owner made a plea to him to return to the club as president. Despite all that had gone before, he decided to take up the challenge, but armed with lessons from the past. By 2012 things had improved – he signed off his tenure as president with the club's return to the second tier.

And so back to the penalty shootout last season. Now, he is one of thousands of fans present – and cool as you like, Mauricio scores the penalty and Santa Cruz are back in the state top flight. Reporters seek out Tiago, to remind everyone of his story, his sacrifices and, now to share his joy.

**To find out more about Tiago's journey then check out Phil's article on the BBC website.**

DEREK JONES

BBC RADIO Merseyside



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# Tranmere Rovers In The Community

## Mark Selected For Team GB Para Ice Hockey Team

Mark Colquitt, who recently completed our Fit Rovers 12-week free fitness programme, has now been selected to represent Team GB's Para Ice Hockey team at the upcoming World Championships in Kazakhstan. Mark is grateful to Tranmere Rovers in the Community and says his selection came 'on the back of' our free fitness programme.

Mark has to fully fund his own travel and accommodation for the trip, so has set up a GoFundMe page for people to support him. You can find the link on the Community page of our website. On his selection, Mark said: "It's fantastic to be named in the GB squad and be able to represent the country on the back of some work for the Fit Rovers course at Tranmere Rovers."

"Hopefully I'll do Tranmere and the Wirral proud playing in Kazakhstan and help Team GB progress towards potentially competing at the Paralympic Games in Italy in 2026. I'm absolutely made up to be selected and looking forward to the challenge."

Mark's Team GB begin their campaign on Friday 6th October



at 10am BST, and you can follow their progress via the Paralympics YouTube channel.

## Rovers Club Chaplain Matt To Run Snowdonia Marathon In Aid Of Tric

Matt, a Club chaplain from our dementia-friendly session, is running the Snowdonia Marathon to raise money for TRIC and Dementia Together Wirral next month (see photo at top of page).

Matt said: "Over the past few years as a chaplain with Tranmere Rovers Football Club, I've had the privilege of getting to know some amazing people who care for a husband, wife or parent, living with dementia, and those diagnosed themselves. I've also seen the impact of two groups in particular, who provide brilliant care and support to these people."

You can sponsor Matt by clicking the link on our Pinned Tweet at @TRFCCommunity.







## MATCH IMAGES

v Accrington Stanley 26/9/2023

Nigel's first home match in charge as interim manager ends in a 2-0 victory, thanks to a Josh Hawkes brace, against our visitors from Lancashire.

Photos: Richard Ault & Tony Coombes





# JAMESON, GINGER & LIME

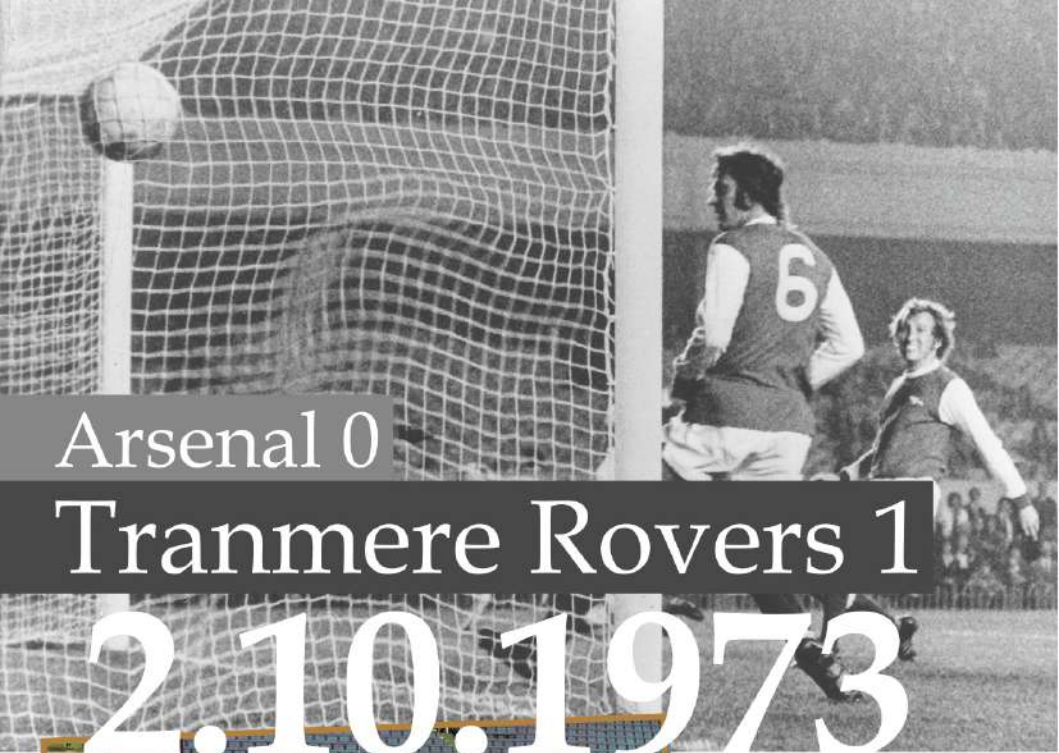


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# Arsenal 0 Tranmere Rovers 1 2.10.1973



**TRANMERE ROVERS**  
DIVISION THREE 1973-74

Back row (left to right): RAY FRITCHARD, EDDIE FLOOD, STEVE COPPELL, PIAA CROSSLEY  
KARIM (L); RAY LINDSEY (Only Goal); TOMMY VETCH, BOB LITTON, TOMMY LAWRENCE  
RICHARD JENNINGS, BASCOUR MOORE, BOBBY TYRAN, JOHN KING (TOWNS)  
Front row: BOB HATHILL, STU FARRINGTON, TONY YOUNG, BOB TAYLOR (Terry Wharmby)  
STEVE PERROW, RUSSELL ALLEN, JOHN BRASMAN



It was 50 years ago yesterday that Rovers achieved what was thought to be the impossible - beating First Division Arsenal in the League Cup - as in turn they became the only English club to record a 100% record at the old Highbury Stadium...





**SPORT**

The result which has night ruled the world of Soccer

Yeats booms the praises of his mighty Hovers

**ARSENAL 0 TRANMERE 1**

Like a helpful bank loan?

Tranmere will also bring back with them to Liverpool a large cheque—£10,000. It was a £10,000 cheque for the purchase of a house in the city.

Tranmere's manager, Ron Yeats, was jubilant. "I was really proud of them, especially the second half when Arsenal were really pressing us as equals."

**Mirror Sport**

Wednesday October 1, 1975

**WHAT A TRIUMPH**

Third Division Tranmere KO sorry Arsenal

Tranmere

Tranmere

**Soccer Shocker**

**Smiles as wide as the tunnel**

**Flood of goals—if Reds see the light**

Tranmere

Tranmere



Arsenal: Bob Wilson, Pat Rice, Peter Storey, Jeff Blockley, Peter Simpson, Bob McNab, George Armstrong, Alan Ball, Eddie Kelly, Ray Kennedy, John Radford. Sub: Brian Chambers (for Alan Ball).

