

# TRANMERE ROVERS F.C.



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIV.3

TRANMERE

V

SWINDON TOWN

Friday, March 31st 1978.

KICK-OFF 7.30 p.m.

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Next Match Here:-  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROVERS

V

BURY

Monday, April 3rd, 1978.

KICK-OFF 7.30 p.m.

## **EDITORIAL**

One has to be a super-optimist to believe that we can now repair the damage done to our promotion hopes by a disastrous month of March. When the month started we were sharing top place in the table and looking forward to Second Division football here next season. Tonight, the last of the month, we are, barring miracles, out of the race for one of the first three places. It's all so disappointing and frustrating, particularly since it can be put down to one factor-the folly of players piling up disciplinary points and incurring suspensions.

Bookings are one of the growing hazards of life in the Third and Fourth Divisions, but too many of those received by Rovers' players have been for petty offences. The result has been that enforced changes upset the rhythm of the team which lost the consistency that had taken it to the top. It is a lesson that should be rammed home, never to be forgotten.

Tonight's game against Swindon starts a busy spell of no fewer than five games in the next 14 days, including the rearranged fixture against Gillingham, down for Tuesday April 11th. It looked not so long ago as though this might be the one to decide which side would win promotion, but Gillingham, too, have had their upsets and their prospects don't look much better than ours.

On Monday night Bury are the visitors to Prenton Park and we must make a special effort to avenge not only last season's home defeat, but also our single goal defeat at Bury earlier in the season when we played them into the ground without getting the reward we deserved.

Although the wall of the tunnel leading to the dressing rooms has to be rebuilt to meet safety regulations, the terracing of one side of the paddock has now been completed and was in use for the first time last Saturday. Fences have to be erected and then work can proceed on the second part of the project which should be completed early in the close season. This is a Job Creation-backed scheme and in every sense has been a big success, even to the point of preparing half the young work force for permanent jobs-a very satisfying by-product of an operation designed to give our fans greater comfort and safety.

## **The Manager Writes...**



Although our recent form has not been good we went to Sheffield on Monday in good heart after our victory over Lincoln City 48 hours earlier, and until five minutes from the end at Hillsborough I was confident we were going to pick up a most useful point. That's why Wednesday's late winner was such a disappointment, made even more so by the fact that a great chance of an equaliser was squandered just before the end.

It was a sickening blow and I know and appreciate the feelings of the fans who had made the trip across the Pennines to give us their support.

If there was any comfort to be got out of Monday's match it lay, for me, in the fact that once again young John Bramall showed that he has the makings of a very useful first-team player, while Bobby Tynan reproduced much of the splendid form he had shown against Lincoln, although he didn't get the same support.

Without trying to make excuses for what has to be seen as a let-down, it seems only fair to say that a team can only play as well as the other team will allow it. Now that's not an original thought, but there can be little doubt that Jack Charlton's strategy was one of heavy packing in midfield and defence, virtually making it impossible for Rovers to swing into the open football they can play so well. It isn't pretty to watch and, result apart, there couldn't have been much entertainment for the spectators. But when, like Wednesday, you are fighting for Third Division survival, entertainment is one of the last things you think about.

It ought to be a different story tonight for Swindon have always shown a willingness to get at the opposition, so we can look forward to more action, and, hopefully, another home win.

## **WHISTLE STOP**



David Richardson from Blackburn started refereeing in Accrington in 1960 and progressed through the West Lancashire League and Lancashire Combination to the Football League full list. He has officiated in several countries including Italy and Malta. A married man, with two daughters, he is chief order clerk for a colour printing company in Accrington. Interested in most sports, he played football in Germany during National Service. He has also played cricket for Accrington in the Lancashire League.

