JOHN DORAN



FROM SHANKLY TO PAISLEY AND KLOPP

Sixty-Five Glorious Years Of Liverpool Football Club 1959 to 2024

Dedicated to my sister, Julie, a proud Liverpudlian, and to the memory of all the men, women and children who went to watch a football match and didn't go home again.

HEYSEL, 29th May 1985

Andrea Casula, 11; Giuseppina Conti, 17; Giancarlo Gonnelli, 20; Gianni Mastroiaco, 20; Giancarlo Bruschera, 21; Alberto Guarini, 21; Franco Martelli, 22; Tarcisio Venturin, 23; Francesco Galli, 24; Nino Cerullo, 24; Claude Robert, 27; Claudio Zavaroni, 28; Domenico Russo, 28; Loris Messore, 28; Rocco Acerra, 29; Luigi Pidone, 31; Roberto Lorentini, 31; Jean Michel Walla, 32; Alfons Bos, 35; Eugenio Gagliano, 35; Dirk Daeninckx, 38; Luciano Rocco Papaluca, 38; Patrick Radcliffe, 38; Sergio Bastino Mazzino, 38; Mario Spanu, 41; Willy Chielens, 41; Mario Ronchi, 43; Domenico Ragazzi, 44; Giovanni Casula, 44; Jacques Franqois, 45; Gianfranco Sarto, 47; Antonio Ragnanese, 49; Tarcisio Salvi, 49; Bruno Bali, 50; Benito Pistolato, 50; Giovacchino Landini, 50; Dionisio Fabbro, 51; Amedeo Giuseppe Spolaore, 55; Barbara Lusci, 58.

HILLSBOROUGH, 15th April 1989

Jon-Paul Gilhooley, 10; Philip Hammond, 14; Thomas Anthony Howard, 14; Paul Brian Murray, 14; Lee Nicol, 14; Adam Edward Spearritt, 14; Peter Andrew Harrison, 15; Victoria Jane Hicks, 15; Philip John Steele, 15; Kevin Tyrrell, 15; Kevin Daniel Williams, 15; Kester Roger Marcus Ball, 16; Nicholas Michael Hewitt, 16; Martin Kevin Traynor, 16; Simon Bell, 17; Carl Darren Hewitt, 17; Keith McGrath, 17; Stephen Francis O'Neill ,17; Steven Joseph Robinson, 17; Henry Charles Rogers, 17; Stuart Paul William Thompson, 17; Graham John Wright, 17; James Gary Aspinall, 18; Carl Brown, 18; Paul Clark, 18; Christopher Barry Devonside, 18; Gary Philip Jones, 18; Carl David Lewis, 18, John McBrien, 18; Jonathon Owens, 18; Colin Mark Ashcroft, 19; Paul William Carlie, 19; Gary Christopher Church, 19; James Philip Delaney, 19; Sarah Louise Hicks, 19; David William Mather, 19; Colin Wafer, 19; Ian David Whelan, 19; Stephen Paul Copoc, 20; Ian Thomas Glover, 20; Gordon Rodney Horn, 20; Paul David Brady, 21; Thomas Steven Fox, 21; Marian Hazel McCabe, 21; Joseph Daniel McCarthy, 21; Peter McDonnell, 21; Carl William Rimmer, 21; Peter Francis Tootle, 21; David John Benson, 22; David William Birtle, 22; Tony Bland , 22; Gary Collins, 22; Tracey Elizabeth Cox, 23; William Roy Pemberton, 23; Colin Andrew Hugh William Sefton, 23; David Leonard Thomas, 23; Peter Andrew Burkett, 24; Derrick George Godwin, 24; Graham John Roberts, 24; David Steven Brown, 25; Richard Jones, 25; Barry Sidney Bennett, 26; Andrew Mark Brookes, 26; Paul Anthony Hewitson, 26; Paula Ann Smith, 26; Christopher James Traynor, 26; Barry Glover, 27; Gary Harrison, 27; Christine Anne Jones, 27; Nicholas Peter Joynes, 27; Francis Joseph McAllister, 27; Alan McGlone, 28; Joseph Clark, 29; Christopher Edwards, 29; James Robert Hennessy, 29; Alan Johnston, 29; Anthony Peter Kelly, 29; Martin Kenneth Wild, 29; Peter Reuben Thompson, 30; Stephen Francis Harrison, 31; Eric Hankin, 33; Vincent Michael Fitzsimmons, 34; Roy Harry Hamilton, 34; Patrick John Thompson, 35; Michael David Kelly, 38; Brian Christopher Mathews, 38; David George Rimmer, 38; Inger Shah, 38; David Hawley, 39; Thomas Howard, 39; Arthur Horrocks, 41; Eric George Hughes, 42; Henry Thomas Burke, 47; Raymond Thomas Chapman, 50; Andrew Stanley Devine, 55; John Alfred Anderson, 62; Gerard Bernard Patrick Baron, 67.

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"What we look for in a player is character and raw material. If we sign him, we concentrate on drawing out his assets. We don't worry too much about his weaknesses, because no player is perfect."

Bob Paisley

Introduction



The BBC's teletext service Ceefax and its commercial equivalent, Oracle, first appeared on TV screens in the 1970s and they became the primary source of information for millions of people from the early 1980s onwards. Some of you may not remember Oracle and be more familiar with its successor as, in 1992, the franchise to provide ITV's service was awarded to Teletext Limited and Oracle became, confusingly, Teletext, the same name as the medium itself.

Both services gave viewers free and immediate access to the very latest information in a pre-internet era where the only alternative was to wait for the next television or radio bulletin or buy a newspaper. For those unfamiliar with the technology, the services worked by pressing in three numbers on your TV remote corresponding to the page you wanted to bring onto the screen, as illustrated in the armchair guide above which was originally published in 1987.

As teletext pages were updated almost continuously each day, the content wasn't saved so few examples of them exist, but there are enthusiasts able to retrieve some from the videotape used to record TV programmes in the 1980s and 1990s so that people can now view them. All the original teletext pages in this book were recovered in this way and you may see corruptions to words or images on them caused by the retrieval process.

The beauty of teletext was that while you were reading a match report about Liverpool beating Everton in the FA Cup Final (twice!), you could still hear the programme being broadcast on BBC or ITV - whether it was Only Fools And Horses or Coronation Street - and could switch back to whatever you had been watching immediately at the push of a button.

Liverpudlians, like all football fans, relied on these services for the latest football scores and breaking news, with many a transfer rumour quashed with the words, "Well, there's nothing about it on teletext."

As this century dawned, changes in broadcast technology made it increasingly difficult for viewers to access teletext services quickly and easily and they gradually disappeared. ITV's Teletext, the successor to Oracle, ceased broadcasting in 2009 and BBC's Ceefax in 2012, though in Europe there are still a few active teletext services even today. The Retrotext designs in this book are my tribute to this once hugely popular and much-loved information medium.

One: Season 1974-1975



August to December 1974





At the age of twenty, Robert 'Bob' Paisley signed for Liverpool shortly after the conclusion of the 1938-39 Division One season, the final campaign completed before the outbreak of World War Two.

At Anfield, he formed a friendship with club skipper Matt Busby, who would later become Sir Matt after his stellar managerial career at Manchester United.

Unfortunately, due to the military conflict, Bob was unable to pursue his football career and instead served his country in the Royal Artillery.

He was posted to Egypt with General Montgomery's Eighth Army - the Desert Rats - and took part in the famous battle of El Alamein which was a turning point for the Allies on the North Africa front.

When League football started again in September 1946, Bob made his debut in a 7-4 win over Chelsea alongside another future Liverpool legend, Billy Liddell.

The tough-tackling wing-half was a key player in the team which became the first post-war Division One champions.

Bob scored the winning goal in the 1950 FA Cup semi-final against Everton and it was his absence in the Final at Wembley which many pundits felt contributed to the team's defeat against Arsenal.

Liverpool's fortunes declined over the next few years, resulting in relegation to Division Two at the end of the 1953-54 season. Bob's playing contract had also expired but he was offered the chance to join the club's coaching staff as physiotherapist and manager of the reserves, during which time they won the Central League title for the first time.

In August 1959, Bob was appointed first-team coach to work alongside manager Phil Taylor, his friend and former team-mate.

A few months later, though, Taylor was sacked and when Bill Shankly was appointed in December, the backroom staff feared for their jobs. But Shankly opted to retain Bob, Joe Fagan and Reuben Bennett, a decision which was fundamental to the club's future success.

After Shankly's shock retirement in July 1974, his successor asked him to lead out the team in the Charity Shield clash with Leeds United. The match itself was a fiery affair with both Kevin Keegan and Billy Bremner sent off for fighting.

Though the Reds suffered early exits from the European Cup-Winners' Cup and the League Cup, they made good progress in Division One with a 4-1 win over Manchester City on Boxing Day taking Paisley's side briefly to the top of the table.

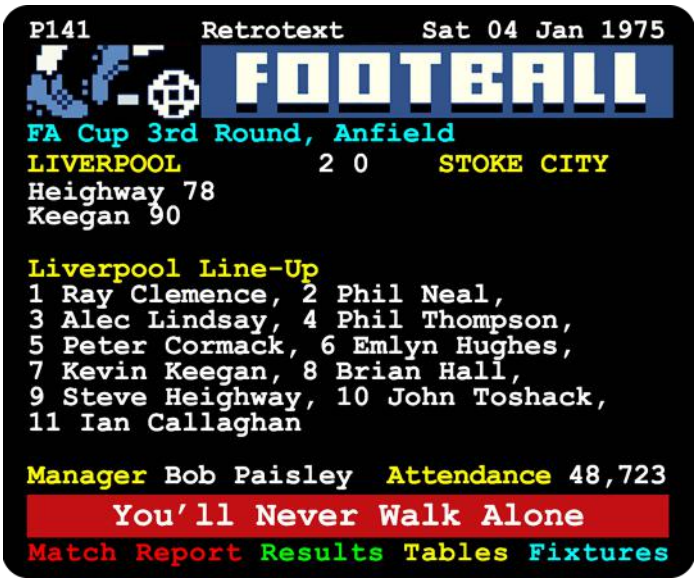
Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Born in 1913, Bill Shankly joined Liverpool as manager from Huddersfield Town on December 1st, 1959 with the club languishing in the Second Division of English football and playing in a delapidated stadium. During his fifteen years in charge, Liverpool won three Division One League titles (1963-64 1965-66 1972-73), the FA Cup for the first time in the club's history in 1965 and again in 1974, as well as the UEFA Cup in 1973.

But even these achievements on the pitch were nothing to the foundations he created for the success of the club after his shock retirement in July 1974, with the Reds becoming League Champions a further eleven times and European Champions six times as well as winning six more FA Cups and ten League Cups.
Without doubt, Bill Shankly was the best signing Liverpool ever made.



January 1975



Two days after hammering Manchester City, Liverpool's bid to consolidate their position at the top of the table was thwarted by the weather as severe gales forced the lunchtime postponement of the game with Newcastle at St James Park.

Supporters who were travelling by train were told the bad news by British Rail when they reached York.

It would have been a swift return to the North East for the Reds' newest signing, Terry McDermott, who had made a handful of senior appearances for Bob Paisley's side since his £175,000 switch from Newcastle in mid-November.

The manager was suffering from flu and advised to stay away from the first-team squad ahead of this FA Cup clash with Stoke City. He did receive a boost when Emlyn Hughes was passed fit after injuring his knee in training to ensure he would play his 120th consecutive game for the club.

Stoke were one of eight clubs separated by just two points at the top of the Division One table and they proved a tough nut to crack. A mistake by their goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, enabled Steve Heighway to slot home and Kevin Keegan ensured the FA Cup holders were in the fourth round draw.



In the 1970s, FA Cup draws were traditionally made at lunchtime on the Monday after the weekend's games and the Reds couldn't have been given a tougher task than away to Bobby Robson's Ipswich Town.

But before that clash, the team faced two crucial League matches with the race for the title as close as it had ever been. Liverpool stood in third place but just one point behind Ipswich Town and Middlesbrough though with two games in hand. Opponents Derby stood in ninth spot only two points behind the Reds having played a game more.

Derby's notorious Baseball Ground pitch had been heavily sanded after a midweek FA Cup replay and favoured the more direct football played by Dave McKay's side rather than the visitors' passing game.

The home side's goalkeeper Colin Boulton was in fine form, making a number of crucial saves to deny Paisley's men, and goals from Henry Newton and Francis Lee secured the two points which moved the Rams to seventh in the table, level on points with the Reds who dropped to sixth.

To add to Liverpool's woes, influential midfielder Peter Cormack had been booked and faced the possibility of a ban which would rule him out of the upcoming FA Cup game at Portman Road.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Though he didn't select the team for it, the Shankly era began with a 4-0 defeat at Anfield by Cardiff City on Saturday 19th December, 1959. On Boxing Day, with Shankly picking the side for the first time, the Reds lost 3-0 at Charlton and languished in twelfth spot in the Division Two table. But two days later, against the same opponents and back on home soil, the first win was secured thanks to goals from Alan A'Court and Roger Hunt.

A tremendous second half of the season followed, with Liverpool losing only three more League games and gaining 25 points from a possible 36 but the poor start gave them too much to do to catch Aston Villa and Cardiff who were promoted to the top flight.



January 1975



There was good news at the start of this week as Phil Thompson had been called up into England's Under-23 squad for a game to be played on the same day as his 21st birthday.

On the negative side, Peter Cormack's booking at Derby was confirmed as incurring four points, taking him to a total of twelve and triggering an automatic two-game ban. However, as the club had decided to appeal, he would be free to play in the FA Cup against Ipswich Town.

In advance of the weekend's home game against Coventry City, Bob Paisley had the luxury of giving several players pushing for a spot in the first-team a run-out in the reserves. A strong side featuring Tommy Smith, Terry McDermott and Ray Kennedy beat Preston 4-1.