Tranmere: Dickie Johnson, Ray Mathias, Syd Farrimond, Ronnie Moore, Ron Yeats, Willie Stevenson, Bobby Tynan, Mark Palios, Eddie Loyden, Tommy Young, Hughie McAuley. Sub: Paul Crossley (for Bobby Tynan). Referee: Ray Toseland (Kettering). Attendance: 20,337.

## Thinking up headlines for the sports pages of popular national newspapers requires a particular talent.

The writers have to find, in fewer than a handful words, a way to both signpost the outcome of a sporting encounter and convey the drama and excitement generated by the contest.

The sub-editors of the Daily Express on the night of October 2, 1973 (a time when the Express was among the bestselling titles in the country) came up with a novel way of highlighting the biggest upset in the second round of the League Cup.

They simply splashed the scoreline from the game at Highbury across the back page of the broadsheet paper in giant type:

**ARSENAL 0 TRANMERE 1**

Nothing more was required to persuade anyone with a passing interest in football to read more about how an Arsenal team that had won the League and FA Cup double 18 months before was humbled in front of their own fans by a mid-table Division Three side.

Arsenal's line-up featured the striking partnership of John Radford and Ray Kennedy and a World Cup winning midfield maestro in Alan Ball.

Tranmere, though, had a game plan, devised by player manager Ron Yeats and his assistant Johnny King and a team with the right balance of top-level experience and youthful energy to make it work.

The know-how and commanding presence was provided by Yeats himself. The centre half and captain of two title winning Liverpool teams in the mid-1960s knew how to dominate opposing forwards. He was aided by former Anfield teammate Willie Stevenson and, crucially, the young legs of Ronnie Moore, Bobby Tynan and the tenacious Mark Palios.

The plan called for Tranmere to limit Ball's influence by putting a clamp on the England international in the form of a man marker, Palios. The accountancy student, who went on to become chief executive of the FA and then chairman of Tranmere, did not allow an early booking to deter him from frustrating Ball at every turn. The Arsenal bench withdrew a frustrated Ball 10 minutes from time.

By crowding out the options in midfield, Tranmere encouraged Arsenal into taking the more direct route of launching long balls into the box.

This was playing into Tranmere's strength because Yeats and his mobile centre back partner Moore were masters in their own penalty area.

Moore later recalled: "It was an unbelievable result because Arsenal were such a strong side. I played alongside Ron Yeats at the back and it was a fantastic learning experience for me.

"He was a massive presence and a great talker.

Bill Shankly called him the Colossus and that's what he was.

"He was never the quickest, even when he was playing at Liverpool. But he had great timing. He was able to get his foot in for a tackle, get a big toe to the ball.

"He did play well that night. Arsenal had John Radford and Ray Kennedy up front but we limited them to very few chances. It was comfortable for me because Ron would go and attack the ball and I would drop off and do the sweeping role behind him. He did not miss much. He won the vast majority of the balls that came in."

Yeats confessed to the Liverpool Daily Post many years later: "It (the Arsenal game) figures very high up on my list of memories in football. When the draw was made I remember thinking that if Liverpool had found it so difficult to get results at Highbury, what chance would we have at Tranmere? So I thought, let's give it everything."

He recalled: "The man-marking idea came from my experiences at Liverpool. We had a lot of it done against us in Europe. The continental teams would put a man on Ian St John and Roger Hunt. Wherever they went, the marker went.

"I decided to put Mark on Bally. He was the man who everything came through for Arsenal. We said to Mark: 'If you can stop Bally producing the passes he usually does we might just have a chance'. Mark had a clever football brain. If you asked him to do something he did it meticulously.

"The man-marking worked so effectively that Arsenal reverted to the long-ball stuff quite early on. That's just what we wanted. Ronnie Moore and I just lapped it up. I won most of the headers and Ronnie took care of the running and tackling."

Yeats also remembered how full-backs Ray Mathias and Syd Farrimond were outstanding in keeping a tight leash on Arsenal's wide players and how Tynan and Tommy Young "ran themselves into the ground."

The all-important goal was scored by Eddie Loyden, a £7,000 signing from Chester, who fired home from six yards after a 30th minute cross from on-loan winger Hugh McAuley caused confusion in the Arsenal defence.

As much as Arsenal pressed for an equaliser, forcing goalkeeper Dickie Johnson into a fine save from Radford's header late on, Tranmere could have extended their lead with Loyden missing two clear cut chances.

By the final 20 minutes the North London crowd of 20,000 had begun jeering their own team's efforts and cheered Tranmere off at the final whistle.



SAM  
TAYLOR



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: **David Martin**

£20 gift voucher: **Tracy Lyon**

£15 gift voucher: **Anita Boldsworth**

£10 gift voucher: **Richard Atkins**

£10 gift voucher: **John Davies**

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](mailto:lottery@tranmererovers.co.uk)

**OUR LATEST WINNING NUMBERS**

**4 23 24 26**

**SATURDAY 23.9.2023**





# COVER TO COVER

CELEBRATING  
50  
years  
1973-2023

## ANDREW STURGEON ON ARSENAL V TRANMERE 73/74 LEAGUE CUP

The self-titled Arsenal programme, priced at 5 pence for 16 pages was produced for the League Cup game against Tranmere, in October 1973, in what was the first competitive fixture between the sides.



### TRANMERE—THE TEAM WITH THIS SEASON'S BEST DEFENCE

Tranmere Rovers, who have been in the Football League since 1971, are the only team in the country to have won the League Cup in their first season. They are also the only team to have won the League Cup in their first season.



Tranmere Rovers, who have been in the Football League since 1971, are the only team in the country to have won the League Cup in their first season. They are also the only team to have won the League Cup in their first season.

The programme cover remained the same as the one The Gunners used for their league fixtures that season. The match details, along with club logo are placed in a white band towards the upper half of the cover, in what is predominately a red cover. The lower section has four black and white match action photos from the previous season, and above these is an old style leather football with a nod to the reference that this season was the 60<sup>th</sup> at Highbury.

Unusually the programme contained no advertisements whatsoever and was purely focused on club content, as Arsenal remained resistant to such additional income streams back in those days.

The programme opens with the "Topics of the Week" section, and discusses how elusive, winning the League Cup has been for Arsenal; despite being runners up in 1968 and 1969 Arsenal had not had the best of luck in this competition. The editorial notes "It is our performances at home which have been our weakness" and "It being curious that five out of seven times a poor performance at home has cost us the match". Maybe the visiting players reading this pre match could see an opportunity.

Readers' letters are published over a

page and a half, and these include two disgruntled writers finding it difficult to obtain match programmes from the Arsenal shop after the match, and one querying why none of the action photos on the cover were from Highbury.

