

SHROVE FOOTBALL

A Birmingham city player set in motion the most important game of the year - that is for Atherstone, in Derbyshire. Every Shrove Tuesday for centuries, there's been no time for any other activity in the town. All able bodied men make it a point of honour to join in. Other business is suspended for the day. Long experience has warned shopkeepers that they board up their windows, or else.

Obviously, this is the game Aecrington Stanley should have taken up.

Fame for the whole year comes to the man who eventually captures the ball. For him, it's drinks on the town.