

CHEAT!

LIVERPOOL 3

ARSENAL 0

ROBBIE WOWLER!

By KEN LAWRENCE

ROBBIE FOWLER yesterday blazed his way to an incredible hat-trick in just 4 minutes 33 seconds – the third-fastest treble since the War.

Then the youngster rated as the new Ian Rush of Liverpool admitted: "I didn't think I played that well!"

But everything went like clockwork for him as he scored three in a match for the THIRD time since making his Liverpool debut only 11 months ago.

George Graham's Arsenal, boasting the meanest defence of last season's Premiership, did not know what hit them and Anfield boss Roy Evans declared: "The boy has such talent he is frightening."

"We'd have been quite happy with any sort of win against Arsenal – but it's unbelievable that we should score three against them in such a short space of time."

The diminutive Fowler now stands tall in the record books. The fastest treble in the top flight since 1945 was scored by Fulham's Graham Leggat against Ipswich in 1963, in just three minutes.

Nigel Clough got

← Turn to Page 39 THREE AND EASY! Fowler celebrates his hat-trick with Rush and McManaman

Schu's kicked out in new row

From STEVE ROGERS in Spa

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER was last night sensationally kicked out of the Belgian Grand Prix after a cheat storm.

And that gave Damon Hill the race and blew the world drivers' championship wide open.

Schumacher and Hill were unaware of the dramatic decision, taken five hours after the finish. Both drivers were in the air heading for home. Schumacher had won comfortably – but the race stewards found his Benetton car broke new safety rules brought in after Ayrton Senna's death.

A wooden plank fitted under the car to reduce grip and slow it down for safety was half a millimetre thinner than it should have been. The stewards claimed this meant the car ran closer to the ground than it should have done and gave it a better grip than the cars of Hill and the other drivers.

Benetton's technical director Ross Brawn spent several hours arguing that the plank had started the race the same size as the one fitted to team-mate Jos Verstappen's car.

Brawn said Schumacher had had trouble with tyre pressures and that the damage to the plank happened when his car spun over a kerb on lap 19 of the 44-lap race.

But the stewards threw out his plea – and it was yet another black day for championship leader Schumacher and his team.

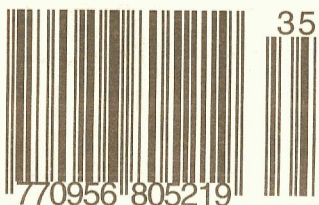
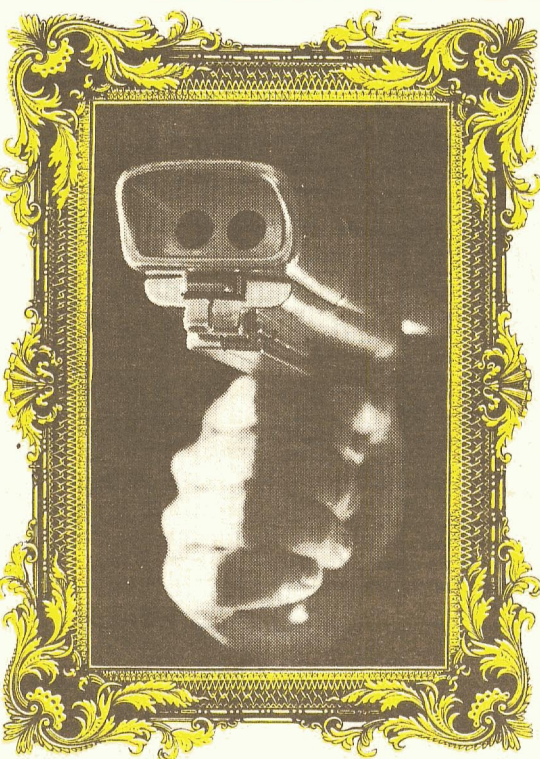
Hill told IRN after flying back from Belgium last night: "Rules are rules, so that's Michael's tough luck. I needed to win in Spa to stay in contention for the championship."

"Now I've won or, more accurately, been awarded the race. It means the title is wide open again." Schumacher

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SCHUMACHER: Disqualified



GOLD SPREE
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