

**Shrewsbury House Club
Liverpool**

**The Football Story
Part 1 – 1907 to end of 1960s**



A HOUSE FOOTBALL MATCH ON THE OPEN-AIR
GYM. ROOF

Introduction by John Hutchison

I played Rugby as a kid and, as a decent full back, I learned the skills of kicking a ball and tackling. When, in September 1971, I landed at the Shewsy club in Portland Place and the only game in town was football, those two skills quickly deserted me. Although I loved the game and still do, I was rubbish at football and was always in the last pair as the sides were picked for a game in the gym or the outdoor cage.

The marvellous insult “You couldn’t kick an effing ball down Havelock Street” was levelled at me on plenty of occasions. And quite often that was delivered by the legendary Roy McGaw who, as a 16 year old was quite simply the most frightening thing I had seen in my short life. He was also a keen and brilliant footballer and it was he, along with his mates, who befriended me and inducted me into the Kop at Anfield. One of the great features of that Saturday afternoon trip with 5 or 6 of us was that it usually included an Everton fan in the form of Jimmy Fitzpatrick. I spoke to Jimmy recently and he confirmed that a group of these 16 and 17 year olds, led by Roy, used to travel to away games as well, blues and reds together. Does that still happen?

We’re drawing to the end of this research and writing project at a fitting point in the football history in the great city of Liverpool. The Blues are more than safe again and back in the hands of a trusted guide and guardian as well as opening the doors of their magnificent new stadium. The Reds have delighted the country with their surprising success this season and look set fair to tie up at least some ribbons before the end of May. We started out with a vague idea that this might be a fun piece of work to bolster the archives work of the Shrewsbury House Youth Club and our first meeting was in November 2018. We made gentle progress for a year or so and then got blown away by the pandemic and have taken over long to get back to it. However here it is – done at last.

In the end we have decided to publish without feeling that it is a truly finished piece of work. There are plenty of gaps and we hope that you will get busy filling them by contributing your own stories, photos and memories in the months and years ahead. Who knows, we might be able to publish a second volume. We will launch this with a reunion party to which you’re all invited at the Shewsy, which is still flourishing as the premier youth club in the city and always needs our support. I have loved being involved in this project and look forward to more Shewsy archive work in the future. Do be in touch if you’d like to join in.

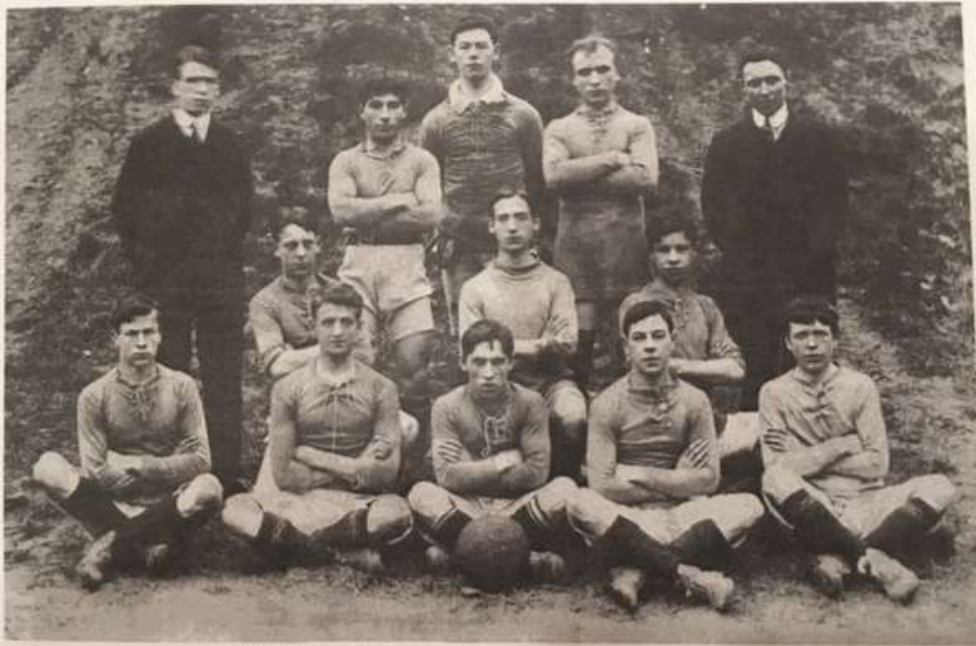
This project owes special thanks to contributions from Paul Jeffries, Ian McElwee, the late Ray Hoyle, Chris Gallagher, Jim Fearn, Henry Corbett and John Dumbell, as well as Susanne Christian, Stephen Reeves and Debbie Shepton. With the kind permission also of Robin Brookes-Smith at Shrewsbury School for access to the archives.

John Hutchison was Team Leader 1976 – 1988 and Chair 2003 – 2022

These pages are dedicated to all those involved in the Football history of the Club, past and present.

