

# SPEKE FROM THE HARBOUR



ISSUE No. 17



THE END OF AN ERA ?

AN EVERTON FANZINE 80p

# SPEKE FROM THE HARBOUR



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SOME DO, BUT I'M NOT TELLING YOU  
WHICH ONES.

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NEXT ISSUE ON SALE SEPTEMBER.



## EDITORIAL



I suppose that I'm just a ridiculously optimistic person. The indications up until Christmas were that we had the makings of a good team, with Europe looking a certainty and an outside chance of being involved in the destiny of the title come next season. However, it now appears that we're back where we started when Joe Royle took over. We're once again looking down the table and setting ourselves minimum points targets to stay up. It's not good enough.

The stadium debate rages on, with the 'Goodison for ever' movement gaining a great deal of support, yet many others expressing the desire to move on. Both sides of the argument are once again represented in this issue's letters' page.

We've had another two of Joe Royle's, now trademark, 'transfer deals', with Schwarzer going to Middlesbrough and Bilic staying at West Ham.

We do need to get at least two signings in before the deadline I think.

There appears to be a distinct lack of creativity in midfield, now that Grant's injured. Barmby is wrongly being employed as an out and out striker instead of an attacking midfielder or in a support man role. We're still crying out for a goalscorer of some pedigree. I think that too much has been expected too soon of Michael Branch. I'm not too impressed with Claus Thomsen, but I'll reserve judgement until he's settled in.

Terry Phelan will do a job for us at left back and at least it means that we'll have competition for the position when Hinchcliffe returns. The sale of Anders Limpar by Royle did nothing to endear himself to most of the fans that I've spoken to and I include myself amongst them.

Alternatively, the sale of Andrei has been seen by most Blues as the right thing to do. It was sad to see John Ebbrell go. He was never as good as we thought he was going to be, but he'd have done as a squad player and I'd have certainly had him on my side in a derby game.

Neville's been wrongly blamed for the recent bad run of results when it's obvious that it's the defence that's to blame. I would imagine that this will be his last season with us and I'd like to go on record to say that I think that he's been treated disgracefully by the club. The man is a legend, and was the cornerstone of all our trophy winning sides of the last 16 years. Good luck to you, Neville and a sincere thank you for all that you've done. The fans still appreciate what you've done, even if certain others do not.

MARK



## THE MEDIAS CRISIS

Do the Everton management think that we are all morons ? Do they think that a few optimistic but misleading quotes in the newspapers will gloss over what is happening to Everton F.C. ? Peter Johnson believes that 'the fans want to see world class players on a regular basis'. This statement would have you believe that Everton were on a par with the likes of Chelsea and Newcastle. However the truth is Everton no longer have any world class players. Southall and Watson in their prime maybe, and Big D may yet become one with better players around him. Kanchelskis has gone ( as forecast in the last issue ). There are people who saw him as mercenary and may say I told you so, but I prefer to remember the goals against the shite at Anfield and last seasons' form. His short time at Goodison should have been used to attract other world class players, just as Keegan and Gullit did. However it's now becoming obvious that Joe doesn't seem capable of handling players with flair, i.e. Samways, Limpar. The interest in Kluivert, if we were to believe the papers only materialised to divert attention away from another disastrous run of results, similar to the signing of Barmby in the wake of the last crisis. The dropping of the blameless Southall was obviously intended to take the spotlight off the teams form and direct it towards one man. But Joe was intent that it wasn't going to be him and so he made Southall his scapegoat. I have some sympathy with those who would throw Joe overboard as he's been all at sea for some time now. Some of his after match comments have even surpassed the infamous 'watershed' of last season. Thank goodness that he kept his mouth shut after avoiding the seventh consecutive league defeat, but if you do include the Bradford game it does equal the worst period of any Everton team ever.

Blaming the media and critics for Evertons demise reveals a fundamental weakness in Joe's ability to manage a top club. The media don't pick the team or sign the players. When I wrote the article 'An ordinary Joe' last season, it wasn't well received in some quarters. However, Joe has since gone out of his way to prove my point. "When I was at Oldham, we had ten defeats in a row." he said prior to the Forest game. Enough said. Joe appears more comfortable with workmanlike players like Parkinson and Barratt. These players have played well for him, but as one wag suggested recently he appears to have transformed the whole team into dogs without any bite.

Considering all that has happened at Goodison, I'm amazed when I read other fanzine contributions which are generally supportive of the manager.

His signings have nearly all been failures. Everton's better players, Southall, Watson, Parkinson, Ferguson and the versatile Stuart were all at the club when Royle arrived, but what of the rest? Hottiger and Short have been shown up too often at the back. Barratt has excelled at times but it is an awful indictment of the state of our defence that he's been the form defender this season. The jury is still out on Gerrard and here's hoping that he can eventually be the man to fill Neville's gloves. He was thrown in at a difficult time against Newcastle. Phelan and Thomsen were bought during the injury crisis and both would undoubtedly be good squad players. But I can't help but think that Joe sometimes appears to think that he's still at Boundary Park. Gary Speed is becoming a prolific midfield goalscorer compared to other Everton midfielders in the 1990's, but he does have a tendency to go walkabout too often. Nick Barmby looks a good signing but the team is not playing to his strengths. He has shown a degree of flair and creativity which doesn't bode well for him with Joe in charge. Apart from Barmby, Grant is the only other creative player at the club, and it looks like his season is over. Everyone will have their own opinions about Andrei. I thought of him as a genius when we first signed him and put this season's loss of form down to the manager's lack of motivation and to Andrei's inferior team mates.

Joe can't take all the credit for Duncan being at Goodison as I've said before the fans deserve the most credit. Come to think of it even the big man must be wondering what he's doing in Joe Royle's 1997 version of Everton F.C. and his form has not been brilliant.

In finishing I would like to ask the Everton management to invest in the best players possible if they hope to gain respect and support. Don't be put off by failures in the league like Bryan Robson at Middlesbrough. At least he tried and failed unlike Royle who is prepared to settle for second best.