The 'current' tables of the three leagues Arsenal are competing in (Division 1, South East Counties League and Football Combination) along with the Division 3 table are all set out. The latter shows Rovers sitting in 2nd place on 10 points after 7 games. Having won 4, drawn 2 and lost only once. The table not quite up-to-date and reflective of the previous game, which Rovers had lost 1-0 at home against Halifax.

A significant portion of the programme, amounting to six and half pages, are given over to the visitors. Six black and white photos are used to set the scene of what life was like at Prenton Park. In addition, a vertically placed Tranmere team photo takes up a page, ensuring readers have to twist their necks or the programme to study the team and marvel at the wonderful sideburns and mullets the players were sporting.

A page sets out the pen pictures of the Rovers team under the club crest, but fails to mention either Ray

Mathias or Hugh McAuley who both started in the team that night. The authors 'jibes' on some of the Rovers team, may have also proved the catalyst in motivating them to win. These included for keeper Dick Johnson, "who is 6ft 11in weighs 12st 10lb... and is still growing" and goal scorer Eddie Loyden "He is powerful in the air. Covers a lot of ground too – but that is the story of this Liverpool lads career because Tranmere are his eighth club".

The predicted starting eleven for both teams are set out on the back page, along with the team colours and officials, and underneath this is the programme of live pre match music to be played by the Metropolitan Police Band.

As for the programme, it is understood the print run was significantly lower than normal, as the tie was not particularly inspiring for the hosts. This is reflected in the attendance of 20,337, which was close to ten thousand less than the league average at Highbury that season. Despite this, the issue can easily be found today and is likely to be in the programme collections of fans from both teams, as the tie will forever be etched in the folklore of both Rovers and Highbury.

# We are proud to support

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in Sport



NSPCC



Child Protection  
in Sport Unit

**The NSPCC's Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport campaign focus week has launched across the country, as new polling reveals 28% of parents have seen or experienced inappropriate behaviour from adults on the sidelines at their children's sports clubs and activity providers.**

This year's campaign is calling on parents to get involved in their child's sport, be supportive, and help keep children safe, and includes a new video which explores how behaviour from the sidelines can affect young sportspeople.

Entitled My No.1 Fan, the short film features interviews with families talking about what positive parental behaviour and support means to them and how negative behaviour can impact children's enjoyment of sport.

Tranmere Rovers has joined footballing icon Alan Shearer and Team GB skateboarder Sky Brown to call on sports and activity clubs across the country at all levels to support Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week.

The NSPCC recognises that children enjoy sport and activities the most when parents are engaged in what they do, whether it is postgame support and cheerleading or showing an interest in the rules of the game.

Nigel Adkins, Interim First-Team Manager of Tranmere Rovers, said: "Taking the opportunity to show an interest or to be involved in your child's sporting adventure can provide a valuable safe environment for your child to enjoy their

sporting experience, benefit from the healthy exercise, and appreciate the importance of belonging to a team.

"Our support of the future generation can be rewarding, not only for your child but potentially for the whole family."

As well as this new film, the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) hosts a wealth of resources and information on the Parents' Hub, including a free e-learning course on keeping children safer in sport, videos, podcasts and factsheets.

The NSPCC and its CPSU want to bring together parents, sports clubs, and bodies to help give them the confidence and knowledge about the role they can play in keeping their children safe in sports and activity settings.

The NSPCC will also be encouraging parents to get involved and learn more about their local sports clubs and be part of the team. Parents can learn more about safeguarding on the CPSU parent hub via the official website.

To find out more about being your child's biggest supporter and how to get involved with the campaign, visit [the cpsu.org.uk/parents](http://the cpsu.org.uk/parents).

Be their  
biggest  
supporter

Keeping

Your Child Safe

in Sport

Be their  
no.1 fan



## Tranmere Rovers' Brand-New Audio Descriptive Commentary Service is now available to use at Prenton Park!



**The new service provides unique and catered live full-match commentary to improve the matchday experience of supporters who are blind and vision impaired, or rely on audio description to follow the match.**

We would like to express our gratitude to the Cheshire Lodge, Mike Ireland, and his committee for helping to allow us to make this possible.

We pride ourselves on being as inclusive as possible throughout the Club and on matchdays, so this is another step in the right direction to enhancing the matchday experience for all.

Alan March Sport, who are helping to provide the service, have commentary teams around the country, including in the Premier League, and have also covered World Cups, European Championships, the

UEFA Champions League and the Olympics.

Christine Roberts, Head of Operations & Matchday at the Club, said: "I'm delighted to introduce Audio Descriptive Commentary to Tranmere Rovers at Prenton Park, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to inclusivity."

"Over my time at Tranmere, we've consistently strived to enhance facilities for all supporters. Thanks to the generous support of the Cheshire Lodge and the Lee Knight Foundation, we are now able to provide this essential service to our supporters."

### How does the coverage work?

Headsets will be available for every game at Prenton Park, to home and away supporters.

Pre-match coverage will typically begin around 40 minutes ahead of the match, with live coverage of the game starting 10 minutes before, with a break at half-time.


### How can supporters access the service?

Supporters can collect a headset from The Club Store and return them there afterwards.

Headsets can be reserved via email at [shop@tranmererovers.co.uk](mailto:shop@tranmererovers.co.uk) or on the phone at 03330 144452.



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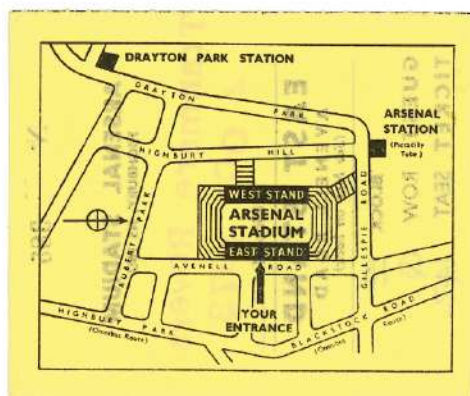
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18+

# Prentonian Personal Effects



Continuing along our theme for the evening based on the events at Highbury in October 1973, we've now devoted tonight's 'personal effects' page to specifically the actual match tickets that were issued to supporters that night.



There were no less than six different designs and formats, each reserved for the famous stands at the old stadium. Like several clubs in that era, the ticket designs were quite distinctive, and were well-recognised in later years, especially when Arsenal decided to give up the old stadium and move to pastures new. Occasionally these tickets for the League Cup have appeared on Ebay, and have sold for various prices, while a double set of tickets went to auction in London recently, and alongside items relating to the event.

