

Red Dragon

RHAGLEN SWYDDOGOL

Y DDRAIG GOCH THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WREXHAM FC

LUTON TOWN

LIVE ON

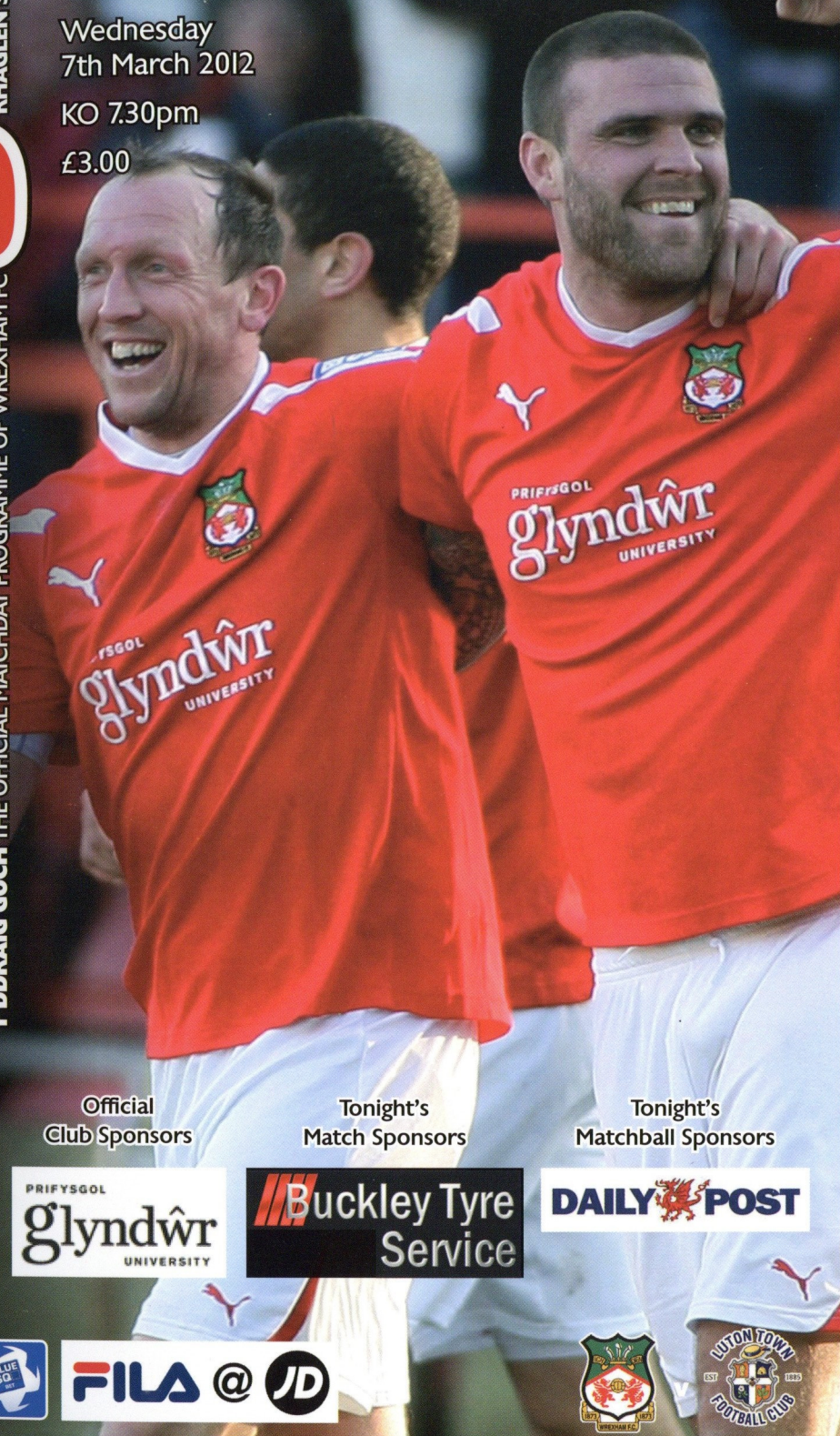
PREMIER SPORTS

Blue Square Bet
Premier Division

Wednesday
7th March 2012

KO 7.30pm

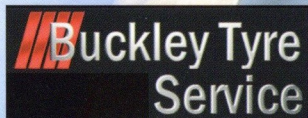
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Red Dragon Contents

Club Personnel

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- | | |
|--------------------|---|
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| Player Manager | Andy Morrell |
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| Coach | Michael Oakes |
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Roger van Heerden |
| Paramedic | Evan Meredith |
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| Groundsman | Paul Chaloner |

The Wrexham Football Club Matchday Programme is produced by JJ Sports Promotions Ltd and edited by Terry Brumpton. Designed by Richard Dunn of Drawing Board. For further information please contact Terry Brumpton on 07771 802 048 or terrybrumpton@yahoo.co.uk

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RED DRAGON REVIEW

We have been involved in a number of games over the past couple of weeks; we bring you up-to-date with all the latest action

Daniel Aifei

The end of January saw a flurry of arrivals at the Racecourse, one of those few faces joining Andy Morrell's squad was young full-back Daniel Aifei. The 19-year-old international footballer from the Republic of Ireland arrived in Wrexham on 15th January. He had been playing for the youth teams of the Republic of Ireland and had been capped at U19 level. Aifei is a versatile player who can play in defence or in attack. He has a good eye for goal and is a strong runner. He is expected to make a significant contribution to the team this season.

STAR GRADUATE

Quite often visiting teams have a player who started their career at said club before going on to achieve big success in the game. Leigh Edwards takes a look at one of Luton Town's Star Graduate's

Next up at the Racecourse



Red Dragon Review

Stockport County 1 Wrexham 0
By Dan Jennings

Pre-match build up
The match between Stockport County and Wrexham was a closely contested affair. Wrexham were the favorites but Stockport County were in excellent form. The game was a tactical battle with both teams looking to control possession. Wrexham's attack was hampered by a solid defensive performance from Stockport County.

Team selection and line-up
Wrexham manager Michael Oakes made several changes to his starting lineup. The changes were aimed at strengthening the defense and adding more attacking options. Stockport County manager Steve Brown also made tactical adjustments to his team.

Attendance
The match attracted a crowd of 1,500 fans to the Racecourse Ground. The atmosphere was electric as both teams fought hard for a win.

Wright return
Wrexham were pleased to see the return of striker Paul Wright to the starting lineup. Wright had been out of action for several weeks due to injury but he showed signs of form in his first game back.

What they said
Wrexham manager Michael Oakes said: "We were disappointed with the result but we showed character and fought hard. We will bounce back in our next game." Stockport County manager Steve Brown said: "We were pleased with our performance and we will continue to work hard to improve ourselves."

FROM INSIDE THE CAMP

It's always good to get the views of the players and in this edition Scott Smith chat's to another of the new faces to arrive at the Racecourse recently

Star Graduate

BRUCE RIOCH
Continuing his look back at one of the club's greatest footballers, LLOYD EDWARDS profiles one of Luton Town's finest ever players

Bruce Rioch was a prolific goalscorer for Luton Town during his playing days. He was a key player in the team's success in the Football Conference. Rioch was known for his powerful shot and his ability to score from a variety of positions on the field. He was a fan favorite and his departure from the club was a significant loss.

Next up at the Racecourse

After almost three weeks from the Racecourse you don't have to wait long before the team back in action here, as our next home game takes place just three days time.

Wrexham will be looking to continue their home form in their next match. The team has shown resilience and determination in their recent games. They will be looking to build on their success and secure a win for their fans.



