

= History of Liverpool F.C. ( 1959 ? 85 ) =

The history of Liverpool Football Club from 1959 to 1985 covers the period from the appointment of Bill Shankly as manager of the then @-@ Second Division club , to the Heysel Stadium disaster and its aftermath .

Overhauling the team during his first year at Liverpool , Shankly released 24 players and converted a boot storage room into a meeting place where he and his coaches discussed strategy . The club won the Second Division title in 1961 ? 62 and were promoted to the First Division . Two seasons later , Liverpool won their first League championship since 1946 ? 47 , thereby qualifying for participation in European competition for the first time . The following season , Liverpool won their first FA Cup . Further League championships followed in 1965 ? 66 and 1972 ? 73 . 1973 saw them win their first European trophy ? the UEFA Cup . The following season was Shankly 's last , in which the club won the FA Cup once more .

Shankly 's assistant Bob Paisley took over in 1974 ; his first season in charge saw Liverpool finish second , before winning the League championship and UEFA Cup the following season . Three European Cups and four League championships followed before Paisley retired at the end of 1982 ? 83 , to be replaced by his assistant , Joe Fagan .

Liverpool won a treble of trophies during Fagan 's first season as manager , winning the League championship for the third year in succession , the Football League Cup for the fourth year in succession and a fourth European Cup . The following season , the club was involved in one of the worst disasters to occur at a football stadium . Before the start of the 1985 European Cup Final against Juventus , Liverpool fans breached a fence separating the two groups of supporters , and charged the Juventus fans . The resulting weight of people caused a retaining wall to collapse , killing 39 fans , mostly Italians . The incident became known as the Heysel Stadium disaster and resulted in the expulsion of English clubs from European competition for five years .

= = 1959 ? 65 : Rebuilding = =

Huddersfield Town 's Bill Shankly was appointed Liverpool manager midway through the 1959 ? 60 season . He was approached by Liverpool chairman Tom Williams , who asked Shankly if he would like to manage " the best club in the country " , to which he replied , " Why , is Matt Busby packing up ? " A perceived lack of ambition at Huddersfield Town and the potential at Liverpool led Shankly to accept the offer . When he arrived , the club was in the Second Division , having played at this level since relegation in 1953 ? 54 . During his first season in charge , Shankly gave debuts to two players : Ian Callaghan , who would go on to become the club 's record appearance maker , and Roger Hunt , the club 's future leading goalscorer in the League .

Despite their introduction , Shankly 's impact was not immediate , as the club finished the season in third place , outside the promotion spots . Shankly had been musing on which players to keep and which to move on , and he eventually decided that 24 players should be released ; by the end of his first season they had all left the club . Shankly retained the existing backroom staff , and converted a boot storage room into a meeting place where he and his coaches could discuss strategy . The Boot Room , as it came to be known , was to be an integral part of the club 's future success . Bob Paisley was clear on the significance of the Boot Room : " You got a more wide @-@ ranging discussion in the Boot Room than the boardroom . What went on was kept within those four walls . There was a certain mystique about the place . "

The club again finished third the following season , despite a run of 14 games without defeat ; 5 defeats in the opening 11 matches had cost Liverpool the chance of promotion . Shareholder John Moores believed the club needed to spend more money on players to be successful and encouraged chairman T. V. Williams to do so . The following season , Shankly signed Ian St John from Motherwell and Ron Yeats from Dundee United . Shankly was confident his signings would be a success , challenging the board of directors to " sack me if they can 't play . " St John and Yeats helped the club win promotion to the First Division ; they won the Second Division with 62 points , and were unbeaten at their home ground Anfield all season . Liverpool were back in the First

Division for the first time in eight years in 1962 ? 63 . Despite an uneasy start , they were in fifth place by March 1963 , after a 13 @-@ match unbeaten run . Liverpool 's form suffered following their 1 ? 0 loss to Leicester City in the FA Cup semi @-@ final , and a poor run of results including a 7 ? 2 defeat to Tottenham Hotspur saw the club finish the season in eighth place .