The basic history of the original stadium indicates it was built in 1913, this when Woolwich Arsenal moved from the Manor Ground in Plumstead, South East London to Highbury, leasing the recreation fields of St John's College of Divinity for £20,000. The stadium was hurriedly built over the summer of that year, and was designed by Archibald Leitch, architect of many other football grounds of that era. It featured a single stand on the eastern side and the other three sides had banked terracing. The new stadium cost £125,000. It opened whilst not fully complete, with Arsenal's first match of the 1913/14 season, a 2-1 Second Division win against Leicester Fosse on 6 September 1913, before Highbury hosted its first England match in 1920.

In its later years Arsenal's success during the 1990s and 2000s meant that virtually every home match was filled to near capacity. Restrictions, such as the East Stand's status as a listed building and the fact the

stadium was surrounded on all sides by a residential area, made any future expansion of Highbury difficult and expensive, although the club's directors would have liked to have kept Arsenal at a modernised and expanded Highbury.

In November 1999, Arsenal decided to leave Highbury and construct a new 60,000-seat stadium in nearby Ashburton Grove, which then opened in July 2006. Arsenal's final game at the stadium was a FA Premier League match against Wigan the final day of the 2005/06 season.



Why not share your Rovers 'Personal Effects' with us - we'd love to hear from you!  
Email us at [tonyc@tranmererovers.co.uk](mailto:tonyc@tranmererovers.co.uk)



# The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

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**No supporter of Reading was surprised by the news that the club's owner, Dai Yongge, had failed to pay HMRC this month. Exactly the same thing happened in June, when the Royals were served with a winding up petition.**

In fact, Reading have lost a total of 16 points since Yongge took control of the club in 2017 and have suffered deductions in each of their last three campaigns.

He's continually missed wage payments. Failed to comply with the terms of an EFL business plan. Just last week, the 55-year-old was charged with misconduct for failing to deposit 125% per cent of the club's monthly wage bill by September 12.

The EFL said it was "necessary" to take further proceedings against Dai personally for repeatedly failing to meet the club's funding requirements, which was having a "detrimental impact" on the Royals and their wider stakeholders.

You can say that again. Relegated last term after being docked six points in April, the Royals have spent the last two years under a transfer embargo and began the weekend in the League One relegation zone.

But what does a charge for Yongge actually achieve? The Chinese businessman has proved through word and deed that he's finished with English football. What does he care about a misconduct charge?

Not for the first time, it raises the question of whether points deductions are an appropriate punishment for the failings of an owner, and whether more can be done to prevent football clubs falling - or more appositely, remaining - in the wrong hands.

The other two clubs he owned, Beijing Renhe in China and KSV Roeselare in Belgium, both folded in the aftermath of relegation and financial problems. Unfortunately, these insolvencies both occurred after he bought Reading, so weren't flagged up by the EFL's owners and directors test. This is the crux of the issue.

Once an owner has the keys to the stadium and his name in the ledger at Companies House, there is nothing to stop that person from running riot. They can asset strip. Overspend. Sell the stadium. Take out loans at rates that would make Wonga blush. Or, in Reading's case, leave workers out of pocket by failing to pay wages on time.

The only forms of redress available to the EFL are sporting sanctions like transfer embargoes and points deductions, but neither solve the problem. In many cases, they make it worse.

One solution widely suggested is a licensing system, which would require prospective owners to prove their capacity to run a football club prior to taking charge, then continue to meet certain criteria thereafter under threat of the licence being revoked.

What happens then, though? Even if they could somehow be compelled to sell, you need a buyer willing to take on the club. A bad owner is still better than no owner at all.

It's a devilishly tricky issue, and perhaps the only way to solve it is through real-time accounting so that the EFL is aware of financial issues before they spiral out of control. As to what the authorities then do about it... answers on a postcard, please.



By Chris Dunlavy, reporter, The Football League Paper

**Tranmere Rovers FC Women progressed to the next round of the Women's FA Cup following a 9-0 victory over Pilkington's Women on Sunday afternoon.**



Rovers had raced into a 4-0 lead by half-time, after Linsey Smith had put them ahead after 16 minutes, before Ellie Doyle increased it three minutes later. Ellie found the net once again on 32 minutes before completing her hat-trick three minutes before the break.

Rovers continued to push for more goals in the second period, and were rewarded further as Amy Shannon then made it five. Jess Brady's brace completed the route before Elisha Price and Ellie Doyle wrapped things with up, with an eighth and ninth respectively, in the final minutes.

The victory now puts them into the Third Qualifying Round, with the next phase taking place on Sunday 22 October.



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**Scan here for the latest Women's team news**

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**Next First Team Game  
v Salford City  
Lionesses**

**Sunday 8 October 2023**

**Kick-off 2.00pm**

**Ellesmere Port Sports Village  
Stanley Lane CH65 9LB**



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





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



Sam  
IRVINE



Craig  
NOLAN



Lynn  
CARTER



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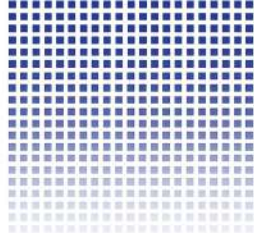


info@searchability.com



# Steve Bower

He's One  
Of Our Own



**The encouraging performances of Sam Taylor this season and indeed our recent signings of Conor Robson, Joe Starbuck and Jean Belehovuan have only reinforced how exciting it is as a fan to see a young talent break through and be given an opportunity. Here at this club of course the list of local talent making their first team impact is longer than most.**

However, for various reasons it is getting harder for teenagers to make their mark. Our three recent arrivals have all spent time at 'bigger clubs' without being offered a chance to take it further.

Only last week a report quoted that from 4,109 category one academy footballers, 70% weren't even handed a contract at any of the 92 football league clubs. In fact only 1 in 20 players even made more than 20 appearances in the top four divisions.

It's more cut-throat than ever. I've witnessed the system first hand as both of my sons have had spells in academy football. I've also covered the likes of the FA Youth cup earlier in my career and been close to players and families who've been successful in that competition and then not gone on to have football in their lives thereafter.

There are more children being taken into academies and less players being offered contracts, that's why I was delighted earlier this year to see the PFA recommendations to government for more support and care given to young player welfare, especially those 'rejected'. A player isn't eligible currently for PFA membership until they are 16- for many that it is too late.

Everyone should dream, of that there is no doubt but also there needs to be a times a reminder of reality.

As many a seasoned international has said to me, the real work starts when you've tasted first team life. Let's continue to get behind our young talent and encourage them to take their dreams as far as they can. Enjoy the game

SWA

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

### Crewe Alexandra

Sky Bet League Two.  
Saturday 14 October 2023.  
Kick-off 3.00pm.



### Match Admission

Whitby Morrison Stand (Covered Seating).  
Adults £27, Senior Citizens 65+ £21.00, 17-19 Years £21.00,  
12-16 Years £13.00, Under-11s £7.50, Wheelchair Disabled  
£21.00 with Carer Free.  
Tickets now on general sale.

### Club Coach & Travel

Departs Prenton Park 11.30am.  
Adults £24, Concessions £22.  
Seats subject to availability.