David Roberts



The recent Supporters' Trust Members Meeting gave Finance Director Mark Williams the opportunity to update fans with the club's current financial state. Whilst this has improved significantly since the start of December, we must not lose sight of the battle to run the club in a sustainable manner.



As a Conference club we are presently spending £1.27 for every £1 of income we bring in. As such, the challenge is two fold; we have to both increase revenues and reduce costs.

That's no easy task and neither was trying to decide upon the best way to distribute the limited number of tickets we will have for the forthcoming away match at Fleetwood.

Even allowing for the fact that the game is being played on a Tuesday night, we expect demand to easily exceed the 975 terrace tickets we've been allocated.

That's why we took the decision to issue a voucher to each of the 342 Wrexham fans that made the trip to Kettering last Saturday.

Therefore if you are a Season Ticket Holder who also has a Kettering voucher then you will be given priority to purchase a ticket for the Fleetwood match.

The remaining tickets will then be sold to Season Ticket Holders with any balance going firstly to Kettering voucher holders before being put on general sale.

Unfortunately, we're in a position where some supporters are naturally going to be disappointed at not being able to obtain a ticket. However, we trust that you will understand the steps we have taken in what is a very difficult situation.

Good evening and welcome to the Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium for tonight's home match with promotion rivals Luton Town.

The presence of Premier Sports' television cameras this evening underlines the importance of the fixture for both sides as we enter the business end of the season.

Automatic promotion remains the goal of everyone associated with this club and, having fought so hard to be where we are in the table, we're determined to be first across the line.

That's why we took the opportunity to further strengthen the squad last week with the acquisition of Stephen Wright.

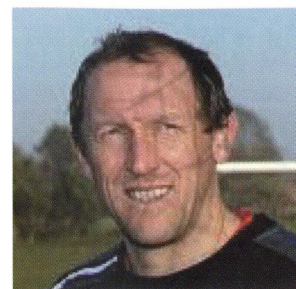
He's an experienced player who can play across the back four and enjoyed a winning debut at Kettering less than 24 hours after putting pen to paper on a contract through to the end of the season.

We've also been very busy off the field, signing a 15-year Ground Licence to continue playing here at the Racecourse.

It's a significant step forward and satisfies the criteria for the club to be able to continue playing in both the Football Conference and the Football League.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our thanks to Professor Mike Scott, Paul Whiting and Lynda Powell from Glyndwr for all their help in ensuring this matter was sorted in the requisite time scale.

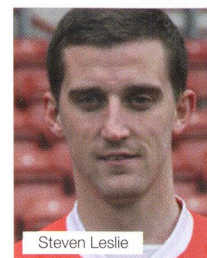
Andy Morrell



Good evening and welcome back to the Racecourse ground for tonight's clash against Luton Town. Gary Brabin's side are pushing hard for promotion once again and it will no doubt be

another difficult fixture for us.

It's been a while since we were last at home when we defeated Hayes & Yeading United 4-1. We were very good in the first half, but missed a lot of chances and it could certainly have been a lot more comfortable for us.



Steven Leslie

I thought overall we were outstanding though. Danny Alfei and Steven Leslie came in for their debuts and looked like they had been in the team all season, which is what pleased me most on the day. Both of them have added something extra to our squad and will be vital for us in the remainder of the campaign.

I wasn't happy to concede right at the end, as in the last ten minutes we took our foot off the gas. Ok we have scored four, but I would rather have put the pressure on and tried to have got a few more goals. Yet three points at the end of the day was the main aim.

Just three days later we travelled to Kidderminster Harriers and picked up one of our more important victories of the season. It was a tough game for us on a heavy pitch, but you couldn't fault how the players played on the day, despite it taking a lot out of them.

The clean sheet was paramount for us. We were disappointed not to get it against Hayes and Yeading but we got it at Kiddy against a really tough team. There won't be too many sides who will go there and beat them.

I missed a hatful in the previous game and didn't play too well at Kiddy, but I nicked one and that's just the way it goes sometimes. I don't care who scores them, it's more about the performance from the lads on the day in being able to pick up three points.

There was a bit of disappointment and frustration at Stockport, as I thought the first half was the worst that we had been for a long time. It pains me to say it but they

out-battled us, out-fought us, out-ran us and that's not something I've had to say since I took over.

We were a lot better second half and then went down to 10 men, with Jay being dismissed. We did alright but I'm just raging about the first half, it wasn't good enough. We've set our whole season out on hard work and we just didn't do it the other week. We just weren't at it on the day and for me that wasn't good enough.

Following that game we had a look at it on the Monday and we had a good week of training ahead of the match against Kettering Town.

It's not easy going to a place like Kettering, as they have no real pressure on them to do well and all the pressure was on us. Even though the pitch wasn't the best, we still created our own chances but also caused our own problems as well.

With the chances that we had in the first half it could have been all over by half time. We didn't start particularly great, but we had two chances early on to put the game beyond them, We didn't take them and we didn't even work the keeper, which is the more disappointing thing.

We eventually get the goal though in the first half, which we deserved but in the second half they had the wind in their favour and put a bit of pressure on us, meaning it was hard work for us really. We had a couple of chances to finish it off, none better than mine, which I should perhaps score. We got the three points though and it's onto the next one.

This evening we have got a few players coming back from injury and suspension, and this is the start of another tough three games coming up and I'm going to need everybody in the changing room to be at it, as there are going to be some tough decisions ahead.

With all these bodies coming back it's about regrouping, looking forward and if you are in the team then you have to play well to stay in. I think that is how it should be at a football club, as you don't shy away from it as a player, you put your head above the parapet and are there to be shot at. If I can get that mentality amongst the whole squad then I think you have got a winning formula.

It's just about us now moving forward together now and winning football matches as we look to continue to push for promotion.

Thanks,

Andy

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Commercial Matters

Around The Racecourse



We've just one opportunity left for you to sponsor a matchball, also against Alfreton on Good Friday, so please contact me on 07933 6661289 or e-mail me at phil.jones@wrexhamfc.tv for more details.

HOSPITALITY BOXES

I'd like to place on record my sincere thanks to the staff at Airbus UK for their continued support of the club. They were one of the first businesses to demonstrate their financial backing when the Wrexham Supporters' Trust acquired the club last November.

Having a Hospitality Box at every home game has proved a big hit with their employees and we hope it's the start of a long-term deal that will benefit both parties.

These are exactly the sort of dedicated partnerships we need to foster, as with Proserve who are another long standing Hospitality Box Holder, if the club is to prosper.

This evening we also welcome CS Cable Services here for the first time as a Box Holder. I'd like to thank Jason Bostock for his support in also taking out a perimeter board here at the Racecourse and we trust that he and his guests will enjoy a fantastic night.

May I also place on record my appreciation to the other box holders this evening, namely Gareth Jones, Graham Paton and the team from Linguassist Translation Services in Llangollen, together with Lease Direct and of course Glyndwr University.

There are still a handful of Hospitality Boxes available for our remaining games here at the Racecourse this term so please call or e-mail me for more details.

BAMFORDS

Aside from the Hospitality Boxes, remember that you can also enjoy a meal in the Bamfords Suite before each home game. The cost is just £35 per head, which includes a seat in the Executive Box.

We have a large and loyal band of supporters who make use of this facility, so why not come along and see just what's on offer.

PLAYING KIT SPONSORSHIP

We are now looking forward to next season's new playing kit and are currently in negotiations with a number of suppliers.

We are looking to secure sponsorship deals for both the back of the shirt and short sponsors so please call me for more details.

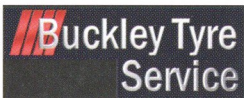
Phil

Good evening and welcome to the Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium for the visit of Luton Town in what is another vitally important Blue Square Bet Premier fixture.

