

SATURDAY SCENE

BY KEVIN MOSELEY

★ THERE'S a sideline to the story of Kevin Keegan's big Cheltenham racing win last week—as revealed by Mirror columnist Peter Tory. Kevin asked the nurse of famous former trainer Frenchie Nicholson, now in a wheelchair following a stroke, to put the bet on for him on a horse called A Kinsman. The beast romped home at 50-1. But when the nurse handed over his £1,500 winnings, she was full of apologies because she'd put it on the Tote—which just happened to pay odds of 110-1. Money to money?

★ WHAT'S the difference between Manchester City and the Titanic? The Titanic had a band!

SOCCKER is likely to be rocked by another scandal before the end of the season after police investigations into the use of money passed on to clubs for ground improvement.

Three clubs—Aston Villa, Port Vale and Shrewsbury—have been co-operating with the police in their inquiries. And it's probable that charges will be brought soon in connection with a deal involving one club.

The cash comes from the Football Trust, who then pass it on to the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, which is guided by a voluntary panel.

One of the panel's members is all-time great Tom Finney—said to be "disillusioned" by what he's heard.

As a result the Trust is conducting its own inquiries into seven other clubs who have been told by the Football League to co-operate fully.

Now the Trust proposes to tighten up its supervision over the spending of the money—and is looking into a new problem.

It is unhappy that it

A sad lack of Trust

has contributed vast sums to clubs for improvements and training centres only to find that it has been used to benefit individuals not directly controlling those clubs.

It's becoming a worrying practice that directors sell out to a new regime, but keep control of the property through a holding company and then charge rent.

So they profit from the Trust's investment, without being responsible for club debts or supporters, who should be the main beneficiaries of such grants.

Villa and Shrewsbury collected cash to

improve their grounds and for safety measures to be installed to guard against hooliganism. Port Vale received their cash for new flood-lighting.

All in all it's a disturbing story. I hope we'll hear all the facts—either through the courts or the Football League.

★ LAW student, linguist—Tottenham's Argentinian star Ossie Ardiles never fails to surprise. He walked into the club offices the other day and asked to use a typewriter, refusing the help of a secretary who then sat amazed as he chattered away happily—touch typing in English!



Just like home

■ WEMBLEY is Bob Paisley's second home. This is the twelfth time Liverpool have played there in his nine seasons as manager. He has only once gone away a loser—beaten 2-1 by Manchester United in the 1977 FA Cup-final. In contrast, this is the first time United manager Ron Atkinson has taken a team to Wembley.

■ LIVERPOOL are equalling Nottingham Forest's record of appearing in three consecutive finals—and can equal

Aston Villa's achievement of three successes in the competition.

■ TODAY'S full house at Wembley will mean that 1,666,270 fans have paid to watch Milk Cup matches this season—a drop of 214,412 on last year.

■ MAURICE COOK, a Fulham centre forward, scored the first-ever goal in the competition in an away tie against Bristol Rovers on September 26, 1960. Rovers won 2-1.

STRIKING IT RICH FOR LIVERPOOL



Mascot Barry Little (above) of Charlton is much larger these days! Barry, shown here as a Charlton mascot at the age of six, is now 18 and scored on his debut against QPR in midweek. I wonder how many more mascots have gone on to become professionals.

Fixtures rumpus

THE Football League have axed their fixture computer company following complaints from several clubs.

And the lucrative contract has been handed to a new company making its first venture into the world of fixture lists.

Ken Bates, chairman of Chelsea, one of the clubs who have protested, said: "The League admitted they felt the computer hadn't done a good job."

"This year we felt particularly aggrieved at the Christmas and New Year period when we

had only one in four matches at home.

"In that time we had away Queen's Park Rangers and then had to visit both Shrewsbury and Leicester over the New Year—which was a diabolical arrangement.

Missed

"We missed out altogether on potentially larger holiday games."

Other clubs have complained, too, at having three or more away matches in succession.

Crystal Palace had four games away in ele-

ven days earlier in the season and then five at home in January alone.