### Stadium Location & Main Contact

Address: Mornflake Stadium, Gresty Road, Crewe, Cheshire  
CW2 6EB.  
Main Telephone: 01270 213 014.

### Morecambe

Sky Bet League Two.  
Tuesday 24 October 2023.  
Kick-off 7.45pm.



### Match Admission

Dennison Trailer Stand (Covered Terrace).  
Adults £20, 65+ £15, Young Adult (18-22) £10,  
Junior (14-17) £6, Child (2-13) £3.  
Beyond Radio Stand (Covered Seating).  
Adults £20, 65+ £15, Young Adult (18-22) £10,  
Junior (14-17) £6, Child (2-13) £3.  
Tickets now on general sale.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES ON THE NIGHT - TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE.**

### Club Coach Travel

Departs Prenton Park 4.30pm.  
Adults £28, Concessions £26.  
Seats subject to availability.

### Stadium Location & Main Contact

Address: The Mazuma Mobile Stadium, Christie Way,  
Westgate, Morecambe, LA4 4TB.  
Main Telephone: 01524 411 797.

**TO BUY ONLINE GO TO [WWW.TRFC.TICKETS.CO.UK](http://WWW.TRFC.TICKETS.CO.UK) >>>**





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# DISABLEDROVERS

## Tranmere Rovers Disabled Supporters Association

**Hello and welcome back to Prenton Park to the Super White Army for our second home game under Mr Adkins' management. That home win felt great last time we were all here, didn't it? A warm welcome is also extended to Bradford City's fans for making the trip over from West Yorkshire and we hope you enjoy your evening on the Wirral.**

### Disability Identifiers

We have recently launched a 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 - I personally love my wristband and find playing with it a great way to relieve stress at tense moments of our matches. 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 Facebook, Twitter/X or email.

### 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](mailto:TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com).

### 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 on [TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com](mailto:TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com) with any

experiences, positive or negative, of away days 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, who are keen to hear about accessibility in the women's game.

### 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, audiovisual 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.

### 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.

### 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 to participate. If so, please do get in touch.

Please contact us on [TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com](mailto:TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com) if you would like one and we can sort out collection or delivery.

**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](mailto:TranmereRoversDSA@gmail.com).**



# QU?Z ZONE



CAN YOU HELP JUNIOR FIND THE ANSWERS? >>>

## 10 X QUESTIONS...

1. Which current Bradford forward used to play his home matches at Prenton Park?
2. What is the home stadium of Bradford City named?
3. Which country won the 2018 FIFA World Cup?
4. Who is the only goalkeeper in history to win the Ballon d'Or?
5. Which Rovers legend joined the club from Everton in 1992?
6. And how many goals did he score for Tranmere?
7. Which club won the FA Cup in 2022/23?
8. Al Ittihad recently signed N'golo Kante from which Premier League side?
9. Which German team beat Manchester United 4-2 in the UEFA Champions League group stages?
10. Which Rovers player opened the scoring in our 2-0 victory over Accrington Stanley this season?

## WORDSEARCH...

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

BRADFORD CITY  
LEAGUE CUP FINAL  
LIAM RIDEHALGH  
MANNINGHAM FC  
MARK HUGHES

PARK AVENUE  
PLAY OFF FINAL  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
THE BANTAMS  
VALLEY PARADE

## KIT OF THE DAY

>>>>>

Which season is this kit from?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 57...

**Matchday nine of the 2023/24 Sky Bet League Two season saw newly promoted Notts County climb to the top of the table after defeating Forest Green Rovers 4-3 in an action-packed affair at Meadow Lane.**



Daniel Crowley opened the scoring for the hosts as his header skimmed the post and crept in early on. Macaulay Langstaff doubled their lead with an acrobatic volley in the 37th minute, but his side's lead was gone in a flash as Troy Deeney showed his quality and completed a five minute brace to equalise on the hour mark. Seven minutes later, County had restored their two-goal cushion though, as John Bostock's close-range finish was followed up by a clinical strike from David McGoldrick. Deeney took home the match ball after converting from the spot,

but Forest Green were left empty handed. It was a brilliant week offensively, as 46 goals were



scored throughout the 12 fixtures. It was a bad week for the other promoted club though, as Wrexham fell to a 5-0 defeat to Stockport County. An Isaac Olaofe hat-trick in addition to Louie Barry's sixth goal in as many games, and Paddy Madden's late strike ensured the Red Dragons were played in ruthless fashion.

It was also a busy week for referees, as four red cards were shown throughout the division. Morecambe were reduced to ten during their evenly contested battle with high-flying Swindon Town. Dan Kemp put Town ahead with twelve minutes on the

clock, heading home to finish off an excellent team goal. Jake Taylor responded with a header of his own to draw the scores level on the half hour mark. Yann Songo'o was shown a straight red card after denying Town a goalscoring opportunity, with Charlie Austin making no mistake from the resulting strike from twelve yards out to give Swindon the advantage. With ten minutes remaining, Ethan Walker beat his man after chopping in from the right, and slotted the ball past the outrushing 'keeper to ensure the points were shared.







# Tranmere Rovers Supporters Club



**Good evening all and welcome to Prenton Park to all home and away fans.**

As previously announced but in case you've missed it, our latest retro offering, the yellow shirts completing the 89-91 iconic 'E' branded set, recently landed. If you ordered one for collection then please get along to Aldo's as soon as you can. If you ordered delivery then you should have yours by now but please get in touch if this is not the case. Limited sizes will be on sale soon but these will go very fast, so if you missed out on pre-ordering then, we thank you for your patience and make sure you're following us on all channels!

Following a healthy following and sold out TROSC coach to Wimbledon at the weekend, we look ahead to forthcoming trips to Crewe, Morecambe and Stockport. There is no better way to travel to the game than on our coaches, and members receive a £2 discount so please keep your eyes peeled on our social media channels for more details as they become available, and if you're interested in booking on then please mail us: [supportersclub@tranmererovers.co.uk](mailto:supportersclub@tranmererovers.co.uk)

Aldo's is open tonight as ever, and on most Saturday fixtures this season we will have live bands on after the game. If you've not popped in yet, then give it a go pre or post-match. The atmosphere is friendly and all money spent, whether at our TROSC bar or the club's draught bar, is going back into the club.

Enjoy the game, and as Nige says - stay positive!





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# A League Of Our Own

John Adamson...and Crewe Alexandra

**PART 1**

**Railway sheds like those at Crewe inspired one entrepreneur, whilst another involved the creator of a popular series of children's books. These two apparently disparate brainwaves both fed into the same dark passion. What was it? Let's journey on.**

Our connections from Crewe are to Nottinghamshire and London Waterloo. The Midlands journey finds a man purporting to be a Red Indian Chief. He disappointingly turned out to be a retired ex-Cheshire headmaster with a delayed mid-life crisis. The southern scheme was a hobby guidebook written by an opportunist author, Ian Allen.

