

**Blackburn Rovers Players From 1880's to 1990's**  
**Rovers Players During the 1970s**

**BEN ARENTOFT**



Born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1942 he moved to Scotland in 1965 to join Morton. In 1969 he joined Newcastle United for £18,000 and made 59 appearances including being in their UEFA Cup winning team in 1969. A small but stocky midfielder/full-back/centre-half who read the game well and got four Danish caps. He joined the Rovers in 1971 for £15,000 and struggled at first with Third Division football, where he became the left-back with skills to use the ball well and for two seasons was a constant player in the Rovers team but was released by Gordon Lee in 1974 after making 108 first team appearances and retired.

**JIM ARNOLD**



Born in Stafford in 1950 he first joined Stafford Rangers, a Non-League side. He was signed by the Rovers in 1979 for £25,000 as a goalkeeper. A former England semi-professional goalkeeper who had no league experience aged 29 signed by Howard Kendall due to his success in non-league football. Soon after his arrival he took over the goalkeeper position from John Butcher in the First Team. As a keeper he was always very calm under pressure, with good handling and positional skills. Jim made 72 first team appearances for the Rovers before leaving to join Everton.

### **JOHN ASTON**



Born in Manchester in 1947 he first joined Manchester United as an apprentice in 1963 turning professional in 1964. He later joined Luton Town in 1972, then Mansfield town in 1977 signing for the Rovers in 1978. As a former Manchester United star and member of other teams before he joined the Rovers later in his career signed by Jim Ilay. His main position was on the left-wing and he used his speed to beat defenders but had lost pace by the time he played for the Rovers. In total he only made 17 First Team league appearances due to loss of form scoring two goals before retiring from the game in 1980.

### **JOHN BAILEY**



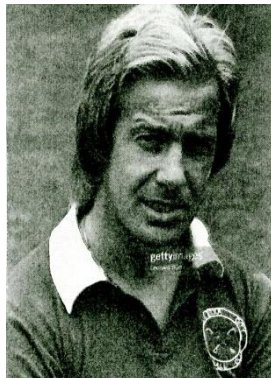
Born in Liverpool in 1957 he first played for junior teams and joined the Rovers in 1975 after being turned down by Everton, playing first in youth and reserve teams. He made his debut in the First Team in the 1975/76 season and became the teams left-full-back. John was an attacking full-back linking well with David Wagstaffe on the left wing. A strong defender and tackler, popular with the fans and he made a total of 129 first team appearances before joining Everton in 1979 for £30,000. He went on to gain England B honours and later joined Newcastle United in 1985 for £80,000 and then Bristol city in 1988. He retired in 1992.

### **KEN BEAMISH**



Born in Beddington in 1947 he first joined Tranmere Rovers in 1966 and by 1972 had joined Brighton and Hove Albion. He moved to the Rovers in 1974 for a fee of £25,000 signed by Gordon Lee. As a forward he had a good first season, linking with Don Martin and as inside-forward became a crowd pleaser with a nickname "Beamo". However, his finishing in front of goal began to let him down but did help the Rovers win the Third Division Championship in 1975. He left the Rovers in 1976 to join Port Vale for £10,000, then later to Bury in 1978 for £30,000, Tranmere in 1979 and Swindon Town in 1981 and went on to be their coach and manager. At the Rovers he made 98 first team appearances scoring 26 goals. he later became Rovers Commercial Manager in 1986.

### **ALAN BIRCHENALL**



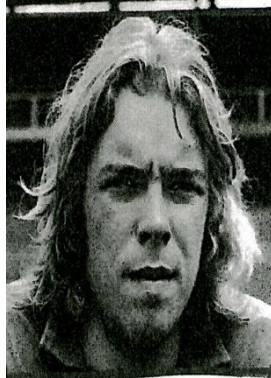
Born in East Ham, London in 1945 he was a mid-fielder formerly with Sheffield United who he joined in 1963 and Chelsea who he had joined in 1967 for £100,000. He moved on to Crystal Palace in 1970 for £100,000, Leicester City in 1971 and Notts County 1977, before moving to the USA and joining the fledgling football league playing with Memphis Rogues in 1978. The Rovers manager Jim Iley brought him to the club in 1978, four days before he was sacked, during a period when Rovers were struggling. He was aged 33 when he joined the Rovers and was seen as a short-term solution to the midfield but couldn't stop Rovers being relegated. He made a total of 19 first team league appearances before leaving in 1979 to join Luton, then on to Hereford United the same year.

### **DAVID BRADFORD**



Born in Manchester in 1953 he was signed by the Rovers as an apprentice in 1969 turning professional in 1971. As an 18-year-old he made his league debut for the new manager Ken Furphy at the start of the 1971/72 season with Gerry McDonald. He later played with the experienced Terry Garbett in midfield. He had good passing skills and described by manager Ken Furphy as the "First Million Pound Player". However, he lost form and when Gordon Lee took over lost his place. A mid-field player he made a total of 67 first team league appearances scoring three goals. He left the club in 1974 to join Sheffield United, then Peterborough United in 1976, West Bromwich Albion in 1977, Detroit Express, USA in 1978, Coventry City in 1981, then several USA sides before finally moving to Rossendale United in 1985.

