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TRANMERE

V

YORK CITY

January 14th, 1977

KICK-OFF 7.30 p.m.

EDITORIAL

The end of one year and the beginning of another is the time for looking back and looking forward, and we can look back on what has been, in playing terms, a successful twelve months since it brought us rapid promotion from the Fourth to the Third Division and saw us firmly established among the top dozen in the Third.

One begins every season with the hope that it will be a promotion year, but when a club is newly promoted the major consideration is to consolidate and make sure of survival. Lots of things can happen before next May comes around, but the signs are that we shall still be a Third Division address. In our dreams, of course, we see Second Division football coming back to Prenton Park after an absence of forty years and that remains our goal. But we think that everyone associated with Rovers will be reasonably happy if at the end of this season Manager Johnny King is able to say: I have built a launching pad for a big promotion bid next season.

And that is where we come to the looking forward. When we do regain Second Division status-and that must come about one day before we're all very much older-it will be essential to be prepared to stay up. We have seen too many teams-Northampton and York City among them-go up like a rocket and come hurtling back like the stick. What happens in those cases is that so much money is spent in the effort of going up and staying up that there is very little left in the kitty when you come down.

There's no way Tranmere want to play it that way. When we go up it will be to stay up and to make sure that the effort hasn't cost us our future.

One hesitates to argue that never again will there be a public big enough on

continued...../

Prenton Pete's New Year Resolution: To be here every time Rovers are at home. Why don't you join him?



The Manager Writes...



It's 1977 and I'm still hopeful that the history books will record this as the year Tranmere Rovers won promotion to the Second Division. Writing in advance of the first of our holiday matches at Shrewsbury, I can only say that I am full of hope that, including tonight's clash with Swindon, we will come out of the four-game period with a minimum of five points. If we can do that then the battle for a place in the top three is definitely on.

What is important to me is the fact that in spite of the club's financial situation, which has been spelled out for all to read and hear, we are still holding on to our star players, the lads who can make promotion possible. And quite shortly, I hope we shall have John James back ready to prove that while the injury he sustained last August might have put a lesser man out of the game for good, it was no more than a punctuation mark in the career of this fellow who doesn't understand the meaning of the word fear.

Just how much we have missed John will never be known, since his team-mates have done such a marvellous job in carrying the fight to the opposition and picking up the points home and away. But no one would deny that Ronnie Moore would have had a lot more goals if he had had John alongside him all the way to bore holes in the opposition defence.

But that's a might have been. What lies immediately in front-two or three weeks ahead, I hope-is the return of John and a regrouping of our forces for the big promotion push which usually starts in February and comes to its peak around Easter.

That thought is uppermost in my mind as I wish all Tranmere fans A Happy 1977.

Editorial continued ...

this side of the river to make League football viable. But, if one is a realist, the truth has to be faced, that it is unlikely that the day will ever return when Rovers will be able to live by their gates alone.

What then is the answer? Quite simply that every money-making device must be brought into play to raise the cash to keep League football at Prenton Park. Lotteries and the like help towards that end. But they are not the complete answer unless, like Plymouth Argyle and one or two other fortunate clubs below the rank of Manchester United, those lotteries and supporters' efforts bring in around £90,000 a year.

The physical assets of the club have to be developed to return a daily income rather than stand idle, as they do at this time, 13 days out of every 14. In developing those assets one will almost certainly need the assistance of the local council instead of, as we have experienced in the past, a policy of rejection.

League teams are valuable to the areas they serve if only by putting them on the coupon map, and traders benefit every time a visiting team comes to town. No one is arguing at this time that League clubs should be a charge on the rates, although even a farthing on every £ levied by Wirral Council would enable Tranmere to develop its own resources and strengthen its playing staff. What is being argued is for a more sympathetic Council response to some of the schemes the club puts forward to make itself viable and self-reliant.

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SOCCER QUIZ No. 11

I'm sure you have all been keeping a close watch on incidents on the soccer field and putting your new found knowledge to use. Here are some more questions to help you along.

- 1) Would you allow a goalkeeper to take a throw in?
- 2) Have any teams ever had a successive 'Hat trick' of Cup Finals?
- 3) Players and spectators often try and urge a referee to change his decisions, may he do so once he has blown his whistle?
- 4) When is the ball out of play?

SOCCER QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) Yes : 2) Wanderers in 1876/77 and 78 and Blackburn Rovers in 1884, 85 and 86; : 3) Yes, as long as the game has not been restarted : 4) When it has crossed the touch lines or goal lines on the ground or in the air and when the referee has stopped play.