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# WELCOME TO PRENTON

## THE DAY A FAN FELL INTO A QUARRY

This year marks the 96th in the history of Swindon Town. The nucleus of the early playing staff was provided by a team known as the Spartans, the Captain of which was Prebendary W.B. Pitt. With a collection of players from the local amateur sides of the day, he formed a team and friendlies were organised, home games being played at Bradford's Field - where railings protected spectators from a quarry at one end of the pitch. Unfortunately, at least one fan is known to have fallen into the quarry whilst a game was in progress! Fourteen matches were played in the 1883-84 season, ten being won - with a goal average of fifty-three against eight. The venue for home matches was switched to Vickery's Field for a short while until the move was made to the Croft.

In 1894 Swindon Town became a founder member of the Southern League, but at the end of the first season finished at the foot of the table.

The Club turned professional in February 1895 and the first professional player to be engaged was believed to be James Munro, from the Burton Swifts Club. The County Ground was used for League matches from September 1895.

Town first gained recognition in the football world when Burnley, Tottenham and Manchester City were all defeated in the cup run of 1909-1910. Swindon fell to Newcastle United in the semi-final. This stage was reached again only two years later when Barnsley won through to the Final at the second attempt.

With the entire Southern League First Division, Swindon Town were elected to the Third Division of the Football League in 1920 and started with a bang! Luton Town were defeated in the first match by nine goals to one, a margin of victory the club has been unable to surpass in League games to this day.

After a post-war boom, Swindon fell upon hard times in the mid fifties applying for re-election to the League in two consecutive years, 1956 and 1957. When Bert Head took over as Manager towards the end of 1956, he began a Youth Policy which produced such talent as Ernie Hunt, Don Rogers and Mike Summerbee.

Swindon reached the Second Division for the first time in 1963. After an impressive start in the higher sphere - nine games without defeat - the Town ended the 1963/1964 season in a modest 14th place and when Danny Williams arrived in 1965 he found the Club back in the Third Division. In four years he moulded a side which brought about the finest achievement in the club's history - the winning of the Football League Cup at Wembley on March 15th, 1969, coupled with the regaining of Division Two status less than two months later. Swindon secured fifth place at the end of 1969/1970 - the highest League position ever attained - and became the first winners of the Anglo Italian Cup by defeating S.S. Napoli in Naples by a 3-0 margin.

In 1974 the Town were left stranded at the bottom of the Second Division. Then Danny Williams returned and efforts to regain a Second Division place at the first attempt fell short of the target by just two points.

**Jimmy Allen** - Born in Inverness he was signed from Brora Rangers in October 1970 as an apprentice. Signed on full forms in July, 1971, he made his League debut two months later, but had only occasional spells as first choice until last season by the end of which, he had made a total of 114 League appearances.

**Dave Cunningham** - A Scot from Kirkcaldy his first Club was Breehin City for whom he made 44 League appearances before moving to Southend in 1973. He made 56 League appearances for Southend and spent a period on loan to Hartlepool before signing for Swindon on a free transfer in the 1977 close season.

continued . . . .



