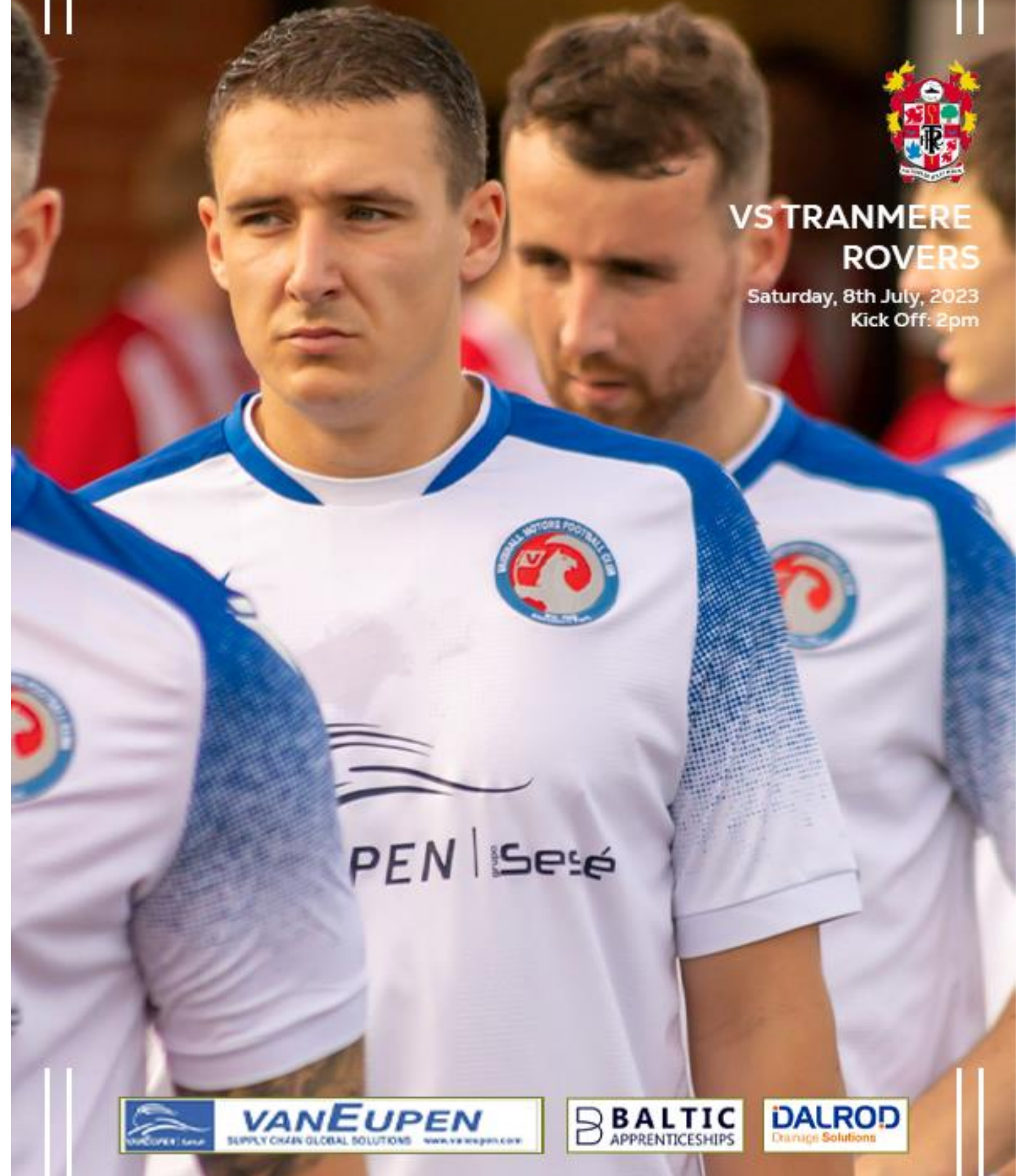


MOTORS



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ROVERS**

Saturday, 8th July, 2023
Kick Off: 2pm



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11th, Conference North, 2008
Best FA Cup Performance
2nd Round, V Macclesfield, 2002
Best FA Trophy Performance
4th Round, 2001
Best FA Vase Performance
Semi-Final, V Chippenham, 1999

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You can find our Matchday Programme in alternative forms, such as via Issuu on our website and our Social Media pages



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in

MOTORS V ROVERS

FROM THE BOSS



Good Afternoon and welcome to the VanEupen Arena for today's pre-season friendly between Vauxhall Motors FC and Tranmere Rovers.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Ian Dawes, his players and his backroom staff to Ellesmere Port for today's game.

TODAY'S GAME

I think that it is a credit to where we've come from and the progression that the club has made over the last few years to get Tranmere back.

They were on the phone as soon as we got promoted, so it's evident to see what they think we're about and the direction in which the club is going.

We're hoping for the crowd that we got on the day where we won the league against AFC Liverpool, and that shows how far that the club has come, from getting 30-40 people through the gate to the 500 plus against AFC, and the superb following that we took to West Didsbury and Chorlton when we lifted the league title.

It's been an amazing journey so far, and long may it continue.