Bobby Tynan (10) and Russ Allen (11) in action against Gillingham. The Cameraman has caught these two happy warriors in the style that makes them such a menace to opposing defences

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Fixtures, Facts and Figures

						Attendances	
				Scorers	Home	Away	
Sat.	Aug.	14	— Crewe A (FL Cup)	A 1-2	James		2011
Wed.	Aug.	18	— CREWE A "	H 3-1	James (2) Ron Moore	2523	
Sat.	Aug.	21	— CHESTER	H 0-1		4900	
Tue.	Aug.	24	— York City	A			
Fri.	Aug.	26	— CRYSTAL PAL	H 1-0	Moore	4940	
Wed.	Sept.	1	— Man. Utd. (FL Cup)	A 0-5			37810
Sat.	Sept.	4	— Bury	A 1-2	Tynan		4760
Sat.	Sept.	7	— York City	A			
Sat.	Sept.	11	— PETERBOROUGH	H 2-0	Allen, Tynan	2068	
Sat.	Sept.	18	— Mansfield Tn.	A 1-1	Tynan		6870
Sat.	Sept.	25	— BRIGHTON	H 1-3	Allen	4020	
Sat.	Oct.	2	— Oxford Utd.	A 1-1	Peplow		3870
Fri.	Oct.	8	— PRESTON N.E.	H 0-0		5005	
Sat.	Oct.	16	— Rotherham Utd.	A 2-1	Allen, Tynan		4365
Fri.	Oct.	22	— GRIMSBY TN.	H 2-0	Moore, Kenny	3580	
Mon.	Oct.	25	— PORT VALE	H 1-1	Kenny (pen)	3578	
Sat.	Oct.	30	— Swindon Tn.	A 1-1	Allen		7776
Wed.	Nov.	3	— Chesterfield	A 0-0			3960
Fri.	Nov.	5	— WREXHAM	H 0-0		5580	
Sat.	Nov.	13	— Lincoln City	A 2-2	Young (2)	3413	6870
Sat.	Nov.	20	— PETERBRO F.A. Cup HO-4	H 0-4			
Fri.	Nov.	26	— READING	H 2-1	Allen, Young	2540	
Sat.	Dec.	4	— Sheffield Wed.	A 1-3	Allen		12,840
Fri.	Dec.	17	— GILLINGHAM	H 2-0	O.G. Young	2050	
Mon.	Dec.	27	— Shrewsbury Tn.	A			
Tue.	Dec.	28	— WALSALL	H			
Sat.	Jan.	1	— Wrexham	A			
Mon.	Jan.	3	— SWINDON TN.	H			
Fri.	Jan.	7	— NORTHAMPTON	H			
Fri.	Jan.	14	— YORK CITY	H			
Sat.	Jan.	22	— Chester	A			
Fri.	Jan.	28	— PORTSMOUTH	H			
Sat.	Feb.	5	— Crystal Palace	A			
Fri.	Feb.	11	— BURY	H			
Sat.	Feb.	19	— Peterborough	A			
Fri.	Feb.	25	— MANSFIELD TN.	H			
Sat.	Mar.	5	— Brighton	A			
Fri.	Mar.	11	— OXFORD UTD.	H			
Sat.	Mar.	19	— Preston N.E.	A			
Fri.	Mar.	25	— ROTHERHAM U.	H			
Sat.	Apr.	2	— Grimsby Tn.	A			
Fri.	Apr.	8	— SHREWSBURY T.	H			
Sat.	Apr.	9	— Walsall	A			
Tue.	Apr.	12	— CHESTERFIELD	H			
Sat.	Apr.	16	— Port Vale	A			
Tue.	Apr.	19	— Portsmouth	A			
Sat.	Apr.	23	— LINCOLN CITY	H			
Sat.	Apr.	30	— Reading	A			
Mon.	May	2	— NORTHAMPTON	H			
Fri.	May	6	— SHEFFIELD W.	H			
Sat.	May	14	— Gillingham	A			
Sat.	May	21	— F A Cup Final				

NORTHERN FLOODLIT LEAGUE

Wed.	Sept.	8	— PORT VALE	H 3-1	Mon. Jan. 10	— Port Vale	A
Wed.	Sept.	15	— Shrewsbury	A 1-1	Wed. Jan. 19	— SHREWSBURY	H
Mon.	Sept.	20	— Wrexham	A 1-2	Mon. Jan. 24	— Wrexham	A
Wed.	Sept.	29	— CHESTER	H 1-2	Tue. Feb. 1	— Chester	A
Mon.	Oct.	11	— Crewe	A	Mon. Feb. 7	— Crewe	A
Mon.	Oct.	18	— Port Vale	A	Wed. Feb. 16	— PORT VALE	H
Wed.	Nov.	10	— SHREWSBURY	H	Wed. Feb. 23	— Shrewsbury T	A
Wed.	Nov.	17	— WREXHAM	H	Wed. Mar. 2	— WREXHAM	H
Tue.	Nov.	30	— Chester	A	Wed. Mar. 9	— CHESTER	H
Wed.	Dec.	8	— CREWE	H	Wed. Mar. 16	— CREWE	H