# Fixtures, Facts and Figures

				Scorers		Attendances	
						Home	Away
Sat.	Aug. 13-	SOUTHPORT L.C.	H 0-1			1590	
Tues.	Aug. 16-	Southport L.C.	A 2-2	(Allen pen. Tynan)			2264
Sat.	Aug. 20-	CARLISLE UTD.	H 3-2	(Allen 2 pens. Palios)		2135	
Sat.	Aug. 27-	Hereford Utd.	A 1-0	Allen			4180
Fri.	Sept. 2-	COLCHESTER Utd.	H 1-0	Moore		3260	
Sat.	Sept. 10-	Cambridge Utd.	A 0-1				3471
Mon.	Sept. 12-	WREXHAM	H 3-1	Moore, Evans, Peplow		5613	
Fri.	Sept. 16-	BRADFORD C	H 0-0			4290	
Sat.	Sept. 24-	Gillingham	A 1-1	Allen			4971
Tues.	Sept. 27-	Bury	A 0-1				5116
Fri.	Sept. 31-	CHESTER	H 5-0	Palios 3(1 pen) Moore, Allen		4218	
Mon.	Oct. 3-	EXETER CITY	H 2-1	Moore, Peplow		3870	
Sat.	Oct. 8-	Oxford Utd.	A 0-1				4870
Sat.	Oct. 15-	Plymouth Argyle	A 1-0	Moore			6180
Fri.	Oct. 21-	ROTHERHAM U	H 2-2	Philpotts, Tynan		6260	
Tues.	Oct. 25-	Preston N.E.	A 1-2	Moore			7118
Fri.	Oct. 28-	WALSALL	H 0-1			4820	
Sat.	Nov. 5-	Portsmouth	A 5-2	Moore, Allen (pen), Flood, Palios, James		8780	
Sat.	Nov. 12-	SHREWSBURY T	H 2-0	Palios, Allen (pen)		4760	
Sat.	Nov. 19-	Port Vale	A 1-1	Moore			3650
Sat.	Nov. 26-	Hartlepool (FA Cup)	H 1-1	Allen		3560	
Tues.	Nov. 29-	Hartlepool (FA Cup)	A 3-1	James (pen)			4827
Fri.	Dec. 2-	PETERBOROUGH	H 0-2			3331	
Sat.	Dec. 10-	Chesterfield	A 1-1	Palios			3980
Sat.	Dec. 17-	OXFORD UNITED	H 4-1	Peplow (2) Moore (2)		2460	
Mon.	Dec. 26-	SHEFFIELD W	H 3-1	Tynan (3)		5649	
Tues.	Dec. 27-	Lincoln City	A 1-1	Moore			6480
Fri.	Dec. 30-	PORTSMOUTH	H 2-0	Allen, Peplow		4611	
Mon.	Jan. 2-	Swindon Town	A 0-1				11,081
Fri.	Jan. 6-	PRESTON N.E. (3)	H 1-0	Moore		7280	
Sat.	Jan. 14-	Carlisle United	A 2-2	Moore, Tynan			6260
Tue.	Jan. 17-	Walsall	A 0-0				6072
Fri.	Jan. 20-	HEREFORD U	H 2-1	Palios, Moore,		4820	
Fri.	Jan. 27-	Colchester U (4)	A 0-0				4463
Fri.	Feb. 3-	CAMBRIDGE U	H 0-1			4840	
Sat.	Feb. 25-	Chester	A 0-0				
Mon.	Mar. 6-	Wrexham	A 1-6	Tynan			14240
Fri.	Mar. 10-	PLYMOUTH (6)	H 1-1	Allen		3777	
Tues.	Mar. 14-	Bradford City	A 0-2				5250
Sat.	Mar. 18-	Rotherham	A 0-2				3750
Sat.	Mar. 25-	LINCOLN CITY	H				
Mon.	Mar. 27-	Sheffield Wed.	A				
Fri.	Mar. 31-	SWINDON TOWN	H				
Mon.	Apr. 3-	BURY	H				
Sat.	Apr. 8-	Shrewsbury T(SF)	A				
Tues.	Apr. 11-	GILLINGHAM	H				
Fri.	Apr. 14-	PORT VALE	H				
Sat.	Apr. 22-	Peterborough U	A				
Wed.	Apr. 26-	Exeter City	A				
Fri.	Apr. 28-	CHESTERFIELD	H				
Sat.	May 6-	F.A. Cup Final					
<b>LANCASHIRE LEAGUE</b>							
Sat.	Aug. 20-	Blackpool	A 1-1				
Fri.	Sept. 26-	ROCHDALE	H 5-0				
Sat.	Sept. 3-	Bradford City	A 3-2				
Fri.	9-	SOUTHPORT	H 0-0				
Sat.	17-	Manchester City	A 1-1				
Fri.	23-	MANCHESTER U	H 1-2				
Sat.	Oct. 1-	Manchester U.	A 1-0				
Fri.	7-	STOCKPORT C.	H 1-0				
Fri.	14-	BLACKPOOL	H 1-0				
Sat.	22-	Rochdale	A 1-0				
Sat.	29-	Mcclesfield	A 1-0				
Fri.	Nov. 4-	MACCLESFIELD	H 3-0				
Sat.	12-	Everton	A 3-1				
Fri.	18-	CREWE A	H 1-0				
Sat.	26-	Oldham	A 0-2				
Fri.	9-	BOLTON	H 6-0				
Fri.	Jan. 13-	EVERTON	H 2-1				
Sat.	21-	Stockport	A				
Fri.	27-	BRADFORD	H 2-0				