1907-1908

SHREWSBURY HOUSE SENIOR TEAM 1907

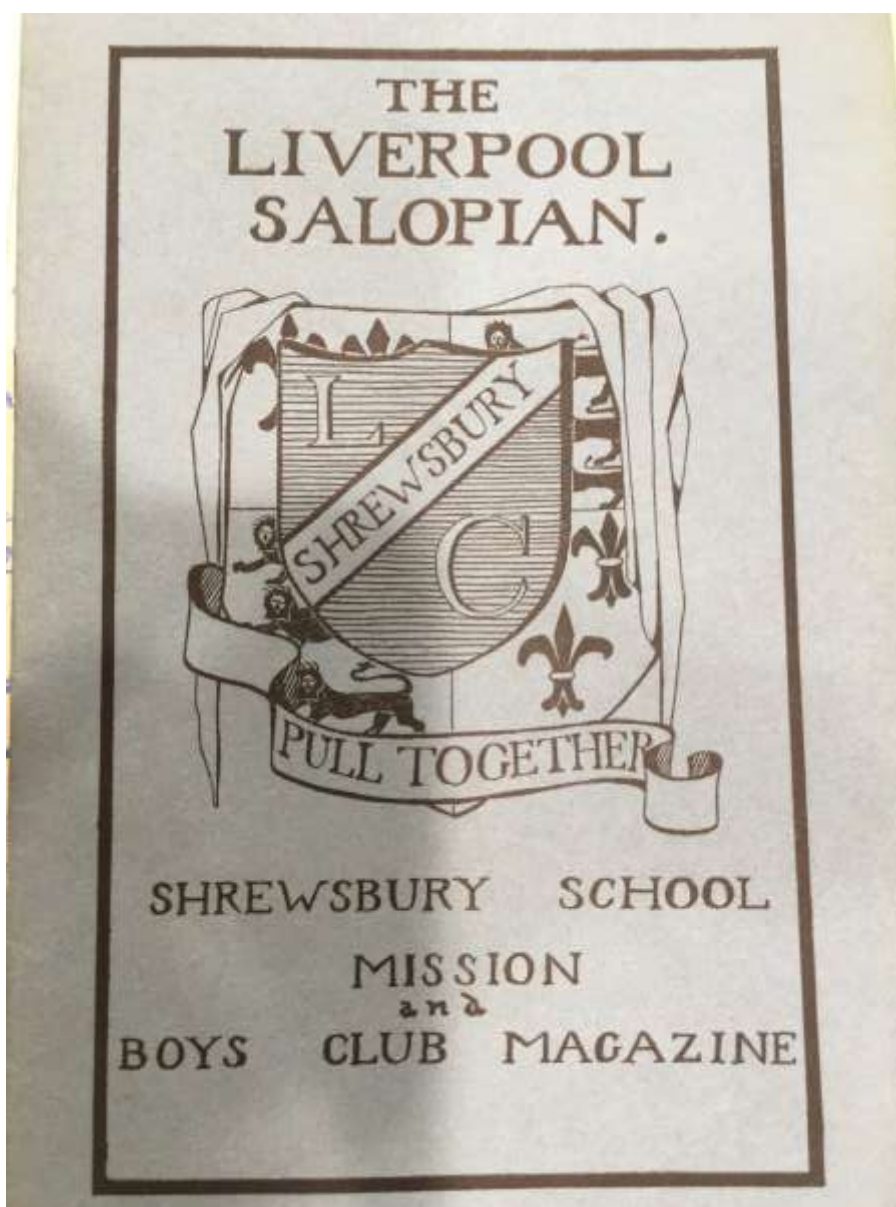


W McGuinness



SHREWSBURY CLUB, FOOTBALL ELEVEN AT SHREWSBURY, MARCH, 1908.

1929



The Shrewsbury School Mission and Boys Club Magazine 1929 front cover

The following are photographs and extracts from the Club Junior and Old Boys football teams from the 1920s to 40s.

These are the only remaining documents of the period from the School Library archives and are reproduced here with the kind permission of the School Archivist Dr Robin Brooke-Smith.

FOOTBALL.

Juniors.

Captain : A. HESKETH.

Hon. Secretary : D. PINNINGTON.

On September 7th we played Sefton and District, the first match of the season on their ground. We were heavily defeated by 14 goals to 3, but we were out-weighted. Kermode scored two goals and W. Ball one for us. At Walton Hall Avenue on September 21st, we played the 52nd Scouts, these boys being much our own size and weight, and we won by 4 goals to none. Halliday scored 2 goals, Murphy one, and Cooke one.

Our third away game of the season was against the 43rd B. B. at Calderstones Park. We had a very weak team out owing to boys not being able to get off work ; thus we sustained another defeat by 7 goals to one (A. Williams). The three best players on our side were Kermode, Hesketh and Pinnington who were awarded their colours. On October 5th we played Skerry's College, our first home match of the season. Our opponents being older than our boys, we had a mixed team of Juniors and Seniors. Our opponents scored 3 goals and Bromilow of the Seniors and Hesketh of the Juniors replied for us by scoring a goal each.

For our second home game we played St. Mary's Grascendale. They beat us by 10 goals to 3. We had a much weakened team owing to some boys playing for the Senior team. On Oct. 19th we visited Quarry Bank High School, and won by 4 goals to 2 : our scorers were Halliday (two goals), Cooke (one) and Sefton (one). Our third win this season, we beat the 14th B. B. by 6 goals to 4. These boys were a little younger than our ordinary Junior team, so we put in some of the younger Juniors, and some of these young boys showed great promise. On November 2nd we travelled to Hoylake to play the 1st Hoylake Boy Scouts. In this match our opponents penetrated our goal six times, and Cooke scored our only goal in an up-hill fight : after the match our opponents invited our team to tea.

The following Saturday we went to Freshfield to play Holmwood School. They were a very classy team and they scored 3 goals to our none, but our forwards were very unlucky in front of goal.

At Long Lane in our return match with Sefton and District, we were again beaten by a big score of seven goals to

Old Boys.

Captain : R. JACK.

Hon. Secretary : P. HUMPHREYS.

Friendly Games.

At the beginning of the season our Old Boys' Team had high hopes of a successful season, for in addition to our own playing strength, four playing members from the Seniors had qualified for the Old Boys' Association, which put the number of our playing members up to about fourteen. At first we had little difficulty in selecting the team, but later on we dwindled down to the bare eleven members and of course the team naturally picked itself. Our record up to and including Saturday, November 23rd is as follows:—Played 9, Won 5, Lost 3, Drawn 1, Goals For 21, Against 24. Our games were as the list shows:—Sept. 14th Home to Local Works team called Plimpton's, which we won easily by the margin of 6—1. Sept. 21st Away to St. Silas', a Church Team from the Sefton Park district, which we were rather fortunate to win by the odd goal of five. Sept. 28th Home again to Warwick F.C., when after a hard game we divided two goals. Oct. 5th, we visited the Local Works team, Walkers Athletic. Unfortunately we turned up with ten men only, and lost to the tune of 5—2. Oct. 19th, we had a visit from our local rivals, Adelaide F.C., and after a hard game managed to win by the score of 2—1. Nov. 9th, we were again Home, this time to Low Hill Conservatives which we won 4—1. Then we had two away games, the first being against St. Bede's on Nov. 16th which we won comfortably, the score being 4—0. On Nov. 23rd, we travelled to Mather Avenue to play another works team called Melias F.C. Again we only had ten men, and lost heavily, the score of nine goals being run up against us, without any response from us.

On the whole we have had quite a fair number of good games up to now, and of course we expect to carry on with the good work.