BLUE PETER

## FRED'S PAGE

### PUTTING BOTH FEET IN IT

Outside of Anfield, Can you think of any Premier League players more despised than Ian Wright and Peter Schmeichel ? Wasn't it great seeing them both doing what they do best. swearing and brawling and generally behaving like childish idiots. Wright becomes more egotistical with every passing week and subsequently more explosive, however it does make watching Arsenal a little less boring.

### SHARK DETERANI

Graeme Souness has survived a series of crises but the one which came closest to finishing him off came in the shark infested waters off the Great Barrier Reef. " I looked up and saw this great man eating shark staring back at me." Said Graeme. " Then for some reason it turned and disappeared. In different circumstances it could have ended for me there. ", the moustachioed one continued. Yes, Graeme, all I can say was it was a good job that you weren't wearing a diving mask as even shark's have better taste than to chew on something that looks like it's already been regurgitated once.

### REDDERS UPDATE

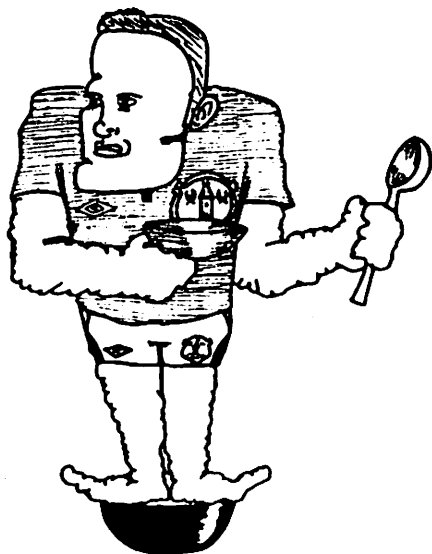
Soon little Jamie will no longer need to turn up for training and his Saturdays will also be free, if he continues with so many activities outside the game. He intends spending the summer promoting Bournemouth's holiday resort. Tourist chiefs believe Jamie will rid the resort of its old fogey image. Amongst some of their ideas they intend providing greater safety for children, who will be given colour coded armbands so that they can be spotted easily if they stray from one of the eight beaches. But what the authorities have not catered for is what would happen if one of the youngsters stray over to Jamie's place

### KEEPING THE COSTS LOW

Having trimmed the squad, with the sales of Ebbrell, Kanchelskis, Moore, Samways, Limpar et al this season, it is reported that it is an attempt by Royle to save mums' and dads' money when they come to buy replica shirts next season. As there's only going to be numbers one - nine in the squad, parents will only have to fork out for one number on the back of the shirts.

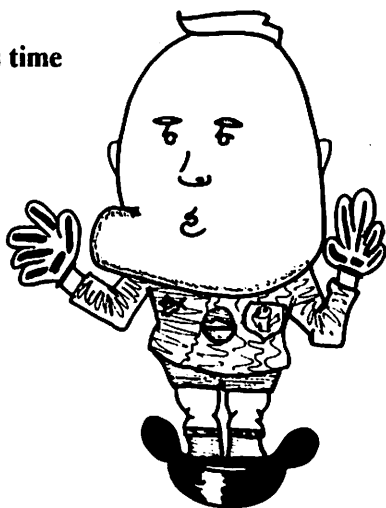
**STUBYOURTOE  
TABLE FOOTBALL  
BY SHAUN MCCOY**  
Still going strong after all this time

**Richard Dunne -**  
Tell 'em about the  
honey, mummy.



**Marcus Gayle -**  
Hallelujah, brothers  
and sisters ! 'Tis  
truly a miracle where  
Wimbledon find  
themselves this season

stuart  
7



**Kevin Pressman -**  
Humpty Dumpty  
is alive and well  
and keeping goal  
for Sheff. Wed.



## LOOKING BACK AT 96/97

1. When Kanchelskis left Goodison, which of the following was uppermost in his mind ?

- (A) Thank goodness I left while they're still in the Premiership
- (B) The money will come in handy.
- (C) The fans will be glad to see the back of me.
- (D) All of the above.

2. Who is to blame for Everton's current critical condition ?

- (A) The media
- (B) The players
- (C) York City
- (D) Nigel Martyn
- (E) The weather
- (F) The manager

3. Anfield could be compared to the following :-

- (A) A bog
- (B) A quagmire
- (C) Waterworld

4. What did Paul Gasgoine give his wife for Christmas ?

- (A) A Black Pudding
- (B) Some black lace knickers
- (C) A black eye

5. If Everton are floated on the stock exchange with Joe Royle still at the helm, will the venture be comparable to ?

- (A) The launch of the QE II
- (B) The Wright brothers first flight.
- (C) The Titanic's maiden voyage.

6. Bruce Grobelaar was involved in an alleged 'bungs' scandal which left a bad taste in the mouth in footballing circles. Did it involve ?

- (A) The back passage.
- (B) The back side.
- (C) Backhanders.





7. Which of these Joe Royle post match comments were most annoying ?
- ( A ) “ We’re nearly there “. Prior to the early season crisis.
  - ( B ) “ Who could get into this team ? “. After the Southampton 7-1.
  - ( C ) “ What crisis ? “. After our fifth consecutive defeat.
  - ( D ) “ Sure, when we were at Oldham they lost ten in a row “. After the sixth consecutive defeat.
8. During Euro 96, Kanchelskis and Hottiger’s performances could best be described as :-
- ( A ) Absolutely Fabulous
  - ( B ) Absolutely Fantastic
  - ( C ) A load of bollocks.
9. Joe Royle said recently that he was just a phone call away from making a major signing. Where is it most likely it to occur ?
- ( A ) A non league managers’ office.
  - ( B ) The Runcorn chairmans’ office.
  - ( C ) The dole office.
10. “ Anders Limpar is as good as Platini on his day. “ A quote from whom ?
- ( A ) A manager who puts said player on for the full ninety mintues, knowing that he could turn the game in a split second.
  - ( B ) A manager who recognises that the said player was a valuable squad player and brought him on for the last half hour of a game which was in need of inspiration.
  - ( C ) A manager who would rather play his own pet hamster on the left wing and would rather sell him for £100,000 to Birmingham than £1.4 Million to Marseilles.
11. Andrei Kanchelskis left Goodison Park in February this year, because .-
- ( A ) He didn’t want to ( as he explained in his letter to the Echo ).
  - ( B ) His collection of chips were getting low.
  - ( C ) The mafia left a horses head in his bed.