All the West London clubs wrote to the League, highlighting the problems and a League spokesman said: "It is true we have changed companies and we hope it will mean better and fewer fixtures."

"Clubs are making more and more demands over fixtures as they fight against dwindling attendances.

"We went to a couple of companies, and after looking at what they offered—we changed."

SPORTS SNIPS

■ WELSH welterweight Colin Jones, who drew his WBC title fight with Milton McCrory in America last week, has given up his European crown. "All Colin's energies are now directed towards a return with McCrory, probably this summer," said manager Eddie Thoms.

■ WEST BROMWICH defender Martyn Bennett has twisted a knee in training and is out of England's squad to play Greece next Wednesday.

■ FORMER Walker Cup player John Davies partnered Martin Devetta to a four and three win over Mike Hughsdon and Linda Bayman to lift the Sunningdale foursomes golf title for the third time.

■ CAMBRIDGE rower Ewan Pearson is doubtful for next Saturday's Boat Race with a shoulder injury and Chris Roberts stands by. Oxford are hot favourites at 1-4 on.

■ JIM WATT, Scotland's former world lightweight boxing champion, has retired from the ring and will promote his first show in Aberdeen on April 25.

■ WALES are planning a five-match soccer tour of New Zealand this summer, including a full international in June.

■ DAVID BRYANT survived a great comeback by Cliff Simpson to win the Lombard English indoors bowls championship at Hartlepool 21-20.

PRIDE BACK AT POMPEY



DEACON: Ambitious.

By TONY STENSON

WEALTHY John Deacon, who has spent £1 million trying to get Portsmouth into the First Division, admitted last night: "I'm not finished yet."

Deacon doesn't mind seeing his own fortune eaten away while he achieves his personal ambition.

He says: "The day will come when I'll call a halt. But not yet. I want Portsmouth in the First Division."

Deacon, former mayor of Southamp-

ton who made millions in the property boom, was speaking as Pompey were getting ready for another 20,000 Third Division crowd with the visit of Bristol Rovers today.

He was delighted he could parade yet another £250,000 of talent in beat-the-deadline signings Nicky Morgan, from West Ham and Kevin Dillon, from Birmingham.

"It was easy to persuade them to come here because they realise we are a club going places," he adds.

Deacon is one of the few chairmen who cares for soccer—and puts his hand in his pocket. "I played until I was 39 and refereed soccer until I was thrown out at 47. I love the game."

"I know it's been said that when we spent big last time we finished in trouble. I wouldn't have done this again this week if I wasn't confident."

Pompey, who pay First Division wages, have a break-even crowd figure of 11,500, but their success this season can put them in the Manchester United class—if they get lift-off.

It's the size of the crowd that has made Rovers manager Bobby Gould say: "I hope our fans will be on their best behaviour."

He added: "At Reading our name was tarnished by unruly supporters."

Ron's kids to the rescue

By DAVE HORRIDGE

MANAGER Ron Saunders is gambling on the youngest team in Birmingham City's history to ensure their First Division future.

The meet Notts County today facing an 11-match battle against relegation, with an average age of 23.

Birmingham midfielders Mick Halsall and Robert Hopkins have only three full games between them

and, apart from Mark Dennis, Byron Stevenson and Mick Ferguson, the rest must be classed as apprentices.

While Saunders concedes his team lack experience, he said: "They have a lot of potential, heart and enthusiasm."

"I have been playing experienced players this season—and we are second from bottom of the table. Our supporters must have realised by now that ability alone is not enough."

"Players must apply themselves for the team and the youngsters going out against County will do that."

for the Cup king of Wembley

■ PORT VALE'S record of four wins and 24 defeats is the worst of all 92 League clubs.

■ PHIL NEAL, Kenny Dalglish and David Fairclough are the only survivors from Liverpool's first League Cup final team five years ago. Fairclough came as substitute for Ray Kennedy in 1978 and will wear the No 12 shirt again today.

■ WORKINGTON'S 9-1 victory over Barrow eighteen years ago equalled the biggest win in the competition—now both clubs are out of the League.

■ LIVERPOOL have scored twelve goals and conceded three on their way to Wembley this season. United's record is twenty for and six against.

■ FOURTH Division Rochdale, currently in danger of having to seek

re-election, actually reached the final in 1962 and were beaten 4-0 on aggregate by Norwich.

■ ONLY 87 teams entered the first League Cup in 1960. Entry became compulsory in 1971.

■ SINCE the two-legged final was scrapped in 1967, the year it moved to Wembley, only three teams

have won by more than one goal—Swindon, Tottenham, and Liverpool.

■ EXTRA time has been played in six of Wembley's sixteen finals.

■ JOHN BOYLE of Chelsea, Danny Campbell (West Bromwich), Jimmy Neighbour (Spurs) and Geoff Palmer (Wolves) all played in final winning sides during their first seasons in League football.

Ian's in a rush to hit 30-mark

TWO strikers with vastly different fortunes spell double trouble for the first of Manchester United's twin Cup bids.

Ian Rush, the first Division's most prolific scorer, leads Liverpool's attack in today's Milk Cup final at Wembley aiming for the goal that will bring him to the 30 goals target for the second successive season.

And on the bench waiting to come on will be "Supersub" David Fairclough, whose Anfield career seemed to have sunk without trace before flu and tonsillitis struck down David Hodgson and a recurrence of ankle ligament trouble ruled out Phil Thompson.

A delighted Fairclough said last night: "This time last year I was travelling down by train to watch the game, which was disappointing because I had not even been considered. It was deflating."

By CHRIS JAMES

agree terms. Now he is in the Wembley spotlight at the expense of Hodgson, and added: "I've no fears about it. I'm relaxed and feeling fine."

Rush, scorer of 29 goals this term, said: "I thought last season was a freak and said I didn't think I'd ever score 30 again. I really believed that."

"I thought 20 would be plenty, but the lads have just kept making the chances."

"I've not yet scored against United, so it would be nice to hit the 30 mark against them."

As he named a 14-man squad, with reserve keeper Bob Wardle and full-back Steve Nichol included as cover against last-minute emergencies, Liverpool boss Bob Paisley maintained his usual low pre-Wembley profile.

"We've tried to keep the routine as normal as possible and treat this as just another match in London," he said.

"We've got as much chance as they have, and it's down to the team which performs on the day. There are no favourites in Cup Finals."

Involved

"I'm not the greatest spectator in the world—not when my livelihood is concerned. Now it is great to be involved."

"I don't mind being called supersub because it's nice to be recognised for doing something positive. And, fortunately, I've had a bit of success in that role."

Ironically Fairclough almost left Anfield earlier this week for Brighton, but the clubs could not

Owen upsets Colchester promotion bid

COLCHESTER'S promotion hopes were dented at Layer Road last night when plucky Tranmere weathered a late storm to hold out for a 3-3 draw.

Tranmere took a 2-1 interval lead with goals from Ian Griffiths and John Aspinall after Roger Osborne had headed Colchester in front after only four minutes.

BUT Keith Bowen levelled after 47 minutes and Tony Adcock put the home side ahead on the hour, before Owen Brown's 75th-minute equaliser.

Reading's relegation problems were not helped as Walsall's Kevin Summerfield scored after 10 minutes to wipe out a Kerry Dixon goal after four minutes and earn a 1-1 draw.

The agony of goal-ace Dave

By NIGEL CLARKE

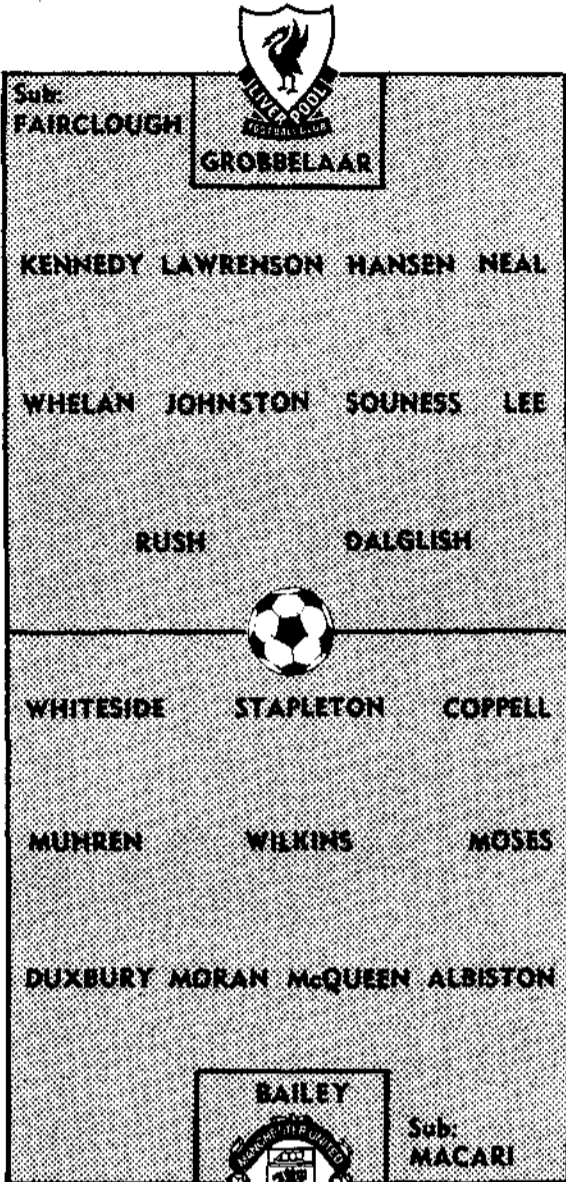
DAVE SWINDEHURST makes his debut for West Ham at Norwich today revealing the heartache behind his £200,000 move from Derby.

Striker Swinدهurst won't meet his new team-mates at Carrow Road until just before the kick-off.

He hasn't been near Upton Park apart from a motorway dash from Derby to sign because his three-year-old daughter Rebecca has been seriously ill.

"She had pneumonia and we were very frightened," he said. "She was in hospital from Tuesday, and that's been my main concern. Happily she is better now, and I can start to think about my new career."

Norwich—only two points from their last three games—will play three strikers. They bring in veteran Mike Chanron to play alongside John Deehan



REFEREE: George Courtney (County Durham) Kick-Off: 3 TV: BBC 1 (Match of the Day) tomorrow, 4.05 p.m.

Atkinson's cheeky gamble

By BOB RUSSELL

MANCHESTER United will add a touch of the old Red Devil-may-care mood to the burning intensity of Wembley this afternoon.

For once their astute, calculating manager, Ron Atkinson, is gambling.

Risk

He is prepared to risk injured Kevin Moran, United's Irish defender

who is barely recovered from a hairline cheekbone fracture.

Atkinson is reluctant to plunge inexperienced Paul McGrath in against the lethal Kenny Dalglish-Ian Rush partnership or disturb the tightest defence in the League by switching Mick Duxbury alongside Gordon

McQueen to accommodate John Gidman at right-back.

Atkinson backs his judgement with the observation that "Moran has never let us down."

Test

Moran, who put his cheek to the test in a light training workout in London yesterday, conveniently disregarded the

fact that he has already had 50 stitches in scalp wounds this season when he said: "Lightning doesn't usually strike twice in the same spot."

Acting skipper Ray Wilkins, who with Moran is set for his first Wembley final, commented: "They don't come any more dependable than Kevin." He added: "We've no fears. I think we can win it in style."

SPORT SUMMARY

THIRD DIVISION		
Doncaster	0	Gillingham 2
Bowman, Casarino, Att: 2,528		
Orient	0	Wrexham 0
Reading	1	Walsall 1
Dixon	Summerfield, Att: 3,107	

FOURTH DIVISION		
Colchester	3	Tranmere 3
Osborne, Griffiths, Aspinall, Brown, Att: 2,547		
Hullfax	0	Wimbledon 0
Scunthorpe	2	Crewe 0
Cowling, Hunter, Att: 2,938		

BOXING	
BLOOMSBURY CENTRE, LONDON—6 mds welterweight: Tony Rabbetts (Hendon) outpt David Cox (Northampton), 8 mds light middle: Martin G. Patrick (Tottenham) outpt Ian Chantler (Liverpool).	
HARRINGAY—7.30: Instant Calling 3pt (3-5, 11-87), 7.45: Baimy Lad 3-1 (2-8, 88p), 8.01: Go Winston 4-1 (4-2, 11-85), 8.17: Lannon Lass 5-4 (1-2, 80p), 8.34: Long Spell 8-13 (4-2, 44p).	
WEMBLEY—7.45: Northway Fashion ev (3-1, 11-48), 8.01: Cranfield Square 6-1 (1-2, 12-30), 8.18: Chique 2-1 (2-1, 11-39), 8.34: Overreught boy 5-2 (1-6, 52p).	
WIMBLEDON—7.45: Alan Town 6-4 (2-6, 55p), 8.00: Lion King 9-4 (1-6, 65p), 8.15: Puddington Can 20-1 (1-3, 15-42), 8.30: Fergals 5-2 (2-6, 74p).	

GOLF	
SUNNINGDALE FOURSOMES—Semi-finals: J. Davies (Ry) Mid Surrey, M. Devetta (Sunningdale) bt G. Brand Jnr. P. Way (Unat) 3 and 2; M. Hughesdon, Mrs L. Bayman (Sunningdale) bt J. Baldwin (Sundridge Pk), M. McLean (Knole Pk) 5 and 3. Final: Davies, Devetta bt Hughesdon, Mrs. Bayman 4 and 3.	
BENSON AND HEDGES IRISH MASTERS—(Golf Links, Co. Kildare): Quarter-finals: S. Davis (Plumstead) bt E. Charlton (Australia) 5-1. Frame scores: 69-67, 62-58, 67-19, 133-0, 1-133, 84-29.	

TOP DOG'S BEST	
CATFORD (10 races): 8.34 Hanrahan's Choice, 8.07 Dominic Fancy, 10.15 Happy Holiday, CRAYFORD (10): 8.00 Durdold Dazzler, 8.15 Amber Highway (Nap), 8.47 Sabbia, MOVE (10): 8.34 Shelton Song, 8.51 Midas Touch, 9.43 Victoria, ROMFORD (10): 8.48 Won The Toss, 10.01 Princely Gem, 10.20 Sunny Hour, SLOUGH (10): 8.04 Dorset Eagle, 8.40 Millview Pride, 9.37 Quick Chicken, SOUTHEND (10): 7.30 Run Or Not, 8.00 Coolatena Lass, 9.58 Why Sarsisco, WALTHAMSTOW (10): 7.30 Boherduff Prince, 8.03 Lucky Dancer, 8.20 Hazy Transport.	

TENNIS	
WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (New York): Singles, quarter-finals: E. King (U.S.) bt A. Jaeger (U.S.) 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; C. Lloyd (U.S.) bt E. Bunge (U.S.) 6-1, 7-5; S. Hanika (W. Ger) bt T. Austin (U.S.) 6-4, 7-5.	

POOLS CHECK

Kick off 3 o'clock unless stated

MILK CUP FINAL

— Liverpool v Man. Utd. (at Wembley)

FIRST DIVISION

- 1 Birmingham v Notts Co.
- 2 Brighton v Aston Villa
- Everton v Arsenal
- 3 Luton v Sunderland
- 4 Man. City v Ipswich
- 5 Norwich v West Ham
- 6 Nottm Forest v Southampton
- 7 Stoke v Walford
- 8 Swansea v West Brom

SECOND DIVISION

- 9 Blackburn v Q.P.R.
- 10 Bolton v Derby
- Cambridge Utd v Burnley
- Chelsea v Barnsley
- 11 Fulham v Grimsby
- Leeds v Crystal Palace
- 12 Middlesbrough v Charlton
- 13 Newcastle v Leicester
- 14 Rotherham v Carlisle
- 15 Sheff Wed v Shrewsbury
- 16 Wolves v Oldham

THIRD DIVISION

- 17 Bournemouth v Newport
- 18 Brentford v Huddersfield
- 19 Cardiff v Lincoln
- 20 Chesterfield v Preston
- 21 Exeter v Bradford City
- 22 Oxford Utd v Plymouth
- 23 Portsmouth v Bristol Rovers
- 24 Southend v Sheff Utd

FOURTH DIVISION

- 25 Blackpool v Northampton
- 26 Bristol City v Mansfield
- 27 Chester v Aldershot
- 28 Darlington v Stockport
- 29 Hartlepool v Hereford (11.15)
- 30 Hull v Port Vale
- 31 Rochdale v Peterborough
- 32 Torquay v Bury
- 33 York v Swindon

SOUTHERN PREMIER

- 34 Chelmsford v Bedworth
- 35 Hastings Utd v A. P. Leamington
- 36 Stroudbridge v Waterlooville
- 37 Welling Utd v Fareham

SCOTTISH PREMIER

- 38 Celtic v St. Mirren
- 39 Dundee Utd v Hibernian
- 40 Kilmarnock v Rangers
- 41 Morton v Aberdeen
- 42 Motherwell v Dundee

SCOTTISH FIRST

- 43 Alloa v Dunfermline
- 44 Dumbarton v Airdrie
- 45 Falkirk v Hamilton
- Hearts v Clyde
- 46 Partick v Ayr
- 47 Raith v Clydebank
- 48 St. Johnstone v Queen's Pk.

SCOTTISH SECOND

- 49 Albion Rovers v East Fife
- 50 Berwick v Montrose
- 51 Brechin v Queen of the South
- 52 Cowdenbeath v Stenhousemuir
- 53 Forfar v Stirling Albion
- 54 Meadowbank v Arbroath
- 55 Stranraer v East Stirling

Figures on the left of the fixture correspond to Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers Treble Chance Lists.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Altrincham v Barnet, Barrow v Bath, Boston Utd v Enfield, Kettering v Dagenham, Scarborough v Yeovil, Stafford v Bangor, Telford Utd v Runcorn, Weymouth v Northwich Vic, Worcester v Maidstone.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, Premier Division, Bromley v Wokingham, Carshalton v Wycombe, Croydon v Walthamstow, Harrow v Dulwich, Hayes v Tooting, Hendon v Bognor, Hitchin v Slough, Leatherhead v Barking, Leytonstone v Woking, Staines v B. Stortford, Sutton v Billericay.

FA VASE—Semi-finals, first leg: Halesowen v Burnham, VS Rugby v Gr. Yarmouth.

RUGBY UNION—John Player Cup (Semi-final): Coventry v Bristol, London Scottish v Leicester, Schweppes Welsh Cup (Semi-final): Pontypool v Bridgend (at Aberavon), Swansea v Newbridge (at Cardiff). Representative Match: Scottish XV v Barbarians (at Murrayfield). Inter Services Match: Army v RAF (at Twickenham).

CLUB MATCHES: Aberllynny v Penarth, Bath v Richmond, Birkenhead Pk v Nuneaton, Birmingham v Cheltenham, Blackheath v Bedford, Llanelli v Neath, L. Welsh v Harlequins, Moseley v Macclesfield, Newport v Cardiff (3.15), Nottingham v Met. Police, Orrell v Wasps, Plymouth Alb v Glamorgan Wdrs, Pontypridd v L. Irish, Rosslyn Pk v Fyde, Saracens v Gloucester, 8th Wales Police v Cross Keys, Waterloo v Northampton.

RUGBY LEAGUE—STATE EXPRESS CUP (Semi-final): Bradford N v Featherstone (2.15), (at Headingley, Leeds), Sunday—Div. 2: Dewsbury v Cardiff (3.30).

Tomorrow THIRD DIVISION

- Millwall v Wigan (11.30)