BACKROOM STAFF CHANGES

We're delighted to announce the appointment of Alan Morgan as Assistant Manager. Firstly though, it's important to know why he has come in - my current Assistant, Joe Heath, who has been here 4 years, him and his family have taken the decision to move to Australia.

He let me know so I had to move in quickly - so I brought in Alan who mirrors a bit of Joe - he's demanding, professional and hard-working.

I saw Alan leave Marine, and we're good friends anyway, so I think it took a week to ensure he would come in.

The difference he will make is that he brings a little bit more professionalism which we may have lacked last season in terms of the level we've been playing at and the coaching environment. He'll know players and recruit with myself, so he'll be a big part of us.

It's just about who's bench he's in today, with him also working for Tranmere!

Enjoy the game,

MICK MCGRAA
First Team Manager



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AHEAD OF THE GAME

Ahead of our next three matches, you can see opposition information, including admission prices, facilities available around the ground, plus key facts about the match.

CONGLETON TOWN

On Saturday, 22nd July, the first piece of silverware of the 2023-24 season is up for grabs, as Congleton Town visit Ellesmere Port in the North West Counties Cup Winners Cup. This is where the North West Counties Football League Premier Division Champions, Vauxhall Motors, will face off against the Macron Cup Winners, Congleton Town. The match will be held as an official North West Counties match and further information will be released in due course.

VS CONGLETON TOWN	
Adults	£6
Concessions	£3
Under 12s	£3

VS MARINE AFC	
Adults	£3
Concessions	£1
Under 12s	£1

MARINE AFC

Marine AFC will take the trip over the water in the final pre-season match prior to the opening day of the Northern Premier League season. The match will be played on the Rivacre Road Grass Pitch and admission will be two pounds, with fundraising opportunity available such as

spot the ball. The Clubhouse will be open for hot and cold drinks as well as alcoholic beverages, as well as hot and cold food which will be available for purchase. Tickets will be purchased via a pay on the gate scheme and cash is preferred.

2023-24 AT THE VANEUPEN

We're gearing up for the 2023-24 season here at the VanEupen Arena, with significant progress both on and off the pitch. Ahead of the new season, some dates for your diary include the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round date is the weekend of the 5th August 2023, and the opening day of the Northern Premier League Division One West being the weekend of the 12th August. With the snack bar open, the new club shop and much more, there's plenty to look forward to! Please see below our admission prices for matches at the VanEupen Arena this coming season.

2023-24 AT THE VANEUPEN	
Adults	TBC
Concessions	TBC
Under 12s	TBC



60

SECONDS WITH

SAM BOOTH



Go to McDonalds order?

McCrispy Sandwich with 20 Chicken Nuggets and a Banana Milkshake.



Team Mates 5-A-Side Team

GK - Myself
CB - Tom Mitchell
ST - Michael Burkey
ST - Ben Duffton-Kelly
ST - Lewis Buckley



Dinner with 3 people

3 weeks later and I still can't decide, what a question!



Favourite Movie

Not got a favourite film, however I am a big fan of true crime documentaries.



Changing Room DJ

I don't actually know who does the music in the changing rooms, but I like it!



Worst Dressed

Everyone is well dressed - no one really looks out of place!



Likely to be a Manager

The most likely to be a manager in our squad is Tom Mitchell or Marcus James.



Worst Banter

No one really has awful banter, but definitely none of the goalkeepers!



Would you rather fight 10 duck-sized dinosaurs, or 1 dinosaur sized duck?

I would rather fight 10 duck sized dinosaurs because surely you could just go and volley them around!





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Complete Squad List



FORM GUIDE

Tranmere Rovers come to the VanEupen Arena this afternoon as they prepare for a brand new start, with wide-scale changes at the club as they prepare to aim for promotion from the Sky Bet League Two.

Manager, Ian Dawes, will look to prove doubters wrong in his first permanent managerial job in the Football League.

With changes from top to bottom, including the appointment of former Rovers players Nigel Adkins and Ian Dawes, as Technical Director and First Team Coach.

The Super White Army look to gain promotion back to Sky Bet League One, with the side being stuck in the fourth division of English Football for the last 3 seasons following their demotion on PPG during COVID.



LAST 6 SEASONS

12th - 22-23



9th - 21-22



7th - 20-21



21st - 19-20



6th - 18-19



2nd - 17-18



LAST 6 RESULTS

L1-0



D1-1



W2-0



D2-2



W1-2



W1-0





MEET THE BOSS:

Rovers gaffer, Ian Dawes, started his career as a youth player at Liverpool and Everton, and played open age for Lancaster City and Marine.

He started his management career abroad for Floriana in Malta, before managing Bangor City. After 3 years out of the game, Dawes joined up with Mike Jackson at Tranmere as Assistant Manager, as well as working with Micky Mellon and Keith Hill.

Dawes was appointed permanent boss in May 2023 after 2 interim stints, and as interim manager won 4 games and drew 2 out of 7, and since being appointed permanently, has won just 2 out of 9.

ONE TO WATCH THIS SEASON:

Kristian Dennis, 33, signed for the Rovers this summer from Carlisle United. The forward has had an illustrious career, with a range of former clubs, of that including Macclesfield Town, Mossley, Curzon Ashton, Stockport County, Chesterfield, Notts County, Grimsby Town, St Mirren and Carlisle United.