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone who has wished me well in my new post, indeed there are far too many of you to mention individually, but suffice to say that I have been overwhelmed by the support I've received.

The goodwill around the club at present is truly inspirational and the support from both businesses and individuals has been tremendous as we all look to secure a firm financial footing for Wrexham Football Club for generations to come.

MATCH SPONSOR



We're blessed with some very loyal fans here at the Racecourse and none more so than the staff at Buckley Tyre

Services who are tonight's Match Sponsors. So it's a warm welcome to John Sparks and his team and we hope that they enjoy a super evening. Many thanks for your generous support.

If you wish to follow in Buckley Tyre Services' footsteps then we have still have a match sponsorship package available for the game against Alfreton Town on Good Friday, April 6th. Please call me on 07933 6661289 or e-mail me at phil.jones@wrexhamfc.tv for further details.

MATCHBALL SPONSOR



Tonight's Matchball Sponsors are the Daily Post, North Wales'

premier daily newspaper. They've provided the club with great coverage and support down the years, so why not make sure that you follow the fortunes of Wrexham Football Club each and every day in the Daily Post.

THE WRIGHT MOVE

Wrexham moved quickly to secure the services of former Liverpool and Hartlepool United defender Stephen Wright, following a hamstring injury to right back Dan Alfei. With the necessary clearance arriving in time the 32-year-old made his debut at Kettering Town, following the expiry of his short-term deal at Victoria Park in January.

The defender had been brought to Hartlepool from Brentford last summer by then head coach Mick Wadsworth, but was limited to 11 appearances for Pools due to an Achilles injury.

Merseyside-born Wright began his career with home-town club Liverpool, before going onto join Crewe, Sunderland, Stoke City, Coventry City and Brentford. He played 14 times for Liverpool and over 90 for Sunderland, joining Brentford in the summer for 2010 and then switching to Hartlepool in late 2011 on a short-term contract.

THE DREAM TEAM

Wrexham FC supporters group The Shropshire Reds are organising another of their memorable afternoon dinner parties - with Ron Atkinson as their guest speaker at the Lion Quays and he will be followed by the one and only 'Scoot'.

The event is being held on Sunday, 11 March - starting at 2pm and costs £35 a head or a table of ten for £300.

There are now limited tables/places available, so please email shreds@wafc123.freemove.co.uk to book.

FIXTURE CHANGES

There have been a number of alterations to fixtures in recent weeks, although all have been away games.

We will now travel on the following dates:

Tue 13 Mar - Ebbsfleet United Tue 27 Mar - Darlington

Tue 24 Apr - Newport County

A PROFESSIONAL OUTLOOK

Manager Andy Morrell has rewarded young striker Jay Colbeck with a professional contract that takes him through to the end of next season.

The Liverpool-based youngster progressed via the youth ranks at the Racecourse and has continued to impress this year.

His goals with both the youth team and reserves saw him promoted to the substitutes bench for the BSBP game with Kettering Town and when he came on Jay scored twice in a 4-1 victory. The following midweek he was once again called upon to make a late appearance at Forest Green.

He is yet another in a long line schoolboy players to have made the grade from our Centre for Excellence.

"Jay's a quiet lad who gets on with his work, but we have been watching him closely this season," said the boss. "He does though seem to have that happy knack of being in the right place at the right time.

"By getting him a deal through until 2013, we are hoping to allow Jay the time to develop as a player."

QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Matthew Purslow, a local Dragons supporter from Coedpoeth, hit on the idea helping the club's fundraising drive by asking Golden Lion landlord Ian, if he would consider donating takings from their always popular Thursday Quiz Night to Wrexham Football Club.

Ian was up for it and by advertising the night on forums such as Red Passion's message board, Matthew attracted some extra numbers to attend.

Teams from all over Wrexham helped swelled the attendance on what is always a successful evening at the Golden Lion. A great night was had by all, and into the bargain Ian handed over all the night's takings - which totalled exactly £100.

Our thanks go to Ian and his staff for their help, and the whole evening was a thoroughly enjoyable one.

WELSH YOUTH CUP

Following their recent success at Cardiff Corinthians, the youth team have now progressed to the Semi-Finals and a date with The New Saints.

This game will be played at a neutral venue and Cefn Druids FC will host our meeting with the Saints on Sunday, 18th March with a 2:00pm start. All supporters are welcome to attend this match, as we look to make our second appearance in the final in three years.

50/50 HALF TIME DRAW

At half-time during our last home match with Hayes & Yeading United at the Racecourse, the following winning 50/50 tickets were drawn:

24628 - 1st Prize - 50/50 - £300 24656 - Odeon Family Tickets

24503 - Nando's Meal Voucher

If you have a winning number, then please call Kev Hughes (07985 613893) to claim your prize.



TODAY'S MASCOT

This afternoon's mascot is 5-year-old Joel Gibson, who attends Holt CP School. His favourite player is Jake Speight and he will be attending today's game with his Mum, Dad and Brother.

We hope they all have a great time with us.

byddwch yn wreiddiol

byddwch yn rhan o'r hanes

Llefydd yn dal ar gael ar gyfer mynediad ym mis Medi 2012

- Opsiynau dysgu llawn amser, rhan-amser a seiliedig-ar-waith
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- Cannoedd o gyrsiau mewn amrywiaeth eang o bynciau. Astudiwch unrhyw beth o Beirianneg Drydanol, Cyfrifiadura a Technoleg Ceir Rasio i Gelfyddyd Gain, Dylunio Pensaernïol neu Aciwbigo

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In Reserve

Following a long break from action the reserve side finally got back some game time over the past few couple of weeks.

First of all a mixture of first team and youth team players took on Prestatyn Town in a friendly game in order to help raise some funds for the Welsh Premier League outfit. That game saw a comfortable 5-0 victory achieved as Wrexham helped Prestatyn towards their £5,000 target in order to repair their floodlights.

Just over a week ago the reserve side were back in league action as they travelled north to Lancashire to take on Burnley at Turf Moor.

Tuesday 28th February 2012
Burnley reserves 1
Wrexham reserves 1

A young Reds side were able to add another point to the tally as they picked up a deserved 1-1 draw against Burnley. This result saw us draw our fourth game in seven matches in order to send the team up to 5th place in the Central League West Division.

The match also gave the opportunity for Jamie Tolley and Danny Wright to get some game time following injury lay-offs.

The Reds should have had a penalty after just five minutes when Wright jinked into the box and perhaps should have gone down under a challenge – but being the honest lad he is he kept his footing instead.

Wright was soon in the thick of the action again as on 21 minutes he beat Burnley keeper Stewart to a corner and only just headed wide of the near post.

On 27 minutes Wrexham's Louis Gray had to quickly race off his line to smother the ball at the feet of Joe McKee on the edge of the box.

Wrexham then had two chances in as many minutes as first Wright saw a shot from 16 yards deflected for a corner before Tolley ran forward 15 yards and then struck the ball from 25 yards and stung the keeper's hands.

It was the same story after the break as two great saves from Stewart first denied Jamie Morton and then Colbeck, before the corner kick came in and Wright headed wide.

The Reds had a lucky escape on 58 minutes as Ross Wilson's low shot from 18-yards hit the foot of the Wrexham post and rebounded back into play.

It was to be Wrexham who would take the lead though as on 83 minutes through almost comical circumstances. A

Colbeck shot from a tight angle was cleared off the line by Easton but it hit the Burnley goalkeeper's legs and went back into the net.

Just two minutes later and the home side were level. An attempted shot from Ross Wilson was only pulled towards the far corner flag but fell for the unmarked Adam Evans to rifle home from 12-yards.

Burnley almost grabbed a winner with three minutes remaining but thankfully Johnny Hunt threw his body in front of a shot to deflect the effort away, thus earning a point for the reserves.