Our Big Chief, one Charles Warrell, rewarded children who completed his quiz books (and returned them to him at 'Wigwam on the Water') with a certificate and a feather. Records do not relate if any songbirds, raptors or warblers were mistreated in this process. Over half a million children responded, and the 'I Spy' tribe was born.

'I Spy On the Pavement' was one, useful given the post-war rise in dog walking. 'I Spy Cars' was another, and 'I Spy Fossils and Rocks' was there for the more determined. 'I Spy Dysfunctional Households' was never published. And we mustn't forget the classic 'I Spy on a Train Journey'.

In 1948's London Waterloo, from the maintenance shed where he worked, Ian Allen spotted a rising public fascination with locomotives, predominantly among the male of the species. He founded an inspirational hobby which remains untouched by woke culture; trainspotting.

Warrell and Allen were about to change Britain's culture for ever. Children were bribed with bird parts, then brainwashed into thinking it was cool to collect loco numbers, with their elders given a

structure for them to cling to so it felt grown up too.

Allen identified different spotter types. Whilst detail was critical to all, the beginners and the amateurs just watched casually as the meticulous numbers men recorded each engine which flashed by in a special book. As photography became more accessible, another group evolved, requiring pictures as proof. Then there were the memorabilia men, tirelessly also looking for discarded tickets, timetables and leaflets.

Allen encouraged them to band together into clubs. Their uniform developed with the hobby, and winters were hard. The anorak, a coat native to Greenland's Inuit population, became de rigueur along with the inevitable tatty woolly hat. In Crewe, this was cutting edge fashion.

The best anoraks were less available in our Cheshire town than in the Arctic, being weatherproofed by the skin of a fresh seal or reindeer. The hobbyists gritted their teeth and bought greying modern versions. Synthetic anorak-manufacturers and trainspotter numbers continued to flourish.

On your next rail journey through Crewe, you might like to keep an eye out for them and count how many you see on platform ends. Maybe make a note? It gets compulsive. Spotting and spying are infectious.

'I Spy Trainspotters' was never written, but, after the anorak and the hat, the coffee flask would surely be the third item in the book, just before the notebook and two pencils. In case one broke.





Luke  
McGEE

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
Larne Wallissson Sweden
REHAB CENTRES UK



Lee  
O'CONNOR

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
Sol-Britt Wallissson Sweden



Brad  
WALKER

AWAY KIT HOME KIT



Tom  
DAVIES

AWAY KIT HOME KIT



Jordan  
TURNBULL

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



Charlie  
JOLLEY

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
Ian & Denise Lally



Joe  
MURPHY

HOME KIT
The Abraham Family



Kristian  
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Kieron  
MORRIS

FULL KIT
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Toshua's Independent Jewellers



Regan  
HENDRY

FULL KIT
Steve & Tim Shephard Foxboro USA



Luke  
NORRIS

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
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Reece  
McALEAR

AWAY KIT HOME KIT



Josh  
HAWKES

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
Liv Harding



Rhys  
HUGHES

AWAY KIT HOME KIT



Connor  
JENNINGS

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
Ian & Denise Lally
Larne Wallissson Sweden
Double Trouble (Phil & Mark)



Harvey  
SAUNDERS

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
Midlands SWA
Liv Harding



Sam  
TAYLOR

AWAY KIT HOME KIT
Nootroedge



Paul  
LEWIS

AWAY KIT HOME KIT

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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	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0
Jean Belehouan	01/09/2000	England	Sheffield United	30	DEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	10	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	0
Kristian Dennis	12/03/1990	England	Carlisle United	14	STR	8	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	1
Josh Hawkes	28/01/1999	England	Sunderland	11	MID	10	4	0	0	2	0	1	0	13	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	10	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	13	0
Ben Hockenhuil	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	9	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	12	2
Charlie Jolley	13/01/2001	England	Wigan Athletic	12	STR	7	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	9	2
Jake Leake (L)	20/02/2003	England	Hull City (L)	3	DEF	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0
Paul Lewis	17/12/1994	England	Northampton Town	22	MID	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	0
Reece McAlear	12/02/2002	Scotland	Norwich City	23	MID	6	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	9	0
Luke McGee	02/09/1995	England	Forest Green Rovers	1	GOL	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	0
Chris Merrie	02/11/1998	England	Wigan Athletic	16	MID	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	0
Kieron Morris	03/06/1994	England	Walsall	7	MID	9	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	12	1
Joe Murphy	21/08/1981	Ireland	Shrewsbury Town	13	GOL	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
James Norris (L)	04/04/2003	England	Liverpool U21 (L)	26	DEF	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Luke Norris	03/06/1993	England	Stevenage	9	STR	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	2
Lee O'Connor	28/07/2000	Ireland	Celtic	2	DEF	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Dan Pike	09/01/2002	England	AFC Pylyde	24	MID	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	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	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0
Joe Starbuck	03/08/2002	England	Sheffield United	31	MID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sam Taylor	23/12/2004	England	Youth/College	20	STR	10	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	13	3
Jordan Turnbull	30/10/1994	England	Salford City	6	DEF	11	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	13	0
Brad Walker	25/04/1995	England	Port Vale	4	MID	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0
Connor Wood	17/07/1996	England	Colchester United	27	DEF	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Joe Yarny	08/10/1997	England	Oldham Athletic	21	DEF	7	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	0
OWN GOALS	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0

## The Factual Figures So Far From Season 2023/2024

# 53

Substitutions made  
in all games played so far

# 2

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

# 9

Goals scored at home  
in all competitions

# 7

Goals scored  
in all competitions in  
the second half of matches

## Quiz Zone Page: Answers from Page 49

### QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Andy Cook.
2. Valley Parade.
3. France.
4. Lionel Messi.
5. Pat Nevin.
6. 30.
7. Manchester City.
8. Chelsea.
9. Bayern Munich.
10. Josh Hawkes.

### KIT OF THE DAY:

2016/17 away kit.





