



Front Cover
The destroyed building of the village council.
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Anfield Liverpool 4

Rob Kershaw ARPS

Apart from my family, my main passions in life are photography and all sports in general, but especially Liverpool Football Club, which I have supported for 62 years! Having lived in Switzerland for 36 years I had few chances to go to home games. However, in April 2023 an opportunity came to see a game, so I embarked on a street photography project. As you will read, it was at a poignant time.

I arrived at Anfield three hours before kick-off and walked around the area close to the ground to record pre-match activities and scenes. There is a sense of calm as different scenes are played out. Street vendors display scarves and memorabilia whilst others offer food enjoyed by a range of characters: three friends, a supporter with chips, a queue for a barbecue and a young lad eyeing the photographer. It's nice to see youngsters going to the game. There are murals around the area depicting Liverpool greats from the current era. Fathers and sons have their photos taken below giant depictions of Jurgen Klopp, Mo Salah and Trent Alexander-Arnold, whilst other supporters wear shirts to honour their family.

The memorial to the Hillsborough disaster recalls a time of grief. A crush of Liverpool fans during a match at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield on April 15 1989 resulted in 97 deaths and hundreds of injuries. The disaster was largely attributed to mistakes made by the police, and many families have yet to feel real closure. Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager at the time, was knighted for his tireless work supporting victims' families and pushing for justice.

On a positive note, the club anthem, You'll Never Walk Alone is displayed on the Shankly Gates, and a commemorative statue bears the words: "He made the people happy". This is a philosophy that remains a principle today through the bond between the club, its supporters and the City of Liverpool. Shankly's views are emblazoned on the front of Hotel Anfield: "The socialism I believe in is everyone working for each other, everyone having a share of the rewards. It's the way I see football, the way I see life".

Match time is getting closer, and supporters line Anfield Road with a minimum police presence to ensure safety. As the team bus arrives phones are ready to record the scene, whilst others clap the team. Now it's time to head for the entrances, sing the songs and pass around the commemorative flag, almost 34 years to the day when Liverpool played the same opponents, Nottingham Forest, in the FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough.



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Scarves for sale



Barbeque

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Pre match snacks



Tucking in



82 The team buses arrive



The way I see



Egyptian King

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The BOSS

Contemporary Photography



He made the people happy



Police presence



Heading for the entrances



Hillsborough Memorial





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Commemorative flag