Team : F. Williams; T. McGuinness, W. Looney; W. McGuinness, R. Jack (Capt.), W. Williams; I. Ball, P. Humphreys, A. Garner, T. Hannah, and J. Kennedy.

P.H.

Shrewsbury House Senior Football Team 1929-30



R.Williams Murphy Brown Mr B Adams Tyson Cowell Smith F.Norton
McGinty Lucas Bromilow Dick Cooley (Capt) Inskip Paget.



JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM.

1947



From the 1950s into the Swinging 60s

At this time the Club was very rigidly organised into Junior, Senior and Old Boys, each with their own sections of the building. Plus, there was no Girls Club until Roger and Jenny Sainsbury came along.

Billy Jones (who we think was away overseas on National Service) sent this letter on 26/8/54 recalling Mr Turner and congratulating Billy Griff on being elected as football team captain.

BILLY JONES (26/8/54) " Thanks for your letter and news sheets which I have started to receive again. Congratulations to Bill Griff on being elected captain of the football team. He will be very ably assisted by Chris Ainsworth as vice captain. Glad to hear that the Social Committee had another success with the Blackpool trip. I am glad to hear that Mrs Brunton will not be getting out of touch with the club altogether. She will be hard to replace. I see that both Liverpool and Everton got off to a good start with a win. I saw a bit of real barren land the other day when we went out to do some firing at ranges on the desert. The scenery was terrific -nothing but sand and behind that more sand. Well cheerio for now. Remember me to Mr Turner and the lads at the club."

KEN SMITH (31/8/54) " I was very pleased to see that you had a bit of decent weather and a very good time as usual at camp and Blackpool (yet another social sub committee success.) It must have been a good laugh at Windermere to see Alan Ainsworth trying to play tennis. No small wonder the spectators were amused. It reminds me of him trying to play golf at the same place two years ago when he and Fred Spear getting caught in a bunker threw their balls out while I went looking and there was I on turning round congratulating them on two fine shots -the pair of rogues. If Alan plays tennis as well as he plays golf I could just imagine how funny it was. Anyway as long as everyone enjoyed themselves at camp as much as I did

Match report Shewsy v 4th AA Workshops

FOOTBALL SHREWSBURY HOUSE OLD BOYS 3 4th A A WORKSHOPS 2

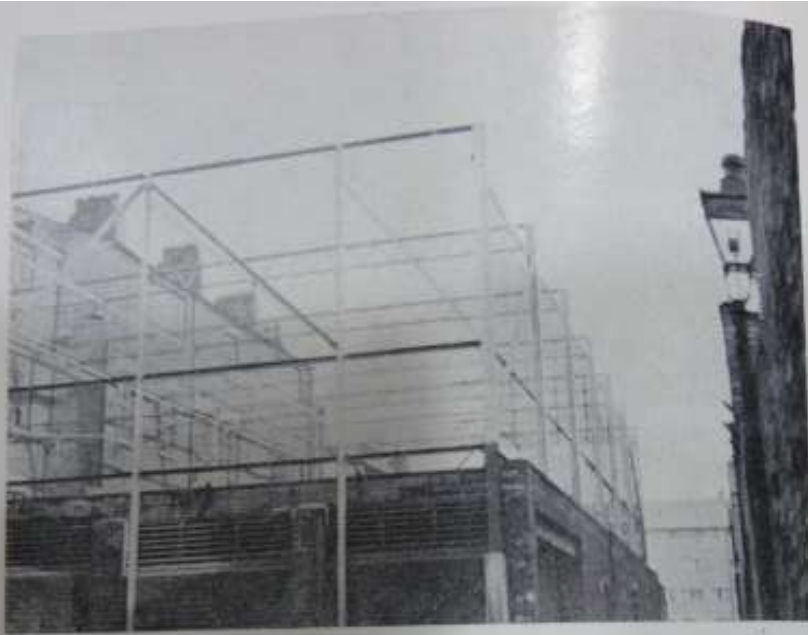
This, the last match of the season was played at Deysbrook Lane on Saturday April 10th and we are pleased to be able to record that we ended the season with a victory. An enjoyable game was played on a beautiful afternoon once again the club team were without Blackhurst who was working and once again Billy Griffiths stepped cheerfully and adequately into the breach.

It was plain from the start that our opponents were not the team they once were and it did not seem at any time that the winning of the game would cause us any undue trouble. Our first goal came with a very good shot from Baker. A few minutes later whilst the writer was away getting oranges 4th.AA equalized. There was no more score till after the turn round but the club gave the impression of having the situation well under control.

Soon after the opening of the second half Alan Ainsworth got the club their second goal. The 4th AA tried to reply to this but were foiled by a good save from Griffiths the kind of shot for the frustration of which his long reach was invaluable. And it was we and not they who were to have the next goal which was to the credit of Wilson. Shortly after this there occurred one of the oddest incidents we can recollect in this type of football. 4th AA got the ball in our net and the referee gave a goal. Griffiths appealed for a foul. The referee changed his decision and awarded a goal kick ! Not unnaturally our opponents protested and were blandly told that in his considered opinion the ball had gone over the net and not into it. Why he should have changed his view he did not explain but there was no one at the match on either side who could have agreed with the view that the ball did not go into the net. Spurred on perhaps by this injustice 4th AA managed to get one more goal before the match ended and it would be true to say that in the middle portion of the second half they were definitely having the better of things.

**TEAM GRIFFITHS: MORRIS SPEAR: SPENCER C AINSWORTH KIRKHAM
A AINSWORTH BAKER WILSON K JONES C ASH**

New top gym



The new top gym



Football in the 1960s through the eyes of Ian McElwee and Ray Hoyle



Back row – Richie Knowles, Jimmy Tomlinson, Davy Harrison, Billy Graham, Syd Hart, Tommy Gaskell, Ian McElwee, Len Greatrix

Front Row – Frankie Corke, Michael Carmichael, Les Wilson, Charlie Smith, ?
(Len Greatrix was a goalkeeper who played for Wrexham and once scored from his own half)



Left to Right – Ray Hoyle, Jackie Strickland, Sid Hart, Les Wilson, (?), Billy Lloyd, Tommy Gaskell, John Jones, Ian McElwee

5 a side football

Ray and I joined the club around 1960 when we were 13. There was, no doubt, something special about the club and the lads who attended most nights of the week. My immediate friends and I virtually queued up to get a pair of pumps so we could play football. Get there early and get on 'top gym'. If late, you would end up downstairs on 'bottom gym'.

Top gym was an outdoor, floodlit area, walled on one side by the building structure of the club. The remaining boundaries of the gym were wire netting, thus ensuring continuous play. This was used for house matches and 'proper' 5 a side matches. Bottom gym was a small indoor area probably little more than 20 yards by 10. The goals were painted on the walls at either end of the pitch. Because of the small playing area only headed goals counted towards a result. Players needed to not only play in such a tight area but learn various tricks such as flicking the ball up in the air for goal attempts to occur.

The club also catered for boxing, table tennis and snooker. There was a cosy canteen where drinks, crisps, sweets etc could be purchased. These were served by everybody's favourite, Mrs Hayes who served in the canteen for many years, being loved and respected by all. With the constant small-sided games we played in the confined conditions it was imperative to develop close ball control skills to survive. Other local clubs would visit to play 5 a side matches on top gym. Neither Ray nor I remember ever being defeated in any of these matches. We remember contemporaries like Dave Harrison, Les Wilson, Billy Bradshaw, Billy Graham, Jackie Strickland, John Jones and, perhaps the most skilful of all Davey Hunt. Many others, too numerous to list, played over the years. During that time, it was possible to select any 5 players who would instantly gel into a quality team, with a tremendous team spirit and having faith in each other's abilities.



Left to Right – supporters Richie Marsden and Arthur Platt

Team - Jimmy Routledge, George Cotterell, John Jones, Ray Hoyle with cup, Ian McElwee, Jackie Strickland and Davie Pickering

Such competitions were played annually at YMCA, Mount Pleasant with Boys' Clubs from the whole Merseyside area represented. It was a prestigious tournament and reflects well on the 5 lads in the team but, also, other skilled club members who would have been good enough to win in our place.

The picture threw up some confusion as Ray and Jackie are each holding separate cups. Ray and George both think the 2nd cup was won at a tournament at Lee Jones boys club. George thinks that he played with a group consisting of Ken and Jimmy Routledge, Brian Gaskell, Steve Perry and George Ashcroft. He thinks we beat them 3-0 in an earlier round before going on to beat Richmond boys club in the final.



Ray believes that the following year a group made up of himself, Gerry Oakey, John Barnwell, Ray Lunt, Alec Rimmer, Alan Young, George Walton and Kenny Scott did even better. They not only won the Liverpool competition but went on to represent Merseyside in the national finals in Nottingham and reached the semi-final. The photograph includes Joe Roberts and Billy Lambert who, considering their abilities, were presumably part of the squad.

11 a side club football

On reaching the age of 14, we became eligible to play in the Liverpool Boys Association League (LBA). The league consisted of 2 age groups, 14-16 and 16-18. As a result, the makeup of teams altered from season to season as boys moved into their age group.



Back Row – Rob McKendrick, Jackie Strickland, John Jones, Jimmy Thomason, Jackie the goalie, Alex Cockain, Terry Lunt

Front Row – Ray Hoyle, Billy Bradshaw, Ian, McElwee, Billy Graham, Davie Pickering

These pictures from 1963 and 1964 show that there was a change of 6 players in these teams. However, such changes in personnel each year never seemed to detract from the standard of play in the teams we played in. In the Club gyms we played open age football, based on who was available, regardless of age. As a result, all players mixed, knew each other's strengths and weaknesses and adjusted to new team set ups each season.

Each of the teams we played in during our 4 seasons in the LBA league were always near the top of the league and a match for all opposing teams.

1963 team – Sid Hart was in goal. Although not the tallest he was extremely agile and had good hands. At right back was Jackie Strickland who was blessed with fine ball control, the ability to go past people and was a fine attacking full back. On the opposite flank John Jones tackled anything that moved but still had the ability to make space for himself and play the ball out of defence accurately. Billy Lloyd was dominant in the air at centre half and more than capable of bringing the ball out of defence to set up attacks. The midfield set up consisted of the hard-working Tommy Gaskell at right half with me (Ian McElwee) playing left half, the ball-playing Billy Bradshaw and the strong, elegant Les Wilson in the inside forward positions. Our 3 wingers Ray Hoyle, Dave Harrison and Colin Atkinson were probably 3 of the best in the league with speed and ability to spare. Charlie Smith was a big strong centre forward who knew where the back of the net was.

1964 team – The changes in personnel meant that Mike McKenzie had taken over from Sid in goal and proved to be a good reliable goalkeeper. Jimmy Thompson (all 6 feet 2 of him) was at right back with Jackie Strickland moving forward. Alan Cockain was our replacement centre half and an excellent ball winner. Terry Lunt was at right half, Billy Graham and I shared the left half/inside left roles and Dave Pickering displayed his versatility in becoming a ball-playing centre forward with the knack of scoring a few goals.

The nearest we came to winning a trophy was the 63/64 season when we lost 2-0 to Richmond Boys club in the semi-final of the cup. Ray and I believe the team consisted of Sid Hart, Jackie Strickland, Billy Lloyd, Tommy Gaskell, Les Wilson, Ian McElwee, Billy Bradshaw, Billy Williams, Dave Harrison, Charlie Smith and Colin Atkinson. The game was level-pegging until I managed to score one of the goals of the season. If I remember correctly, Sid kicked the ball out to me around the halfway line. I was marked and could not turn so started dribbling my way back to our goal. I must have beaten 3 or 4 players on my way back before sending Sid the wrong way to open the scoring for Richmond! I managed to score a few goals in the right end over the years but often get reminded of this own goal.

The following year we went to Frankfurt and played 3 or 4 matches. In all probability this was the first time any of us had travelled abroad. The trip was arranged by our Club Missioner Rev Roger Sainsbury. We travelled down to London by train and stayed overnight at a Boys Club before recommencing our journey the following day. Whilst in Frankfurt we were accommodated in a hostel. We were always made very welcome, but we do not remember winning any matches.



The photo above shows Ian McElwee, Ray Hoyle, Sid Hart, Billy Bradshaw, and Roger Sainsbury on the front row, Gerry Oakey, Dave Harrison, Ray, John Jones, Billy Lambert and Joe Roberts on the middle row with Jackie Strickland, Dave Pickering and Terry Lunt on the back row. The other 3 on the back row must have been some of our hosts.