# 2023/2024

+ Live on Sky Sports # Live on BT Sports



M/N	DATE	H/A	OPPOSITION	COMP	RESULT	POS	ATT	AWAY	GOALSCORERS	REFEREE
1	Sat 3 Aug	H	BARROW	SBL2	L 1 - 2	17th	6,384	557	Hawkes (62 pen)	Ollie Yates
2	Tue 6 Aug	A	Barnsley	CC1	D 2 - 2*	—	4,343	439	Norris (23), Taylor (47)	Thomas Kirk
3	Sat 12 Aug	A	Milton Keynes Dons	SBL2	L 0 - 1	23rd	5,831	819		Sunny Sukhvir Gill
4	Tue 15 Aug	H	HARROGATE TOWN	SBL2	W 3 - 0	17th	5,278	83	Norris (24), Taylor (26), Morris (89)	Lee Swabey
5	Sat 19 Aug	H	SALFORD CITY	SBL2	L 3 - 4	19th	5,594	197	Jennings (6), Dennis (36), Jolley (87)	Scott Tallos
6	Sat 26 Aug	A	Notts County	SBL2	L 1 - 2	21st	10,174	865	Hawkes (88)	Thomas Parsons
7	Tue 29 Aug	H	LEICESTER CITY	CC2	L 0 - 2	—	6,610	1,441		Ben Toner
8	Sat 2 Sep	H	WREXHAM	SBL2	L 0 - 1	21st	10,630	2,074		Martin Woods
9	Tue 5 Sep	A	Fleetwood Town	EFLT1-NGD	L 0 - 2	—	664	81		Scott Simpson
10	Sat 9 Sep	A	Colchester United	SBL2	L 0 - 2	22nd	3,474	185		Declan Bourne
11	Sat 16 Sep	A	Crawley Town	SBL2	L 2 - 3	23rd	2,941	285	Jolley (21), Taylor (56)	Alan Young
12	Sat 23 Sep	H	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	SBL2	W 2 - 0	23rd	5,590	354	Hawkes (14 pen, 49)	Sam Purkiss
13	Sat 30 Sep	A	AFC Wimbledon	SBL2	L 1 - 4	23rd	7,367	444	Jennings (4)	Daniel Middleton
14	Tue 3 Oct	H	BRADFORD CITY	SBL2	7.45pm					
15	Sat 7 Oct	H	GRIMSBY TOWN	SBL2	3.00pm					
16	Tue 10 Oct	H	LEICESTER CITY U21	EFLT1-NGD	7.00pm					
17	Sat 14 Oct	A	Crewe Alexandra	SBL2	3.00pm					
18	Fri 20 Oct	H	DONCASTER ROVERS	SBL2	7.45pm					
19	Tue 24 Oct	A	Morecambe	SBL2	7.45pm					
20	Sat 28 Oct	A	Stockport County	SBL2	3.00pm					
21	Sat 4 Nov		EMIRATES FA CUP ROUND 1							
22	Sat 11 Nov	H	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	SBL2	3.00pm					
23	Tue 14 Nov	H	WIGAN ATHLETIC	EFLT1-NGD	7.00pm					
24	Sat 18 Nov	A	Sutton United	SBL2	3.00pm					
25	Sat 25 Nov	H	GILLINGHAM	SBL2	3.00pm					
26	Tue 28 Nov	A	Mansfield Town	SBL2	7.45pm					
27	Sat 2 Dec		EMIRATES FA CUP ROUND 2							
28	Sat 9 Dec	H	NEWPORT COUNTY AFC	SBL2	3.00pm					
29	Sat 16 Dec	A	Walsall	SBL2	3.00pm					
30	Sat 23 Dec	H	SWINDON TOWN	SBL2	3.00pm					
31	Tue 26 Dec	A	Salford City	SBL2	3.00pm					
32	Fri 29 Dec	A	Harrogate Town	SBL2	TBC					
33	Mon 1 Jan	H	NOTTS COUNTY	SBL2	3.00pm					
34	Sat 6 Jan	A	Barrow	SBL2	3.00pm					
35	Sat 13 Jan	H	MILTON KEYNES DONS	SBL2	3.00pm					
36	Sat 20 Jan	A	Swindon Town	SBL2	3.00pm					
37	Sat 3 Feb	H	CREWE ALEXANDRA	SBL2	3.00pm					
38	Sat 10 Feb	A	Doncaster Rovers	SBL2	3.00pm					
39	Tue 13 Feb	H	MORECAMBE	SBL2	7.45pm					
40	Sat 17 Feb	H	STOCKPORT COUNTY	SBL2	3.00pm					
41	Sat 24 Feb	A	Forest Green Rovers	SBL2	3.00pm					
42	Sat 2 Mar	H	SUTTON UNITED	SBL2	3.00pm					
43	Sat 9 Mar	A	Gillingham	SBL2	3.00pm					
44	Tue 12 Mar	H	MANSFIELD TOWN	SBL2	7.45pm					
45	Sat 16 Mar	A	Rendham	SBL2	3.00pm					
46	Sat 23 Mar	H	CRAWLEY TOWN	SBL2	3.00pm					
47	Fri 29 Mar	A	Bradford City	SBL2	3.00pm					
48	Mon 1 Apr	H	COLCHESTER UNITED	SBL2	3.00pm					
49	Sat 6 Apr	H	WALSALL	SBL2	3.00pm					
50	Sat 13 Apr	A	Newport County AFC	SBL2	3.00pm					
51	Sat 20 Apr	H	AFC WIMBLEDON	SBL2	3.00pm					
52	Sat 27 Apr	A	Accrington Stanley	SBL2	3.00pm					



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

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

MIN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
LUKE BUDGE																																			
LEE O'CONNOR																																			
JAKE LAKE																																			
BROD WALKER																																			
TOM DAVIES																																			
JORDAN TURNBULL																																			
KIERAN MORRIS																																			
NIGAN HENDRY																																			
LUKE ROBERTS																																			
JOHN HERRINGS																																			
LUK HANNAKE																																			
CHARLIE POLLEY																																			
JOE MURPHY																																			
KRISTIAN DENNIS																																			
BEN HOCKENHULL																																			
CHAS MERRIE																																			
RYAN HUGHES																																			
CONOR JENNINGS																																			
HARVEY SAUNDERS																																			
SHIN TAYLOR																																			
JAS VARNNEY																																			
FINN LEWIS																																			
NICO MACLALAN																																			
DAN FINE																																			
ROB APTER																																			
JAMES NORRIS																																			
CONOR WOOD																																			
MILLY DAVIES																																			
CONOR ROBSON																																			
FINN BELMOUNAN																																			
JOE STARBUCK																																			

## Volunteer Opportunity: Become the voice of Prenton Park!

Are you ready to be at the heart of the action on matchdays at Prenton Park? We're adding to our team of dedicated volunteers to be our PA announcers and music maestros, creating the ultimate matchday vibe for our beloved Tranmere Rovers!

### WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Imagine yourself as the voice that echoes through Prenton Park, announcing our starting lineup with

passion and pride. Cheer on our goal scorers and keep the atmosphere buzzing with match updates and halftime entertainment.

### JOIN THE TEAM!

Are you a die-hard Tranmere Rovers supporter with a soft spot for music and football fervour? Then this is your moment! Drop us an email at [christiner@tranmererovers.co.uk](mailto:christiner@tranmererovers.co.uk) with your details, a few words about

yourself and a short recording including the following:

- \*Welcoming people to Prenton Park
- \*Announcing the line-up (home and away)
- \*Announcing a goal scorer for Tranmere
- \*Any message of your choice, could be a birthday celebration, first visit to the ground, group tour etc.
- \*Let's make Prenton Park roar with pride.