Ex-Liverpool player Gordon Milne was manager of Coventry City and at the heart of his team's defence was Larry Lloyd, a towering centre-half who was a big favourite with the fans at Anfield before his move to the Sky Blues in August.

Though not at their fluent best, the Reds did enough to defeat the visitors and move to fourth in the table, two points behind leaders Everton with a game in hand.



Liverpool had beaten Ipswich Town en route to the FA Cup Final during the previous season but that was at Anfield and for this tie the team and 4,000 fans would have to travel to East Anglia.

It was undoubtedly the match of the round with both teams chasing the League title and the attendance of 34,709 was a record for the Portman Road stadium.

With a replay looking increasingly likely after an end-to-end encounter, with just three minutes left the home side made the breakthrough, Mick Mills prodding home from close range.

Having been knocked out by late goals in both the League Cup, by Middlesbrough and European Cup-Winners' Cup, by Hungarian side Ferencvaros, this was an unwanted hat-trick of late exits for Paisley's men, leaving just the Division One title to aim for in the new manager's first season in charge.

After the game he said: "Last season we won about nine games with late goals. Now we are losing matches in the same way.

But we have still got a big say in the League and we have still got to try and get into Europe again for next season."

Liverpool Legend: Billy Liddell

Scottish-born Billy Liddell signed for Liverpool in April 1939 but due to the Second World War, he didn't make his debut until January 1946 when he scored in a 3rd round FA Cup tie at Chester. When games in Division One resumed in September, Liddell scored twice in a 7-4 win over Chelsea, a match in which Bob Paisley also made his League debut for the club, and at the end of the season Liverpool were crowned as the first post-war champions.

Liddell was a regular scorer for the Reds throughout the 1940s and 50s and stayed with the club after relegation to Division Two in 1954. He was still at Anfield when Bill Shankly took over as manager but retired in 1960 having scored 228 goals in 534 matches. Despite heavy rain, 43,000 fans attended Billy's testimonial match and the *Liverpool Echo* produced a souvenir issue to mark the occasion.



February 1975



Having been knocked out of the FA Cup by Ipswich Town, Liverpool had a clear week to prepare for yet another crunch game at the top of the Division One table.

Arsenal, on the other hand, had to play a fourth round replay against Coventry City, which they came through successfully, winning 3-0.

The Gunners had beaten the Reds 3-1 at Anfield earlier in the season with ex-Everton star Alan Ball scoring two of the goals for Bertie Mee's side.

The England 1966 World Cup hero was again the match-winner at Highbury, slotting home just before the half-hour mark and then converting a second-half penalty.

The defeat dropped Paisley's team to fifth in the table, four points behind leaders Everton, who had beaten Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 at Goodison Park, but with a game in hand on their local rivals.

The Reds also trailed their next opponents, Ipswich Town (again), by three points but had played two matches less than Bobby Robson's side.

After three defeats in their last four games, the clash at the weekend was one Liverpool simply could not afford to lose.



Despite speculation that manager Bob Paisley would change his line-up for the crunch home game with the Tractor Boys, he named an unchanged team for the seventh consecutive match.

Having lost to Ipswich in both the League and FA Cup this season, Saturday's game was an opportunity to gain revenge and the players took it in style.

Brian Hall gave the home side an early lead with a rare header and John Toshack made it 2-0 shortly afterwards. Though the visitors reduced the arrears through Kevin Beattie, left-back Alec Lindsay made it 3-1 at the break.

Toshack scored his second midway through the second period and though Trevor Whymark pulled one back, Peter Cormack rounded off a terrific performance to make the final score 5-2.

A good day for the Red half of Merseyside was made even better when the score filtered through from Maine Road, where Everton had lost 2-1 to Manchester City.

The day's results meant that the top ten teams in the division were separated by just four points with two-thirds of the season already completed.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Gordon Milne and Alf Arrowsmith were added to Shankly's pool of players who had finished the previous season so strongly, but the Reds again started the campaign poorly and by the middle of September his side stood in seventeenth place in the table.

However, a run of fourteen League games unbeaten saw Liverpool sit in second spot after a 2-1 Boxing Day home victory over Rotherham, though their opponents ended that sequence the very next day with a 1-0 win at Millmoor. Shankly's men were only one point behind second-placed Sheffield United with six games remaining but three defeats in the closing matches condemned them to spend another season in Division Two.



February 1975

P141 Retrotext Wed 12 Feb 1975

FOOTBALL

League Division One, St James' Park

NEWCASTLE UTD 4 1 LIVERPOOL

Tudor 7
Macdonald 15 71
Barrowclough 23

Hall 61

Liverpool Line-Up
1 Ray Clemence, 2 Phil Neal,
3 Alec Lindsay, 4 Phil Thompson,
5 Peter Cormack, 6 Emlyn Hughes,
7 Kevin Keegan, 8 Brian Hall,
9 Steve Heighway, 10 John Toshack,
11 Ian Callaghan

Manager Bob Paisley Attendance 38,115

P28 W14 D5 L9 F42 A31 Pts33 Pos5th

Match Report Results Tables Fixtures

Buoyed by the magnificent result against Suffolk's finest, Liverpool prepared for the re-arranged match with Newcastle United which was called off due to high winds after Christmas.

John Toshack was an early doubt for the St James' Park clash after limping off at the weekend but not before he had scored his fifth goal in nine games since a potential transfer to Leicester City had fallen through because of the big Welshman's thigh condition.

In the end, though, Bob Paisley named an unchanged team for the long trip up to the North East where a 1-0 win for the visitors would be enough for them to depose Everton from top spot.

However, the mid-table Magpies turned the form book on its head, racing into a 3-0 half-time lead and eventually winning 4-1 to avenge the FA Cup Final defeat against Bill Shankly's side the previous May. It was the first time in five years that the Reds had conceded four goals in a League match.

With no match at the weekend due to the 5th round of the FA Cup, Paisley and his team had some time to analyse what had gone wrong at Newcastle and what needed to be done to keep Liverpool in the hunt for the League title.

P141 Retrotext Wed 19 Feb 1975

FOOTBALL

League Division One, Upton Park

WEST HAM UTD 0 0 LIVERPOOL

Liverpool Line-Up
1 Ray Clemence, 2 Phil Neal,
3 Tommy Smith, 4 Phil Thompson,
5 Terry McDermott (Alan Waddle),
6 Emlyn Hughes, 7 Kevin Keegan,
8 Brian Hall, 9 Steve Heighway,
10 Ray Kennedy, 11 Ian Callaghan

Manager Bob Paisley Attendance 40,256

P29 W14 D6 L9 F42 A31 Pts34 Pos5th

Match Report Results Tables Fixtures

The League results at the weekend had worked in Liverpool's favour. Stoke City were 2-0 down at home to Wolves but scored two goals in a minute near the end to salvage a point and move above Everton in top spot.

Burnley in third place were hammered 3-0 by Newcastle United, with Malcolm MacDonald scoring twice just as he had done against the Reds the previous week.

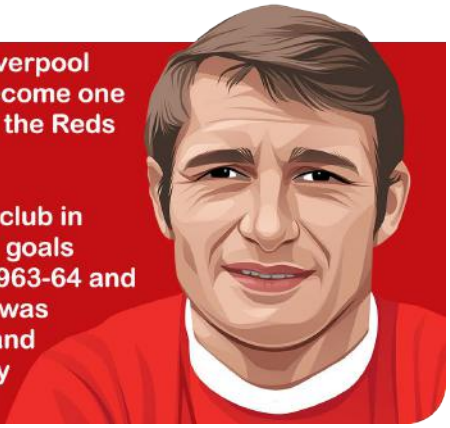
So, ahead of this game at Upton Park, Bob Paisley's side were only three points adrift of Stoke with two games in hand.

After fielding the same team for seven straight matches, the heavy defeat at Newcastle spurred the manager to make changes and in came Tommy Smith in place of Alec Lindsay, as well as Terry McDermott and Ray Kennedy at the expense of Peter Cormack and John Toshack.

The visitors acquitted themselves well on a very muddy pitch which Paisley said after the game was not even fit to put cows on. He told reporters:

"They say it's a mediocre First Division this season. Well, it's pitches like that which are to blame. The continentals wouldn't have played on that."

Liverpool Legend: Roger Hunt



21-year-old Roger Hunt was in the first-ever team Bill Shankly picked for Liverpool after he became manager in December 1959. 'Sir' Roger would go on to become one of the club's greatest-ever players and he was instrumental to the success the Reds enjoyed over the next ten years.

Hunt formed a prolific partnership with Ian St John when 'Saint' joined the club in May 1961 and in the promotion-winning season that followed, he scored 41 goals including five hat-tricks, while when the club won the Division One title in 1963-64 and again in 1965-66, he recorded 31 and 29 League goals respectively. Roger was also a key member of the England team which won the World Cup in 1966 and he carried the Jules Rimet trophy around Goodison Park with Everton's Ray Wilson ahead of the Charity Shield match in August of that year.



Ahead of the Merseyside derby, fifth-placed Liverpool were one point adrift of Everton in second-spot but after the midweek draw at West Ham they had played one more game than the team from across Stanley Park.

John Toshack and Peter Cormack were restored to the home team's line-up and played their part in an entertaining encounter which could have gone either way. As it was the spoils were shared, as they had been when the two sides had met at Goodison earlier in the campaign.

In an unusual move after the match, the chairmen of both clubs, John Smith of Liverpool and Alan Waterworth of Everton, issued a joint statement praising the spectators.

"Saturday was an unforgettable occasion, not only for the quality of the game - one of the best derby matches for years - but also for the sense of atmosphere and sporting commitment generated by the crowd. Not one incident involving the fans has been reported. Their sporting behaviour, despite their fierce partisanship, was a model for all."

The Reds moved to fourth in the table, just below Everton, with Burnley joining Stoke on top of the congested table after beating Sheffield United 2-1.



This is an original Ceefax page recovered from an old VHS recording. The corruption is caused by the retrieval process.

It is the oldest Liverpool-related page in the archive, dating back to 1975 and Bob Paisley's second season in charge at the club. The Reds had lost their first game to QPR but then drawn with West Ham and beaten Tottenham and Leeds to stand with five points from four games (two points for a win back then).

On this day, Paisley's men drew 1-1 at Leicester City, with Kevin Keegan's goal equalised by the home side's Keith Weller.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

In the summer of 1961, the purse-strings at Anfield were loosened, allowing Shankly to purchase two players who would be key to the success enjoyed by the club for the rest of the decade - striker Ian St John, a £37,500 buy from Motherwell, and giant centre-half Ron Yeats, acquired for a fee of £22,000 from Dundee United.

Unlike the previous two campaigns, Liverpool started the season fast, winning ten of their first eleven matches and topping the Division Two table from the start to the finish. A 2-0 victory over Southampton with five games still left to play confirmed the Reds' return to the top flight of English football after an absence of eight long years.



March 1975



Before the Reds' next game against struggling Chelsea, the Liverpool Echo announced the results of the poll for the 1974 Merseyside Sports Personality.

Former boss Bill Shankly came third with Ian Callaghan, the winner of the award the year before, the runner-up. Beating all the footballers, though, was Kirkby's John Conteh who had recently become the light-heavy-weight boxing champion of the world.

The big transfer news of the week involved local lad Steve Coppell who joined Manchester United from Tranmere Rovers, managed by Ron Yeats, for a fee of £60,000. The 19-year-old was still studying economic history at Liverpool University but United boss Tommy Docherty said he wanted Steve to complete his course.

Everton had moved to the top of Division One ahead of the weekend's round of matches after beating Luton Town 3-1 at Goodison Park, three points clear of Liverpool after playing thirty games each.

That lead was extended to four points after Billy Bingham's side notched a 2-0 win at Highbury against Arsenal, while Bob Paisley's men were surprisingly held to a draw by Chelsea.



Though Peter Cormack had scored the late equaliser against Chelsea on Saturday, he would miss the team's next two matches due to suspension following his booking at the Baseball Ground in January, ruling him out of the impending top-of-the-table clash with Burnley.

Before the game with the Stamford Bridge outfit, manager Paisley had set a target of 18 points from the club's remaining twelve matches to win the League title and the unexpected loss of a point at Anfield had made that total just a little bit harder to achieve.

That target looked as if it would be even more elusive after the weekend games.

While Liverpool were unlucky not to take both points at Turf Moor, they had to settle for one after Terry McDermott scored his first goal for the club and showed distinct signs of finally settling in at Anfield.

But fierce rivals Everton appeared to have one hand on the League championship trophy after a last-minute Bob Latchford goal against QPR took them two points clear of the chasing pack and five ahead of Liverpool with just ten games of the season left.

Liverpool Legend: Ian St John



After just missing out on promotion from Division Two for the second successive season, in May 1961 Bill Shankly signed centre-forward Ian St John from Motherwell for £37,500 and a couple of months later brought fellow Scot Ron Yeats in as centre-half. Both players contributed hugely as Liverpool were promoted back to the top flight at the end of the 1961-62 campaign after an absence of seven years.

St John, or 'Saint' as he became known, scored 21 goals during the title-winning 1963-64 season but his greatest moment came in the 1965 FA Cup Final when his diving header in extra-time enabled Liverpool to win the trophy for the first time in their history. He again played a pivotal role in the 1965-66 campaign as the Reds won the Division One crown again. His final game for the club was an FA Cup tie in January 1971 against Swansea and, fittingly, he scored the 118th goal of his Anfield career.