Wrexham Reserves: Gray, Tomassen, Parle, Stephens, Hunt, Tolley (Evans 62), Morton, Owen, Colbeck, Wright (Salathiel 62), Anoruo

Subs: Marsh, Fargin.

The reserves next fixture sees them hosting Preston North End at Colliers Park in a week's time. When the two sides last met the game ended in a competitive 1-1 draw with the reserve side taking great credit for holding a very strong Preston side. It would be great to see a good crowd supporting the reserve side on Wednesday 14th March at our training ground.

The Central League West Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 Burnley	6	4	1	1	19	11	+8 13
2 Preston North End	7	4	1	2	13	8	+5 13
3 Morecambe	7	4	1	2	18	16	+2 13
4 Tranmere Rovers	6	3	0	3	17	11	+6 9
5 Macclesfield Town	7	2	1	4	15	26	-11 7
6 Wrexham	6	1	3	2	13	14	-1 6
7 Oldham Athletic	7	1	1	5	11	20	-9 4

The Central League West Division 2011/12 Fixtures

Weds 7th September	HOME	Oldham Athletic	2-5
Weds 28th September	Away	Macclesfield Town	3-3
Tues 11th October	HOME	Tranmere Rovers	3-0
Weds 9th November	Away	Preston North End	1-1
Tues 15th November	HOME	Burnley	2-3
Weds 7th December	Away	Morecambe	2-2
Tues 28th February	Away	Burnley	1-1
Weds 14th March	HOME	Preston North End	
Weds 4th April	Away	Oldham Athletic	
Weds 11th April	HOME	Morecambe	
Weds 17th April	Away	Tranmere Rovers (7pm KO)	
Weds 24th April	HOME	Macclesfield Town	

All other kick-offs 2.00pm unless stated

Buckley Tyre Service

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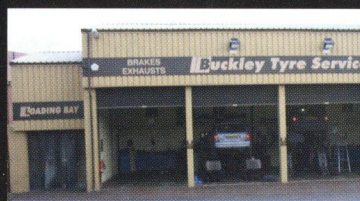
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Racecourse Foundation

Foundation Funday

On Thursday 16th February over 80 children attended the Funday held at Glyndwr University. The children took part in organised games, competitions and were joined on the afternoon by Jay Harris, Nat Knight-Percival, Neil Ashton, Johnny Hunt and James Colbeck for a 'Questions and Answers' session. The next Funday will be on Wednesday 4 April.

Mold Sports Centre – Saturday 9am-10am

Come along and pay on the day. Just £3.50 per session.

Birthday Parties

Why not hold your child's birthday here at the Racecourse. The package this year includes organised games, Signed Ball and tour of the ground. There is also a match day package



from each school year to attend and, hopefully, we will see some of these progressing to our Centre of Excellence in the coming months. At present we have over 100 children on these courses and will be starting one in Denbighshire in November.

Mascots

Why not join us in a special day at the Racecourse with our mascot package. This includes meeting the manager and players, a ground tour, warm up on the pitch prior to kick-off, leading the teams out onto the pitch with the captain or your favourite player and then a photograph with the officials in the centre circle. All of this, plus two adult tickets to accompany the mascot.

Group Visits

Do you manage or coach a local team? Do you teach or help out at a local school? Why not treat the children to a fabulous day out and bring them to a home fixture. They will embark on a ground tour then form a guard of honour for the players as they walk out on to the pitch. Also penalty competitions, crossbar challenges and our New Directions inflatable ball will be in action throughout the season.

Futsal

Four courses free to boys and girls in years 3-6 were completed on the 16th February in Clywedog, Ysgol Ruabon, Bryn Alyn and Darland. This has been funded by the Sports Council for Wales. There has been a fantastic response to these courses and we will be looking to run a similar project in the near future.

available. For details, please contact Simon on 07727 950527.

After School Clubs

Our coaches will be around schools this term delivering football to Ysgol Bodhyfryd, Ysgol Hooson, Sychdyn CP, Maes Y Llan, Kinnerton and Ysgol Terri.

Other courses currently running are:

Hawarden High School - Thursday 5pm-6pm

Glyndwr University - Friday 5pm-6pm

Denbigh Leisure Centre – Friday 4:30pm-6:15pm

Centre Of Development

Our second Centre of Development will commenced again on 20th February 2012 at Colliers Park and Buckley Leisure Centre, on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Primary Schools in Wrexham and Flintshire have nominated three children

Contact Details

Should you wish to contact the Racecourse Community Foundation team regarding any of our courses/projects or match day events - then please contact us on 01978 296397 or email soccerschools@wrexhamfc.tv Website: www.thercf.co.uk





Terrace Talk!

It's funny how things change from home game to home game. Unfortunately, the only people laughing are Fleetwood Town fans. A little over two weeks ago we were cruising to victory over Hayes and Yeading United, scoring four goals to crush any doubt over the impact our new players will have. Chants saying we were top of the league almost made the day a perfect one, but they proved to be without foundation as the Cod Army ground out a 1-0 win over Cambridge United.

Three away games later and we're five points behind them. Six points from nine is a healthy haul for many teams in normal circumstances, but when you're fighting for top spot with a team like Fleetwood, nothing more than a 100% record will suffice. The good news is things are still in

our hands. We still have to play them and tonight we'll have two games in hand as they faced a Grimsby team armed with the dangerous Liam Hearn, and in a similar sort of good form, last night.

However, if they did pick up all three points, we seemingly must win tonight. Luton Town will certainly make that task a hefty one though. They may be some way off winning the league, but their manager will still harbour hopes of finishing top or at least ahead of us. That's the kind of team they are.

Based on fanbase and history, both teams out here tonight should be in the Football League. Some 1,500+ fans travelled to Stockport for us last week, while Luton's home attendances regularly pass the 5k mark.

Fairytale comebacks don't write themselves though and this is another chapter in the ongoing history between the two clubs at Conference level. Both teams could still be promoted this year but neither will do each other any favours.

There's a possibility that we'll be seeing Luton again before next season starts, but any thoughts of that should be shelved as the league remains winnable.

The fact we're even challenging with these big spenders is an achievement. To be coming into March with destiny in our own hands is remarkable. Let's not do anything silly and waste all that hard work.

Thanks,

Lewis

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Red Dragon Review

Wrexham 4
Hayes & Yeading United 1



By Dan Jennings

Pre-match build up

This was Wrexham's first match for three weeks since stuttering past bottom side Bath City at the end of January. The Reds were looking to chalk up another three points but, more importantly, put in a good performance to bring the belief back to the fans and players alike.

Team selection and line-ups

Andy Morrell started himself up front with Jake Speight and Adrian Cieslewicz continuing in support. New boy Daniel Alfei came in at right-back, in place of Swansea-bound Curtis Obeng, and Steven Leslie was named as part of the midfield trio alongside Jay Harris and Joe Clarke. After losing leading marksman Louie Soares to Grimsby Town on transfer deadline day, Nas Bashir handed a debut to Michael Thalassitis.

Wrexham (4-3-3): Mayebi, Alfei, Creighton, Knight-Percival, Ashton, Clarke, Harris, Leslie (Hunt 76); Cieslewicz, Morrell (Pogba 65), Speight.

Subs: Maxwell, Little, Westwood.

Hayes & Yeading United (4-4-2): Pentney; Moutaouakil (Spence 46), Pele, Walsh, Cadmore; Collins, Mulley (Bentley 67), Hand, Wishart (Owusu 60); Williams, Thalassitis.

Subs: Beasant, Ajala.

The goal

1-0: 16 minutes, Jake Speight. This was a great individual goal and Speight's fourth in four starts since the turn of the year. Collecting the ball wide on the left, Speight motored inside and skipped past two sliding tackles before squirming the ball past Carl Pentney into the bottom left-hand corner.