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

1		9	JAKE YOUNG
2		7	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
3		7	ELLIOT LEE
4		7	JAMES TILLEY
5		7	WILL EVANS

**TOTAL SHOTS**

1		42	JAMES TILLEY
2		36	MACAULAY LANGSTAFF
3		32	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
4		31	ELLIOT LEE
5		29	DANIEL KEMP

**% OF GOALS INVOLVED IN**

1		60	JOSEPH TAYLOR
2		60	JAMES TILLEY
3		56.2	DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN
4		55.6	MICHAEL MELLON
5		54.5	ABO EISA

**DRIBBLES COMPLETED**

1		26	JAYDEN FEVRIER
2		24	OMARI PATRICK
3		21	LOUIE BARRY
4		20	JONATHAN LEKO
5		19	KYLE MCALLISTER

**ASSISTS**

1		4	LIAM KELLY
2		4	DANIEL KEMP
3		4	JAKE YOUNG
4		4	STEPHEN QUINN
5		4	JODI JONES

**CHANCES CREATED**

1		31	KYLE MCALLISTER
2		22	ELLIOT LEE
3		22	REMEAO HUTTON
4		20	REGAN HENDRY
5		19	NOAH CHILVERS

**SUCCESSFUL PASSES**

1		735	MATTHEW PALMER
2		627	RICHARD BRINDLEY
3		562	KYLE CAMERON
4		559	FRAZER BLAKE-TRACY
5		559	LOUIS REED

**SAVES**

1		37	HARVEY DAVIES
2		32	LUKE MCGEE
3		30	OWEN GOODMAN
4		30	LUKE DANIELS
5		29	BEN HINCHLIFFE

**ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT**

Stockport have lost just one of their last 18 home games in League Two (W9 D8), going down 0-1 to Gillingham on MD1 this term.

Since winning four successive away league games from May to August, Gillingham lost both of their two such matches in September.

Data excludes weekend games.

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

# NEXT UP...



**Grimsby Town are the next side to make the trip to Prenton Park, as Paul Hurst's men look to secure all three points in Merseyside on Saturday 7 October 2023, with the tie commencing at 3.00pm.**

The Mariners earned a point against today's opponents, Bradford City, at the start of September, and have had a solid start to the season; with a surprise 2-0 victory over high-flying Gillingham a highlight so far.

Manger, Paul Hurst is currently in his second spell at the club, after initially taking charge of Town in 2011 alongside Rob Scott, whose suspension lead to Hurst taking full charge in 2013. The 49-year-old oversaw Grimsby's return to the Football League in 2016, but left for Shrewsbury Town. In December 2020, he returned to Saturday's opponents, and has been in the manager's seat since, taking them back to the Football League again in 2022.

**Saturday 7 October 2023**

**Kick-Off 3.00pm - Tickets On Sale Now**





# 23 Images



It would probably be no surprise that for tonight's image search, we've opted to choose one from the Arsenal night of fame – and one in particular that reflects the occasion off the pitch.



It portrays Chairman Bill Bothwell greeting the Rovers players who had travelled back to Merseyside the following day from London Euston, and arriving at Liverpool Lime Street, following the previous night's historic event.

The image was seen across the country, as Rovers lapped up the national headlines having beaten the Gunners on their own turf.

However, despite the famous victory, the 1973/74 season as a whole then proved to be little more than a passing phase, as a 16th place finish in Division Three was confirmed on 26 April 1974, following a 2-0 home win over Southend United.

Prior to the tie at Highbury, it had looked promising as Rovers had won five of their first ten games played, drawn three and losing just twice – but beyond this, league wins alone were hard to come by. In fact, they would only achieve another four victories before Boxing Day.

Even an impressive showing against Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Third Round of League Cup – with Loyden scoring again to draw 1-1 at Prenton Park, in a match which was played out in front of a crowd of 14,442 and almost saw Rovers steal a winner in the dying moments – was then undone by a unfortunate and slender 2-1 loss at Molineux in the replay two weeks later.

New Year's Day away to Plymouth Argyle kick started a

string of six straight defeats, which completed all of January and into February – and included a crushing 5-0 defeat at Blundell Park at the hands of a rampant Grimsby Town, which now gave cause for concern. Their form did pick up in the final ten games of the season, but by then, the leader clubs were out of sight, and Rovers were looking merely at consolidation and avoiding the drop.

There were though other general games and events of note – such as the Sunday matches staged both home and away during January and February, brought on by the national three-day week crisis, and in turn spawned some rather collectable matchday programmes. These were accompanied by additional teamsheets, all as part of a new entry rule to Prenton Park (for the visits of Aldershot, Bournemouth and Charlton Athletic) enforced by the Football League. In fact, Rovers' recorded 2,000 league game, a 0-0 draw away to Blackburn Rovers, also came under the Sunday rule on 17 February, with the same format of programme/teamsheet on offer to the 10,077 that attended.

Off the pitch, the famous five-span Cowshed roof, which had served Prenton Park and the fans since the early 1930s was then severely damaged in a storm and eventually removed in 1971. Its replacement was a new three-span structure, which was completed in time for the visit of Bury in the FA Cup First Round on 24 November.

# 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



Interim 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

## Bradford City



Manager: Mark Hughes  
Claret/Amber Shirts  
Claret Shorts & Socks

- 1 Harry LEWIS
- 2 Brad HALLIDAY
- 3 Liam RIDEHALGH
- 4 Ash TAYLOR
- 5 Matty PLATT
- 6 Richie SMALLWOOD
- 7 Jamie WALKER
- 8 Emmanuel OSADEBE
- 9 Andy COOK
- 10 Alex PATTISON
- 11 Alex GILLIEAD
- 12 Clarke ODUOR
- 13 Colin DOYLE
- 14 Tyler SMITH
- 15 Sam STUBBS
- 16 Ryan EAST
- 17 Luke HENDRIE
- 18 Ciarán KELLY
- 19 Vadaine OLIVER
- 20 Harry CHAPMAN
- 21 Timi ODUSINA
- 22 Daniel OYEGOKE
- 23 Bobby POINTON
- 24 Dylan YOUNGBI
- 25 Harvey ROWE
- 26 Kevin McDONALD
- 27 Matt DERBYSHIRE
- 28 Jake YOUNG
- 29 Heath RICHARDSON
- 30 Finn COUSIN-DAWSON
- 31 Jonathan TOMKINSON
- 32 Lewis RICHARDS
- 33 Adam WILSON
- 34 Rayhaan TULLOCH
- 37 Chisom AFOKA

## Match Officials

Referee:  
Scott Oldham

Assistant Referees  
Conor Brown  
Alex Gray

Fourth Official  
Paul Stonier

## Fixtures



**Tuesday 3 October 2023**

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

**All games kick-off  
7.45pm unless stated**



## Next Game at Prenton Park

Tranmere Rovers versus Grimsby Town  
Sky Bet League Two / Saturday 7 October 2023 / Kick-off 3.00pm