As well as the number of clubs, Dennis has had a good goal scoring record, scoring 220 in 504 career appearances, a record which he hopes he can continue in a Rovers shirt.



NEXT 4 FIXTURES

AWAY



BEHIND
CLOSED DOORS



BEHIND
CLOSED DOORS



HOME





LAST TIME OUT:

Last Time Out was when the Motormen visited Prenton Park back in February of 2022, in the Cheshire Senior Cup Quarter-Final.

Motors, who had not much else to play for in the league, visited Tranmere with their main aim very clear - to beat the League Two side. and to progress to the Cheshire Senior Cup Semi-Final, where a home tie against Runcorn Linnets would await the winners.

Motors got off to the best possible start, when directly from the kick off, Mick McGraa's side was on the attack, where Michael Burkey cut inside from the left and slotted the ball past Hewelt, to put the away side 1 up at the Kop End.

Just minutes later, a golden chance from Ethan Gouldbourne forced the Rovers goalkeeper into a great double save to keep the margin to just one goal.

Rovers hung on to a one goal deficit, however it wasn't easy, especially when the lethal Michael Burkey was attacking Hewelt's goal, forcing the keeper into numerous good stops, as well as a clearance off the line.

The best chance of the early second half went Tranmere's way where Ryan Stratulis curled his effort just wide of Michael Dixon's post.

However, on the 55th minute, lifelong Tranmere fan, Haydn Cooper, smashed the ball home in a goalmouth scramble to double Motors' lead.

With the home side growing into the game, Mick McGraa's side held on and defended well to keep the lead at 2-0 and progress into the semi-finals.

Vauxhall Motors FC Team: Dixon, Gouldbourne, Heath, Thelwell, Cooper, Knapper, Riley, Cairns, Holmes, Burkey.



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VAUXHALL MOTORS FC

YOUTH ROUNDUP



Good Afternoon and welcome to the VanEupen Arena for this afternoon's pre-season friendly match between Vauxhall Motors and Tranmere Rovers.

In this edition of 'The Academy', we spoke to VMFC Ladies U18s Manager, Chris Bedford, about the progression of our ladies teams.

'The future is bright, the future is Vauxhall Ladies'.

The Ladies Section of the club consists of U8s, U9s, U10s, three U11s, U12s, U13s, U16s and U18s, with long term plans to bring in a Ladies First Team and Development Team in a 3 year plan. The club also runs a Girls Wildcats Centre, every Sunday morning, 9-10.

'When we have an open age team, we will be six tiers away from the Womens Super League, so the progression to grow is certainly there.

The facilities that we have are amazing. We always play our games on astroturf pitches at the VanEupen Arena, so we very rarely get a game called off. The club have plans to install a new all weather pitch within the next few years, which makes the areas for progression even bigger.'

"I'm trying to create some sort of role model structure into the women's side of the club. For example, our U16s side help coach our U11s side, and also help coach our Wildcats sessions."

Vauxhalls will also provide the girls with support for their FA Coaching Badges, so they can help out further and even start their own teams.

"It's frustrating that women's coaches are male dominated, and I'm happy that England Women have Sarina Weigman, however big clubs such as Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool are coached by men."

The progression recently is evident both on and off the pitch.

"There is a buzz in the air. Everyone has bought into the plan and it feels really good to be at Vauxhall now.

All of the girls believe in the dream and want it to come to fruition, they want to be the first open-aged Vauxhall ladies team."

Thank you to Chris for his time!

ETHAN HOIJORD

Reporter



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**BE THE
FUTURE**

FAN FOCUS INTERVIEW

For today's fan focus, we spoke to Supporter since the '90s, Andy Starkey.

FIRST GAME? YEAR, SEASON?

The first game that I saw at Rivacre Road was the game that opened the ground in 1987, when Bobby Robson brought an England XI. I don't remember too much apart from the very large crowd, of over 3,000, which I believe is still the record attendance at the ground. It was around 1999 when I came to watch Vauxhalls competitive games. I was stuck of things to do with my daughter, and after trying ice-skating and horse riding, as a spectator, we tried out watching VMFC.



WHICH SECTION IN THE GROUND DO YOU USUALLY WATCH THE MATCHES FROM?

The majority of the time, I'm watching the match from the Vauxhalls 'right wing', the side of the dugouts, in the corner, mostly with my nephew, Matty. I started taking Matty when he was a kid, just after the famous QPR FA Cup Run, and he's stuck to it really well! He's my go-to for remembering the names of players! We're often joined by Motors fan, Billy Beckett, who has a very long standing affinity with Vauxhalls!

WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY OR MEMORIES OF SUPPORTING THE MOTORS?

There's been quite a few, you would think that the go-to would be the QPR away game but I missed that one due to work! I did go to the first game at Chester's ground, which was a ood occasion. The FA Cup games against league teams such as Hartlepool, Macclesfield Town and Bury FC are always good, but I remember fondly the Hucknall away game in 2002 FA Cup. In the last second, we scored a late equaliser meaning we took them back to Rivacre Park, where we won the replay. Recent games which I have loved include this season - Isle of Man Away, Bury Away and Wythenshawe Town Away.

