



FRANK McGHEE

MONDAY VERDICT

TOP OF THE FIRST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	41	26	8	7	80	32	86
Ipswich	41	25	5	11	73	52	80
Man. U.	42	22	12	8	59	29	78
Tottenham	41	20	11	10	66	46	71
Arsenal	42	20	11	11	48	37	71
Swansea	41	21	6	14	58	46	69
Stampton	42	19	9	14	72	67	66
Everton	42	17	13	12	56	50	64
West Ham	42	14	16	12	66	57	58
Man. City	42	15	13	14	49	50	58

CHAMPAGNE and songs, laughter and congratulations provided all the joyous signs of Liverpool's 13th League championship in the dressing room, boot room, tea room and board room at Anfield after Saturday's 3-1 win over Tottenham had clinched the title.

There was only one quiet place in the building—the office of the administrative brain who runs the show, general secretary Peter Robinson.

And it was there that I had a privileged glimpse of the efficiency of the Liverpool system.

While other hands were reaching for bottles, Robinson's reached for the telephone. His first call, within minutes of the proud parade of the trophy around the ground, was to a hotel in Middlesbrough, cancelling a stay there by the team tonight for tomorrow's final match of a fabulous season.

"We would have felt it necessary to stay overnight if we still needed the points," said Peter. "Now we will travel up by coach and that will save around £300."

The money was put to immediate use. Peter's second telephone call was to the firm whose bulldozers moved in on Anfield yesterday to rip three inches off the pitch before work starts on re-laying it.

Liverpool's players have performed for the last time on a surface they have come to detest.

"It has been virtually unchanged for more than 50 years and has grown old and tired," says the groundsman who has just retired, 69-year-old Arthur Riley.

Liverpool's players and public will find that much has changed when they return to Anfield.

There will be seats on three sides of the ground,

Quiet room at the top



PETER ROBINSON
Backroom genius

bringing an obvious increase in precious revenue—though no one would even contemplate the sacrilege of interfering with one of soccer's great institutions, The Kop.

What this confirms is that Liverpool do not merely move with the times. They set the pace, the example for the rest.

The changes in personnel this season have been well publicised. Top players have departed—Ray Clemence, Ray Kennedy, Jimmy Case, Avi Cohen, Colin Irwin.

Youngsters and new signings have taken their places—Bruce Grobelaar, Mark Lawrenson, Ronnie Whelan, Ian Rush, Craig Johnston.

The paid professional staff has been reduced from 31 to 23

And huge salaries on long-term contracts may become a thing of the past, because Robinson estimates that Liverpool have suffered a reduction of 25 per cent in attendances over the last two seasons.

On Saturday when

Liverpool's capture

JOHN MCGREGOR, star amateur central defender with Scotland's Queen's Park, will sign for Liverpool today after rejecting a last-minute bid from Rangers.

Anfield favourite Ray Kennedy, who moved to Swansea in January, will share in Liverpool's League championship glory. He will get a winners' medal—a record sixth—because he played 14 games for Liverpool before his £160,000 transfer.

Liverpool went a shock goal down to Spurs after a glorious Glenn Hoddle strike that will abide in the memories of all those who saw it, it didn't seem to occur to them that there was any possibility of losing.

There was no fuss, no panic, no hurry, worry or fear. They continued to press, coldly and relentlessly, for victory.

It was fitting that two of the goals should come from the men manager Bob Paisley praised as the providers of the fresh legs and young spirits which revived Liverpool at Christmas, when they were stuck in 12th place—defender Lawrenson and the whispy Irish genius Whelan.

Hardest

Paisley, untypically, was almost eloquent afterwards when we had a quiet chat about his fifth championship in seven seasons.

"We brought in the fresh legs, not just because they were necessary, but because they were ready.

"There was no gamble, but it still made this the hardest championship we have won with me as manager."

It was equally fitting that Liverpool's most decisive goal—the one that put them into a 2-1 lead—came from that prince of players Kenny Dalglish.

I can think of few players in the British game, given so little time and room and facing a goalkeeper as accomplished as Clemence, who could have slotted a scoring shot with such chilling efficiency.



We are the champions... Kenny Dalglish (left) and captain Graham Souness show Liverpool's League championship trophy to the Anfield faithful.