2-0: 44 minutes, Mark Creighton. The big centre-half had already had a goal ruled out for an apparent handball ten minutes earlier. On the stroke of half-time he was in the right place at the right time and made no mistake when Pentney could only parry Cieslewicz's cross into his path.

3-0: 58 minutes, Jay Harris. After receiving a short corner from Clarke on the left, Harris cut inside on to his favoured right foot and curled a superb finish through a crowded area and inside the far post.

4-0: 74 minutes, Mathias Pogba. Pogba had only been on the pitch for eight minutes when he helped himself to his first goal of 2012. Speight perhaps should have had a second when Harris' deflected shot fell into his path but as Pentney blocked Pogba was on hand to calmly roll the ball into an empty net.

4-1: 88 minutes, Michael Thalassitis. Mark Bentley found space on the left and struck a powerful low drive from just inside the area. Joslain Mayebi saved but Thalassitis had the easiest of tasks converting the rebound from close range.

Attendance

3,845

Star performer

Wrexham's stand-out performer was undoubtedly Jay Harris. He showed his usual drive and desire and was rewarded for his endeavour by getting

his name on the score-sheet. Harris looked as good as he did this time last campaign when he picked up the Blue Square Bet Premier Player-of-the-Month award.

The debutants

Steven Leslie was named as the sponsors' man-of-the-match for an assured performance in the middle of the park. The former Shrewsbury man demonstrated his eye for a pass and a lot of Wrexham's forward momentum stemmed from his left foot. Daniel Alfei looked composed on the ball but will have much sterner tests in the coming weeks.

Post match reflection

Wrexham simply swept aside their lowly opponents with a much more composed performance than they had produced in recent weeks. It was almost too comfortable at times for the Dragons. Morrell was highly critical of a failure to convert more of the clear cut chances and the lack of concentration that allowed Hayes & Yeading to grab a late goal. The Reds now need to take this momentum forward into two tricky away fixtures and remain within touching distance of Fleetwood Town before tonight's tough test against Luton Town live in front of the Premier Sports cameras.

A fan's reaction

Joe Murphy, 42, of Cefn Mawr, said: "That was a lot better. Since losing to Forest Green we needed a confidence booster and I hope this was it. I think we'll take a lot of fans to Kidderminster and Stockport and we need to try and cheer the team on to another couple of wins. It was nice to see Pogba back today as well; he could be an important player for us in the big games coming up."

Red Dragon Review

Kidderminster Harriers Wrexham

0
1



By Dan Jennings

Pre-match build up

The Dragons made the short journey to the Midlands to face a Harriers side that had only lost two of their 16 matches at Aggborough so far this season. Both sides were desperate to add another three points to their tally; Wrexham looking to keep the pressure on Fleetwood Town while Kidderminster had the chance to climb into the Blue Square Premier play-off places.

Team selection and line-ups

Andy Morrell named an unchanged starting XI from the one that defeated Hayes & Yeading 4-1 at the Racecourse three days prior. Steve Burr was without Lee Hendrie but able to name sought after marksman Jamille Matt in his side. Former Dragon Mike Williams lined up in defence for the Harriers.

Kidderminster Harriers (4-3-3): Breeden; Vaughan, Briscoe, Jones, Williams; Bradley, Storer, Byrne; Wright (Hankin 72), Matt (Rowe 81), Malbon (Guinan 62).

Subs: Gittings, Lyness.

Wrexham (4-3-3): Mayebi; Alfei, Creighton (Westwood 87), Knight-Percival, Ashton; Clarke, Harris, Leslie; Cieslewicz (Pogba 62), Morrell (Hunt 76), Speight.

Subs: Maxwell, Little.

First half

Wrexham made the brighter opening

with both Adrian Cieslewicz and Jake Speight testing Tony Breeden in the early exchanges. The home side played themselves back into the match and went very close to breaking the deadline, when Luke Jones' header was cleared off the line by Joe Clarke. Harriers put the Dragons under a lot of pressure with a succession of corners, before the visitors took the lead against the run of play. Neil Ashton's long free-kick led to a back post scramble and as Mark Creighton and Nat Knight-Percival failed to make a decisive contact Morrell pounced to stab home with just seconds of stoppage time remaining.

Second half

Harriers maintained their assault on Wrexham's area but the Dragons almost wrapped up the three points on the break. Daniel Alfei delivered a good cross from the right and when Morrell headed back across goal Speight headed narrowly over. The arrival of Mathias Pogba gave Wrexham an outlet to break at will, but it was the home side that finished stronger as the Dragons had to defend doggedly to take home maximum points.

Positives

It was another ground-out three points on their travels for Wrexham. Despite coming under prolonged spells of pressure the clean sheet was well deserved.

Negatives

Seeing the inspirational Mark Creighton hobble off in the dying minutes will raise concerns about available options at the heart of Wrexham's defence. The season to date has evolved around a settled back four and after Obeng's deadline day departure it needs no more disruption. Hopefully the 'Beast' won't be on the sidelines for too long.

Star performers

Joe Clarke put himself about the place and almost played as a third centre-

back at times. As the defensive part of the midfield three, Clarke's tireless contribution often goes unnoticed but not on this performance. He was on hand to deny Kidderminster taking a first half advantage when he headed off his own goal line and in the latter stages of the second half, he cut out a number of dangerous crosses into the Dragons box when an equaliser looked very much on the cards. Mark Creighton was a rock until his late departure and Daniel Alfei proved he can defend as well as play football.

Attendance

2,492 (717 away following). This was another away game that Wrexham fans almost turned into a home match. Having such a regular large away support can only help spur on the players in tense and tricky matches like this.

Post-match reflection

As news filtered through to the away end that Fleetwood Town were handed out a 6-2 drubbing to Ebbsfleet United, it was absolutely crucial that Wrexham dug deep to pick up the three points and keep the pressure on the leaders. Focus now needs to be maintained, as matches are going to come thick and fast over the coming weeks and months.

Players' reactions

The players were happy with both the result and the fans, airing their views on Twitter:

Adrian Cieslewicz (@adipolska): "Big 3 points today, not a pretty game but they win you promotion!! Fans amazing as always!!"

Neil Ashton (@Ashy_number3): "Wot a 3 points that is!! Could be a massive win on the title charge!! Superb fans again!!"

Mark Creighton (@creights5): "Buzzing with the result, propa tough place to go. Fans were amazing again and thanks for the great reception as always"

You can also follow Dan Jennings on Twitter: @_JENNO14

Red Dragon Review

**Stockport County 1
Wrexham 0**



Pre-match build up

Andy Morrell's side were aiming to make it three consecutive wins as the Reds made the short trip across to Stockport. Victories over Hayes & Yeading United and Kidderminster Harriers in the past week had seen Wrexham keep up the pressure on league leaders Fleetwood Town, as the side gets ready for the final run-in.

Team selection and line-ups

There were two changes to the side that had defeated Kidderminster earlier in the week with Chris Westwood coming in for the injured Mark Creighton, while Mathias Pogba returned to the starting line-up for Adrian Cieslewicz. The Polish winger dropped to the bench and was joined there by Danny Wright, who returned to the fold after a number of weeks out injured.

Stockport County (4-5-1): Ormson, Rose, Halls, Piergianni, Rowe (Whitehead 85), McConville (Cole 63), Nolan, Mainwaring, Turnbull, Rowe (Holden 63), Elliott.

Subs: Hirmer, Sheridan.

Wrexham (4-3-3): Mayebi, Alfei, Westwood, Knight-Percival, Ashton, Clarke, Harris, Leslie (Cieslewicz 76); Morrell (Little 60), Speight (Wright 71), Pogba.