FAVOURITE ALL TIME PLAYER [AND WHY?]

Where do I start? The first favourite was Greg Blundell, a natural goalscorer, who went on to play for Doncaster. I've seen teams full of top, top players, including Danny Collins who was on loan from Chester and went on to play for Sunderland in the Premier League. I remember watching him at Anfield! Other favourites include Terry Ferns, Peter Cumiskey, Robbie Lawton, and even that whole squad. Others include Leighton McGivern and Paul Taylor.

FAVOURITE CURRENT TIME PLAYER [AND WHY?]

The present squad are a special group of players, full of character. I've been really impressed how they stuck together last season and stood up to be counted in sometimes really intimidating situations. Talking about individuals, I've always been a really big Haydn Cooper fan, it reminds me of the player I tried to be! Also the star man, Michael Burkey, and this season, he has taken things to a whole other level.

WHY DO YOU LOVE VAUXHALLS?

Once you get an affinity with a club, by that I mean that you care, you get upset or angry when they lose and it makes your night when they win, you then get hooked. I have a busy and sometimes stressful job, so football is a release. The atmosphere at the club is always friendly, and there's some great people there, and going to the away grounds is a great experience. It's great to speak to like minded people and you actually feel part of something, pretty much everything that football in the Premier League isn't.

FAVOURITE EVER MOTORS SHIRT?

I'm no expert on shirts, I know that I'm not keen on last season's yellow away shirt, although it comes in handy on a dark night in Winsford when they've got no 50p's for the electric meter! The home shirt last season takes some beating, I even bought it and wore it at Disneyland in Florida!

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PLAYED FOR BOTH

ETHAN GOULDBOURNE

In this issue of 'Played for Both', we spoke to defender, Ethan Gouldbourne, who joined the Motors 2 years ago from today's opposition, Tranmere Rovers.

How much are you looking forward to 2023-24?

Personally, I can't wait! I need to have a good pre-season in my tank and to crack on ahead of the new season. As a club, it's been a great ride this past year on and off the pitch, and now it's down to ourselves to push on even further.

Could you detail your time at Tranmere?

My time at Tranmere couldn't have gone much better, experiencing the standards and what is expected to train with the First Team is not what many academies get to do, so it gives you an insight to what you need to reach that pro level. I was trialling for Burnley at the age of 10 which didn't quite work out, I then started to play for

Liverpool Schoolboys where one of the coaches managed to get me a trial at Tranmere and it went from there. I was at Tranmere for a long, long time and the club will always mean something to me, no matter what. I signed my first contract at the age of 10 and left at the age of 18, and throughout those years, I learned so much and most importantly, it matured me as a person. It's a fantastic club with amazing facilities and I really hope that they can push on this season.

Experiences and Memories

I trained a good few times with the First Team and that alone was an amazing experience, I didn't manage to play for the First Team however was on the bench a few times, and to see the insight of a professional football match in the EFL is unbelievable, especially for a young scholar.

There's plenty of great memories which I could choose - the highs, the laughs, but if I had to choose it would be being part of the First Team matchday squad. I'll always remember those experiences for the rest of my life and the experience has developed me as a player and as a person.

I can't wait to play Tranmere today, to see some old faces, friends, coaches and more, it will be a great afternoon and it's one that I'm really looking forward to.

Enjoy the game,

ETHAN GOULDBOURNE



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PIE AND A PINT

TOM MATHERS - AWAYDAY FOOD REVIEWS



We spoke to Committee Member, Tom Mathers, who did his weekly 'Pie and a Pint', in this issue looking at our trip to Avro for their famous 'FootyScran', on the final away trip of the 2022-23 NWCFL Premier Division season.

THE JOURNEY



The journey up to Avro was a chilled one, with tensions low as come 3pm, there was nothing competitive to play for apart from our pride, with the league title already secured. I travelled up on the team minibus, and the way there was relaxed. The way back however was full of beer with a point against second place, knowing a week from then, the trophy would be back home.

Rating: 5 Stars

THE PINT



I started the day up at Avro with a nice cold San Miguel on a warm day in Manchester.

It was nice, and the price was decent, so we don't mind it! Hopefully more like that in the Northern Premier League Division One West this season!

Rating: 5 Stars



THE SCRAN



I had the famous Avro Salt and Pepper Steak and Chips from 'Macie's at Avro', as featured numerous times for their specialities on FootyScran on Twitter.

For such a low price, the food was unbelievable and I can't wait to visit the Vestacare Stadium again later this season!

Rating: 5 Stars

THE FOOTIE



A bit of a bleak game, with Avro properly going for the win which would almost secure them a second place finish in the NWCFL Premier Division.

An early Conor Harwood goal was equalled out later in the game, with the fixture finishing as a 1-1 draw.

Rating: 3 Stars



THE NEXT 5



ASHVILLE
SATURDAY 15TH | KO TBC



CREWE ALEXANDRA
TUESDAY 18TH | KO TBC



CONGLETON TOWN
SATURDAY 22ND | KO TBC



COLWYN BAY
TUESDAY 25TH | KO TBC



MARINE AFC
1914
MARINE AFC
SATURDAY 1ST | KO TBC



“

ANYONE WHO ENTERS THE PITCH WITHOUT PERMISSION AND THOSE CARRYING OR USING SMOKE BOMBS OR PYROS WILL NOW RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC CLUB BAN.