## A WORD WITH GEZ

Paul Gerrard, the new occupant of the prized fluorescent No. 1 shirt kindly gave us an insight into his favourite and least favourite things.

**S: What's your favourite away ground and why ?**

**PG: Anfield - I've always played well there. ( Nice start, Paul )**

**S: Which is your least favourite and why ?**

**PG: White Hart Lane - I don't like the fans.**

**S: Who was your boyhood hero ?**

**PG: Peter Shilton.**

**S: Where's the worst country you've played football in ?**

**PG: Latvia.**

**S: Who is the best player you've ever played with ?**

**PG: Richard Hall ( Southampton & England U21 centre half )**

**S: Who is the best player you've played against ?**

**PG: Les Ferdinand.**

**S: Do you have a least favourite referee, if so who ?**

**PG: The one who sent me off, I can't remember his name.**

**S: Leaving Football aside for a minute, what sort of music do you listen to ?**

**PG: Mariah Carey, Alanis Morissette.**

**S: Have you ever had a nickname ?**

**PG: Gez.**

**S: Where's the best place you've been on holiday ?**

**PG: Egypt.**

**S: What's your favourite film ?**

**PG: Trains, Planes and Automobiles.**

**S: What's your ambition for the future ( in football ) ?**

**PG: To win as many trophies and honours as possible.**

**S: What do you hope to do when your football career ends ?**

**PG: To become a goalkeeping coach.**

**S: What car do you drive ?**

**PG: BMW.**

**S: Do you watch any soap operas ? ( which ones ? )**

**PG: Coronation Street, The Simpsons.**

**S: Do you ever read fanzines ?**

**PG: No.**

**S: Who is your favourite player who plays in your position ?**

**PG: No one.**

- S: Do you have any superstitions ?  
 PG: Come out last.  
 S: What's the most intimidating atmosphere that you've played in?  
 PG: U21 debut V Turkey ( Away ). The fans were mad !  
 S: Do you have a favourite commentator ?  
 PG: No, they're all irritating.  
 S: Who are your best friends in football ?  
 PG: Darren Beckford, Paul Bernard and Nicky Banger.  
 S: Thanks a lot, Paul.

## EVERTON IN THE 70's SINGING THE BLUES

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AUTHOR

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## THE RETURN OF QUOTE....UNQUOTE

More pearls of wisdom from the people who really know what they're talking about.....

“ The lad got over excited when he saw the whites of the goalpost's eyes.” - Steve Coppell, Radio 5 Live.

“ They ( Rosenborg ) have won 66 games, and they've scored in all of them.” - Brian Moore, ITV

“ If you can't stand the heat in the dressing-room, get out of the kitchen.” - Terry Venables, Capital Gold.

“ It's now 1-1, an exact reversal of the score on Saturday.” - Radio 5 Live

“ And we all know that in football if you stand still you go backwards...” - Peter Reid, Tyne Tees Sport Special.

“ If there weren't such a thing as football, we'd all be frustrated footballers.” - Mick Lyons.

“ He's one of those footballers whose brains are in his head.” - Derek Johnstone -BBC TV Scotland.

“ The crowd think that Todd handled the ball.....they must have seen something that nobody else did. “ - Barry Davies.

“ I can see the carrot at the end of the tunnel.” - Stuart Pearce.

“ They compare Steve McManaman to Steve Heighway and he's nothing like him, but I can see why - it's because he's a bit different.” Kevin Keegan.

“ There's no way Ryan Giggs is another George Best. He's another Ryan Giggs.” - Denis Law



## BOOT IT UP !

A new range of software has just been released for your PC. See the details below and you could soon be enjoying many fruitful hours in front of a VDU instead of getting yourself a real life !!!!!

**COLLYWOLLBER** An expensive waste of money. This game will create a virus in all the other programmes you've got. Sometimes you'll even hear it's own creator slugging it off in the press.

**SUPERBERGERBOY** An overpriced import. This one will look especially exciting when viewed from the shop window, but will soon lose it's appeal after only a few games and turn out to be a great disappointment.

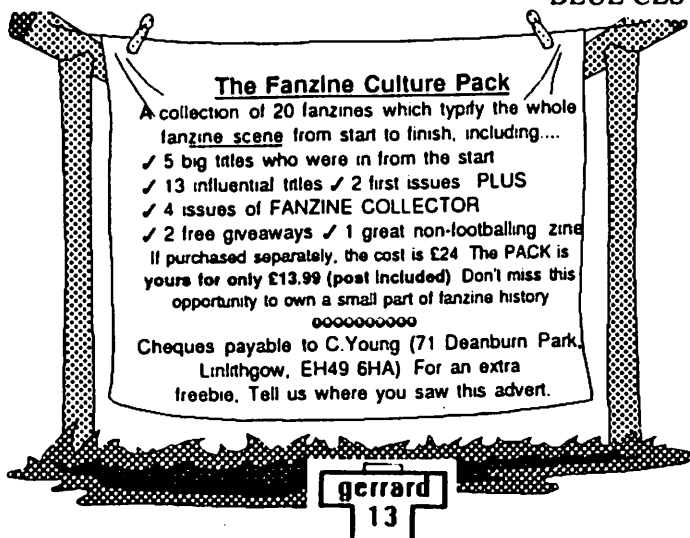
**FOOTBALL FOWLER** A really scary, horror filled game with lots of frightening screen shots. Complete with realistic nose band to cover your spots with or something.

**JOHNNY B ENGLAND** This is a game which extols the virtue of being a great club player, but only seems to load once in every 84 attempts when you try to load it into a higher specification machine. It uses a lot of memory and produces very little in return.

**MCATEERS B4 BEDTIME** Very little memory needed for this simple game for the kids. Another waste of money.

**SHOOTING GALLERY** Try your luck with the Macca laser guided rifle. Money back if you manage to hit anything !!!!!!!

BLUE CESTRIAN



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gerrard  
13

## ONE MORE CHANCE, JOE

As we near the end of another season we can reflect on another most disappointing campaign for Everton F.C. Once again our season ended in January, humiliated by teams from lower divisions

I find it increasingly difficult to defend Joe Royle whom I idolised as a player and admired as a manager. No longer does he do himself justice in front of the camera or in the sports pages. Gone are the slick one liners, replaced by rambling bordering on paranoia.

Besides the agony of managing a struggling club with so much potential and expectation, Joe has also his own personal problems to contend with. He revealed on a visit to Northern Ireland before Christmas that he suffers from arthritis. He only disclosed this information when a local arthritis charity box was stolen and he offered to bring Everton over to help replace the lost cash. This is the big hearted guy we grew to love when he saved us from relegation and won Everton the cup, but he has long since lost that image as he desperately tries to lift Everton off the rocks that he has allowed them to drift onto. Due to the injury crisis and our second dreadful run of results Joe cancelled the charity match. (Cynics might say that he didn't want the part timers adding to his misery).

Despite all that has happened over the last two seasons I would ask those who have lost faith in the big man to remember him as he was and with the fans backing he may yet take Everton to the top. What is the alternative? There are few, if any, young managers with enough experience showing the potential to manage Everton and all the top managers are with successful clubs. Sunderland's Peter Reid would be the obvious choice having worked wonders at Sunderland, but didn't Joe do a similar job at Oldham? Joe has a unique record at Goodison, taking us full circle in two years. Since he became manager; saving Everton from relegation, then winning the cup and signing Andrei Kanchelskis. He then sold the struggling Russian and once again prevented us from being relegated this season (we hope). Early season title talk and hope of a European place were utter nonsense.

If Joe has learnt anything from this season it is the belated realisation that the team aren't good enough. The vote of confidence from Kenny Dalglish shows how far Everton have sunk. "Everton just need a bit of luck to be up and running again", he stated. I bet he had a good chuckle after that one. Then Nick Barmby gave Joe his backing. "This changes everything" he claimed after the Forest win. David Unsworth was another upset prior to Everton's 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive defeat stating "A win would make

everyone instantly happy again “. What a load of nonsense, Dave. Unfortunately Joe has believed these types of statements in the past. That’s why when one crisis ceases another is just around the corner. His impact at Everton this season has been as powerful as a wet lettuce falling on a bowl of jelly.

Royle’s reluctance to approach Peter Johnson for the £8 million from the Kanchelskis money doesn’t bode well for the future. What about the £10-£15 million that was supposed to be available before Andrei was sold ? Joe needs to be honest with the fans and admit to his mistakes. Stop making excuses about injuries, big name players not performing ( He can’t use that one any more now, can he ? ), and hard luck stories, for Christ’s sake stop blaming the media. It’s pointless continuing to hope like Mr. Micawber that something will turn up. He needs to make at least two new signings over the summer, a goalscoring striker, the most obvious, a creative midfielder and a couple of reliable defenders. If he continues to underachieve, then I believe that his position would become untenable. Hopefully, Joe can be highly successful in the transfer market and we can look forward to next season with genuine optimism. I’ll finish now as my son has just seen a pig land on the roof.

BLUE PETER

Andrei Kanchelskis -  
Off to Italy so that he  
can keep up his habit  
( his habit of playing  
football, of course,  
what else did you  
think we meant ? )





## SPEKE FROM THE HARBOUR SURVEY 96/7



Once again we're looking back at the season which promised so much and delivered so little. If you can spare a few minutes and don't mind photocopying this double page ( or ripping it out ) perhaps you'd like to let us know what you thought were the highs and lows of the season. You can leave it until the end of the season if you like as the results won't be published until September. Thanks very much.

1) Who was Everton's best buy this season ?

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2) Who was Everton's worst buy this season ?

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3) Who were you most pleased to see leave Goodison this season ?

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4) Who ( if anyone ) should not have been sold this season ?

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5) If you could bring one player to Everton who would it be ?

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6) Where should the manager strengthen first, defence, midfield or attack ?

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7) Who was our most promising youngster this season ?

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8) Who was your player of the season ?

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9) What was your highlight of the season ? ( Think hard )

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10) What was the low point ?

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11) Do you like the new away kit ?

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12) Should Joe Royle be sacked ? ( If yes, who should replace him ? )

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13) Should we stay at Goodison ?

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14) Any other comments about Everton ?

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15) Any other comments about Speke ?

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## WHINE, WHINGE, MOAN

Once again, the Evertonians of the world are happy. It's all gone horribly wrong. This season, I mean. We started the season as a good bet for a top six finish and Europe and we are coming to the end of it with the now familiar relegation scenario looming. It's plainly not good enough. The people in the top jobs seem to be aware of what is expected of them, but unable to deliver. Joe Royle is unable to produce a consistent style, seeming to alternate between the wonderful flowing, goalscoring football which we saw against Southampton at home to ... well, most other games this season, where we have been outclassed too many times. The departure of Andrei has not really been a factor as he didn't want to play for Everton and therefore 95% of the Blues who you speak to would agree that he had to go. The Barmby signing was obviously a good one, but why sign a skilful, ballplaying creative player and play the long ball game, thus reducing his input to the team to virtually nil? The Phelan signing looks like being a good value for money deal, with Terry showing that whereas he may not be the most talented player, he's certainly got the stomach for a fight and at least he appears to be interested. Claus Thomsen.....Claus Thomsen....why didn't we just hold onto Ebbrell or Barry Horne for that matter? What can the man do? He's got no pace, he can't pass, can't shoot and he can't even head the bloody ball. The only quality that I can think of is that of soaking up £13,000 a week. How long will a player of Duncan's quality want to play in a team full of second rate players? Are we the only squad in the four divisions without a winger? We used to have too bloody many and now we've got none. Joe Parkinson, right winger? I don't think so. Gary Speed, who is he? He's popped up with a few goals, okay, but where does he spend most Saturday afternoons? Down the hairdressers with Jamie? I don't see the bastard from one half to the next, but he's another blue eyed boy, isn't he?

If Joe had had any idea that Andrei was on his way, why didn't he hold onto Anders at least until the end of the season? The team is crying out for some inspiration. I know that it is widely believed that Joe didn't forgive Anders for ducking out of a tackle against QPR last season, but surely Joe's not so stupid as to cut off his nose to spite his face. The man is not a full-back, he's a bloody genius and one of the finest players to have ever pulled on a blue shirt. Tony Grant is promising, but still not the finished article. And what about a goalscorer? When was the last time that we had a proper goalscoring striker? You know the sort I mean, somebody who can

score when they're one on one with the goalkeeper. The answer to this rhetorical question ( eh ? - Ed. ) is Gary Lincker. Gary BLOODY Lincker, EIGHT YEARS AGO and he buggered off after one season.

What's the score with Neville as well ? The big man is still one of the top ten keepers in the country, but Joe decides to blame Neville, when it's obvious to everybody that the problems lie in the defence ( if you can call them that ). Things have got to change and they've got to change sooner rather than later.

SPIKEY

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## PROMO CORNER

We've not received as much crap as usual here at Speke in the last month or two. The previously named Promo page has therefore been reduced to a corner with the only things of any interest mentioned below:-

**Match of the Day magazine** - has seen the error of their ways and knocked their weekly issue on the head. In the first monthly issue, they are launching a phonline section which will perform a number of functions for football fans across the country. The main service being a 'lonely hearts' section, which attempts to put supporters who regularly travel to away games, but prefer not to travel by train or coach in touch with each other. Call (0181) 576 3248 for further information.

**It's a funny old game** - is a computer game for your PC. It's a tongue in cheek football management sim. The features include, randomly selected referees with different personalities, choosing sponsorship deals, training programmes and hundreds of other variables. You'll need to balance the books but still ensure that you're still getting the results on the pitch. The cartoon style graphics are really funny and the game is strong enough in its own right to provide plenty of entertainment to those of you who enjoy their football management simulations. **8 out of 10.** The game needs at least an IBM compatible 486 with 8 meg RAM, a 2X CD Rom and 5 mb on the hard drive. For further info. Contact 21<sup>st</sup> Century Entertainment on (01253) 851852 or buy it at your usual software stockists such as the HMV shop, WH Smiths and Virgin.



## THE RETURN OF QUOTE... UNQUOTE...II

A few more chances to marvel at the huge intellects on show in the world of football today.

“ The only thing that I have in common with George Best is that we come from the same place....play for the same club...and were discovered by the same man. “ - Norman Whiteside.

“ I never comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat. “ - Ron Atkinson.

“ And with 4 minutes gone, the score is already 0-0. “ - Ian Dark.

“ Strangely, in slow motion replay, the ball seemed to hang in the air for even longer. “ - David Acfield.

“ What I said at half time would be unprintable on the radio. “ - Gerry Francis.

“ If we played like this every week we wouldn't be so inconsistent. “  
- Bryan Robson

“ Newcastle, of course, unbeaten in their last five wins. “ - Brian Moore.

“ Celtic were at one time nine points ahead, but somewhere along the road, their ship went off the rails. “ - Richard Park.

“... and so they have not been able to improve on their 100% record. “  
- Sports roundup.

“ In terms of the Richter Scale this defeat was a force eight gale. “ - John Lyall.

“ And I honestly believe we can go all the way to Wembley.....unless somebody knock us out. “ - Dave Bassett.



## GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK !

What can you say about **Neville Southall M.B.E.** that hasn't been said a thousand times before ? The man was the best goalkeeper in the world for two or three years at his peak. He is quite simply irreplaceable. His list of honours, both personal and for Everton, great though they are, do not do justice to his brilliance. He is simply Neville. He's always been there. In his 16 years, he has possibly made a dozen mistakes. The reason that you notice them is that there have been so few of them. How many breathtaking saves can you remember ? How many games has he won us a point or three that we simply did not deserve ? When it comes to compiling a list of Everton greats, this man will surely only be second to William Ralph Dean. He's a man who can be talked of in the same company as Dean, he's a living legend. He's down to earth, speaks his mind, expects 100% effort from those around him and he bleeds blue blood. Goodbye Neville and good luck, we'll all miss you.

**Anders Limpar** joined Everton on the transfer deadline day of 1994 and he was always a player whom I had admired. Having been a boyhood Evertonian just made him easier to love. His career was forever beset by the 'brilliant but inconsistent' tag. I, for one, would have paid to watch the man train. His vision, pace, skill and passing ability was unmatched on his day. He'll always be remembered for the bizarre handball and dive during THE Wimbledon game at the end of the 94/95 season, but that was Anders, never predictable. He tore Spurs apart on cup semi-final day in 1995 and made two breathtaking passes during the first half of the cup final before going off injured. It was interesting to note that he was the last player to go down the tunnel that day. It was a pleasure to watch the man play in a blue shirt and I wish him all the best in whatever he does in the future. Thanks for the memories, Anders.