We remember seeing posters advertising a couple of our matches indicating we were a youth team with connections to Liverpool FC. Presumably because of our success the previous season and our hosts possibly thinking we were involved with Liverpool FC the standard of opposition seemed to be bigger and better than that of the previous year.

I firmly believe that the club produced many highly skilled players over the years. We consistently played against the best players in the LBA league with many of our lads capable of holding their own against such opposition (I am not just talking about the period of this report but players older and younger than our group). What I do not understand is why not one player from Shrewsbury House Boys club was ever chosen to play for the LBA representative sides.

Shrewsbury House Old Boys

Each season a few players progressed from the Club team to the Old Boys. The OBs played at a good standard in the first division of the Liverpool League. Although we were competitive over the years we never won the league before the team disbanded around 1972 or 1973. Billy Jones was the manager throughout the 7 or 8 years we played for the Old Boys. The league was quite physical and when I first started playing at the age of 18, I was at left half with Billy, my minder, at left back. If I ever was kicked I would hear a large bang a few yards beyond me as Billy evened up matters. We all had great respect for him and the team only disbanded because he decided to retire.

For a couple of seasons before we disbanded we were also running a second Old Boys team. This featured other lads who had come through from the LBA league after us. However, I cannot remember any detail of how that team was managed or run. I must emphasise that the Old Boys teams were unique in that all the players had come through the Boys Club. We never attempted to strengthen by signing anyone who had not come through our Club system.

During our years with the Old Boys, we believe we reached 5 separate cup finals but with the passage of time cannot remember all the details. Our first final was against Holy Cross who we beat 2-0. The following season we lost 2-0 to Bronte in a final played at South Liverpool's ground. In another final at South Liverpool we think we won narrowly but cannot remember the name of our opponents. We later lost a final to Longview Labour Club by a margin of 2 goals to 1. This brings us to the final match before the team disbanded. We beat a team from the south end of the city called Star and won 1-0. Not a bad way to finish our long association with the Shrewsbury House football teams.

We think that the team for this final match was Steve? in goal, John Barnwell, Alan Young and Tommy Gaskell in defence. Ray Hoyle and Les Wilson in mid field and a front 4 of Jim Liebenitz, Arthur Rawlins, Ian McElwee and Ray Lunt. Finally, we have thought long and hard about the makeup of the various teams we have highlighted but needless to say that after all these years we may have made the odd mistake. Apologies to anyone who has been omitted from this report.

7 a side football – Chris Gallagher recalls

Chris Gallagher provided a newspaper cutting which states “Shrewsbury House A were the first winners of the new ICI 7 a side soccer competition played at the ICI recreational ground Widnes”. The report goes on to say that we won the final 2-1 against Adam and Turton who had not conceded a goal before the final. Our squad was made up of Arthur Rawlins, Arthur Towers, Billy Jones, Chris Gallagher, Ian McElwee, John Barnwell, Dave Hunt and Gordon Iverson.

The report states that 32 teams commenced the competition. The matches were played on full sized pitches for 10 minutes each way. We therefore won 5 matches over the day to win the competition.

Chris was a long serving club member from the late 1950s. He played for the Old Boys team in 1962 as well as other clubs, including Formby, Kirkby Town, Welsh League Blaneau and had trials for Sheffield Wednesday. Chris returned as a player with Billy Jones as manager, finally coaching the Alex Groves team in 1974 with Arthur Rawlings.

Now in his seventies, Chris has plenty of fond memories of the Shewsy including the famous ‘Long throw – bad ref’ story when a particular ref had it ‘infamy’ (us), refusing to allow well-practised long throws during matches, Chris says a letter of complaint was duly sent to Jackie Harrison of the LBA, to no avail (hope that ref wasn’t your brother-in-law Tony Wright!).

He agrees with Jim Fearn that Alex Groves was an excellent player (where is Alex Groves now?).

Also, he remembers Alan Young being sent off. When the ref was booking him, it seems the ref thought Alan had jokingly given his name as Alex Young, the Everton legend. Yet another refereeing mistake.

In 1970, Chris has a letter from the FA refusing his registration to play for both Formby and the Shewsy at the same time. Seems no luck with the Liverpool Refs Association despite them using the Club for their meetings.

Both Chris and Billy Lloyd, who later famously signed for Tranmere Rovers, remember stories like old Billy Dalrymple, the storekeeper who predated Alf in the mid 1960’s, and his dishing out the footy gym kit and of course the ex-army issue brown pumps. “You were lucky to get two pumps the same size with laces and no holes before kicking off in top gym” – says Billy Lloyd. There were success stories - winning the first ICI regional 7 a side tournament in Widnes – Team: Arthur Rawlings, Chris Gallagher, big Billy Jones, Arthur Towers Ian McElwee, Davie Hunt, Stan Coleman, all Shewsy stalwarts in their day.

Ray Hoyle's 1960s memories

(Everyone remembers Ray as a very loyal member from Junior, Senior and Old Boys levels of the best of the early- to mid-60s teams).

There were Shewsy finals too. One against Holy Cross, the auld enemy, though often with mutual respect between the two clubs, resulted in the Shewsy winning. Even if Ray was actually tripped up on a dazzling run down the wing by one of the Holy Cross supporters! No VAR then.

Ray's team also lost another final v The Bronte at S. Liverpool's ground.

In 1965 -1966 this team also were pioneers of the Shewsy-German tours, they played them home and away including FC Eckenheim. Around 1964 when a club from Frankfurt were guests of the Shewsy, Sid Hart remembers being the clear man of the match in a game in which we ran out 3-0 winners.



Team v West Germans FC Eckenheim 1964/5

Back row -?, Joey Roberts, ?,?,? John Jones, ?,?,?

Front Row - Ian McElwee, Billy Lambert, Ray Hoyle,?, Gerry Oakford, ?

Post-Shewsy when the club stopped competing, Ray moved on and played in a brilliant Warbreck FC team in the 1 Zingari league with other ex- Shewsy players Paul Jeffries and left back John Jones.

Ray, who we know was too modest to say this himself, was famously selected for trials with his heroes Liverpool FC and spent time up at Melwood. He remembers all the great players there like Ian Callaghan who he rated as the best of Bill Shankly's team. Several of his fellow trialists like Billy Morris and Derek Haggart all later played in the 1 Zingari League.



1960s Football team minibus outside Portland Place

**Alan Young 'writes' from Perth, Australia
(as told to Paul Jeffries)**

Alan starred in the early 60s teams and remembers his contemporaries Jimmy Routledge, Jimmy Jones, Billy Lambert, Geoff Mills, Dixie, Gerry Oaky, Joey Roberts, Billy Osborne, etc. Rivals included St Aloysius, St Alphonsus, Longview Labour, Huyton Recs and, of course, biggest rivals the Bronte whose players included John Jones (ex Shewsy), Brian Butterworth, Nobby Jimmy Powell (the animal!). Shewsy teams were run by big Billy Jones and Mr Greatrix.



1962 - Alan Young's team

Back row - Jimmy Routledge, Geoff Mills, Billy Furneaux, Billy Lambert, Alan Young
Front row - ?, Georgie Walton, Colin Atkinson, Joey Roberts, Billy Graham, Ray Lunt

Too modest to say it, but I will for him, Alan was one of the best centre backs of his generation on Merseyside, good in the air, tough and skilful, he could easily have been a pro footballer.

He always enjoyed going down to Shrewsbury School, remembering it being like Hogwarts – (Alan, surely Harry Potter wasn't on then?)

Plus, reaching the National 5-a-side finals for the Club in Blackpool – a gallant defeat there.

In Roscommon Street school he was picked for the Liverpool Boys side that included the Everton legend centre forward Joe Royle whom Alan recalls played at centre half for the Boys. Alan had trials at Southport FC and was captain of the very successful Sunday League teams Tithebarn FC and Plough FC.

Also 'fond' memories of big Harold Hughes, ex Holy Cross, for Canada Dock on Sundays when H warned a young Alan he might lose his ears if he tackled him!

Paul Jeffries Stories

1960s – ‘My Generation’

I was born in 1952 and lived in Cambridge Terrace off Robsart Street, then moved up to a new flat in St Domingo Road in 1962.

But it was Buckingham Street, between Gt Homer Street and Netherfield Road, that was my first playground in those days and where I was proudly part of a fine Penrhyn Street School team which included Richie Marsden, Brian ‘Patto’, Les Brown, Rob Fraser, Kevin McInerney, George McGaw, Arthur Naylor, Billy Carr, Jimmy Rawsthorne and Paul Speedy - some of whom I saw again years later at the Shewsy.

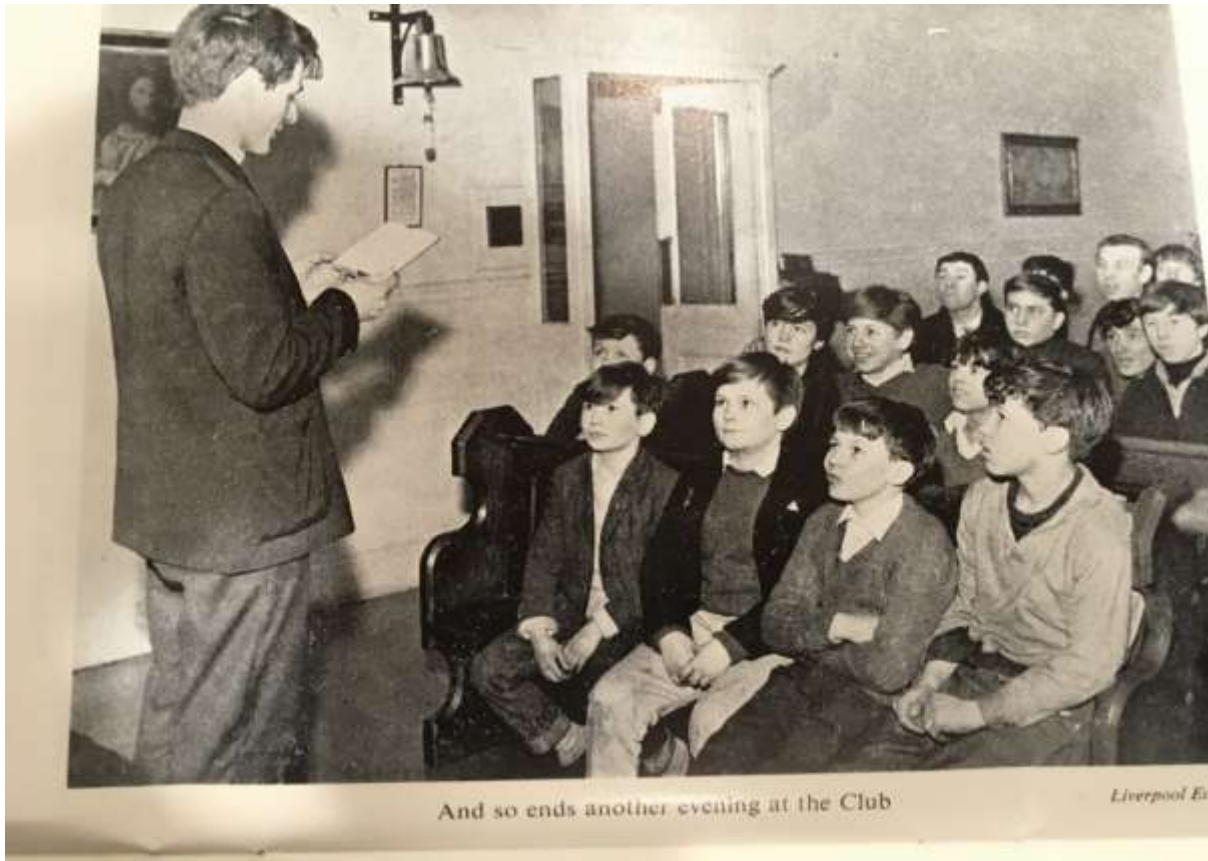
I remember the summer of ‘65 - or it may have been ‘66! - when I met up with some of my old mates from ‘Penny’ after not hanging around with them for a couple of years. There was Ritchie Marsden, Brian Pattinson his brother Ronnie, Les Brown, Kevin McInerney and Robert Fraser plus a few others - sorry can’t remember y’all. As a little travelling gang of street footballers we would play challenge matches on both sides of Scotland Road, including over in the Catholic tenement blocks and I must say we were good. Later on, it got even better when we recruited Robert Bilsborough and Georgie Jones (ex-Liverpool and England Boys) to join in.

One thing led to another and Les and Rob asked me to come and play for the Shewsy. This would be on Saturday afternoon after playing for the school in the morning. I had vaguely known about the Club through my older cousin Ray Hoyle and as a kid sometimes went to watch them play on a Saturday but had never set foot in the Club itself.

When I walked in, I recognised many familiar faces from the old streets and was immediately struck by the warm welcome and the encouragement that all the Club kids received. In fact, it really became my second home in those formative years.

Compared to today’s rigid coaching systems for kids, in the Club and in the streets we usually lined up against all ages, including adults. That’s how we learned to play and it toughened us up a lot for the future.

In the Shewsy, there was a great sense of history, camaraderie and a Club spirit to look up to, from the Juniors to the Old Boys, in all sports not just footy. We also had some strong 5-a-side teams then, winners of the Liverpool Clubs trophies at all levels.



The Missioner Rev Roger Sainsbury in the Chapel praying for more victories!

Front row - ?, Peter Catterall, Keith Styles and Robert Fraser

Back rows - Barry Marsden, ?,?, Billy Lambert, Ray Hoyle, John Jones, etc etc ...?

But this was the mid 1960's and indeed the times they were a-changing rapidly. And so, for example, it was out with the old traditional Shewsy black and white striped kit, washed to greyness with baggy shorts and moth-eaten socks, handed down since about 1904! Now, in keeping with the new '60s social revolution', this was replaced with new 'mod style' kits including 1) red and white Arsenal, 2) all green with a red sash and 3) black and amber stripes.

Later on, and captaining the Club's Under 18 football team, I recall the claim-to-fame story of signing up and representing Everton FC against Manchester City in 1969.

A year later, I was to again to skipper the Shewsy squad on their very memorable West Germany tour.

PJ Story 1 – 1966 – How to play the offside trap

In the olden days, sometime in 1966, with Roger 'Chopper' Sainsbury as manager, the LBA Junior team once played with only 7 or 8 players at Long Lane though I can't remember the opposition. The ref had decided the match should kick off and we knew after a few minutes that we were up against it as their forwards were racing through our 3-man defence far too easily, but with one fateful error. They kept on passing the ball forward to each other over the halfway line and as a result were constantly offside. We had a little conference and kept on playing a clever offside trap, à la Emlyn Hughes, with arms up shouting "offside ref!!" plus lots of blatant time-wasting and they fell for it. Amazingly at half time we could hardly believe it, it was still 0-0.

Then I reckon their manager must have gone off to read the offside rules. Because in the second half they realised all a player had to do was to just run straight through the gaps, as big as the Mersey Tunnel, without passing the ball, staying onside and having a clear shot at goal. We had been sussed out and promptly lost the match by a few goals.

I seem to recall from the mists of time, the Shewsy team included Stephen Styles in goal, Les Brown, Rob Fraser, Paul Jeffries, Kenny Tyrrell, with only young Alan Hickey as lone striker.

PJ Story 2 - 1967 – We were robbed!

LBA Junior Cup semi-final v Holy Cross

Shewsy team included Les Brown, Rob Fraser, Rob Bilsborough, Franny Hand (ex-boxer from Scottie), John Ward, Paul Jeffries, Ronnie Patto, Kenny Tyrrell (?), Toddy Taubman in goal? Unfortunately, we haven't any photos of this team.

Holy Cross were actually a load of ringers, the De la Salle school team in disguise - every one of them well known to me via every school year as Liverpool Collegiate's main rivals in the city, but nevertheless a really good team I must admit.

We outplayed them but missed a last-minute penalty. Unfortunately, Les Brown hit the bar (sorry Les!) - then in extra time Mike Lyons (future Everton captain) scored the winner for them. They went on to win the cup. Give him his due though, Les Brown was an excellent midfielder and later signed up as a trialist for Liverpool.

Soon afterwards, this particular Shewsy team broke up and a new team was formed with Eddie Cartwright as the new trainer to get us fitter. Eddie really didn't like football, he was a swimming coach, but after I lent him Malcom Allison's coaching book, he took up the challenge seriously and we became the fittest team in the league.



1968 Team

Back row - Stephen Bell, Paul Speedy, Paul Jeffries, Billy Jones, Tommy Allsopp, Rob Bilsborough, John Dalton, George Bishop

Front row - Alan Hickey, John Connor, Mike Duffy, Paul Myers

PJ Story 3 – 1969 – Sprechen Sie Deutsche?



Shewsy v German team FC Eckenheim at Long Lane, Liverpool 1969

Back Row - German players

Front Row - Stephen Carr, Tommy Allsopp, Kenny Tyrrell, Kevin Coyle, Ronnie Pattinson (Big Patto), Alby Gaughan, Paul Jeffries, Billy Jones
(Has someone else has got the other half of this picture?)

We won 6-1. The team included Stephen Carr (in goal) Paul Speedy, Ronnie Pattinson, Paul Myers, Kevin Coyle, Kenny Tyrrell, Rob Bilsborough, Paul Jeffries, George GC Hughes, Billy Jones, Albert Gaughan and Tommy Allsopp. (GC modestly remembers scoring 2 that day).

PJ Story 4 – 1969 – Nil Satis Nisi Optimum



Boarding our EFC coach at Bellefield

Left - Right - Alby Gaughan and Kevin Coyle on coach, Paul Speedy, George GC Hughes, Robert Bilsborough and Paul Jeffries

After thrashing the LBA league leaders Edge Hill, we were duly selected by the watching Everton coach Tommy Jones to represent Everton FC B v Man City FC B in a Lancashire League fixture.

We proudly signed up for the day as Everton players, including the reds in the team! Following a light breakfast of poached egg on toast at Everton's Bellefield training ground we travelled in the 1st team luxury coach to City's Cheadle Hulme training ground. Eddie Cartwright was the manager complete with new track suit.

But, sadly, we lost 6-0. This Man City team had beaten Bolton 10-0 the week before and won the League that season. I firmly believe we were jinxed - cos we played in the Everton first team's old 1968 losing FA Cup Final kit, amber and blue, which for that reason had been relegated to the junior kit basket

Needless to say, I was pleased as Punch to wear my hero Alan Ball's No 8 shirt and captain the team. Even though we lost the match, it's still something to tell the grandkids.