Subs: Maxwell, Hunt.

The goal

1-0: 27 minutes, Joslain Mayebi OG. The big shot topper rose to meet a

Danny Rowe corner but the goalkeeper only succeeded in punching into his own net. Despite the protests from Mayebi about a foul on him, the goal stood for the home side.

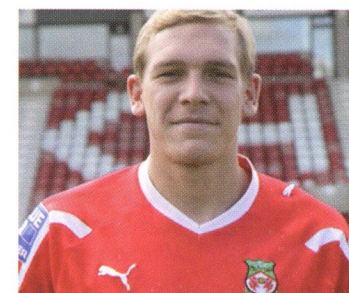
Sending off

No-one can ever accuse Jay Harris of shirking out of a challenge, with the midfielder always up for the fight all over the pitch. A first half booking though was followed up by a second, seven minutes into the second period, for hauling down a Stockport man in order to stop a dangerous counter-attack. Unfortunately for the number six, it resulted in a sending off, thus meaning a one-game suspension for the trip to Kettering Town.

Attendance

4,518 (including over 1,500 from Wrexham)

Wright return



Despite the result it was great to see striker Danny Wright return to the squad after over a month out injured. The big frontman had been missing since coming off injured against Brighton & Hove Albion in the FA Cup replay on Wednesday, 18 January. Wright will bring something different to the frontline in these last two months of the campaign, as we look to earn promotion back to the Football League.

Reds support

Morrell's men were once again backed by a fantastic travelling support, which saw a good third of the ground taken over by Wrexham fans. Unfortunately they didn't have much to cheer on what was an ultimately disappointing afternoon in Cheshire. It is important now that supporters continue with this great following in order to help push the side over the finishing line in the coming weeks.

Post match reflection

It was certainly an afternoon to forget as the Reds slipped to their second league defeat of 2012. This result means that Wrexham now sit five points behind league leaders Fleetwood, but the league title is still very much within grasp. The simple fact is, is that Morrell's side pick up three points from every game between now and the end of the season then they will win the league. Although this is perhaps unlikely to happen it shows that all is not lost and there are still a number of twists and turns left in this season yet.

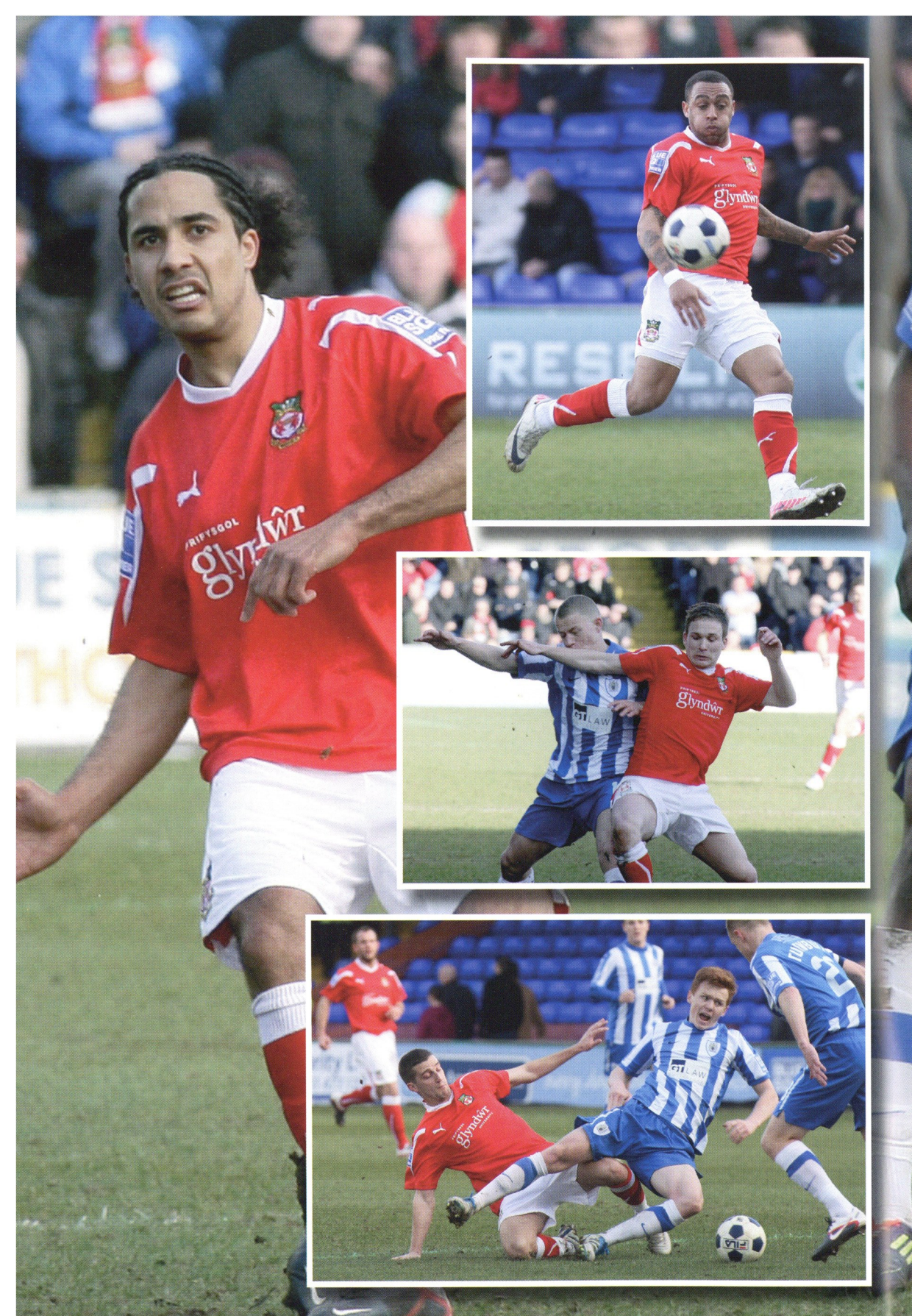
What they said

Andy Morrell, "There's a bit of disappointment, frustration; I thought the first half was the worst we've been for a long, long time.

"It pains me to say it but they out-battled us, out-fought us, out-ran us and that's not something I've had to say since I took over.

"We were a lot better second half and then down to 10 men we did alright but I'm just raging about the first half, it wasn't good enough.

"We've set our whole season out on hard work and we just didn't do it."





GARETH OWEN?



Whenever you think of Wrexham teams from the 1990s, the name Gareth Owen pops up time and time again.

The loyal midfielder spent more than a decade with the Reds, making over 300 appearances in that time, and Dan Jennings had the pleasure of catching up with him after a recent match.

Owen's first memories of football were on the schoolyard, "Like everyone else at that age there was nothing else on my mind. You get on the playground and wonder what you can do with the ball at your feet and it all took off from there.

"I played youth football with Buckley for five or six years, then Hawarden Rangers before I started with the Chester Schoolboys. Cliff Sear was in charge there at the time and when he jacked it in he moved to Wrexham and invited the boys from Chester over with him. I was very lucky to be one of them."

It was in the 1989/90 season that Owen got his chance with the first team squad, "When you're used to training with the YTS and end up training with the first team they give you a bit of stick as if you're big-time. Fortunately there were seven or eight of us coming through at the same time who were in and out of the squad throughout the season.

"I made my debut against Blackpool in the LDV Vans, we won 1-0 on the night; and my league debut the following Saturday at home to Grimsby in a 0-0 draw."

1990/91, Owen's first full season, was a difficult one as Wrexham finished bottom of the football league, "Suddenly you were playing with lads who were playing for their livelihoods, it made you grow up very quickly. It was a real test of character having to scrap against it. We were 92nd, bottom of the full pile, for most of the season. Being bottom of any professional league isn't nice and it makes you appreciate the decent times."