Everton were going to rule the world again when **Andrei Kanchelskis** eventually signed for Everton from Manchester United at the start of last season. £5.5 million seemed like a bargain for possibly the best right winger in the world. He may have been a money grabbing mercenary, but he did give us a few good days out, Sheff Wed. away & Blackburn away last season, and of course the never to be forgotten 2-0 victory at the shithole across the park. Don't remember him for the Bradford game, he was a class act and it will be a brave man who tries to fill the No. 17 shirt.



## BYE BYE GWLADYS

When next September arrives and I meander down Goodison Road to take up my usual place by St. Luke's church at around about 1 o'clock before the game, there'll be something different. It won't be immediately obvious to everybody, but I'm sure that James Corbett, David Pearson and all the people responsible for Gwladys sings the Blues will, no doubt, be feeling withdrawal symptoms.

The 1994/5 season started with a new Everton fanzine. Everybody knew about 'When Skies are Grey' and there were always a couple of dozen who found it too intellectual and decided to plump for 'Speke from the Harbour', but now there was a third reason to dig out 70p from your pocket as you made your way into the ground.

The work that goes into putting a fanzine together tends to take over your life, you see. You find yourself trying to soak up absolutely every item of Everton related news. Not that it's something you mind doing or anything new to you. It's what you've always done anyway since well before fanzines came along. It's just that now you're expected to know EVERYTHING about Everton, every rumour, every piece of transfer speculation, who we're playing on any given day and all at a second's notice.

Anyway, Jim Corbett as he was known in that first issue ( but soon changed to the slightly more formal James ) is most definitely a true Blue and through his guidance GSTB has developed into a very interesting, truly bigoted and often pessimistic fanzine in the true style of Everton fanzines. Okay, there have been editions when they've got carried away and been optimistic, but we've all been down that road before and we know that it can only lead to heartache. Whilst there have been too many good articles to mention one in particular, the high quality of the cartoons and drawings has always impressed me. The three fanzines are all very different and the only thing that I can say that I could think of which unites them, or rather their editors, is their love of a certain Swedish winger who wore the number eleven shirt until fairly recently. It will remain another JFK style whodunit as to why Joe really stopped playing him but I do know of at least three very sad men when Anders left.

Anyway, Good Luck in London/Hull, James, and just think the next time you go to a match, you might just get to see the kick off.

## PRIORITIES WRONG

The proposed move away from Goodison came as a shock initially but given time to mull it over it shouldn't have surprised anyone. The old chestnut about Peter Johnson not being a real blue will have his detractors saying he wouldn't have any interest in Everton's traditions. I hope a decision has not already been made and that the fans are given a chance to vote for or against in the form of a referendum. This is the only fair way to proceed and would show the fans that their views were being respected. I have mixed feelings between tradition and progression, stay and look back or go and look to the future ?

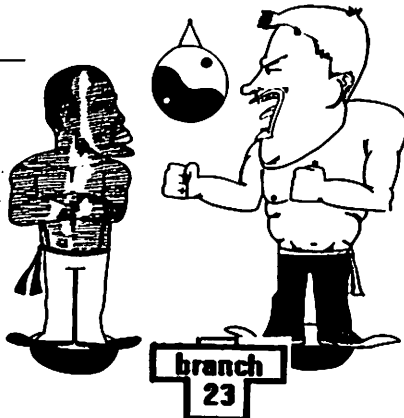
I've supported Everton since the beginning of the 60's, a period when they played beautiful football. I wonder what Johnny Carey would think of Joe's current style ? I remember well my first visit to Goodison Park as a young teenager. It was with great anticipation that I ran up the steps of the main stand eager to gaze at the greatest ground in the country. That was how it was described to me by a man I'd asked directions from earlier in the day. Nearly forty years later and mother nature has taken its toll. It is a little outdated compared to other grounds maybe, but should this debate be the main topic at this difficult time in the club's history ? What's the use in having a state of the art 60,000 seater stadium if it's going to be half full of disgruntled fans watching a mediocre side struggling in mid table ?

Surely the millions which have been allocated for a new stadium would be better spent on building a team capable of filling such a stadium. With between 30 and 40,000 regularly turning up at Goodison to watch Joe's dogs, another 20,000 would surely be attracted to watch a top three team packed with top class players. Only then should a move be considered. You don't go out and buy a Wide Screen, state of the art 28" television if you're only going to watch repeats of Steptoe and Son, do you ?

PJ

---

In the red  
corner,  
Ian Wright



---

And in the blue  
corner,  
Peter Schmeichel

## SPONSORS

Now that we have been dumped by Danka ( No surprise really.), we may have some difficulty attracting a new sponsor. We've decided to compile a shortlist for Mr. Johnson of suitable candidates.

- BRITISH RAIL** They're experts at making excuses. They could give Joe some new ones and vice versa.
- ROLO** The one with the soft centre - The Everton midfield this season.
- LADA** BMW or Mercedes are unlikely to be interested.
- BEECHAMS** Joe will need a steady supply of headache pills.
- BRITISH TELECOM** It's good to talk, but not to the media if you upset Mr. Royle.
- HEINZ** 57 different varieties- Joe's formations this season.
- VIRGIN** Perhaps Richard Branson fancies taking Joe for a trip in his balloon ?
- POLOS** The team cost a mint and yet they're still full of holes.
- COMMERCIAL UNION** They don't make a drama out of a crisis. And neither does Mr. Royle.
- ONYX UK** Used to dealing with rubbish on a regular basis.
- THE ROYAL MAIL** Promises so much, but never delivers.

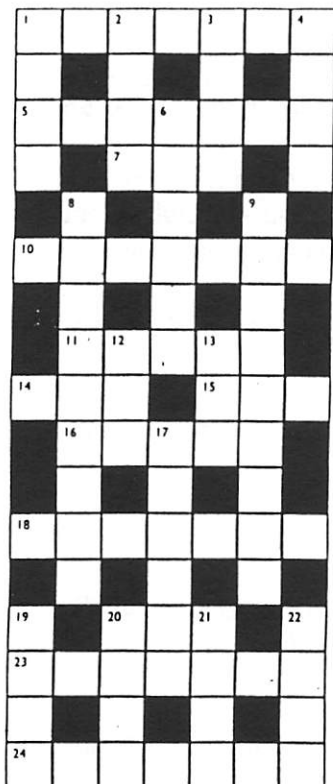
BLUE PETER

Neville Southall -  
Simply the best.





# CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1) He walked from here to Goodison and back again.(7)
- 5) The best team on Merseyside.(7)
- 7) A police department that Paul Merson may have had Trouble with when visiting the U.S.A.(1.1.1)
- 10)A small amount.(7)
- 11)Relating to morals.(5)
- 14)To do this is human.(3)

- 15)You can find rats on this.(3)
- 16)Tower like erection not seen at stadia these days.(5)
- 18)Part of equipment that refs need testing.(7)
- 20)This Robert is short.(3)
- 23)Ex red gone south.(7)
- 24)The assistants have these to convey signals.(7)

## DOWN

- 1) Require.(4)
  - 2) Sounds like Referee Mike who Leicester fans couldn't give a straw for.(4)
  - 3) Very small amount of Greek.(4)
  - 4) Diego scored one famous goal with this.(4)
  - 6) To enjoy, especially a hamburger.(6)
  - 8) The worst team on Merseyside.(9)
  - 9) What one would call a fan from the other end of the East Lincs, if one was being polite.(9)
  - 12)The name of a goal if you've got funny shaped balls.(3)
  - 13)Same sport, surname of brothers who played for Wigan.(3)
  - 17)Seems like a capital idea to have so many teams in this city.(6)
  - 19)Enquires.(3)
  - 20)George and Bruce like taking one of these.(4)
  - 21)Greek letter.(4)
  - 22)Greek Goddess.(4)
- COMPILED BY TT.**

## **SPEKE OUT**

Dear Speke,

After signing for Fiorentina, Andrei Kanchelskis gave his reasons for leaving in the form of severe criticism of Joe Royle's management, blaming the inability of those not injured to pass the ball, and the remainder only capable of thumping the ball forward hoping that Duncan would get on the end of it. While most of his criticisms were correct he neglects to mention his own loss of form and inability to provide any good crosses for the big man. Instead he selfishly shot at every available opportunity looking for personal glory, which he has continued to do even at his new club, I notice. This wouldn't have been bad had he not written an open letter to the Echo/Post thanking the fans for their support and claiming that he had not asked for a move. If you didn't ask for a move Andrei why did you leave, nobody was forcing you ?

David Kettle - Crosby

**ED: Answers on a postcard.**

Dear Speke,

Everton must stay at Goodison. I cannot stress this strongly enough. Peter Johnson must not be allowed to build a new Middlesborough type Meccanno stadium. Nothing but the best .....

Michael Jones - Prenton

Dear Speke,

Please could you explain to those Evertonians who are still undecided that it is not a question of if we should move to a new stadium it is a question of when will we have to ? I dearly love Goodison Park and I have been going there for the last 29 years, but the time is right to move on. It is impractical to stay and as long as the new stadium design befits the history of the mighty Blues I see no reason to delay any longer than is necessary. P.S. Keep up the good work on the mag.

A.Halliwall - Wigan



Dear Speke,

The idea of sharing a new ground with the shower from across the park is totally abhorrent but that's not to say that if we have only two options, one being sharing a new ground and the other being staying at old lady Goodison for another 50 + years you wouldn't really have any choice. Let's make a move now before some bastard in the Government decides that we'll have to merge Liverpool and Everton F.C., have only one ground and probably double our council tax into the bargain !

Annoyed Blue - Walton

Dear Speke,

I don't know why people have set up a campaign to stop Finch, Johnson et al from moving the Blues away from Goodison. Let's look at the facts. What the new regime want ( off the field ), they get. They aren't swayed by peoples' emotions, only one thing motivates them, cold hard cash. It's a bit like playing Monopoly to them. Johnson's just landed on Mayfair having sold Old Kent Road to Frank Corfe and he's ready to build a hotel on it.

Professor Plum - The Study

Dear Speke,

I've had enough of Royle's bullshit. The man's an underachiever. His whole mentality is first division. Samways was too creative, Limpar was too skilfull, Kanchelskis didn't want to play with a load of carthorses and who can blame him. Stuart's a bag of shite and wouldn't get into Chester's first team. Short's another Keeley in the making. Royle's tactics are not conducive to getting the best out of Barmby. He's still not bought a bloody goalscorer, hoping that some 18 year old kid would turn out to be the next Robbie Fowler ( excuse me ), He's treated Southall disgracefully, choosing to focus the media away from his own inadequacies and turn them onto a man who's boots he's not fit to clean. You may have been a great player, Joe but you'll never be anything more than a second rate manager.

B.Gale - Childwall



Dear Speke,

After the disgrace that was the Bradford game, there was a lot of calls for Joe Royle to be sacked. Now I am definitely a Joe Royle fan, so I am going to support him. Firstly, why should Peter Johnson sack Joe Royle ?

It is only just over two years since Royle took over and who can say that we haven't made progress in that time ? What would have happened if Howard Kendall had been sacked so early into his managerial career ? Do we really want the Man City syndrome of 28 managers in 20 years ? We need stability. Also, who would take over ? Peter Reid would be too honourable to break his contract at Sunderland, Bobby Robson - too old. So who could we get who was any better ?

Admittedly the signings that Joe has made have been varied. They can be split into three groups. The good - Duncan, Earl Barratt ( Our best defender this season ), Nick Barmby and obviously Andrei. Also Craig Short and Gary Speed could be seen as good squad men. The worst was undoubtedly Marc Hottiger and the jury are still out on Thomsen, Phelan and Gerrard. One good point is that Joe is not afraid to promote youth - Grant, Branch, O'Connor, Allen, Hills and Dunne have all made their debuts under Joe which shows that he is not afraid to take risks.

Admittedly there are question marks over certain players and on occasions the formations he has used have been wrong, but overall Joe Royle is still the best man for the job.

Blue Cestrian - Sheffield

Dear Speke,

I suppose that you have to credit the Everton management with thinking big regarding the proposed move to a new stadium. The same can't be said of their forward thinking regarding the team. We have become something of a joke in the transfer market. I thought that Everton would have learnt long ago. ( Chris Sutton etc. ) that they have to at least match opposing teams terms when trying to buy players. Mark Schwarzer's decision to choose bottom club Middlesborough in preference to Everton being the latest example. What chance do we have of signing world class players when we are even being snubbed by second rate players such as Schwarzer ?

Peter F - Lisburn



**Ed: To be fair to Everton on this occasion, I do think that it was the immediate guarantee of first team football that swung it for Schwarzer. However, like yourself, I am waiting with baited breath for the announcement of our next, new ' world class ' signing.**

Dyvd Snzxp,

kjhd szadlkjh qwwqefiuh djadsa qpilyhb fwuhhu wwdun cdc kmkmoo  
azopewg wurino iwvo wriwfv wpiu qqe etal tqequ ijijioi s;icfrwq kmie ew  
cqwlmpvcs hubyge ojhr iugutf uylv.

Kiionh Drrvkmk - Ndsuhbeqo

**Ed: Thank you very much, Mr Dalglish. And good luck in your new job. Nice to see that you stuck by your promise of never going back into football management because the pressure was too great.**

Dear Speke,

I was most angry at the treatment of Neville Southall, as he nears the end of a most illustrious career. Making him the scapegoat for the most recent crisis was despicable, but typical of Joe Royle. It's always someone else's fault, even the media have been to blame this season. It should not be forgotten that if it hadn't been for the brilliance of Big Nev throughout the last 2 or 3 seasons at Everton, that Royle may have been remembered for something other than a cup win. In his prime Neville was arguably the best keeper in the world. Over the years he's propped up some very shaky defences and it would be fitting if he was allowed to finish his Goodison career with some dignity.

Blue Peter - N.Ireland

**Ed: This letter is one of many on a similar theme. It is a sentiment that every true supporter would echo. Please, Mr. Royle, Mr. Johnson or whoever's running the club this week, ensure that his last season at the club is not spoiled by behaviour on your part undeserving of his legendary status.**



DeerSpeek,

ErrrIdunnnowotappenedtodelads.....like.....butIjustgessdatdeerrrrrlikew  
erentgoodenuff.....an.....errrrr.....butwerstillinwidashoutlike...  
.....errrrr.....anBarnseyerrrrrrrrrr.....Jamieerrrrrrrrrr.....  
butthattwatCollymoreeeccanbuggeroffthebrummieget.

Mr. R. Evans - A field

Dear Speke,

I am writing to you in total disbelief at what has happened to Everton F.C. since Christmas. The sale of Kanchelskis is the last straw for me, coming less than a month after Limpar's departure, two of our few class players at the club. All right Andrei may not have had a great season, but who has for Everton ? As for those losers who were booing him at the Bradford match, what about the likes of Barrett, Unsworth and Stuart to name but a few ? I suppose those fans want to go back to the Ebbrells and Rideouts of this world, the dogs of war. Also on a local radio phone in, one fan accused Kanchelskis of being greedy and taking wild swipes at the ball, but they didn't complain about last season's sixteen wild swipes did they ? Now onto Joe " We'll get it right " Royle. Well, I have missed one game in the nineties, but I will not be returning until Royle has gone. I mean just how many more chances is he going to get ? Bradford was not a one off. It's now four times that we have lost to lower league opposition under Royle. If you throw in home draws against Stockport and York it doesn't make pretty reading.

I can honestly see Everton going like Man City. Next season won't even be playing in Europe, whilst our two biggest rivals will probably be playing in the Champions league. Our average gate will drop to about 25,000, yet according to Royle and Johnson we are moving in the right direction. Let's get Peter Reid here before it's too late. He got Sunderland promoted with no money and they try to play football. But he won't come here if we get relegated and it could happen. There are three places up for grabs and right now Everton are bad enough.

C. Hughes - Norris Green

Dear Speke,

I know that Cheers finished a while ago and that the guy who played Sam Malone has only managed to make a couple of crappy films about men and babies or something but did he have to choose Goodison to embark on his new career in refereeing ? The Everton performance was bad enough without having that blind bastard in charge.

Mally - Mossley Hill

**Ed:** I don't think that even if Diane Chambers had been in charge it would have made any difference to the score that day.

Dear Speke,

Could somebody please answer me a few questions. Marc Hottiger, why ? Claus Thomsen, why ? David Unsworth, why ? and Joe Royle, why ?

S.T. Wells - Waterloo

**Ed:** Let me answer your questions in the order that you asked them.

1.) Cheap clocks. 2.) Good discounts on bacon. 3.) He played for England once, you know. 4.) Smashing Everton striker of the late 60's and early 70's.

Thanks for the bumper post bag. Sorry if your letter wasn't printed, but please keep them coming in for the next issue. The best letter prize of the forever Everton CD goes to Dave Kettle. P.S. I've got a Newcastle United CD freebie to give away to the first person who writes in and tells me the last time Newcastle won the league.  
**HAPPY 29<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY JOLL, YOU OLD BASTARD !!!!**

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### SPEKE FROM THE HARBOUR - FANTASY LEAGUE TABLE

POS	MANAGER	TEAM NAME	POINTS
1.	PHIL RATHE	SOUNESS MUST STAY	189
2.	DANNY JONES	MAYONNAISE LOBOTOMY	159
3.	SPIKEY	SPIKEY'S SAUSAGES	158
4.	MARK STANIFORD	IT'S UP FOR GRABS NOW	122



## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



MEL C, EMMA, MEL B, GERI, VICKI



STEVIE, PHIL, MARK, JASON, JAMIE