### **PAUL BRADSHAW**



Born in Altringham in the Manchester area he joined the Rovers as an apprentice schoolboy in 1971, turning professional in 1973. As a goalkeeper he moved up into the reserves for several years making odd first team appearances. Paul was an England Youth International and gained four England under21 caps. A tall goalkeeper who got into the First Team when he was just 17 due to an injury to Roger Jones. He had a safe pair of hands and was already a good keeper and in 1976/77 he became the regular keeper. Paul as a result attracted other clubs especially Wolverhampton Wanderers who signed him in 1977 for £140,000, later he moved to Vancouver White Caps, Canada in 1984, then West Bromwich Albion in 1985, Newport County 1987, West Bromwich Albion again in 1988 and Peterborough United in 1990.

### **JIM BRANAGAN**



Born in Barton in the Manchester area in 1955 he first played for Oldham Athletic in 1973, Cape Town City in 1977, then Huddersfield Town before joining the Rovers in 1979 from their reserve team by Howard Kendall for £20,000 forming a formidable back four with Glen Keeley, Derek Fazackerley and Mick Rathbone. A strong no-nonsense defender honest and hardworking and being tall could cover the centre of defence so popular with the fans and was a member of the Rovers team that won the Full Members Cup in 1982. As a right-full-back he made 334 first team league appearances for the Rovers before leaving to join Preston North End in 1987 and then York City the same year.

### **NOEL BROTHERSTON**



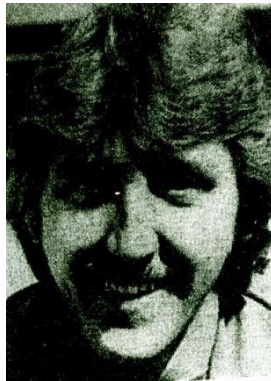
Born in Belfast in 1956 he first joined Tottenham Hotspur in 1972 as a junior, turning professional in 1974 making his debut in 1976. He was released on a free transfer and joined the Rovers in 1977 and made a good start scoring 11 goals as a winger. Noel was a tricky winger relying in skill to beat defenders. In total he made 27 first team appearances for Northern Ireland. During the later period of his time at the Rovers he moved back to half-back but was held back by injuries and in 1987 left the club to join Bury and later joined Motola, a Swedish club in 1989 ending his career at Chorley in 1990.

### **ANDY BURGIN**



Born in Sheffield in 1947 he first joined Sheffield Wednesday as an apprentice in 1962 turning professional in 1964, then Rotherham United in 1967 then on to Halifax Town in 1968. He was signed for the Rovers at left-back by Gordon Lee in 1974 to strengthen the back four but also played half-back and was a player hard to beat. Andy left the Rovers in 1977 and retired from the game after making 53 first team league appearances after a freak leg accident ending his career.

### **JOHN BUTCHER**



Born in Newcastle in 1956 he joined the Rovers as a junior in 1974, turning professional in 1976. He made his way through the ranks as a tall slim player ideal for a goaler but failed to make the grade due to inconsistency. John played regularly in the Central League side and provided cover for the first team where a succession of able goalkeepers kept him back. In 1982 he left the Rovers to join Oxford United after making 122 first team appearances. He moved to Chester in 1984, Altringham in 1987 and finally Macclesfield Town in 1989.



### **BRYAN CONLON**



Born in Shildon in 1943 he first joined Newcastle United in 1961, South Shields in 1962 Darlington 1964, where he had the most success, Millwall in 1967 then on to Norwich City in 1967 and arrived at the Rovers in 1970 as part of a swap deal in exchange for Malcolm Darling. He was a tall, experienced, and powerful centre-forward but had not had a lot of success previously. He was not a consistent goal scorer and when at the Rovers he couldn't provide the goals they needed. Bryan was signed by Eddie Quigley at a time when the club were struggling financially, later under Furphy he was used a central defender. In total he made 48 first team appearances before leaving in 1972 to join Cambridge United, then Hartlepool the same year and finally Shildon Athletic in 1974.

### **RUSSELL COUGHLIN**



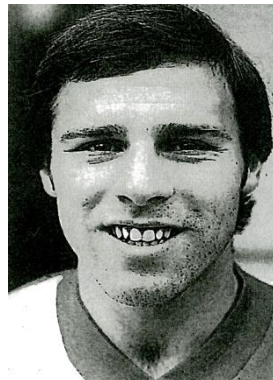
Born in Swansea in 1960 he first joined Manchester City as an amateur in 1976 turning professional in 1978. He was signed by the Rovers in 1979 for £40,000 by Howard Kendall. As a utility midfield player, the forward was little used in the first team apart from cover playing mostly in the reserves. In total he made only 25 first team appearances before moving on in 1980 to join Carlisle United for £20,000, then on to Plymouth Argyl in 1984 for £20,000, then Blackpool in 1987 for £75,000, Swansea City in 1990 and finally Exeter City in 1993

### **JOE CRAIG**



Born in Bridge of Allam, in Stirlingshire, Scotland in 1954. He first joined Partick Thistle in 1972 and then Glasgow Celtic for a fee of £60,000 in 1976. Joe was signed by the Rovers in 1978 for £40,000 following the sacking of manager Jim Iley. He was a centre-forward who had been in the Scottish squad gaining a cap in 1977 and was highly thought of as a hard-working centre-forward. In the Celtic team he had linked up well with Kenny Dalglish in 1976/77. At the Rovers he found goals difficult to get and failed to impress in a struggling team. In total he made 53 first team appearances scoring 11 goals before moving on to Hamilton Academicals in 1981, then Cowdenbeath as a coach in 1985, then manager in 1986 and then Airdrieonians coach in 1988.

### **ANDY CRAWFORD**



Born in Filey in 1959 he first joined Derby County as an apprentice moving up to the reserve side in the Central league. He turned professional in 1979 and was signed by the Rovers for £50,000 in 1979 as an inside-forward with little first team experience. However, due to the skills of Kendal and McKenzie in creating openings he soon made key scoring goals for the team and helped the team gain promotion from League Three. At the start of the 1980/81 season however, he asked for a transfer but there were no takers. By the following season he only featured rarely and was transferred to Bournemouth in 1981 for £40,000 and later to Middlesbrough in 1983, then Stockport County in 1984 and finally Torquay United in 1985. In total he only made 68 first team appearances for the Rovers and scored 26 goals



### **BARRY ENDEAN**



Born in Chester-Le-Street, Durham in 1946 he first joined Watford in 1968, then moved on to Charlton Athletic for £11,000 and signed for the Rovers in 1971 by Ken Furphy as part of a swap deal for Eamonn Rogers. He was a centre-forward, well- built and strong providing more power to the forward line. Barry took time to score goals and get regular first team games although a very willing player who always fought for the ball which led to Ken Furphy to move him at times to mid-field but later lost his first team place. In total he made 73 first team appearances scoring 18 goals before leaving in 1975 to join Huddersfield Town then later moved to Workington in 1975 and finally Hartlepool in 1976.

### **DEREK FAZACKERLEY**



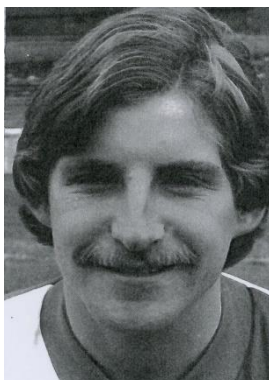
Derek was born in Preston in 1951 and joined the Rovers at youth level as an apprentice in 1969 turning professional in 1970 and making his first team debut in 1971 when the club were struggling. The fans called him “Faz” and recognized the tall strong defender’s skills. He was a good header of the ball along with strong tackling skills and the speed to quickly recover. As a team player he mainly played a sweeper role alongside centre-halves such as McNamee, Hawkins and especially Glenn Keeley. In 1979 he was nearly sold to Oldham Athletic for £60,000 but opted to stay with the Rovers and new manager Howard Kendall. In total he made a record breaking 686 first team appearances scoring 26 goals. He was allowed to leave and take up a player-manager post at Chester City in 1987 and in 1988 he joined York City and then Bury in 1988. In 1990 he became reserve-team coach at Newcastle United then first team coach in 1992 later moving to Manchester City as a coach and has continued to be involved in football since.

### **TONY FIELD**



Tony was born in Halifax in 1946 and first joined the town team club in 1963 then moved on to Barrow in 1966 and then Southport in 1968. He was signed by the Rovers in 1971 by Ken Furphy in exchange for Freddie Goodwin and £17,500 in cash to help the Rovers after relegation to the Third Division. An inside-forward who became Rovers leading goal-scorer. A fast player who had the skill to go on runs past players and finish with a lethal shot becoming a consistent scorer. In 1974 he was allowed to join Sheffield United for £75,000 joining up with Ken Furphy again and joined him again in the USA with New York Cosmos in 1976 and finally moved to Memphis Rogues in 1978.

### **MARTIN FOWLER**



Martin was born in York in 1957 and first joined Huddersfield Town as an apprentice in 1972 and turning professional in 1974 before joining the Rovers in 1978 signed by Jim Iley along with Peter Morris as the club moved for more youngsters when they were struggling. An enthusiastic, hardworking midfield defender, he played in the reserves and provided cover for the first team especially for Stuart Metcalfe. In total he made 43 first team appearances before moving to Stockport County in 1980

### **TERRY GARBETT**



Born in Lanchester, Durham in 1945 he first joined Middlesborough in 1963, then Watford in 1965 as an attacking midfielder and was signed by the Rovers in 1971 by Ken Furphy for £16,000 to help the side just relegated to the Third Division. A tall, well-built half-back he found it difficult scoring goals despite scoring goals freely at Watford. He was let go in 1974 by the new manager Gordon Lee and joined Sheffield United after making 103 first team appearances scoring 7 goals for £30,000, then on to New York Cosmos, USA in 1976.