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WELCOME TO PRENTON

SWINDON TOWN

Some of us have very rich if mixed memories about clashes with Swindon Town both here and at the County Ground. There was the occasion, all of 17 years ago, when we were both in the relegation area at Easter. The Good Friday match here ended in a draw and on the Monday, at Swindon, Manager Bert Head turned out the youngest team in the history of the club, most of them teenagers. Rovers scored through Keith Williams. Swindon equalised in the second half and spent the last quarter of an hour in our goalmouth in the company of the entire Tranmere team. For the last six minutes centre-forward Tony Rowley played with only one boot on; he hadn't time to get the other one on. In the end it was a one-one draw and both teams survived.

Then in the year they won promotion, Swindon came here with the fabulous Don Rogers on the wing. It is still remembered as one of the finest matches ever seen here. They scored five, Rogers got a hat-trick and Rovers replied with three. It might have been four for George Hudson hit the cross-bar seconds from the end. That was the night even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forbear to cheer.

Swindon have been in existence 95 years and have been professionals since 1894. The greatest era in their history was at the end of the sixties when they won promotion, beat Arsenal in extra time to win the Football League Cup at Wembley and in the next season finished fifth from top of the Second Division. They also won the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1970.

The biggest transfer fee ever picked up by Swindon was £150,000 from Crystal Palace, for Don Rogers, but they paid out £88,000 to Wolves for Peter Eastoe, who moved back to the First Division quite recently with QPR.

Back in the days before the First World War, Harold Fleming played 11 times for England when Swindon were still a non-League side. His picture and some of his caps used to have pride of place in the County Ground reception room.

Goalkeeper **Jimmy Allan** is the only Scot in the present Swindon set up and he comes from Inverness. He has made well over 70 first team appearances for them. But that's not in the meg specs alongside the records of his full-backs.

Will Dixon, a Londoner, who started with Arsenal without ever making the first team, had 150 outings with Reading, spent a short time at Conchester and has had almost 120 appearances with Swindon.

But if you think that's impressive, take a look at **John Trollope's** record. He's been 17 years a first teamer, with Town and quite shortly he will complete 700 appearances. It seems a fair bet that he'll go on to beat the record of Jimmy Dickinson of Portsmouth of 764.

One of the features of the Swindon team is the fact that so many of them are around six feet in height. Among them is **Ken Stroud**, another Londoner, but one who has played all his League football with Town. The man in the middle of the defence is **Steve Auzlewood**, who hails from Newport and had 200 appearances with County, before being bought by Swindon. At No.6 is **Colin Prophett** from Crewe, who had a lot of First Division experiences with Sheffield Wednesday and more with Norwich before moving to the County Ground three years ago.

Winger **Dave Moss** is with his first and only League side and in 150 appearances he has scored more than 30 goals. There's a Londoner alongside him in **John McLaughlin**, who hails from Edmonton, which is Spurs country. John had two or three seasons at Colchester before joining Swindon four years ago.

continued...../

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One of the big attractions for First and Second Division managers at the moment is centre-forward **Dave Surett**, a Salisbury lad, who, apart from going on loan to Wolves, where he didn't make the first team, has been with Swindon all his short career.

Inside left **Ken McHale** is making a perfect partner for **Trevor Anderson**, a Belfast lad who joined Manchester United from Portadown and picked up quite a bit of first team experience at Old Trafford before moving to Swindon three seasons ago.

BEST WISHES

FOR THE

New Year

WHISTLE STOP



Colin Seel from Carlisle started refereeing in 1961 and had obtained experience in Northern Regional, Northern Floodlit, Central League and Irish League football before reaching the Football League full list. He has officiated in an FA Cup semi-final and an Amateur Cup final at Wembley, as well as Anglo-Italian and Fairs Cup matches in Italy and Spain. He is a tele-photo typesetter, is married with two daughters and in addition to his soccer involvement he is a keen gardener and likes walking and all sports generally

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5. DAVE PHILPOTTS
6. BOBBY TYNAN
7. STEVE PELOW
8. EDDIE CLIFF
9. RONNIE MOORE
10. TOMMY YOUNG
11. RUSS ALLEN

SWINDON

1. JIMMY ALLAN
2. WILL DIXON
3. JOHN TROLLOPE
4. KEN STROUD
5. STEVE AIZLEWOOD
6. COLIN PROPHETT
7. DAVE MOSS
8. JOHN McLAUGHLIN
9. DAVE SYRETT
10. KEN McHALE
11. TREVOR ANDERSON

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