### LEAGUE--Division III

Wrexham	36	13	6	0	40	16..	9	3	5	26	20..	53
Preston	38	14	4	1	41	16..	3	10	6	12	16..	48
Cambridge	38	15	3	1	42	9..	4	6	9	21	35	47
Gillingham	38	10	7	2	33	19..	4	9	6	26	29..	44
Walsall	37	9	7	3	27	14..	4	9	5	18	23..	42
Tranmere	38	12	3	3	34	15..	3	8	9	15	25..	41
Swindon	36	11	5	3	37	19..	3	7	7	19	27..	40
Peterboro	35	9	7	1	19	10..	4	7	7	8	14..	40
Colchester	38	9	8	1	31	12..	4	5	11	16	28..	39
Chester	38	9	8	1	29	19..	0	13	7	14	30..	39
Bury	38	7	10	3	30	18..	5	4	9	22	28..	38
Chester'ld	35	10	6	2	25	9..	3	5	9	16	25..	37
Carlisle	37	7	8	3	25	21..	3	9	7	21	26..	37
Lincoln	40	7	8	5	26	22..	5	5	10	17	30..	37
Shrewsbury	38	7	7	5	30	18..	4	6	9	17	30..	35
Exeter	37	9	5	4	24	15..	3	6	10	15	34..	35
Sheff. W.	37	10	6	3	23	12..	1	6	11	17	33..	34
Oxford	38	10	7	2	31	16..	1	4	14	22	40..	33
Port Vale	37	7	8	3	26	17..	1	8	10	14	36..	32
Rotherham	35	8	4	5	20	14..	2	6	10	22	37..	30

Sat.	Feb. 4-	Liverpool	A
Fri.	10-	MANCHESTER C.	H 3-1
Sat.	18-		
Fri.	24-	CHESTER	H 0-0
Sat.	Mar. 4-	Southport	A 3-2
Sat.	11-	Carlisle	A 1-0
Fri.	17-	LIVERPOOL	H
Sat.	25-	Chester	A
Sat.	Apr. 1-	Bolton	A
Fri.	7-	OLDHAM	H
Sat.	15-	Crewe Alex.	A
Fri.	21-	CARLISLE	H

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*BY NICK HILTON OF THE ECHO*

Swindon Town's visit to Prenton Park reminds me of one of those moments which somehow I know will always stay in my memory, not because it is of monumental importance, but rather that it is a nice tale.

It goes back to a mild Autumn afternoon in 1974. I was with the Tranmere party for an evening game at Swindon.

There were a few names from the past around then, Tommy Veitch, Paul Crossley, Barry Mitchell, Steve Coppell, Johnny Webb. But the side bore many similarities to the one that will do duty this afternoon/tonight.

Ron Yeats was the manager, and he stayed with the players at a country hotel while Jack, the team's coach driver, took Johnny King, the newly appointed coach, and several of the backroom staff to the ground.

Johnny's job was to have a look at the Swindon pitch and lay out the kit in the visitors' dressing room to avoid any last minute mishaps. The pitch was firm and Johnny looked pleased. There was a point at least for the taking.

The journey back to the hotel gave me the chance to talk to the likeable little man who not so many months before had been cleaning windows until Rovers plucked him back from obscurity.

My inevitable question finally came around. Would he like to get into football management?

The inevitable answer came laced in the usual honest expression of his thoughts. Of course Johnny King had ambitions and a career in management was the ultimate goal. But he was happy with his lot just now.

Neither of us would have guessed that eight months later Johnny King would be a manager and five months after that recommended by Bill Shankly as the best young boss in the game.

It's a story which shows how quickly events move in football.