The following season , Shankly signed Peter Thompson from Preston North End as he could play wide on the right @-@ hand side of midfield . Liverpool started 1963 ? 64 poorly , garnering only nine points from the first nine games . A 2 ? 1 victory over Everton , their first win over their local rivals since 1950 , instigated Liverpool 's move up the table . They won 47 points from their next 30 games to secure their sixth League championship . Success led to the average attendance at Anfield increasing to more than 50 @,@ 000 . The fans also became more vocal , and it was around this time that the fans on the Kop adopted You 'll Never Walk Alone as their anthem .

Liverpool 's League championship qualified them to participate in European competition for the first time , in the 1964 ? 65 European Cup . For their second round tie against Belgian team Anderlecht , Shankly decided to change from red shirts , white shorts and socks to an all @-@ red kit . Shankly felt the players would be more intimidating to the opposition as a result . Liverpool reached the semi @-@ final , but were beaten by Italian club Internazionale . The tie was not without controversy ; Shankly felt that the referee showed bias towards Internazionale , as he had allowed questionable goals by the Italians to stand . Liverpool 's form in the European Cup carried over into the FA Cup , in which they reached the final against Leeds United . The game was goalless for the first 90 minutes , but Liverpool took the lead in extra time , courtesy of a goal by Hunt . Leeds equalised shortly afterwards , but a St John goal secured a 2 ? 1 victory for Liverpool , and their first FA Cup triumph . Liverpool 's form in cup competitions did not translate to their performance in the League , as the defence of their championship ended with the club finishing in seventh place .

= = 1965 ? 70 : Stability = =

Victory in the FA Cup meant Liverpool would participate in the European Cup Winners ' Cup during 1965 ? 66 . They went one stage further than the previous season , as they reached the final , facing German team Borussia Dortmund . The two sides were level at 1 ? 1 at the end of 90 minutes and the match went into extra time . Liverpool were unable to score and conceded a goal to Dortmund , who won the match 2 ? 1 . Shankly was unimpressed with his team 's performance , stating : " We didn 't play well and we gave away two silly goals . " Their defence of the FA Cup ended in the third round , after defeat to Chelsea . Their lack of success in cup competitions was offset by regaining the League championship on the last day of April 1966 when they beat Chelsea , courtesy of two goals from Hunt .

The next few seasons were not as successful . A return to the European Cup in 1966 ? 67 saw Liverpool eliminated 7 ? 3 on aggregate by Dutch side Ajax in the second round . The League campaign was equally disappointing , as the team finished the season in fifth place , winning only 2 of their last 11 games . One significant event during the season was the arrival of future captain Emlyn Hughes from Blackpool for a £ 65 @,@ 000 fee . The 1967 ? 68 season started well , with Liverpool league leaders through much of September , October and November 1967 . An accumulation of matches due to participation in the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup , FA Cup and Football League Cup impacted negatively on Liverpool 's League form . They finished the season in third place behind champions Manchester City . The 59 games Liverpool played during the season did not result in success . The furthest the club progressed in any competition was the quarter @-@ final of the FA Cup .

The following season saw an improvement in League form , but there was no reward . Poor performances in the cup competitions meant Liverpool had less fixture congestion than the previous season , but that did not translate into a League championship as they finished in second place , six points behind Leeds United . Shankly 's team was beginning to age , and several players had moved on or retired . Gerry Byrne , who had been the club 's left back for 12 seasons , retired after making 333 appearances . Shankly now had the task of replacing the players in his squad . He started the process with the purchase of Hughes and then Ray Clemence the season before , but

his signings did not always work out . Tony Hateley joined for a club record fee of £ 96 @, @ 000 from Chelsea , but injury and poor form meant he was sold to Coventry City after a year . During the 1968 ? 69 season Shankly signed Alun Evans for £ 100 @, @ 000 from Wolverhampton Wanderers , a record fee for a teenager at the time . Despite a good start , Evans suffered a series of injuries that cut his career short .

The 1969 ? 70 season was the beginning of a transitional period for Liverpool , as players such as Hunt , St John and Yeats made their last appearances for the club . A sixth @-@ round loss to Watford in the FA Cup convinced Shankly that some of his older players should be moved on . Liverpool nevertheless started the season well , and were unbeaten in their first ten League matches until a 1 ? 0 defeat to Manchester United . They were unable to maintain their early season form and finished in fifth place . Success in the other cup competitions was not forthcoming , as Liverpool exited in the early rounds of the Football League Cup and Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup .

= = 1970 ? 75 : Transition = =

Shankly 's new squad began to take shape during 1970 ? 71 , with many of the young players he had signed playing in the first team . As a result , the average age of the team was 22 . Players such as Clemence , Steve Heighway , Alec Lindsay and Larry Lloyd , began to establish themselves in the team . John Toshack was also signed from Cardiff City to replace Hunt . Liverpool were unable to improve upon the previous season 's League position , finishing in fifth place , but they had more success in cup competitions . They reached the semi @-@ finals of the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup , but lost to Leeds United over two @-@ legs . Liverpool progressed to the final of the FA Cup , and played Arsenal . Although Liverpool took the lead in extra time after a goalless 90 minutes , Arsenal won 2 ? 1 to complete a League and cup double .

Before the final against Arsenal , Shankly signed Kevin Keegan from Scunthorpe United . Keegan became a key player for Liverpool and his impact was immediate , as he scored 12 minutes into his Liverpool debut . The addition of Keegan almost helped Liverpool regain the League championship . They went into the final day of the season a point behind Derby County , who had already finished their campaign , but were unable to secure the victory they needed against Arsenal , finishing in third place . The 1972 ? 73 season was when Shankly 's new Liverpool team delivered , winning the League and the club 's first European trophy , the UEFA Cup . They started the season well and were top of the League after a 5 ? 0 victory over Sheffield United . They maintained that position throughout the remainder of the season , securing the League championship after a 0 ? 0 draw against Leicester City . It was the club 's eighth League title , equalling the record held by Arsenal . Further success followed in the UEFA Cup , as the club reached the final against German team Borussia Mönchengladbach . A 3 ? 0 victory in the first leg and a 2 ? 0 loss in the second leg meant Liverpool won the tie 3 ? 2 on aggregate , claiming their first European trophy . They became the first English team to win the League and a European trophy in the same season .

John Smith became chairman in 1973 ; his appointment was based around his business experience , with the idea of developing of a more corporate approach to the club 's decision making . He believed in continuity and ended the club 's policy of changing chairman every three years . The biggest development at Anfield in recent years occurred in 1973 , as the old Main Stand was demolished and a new one constructed . The stand was officially opened by the Duke of Kent on 10 March 1973 . Their triumph in the League meant Liverpool would compete in the 1973 ? 74 European Cup . They were not as successful as the previous season and were eliminated in the second round by Yugoslav team Red Star Belgrade . Liverpool made a poor start to their League campaign , losing early on to Coventry City and Derby County , as opposed to Leeds United , who were unbeaten in their first 29 games of the season . Liverpool reduced the gap , but a poor end to the season , in which they won only one of their last eight matches , meant they finished second to Leeds . Despite their lack of success in other competitions , Liverpool reached the final of the FA Cup , beating Newcastle United 3 ? 0 to win the cup for the second time . Shankly bought Ray Kennedy from Arsenal at the end of the season , which was his last act as Liverpool manager . He resigned soon afterwards , citing the need for a break , and was replaced by his assistant Bob

Paisley .

Shankly continued to turn up at Melwood , the club 's training ground , where the players still referred to him as ' boss ' . Reluctantly , Paisley asked him to stay away from training , in order to assert his authority as manager . Liverpool started 1974 ? 75 well ; they were unbeaten in their first six League matches , and recorded their biggest ever win when they beat Strømsgodset 11 ? 0 in the 1974 ? 75 European Cup Winners ' Cup . Liverpool were nevertheless knocked out by Hungarian side Ferencváros on the away goals rule in the next round . The club 's participation in domestic cup competitions ended early as well , being eliminated in the fourth round in the FA Cup and Football League Cup . Liverpool 's good start to the season in the League was not sustained and they eventually finished in second place . Paisley made some important signings during the course of the season . He signed Phil Neal , Terry McDermott and Jimmy Case , who would become regulars in the successful team that Paisley was to build .