March 1975



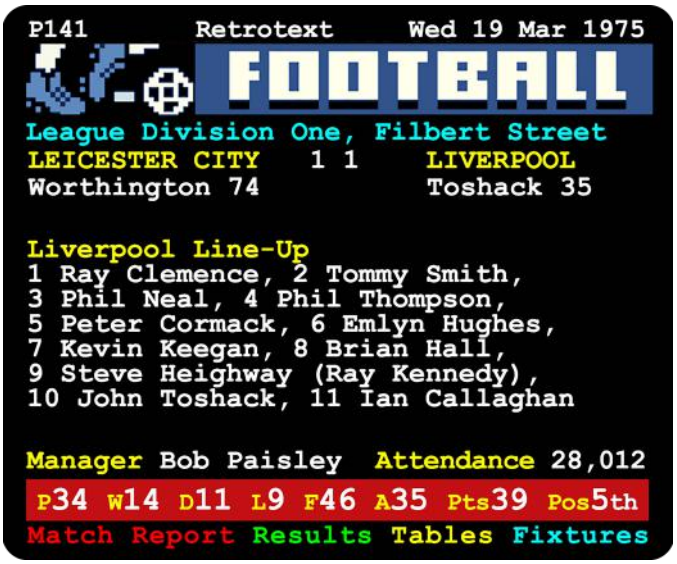
After the midweek internationals, England's Ray Clemence and Kevin Keegan, as well as the Republic of Ireland's Steve Heighway, reported back to Melwood without any injury scares to give manager Bob Paisley plenty of options for the crucial match with Sheffield United.

The Reds had not won in five games since the 5-2 demolition of Ipswich Town back in early February, suffering one defeat and recording four draws, at a time of the season when the team traditionally would be finishing strongly.

With Peter Cormack still suspended, Terry McDermott kept his place in the starting line-up at Anfield against a United side who had beaten the Reds 1-0 at Bramall Lane back in September.

The home side created plenty of chances but failed to take them and the stalemate extended their winless streak to six.

Top-of-the-table Everton also drew 0-0 at Elland Road against reigning champions Leeds United, but with close rivals Burnley and Derby County losing, many bookmakers had the Blues as odds-on favourites to secure their eighth League title.



As Bill Shankly once said, "Only the rashest of men would forecast success in the world of football" and with a round of midweek matches upcoming, though Everton were still strong favourites, anything could happen in the most competitive title race seen for many years.

The day before Liverpool's match at Leicester, Everton travelled to Ayresome Park to play Middlesbrough, one of a number of clubs in the chasing group who had an outside chance of the title.

Jack Charlton's side triumphed 2-0 to move into fourth in the table while Ipswich claimed second after a superb win at Stoke City.

Everton's loss was a big boost for the Reds who would have cut the deficit with them to three points with a win at Filbert Street. As it was, the visitors had to settle for a point after recording their sixth draw on the bounce.

Now, with just six points separating ten clubs at the top of the table, all eyes turned to the weekend's fixtures when the key clash would be Everton against Ipswich Town at Goodison Park.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

In October 1962, Shankly replaced goalkeeper Jim Furnell with Tommy Lawrence, further strengthening the 'spine' of the team for the first season back in Division One. Liverpool lost the first two games with Lawrence between the posts and dropped to near the foot of the table in November but a run of eight games unbeaten, including seven wins, saw the team rise to fifth by the end of 1962.

As was usual at the time, over the long Easter weekend, Shankly's men played three matches, beating Tottenham 5-2 on Good Friday and Manchester United 1-0 a day later, both at Anfield, before losing 7-2 to Spurs at White Hart Lane on Easter Monday, while the eagerly-anticipated derby matches with Everton finished 2-2 and 0-0.



March 1975



Having limped off in the midweek game against Leicester with a thigh strain, Steve Heighway was ruled out of the match with relegation-threatened Tottenham at White Hart Lane, with his place in the side going to Terry McDermott.

After a tight first-half, Kevin Keegan's goal immediately after the re-start allowed Liverpool to play with more freedom and it was only what the visitors deserved when Peter Cormack headed home McDermott's cross midway through the second period to secure the team's first away win since October against QPR.

With the top two teams playing out a 1-1 draw, the Reds were now one of six clubs on 41 points, three behind Billy Bingham's boys, with Dave Mackay's Derby County one point adrift in seventh but with a game in hand on all the teams ahead of them.

Before the win at Spurs, the modest run of form showed by Paisley's men had begun with a 4-1 hammering by Newcastle United.

But the Reds had an opportunity to avenge that defeat in midweek, one of two home games in a few days which could potentially turn the title race upside down.



With Steve Heighway still out injured, Terry McDermott retained his place in the team and faced his former side for the first-time since his transfer from Newcastle earlier in the season.

From the moment Kevin Keegan put the home side ahead early on there was only going to be one winner and McDermott rounded off his best performance for the club to date by rolling home the fourth after good work by Keegan.

The victory moved Liverpool to within a point of leaders Everton and the players stepped up the psychological warfare on their opponents.

Keegan said: "That result will scare Everton" while Emlyn Hughes added: "I wouldn't like to be in Everton's shoes now. They have a match in hand. but still have to win it."

As was common in this era, the Easter weekend fixtures would have a critical impact on the destination of the League title.

Everton and Liverpool were fortunate to only have two games to play over the holiday period, whereas third-placed Ipswich Town had three. Bobby Robson's team also had to play a third replay in a mammoth FA Cup sixth-round tie with Leeds United two days before the Easter Saturday games.

Liverpool Legend: Ron Yeats



In the summer of 1961, Yeats joined Liverpool from Dundee United for a fee of £22,000 and after just a few months he was made club captain, leading the team to promotion to Division One at the end of his first season. In a stellar career at Anfield he would go on to win two League championships and become the first Liverpool player to lift the FA Cup, when the Reds beat Leeds United in 1965.

When Yeats left the club to join Tranmere Rovers in December 1971 as player-assistant manager, later becoming manager in his own right, Bill Shankly paid this tribute: “More than any other player, Yeats was responsible for our success in the sixties. He was the foundation stone of our great team.” At the invitation of Kenny Dalglish, Ron became Liverpool’s Chief Scout in 1986, a role he fulfilled until his retirement after the 2006 FA Cup Final.

March 1975





Bottom club Carlisle United, having beaten Everton 3-2 at Goodison Park earlier in the season after being 2-0 down, dealt another potentially fatal blow to the Toffees title hopes with an emphatic 3-0 success at Brunton Park.

Liverpool struggled to break down a resolute Birmingham defence but the deadlock was broken midway through the second-half when controversial referee Clive Thomas awarded a penalty for a foul on Peter Cormack though the visiting players, and several neutral observers, were adamant the offence took place outside the box.

Kevin Keegan converted the spot-kick to secure both points for the Reds which took Paisley's men back to the top of the table for the first time since the Boxing Day mauling of Manchester City.

Elsewhere, Ipswich produced a gutsy performance just 48 hours after their draining FA Cup tie with Leeds to beat Leicester 2-1 and stay third, while Derby's 5-0 win over Luton - with striker Roger Davies scoring all the goals - meant they now trailed by just three points with two games in hand.

The title race had seen many twists and turns over the previous months and no doubt there would be more trials and tribulations on Easter Monday for the supporters of the teams challenging for honours.

Having won three games on the spin, scoring seven goals and conceding none, Liverpool came crashing down on Bank Holiday Monday with this defeat at the Victoria Ground which dented their title challenge but revived that of their opponents.

Tony Waddington's team moved level on points with Bob Paisley's side with both having four games left to play.

Everton bounced back from two successive defeats to beat Coventry City 1-0 and return to the summit, one point ahead of the Reds and still a potentially decisive game in hand.

But, once again, the eye was drawn to Dave McKay's Derby County, who smashed in five goals for the second successive match as they effectively ended Burnley's title hopes with a 5-2 win at Turf Moor.

The Rams moved into fifth spot in the table, one point behind Liverpool with two games in hand, and two points adrift of Everton having played one game less than the Toffees.

That game was to be played just twenty-four hours later against Manchester City at the Baseball Ground, an evening when Ipswich Town would have to play their fourth match in just six days.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

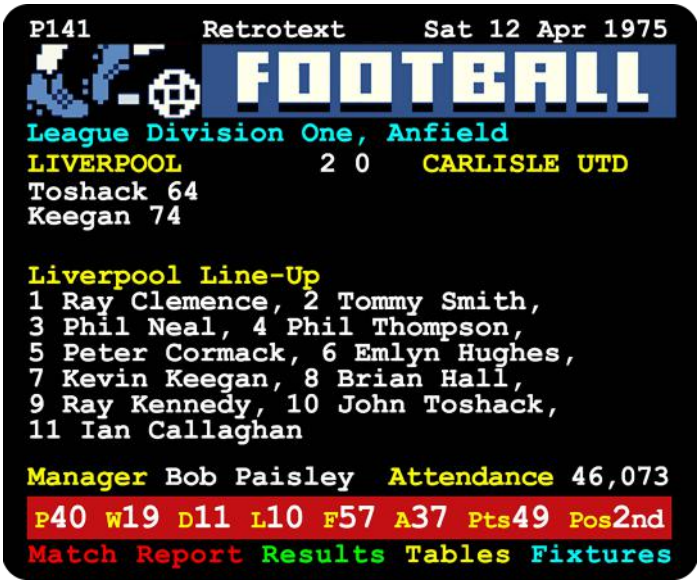
After losing 1-0 to Fulham at Craven Cottage in the middle of March, Liverpool dropped to fourth place in the table with ten matches to play but with games in hand on the teams above them, including Tottenham and Everton.

A 2-0 win over Bolton the following week took the Reds to the top of the table and three wins over the Easter period - 3-1 at Tottenham on Good Friday, 2-0 at Leicester the following day and 3-1 at home against Spurs again on Easter Monday - consolidated their grip on the title. The winning streak didn't end there as Manchester United and Burnley were both beaten 3-0 and a 5-0 demolition of Arsenal on April 18th secured the club's first League crown since 1946-47.



April 1975





Remarkably, despite their marathon run of games, Ipswich Town beat Birmingham City 3-2 to depose Everton at the top of the Division One table and keep the Suffolk side on course for a League and Cup double, with an FA Cup semi-final against West Ham United looming at the weekend.

However, it was looking increasingly likely that Derby's late run of form would see them crowned champions for the second time in three seasons after they recorded a 2-1 home win over Manchester City, to make it three straight victories over the Easter Weekend with 14 points accrued from their last nine games.

With the Grand National being staged at Aintree on Saturday, Everton's home game was played on Friday evening and though a point in a 1-1 draw with Burnley was enough to take the Blues back to the top of the table, in the context of the title chase it was undoubtedly a point lost.

Elsewhere, earlier in the day, Ron Yeats had been sacked as manager of Tranmere Rovers.

On Saturday, Kevin Keegan's two goals at Elland Road took the Reds above Everton once more, so with Derby drawing at Middlesbrough and Ipswich in FA Cup action, it meant four teams shared top spot, all on 47 points.

While the Reds were in the process of returning to the top of the Division One table on Saturday, Red Rum was being thwarted in the Grand National as the legendary horse attempted to make it an historic hat-trick in the world famous race, gallantly finishing second to the Irish-trained L'Escargot.

During the week, Everton and Derby played their game in hand on the teams around them.

Despite taking the lead at relegation-threatened Luton Town through Bob Latchford, the Blues lost 2-1, but the Rams kept up their hot streak by claiming both points against Wolves, Francis Lee scoring the only goal of the game.

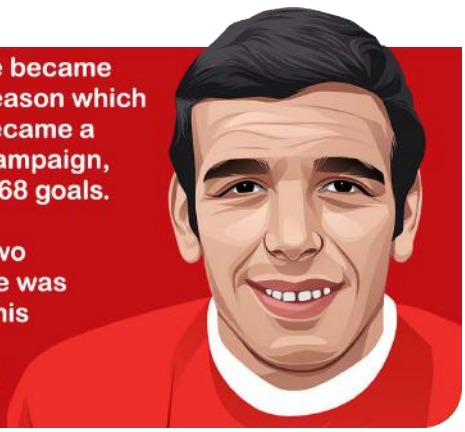
The victory took Dave McKay's team to the top of the table for the first time in the entire season, perfect timing with just three games left to play. County were on 51 points, with Everton and Liverpool on 49 and Ipswich Town on 48.

At the weekend, wins for Derby, Liverpool, Everton and Ipswich meant the placings remained the same with two games of the campaign to go, though Ipswich still had three matches to play after their FA Cup involvement, which had finally ended after losing 2-1 to West Ham in the semi-final replay at Stamford Bridge following a 0-0 draw at Villa Park.

Liverpool Legend: Ian Callaghan

Bill Shankly was aware of the potential of teenager Ian Callaghan after he became manager but he used him only sparingly until November of the 1961-62 season which saw Liverpool return to the top flight of English football, after which he became a regular on the teamsheet until he left the club at the end of the 1977-78 campaign, having clocked up an astonishing 857 appearances for the Reds, scoring 68 goals.

Callaghan won five Division One titles with Liverpool, plus two FA Cups, two European Cups, two UEFA Cups and one European Super Cup. In 1974, he was voted the Football Writers' Association Footballer Of The Year, receiving his award two days before the club's FA Cup Final against Newcastle United. Ian's career was all the more remarkable for the fact that, despite playing in hundreds of matches, he was never sent off and only booked once.



April 1975





With international matches taking place during the week, the managers of the clubs fighting it out to be champions were keeping everything crossed that their players returned without any injuries ahead of the Saturday games when the destination of the Division One crown was expected to be decided.

The mathematics were simple. If Derby won at Leicester, they would almost certainly be champions, irrespective of results elsewhere, with a home game against relegated Carlisle to come. But if the Rams lost and Liverpool, Everton and Ipswich all won, the title would still be up for grabs.

In fact, Derby were the only team out of the quartet to collect any points as they drew 0-0 at Filbert Street, while Liverpool lost at Middlesbrough, Everton were beaten 3-2 at Goodison Park by Sheffield United after leading 2-0 and Ipswich Town lost to Leeds United.

In midweek, Bobby Robson's side could only draw 1-1 at Manchester City, a result which confirmed Derby as League champions.

Though Liverpool were unable to overhaul County in Division One, in the Central League the reserves were confirmed as winners for the sixth time in seven seasons, with Derby having to settle for the runners-up spot.

Though Derby had secured the title and a place in the European Cup with it, Liverpool still needed to beat QPR in their last match of the exciting campaign to secure qualification for the UEFA Cup.

That objective was achieved in style with an entertaining final game of the season at Anfield marked by the debut of 20-year-old Jimmy Case.

Charity Shield aside, Bob Paisley's first season as manager had ended in frustration, with the club narrowly missing out on the League title but qualifying for Europe for the twelfth successive season.

A great horse racing fan, Paisley summed up the campaign in these terms: "I took over a very experienced and capable squad from Bill Shankly, but somewhere along the line we have gone a bit off course.

We have gone wide around the bends instead of hugging the rails. We have lost a bit of ground from time to time. Perhaps we have been too cautious but overall I'm satisfied with my first race."

So, the season was over but there was still one very important match to be played - Bill Shankly's testimonial. In front of an almost full-house of 39,612 fans, generating £25,000 in gate receipts, a Liverpool XI beat a Don Revie Select XI 6-2.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Having drawn the traditional season-opening Charity Shield clash with FA Cup holders West Ham United 2-2, both clubs sharing the trophy for six months each, Liverpool made a dreadful start to the defence of their title and after a 4-0 hammering at home to Everton in September lay second from bottom of the table.

After securing the club's place in the quarter-finals of their first-ever European campaign just before Christmas, the team improved during the second half of the season. A brilliant run in the FA Cup saw Shankly's side lift the trophy for the first time at Wembley in May, after which two games against Internazionale in the semi-final of the European Cup saw the Reds controversially miss out on a Final place.



Two: Season 1975-1976



August to December 1975





At Liverpool's Annual General Meeting held at the Adelphi Hotel in July, Bob Paisley outlined his thoughts on the previous season, singling out an injury early on in the campaign to Phil Thompson as one of the reasons his team missed out on a trophy.

Another factor, he said, was the unusually wet winter during the season: "The 1965 team, being heavier than the present team, would have walked off with the title. That is not to decry the present side, because the pitches prevented them showing consistent fluency in their game. The weather became the great leveller."

Ahead of the new season, club secretary Peter Robinson announced that Liverpool had hundreds of ground season tickets available for the Kop and Anfield Road ends of the ground, costing £13.65, but that the waiting list for a seat in the stands now stood at 6,500.

Robinson said: "I have never known anything quite like that. It's a record total. We managed to make some inroads into the waiting list with the stand extension but that is all past history."

On the playing side, it was a quiet summer with only left-back Joey Jones being added to the squad at a cost of £110,000 from Wrexham.

On the club's pre-season tour of Europe, there were wins against German side Borussia Dortmund (2-0, with new boy Joey Jones scoring one) and Dutch team Utrecht (2-0) plus a 1-1 draw with another Dutch outfit Roda Kerkrade.

Emlyn Hughes missed the tour after picking up an injury in training and his place in the travelling squad went to 18-year-old Colin Irwin, who was given permission to take time off from his job as an apprentice electrician.

The minimum admission charge at both Anfield and Goodison had been raised to 65p and both clubs appealed for fans to have the right money, saying in a joint statement that "there could be problems at the turnstiles if everyone comes along and tenders a £1 note."

In the League, Liverpool made a slow start to the new campaign, losing 2-0 at QPR, before drawing 2-2 with FA Cup holders West Ham and beating Tottenham 3-2, after being 2-0 down, at Anfield. But an unbeaten run in December saw the Reds hit top spot as the year ended.

Though the team's League Cup interest ended in the third round at Burnley, good progress was made in the UEFA Cup with qualification for the quarter-finals, the draw for it being made in January.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Liverpool's road to Wembley began at The Hawthorns where goals from Roger Hunt and Ian St John gave the visitors a 2-1 win over West Brom, Jeff Astle scoring for the home side. In the 4th round, Shankly's men were drawn against Stockport County who were bottom of the old fourth division but produced a sensational performance to draw 1-1, losing the replay 2-0 at Edgeley Park.

After squeezing past Bolton 1-0 at Burnden Park in the 5th round, the Reds beat Leicester 1-0 at Anfield in a 6th round replay before seeing off Chelsea 2-0 in the semi-final at Villa Park. Neither side had won the FA Cup before and, after a goalless ninety minutes, it was Liverpool captain Ron Yeats who proudly lifted the trophy.



January 1976



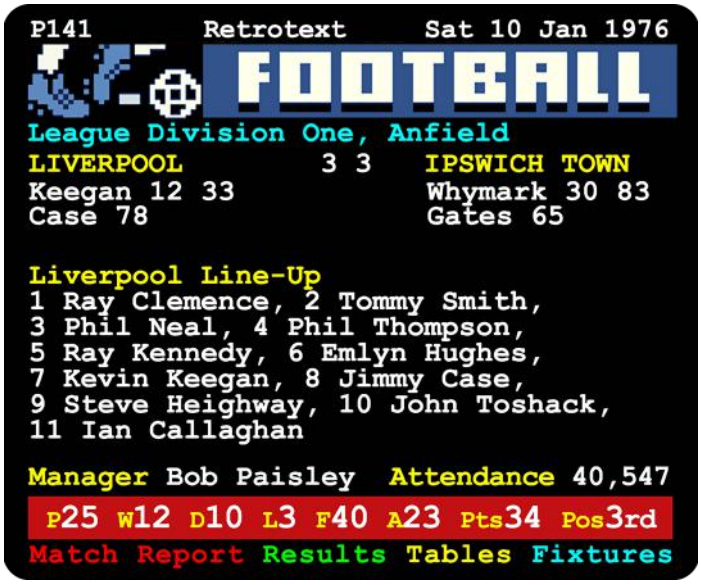
When the draw was made for the third round of the FA Cup, an away tie at the holders of the trophy would not have been Bob Paisley's first choice. But coming into the match, the Hammers had lost four of their last five games while their opponents were unbeaten since the end of November.

The game went with the form book, the visitors completely dominating the encounter and the only disappointment was that the scoreline didn't reflect the dominance of Liverpool's display.

Man-of-the-match Kevin Keegan, hailed as 'world class' by his manager, put the Reds ahead with his sixth goal of the season, set up by John Toshack, and Keegan returned the favour for the big Welshman's strike in the second half, his sixteenth of the campaign.

The fourth round draw was no kinder to Liverpool than the previous one, with a trip to the Baseball Ground to play reigning champions Derby County the 'reward' for getting through. Dave McKay's side had knocked out Everton in the third round.

Ray Kennedy, who came into the team at Upton Park due to an injury to Peter Cormack, was set for an extended run in the side with the news that the Scottish international could be out for two months after a cartilage operation.



Jimmy Case had been in sparkling form during this season, scoring eight goals in 15 appearances, including a hat-trick in the 3-0 UEFA Cup win over Slask Wroclaw which secured a place in the competition's quarter-final stage.

He was on the mark again in this six-goal thriller against a Bobby Robson side which had lost only once in the League since October. Ex-Everton striker and future Liverpool star David Johnson passed a late fitness test for the visitors but failed to get on the scoresheet, unlike Kevin Keegan who struck twice.

Before the game, Bob Paisley had been presented with a bottle of whisky after being named Bell's Manager of the Month for December when the team played seven matches without defeat.

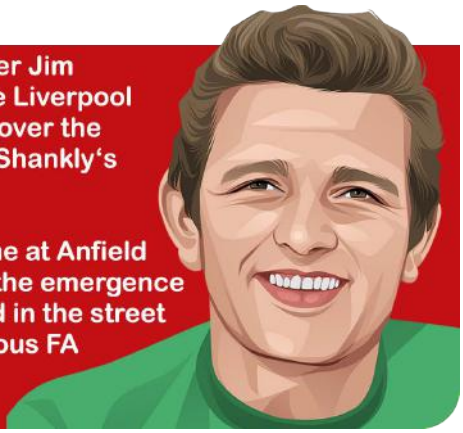
Though the Reds picked up a point, they dropped two places in the table after Leeds beat Stoke to go second and Tommy Docherty's Manchester United overcame QPR 2-1 to go top, maintaining their impressive form back in the top flight following their relegation at the end of the 1974 season.

During this week, the club announced that former chairman Thomas Valentine 'T.V.' Williams, the man who brought Bill Shankly to Anfield from Huddersfield Town in 1959, had died aged 85.

Liverpool Legend: Tommy Lawrence

Despite being at the club since 1957, it was not until an injury to goalkeeper Jim Furnell in October 1962 that Tommy Lawrence was given his chance in the Liverpool first team but he took it with both hands, only missing four League games over the next six seasons. His introduction completed a superb Scottish 'spine' to Shankly's team, with Ron Yeats at centre-half and Ian St John at centre-forward.

Tommy won two League titles and an FA Cup winners medal during his time at Anfield which came to an end in 1971 when he joined Tranmere Rovers following the emergence of Ray Clemence. In 2015, he became an internet sensation when stopped in the street in Liverpool by a BBC reporter asking people if they remembered the famous FA Cup tie between Everton and Liverpool in 1967 watched by over 100,000 fans at Goodison and Anfield. He replied: "Yes, I do, I played in it!"



January 1976



Following the death of T.V. Williams, who had been life president of the club, the tributes poured in.

Current chairman John Smith said: "This is a very sad day. We have suffered a great blow. He probably did more for Liverpool this century than any other man. He lived and breathed Liverpool Football Club and was tremendously respected wherever football is played. He can truly be called Mr. Liverpool Football Club."

Ex-manager Bill Shankly added: "He strode into the lions' den at Huddersfield and brought me out to Anfield and I had to be grateful to him for that. Liverpool became a school of science and he could only have died a happy man."

Bob Paisley commented: "It was to him largely that I owed my chance and he has stood by me shoulder to shoulder all the time. Every spare moment he gave to Liverpool and his great resolution shone through when we were down in the dumps in the Second Division."

Before Liverpool's match at Bramall Lane, the draw was made for the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup with the Reds paired with Dynamo Dresden - a good omen, as the club had knocked out the East German side in the same competition when winning the trophy in 1973.



Liverpool had not lost an away match since a 1-0 reverse in a League Cup replay back in October and that record was extended against Sheffield United. But with the Blades bottom of Division One, the result had to be viewed as a point lost for Paisley's men.

On the plus side, youngster David Fairclough was given another chance to impress when he came on as a substitute for Jimmy Case. Fairclough had made his debut back in November and scored his first goal for the club a few days later in the UEFA Cup second round match against Real Sociedad, which the Reds won 6-0.

The Reds could now forget about the League title race for a couple of weeks and instead focus on making progress in the FA Cup, with the tie of the round featuring the previous season's top two.

Seven thousand Liverpool fans packed into the confines of the Baseball Ground to face a Derby side spearheaded by Charlie George - the player who scored the winning goal against them in the 1971 FA Cup Final when he was at Arsenal.

But it was another forward, substitute Roger Davies, who was the match-winner for the home side, leaving the visitors to fully focus on the Division One crown as well as UEFA Cup glory.

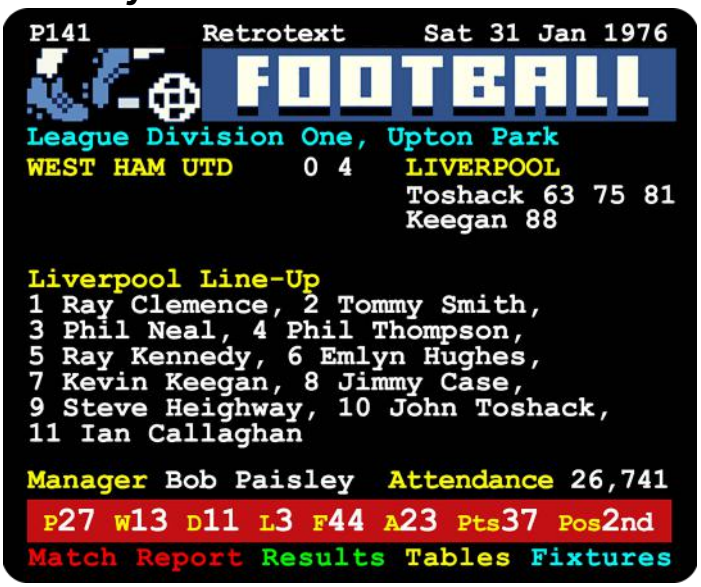
Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Liverpool's first foray into the European Cup began in August 1964, before the domestic League season had started, with a 5-0 win in Iceland over Reykjavik. A few weeks later a 6-1 second leg success at Anfield saw the Reds into the second round against Anderlecht, a tie they won 4-0 on aggregate, wearing an all-red kit for the first time.

The quarter-final clash with Cologne finished goalless after two legs with a deciding third match drawn 2-2 but the Reds advanced due to winning on the toss of a coin. That set up this semi-final with Inter which Bill Shankly later hailed as the greatest night in the club's history, though the return leg at the San Siro was lost 3-0 amid claims that the Spanish referee Ortiz de Mendibil had been bribed.



January 1976



Phil Neal had been a major doubt for Liverpool ahead of the club's return to League action following the disappointing exit from the FA Cup. The full-back had a suffered a cheekbone injury against Derby which required an operation but he recovered sufficiently to keep his place in the side.

After both players had scored in the FA Cup success at Upton Park earlier in the month, it was the Kevin Keegan-John Toshack show all over again as the visitors sauntered to a 4-0 victory on a rock-hard pitch.

But they were thankful to their team-mates for creating the chances, with Ray Kennedy (twice), Ian Callaghan and Steve Heighway providing the assists.

It was the big Welshman's third hat-trick of the season, after he hit three in the UEFA Cup clash against Hibernian at the end of September and repeated the feat two weeks later in a League match against Birmingham City.

The emphatic victory took Liverpool up to second spot in the table, one point behind leaders Manchester United who beat Birmingham City and one point ahead of champions Derby County, who defeated Coventry 2-0, Charlie George with both goals.

From The Teletext Archive



This is an original Ceefax page recovered from an old VHS recording.

The page features a roundup of team news for matches on Saturday 7th April 1979. Liverpool were top of the table and consolidated their position with a 3-0 win over Arsenal, all the goals being scored in the second half though Jimmy Case, Kenny Dalglish and Terry McDermott.

Liverpool Legend: Tommy Smith

With Gordon Milne on international duty, 17-year-old Tommy Smith made his debut for Liverpool as a right-half towards the end of the 1962-63 season, a 5-1 victory over Birmingham City. He became a regular during the 1964-65 campaign and played in the historic FA Cup Final win over Leeds United.

As well as two League title successes in the 1960s, Tommy was an integral member of the team which won a host of trophies in the 1970s but, with his first-team opportunities reducing, it seemed the 1976-77 season would be his last at Anfield. However, after an injury to Phil Thompson in March, manager Bob Paisley restored the experienced player to the first team and he went on to score in Liverpool's European Cup win in May and pick up another League title medal. He stayed at the club for a further season before joining Swansea in 1978.



February 1976



Liverpool had beaten their arch rivals Leeds United 3-0 at Elland Road back in August, with Ray Kennedy and Ian Callaghan (twice) scoring.

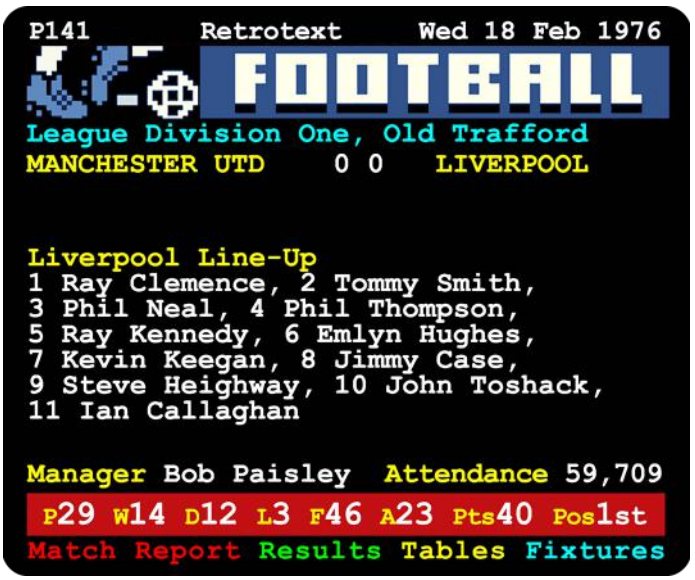
But Leeds, now managed by Jimmy Armfield, had improved since then and steadily climbed the table to sit just behind leaders Manchester United.

However, while the Reds were making light work of West Ham, Leeds suffered a shock 3-0 home loss to Norwich City and before that had been knocked out of the FA Cup by third division Crystal Palace.

Bob Paisley was able to name an unchanged side for the sixth successive game, but there was no such luxury for Armfield who lost captain Billy Bremner to injury, though Paul Reaney and Peter Lorimer made the line-up after successful late tests.

Not for the first time in recent weeks, the almost telepathic understanding between Kevin Keegan and John Toshack proved the undoing of the visitors with their goals taking the Reds back to the summit of Division One on goal average ahead of Manchester United.

Toshack's goal took him to a total of twenty for the season, the first-time he had reached that number during his time at Anfield.



Though he was substituted shortly after making it 2-0 against Leeds, manager Bob Paisley indicated this was just a precaution and John Toshack would be available for selection in the big showdown at Old Trafford ten days later.

While the Reds had a free Saturday before this crunch match, United faced a tough fifth round FA Cup tie at Filbert Street against Leicester City.

With two thirds of the season completed, several teams were vying to become Division One champions. Liverpool and United had both accrued 39 points from their 28 games, three ahead of QPR, who had played a game more, and Derby County.

After the loss at Anfield, Leeds had dropped to fifth, four points off the pace but with a game in hand on the leaders.

Tommy Docherty's United gave a terrific performance to beat Leicester 2-1 in their FA Cup clash, setting up a quarter-final date with Wolves in their quest for the double. In the League, QPR moved to within a point of the leaders after beating Spurs 3-0, but they had now played two games more than their rivals.

It was honours-even in the big match itself, with both teams having chances to win the game and a draw probably a fair result.

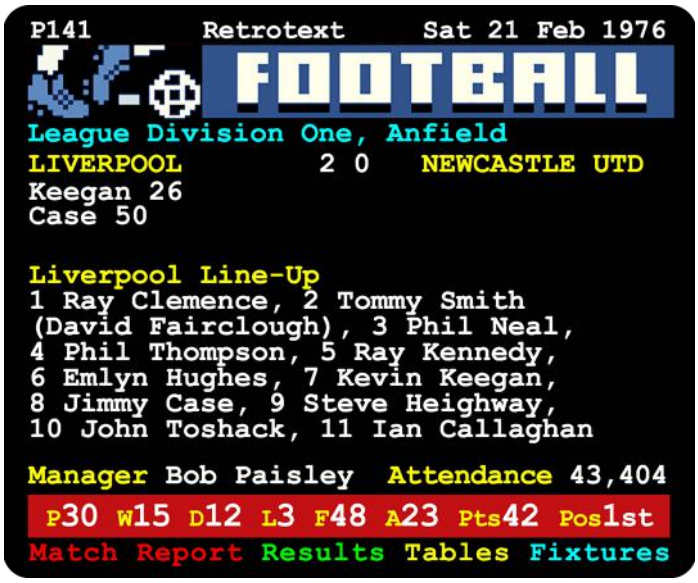
Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Following a 2-2 draw with champions Manchester United in the Charity Shield, Liverpool made a good start to the campaign, lying in second spot in the table at the beginning of October, with a 5-0 thrashing of Everton the highlight.

Though there was to be no repeat of the previous season's FA Cup success after a shock 2-1 loss to Chelsea at Anfield in the 3rd round, the Reds once again made excellent progress in Europe, reaching the Cup-Winners' Cup Final. In the League, a 5-2 home victory over Blackburn Rovers in the middle of November saw the team hit top spot in the table, a position they maintained right to the end of the campaign to claim a second League title under Bill Shankly.



February 1976



While stressing his continued commitment to Liverpool, defender Tommy Smith held talks with officials of Tampa Bay Rowdies during this week about the possibility of joining the North American Soccer League champions in the summer.

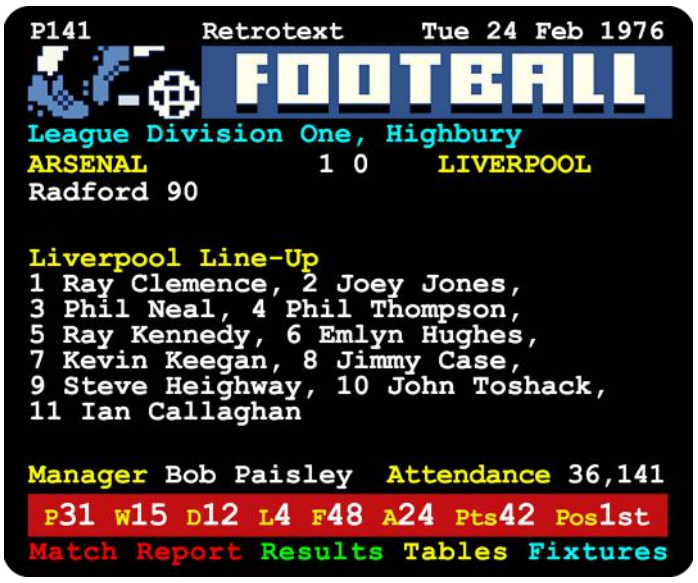
A number of British players had begun exploring this option, with Rodney Marsh having already moved to Tampa Bay from Manchester City.

Against Newcastle United, the Reds were never able to hit the heights of recent weeks but they did enough to secure the two points.

Kevin Keegan was yet again on target while Jimmy Case celebrated his call-up to the England Under-23 squad by making the game safe just after the interval.

The Magpies perhaps had one eye on their FA Cup replay with Bolton on Monday evening, just 48 hours after the Anfield match (they won 2-1) as well as the League Cup Final against Manchester City the following weekend (which they lost 2-1).

There was more good news for Liverpool, as closest rivals Manchester United were beaten 2-1 at Aston Villa, Andy Gray scoring the winner, while QPR continued their surge up the table with a 3-1 home win over Ipswich Town.



There were crucial League games during this week featuring all-four teams battling it out for the title.

Tommy Smith was ruled out of the match at Highbury after sustaining a cut to his forehead late on against Newcastle which required stitches with Joey Jones coming in at left-back and Phil Neal switching flanks to cover for Smith.

Ray Kennedy, now successfully converted from the striker he was in his Arsenal days to midfield, played his first match on his old stomping ground since his transfer to Anfield in the summer of 1974.

The visitors appeared to have gained a valuable point after a disappointing display, but thirty seconds into added time John Radford headed home the winner for the home side.

The defeat gave the teams below Paisley's side renewed optimism and the next evening Manchester United hosted Derby County while the in-form team, QPR, travelled to Leicester.

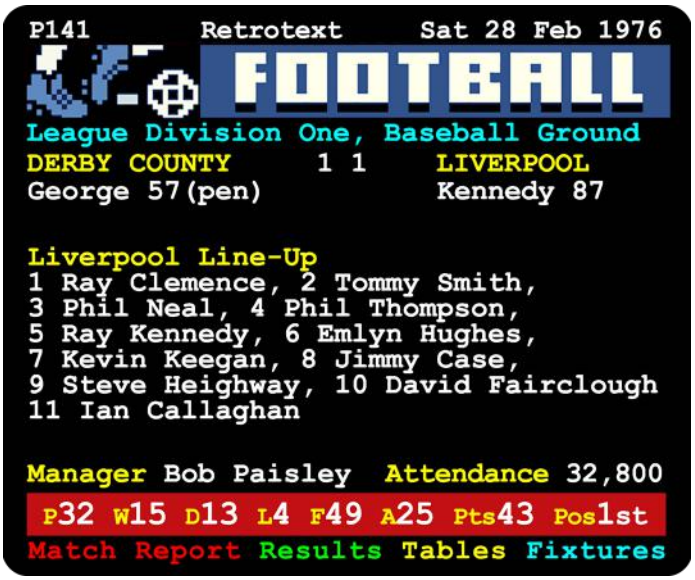
It was honours-even at Old Trafford but a Dave Thomas goal gave the London side victory at Filbert Street. The results meant that Liverpool stayed top but only on goal average from QPR, both having amassed 42 points, with United and Derby just one point behind.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Victories over Juventus (2-1), Standard Liege (5-2) and Honved (2-0) set up a mouth-watering European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final clash with Celtic. In front of over 76,000 fans at Parkhead, Bobby Lennox gave Jock Stein's side a slender first-leg lead but this was overturned two weeks later at a packed Anfield, with Tommy Smith and Geoff Strong goals putting the Reds into the Final.

In windswept conditions, Liverpool fans saw their team fall behind just after the hour mark but superb wing play by Peter Thompson set up Roger Hunt to equalise. Hunt had a glorious chance to win the game in the dying seconds of normal time but shot tamely at the goalkeeper and an unfortunate own goal in extra time settled the tie.







John Toshack had been involved in most of Liverpool's games in this campaign, but he had endured continuous problems with his thigh and Bob Paisley felt it was time to rest the big striker ahead of this vital League game against champions Derby County.

In his place came 19-year-old David Fairclough who had created such a good impression since making his debut against Middlesbrough back in November. Also back in the starting line-up was Tommy Smith after his head injury.

The home side had the majority of the play and went ahead through a Charlie George spot-kick, but the visitors gained a vital point three minutes from the end when Ray Kennedy prodded the ball home from close range.

With QPR dropping a point in a 1-1 draw with bottom club Sheffield United and Manchester United hitting four second half goals without reply at home to West Ham, it left three sides sharing top spot with Derby County a point behind in fourth.

While Liverpool flew to East Germany for the first leg of the UEFA Cup quarter-final with Dynamo Dresden, still without Toshack, Derby County drew 1-1 with Leeds at Elland Road to make it a four-way tie at the top of the table, all on 43 points.

This is an original Ceefax page recovered from an old VHS recording.

One of Liverpool's greatest-ever players, Kevin Keegan was voted European Footballer of the Year in both 1978, when this page was published, and 1979.

Liverpool Legend: Chris Lawler



Phil Taylor was still the Liverpool manager when local lad Chris joined the club as an apprentice in 1959 but when he signed his first professional contract on his 17th birthday in October 1960, Bill Shankly had been installed as the new boss. He did not make his debut, though, until March 1963, deputising for the injured Ron Yeats, and, having been switched by Shankly from centre-half to right back, it was not until the FA Cup-winning season of 1964-65 that he became a regular in the first team.

Chris was a model professional, playing an amazing 316 consecutive games from 2nd October 1965 to 24th April 1971, and by the time his career at Anfield came to a close he had made 549 appearances and scored a remarkable 61 goals, picking up two League titles, two FA Cups and a UEFA Cup along the way. He joined Portsmouth in October 1975 where ex-teammate Ian St John was then the manager.

March 1976





In the 1972-73 season, Liverpool had played Dynamo Dresden in this competition and at the same stage. The only difference this time around was that the Reds were away in the first leg instead of at home.

Three years previously, Brian Hall and Phil Boersma had given Bill Shankly's side a two-goal advantage to take to East Germany, with Kevin Keegan scoring the only goal of the game in Dresden. It was the first time ever that Dynamo had lost a European match at home and the first time in any competition for three years.

Bob Paisley's team had Ray Clemence to thank for going into the second-leg all-square after he saved a penalty just after half-time. The England goalkeeper had also saved a spot kick in the first round match against Hibernian which effectively kept the Reds in the competition.

Manager Paisley was delighted with the draw as he considered this Dresden team to be much better than the one defeated three years before.

However, the result didn't come without cost as Kevin Keegan, Steve Heighway and David Fairclough all picked up knocks which initially made them doubtful for the League match with Middlesbrough at the weekend.

Happily, the injured players came through fitness tests ahead of this game and Paisley was able to name the same line-up against the team David Fairclough had made his debut against back in November, when the Reds won 1-0.

The Middlesbrough boss was Leeds United and England legend, Jack Charlton, who had enjoyed a fair number of tussles on the Anfield pitch as a player. Ahead of the game, he said: "There is always a big atmosphere there. I feel a footballer's career is not complete until he has played at Liverpool."

Perhaps due to the exertions of the midweek trip to East Germany, Bob Paisley's men gifted both goals to their visitors from two of the most unlikely sources.

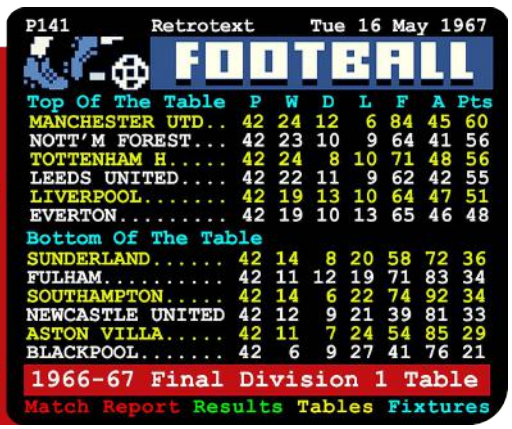
After just a couple of minutes, Ray Clemence - the midweek penalty-save hero - allowed a shot to slip through his fingers and, midway through the half, Emlyn Hughes made an uncharacteristic error which led to the second.

With Manchester United and Derby involved in FA Cup quarter-final action, the shock defeat allowed Dave Sexton's QPR to move to the top of the table, two points ahead of the three teams below them but having played a game more.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

The season-opening Charity Shield game in August 1966 between champions Liverpool and FA Cup holders Everton at Goodison Park was a unique occasion for the over 63,000 fans packed inside. Not only were both trophies taken on a lap of honour prior to the match by club captains Ron Yeats and Brian Labone, but also the World Cup itself was carried by Ray Wilson and Roger Hunt who were both involved in England's thrilling success a few weeks earlier.

The Reds came out on top in that clash courtesy of an early Hunt goal but lost out the following March in the famous FA Cup tie which was watched by almost 65,000 at Goodison Park and a further 40,000 via CCTV at Anfield. Alan Ball's strike saw the Blues win 1-0.



March 1976



Having missed three games due to his troublesome thigh injury, Bob Paisley declared 20-goal striker John Toshack fit and ready for the important League game with strugglers Birmingham City at St Andrews.

On paper, the match looked a certain two points for the visitors but the home side were fighting for First Division survival and in the end it needed a Phil Neal spot-kick six minutes from time to ensure the victory.

Neal had taken over penalty duties earlier in the season and this was fourth successful conversion from four.

The most controversial moment in the match was a tackle by Jimmy Case on ex-Everton player and future manager, Howard Kendall which resulted in him being stretchered off the pitch and treated in hospital for a burst blood vessel in his chest.

After later being discharged, Kendall exonerated the youngster from any blame.

However narrow the margin of victory, it was a crucial result as leaders QPR won 2-0 at Goodison Park and both Manchester United and Derby County picked up maximum points too, so it was 'as you were' at the top of the table.



Outside of football, the day before this clash with Dynamo Dresden there was shock political news when Prime Minister Harold Wilson announced he was stepping down from his role, though he said he would continue as the Member of Parliament for his Merseyside constituency, Huyton.

John Toshack had suffered a reaction after playing against Birmingham on Saturday and Bob Paisley waited until the last minute before deciding to risk his big striker. But the gamble paid off and the Welshman lasted the whole game, earning fulsome praise from his manager.

The Reds produced a magnificent display and were unlucky not to have scored more goals than the two they did. But once the East German side reduced the arrears midway through the second half, the tie was on a knife-edge with away goals counting double.

The home side deservedly held on to secure their fifth semi-final spot in twelve successive seasons of European football - a truly remarkable record.

When the draw was made on Friday morning, Liverpool's reward was a tie against Spanish giants Barcelona, who boasted Dutch World Cup stars Johann Cruyff and Jan Neeskens in their ranks.

Liverpool Legend: Emlyn Hughes

Signed from Blackpool for £65,000 at the end of February 1967, Emlyn made his debut for the club a few days later, playing in midfield as Liverpool beat Stoke City 2-1 to return to the top of the Division One table, though they would ultimately finish second to Manchester United. His whole-hearted approach to the game and exuberant goal celebrations earned him the nickname 'Crazy Horse' with the fans.

In the 1970s, when he was playing as a centre-half, Hughes enjoyed unrivalled success, winning four League titles, one FA Cup, two European Cups, two UEFA Cups and the European Super Cup. He also took over the captaincy of the team from Tommy Smith which created so much animosity that the two players barely spoke to each other off the pitch. Emlyn moved to Wolves in 1979 where he won the only domestic trophy to have eluded him at Anfield, the League Cup in 1980.



March 1976



While Liverpool were chasing European glory in midweek, title rivals Manchester United journeyed to Carrow Road to play Norwich City.

The match ended 1-1 with the point earned enough to move Tommy Docherty's side a point ahead of the Reds though still one behind leaders QPR who had played a game more.

Coincidentally, Liverpool made the same trip to East Anglia on Saturday, securing a priceless 1-0 victory over John Bond's side. Unsurprisingly, John Toshack missed the game but his deputy David Fairclough scored the only goal to maintain the club's title push.

It was a crucial two points on a day when the other challengers for the League crown also won on the road - QPR at Stoke, Manchester United in a seven-goal thriller with Newcastle and Derby 2-0 at Middlesbrough.

Excitement was growing amongst the fans for the UEFA Cup semi-final first leg in Barcelona later in the month.

Jet Set Travel, based in St John's Precinct, were offering a £75 package including return flights with champagne, five-star accommodation in the centre of the city, dinner and breakfast at the hotel and all coach transfers!



Recognition of the strength in depth of Liverpool's pool of players was evident this week when England manager, Don Revie, named five players in the team to face Wales at Wrexham.

As well as regulars Ray Clemence and Kevin Keegan, who was named as captain, Ray Kennedy, Phil Neal and Phil Thompson all earned their first caps. England won the match 2-1 with Kennedy grabbing one of the goals.

Derby County were the only one of the four clubs battling for the League championship with a midweek match and they dropped a point in 1-1 home draw with Stoke City, though they moved into third spot at Liverpool's expense. The Rams also suffered an injury blow, with striker Charlie George expected to be out for a month after dislocating his shoulder.

Despite scoring the winner at Carrow Road the week before, David Fairclough had to settle for a place on the bench against relegation-threatened Burnley. But he was soon in action due to a head injury for Steve Heighway just after the half-hour mark and wasted no time in getting on the scoresheet, adding another in the second-half.

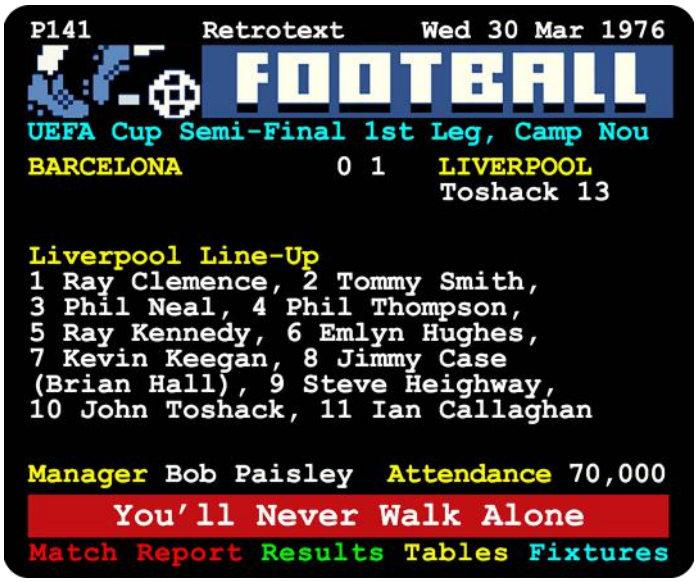
With the three other title challengers also winning, there was no change in the pecking order at the top of the table.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

At the end of December 1967, after a 1-0 win over Coventry City thanks to an Ian Callaghan goal, Liverpool lay in second spot in the table, three points behind leaders Manchester United. But a haul of just three points from the three crucial Easter weekend games saw Shankly's men slip off the pace and they were unable to recover the lost ground on the two Manchester clubs.

The club's first campaign in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup saw aggregate victories of 4-1 over Malmo and 9-2 over TSV Munich but the Reds bowed out in the third round after two 1-0 defeats by Ferencvaros. There was disappointment in the FA Cup too, as the team lost to eventual winners West Brom in the 6th round after two replays.







Ahead of the glamour tie with Barcelona, Bob Paisley revealed that Leeds United boss Jimmy Armfield had sent him a dossier with notes he had made when his team played the Spanish side in the European Cup semi-final the previous year.

Manager Paisley had also sent trusted aide Tom Saunders to watch their opponents in a League match against struggling Las Palmas, which the Spanish giants lost 3-1, and he highlighted a potential vulnerability in defence.

Steve Heighway had recovered from his head injury to take his place in the starting line-up at Camp Nou, while the experience of John Toshack was preferred to the youthful exuberance of David Fairclough.

It was an inspired decision by the boss as Toshack fired the Reds ahead early on after brilliant work by Kevin Keegan. This provided the platform for a fantastic performance by the team which Paisley later hailed as one of the club's best in Europe.

Long before the end, the cushions and catcalls were reigning down around the ground.

Liverpool were now firm favourites to advance to the Final as thoughts turned back to the League title race and a Merseyside derby against Everton.

This is an original Ceefax page recovered from an old VHS recording. The corruption is caused by the retrieval process.

The matches were played on Boxing Day, 1978, and Liverpool's win over Manchester United, with goals from Ray Kennedy, Jimmy Case and David Fairclough, kept them on top of the table on the way to becoming champions for the third time under Bob Paisley.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

In the first-round of the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, Liverpool were drawn against Spanish side Athletic Bilbao and after a 2-1 defeat away, the Reds levelled the tie at Anfield with a 2-1 win, Chris Lawler and Emlyn Hughes the goalscorers. Bizarrely, the match was then decided by the toss of a coin and it was Shankly's side who bowed out.

In the League, the team shrugged off the disappointment of the early European exit to only lose twice in the next nineteen games and at the beginning of February stood in top spot, one point ahead of Leeds though having played a game more. But Don Revie's side then remained unbeaten for the rest of the season including a 0-0 draw at Anfield which ended Liverpool's hopes of re-claiming the crown.



April 1976



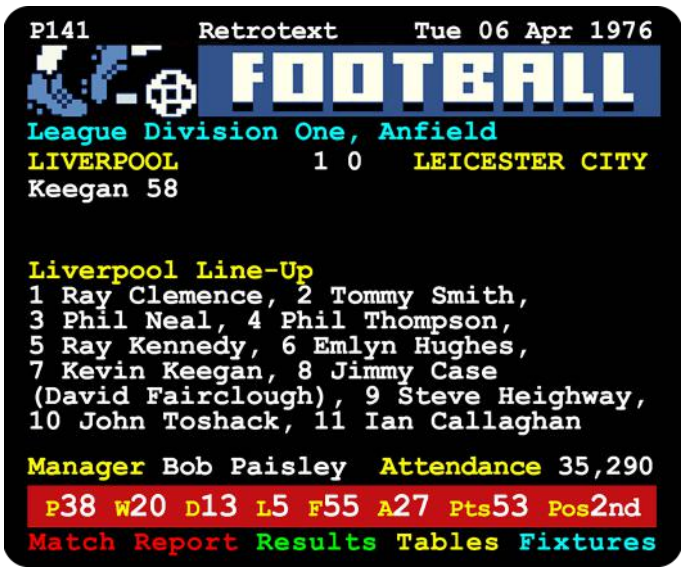
The 114th League derby between the two Merseyside giants kicked off 11am due to the Grand National being run at nearby Aintree later in the day.

The contrast in form between the two teams could not have been more stark, with the Blues having taken just six points from their last eleven games and the Reds seeking their sixth successive victory, including the magnificent performance in Spain during the week.

Both sides lost key players through concussion, with Everton's Ken McNaught and Liverpool's John Toshack leaving the field after separate incidents.

Toshack's replacement was 'Super Sub' David Fairclough and it was the teenager with the mop of red hair who settled the match with a fantastic solo goal ninety seconds from time. The home side could even afford to miss a penalty shortly after Fairclough's late breakthrough, Phil Neal missing from the spot for the first time.

At Aintree, local hero Red Rum was denied a record-breaking third win in the world-famous steeplechase for the second year running. After losing out to L'Escargot in 1975, Rag Trade was just too good this time around - which delighted defender Tommy Smith who had tipped it!



With Manchester United and Derby playing each other in an FA Cup semi-final (United won 2-0), the two points gained on Saturday moved the Reds into second place in the table, still two behind QPR (who beat Newcastle away 2-1), though with a game in hand.

Despite his contribution to Liverpool's recent run being immense, with his goals against Burnley, Norwich and Everton securing six points, Bob Paisley kept David Fairclough on the bench for this midweek match with Leicester.

The home side dominated the game, but the performance never reached the heights of recent weeks and it took a superb goal by Kevin Keegan to break the impasse after being set-up by, who else, John Toshack.

The Reds would have had to have won 3-0 to return to the summit of Division One on goal average, but the two points moved them level with QPR and there were now just four games left to play.

Of those, the London side had three to play at their home ground, Loftus Road, which perhaps gave them an advantage in the final weeks of an absorbing season, while the Reds faced three away games.

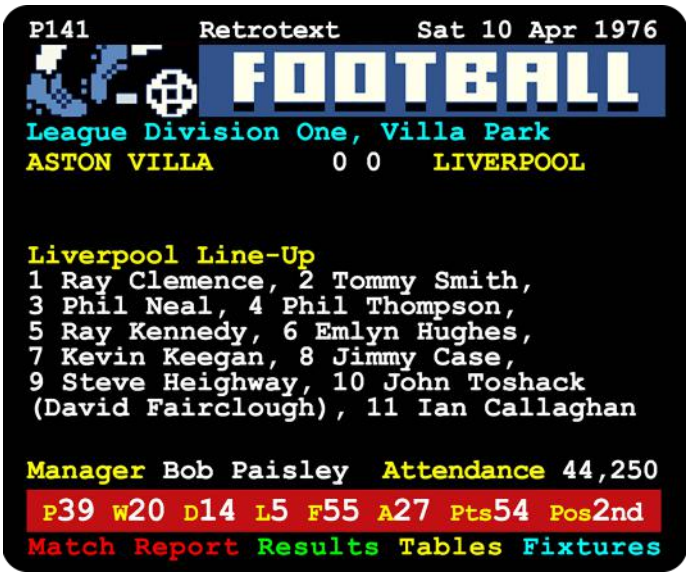
Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Having qualified for the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup again, Liverpool's first round opponents were Irish side Dundalk who proved no match for the mighty Reds, losing the first leg at Anfield 10-0 (with seven different scorers) and the return leg 4-0. In the next round, Shankly's side faced Vitoria Setubal and though they won the second leg 3-2 they were eliminated on the away goals rule having lost the first leg 1-0 in Portugal.

In the FA Cup, the team reached the 6th round but were knocked out by second division Watford, 1-0 at Vicarage Road. The highlight of the League campaign was a 3-0 win at Everton in December in which the Blues' Sandy Brown scored a famous flying header own-goal.



April 1976



Midfield marvel Ian Callaghan, who made his debut for Liverpool in April 1960 and had played over 750 times for the club, celebrated his 34th birthday on this day in 1976 though the two points he would have liked as a present proved elusive.

Indeed, but for the brilliance of goalkeeper Ray Clemence, Bob Paisley's side would have returned empty-handed from Villa Park. The home team dominated the first-half, creating numerous chances which the England number one kept out. Though the visitors improved in the second period, a valuable victory rarely looked on the cards.

Title rivals QPR, though, appeared to be going from strength-to-strength after crushing Jack Charlton's Middlesbrough 4-2 to establish a one-point lead over Liverpool with three games remaining.

The title push of Manchester United and Derby appeared to be over after Tommy Docherty's side lost 3-0 at Ipswich Town, while the defending champions lost 4-3 at Manchester City despite the home side having defender Mike Doyle sent off after just fifteen minutes.

Although the destination of the title was out of Liverpool's hands, manager Paisley said: "We'll soldier on for as long as we still have a chance of finishing on top."



There was sensational news coming out of Spain ahead of this crucial semi-final as Barcelona had sacked their manager Hennes Weisweiler following a 3-0 defeat against local rivals Espanyol. Early speculation suggested that Brian Clough was one of those being considered as his replacement.

Liverpool had increased admission prices for this match which everyone wanted to be present at. A seat in the stands cost £2, standing in the paddock was 75p and in the ground 70p. The gates were closed ten minutes before the kick-off with a record crowd for a European game of 55,104 in attendance.

When Phil Thompson scored just after half-time to give the home team a 2-0 aggregate lead, the tie seemed won. But, almost immediately, Barcelona halved the arrears, ramping up the tension levels inside Anfield with spectators only too aware that the visitors would go through if they scored again.

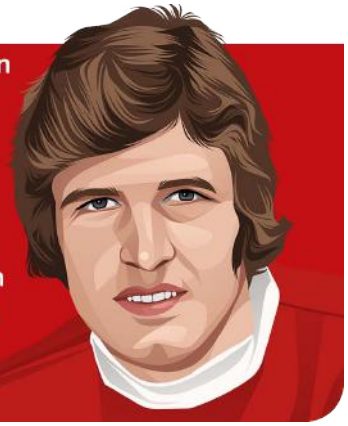
But that scenario would have been a travesty, as the corner count of twenty-one to Liverpool, one to Barcelona told its own story, with manager Paisley describing the match as the most one-sided at the ground all season.

In the Final, the Reds would face Belgium club Bruges who beat Hamburg in the other semi final.

Liverpool Legend: John Toshack

Cardiff-born Toshack was already a Welsh international when he joined Liverpool in November 1970 and he soon settled in to life at Anfield, scoring his first goal in a Merseyside derby when the Reds came from 2-0 down with just twenty minutes left to win 3-2. Kevin Keegan signed for the club at the end of May and the duo established an almost telepathic understanding of each other's style of play.

Despite being hampered by niggling injuries during his time at the club, the big Welshman was a regular goalscorer, notching up 23 goals in the 1975-76 campaign including three hat-tricks and a crucial second goal in the last game of the season at Wolves which confirmed the Reds as champions. He joined Swansea as player-manager in March 1978 and oversaw the club's remarkable rise from the fourth division to playing top flight football from August 1981.



April 1976



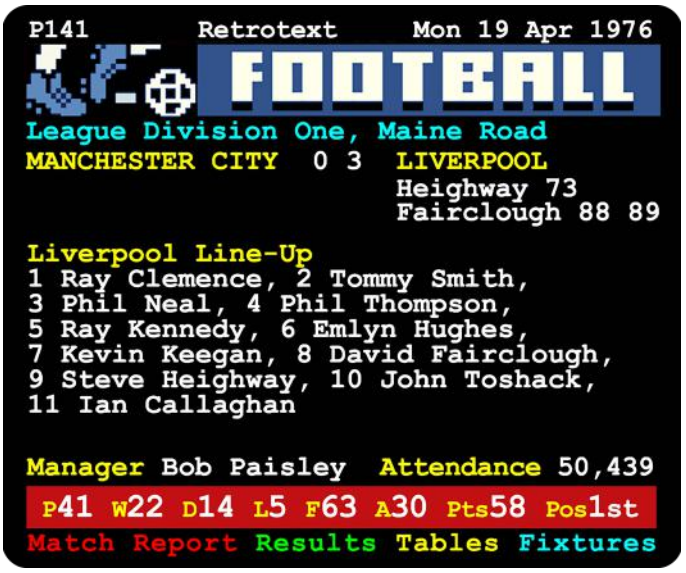
After the midweek European game, with all the physical and emotional strain they must have felt, the Liverpool players would have been forgiven for being slightly off the pace for this match but not a bit of it.

With the prospect of winning the UEFA Cup and the League championship double, just as they had done three years before, tantalisingly close, this was a thoroughly entertaining way to end the season at Anfield.

There was perhaps a slight hangover in the early stages with the visitors taking a deserved lead, but the home side roused themselves to put on a five-star show.

But the good news didn't end there as Norwich City put a huge dent in QPR's title prospects with a 3-2 win at Carrow Road which meant Liverpool went back to top spot in the table with two games left.

Rangers were one-point adrift of Bob Paisley's men with FA Cup Finalists Manchester United in third, four points off the Reds but with two games in hand with another full round of matches to be played in forty-eight hours time on Easter Monday.



The exciting race for the title could have been decided on this day. If Liverpool won and their nearest pursuers lost, the Division One crown would be going to Anfield for the ninth time.

The Reds headed to Maine Road unbeaten in ten matches in all competitions and with rising star David Fairclough thrust into the starting eleven.

It was another great decision by the manager as just when the game appeared to be heading for a draw, the youngster from Cantril Farm set up the chance for Steve Heighway to break the deadlock and then scored two himself, taking his total to eight in a sensational first season for the club.

But QPR's 2-1 victory over Arsenal coupled with Manchester United's 1-0 win at Turf Moor ensured the title drama would not be settled today. However, United's chance effectively disappeared two days later when they lost 1-0 at home to Stoke City and a 2-1 loss at Filbert Street at the weekend confirmed this.

Due to the club's involvement in the UEFA Cup Final, Liverpool's final match of the season at Wolves was re-arranged for Tuesday 4th May but QPR's game still went ahead on the scheduled Saturday and they beat Leeds 2-0 to move one point ahead of the Reds having played 42 games.

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Liverpool never quite got amongst the title challengers during this campaign but enjoyed long runs in both the FA Cup and the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, reaching the Final and semi-final respectively.

On the road to Wembley, the Reds enjoyed home wins over Aldershot, Swansea City and Southampton before defeating Tottenham 1-0 in the 6th round after a replay. The semi-final at Old Trafford saw local rivals Everton take an early lead but Shankly's side scored twice in the second half to earn a clash with Arsenal, which they lost 2-1. In Europe, there was a Battle of Britain match at the penultimate stage and it was Leeds United who came out on top, with Billy Bremner's goal in the first leg at Anfield taking them through 1-0 on aggregate.





Thoughts of the Division One title were on hold for a week, as the team's sole focus was the UEFA Cup final first leg against Bruges.

Bob Paisley was in a positive frame of mind. "We now face three finals in our last three games - and you don't go into finals aiming for a draw. We'll be going for goals," he said.

The manager had indicated he would like a three-goal lead to take into the second leg but those thoughts were shattered when the Belgian side scored twice inside the first twelve minutes.

At the interval, all seemed lost but Paisley replaced John Toshack with Jimmy Case, pushing Kevin Keegan further forward, and the home side slowly began to assert themselves.

A spell of three goals in five minutes then turned the tie on its head. Ray Kennedy fired home the first and when his shot came back off a post, Case was on hand to make it 2-2.

Then, Steve Heighway was pulled down in the area and newly-crowned Football Writers' Association (FWA) Player of the Year, Keegan, made it 3-2 from the penalty spot. It was set up to be a nail-biting second leg with Bruges only needing a 1-0 win on home soil to lift the trophy.



This is an original Ceefax page recovered from an old VHS recording. The corruption is caused by the retrieval process.

On this day in 1981, Liverpool beat Sunderland 2-0 with goals from Graeme Souness and Terry McDermott to move up to 9th in the League table. At the end of the year, the club were in 12th spot but produced a tremendous second half of the season to win the title.

Liverpool Legend: Kevin Keegan

When Liverpool signed 20-year-old Kevin Keegan in May 1971, just a few days before the FA Cup Final against Arsenal, for a fee of £35,000 from Scunthorpe United, Bill Shankly said: "We've been watching him for about nine months now. He's our type of player." Keegan made his debut in the first game of the 1971-72 season, scoring after just twelve minutes as the Reds beat Nottingham Forest 3-1.

Liverpool missed out on the League title by one point at the end of that campaign but were crowned champions twelve months later and won the UEFA Cup, with Kevin scoring twice in the Final. He also scored two in the 1974 FA Cup Final win over Newcastle and in both legs of the UEFA Cup Final win over Bruges in 1976 when the team also reclaimed the League title. After helping the club to win the League and the European Cup in 1977, Kevin left to join Hamburg.



May 1976



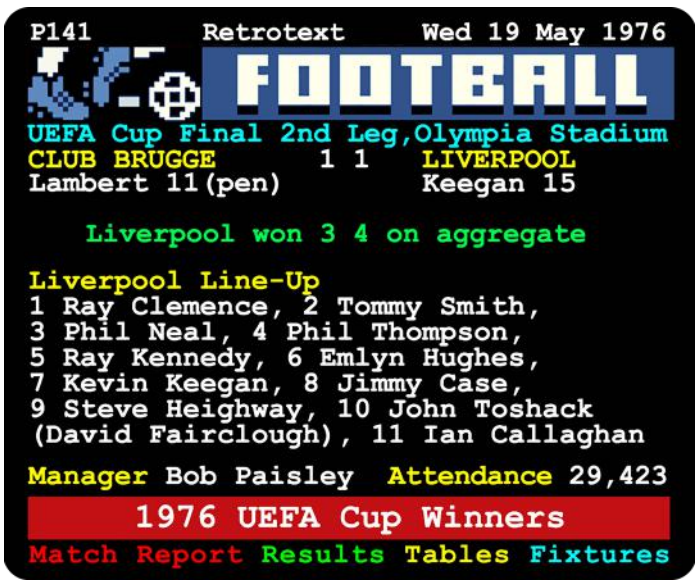
QPR's win in their last match of the season meant that Liverpool would be outright Division One champions if they beat Wolves and would do so on goal average if they drew 0-0, 1-1 or 2-2. But if the Reds drew 3-3 or more, the London side would be celebrating instead.

The game brought back poignant memories for Bob Paisley as he was a key player during the 1946-47 season when a win at Wolves in the Reds' final game of the campaign effectively ensured they were the first post-World War Two champions.

QPR players Gerry Francis and Stan Bowles watched a private screening of the match at the BBC Television Centre, just a short distance from the Loftus Road ground.

Renowned gambler Bowles later revealed he had stood to win £6,000 (a huge sum in 1976) if Rangers had won the title, having backed them at odds of 16/1 at the start of the season to do so.

Wolves had taken a half-time lead through Steve Kindon, but late goals by Kevin Keegan, John Toshack and Ray Kennedy ensured a first League title for Paisley as manager and condemned the home side to relegation.



Before Liverpool's final match of the season, it was announced that Bob Paisley had been voted Manager of the Year.

Many pundits had doubted whether the quiet right-hand-man to Shanks could make the step up to being the boss, but Paisley had taken the move in his stride, earning the same level of respect from the players and fans that the charismatic Scotsman had enjoyed.

As many players had been on duty in the traditional end-of-season Home International tournament, the manager was delighted to welcome them all back unscathed as the club completed final preparations for the second leg clash.

After falling behind early on to a penalty after Tommy Smith had handled in the area, the Reds levelled through Kevin Keegan and from then on produced a thoroughly professional performance to keep the new Belgian champions at bay.

In 1973, under Bill Shankly, the Reds became the first English club to win the Division One title and a European trophy and now his successor had repeated that achievement. But Paisley was hungry for more, saying: "(Next season) Liverpool will never have a better chance of winning the European Cup and it is my great ambition to bring it to Anfield."