Team Squad methinks - John Connor in goal, Paul Speedy, Paul Myers, Kenny Tyrrell, Robert Bilsborough, Kevin Coyle, Paul Jeffries, Mike Duffy, Tommy Allsopp, Billy Jones, Albert Gaughan, George GC Hughes, Ronnie Pattinson.

Unfortunately, all the other match action photos taken by Eddie Cartwright have disappeared except this one coach photo, but I do have a Man City programme which includes a match report.

PJ Story 5 – 1969 – v Liverpool FC Bill Shankly's Youth Team

We played at Liverpool's Melwood training ground and drew 2-2 after totally outplaying them, recalls goalscoring winger Mike Duffy, whose dad was there supporting us.

Eddie Cartwright had got Tony Waiters the Liverpool reserve goalie to visit the Club for some training sessions and Tony had fixed up this match for us.

Again, no photos to show – unless...??

PJ Story 6 – 1970 – Into Europe: West Germany Tour

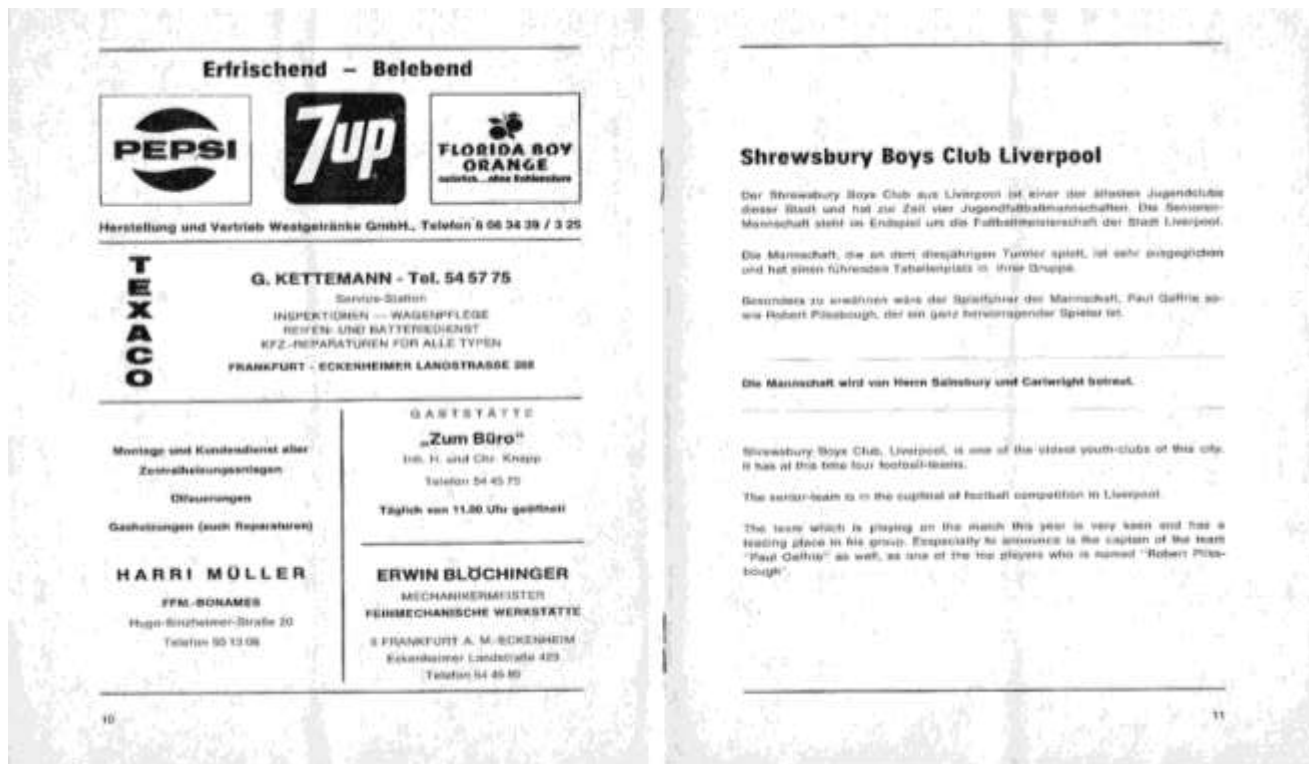


This was the Club's second West German tour to hosts in Frankfurt. At this time, of course, England were the reigning 1966 World Champions.

We left Liverpool by train in a blaze of publicity - the Echo, the Everton Telegraph, etc. Frankfurt was then in the American sector of West Germany and therefore the bright lights of the city soon became a bit of a nightlife magnet for the team... sort of good and bad there! Despite the distractions, we were there to play football and represent the Shewsy and, it seems, Liverpool to boot. Wherever we played we were billed as 'Liverpool FC'.

The Shewsy squad was the same as in 1968-9 above, plus John Barnwell, 'Big D' Dermott Flynn, George Bishop and John Dalton. Other squad members were Billy 'the Sponge' Savage – first aid trainer, Barry Marsden, sole supporter, and Roy Wainwright, 'German interpreter'! Team Managers being Roger 'Chopper' Sainsbury and Eddie Cartwright ('Der Fuhrer'- sorry, Ed!). We had travelled in T shirts, only to find that our first match was in thick snow.

Ronnie Patto was quickly adopted as 'Herr Nobby Stiles' by the locals due to his keen tackling skills and we took part in a local tournament but didn't win it.



Other tour highlights....

We beat local regional champs FC Lich 2-0 - in front of a big crowd, mainly because we were advertised as 'Liverpool FC'. Winning header by the late Tommy Allsopp. For the last match of the tour we played the Bundesliga Club Eintracht Frankfurt's youth side at their stadium. What a privilege - lost gallantly! Some might say at this particular point we were ravaged by lots of tour injuries and too much non-footy revelry.

Anyway it was the trip of a lifetime for us.

Finally

I think it was during the early 1970s, at some point the Old Boys football team stopped competing and most of the players left to go to other clubs - Billy Jones being the last team manager with Chris Gallagher and Arthur Rawlins there. I am sure others may remember these details more than me.

Like the break-up of the Beatles this was sadly the end of an era and with it the end of the Old Boys club.

But with the new Club being built in nearby Langrove Street, and with a new generation of long-haired players on the scene, a new chapter in the Shewsy football story began.