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‘LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME’

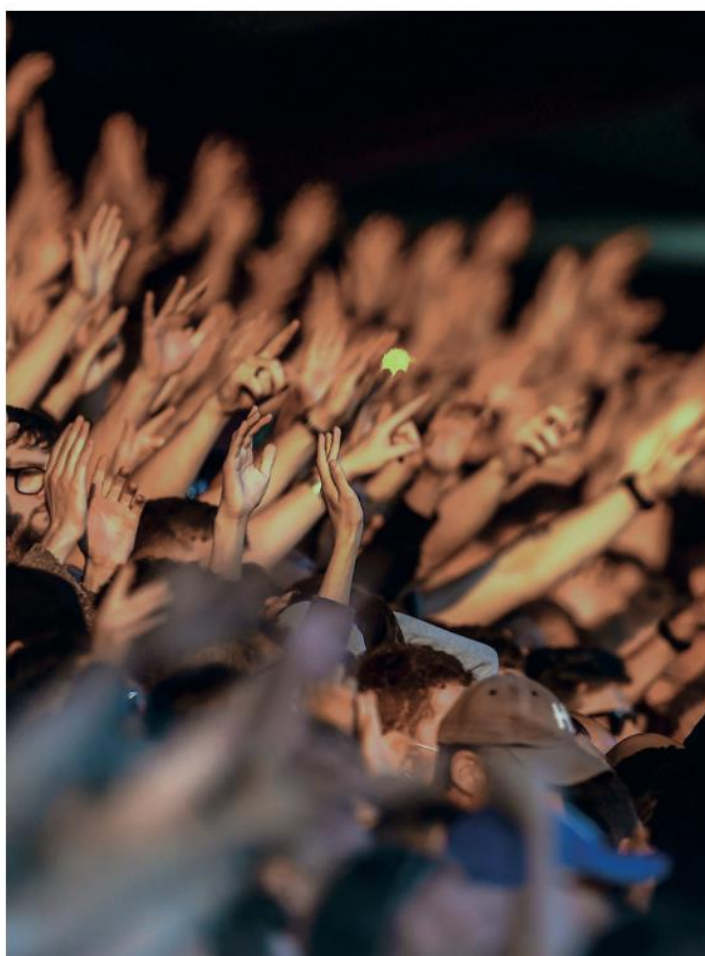
A message about anti-social and criminal behaviour

To mark the new season, we want to make you aware of new measures being taken across all of football to ensure everyone can have a safe and enjoyable experience. We are supporting strong action from the FA, Premier League and EFL to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviours that put all of us at risk.

This reflects the seriousness of the risks to fans and staff – pyros can burn at 2000 degrees Celsius and cause lifechanging injuries, while entering the pitch endangers players, managers and match officials.

We know those who commit these illegal acts do not represent the majority of supporters.

#LoveFootball #ProtectTheGame



THE MOTORS MEDIA TEAM

Good Afternoon and welcome to the VanEupen Arena for this afternoon's Friendly Match between Vauxhall Motors and Tranmere Rovers.

We're delighted to welcome you back to our home in Ellesmere Port for the first time in the 2023-2024 season, where we embark on a new adventure in the Northern Premier League Division One West.

As progression is evident on the pitch, with player retentions, new signings and further trialists, it is also evident to see that the football club is going in the right direction off the pitch too.

Work has been ongoing all summer long, including the installation of our new Media Towers, as seen around the ground, which are permanent structures which will aid our Media Output, creating new angles on content as well as the ability to live stream fixtures when permitted by UEFA and the FA, as well as the refurb of our Club Shop building, which will be open to purchase all of your Vauxhall Motors FC Merchandise, from shirts

to scarves, bobble hats, caps, pin badges and Match Programmes over the years, plus the installation of two brand new offices, and after months in planning, our new Snack Bar is open!

This is something which the club has lacked over the years following the closure of the old Tea Bar, replaced by now the buildings of Everton Football College, and hopefully the new snack bar, located just to the right of the turnstile at the side of the Sports and Social Club, will avenge your hunger, with burgers, chips, pies and much more on sale, as well as drinks being able to be served out of the hatch.

Things are looking good here at Vauxhall Motors, and we can not wait for the kick off of the new campaign, with a new league, new adventures, new stadiums and meeting new people, all of whom have the same love of football and non-league, supporting their local non-league club.

Enjoy the game, and we hope to see you around the ground!

THE MOTORS MEDIA TEAM



MOTORS
MEDIA TEAM



VAUXHALL MOTORS FC

CLUB HISTORY

FORMATION OF THE CLUB

Vauxhall Motors FC were formed back in 1963, following the opening of the brand new Vauxhalls Car Plant just across the other side of the motorway. The plant is still visible from the Rivacre Road Pitch on the left hand side of the current main arena.

EARLY HISTORY

The club initially played in the Ellesmere Port League and the Wirral Combination League, but soon grew too strong for these leagues. We played at company-owned, Hooton Park, but moved to current home, Rivacre Park, in 1987 - opened by former England Manager, Bobby Robson. On the pitch, the club also found some success, winning our first West Cheshire League title in 1985. Motors first joined the North West Counties Football League in 1977, and won promotion from Division Two to Division One in our first season.

THE METEORIC RISE

In the 1998-99 season, Motors achieved success, reaching the fifth round of the FA Vase, as well as winning the NWC Cup and achieving promotion to the Northern Premier League. In the years after, the club achieved lots of success in the Northern Premier League, winning promotion to the NPL Premier Division in the first season in the division, before finishing second place in the NPL Prem. Motors also completed a historic FA Cup Run to the Second Round Proper in this time, beating Queens Park Rangers in the process. In 2004, boss Owen Brown led VMFC to promotion to the Conference North.



MODERN MOTORS

In 2014, Motors were forced to resign from the Conference North due to financial issues, and Karl Bell was appointed manager when Motors dropped back down to the West Cheshire League. Once promotion to the North West Counties Football League was achieved, current boss, Mick McGraa

was appointed in 2018.

Since then, McGraa finished second in the NWCFL Division 1 on Points Per Game, before being denied promotion due to COVID. An eventual promotion

followed by last year's title sees us playing in the NPL D1 West.



Welcome to



VAN EUPEN ARENA

HOME OF VAUXHALL MOTORS FC

FROM THE



AWAY END

We spoke to Zak Hayes, Tranmere Rovers FC Fan, about his history with his local club, the Super Whites, and about his support for the club.

WHY TRANMERE?

It's hard to imagine life without them now.

Tranmere Rovers are my local club and it's my dad's club. Once I'd been taken to my first game, something just clicked. Over time, it just felt like Tranmere was the right club for me.

WHEN DID YOU START SUPPORTING THE CLUB?

February 2008, versus Millwall

My first game was back in February 2008, when we played Millwall. Since then, I've been going to the matches fairly regularly, following the team from Prenton Park and beyond.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEW SEASON, AND WHAT CLUBS ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING?

I just want us to be competitive.

I just want us to be competitive and be in with a shout of promotion come May 2024. I do think that we will do better this year with the appointment of Nigel Adkins. I'm also looking forward to the return of the trips to Accrington and Morecambe, as well as playing Notts County again, as they're back in our league.



WHICH ROVERS PLAYERS SHOULD MOTORS FANS LOOK OUT FOR TODAY?

Kristian Dennis, Josh Hawkes and Sam Taylor.

The Vauxhall Motors defence should look out for Kristian Dennis, who has recently arrived from promotion-winning Carlisle, with a reputation for goals. Also watch out for Josh Hawkes and Sam Taylor, who are two young forwards who are out to prove a point this season.

HAVE YOU EVER VISITED THE VANEUPEN ARENA BEFORE?

Yes

Yes, I've been to the VanEupen Arena before. I took in City of Liverpool versus Warrington Rylands in March 2022, when I worked for Warrington Rylands' Media Team.

It's a nice ground with both a modern and old school touch.

WHAT'S YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE 6-A-SIDE TEAM FOR TRANMERE ROVERS?

- GOALKEEPER** - Scott Davies
- DEFENDER** - Ian Goodison
- DEFENDER** - Steve McNulty
- MIDFIELDER** - Jay Harris
- MIDFIELDER** - Jeff Hughes
- FORWARD** - James Norwood





HEAD TO HEAD



- Vauxhall Motors look to kick off their friendlies against higher opposition with a win at the VanEupen Arena this afternoon.

- If selected, lifelong Rovers fan, Haydn Cooper, could make his 150th appearance for the home side this afternoon.

- Ethan Gouldbourne plays against his former side once again, and has never lost against Rovers since leaving the club 3 years ago.

- Numerous players including Michael Burkey, Ethan Gouldbourne and more all have been released from Tranmere in recent years, and currently play for the Motormen.

- Should Ben Holmes manage to get on the scoresheet at the VanEupen Arena this afternoon, he will be the first player to reach 50 goals for the Motormen since our reformation in 2017.

- Leo Riley and Joe Brandon could both return to the First Team this afternoon following lengthy spells on the sidelines, of which covered the majority of the 2022-23 title-winning season.



WIN, LOSE OR DRAW?

25%

12%

63%

Statistics based on 8 fixtures known, dating to 2000



5 OF THE BEST

2021-22 | Tranmere Rovers 0-2 Vauxhall Motors | Prenton Park
2015-16 | Vauxhall Motors 0-7 Tranmere Rovers | VanEupen Arena
2014-15 | Vauxhall Motors 1-4 Tranmere Rovers | VanEupen Arena
2003-04 | Vauxhall Motors 0-0 Tranmere Rovers | VanEupen Arena
2002-03 | Vauxhall Motors 2-3 Tranmere Rovers | VanEupen Arena



A DEEPER LOOK...



BREAKING NEWS IN BRIEF

Over the summer period, Tranmere Rovers have announced the signings of numerous key members of staff, including the appointment of Manager, Ian Dawes, Coach, Neil Danns, and Technical Director, Nigel Adkins - all of whom look to lead the club in the right direction, starting with the 2023-24 season.

A MAN TO WATCH:

Kane Hemmings is a 31-year-old striker who progressed through the youth ranks at Rangers, where he signed his first professional deal. In his career, he has played for numerous teams, and since 2022, has scored 16 goals in 61 games for Tranmere, as skipper.