= = 1975 ? 81 : Sustained success = =

The 1975 ? 76 season did not start well , as Liverpool lost 2 ? 0 to Queens Park Rangers in their first match . Their form had not improved by mid @-@ October 1975 , by which time they had won only six of their first twelve matches . Liverpool 's form picked up in the second half of the season ; a late @-@ season run in which they dropped only one point in nine matches left them a point behind Queens Park Rangers going into their final match . Victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers would secure the League championship as Queens Park Rangers had already finished their league campaign . The match did not start well , and Liverpool were a goal behind at half @-@ time , but won the match 3 ? 1 with three second @-@ half goals to win the League championship . Liverpool were eliminated early from the FA Cup and League Cup but fared better in Europe , progressing to the final of the UEFA Cup . A 4 ? 3 aggregate victory over Belgian team Club Brugge meant the club won the trophy for the second time .

Before the start of 1976 ? 77 , Keegan revealed Liverpool 's primary aim was to flourish in Europe : " There 's a tremendous ambition among all the lads to win the European Cup . We 've won everything else in the last five years and there 's a feeling that the European Cup is going to be next . " Liverpool started the season in good form , losing only 2 of their first 16 games in the League , a run that put them top by September 1976 . A blip during the Christmas period , which included a 5 ? 1 defeat to Aston Villa , did not prevent Liverpool from winning their tenth League championship . Liverpool were again successful in Europe , reaching the final of the European Cup for the first time and beating Borussia Mönchengladbach 3 ? 1 to become the champions of Europe . Paisley 's team were denied a treble of trophies when they lost the FA Cup final to Manchester United .

Keegan had been sold to German club Hamburg for a £ 500 @, @ 000 fee before the start of 1977 ? 78 . Paisley signed Kenny Dalglish from Celtic as Keegan 's replacement . His impact was immediate , as he scored 20 goals in 42 league games . Dalglish scored the winning goal in Liverpool 's 1 ? 0 victory over Club Brugge in the 1978 European Cup Final , as the club retained the trophy , becoming the first British team to do so . Despite their success in Europe , Liverpool were unsuccessful in domestic competitions . They finished seven points behind Nottingham Forest in the League , who were also their opponents in the 1978 Football League Cup Final . After ending 0 ? 0 the match went to a replay , which Nottingham Forest won 1 ? 0 .

Liverpool began 1978 ? 79 in contrasting fashion . They were drawn against Nottingham Forest in the first round of the European Cup and were eliminated after a 2 ? 0 aggregate defeat . There was also an early exit from the League Cup , as they lost 1 ? 0 to Sheffield United in the second round . But those setbacks were offset by Liverpool 's start in the League ; they won their first six games and did not lose until their twelfth ? a 1 ? 0 loss to Everton . Their form continued over the season and they won the League , finishing eight points ahead of Nottingham Forest . Their performance in the League broke several records ; the 68 points they gained surpassed the 67 earned by Leeds United in 1968 ? 69 . The 16 goals conceded was another record .

Liverpool retained the League championship in the following season . Despite early defeats to Southampton and Nottingham Forest , they were top by January 1980 and stayed there for the

remainder of the season . A 4 ? 1 victory over Aston Villa in the penultimate game of the season secured the League championship . Key to the club 's success was their home form ; they were unbeaten at Anfield all season , and only conceded eight goals . Their impressive form in the League did not translate to Europe , as Liverpool were knocked out in the first round of the European Cup by Soviet team Dinamo Tbilisi . They fared better in the FA Cup and League Cup , but were unable to progress past the semi @-@ final stage in either competition . During the season , Liverpool became the first British club to wear the name of a sponsor , Hitachi , on their shirts . Chairman John Smith was clear about the club 's need for extra income : " The days are gone when a club like ours can control its destiny on the money coming through the turnstiles . "

The 1980 ? 81 season was a contrast to previous seasons as the club struggled in the League , but excelled in cup competitions . Despite losing 8 games , the same as eventual winners Aston Villa , Liverpool drew 17 to finish in fifth place , their worst position for 16 years . Liverpool 's form in the cups was much better ; an early elimination in the FA Cup withstanding , they reached the finals of the Football League Cup and European Cup . They won the Football League Cup for the first time , beating West Ham United 2 ? 1 in a replay after the final ended in a draw . Real Madrid were Liverpool 's opponents in the 1981 European Cup Final , and they won the competition for the third time , courtesy of an Alan Kennedy goal in a 1 ? 0 victory .

= = 1981 ? 85 : Triumph and tragedy = =

Following their fifth @-@ place League finish the previous season , Liverpool were eager to regain the League championship . Their goalkeeper , Clemence , had signed for Tottenham Hotspur , and was replaced by Bruce Grobbelaar . Liverpool did not perform well in their early games , losing their first match and drawing several others . Their poor form continued , and by the end of December 1981 they had won only 6 of 17 games , and were in the bottom half of the League . Their form in the second half of the season improved , and a run of 11 successive wins towards the end of the season meant they won the League with four points more than Ipswich Town . Liverpool retained the League championship in 1982 ? 83 , winning the title 11 points ahead of Watford . Liverpool were eliminated from the FA Cup and European Cup in the fifth round and quarter @-@ final respectively , but were successful in the Football League Cup . A 2 ? 1 victory over Manchester United in the final meant Liverpool won the competition for the third year in succession . Before the start of the season , Paisley had announced his intention to retire from management aged 64 . Paisley had won six League championships , three European Cups and League Cups during his reign , making him the most successful manager in the club 's history . He was replaced by his assistant Joe Fagan .

Liverpool continued their success into 1983 ? 84 , as they won three competitions to secure a unique treble . The club began the campaign indifferently , but by November 1983 they were top of the table and stayed there to win the League three points ahead of Southampton . As a result , they equalled the record of three consecutive League championships held by Huddersfield Town and Arsenal . Key to their success was striker Ian Rush , who scored 32 goals over the league campaign , and a further 13 in other competitions . Liverpool again reached the final of the Football League Cup , where they faced Everton . A 0 ? 0 draw in the first match at Wembley Stadium meant that the match was replayed at Maine Road the following week . A Graeme Souness goal secured a 1 ? 0 victory and the club 's fourth successive League Cup triumph . Liverpool performed well in Europe , reaching the final of the European Cup . They faced Italian team Roma at their home stadium , the Stadio Olimpico . A 1 ? 1 draw after 90 minutes and extra time meant the match went to a penalty shoot @-@ out , which Liverpool won . Alan Kennedy scored the winning penalty after Grobbelaar had distracted Roma player Francesco Graziani , causing him to miss his own penalty .

Fagan 's second season in charge was less successful , as Liverpool failed to win trophy for the first time in nine years . The defence of their League championship was all but over in October 1984 when Liverpool were in the relegation places . The club 's form picked up afterwards , but they were unable to catch Everton and finished 13 points behind in second place . Their defence of the Football League Cup ended in the third round and Fagan 's team played no further part in the FA

Cup , after defeat to Manchester United at the semi @-@ final . Liverpool did fare better in Europe , reaching their fifth European Cup final . Before the match against Juventus at the Heysel Stadium commenced , Liverpool fans had breached a fence separating the two sets of supporters . As the Juventus fans fled to safety , the accumulation of people against a perimeter wall caused it to collapse , killing 39 fans , most of whom were Italians . The collapse of the wall led to rioting by Juventus fans at the other end of the ground . As a result , the match was delayed by two hours , but was played regardless , as it was feared its abandonment would lead to further violence . Juventus won the final 1 ? 0 .

In the aftermath of the match , the blame for the Heysel Stadium disaster was laid on the Liverpool fans . UEFA official Günter Schneider stated , " Only the English fans were responsible . Of that , there is no doubt . " As a result , The Football Association withdrew English clubs from European competition , and two days later UEFA banned English clubs for " an indeterminate period of time " . A condition was added , stipulating that Liverpool would serve another three @-@ year ban once the ban on English clubs was lifted . Fagan had decided to retire before the match ; he felt the team needed rebuilding and he was not the ideal man to do this with his 64th birthday approaching . He was replaced by Dalglish , who became the club 's first player @-@ manager .