Johnny still talks straight from the heart, and with fantastic enthusiasm about football. He has taught me more about the game than any other man. He's been prepared to explain the technicalities and practicalities of soccer to a lay-man, just as he was prepared to talk about his hopes on an empty coach in Swindon.

He was right about that game too. Tranmere got their point.

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## FAN TALK

Tonight Rovers entertain Swindon Town and we welcome their fans to Prenton Park. In our first game of 1978 at Swindon, Rovers were very unlucky to lose 1-0, and a hotly disputed penalty at that. Rovers looked as though they had got the draw they deserved when Bobby Tynan scored in the final minutes but the referee, who had not had a good game, ruled the goal out for a not too clear offside

decision. Rovers will be out to make amends with a victory tonight.

In the view of the media Rovers are out of the promotion race following the defeat at Sheffield Wednesday, but Johnny King set the team a difficult task before the Lincoln game — 8 wins from 10 games — and with 4 home games in the next 5 the chance is there.

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### Welcome to Prenton Swindon continued. . .

**Andy Ford** A Somerset lad, born in Minehead, he played for Somerset Schoolboys and Youths and Minehead in the Western League whilst still at school. Upon leaving school aged 17, he joined A.F.C. Bournemouth as a professional and stayed with them for two years. At 19 he joined Southend United and became a regular member of their first team, winning the player of the year award for that Club last season.

**Chris Guthrie** Born in New castle, but made only five appearances for his home town Club before moving to Southend where he made 107 League appearances and in two seasons was leading goalscorer and voted player of the year for that Club. Transferred to Sheffield United during the 1975 close season, but although he made 58 League appearances in his two seasons there he did not settle well and moved to Swindon in July, 1977. He also played for England Schoolboys.

**Ray McHale** A native of Sheffield he played 123 League games for Chesterfield before moving to Halifax Town in October, 1974. In almost two years there he did not miss a match, making 86 League appearances and was leading goalscorer in 1975/1976. Transferred to Swindon in September 1976 he made 41 League appearances to the end of last season and likes to score goals coming from positions in midfield.

**John McLaughlin** Born in London and served his apprenticeship with Colchester United for whom he made 66 League appearances. He has played for England at Youth level and attracted a £25,000 fee when signing for Swindon in December, 1973. A regular member of the team since then he was originally a full back and spent most of last season in that position, but has also spent some quite lengthy periods in midfield. Made 136 League appearances to the end of last season.

**Dave Moss** Signed from non-league football with Witney, his local team, he made his League debut for Swindon in April 1972 and has since played 172 League games to the end of last season. Last season's leading goalscorer and player of the year he is an orthodox winger and although usually played on the left can play either side.

**Colin Prohett** Comes from Crewe where he played as an amateur for Alexandra, but made his professional debut and a total of 113 League appearances for Sheffield Wednesday before moving to Norwich City in 1973. He played 34 First Division games there before his transfer to Swindon in September 1974, since then his League appearances total 112 to the end of last season.

**Ken Stroud** Although born in London served his apprenticeship at Swindon becoming professional in 1970. Had to wait several seasons to gain regular first team place. Played as a central defender but usually found in midfield from where he scored a spectacular goal against Everton last season. Has made 120 League appearances.

**John Trollope** Club's longest serving player a former apprentice signed professional August 1960. Club appearance record with 698 League appearances, and around 800 in all competitions. Only survivor of the promotion winning sides of 1963 and 1969;

**Chris Kamara** Born Middlesborough where signed Schoolboy forms. Joined Portsmouth as apprentice signed full professional contract in December 1975. Made 64 First Team appearances for Portsmouth signing for Swindon in August, 1977.

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## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

Department of Leisure Services

# "Spring into Summer"

Monday, April 10 to  
Friday, 21 July



A specific campaign by the Department of Leisure Services to encourage the people of Wirral to take physical exercise as a contribution towards a healthier, fitter and happier community.

Free offers and concessions at all Sports Centres and Indoor Swimming pools in Wirral.

Special leaflet available from:-

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