Bill Shankly, Manager (Dec 1959 to Jul 1974)

Arsenal's League and FA Cup double the previous season meant the Gunners would play in the European Cup while Liverpool, as beaten Finalists, would compete in the European Cup-Winners' Cup. In the second round, the Reds were drawn against a Bayern Munich side featuring Sepp Maier, Franz Beckenbauer, Paul Breitner and Gerd Muller and lost 3-1 in Germany after a 0-0 draw at Anfield.

The race for the League title was an exciting affair and after eight straight victories and with just two games left, Liverpool were in pole position. But a 1-0 loss at the Baseball Ground saw Derby claim top spot having played 42 matches and in their final games a week later, Leeds lost to Wolves and Shankly's men could only draw at Arsenal.



Three: Season 1976-1977



Four: Season 1977-1978



Five: Season 1978-1979



Six: Season 1979-1980



Seven: Season 1980-1981



Eight: Season 1981-1982



Nine: Season 1982-1983



April 1983

P141 Retrotext Sat 16 Apr 1983

FOOTBALL

League Division One, The Dell

SOUTHAMPTON	3 2	LIVERPOOL
Moran 2(pen)		Dalglish 13
Holmes 22 41		Johnston 16

Liverpool Line-Up
1 Bruce Grobbelaar, 2 Phil Neal,
3 Alan Kennedy, 4 Mark Lawrenson,
5 Ronnie Whelan, 6 Alan Hansen,
7 Kenny Dalglish, 8 Sammy Lee,
9 David Fairclough (David Hodgson),
10 Craig Johnston, 11 Graeme Souness

Manager Bob Paisley Attendance 23,578

P37 W24 D9 L4 F85 A29 Pts81 Pos1st

Match Report Results Tables Fixtures

The Dell was sold out for the first time this season in anticipation of a game as good as the one staged on the ground the previous season which Liverpool edged 3-2. A win for the Reds would confirm them as Division One champions.

Ian Rush was ruled out of the game with a groin strain, providing David Fairclough with another chance to impress. However, it was not to be his day and he was replaced early in the second half by David Hodgson.

The visitors fell behind after just two minutes when Alan Hansen was caught in possession and young striker Martin Foyle was brought down in the penalty area by Bruce Grobbelaar, Steve Moran striking home the spot kick.

Kenny Dalglish's twentieth goal of the campaign levelled things up and it wasn't long before the visitors were 2-1 up, Craig Johnston putting the ball past Saints' goalkeeper Peter Shilton. Poor defending allowed the home side to equalise against the run of play and before half-time they were in front, Nicky Holmes with a brilliant volley.

So, the fourteenth title wasn't confirmed on the south coast but after Watford were beaten at home 3-1 by Nottingham Forest, they could now not overtake Liverpool's current points total.

P141 Retrotext Sat 23 Apr 1983

FOOTBALL

League Division One, Anfield

LIVERPOOL	0 2	NORWICH CITY
		Lawrenson 52(og)
		O'Neill 72

Liverpool Line-Up
1 Bruce Grobbelaar, 2 Phil Neal,
3 Alan Kennedy, 4 Mark Lawrenson,
5 Ronnie Whelan, 6 Alan Hansen,
7 Kenny Dalglish, 8 Sammy Lee,
9 David Hodgson, 10 Craig Johnston,
11 Graeme Souness

Manager Bob Paisley Attendance 37,022

P38 W24 D9 L5 F85 A31 Pts81 Pos1st

Match Report Results Tables Fixtures

Only Manchester United could overhaul Bob Paisley's men now but that was only if they won their last eight games. That remote possibility was ended in midweek when Ron Atkinson's side, who had beaten Arsenal 2-1 on Saturday to reach the FA Cup Final, lost 2-0 to Everton, effectively confirming Liverpool as champions.

This was his sixth title since taking over from Bill Shankly in 1974 and he had won it with only fifteen players starting matches and three of those, Steve Nicol, David Fairclough and Phil Thompson, only made a handful of appearances.

Because of having a small squad, he stressed how important it was to have players who could perform in different positions, such as Phil Neal, Kenny Dalglish, Mark Lawrenson and Craig Johnston.

Before the loss at Southampton, Norwich City were the last team to beat the Reds in the League and they were aiming to become only the third side to do the double over a Paisley team - Arsenal did it in 1974-75 and Leicester in 1980-81.

With Ian Rush still out, David Hodgson came into the side with David Fairclough on the bench. There was no trophy presentation before the game in which the visitors ran out deserved winners following a lethargic display by the home team.

Liverpool Legend: Mohamed Salah



After an unhappy spell at Chelsea, in 2015, Mo Salah went on loan to Fiorentina then Roma, where his move was made permanent in 2016. His goalscoring exploits in Italy led to Liverpool boss Jürgen Klopp paying a record £43.9 million for the Egyptian international in the summer of 2017 and he enjoyed an astonishing first season at Anfield, scoring 44 goals, including 32 in the Premier League.

Voted African Player of the Year as well as both PFA Player of the Year and FWA Footballer of the Year after that 2017-18 campaign, Salah maintained his goalscoring form in subsequent seasons, notching up 27, 23, 31, 31, 30 and 25 during Klopp's time at the club. At the end of the 2023-24 season, he stood fifth in Liverpool's all-time top goalscorers list, behind Ian Rush, Roger Hunt, Gordon Hodgson and Billy Liddell.



Before the Tottenham game, many Liverpool players had been away on international duty. Though he hadn't played for his club for three weeks, Ian Rush was named in the Wales starting line-up against Bulgaria and, though he was substituted with thirty minutes left this was due to tiredness and not a recurrence of his injury.

However, Ronnie Whelan and Sammy Lee, playing for the Republic of Ireland and England, did pick up knocks which ruled them out of the White Hart Lane match.

Phil Thompson, now the only man to have won seven League Championship titles, came in at centre-back with the versatile Mark Lawrenson pushed into midfield.

With two influential players out injured and two not fully match-fit, Rush and Thompson, two goals in five second-half minutes condemned the visitors to a third consecutive defeat, highlighting the need to increase the playing squad's depth to ensure continued future success.

Manchester United's 1-1 draw with Norwich City meant that mathematically Liverpool were officially champions and would be presented with the trophy before the final home match of the season against Aston Villa.



This is an original page from ITV's Teletext service recovered from an old VHS recording. The corruption is caused by the retrieval process.

By texting your team's code to 8899 you received goal alerts, half-time and full-time scores plus the latest club news.

Jürgen Klopp, Manager (Oct 2015 to May 2024)

Liverpool raced out of the traps during this campaign and by the half-way point stood top of the table, with twelve wins, six draws and just one defeat from the opening nineteen games - and that was to a 96th minute own goal at Tottenham when down to just nine men.

The business end of the season saw Klopp's side pushing for honours on four fronts, with a League Cup Final win over Chelsea gained in February. But the FA Cup dream ended at Old Trafford when an injury-time goal in extra-time knocked the Reds out and the Champions League journey was ended by Atalanta. A 3-1 win at Fulham with five games to go kept alive the three-way chase for the title, but a loss at Everton and draw at West Ham then followed.



May 1983



There was little time to take stock of Saturday's loss in London as the Reds had another road trip to prepare for on Bank Holiday Monday. The City Ground, Nottingham was the venue as the team sought to avoid four defeats on the bounce for the first time since the 1964-65 season.

Not helped by a recurrence of his groin injury which forced Ian Rush off at the interval, the visitors went down to a solitary strike from Birkenhead-born Peter Davenport though their performance had warranted at least a draw.

In fact, it was to be the Welsh striker's last appearance of the season as his injury required complete rest, making him a doubt for the home international matches once the League campaign had been completed.

Chairman John Smith missed the game against Forest to take in the second division clash between Leeds United and Leicester City at Elland Road.

Ex-Coventry boss and former Liverpool player, Gordon Milne, was now in charge at Filbert Street and two of his young players, striker Gary Lineker and midfielder Kevin MacDonald, were reportedly on the Anfield radar, with the club's hierarchy determined to add quality and quantity to the new manager's playing squad over the summer.



Before the final home game of the campaign, Kenny Dalglish was named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year, only the fourth man to win twice, putting him alongside Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney and Danny Blanchflower. The Scottish international had already been voted PFA Player of the Year.

With one eye on the future, as usual, the club also announced the signing of nineteen-year-old full-back Jim Beglin from Shamrock Rovers for a fee of £20,000.

Graeme Souness was presented with the famous League Championship trophy and immediately handed it to Bob Paisley, who proudly raised it aloft. He also received a commemorative Royal Doulton plate with the inscription: 'The greatest managerial record of all time'.

In the match itself, Villa took the lead after Bruce Grobbelaar gave away a penalty and the home side missed a glorious chance to equalise in the second half when Phil Neal's spot kick was saved by Nigel Spink. The referee ordered it to be re-taken and the goalkeeper again made a great save.

In torrential rain and with time running out, Craig Johnston turned in Kenny Dalglish's cross at the Kop end to avoid a fifth straight defeat.

Liverpool Legend: Virgil van Dijk

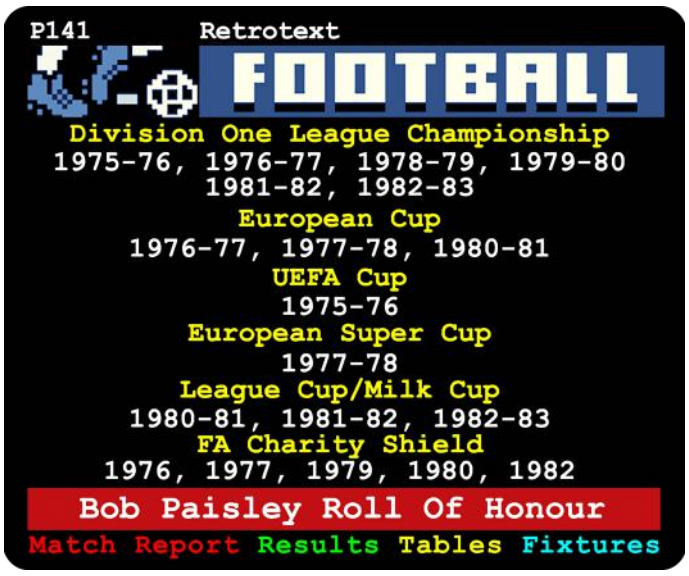
Having begun his career at Dutch side Groningen before moving on to Celtic then Southampton, Virgil van Dijk joined Liverpool for a world record fee for a defender of £75 million in January 2018, just a few days before Philippe Coutinho left Anfield for Barcelona in a deal worth £106 million plus add-ons. Fans quickly knew it was money well spent by the club as, just a few days after signing, he scored the winning goal in a 3rd round FA Cup win over Everton.

The Dutchman's calm presence at the heart of the Liverpool defence, coupled with a dynamic midfield and electrifying forward line, made the team a joy to watch and a nightmare to play against, resulting in a trophy-laden era which included in 2019 the Champions League, European Super Cup and Club World Cup. After the departure of Jordan Henderson in 2023, van Dijk was appointed club captain.



May 1983





Phil Thompson was the only player still at Anfield from when Bob Paisley stepped into Bill Shankly's shoes in July 1974 and his testimonial match took place a few days before the final League game of the manager's reign.

Over 18,500 people turned out to watch an England XI beat a Liverpool XI featuring first-team players as well as guests Ray Clemence and Emlyn Hughes 2-0, with goals from Paul Mariner and Gary Shaw.

Martin Patching put Watford ahead with a superb solo effort and, just after the interval, it was 2-0 following a defensive mix-up, with Craig Johnston scoring a consolation for the visitors.

Despite this fifth defeat from the boss's final six games at the helm, Liverpool's fourteenth League title was still an emphatic success, with the club finishing eleven points ahead of Graham Taylor's side who ended as runners-up.

After months of speculation, a week after the end of the season, Joe Fagan was announced as the new manager with full responsibility for all team matters, while Bob Paisley was to become a paid director with his focus on the crucial area of player recruitment.

So, the Paisley years were over, but it was by no means the end of Liverpool's success.

John Smith, Liverpool chairman

"Bob's success since Bill retired has not come as a great surprise to the board. We knew his great capabilities, both before and after the Shankly era."

Bobby Robson, England manager

"When everyone in football measures Bob Paisley's achievements since Bill Shankly's retirement it is, without doubt, the most breathtaking and commendable record in the history of football in this country."

Brian Clough, Nottingham Forest manager

"Bob Paisley is on the same level as Sinatra in his field and nobody should question his talent. It's not the fact that he has got a better band or sings on bigger stages, it's just down to ability."

Howard Kendall, Everton manager

"He has built a strong squad with good reserves - a wonderful legacy for his successor and the club."

Joe Fagan, Liverpool manager

“Bob Paisley never looks back on previous teams, he's always looking ahead. Signings are not about money, they are about recognising potential and that's where his good judgement comes in.”

Jürgen Klopp, Manager (Oct 2015 to May 2024)





With its main focus on nine incredible trophy-laden seasons under the brilliant yet modest and unassuming manager Bob Paisley, ***From Shankly To Paisley and Klopp*** is a journey from December 1959 when Bill Shankly joined Liverpool FC, a team languishing in the second division of English football and playing in a dilapidated stadium, through all the triumphs and tragedies of the following sixty-five years, to May 2024, when Jürgen Klopp left Anfield after re-establishing the club at the summit of world football.



There are player profiles on many of the Liverpool Legends who delivered three League championships and the FA Cup for the first time in the club's history under Shankly, six League titles and three European Cups under Paisley, a unique domestic and European treble for Joe Fagan in his first season in charge, the first-ever League and FA Cup double under Kenny Dalglish, five major trophies in one calendar year under Gerard Houllier, the dramatic Champions League and FA Cup triumphs under Rafa Benitez and the wonderful Jürgen Klopp era which saw the Reds crowned as FIFA Club World Cup champions.



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