Owen also recalls how experiences in the reserves can build character, "At the time the reserves played in the Welsh National League and that can really make a man out of you. Being the Wrexham reserves people really wanted to beat you. You had to go to places like Johnstown and Cefn where people just wanted to nail you and you had to be able to ride tackles. It was sink or swim. You had to learn very quickly and it makes you the player you are."

Good times were soon to follow and in 1992/93 Wrexham beat Arsenal in one of the greatest F.A. Cup shocks of all time, "It was all a bit surreal. You were on the pitch with legends like Mickey Thomas – and that was just the Wrexham team. Seeing yourselves on Match of the Day, it took weeks for that to settle in. There were even articles published in New Zealand about lowly Wrexham beating last year's league champions."

"The whole day was a bit of a blur. I was stood close to Mickey when he struck the equaliser but one of my abiding memories of the match, of all things, was a clearance by Mark Sertori. We had come under wave after wave of attack and he really took the pressure off us with a clearance that has probably still got snow on it now. David Seaman seemed to take forever to get the ball and that was it."

Things kept getting better for Owen, and Wrexham, with promotion the following season, "My biggest memory was going away to Northampton the night we went up. Wrexham took two to three thousand fans and they were everywhere you looked. Benno (Gary Bennett) got both on the night and he was an astute piece of business by Flynny. He came in from Chester and was like a machine for us. He was the worst trainer you'll ever meet but a real game player who came alive on a Saturday.

"Our season kicked on from Christmas onwards. We were just playing a lot of 5-a-side to keep things ticking over. We all knew each other pretty well from growing up. Myself, Phil Hardy, Steve Watkin and Wayne Phillips had all come through the experiences of getting booted in the reserves and we had the experience of Benno, Tony Humes and Mel Pejic."

In 1996/97, Owen was involved in another historic F.A. Cup run as Wrexham made the quarter-final stage, "I had played in the earlier rounds but missed the game at Birmingham through injury. By the time the quarter-final at Chesterfield came round I was back on the bench. It was one of my lowest points. There was a defensive mix up between Deryn Brace and Andy Marriott and Chris Beaumont

Whatever Happened to...



nicked in and lifted it over Marriott. You look at what they did against Middlesborough in the semis and you think – who knows? Who knows?"

Wrexham established themselves in the higher tier but narrowly failing to make the play-offs in 1997/98 has played on Owen's mind just like many Wrexham fans, "I'm a big believer in fate so I've always wondered whether we were meant to be there or not. When we won 3-1 at Rotherham on the final day one season we were actually in the play-offs at one point during that game but ended up missing out on goal difference.

"We had grown in stature and the calibre of player Flynny was bringing in was getting better and better with the likes of Peter Ward and Andy Marriott. You can't underestimate the job Flynny, Kev (Reeves), Joey (Jones) and the backroom staff did. If we had have got in the play-offs, who knows what would have happened then? If we had have gone up, would we have come straight back down? Had Flynny taken us as far as he could? We never finished higher than mid-table after that so maybe it just wasn't to be."

Owen was rewarded with his loyalty to Wrexham with a testimonial, "I remember it as if it was yesterday, August 1st, 2000. We were struggling for a team and fortunately for us we had just signed Darren (Ferguson) and he turned up one day and said 'me old man's going to send a team down'. I remember we'd sold about 7,500 tickets but after the Evening Leader announced Ryan Giggs was coming down

to captain the side nearly double that turned up. I told myself to enjoy every minute of it but in the end it was all a bit overwhelming. Dwight Yorke played, Andy Cole was there, it was very humbling."

In 2001 Owen ended his time at the Racecourse and moved on to Doncaster Rovers, "I was playing in the reserves again and Donny had come down to watch Danny Williams. I must have done something right to impress them. They were in the Conference and got crowds of four to five thousand, just like Wrexham do now. It was great to be involved in the promotion in my second season. They were great people and a good club, who have gone on to become a huge club now after climbing from the Conference to the Championship in just five or six seasons."

Owen went on to play two seasons at Connah's Quay Nomads before taking the player-manager role at Airbus UK, "It was in 2005 when Allan Bickerstaff approached me and the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to give it a go. I had three seasons there, it was a learning curve but it was tough, really tough. We scrapped relegation for two years but then got a comfortable mid-table finish."

In 2008, Owen came out of management to continue playing for Rhyl, "That was where me and Allan Bickerstaff crossed paths again, I wouldn't have left Airbus for anybody else. I felt I needed a new challenge and when I walked out on the pitch at Rhyl and saw the stadium I was sold. There were a lot of ex-Wrexham players there at the time. Neil Roberts, who had gone on to play full internationals for Wales, Danny Williams, Jamie Reed, Josh Johnson and George Horan."

Rhyl went on to win the Welsh Premier Division title and Owen picked up the player-of-the-season award, "It was nice as it was voted for by current players as well as just the managers. When you consider we had players like Neil (Roberts) in our side and Rhys Griffiths, who always does well, it was really the icing on the cake, especially at my age, 38."

Owen returned to coaching with Airbus this season but is currently enjoying some time to himself, including following the Dragons, "I left about a month back and there's not a lot of movement at the moment so it could just be a case of seeing what happens over the summer months. I'm just enjoying spending a bit of time with my daughter at the moment.

"My other half's a big Wrexham fan and has been dragging me along to the games again this season. I'm not counting but I think I'm into double figures for the season. Credit to Dean Saunders for bringing it all together but you've got to admire what Andy (Morrell) is doing. He's taken the reigns, picked the right formation for the players and got the best out of everyone.

"I'm enjoying watching them at the moment. I'm a Wrexham fan who's gone full circle."

Daniel Alfei



The end of January saw a flurry of arrivals at the Racecourse, one of these new faces joining Andy Morrell's squad was young full-back Daniel Alfei.

The Wales U21 international headed north to join the Reds on-loan from Premier League side Swansea City. This move was part of the deal which saw Curtis Obeng heading south to link-up with his new club.

Alfei joined the club on-loan for the remainder of the season and after a flurry of matches in the space of a couple of weeks Scott Smith managed to catch up with the 20-year-old ahead of this evening's game against Luton.

He started by asking Alfei how he had found life at Wrexham so far, "I've settled in well, obviously we had the three week break at the start of my spell here where we had a lot of training, but from this I got to know all of the lads. It's been good as well for me as I have had Rob (Ogleby) who is new, so we have been in the hotel together, whilst we have been going out with some of the boys as well. Through training and from the first couple of matches I have got to know how the other boys play, so I've settled in well to be fair."

With the move taking place right at the end of the January transfer window we wondered how long before he had known about Wrexham's interest, "I knew a couple of days before I actually came up that they might be one of the options, then on the last day of January I found out that it was going to happen and I came straight up here then.

"It all happened pretty quickly, so I never got chance to speak to any of the lads about the move. So I wasn't able to speak to the likes of Neil (Taylor) or Curtis (Obeng) before I came. They are both doing well though and hopefully I can follow that up." Alfei added when questioned if he had chance to speak to any of the former Wrexham players now at Swansea.

It was pointed out to the U21 international that this kind of move was one which was needed in order to continue his personal development, "This is what I need in my career to get experience and to be playing

every week, and its good club to come too especially with them being involved in the promotion race as it is. It's good to be playing but it's also good to be trying to help a welsh club to get back into the Football League.

"It's completely different to what I've been used to playing before. It's good for me as its fast paced, it's a lot more physical and it's just generally different to the games I have played in before. It's good for me to know though to get to know how football is played in different leagues."

