

SHROVE SOCCER:

At Atherstone in Warwickshire, they shut up shop every Pancake Day for on that day the town goes wild. Football is their excuse so, appropriately, Aston Villa's Edith Jones - goalie - is there to get the ball rolling. True the sport they play wouldn't be approved by the Football Association, but for settling a few old scores with your neighbour, there's nothing like the rough and tumble that follows. Nobody's very sure of the rules (if any) and there's no such thing as a goal or a try, so at least you can't be on the losing side.

Maybe the people of Atherstone won't ever top the league, but when all's said and done there are few better ways of working up a darn good thirst for the celebrations that come later.