### **SIMON GARNER**



Born in Boston in 1959 he joined the Rovers on schoolboy forms in 1976 and made his debut as a professional in 1978 in a league cup match at Exeter. Originally, he played in midfield but during Bob Saxton's time as manager he was moved to inside-forward at number 10. His pace and power gave him the edge with defenders particularly if they made a mistake and his lethal shooting meant he topped Rovers scoring records. He was a member of Rovers Full Members Cup winning team in 1987 and remained loyal to the club through good and bad times and had a testimonial year in 1988. In total he made 534 first team appearances and scored 194 goals, a club record. He left the club in 1992 to join Ossie Ardiles at West Bromwich Albion for £30,000, then on to Wycombe Wanderers in 1994.

### **FRED GOODWIN**



Born in Stockport in 1944 he first joined Wolverhampton wanderers in 1959 turning professional in 1961, then his hometown Stockport County in 1966. He joined the Rovers in 1970 signed by Eddie Quigley as a utility defender at half and full-back as the club fought relegation. In total he made 68 first team appearances, scoring four goals before leaving for Southport in 1971 in an exchange deal for Tony Field, then on to Port Vale in 1972, Macclesfield in 1974 and Stockport County the same year.

### **DAVID HARGREAVES**



Born in Accrington in 1954 he first signed for his hometown non-league Accrington Stanley where he had a good record for scoring goals. He was brought to the Rovers by Jim Smith in 1977 as a utility forward aged 23. However, his progress into the first team was plagued by injuries and the signing of John Radford before making two first team appearances in 1978 so he played almost exclusively in the reserves. He then left and returned to Accrington Stanley.

### **GRAHAM HAWKINS**



Born in Darlaston in 1946 he first joined Wolverhampton Wanderers as an apprentice youth in 1962 and turned professional in 1963 and progressed into the First Team. He left to join Preston North End where he had regular First Team action after they signed him in 1968. Graham made 250 first team appearances for Preston as a defender mostly centre half. Gordon Lee signed him from Preston in 1974 as an experienced defender for £18,000 to complete a dominant defence. He was tall and well built and a powerful header of the ball and never pulled out of a challenge as a leader of the defence. He was a member of the side that won the Third Division Championship. Over time he began to suffer injuries and was replaced by Glen Keeley and Derek Fazakerley. In 1978 he left to join Port Vale having made 130 first team appearances. Later he became a coach at the Rovers, Stoke City and assistant manager at Shrewsbury Town, manager at Wolves in 1982 and then Rovers main scout in 1990.

### **MICK HEATON**



Born in Sheffield in 1947 he first joined his hometown club Sheffield United in 1962 as an apprentice. He turned professional in 1964 then progressed to the Central League side. He was signed by the Rovers in 1971 by Ken Furphy for £7,000 and was put straight in the first team as right full-back. As he always gave his best and never gave up, he was made captain. Mick was a speedy, attacking full back and although small he had a high work rate. At the peak of his playing career, he got a serious injury in December 1975 and despite great efforts at a comeback he left to open a sports shop. Howard Kendall brought him back in 1978 as coach and took him to Everton when he moved. After stints at the Rovers, he re-joined Kendall at Manchester City in 1990. He made 192 first team appearances for the Rovers.

### **MIKE HICKMAN**



Born in Elstead in 1946 he first joined Brighton and Hove Albion as an amateur in 1963, turning professional in 1965, then joined Grimsby Town in 1968 and was signed by the Rovers in their centenary year, 1975, just after they had gained promotion to the Second Division by Gordon Lee for £10,000. He was a robust centre-forward and a very hard worker who helped put pressure on the opposing defence and was quite capable of causing them to make errors. However, his stay at Ewood was short lived as he left later in 1975 after a dispute with the manager Bodell to join Torquay United for £2,500 after making only 29 first team appearances and scoring eight goals and later became a trainer there.

### **PAT HILTON**



Born in Aylesham in 1954 he first joined Canterbury City, then Brighton and Hove Albion in 1973 before signing for the Rovers in 1974 by Gordon Lee who brought in several new players as the new manager. A utility outside-left and winger who liked to run at the defence but struggled on heavy pitches, he was used as cover, playing in the reserves making a total of 21 first team appearances scoring two goals before leaving to join Gillingham in 1975 for £3,000, then on to Southend in 1977, Dover 1978, Folkestone 1980, ending as youth team manager at Gillingham.



### **KEVIN HIRD**



Born in Colne in 1955 he joined the Rovers youth team as an apprentice in 1970, turning professional in 1973 and progressed to the Central League and by 1975 he was in the first team as a right-half. He was a swift, powerful player who could become an attacking winger. During Jim Smiths managerial stint he was converted to right-full-back due to injuries to the full-back, pairing him with John Bailey. Kevin proved to be a good attacking full-back with a powerful shot. Eventually his talents attracted Leeds to pay £357,000 for him in 1979. He left Leeds in 1984 before joining Burnley in 1984, then onto Colne Dynamos in 1986 and Barnoldswick in 1991.

### **BOBBY HOY**



Born in Halifax in 1950 he first joined Huddersfield Town as an amateur in 1966 turning professional in 1967 and was signed by the Rovers in 1975 as a utility direct winger for £5,000. However, he found it difficult breaking into the first team spending most time with the reserves in the Central League. In total he only made 15 first team appearances for the club before leaving in 1976 to join Halifax Town, then York City in 1977 and Rochdale the same year.

### **DON HUTCHINS**



Born in Middlesborough in 1948 he first joined Leicester City in 1966 then Plymouth Argyl in 1969 before signing for the Rovers in 1972. Signed by Ken Furphy after the Rovers had been relegated to the Third Division as a utility outside-left attacker but never achieved the same form and goal scoring as he did at Plymouth. He only made the First Team on 40 occasions scoring six goals before moving on to Bradford City in 1974.

### **ROGER JONES**



Born in Upton-on-Seven in 1946 he first joined Portsmouth as an apprentice goalkeeper in 1963 turning professional in 1964 and reaching the reserve team. He then moved to Bournemouth in 1965 and became a regular first team member and highly rated but was signed by the Rovers in 1970 for £30,000 by Eddie Quigley to replace Adam Blacklaw. Whilst at the Rovers he broke the record for goalkeeper appearances and was regarded as one of the club's best keepers. His high-level judgement of crosses and dominance of his box included making many excellent saves. Whilst at Bournemouth he achieved an England Under 23 cap and a Third Division Championship win in 1975 with the Rovers. On leaving in 1976 after having a knee injury in 1974, which he overcame, he joined Stoke City after making 277 first team appearances for the Rovers. He later moved on to Derby County in 1980 for £30,000 and finally York City in 1982 for £5,000 later becoming coach there and finally coach at Sunderland.

### **GLEN KEELEY**



Born in Barking, Essex in 1954 he first joined Ipswich Town as an apprentice in 1970 turning professional in 1972 playing as a centre-half where he established himself before moving on to Newcastle United in 1974 but found it difficult getting real progress and was signed by the Rovers in 1976 for £30,000. On arrival he first faced competition from Hawkins, Waddington and Fazakerley, the clubs existing centre-backs. As a tall man he was dominant in the air, and he was also a strong tackler. Howard Kendall made him the lynch pin of his defensive set up. When Kendall left to join Everton, he took him on loan, but it didn't work out, so he returned to Ewood and became Rover's captain leading the club to the 1987 Full Members Cup Final. Glen gained a testimonial in 1987. He left the club in the same year to join Oldham Athletic for £15,000, then later Bolton Wanderers in 1988 and finally Chorley in 1989 and Clitheroe in 1991.

### **HOWARD KENDALL**



Born in Ryton-on-Tyne in 1946 he first joined Preston North End as an apprentice in 1961, turning professional in 1963, then moved on to Everton in 1967 for £80,000, Birmingham City in 1974 and then Stoke City in 1977 for £40,000 and was an experienced skilful half-back who was both powerful and a leader. In 1979 the Rovers appointed him as player-manager although lacking experience as a manager even though he had been player-coach at Stoke. On arrival at Ewood the team was very down following relegation and over time he moulded a new team with Jim Arnold in goal, Stuart Parker as centre-forward and defenders Jim Branagan and Andy Crawford helping to turn the club's fortunes round with himself commanding and organising the half-back line but lack of a consistent forward line limited real progress. Howard's playing days were most successful at Everton forming a half-back trio with Ball and Harvey. As a player with the Rovers, he made 96 first team appearances scoring seven goals before leaving in 1981 to manage Everton, taking over from Gordon Lee,

then on to manage Athletic Bilbao (Spain) in 1987, then on to manage Manchester City in 1989 then back to manage Everton 1990-1993.

#### **JOHN KENYON**



Born in Blackburn in 1953 he first joined Great Harwood before being signed as a youngster by Ken Furphy in 1972 as a utility forward. As a result, he played mostly in the Central League and was brought into the First Team mostly as cover. A regular scorer in the reserves but apart from the 1973/74 season made little progress in the First Team. He left the club in 1976 to join Wigan Athletic then later Great Harwood. In total he made 46 first team appearances scoring seven goals.

#### **JIMMY KERR**



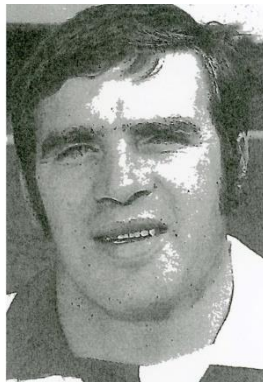
Born in Glasgow in 1949 he first joined Bury in 1966 and became a successful midfielder. Eddie Quigley decided to sign the talented young midfielder to boost the Rovers squad in 1970 paying Bury the substantial sum of £65,000. Rated highly before he arrived at Ewood, a knee injury in pre-season held him back in the 1970/71 season, then after he returned to the side it flared up again and proved fatal to his career. This meant he only made 11 first team appearances for the Rovers by 1971 and then left to become the youth coach at Coventry City.

### **DUNCAN MCKENZIE**



Born in Grimsby in 1950 and first joined Nottingham Forest in the late 1967 as an amateur turning professional in 1968 where he established himself as a very skilful midfielder or inside-forward. He then moved to Leeds with his manager, Brian Clough, in 1974. From there he moved on to Anderlecht in 1976 before being signed by Billie Bingham for Everton in 1976 and then in 1978 joined Chelsea. With Rovers facing relegation to the Third Division, he was signed by John Pickering in 1979 for £80,000 and went on to play for Howard Kendall. His attacking skills showed up well in the Third Division as he was a skilful dribbler turning defenders inside out and could open up defences, however, he failed to make long term progress after 94 first team appearances scoring 25 goals and moved to the U.S.A. to play for Tulsa Roughnecks in 1981.

### **JOHN MCNAMEE**



Born in Coatbridge in 1941 he first joined Glasgow Celtic in 1959 but made few appearances before moving on to Hibernian in 1964. In 1966 he signed for Newcastle United for £26,000 then on to the Rovers in 1971. A rugged, rough, experienced centre-half he was signed by Ken Furphy to bring stability to the defence as he was a good organiser who could lift the defence and help the younger players such as Fazakerley. He was given a free transfer to join Hartlepool in 1973 after making 57 first team appearances and scoring 10 goals. Later he became manager of Workington in 1975.

### **BOBBY MITCHELL**



Born in south Shields in 1955 in the North-East he joined Sunderland as a half-back. In 1976 he was signed by Jim Smith as a utility cover for half-back and forward positions. As a result, he helped the team covering for injured players or coming on as substitute in games. In total he made 23 first team appearances with an additional 14 appearances as substitute and scored Six goals before leaving in 1978 to join Grimsby Town, then on to Carlisle United in 1982, Rotherham United in 1983 moving to Malta in 1985 and finally playing at Lincoln City in 1986.

### **BRIAN MORLEY**



Brian was born in Fleetwood in 1960 and joined the Rovers from school as an apprentice and turned professional in 1978 after advancing through the youth teams and into the reserves. As a left-back he reached the first team in 1979 after John Bailey left as the teams left-back but he didn't make progress and from then on was only used sparingly in the first team as cover. In total he only made 27 first team appearances and left the club in 1981 to join Tranmere Rovers.



### **PETER MORRIS**



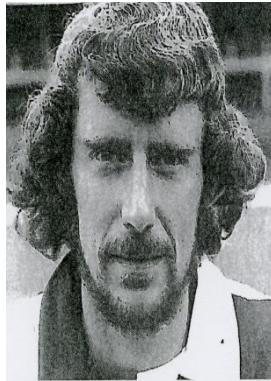
Born in Farnsworth, Lancashire in 1958 he first joined Preston North End in 1976 before being signed by the Rovers as a utility outside-left player in 1978 by Jim Iley when things were going badly for the club. A fast winger held back by existing wingers including Wagstaff and John Aston but when he had the opportunity in the First Team he struggled as the team struggled in the league. However, he was given few opportunities and only made Two First Team appearances and two as substitute before being released by the club in 1980.

### **JIMMY MULLEN**



Born in Oxford in 1947 he first joined Oxford City, then Reading in 1966, Charlton Athletic in 1967, then joined Rotherham United in 1969 and was signed by the Rovers in 1974 by Gordon Lee as an outside left with experience and was there when the Rovers won the Third Division Championship. An experienced winger who unfortunately struggled with injuries. As a result, he made little progress getting in the First Team with only eight First Team appearances and four as substitute before leaving to join Bury in 1976, then Rochdale in 1977.

### **KIT NAPIER**



Kit was born in Dunblane, Scotland in 1943 and became a much travelled, experienced forward. He first joined Blackpool in 1960, then Preston North End in 1963, Workington 1964, Newcastle United 1965 and finally Brighton and Hove Albion in 1966. He had been a regular goal scorer mostly in lower divisions and Rovers signed him from Brighton in 1972 when Ken Furphy wanted more power in the forward line. A tall, thin striker who had fancy footwork but failed to impress at a higher level. In total he made 63 first team appearances scoring 13 goals before moving on when released in 1974.

### **ANDY NEEDHAM**



Andy was born in Oldham in 1955 and first joined Birmingham City in 1971 as an apprentice turning professional in 1973 then Jim Smith signed him for the Rovers as a utility centre-forward in 1976 when the club were struggling. A tall centre-forward he made little progress at the club only making seven First Team appearances and two as substitute before leaving to join Aldershot in 1977 then later Chester City in 1979

### **GRAHAM OATES**



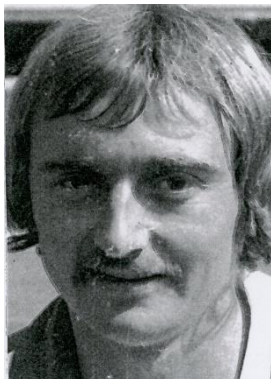
Graham was born in Bradford in 1949 and first joined his hometown Bradford City in 1970. He then moved to the Rovers in 1974 for £15,000 plus a player exchange signed by Rovers new manager, Gordon Lee to bolster his defence as he was a talented midfielder. As a player he could adapt to play different positions from full-back to left-half (his best position) and even in attack. A tall player who was a good header and a hard tackler who proved to be a good buy for the Rovers and a key player in their promotion from the Third Division in 1975. In total he made 91 first team appearances scoring 13 goals before the lure of first Division Newcastle United caused him to move there in 1976, later moving to Detroit Express (U.S.A) in 1978, then California Surf in 1981 and finally Gainsborough Trinity in 1988.

### **JOHN O'MARA**



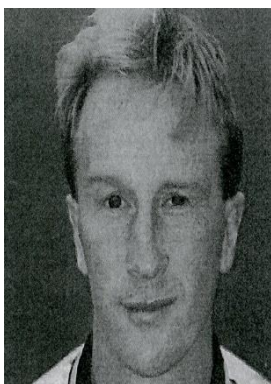
John was born in Bolton in 1947 and first joined Gillingham in 1964, then Wimbledon in 1968 and onto Brentford in 1971. Ken Furphy signed him for £30,000 from Brentford in 1972 as an experienced centre-forward who was a tall and burly striker who was attracting a lot of attention from other clubs. At the Rovers he made a slow start before finding his scoring boots and scoring well but didn't stay long and left after only making 36 First Team appearances and scoring 12 goals to join Chelmsford City in 1974, then later Bradford City in the same year.

### **TONY PARKES**



Tony was born Sheffield in 1949 and first joined non-league Buxton Town as a centre-forward. He was signed by the Rovers in 1970 but struggled at centre-forward then Ken Furphy moved him to midfield where he found his game. A hard-working player with non-stop running and good tackling skills who could also take the play forward whenever he got the chance. Over his career he proved to be a formidable asset to the club and its defence. He was a member of the promotion sides in 1975 and 1980. In 1981 he broke his leg which ended his career as a player in 1982 having made a massive 404 first team appearances and scoring 46 goals. He continued as a coach at the Rovers and caretaker manager on more than one occasion and became assistant manager to Don Mackay. Tony had a Testimonial in 1982 and then went on to manage Blackpool.

### **TIM PARKIN**



Tim was born in Penrith in 1957 and joined the Rovers as a schoolboy in 1974 turning professional in 1976 and progressed as a tall defender up to the central league side. He was good in the air but less so in play on the field and only made 13 first team appearances due to the existing strong set of centre-backs. Tim left the Rovers in 1980 to join Norwegian side F.F. Malmo for £20,000 then went on to Bristol Rovers in 1981, Swindon Town in 1986. Port Vale in 1989, Darlington in 1992 then moved into coaching at Barrow in 1993 and finally becoming assistant manager there in 1994.

### **JOHNNY PRICE**



Johnny was born in Easington in 1943 and first joined Burnley in 1960 then moved on to Stockport County in 1965 as an outside-right. He was signed by the Rovers in 1971 from Stockport and played in teams for Ken Furphy and Gordon Lee. A small swift outside-right who was a direct player with skills to beat defenders and create openings for the other attackers making him popular with the fans. In total he made 68 first team appearances scoring 12 goals before returning to Stockport County in 1974.

### **JOHN RADFORD**



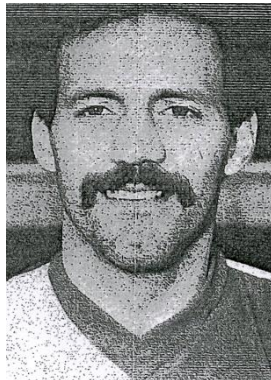
John was born in Hemsworth in 1947 in the south and first joined Arsenal in 1962 as an apprentice turning professional in 1964 then moved on to West Ham United in 1976 at a cost of £80,000 where he became a star centre-forward due to the experience gained at Arsenal. Jim Smith brought him to the Rovers in 1978 for £35,000 as an experienced striker and he made a great start at centre-forward. However, as the team began to rely on sending in long balls for him it lost the teams potency, and he eventually lost his place to Duncan McKenzie. He then was made player coach for a time and in total only made 39 first team appearances scoring 11 goals. In 1979 he retired from the game and became the manager of Bishop Stortford.

### **NEIL RAMSBOTTOM**



Born in Blackburn in 1945 he first joined Bury in 1963 before turning professional in 1964, then moving on to Blackpool in 1971, Crewe in 1972, Coventry the same year, Sheffield Wednesday in 1975 and Plymouth Argyl in 1976. He was signed by the Rovers in 1978 towards the end of his career on a free transfer to cover for John Butcher as goalkeeper. He made his way to the first team but struggled with his form. Neil left the Rovers in 1978 after only 10 first team appearances to join Miami (U.S.A.) in 1979 returning to Sheffield United later that year, then on to Bradford City in 1980 and Bournemouth the same year.

### **MICK RATHBONE**



Born in Sheldon, Birmingham in 1958 and became a professional at Birmingham city in 1976 as a left-back. As a former Youth International he was signed on loan by the Rovers in 1979 by John Pickering and after proving his worth was signed for £40,000 in 1979. In 1983 he broke his leg and was out for a season. A solid, reliable, hard tackling full-back and was always keen to get forward and join the attack which led to him moving to half-back. In 1987 he moved on to Preston North End for £20,000 after 307 first team appearances, then on to Darwen. He qualified as a physiotherapist for Halifax Town and became its manager in 1992.



### **PAUL ROUND**



Born in Blackburn in 1959, he signed as a schoolboy for Rovers in 1974 becoming professional in 1977. He was a big strong player starting as centre-forward then moving back to centre-half and later right-back. However, he was mostly a utility player who only made 55 first team appearances and 11 as substitute scoring six goals. Paul was released in 1981 and moved on to Bury, Barrow, Chorley, Rossendale United and finally Clitheroe.

### **BOBBY SVARK**



Born in Leicester in 1946 he joined his hometown club in 1961 as an apprentice and turned professional in 1963 as an inside-forward. In 1968 he moved on to Lincoln City then Barrow in 1970, Bolton United in 1972 and Colchester United the same year. Jim Smith signed him for the Rovers for £25,000 in 1975 as he was already aware of his talents as a proven goal scorer. He was a small tough inside-forward who sought out opportunities who Smith thought could help the Rovers following their promotion to the Second Division. During the 1976/77 season he was Rovers leading goal scorer. He moved on to Watford on loan in 1977 after 52 first team appearances and 21 goals but had to retire from the game in 1978 due to an injury. Later he established a security business.

### **GORDON TAYLOR**



Born in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1944 he joined Bolton Wanderers as an amateur in 1960 turning professional in 1962. He later joined Birmingham City in 1970 helping them to promotion to the first Division in 1972 and was in their 1972 and 1975 F.A. Cup semi-final teams. Gordon moved to the Rovers in 1976 for £18,000 when they were struggling in the Second Division. Along with Dave Wagstaffe the two wingers helped save Rovers from relegation. He was a small stocky left winger who could also play on the right, he was a strong runner with bursts of speed to beat defenders and had a powerful shot. Gordon left the Rovers in 1978 after making 69 first team appearances scoring 23 goals to join Bury in 1978 where he got involved with the P.F.A. as its secretary and when he retired joined them full time where he rose to lead the organisation until recent times sometimes controversially.

### **DAVID TURNER**



Born in Retford in 1943 he first joined Newcastle United as an amateur in 1960 then turned professional the same season as a midfielder. He moved on to Brighton and Hove Albion in 1963 and was signed by the Rovers in 1972 as a utility midfield cover player as he had a lot of experience arriving on a free transfer. After suffering cartilage problems, he spent his time in the Reserves helping younger players. He made 34 First Team appearances for the Rovers before moving on to Sheffield United in 1974.

### **JOHN WADDINGTON**



Born in Darwen in 1952 he first joined Liverpool in 1970 then moved on to Darwen before joining the Rovers in 1973. He was quickly moved to the First Team as centre-half although previously he had played centre-forward. John was a powerful header and a strong tackler and being tall formed a strong defensive unit with Fazakerley, Hawkins and Keeley. A member of Rovers Third Division Championship side he made a total of 165 first team appearances scoring 20 goals before leaving to join Bury in 1979 after first playing for Vancouver Whitecaps in 1977.

### **DAVID WAGSTAFFE**



Born in Manchester in 1943 he first joined Manchester City in 1960 then Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1964 and then signed for the Rovers in 1976 as an experienced left winger at the twilight of his career. A very talented winger who made his name at his previous clubs and should have made the national side. Brought in by Jim Smith to give the forward line more bite although he had lost pace, he was a clever winger who could pass well and was a fan favourite. He made a total of 89 First Team appearances for the Rovers in two spells after joining Blackpool in 1978 then returning to the Rovers in 1979.

### **NEIL WILKINSON**



Born in Blackburn in 1955 he joined the Rovers as an apprentice in 1971 turning professional in 1973. He was a right-back and made his first team debut in 1972 but couldn't break into the first team till the 1975/76 season when Mick Heaton was injured. However, he couldn't maintain his First Team place and was released in 1977 after making a total of 34 First Team appearances for the Rovers with four substitute occasions. He moved to Cape Town in South Africa then Great Harwood but returned to join Port Vale in 1978.

### **MICK WOOD**



Born in Bury in 1952 he joined the Rovers as an apprentice in 1968 and turned professional in 1970. He was a solid reliable left-back and broke into the Rovers First Team with other youngsters in the 1969/70 season. Mick also played at centre-half and midfield covering positions. A reliable defensive player, strong in the air and a tackler in the Third division but was plagued with injuries restricting his first team appearances. In total he made 160 first team appearances before leaving to join Bradford city in 1978 for £15,000 then Halifax Town in 1982