The switch to this level of football has been a pretty seamless one though for the full-back as he has made the right-back slot his own. Alfei felt that this was down to Wrexham having a similar approach to that of his parent club, "I think they play quite similar to how Swansea want to play, they like to keep the ball and push the full-backs on. That's how I have been taught at Swansea, so it has been quite easy to fit in as I like to get forward anyway. So it hasn't been too hard to fit in as Wrexham play similarly to what I have been used to."

We finished by asking the youngster what Swansea manager Brendan Rodgers had said to him before he made the trip to north Wales, "Basically that I need to be playing on a regular basis, in front of crowds and also getting used to pressure with the promotion factor. There is a bit more pressure playing for points, whereas reserve games are more based on performance, whereas here it's all about the points and the result. I just need to get the experience and grow up a bit and know what it is like to be playing at this level and hopefully it will help me progress in my career and I will go back to Swansea as a better player."

With the way that Alfei has started his Wrexham career it is a sure sign that the 20-year-old could well go far in the game having slotted into our back-line with relative ease. We hope he is able to continue his development with us over the course of the next couple of months as we look to make this season a memorable one all round.



away from home Red Dragons

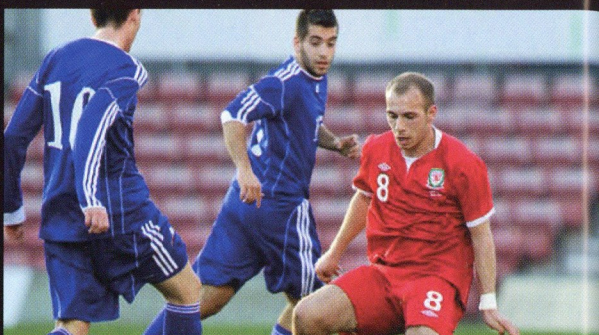


We have had a mixed time of late on the road, however the away support has been fantastic and the players are always eager to show their support back for your continued backing.

Welsh U21's

International football returns to the Racecourse

Last Wednesday afternoon saw International football returning to North Wales as Wales Under 21's took on Andorra here at the Racecourse. With the main national side playing in Cardiff later on in the evening the game kicked off at the earlier time of 4pm, this meant that supporters were able to watch both matches if they wished to do so.



Just before the hour mark the U21's were able to add to their total as Southampton's Ryan Doble pounced to complete the route on what was a comfortable afternoon for the youngsters.

Of the Wrexham contingent on show Maxwell had a pretty quiet afternoon as he was rarely threatened while Ogleby is still waiting to take his bow on the Racecourse pitch as he was an unused substitute, along with former shot stopper Ward.

The team that took to the field a week ago was as follows:

1. Chris Maxwell (Wrexham)
2. Adam Henley (Blackburn Rovers)
3. Kieron Freeman (Nottingham Forest)
4. Ashley Richards (Swansea City) (c)
5. David Stephens (Hibernian)
6. Troy Brown (Rotherham United)
7. Billy Bodin (Swindon Town)
8. Jake Howells (Luton Town)
9. Jake Cassidy (Wolverhampton Wanderers)
10. Jake Taylor (Reading)
11. Ryan Doble (Southampton)

Substitutes:

12. Daniel Ward (Liverpool)
13. Joe Walsh (Swansea City)
14. Ashton Taylor (Tranmere Rovers) (For Brown 57m)
15. Paul Dummatt (Newcastle Utd) (For Freeman 61m)
16. Tom Bradshaw (Shrewsbury) (For Cassidy 69m)
17. Robert Ogleby (Wrexham)
18. Elliott Chamberlain (Leicester City)

Ahead of the game some 3,200 free tickets were distributed locally via the Glyndwr University, with a good number also going out to local schools in order for local children to be able to enjoy the experience of International football.

In the end a very encouraging crowd of 2,013 made use of the free tickets which saw them situated in Mold Road Stand on a very sunny afternoon at the Cae Ras.

There was some local interest in the Wales squad with Wrexham keeper Chris Maxwell taking the number one jersey for the U21 side, while relatively new signing Rob Ogleby was named amongst the substitutes. Joining him on the bench was recently departed goalkeeper Danny Ward who made a quick return to his old stomping ground following his switch to Premier League side Liverpool.

Unfortunately recent loan signing Danny Alfei missed out due to a one match suspension kicking in for this fixture. There was also one player who could well be playing here for two consecutive weeks, that being Luton's Jake Howells who started in last week's fixture for Wales.

The game was certainly a pretty one-sided one and it didn't take long for the Welsh side to take control as Swindon Town's Billy Bodin slotted home after 22 minutes. Bodin soon doubled his tally with another well taken goal after 33 minutes to put his side in full control.

The result was all but confirmed just a minute before the interval as an Andorra man put through his own net to put the Wales youngsters 3-0 up.

Gary Speed Memorial

Emotional evening in Cardiff

Maybe the weight of expectation was too much for a Wales side who so desperately wanted to provide a fitting tribute to their late manager, Gary Speed.

emotion, as was seeing Speed's young sons Ed and Tommy lead out the two teams with injured captain Aaron Ramsey and skipper for the night, Craig Bellamy.

It was hard to concentrate on the match, overseen by Speed's coach Osian Roberts from the dug-out, and Wales started the game in a near-testimonial atmosphere.

That seemed to account for the way Costa Rica glided into the lead after just seven minutes, their crisp passing opening up the Wales defence for Campbell to clinically shot past Lewis Price from 12 yards.



This memorial match following Speed's sad death in November produced a 23,000 plus crowd who wanted to pay their own respects, but an early goal from Joel Campbell was enough to give Costa Rica victory.

This was never going to be just another football match. The Cardiff City's stadium crowd said their own goodbye to Wales most capped outfield player and a man who had given such hope and promise in his fledgling months as national manager. The build-up to this memorial international saw contributions from the Super Furry Animals, Mike Peters of the Farm, the Risca Male Voice Choir, Only Men Allowed and Bryn Terfel.

A minutes applause was full of

Price from 12 yards.

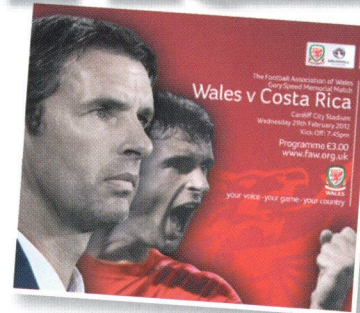
Wales were without the invention and skill of Ramsey and Gareth Bale, while Price was in goal due to injuries to Wayne Hennessey and Boaz Myhill.

The visitors looked a more than decent side and had plenty of possession and Campbell could have scored again when he broke away on the left to test Price with an angled drive.

It took a very long time for Wales to get into the game, but no doubt spurred on by the booming chant of "Speedo, Speedo" from the fans, they started to put Costa Rica under pressure.

Before the break Joe Allen just failed to get on the end of a Chris Gunter cross, while Steve Morison saw a header crash down onto the line from the crossbar, and Ashley Williams fired over from ten yards.

At the break a host of Speed's former international team-mates were introduced to the crowd, along with Wales' world boxing champion



Nathan Cleverly.

The second period started with Bellamy flashing a close range drive over the bar as Wales fought for an equaliser.

Keylor Navas saved well from Hal Robson-Kanu, with Jack Collinson taking over from Allen just after the hour mark. Sam Vokes then took over from Morison soon after.

Danny Gabbidon and Joe Ledley were soon to replace Ashley Williams and David Vaughan, while Robert Earnshaw and Sam Ricketts came on for Bellamy and Adam Matthews. But Wales still struggling to really test the Costa Ricans.

In fact, Costa Rica almost grabbed a second after 78 minutes when Kenny Cunningham cut through to crack a shot against Price's left-hand post. