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GOALS

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Celebration Year 1994/95

# *ian* RUSH

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# *the* **Master** **CRAFTSMAN**

● **TRIBUTE** from the **CHAIRMAN**



**I**t was with great pride and pleasure that I accepted the role as Chairman of Ian's Testimonial Committee having watched the success of Ian from schoolboy player to World Superstar.

I first saw Ian playing in Deeside Primary Schools in North Wales as a 10 year old and his speed, anticipation and natural ability were simply breathtaking for one so young. All too often, promising young players fail to make the change from schoolboy football to established

scoring memorable goals along the way. He has also graced the International Soccer scene with Wales with great skill and pride and I think everyone would agree it was a great pity that Ian and his fellow Welsh stars, did not manage to qualify to play in the World Cup Finals.

Like all great craftsmen, Ian makes his job look simple ... but of course it is not. It demands supreme skill, temperament and application to score the goals he has at all levels and maintain such a high level of consistency. People all have different views when asked

Ian, and he remains the same quiet, unassuming family person he was all those years ago. This year has not only given Ian the opportunity to meet many of his fans, but also to raise substantial aid for local and national Charities via the "Ian Rush Charity Fund". Ian has always paid a special interest in helping people less fortunate than himself and it has given the Committee tremendous satisfaction this year to assist such Charities.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for the unstinted work they have put



Premier League Soccer, but not Ian. From Chester to Liverpool, Juventus and his return to Liverpool has maintained an amazing level of consistency and high performance,

about the Supreme goalscorers Greaves?, Lineker?, Law? In my view, Ian remains supreme and was and remains "Simply the Best".

However, fame has not changed

in throughout the year and hope to see you all at Ian's Big Night at Anfield on 6th December 1994.

**Ron Morris J.P.**  
Chairman

*We wish Ian, Tracy,  
Jonathan and Daniel  
all the very best in his Testimonial Year  
from all the team of the*



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INTERNATIONAL HOTELIERS



**I**an Rush was 18 when he joined Liverpool from Chester back at the tail-end of the 1979-80 season. The £350,000 fee made him the most expensive teenager in history. And a year later he fervently wished he was back at Sealand Road.

"That first season at Anfield was a nightmare", confesses Ian ruefully "It was the longest year of my life. I hated just about every moment of it".

Rushie had come to Liverpool with a fabulous record, dating back to his days at junior school in Flint – when he once scored 72 goals in a season including eight in one game for his school, St Mary's.

He'd carried on scoring goals all through his teenage years, to his season and a half with Chester, where he played in front of cultured midfielder Doug Livermore – now on Liverpool's training staff.

"The problem was that I was still painfully shy when I joined Liverpool. And I just couldn't come to terms with all the mickey-taking there," says Ian. "It was torture in those early months.

"Even though I made my first-team debut midway through that first season, I felt a total outsider. The senior pros would give me awful stick in the changing room every day – and I used to just sit there and take it on the chin.

Rushie's frustrations grew so great that he actually plucked up the courage to have a heart to heart with Bob Paisley, the manager who had

# Recipe for SUCCESS

taken what was then such a costly gamble to sign him. And he actually finished that first season convinced that Liverpool, later to become one of the great loves of his life, were prepared to let him go!

The big breakthrough came the following season, when he scored goals against Finnish part-timers Oulu in the European Cup, then against little Exeter City in the League Cup.

That earned him his chance in the senior team for the bigger games ahead. And he took it in dramatic style, scoring twice against old enemies Leeds United, to spearhead a 3-0 win. That cracked the Anfield system for him. "Kenny and the rest of the boys kept on with the wisecracks – but I started to realise that giving out verbal stick is part and parcel of the English game. And especially at Liverpool" said Ian.

Within months, Rushie was becoming as great a legend at Anfield as the likes of Dalglish and Graeme Souness, the two skilled Scots who supplied the openings that he converted into goals with such unerring regularity.

And that fabulous partnership between Dalglish and Rush, the sorcerer and his apprentice, led to the Scot being crowned Player of the Year by the Football Writers in 1982-83 – and Rush winning the Young Player of the Year award.

Liverpool also won the First Division Championship and the League Cup, for good measure. And Ian Rush, the boy who a couple of years before had hated the club – whose favourite clubs as a kid were Manchester United and Everton was on his way to become the greatest goalscorer in their history.

**KEN GORMAN, DAILY STAR**