KEY INFORMATION:

Founded: 1884 (as Belmont FC)

Home Ground: Prenton Park

Capacity: 16, 567

Last season Finish:

13th in Sky Bet League Two

All-time top goalscorer:

Ian Muir, 180 goals in 393 games

Nicknames: Rovers, Super White Army

Address: Prenton Park, Prenton Road West, Birkenhead, CH42 9PY

Player of the Season 2022-23:

Josh Hawkes

Last 5 Managers:

Ian Dawes - 2023-Present

Micky Mellon - 2016-2020, 2021-2023

Keith Hill - 2020-2021

Mike Jackson - 2020-2020

Gary Brabin - 2015-2016

Did You Know?

Tranmere Rovers started out back in 1884 as Belmont FC. This was when two local cricket clubs merged together to form a football club!

Distance to The VanEupen Arena:

The trip from Prenton Park to the VanEupen Arena is approximately 8.2 miles, and takes just shy of a 15 minutes in normal conditions.





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MATCH

REPORT

0 WEST DIDSBURY & CH..

2 VAUXHALL MOTORS

Vauxhall Motors beat West Didsbury and Chorlton by two goals to nil in their final game of the North West Counties Premier Division winning season on a warm April afternoon in Manchester.

The Motormen struck quickly through Ben Dufton-Kelly as the defender, who was up front for the first half, found the net within the first minute.

Overall, it was a close contest. However, Simon Thelwell ensured that Mick McGraa's team returned to Ellesmere Port with the three points on 'coronation day' as he rifled a penalty into the net late on.

McGraa had stated, after the previous weekend's win against Avro, how his side had a great number of absentees through injuries thus it was a great advantage that players such as Adam Hughes and Michael Burkey were available for selection.

The Motors got off to a brilliant start as Ben Dufton-Kelly edged his side into the lead in the first minute. A long ball was headed out by the West defence to him and he struck it into the far corner.

After 5 minutes of heavy Vauxhall pressure, West started to get more success going forwards, with another chance blocked, as JJ was looking lively.



A Vauxhall corner resulted in a pinball outside the box, Mick McGraa's team were close to finding a second, but the ball was cleared out.

McGraa made five changes at the break, amongst these: goalscorer Ben Dufton-Kelly and defensive duo, Ethan Gouldbourne and Adam Hughes were replaced, and on came Jake Parker, Simon Thelwell and Liam Turner.

However, there was a slow start to the second half.

West were playing well, putting up a good fight, as a long ball from the defence to Max Lewens on the left side was collected nicely. Lewens cut inside, into the box, rode a tackle and worked Sam Booth at the near post.

With twenty minutes to play, there was a big penalty claim by the hosts dismissed. A nice pass was sent through the Vauxhall back line to Zeke, the tricky forward bundled over near the penalty spot but nothing was given.

The referee did point to the spot at the other end and Simon Thelwell made no mistake as his effort rifled past keeper Andrew Jones to seal all three points.

Post-match, the celebrations started as Vauxhall Motors lifted the North West Counties Premier Division Championship Trophy, and celebrations continued into the night with a party held in the Rivacre Suite at the Sports and Social Club!

ETHAN HOIJORD

VMFC Correspondant for Wirral Globe, Liverpool Echo, Cheshire Standard and Birkenhead News

MINI MOTORS QUIZ...



Which Motors' defenders are behind the blurred cover in the images here?

What local team's badge is zoomed in below?



What game is the photograph below from?



MEDIA TEAM'S 5 QUESTION QUIZ...

1. Who is the last Motors player to score a goal against today's opposition?
2. Who could make their 150th Motors appearance today?
3. Altogether, how many pitchside advertising boards are around the ground?
4. In what year was the 0-0 friendly draw between the two sides?
5. How many pre-season games do VMFC have?



MICK MCGRAA

MANAGER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



ALAN MORGAN

ASSISTANT MANAGER

SPONSORED BY

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TOM MITCHELL

CAPTAIN, DEFENDER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



SAM BOOTH

GOALKEEPER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



ALLY HUGHES

GOALKEEPER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



SEAN SMITH

DEFENDER

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NIAL MORAN

DEFENDER

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BEN DUFTON-KELLY

DEFENDER

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ETHAN GOULDBOURNE

DEFENDER

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AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



MARCUS JAMES

DEFENDER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



STE RIGBY

MIDFIELDER

SPONSORED BY

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SEAN MOSCROP

MIDFIELDER

SPONSORED BY

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JORDAN DEER

DEFENDER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



HAYDN COOPER

MIDFIELDER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



LEO RILEY

MIDFIELDER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



MICHAEL BURKEY

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



CONOR HARWOOD

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

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BEN HOLMES

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

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LEWIS BUCKLEY

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

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BOBBIE MCDONNELL

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

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GEORGE NUGENT

MIDFIELDER

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR




JOE BRANDON

FORWARD

SPONSORED BY

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



KYLE SCARISBRICK

COACH

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NEIL MATHIESON

COACH

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STEVE ASPINALL

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VAUXHALL MOTORS V TRANMERE ROVERS

MATCH PREVIEW



The Motormen's preparations for the 2023-24 season starts at home this afternoon to Ian Dawes' Tranmere Rovers.

It has been just over two months since Vauxhall lifted the North West Counties Premier Division title proudly after the final whistle went blew at West Didsbury and Chorlton.

Both clubs are itching to have a strong start to the campaign, Tranmere have something to prove following a poor season in League Two saw them finish mid-table.

Rovers will be hoping that the appointment of the greatly experienced technical director Nigel Adkins will bring results.

The hosts, after getting promoted to the Division One West of the Northern Premier League will want to show their capabilities in a local derby thus it's set to be an entertaining tie.

Tranmere Rovers FC Factfile:

Founded: 1884, as Belmont FC.

Manager: Ian Dawes, appointed in 2023 after spells as Assistant Manager under Keith Hill and Micky Mellon

Top Scorer: Josh Hawkes, 11 goals and 4 assists in 47 matches

2022-23 Final League Position: 12th

Playing Colours: White and Blue

Recent Honours: 2021 Papa John's Trophy Runners Up, 2019 League Two Play-Off Trophy Winners, 2018 Vanarama National League Play-Off Winners.

Did you know?: Tranmere Rovers is the only club with a Norse-viking name in professional English Football

Last Time Out: Tranmere Rovers 0-2 Vauxhall Motors, Cheshire Senior Cup, Prenton Park, 2021

All support for the Motormen this afternoon is greatly appreciated - enjoy the game!

ETHAN HOIJORD

VMFC Correspondant for Wirral Globe, Liverpool Echo and Chester Standard Newspapers

VAUXHALL MOTORS FC - A HISTORY...

OVER THE YEARS...



4TH JULY 1997

Terry McLean returned as Manager of the Motormen, with Joe Kelly as his Assistant, while Steve Leyland returned as West Cheshire League side boss, after a year out of the game.

5TH JULY 1997

The club reverts to the all-white kit, originally brought in by Tony McVey, as Real Madrid fan. We won 2 North West Counties Division Two titles, the North West Counties Football League Cup and the West Cheshire title, all while wearing a full white strip.

6TH JULY 2019

The Motormen won 3-1 at home to Curzon Ashton in our first pre-season game of the 2019-20 season.

8TH JULY 2005

Lost 3-0 at home to Tranmere Rovers in our initial pre-season fixture of the 2005-06 season.

10TH JULY 2021

In a pre-season friendly, lost 4-1 at home to FA Cup Giant-Killers, Marine AFC, at the VanEupen Arena.

13TH JULY 2021

Motors planned pre-season game away to Flint Town United, members of the Welsh Leagues, was cancelled due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the home camp, in the midst of the pandemic.

16TH JULY 2005

Played at home to Welshpool Town, with a 2-0 win in a pre-season friendly. The goals on the day were scored by Hussain and Peter Cumiskey.

17TH JULY 2004

Lost 4-0 at home to Tranmere Rovers, at the time under the management of Brian Little.

17TH JULY 2021

Won 3-0 at home to new Northern Premier League tenants, City of Liverpool. COL, who were recently promoted to the NPL, moved into the VanEupen Arena on a groundshare agreement after leaving Bootle FC. Ben Holmes bagged a first half brace, before trialist, Joe Levey, struck a superb strike on the 81st minute to secure the win.

Reserves drew 3-3 at Corwen in topsy-turvy game, in which the Reserves equalised right at the death.



VAUXHALL MOTORS

- SAM BOOTH (GK)
- ALLY HUGHES (GK)
- ETHAN GOULDBOURNE
- TOM MITCHELL
- ADAM HUGHES
- BEN DUFTON-KELLY
- SEAN SMITH
- NIAL MORAN
- MARCUS JAMES
- HAYDN COOPER
- STEPHEN RIGBY
- SEAN MOSCROP
- JORDAN DEER
- MICHAEL BURKEY
- CONOR HARWOOD
- LEWIS BUCKLEY
- BOBBIE MCDONNELL
- GEORGE NUGENT
- JOE BRANDON

MANAGER:
MICK MCGRAA



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE
GRAEME
KEARNEY

ASSISTANT
KANE
SMITH

ASSISTANT
ADI DUICI

NEXT GAME



SATURDAY
15TH JULY

VS ASHVILLE
(A) - FRIENDLY



TUESDAY
18TH JULY

VS CREWE
ALEXANDRA (H)



TRANMERE ROVERS

- JOE MURPHY
- MATEUSZ HEWELT
- JOSH DACRES-COGLEY
- ETHAN BRISTOW
- JORDAN TURNBULL
- BEN HOCKENHULL
- KYLE JAMESON
- LUKE ROBINSON
- TOM DAVIES
- CHRIS MERRIE
- KIERON MORRIS
- REECE MCALEAR
- JON NOLAN
- RHYS HUGHES
- BRAD WALKER
- PAUL LEWIS
- REGAN HENDRY
- CONNOR JENNINGS
- LEE O'CONNOR
- JOSH HAWKES
- PAUL GLATZEL
- KANE HEMMINGS
- CHARLIE JOLLEY
- HARVEY SAUNDERS
- SAM TAYLOR
- JAKE BURTON

MANAGER:
IAN DAWES