Tosh is back in trouble

SWANSEA boss John Toshack is in trouble again with the Welsh FA after being booked for ungentlemanly conduct during his side's shock 2-1 home defeat to Middlesbrough.

Toshack, who was fined £200 only four months ago and £150 last season for bringing the game into disrepute, was cautioned by referee David Letts just before half-time. Earlier, Swansea's Ian Walsh had a goal disallowed and a penalty appeal was turned down.

"It was an embarrassing result for us and bad refereeing was partly to blame," said Toshack.

MANCHESTER CITY manager John Bond missed his side's 1-0 defeat at Sunderland to check on West Ham striker David Cross, while MANCHESTER UNITED'S teenage star Norman Whiteside scored a dream goal in the 2-0 home win over Stoke to earn a place on the club's Canadian tour.

HONEST CLOUGH SO HARD TO PLEASE

By JACK STEGGLES

Ipswich 1, Forest 3

PETER DAVENPORT earned rave reviews from Bobby Robson after blasting a hat-trick to finally torpedo Ipswich's championship challenge.

But there was no praise from his own manager Brian Clough.

"I signed Davenport from Cammell Laird in Birkenhead. And if he can't do better than that he'll be going back there," said Clough. "I know he scored three goals, but apart from that he did not play very well and I'm looking for more from him."

Clough said the same about Garry Birtles when he signed him from non-League Long Eaton. Birtles got a few goals for him—as well as more than £1 million when he sold him to Manchester United.

Davenport, a 21-year-old former Everton



PETER DAVENPORT
...three not enough

amateur brought his tally to four goals in the last two games—as many as £1 million striker Justin Fashanu has scored all season.

"He was too quick and sharp for us and finished like a little wizard," said the admiring Robson.

Clough was also bitterly critical of Ipswich's decision to broadcast the fact that Tottenham had taken the lead at Liverpool over the tannoy system.

No doubt they hoped it would bring some urgency to a side playing from the start as if they knew the title was already beyond them.

"Ipswich were guilty of sharp practice there. I think it was disgraceful and am delighted it worked against them," stormed Clough.

Despite the bitter disappointment of finishing second yet again, Robson said: "We have still done well and people here have seen a ten-year miracle.

"We can be proud of running Liverpool so close on our limited resources. We can't match Liverpool for crowds or compete with them in transfer fees and wages. Yet we matched them most of the way in the title race—and that's a great achievement."

Alan Brazil was on the mark for Ipswich with his 27th goal of the season in answer to Davenport's trio.

A NEW HEAD OF Naturally GROWING HAIR



Before treatment After only two treatments hair growing naturally again

Natural hair replacement is a simple method of repositioning healthy hair roots so they grow permanently in bald or thinning areas. All treatment is covered by a money back guarantee and is carried out by a medically qualified team.

EASY PAYMENT PLAN

Please send free brochure No agent will call
Name _____
Address _____

DM17

REGENCY CROWN
HAIR REPLACEMENT CLINIC
FREEPOST 21 34 Berrers St London W1E 4JZ 01 580 4365
FREEPOST 62 Palmers Ave. Hove BN3 2ZZ Brighton 777340

First class for Ken



KEN BROWN
couldn't believe it.

ON a day drenched in emotion, Norwich manager Ken Brown was the calmest of all.

He saw his brave Canaries lose their last match of the season, but Leicester's failure to defeat Shrewsbury ensured promotion to the First Division.

It was only later, when the singing stopped in the dressing room, the stylish, elegant Brown let his mask slip.

"Of course it hurt when the critics had a go, but you just grit your teeth and carry on.

By TONY STENSON

Sheff Wed 2
Norwich 1

"But then someone said Leicester had only drawn. I just couldn't accept it and went looking for a television to find out if it was right.

Scene

There was a scene reminiscent of Villa's European cup semi-final with Anderlecht when Gary Bannister fired Wednesday's

dramatic 89th-minute winner.

A fan was seen running around the goalmouth. "He was better placed than Bannister and deserved to be credited with an assist," joked Brown.

The goal signalled a mass invasion of the pitch where players were stripped almost naked by delirious fans.

A report of the incident is already on its way to the FA but from my point of view the invasion was just high spirits and not hooliganism.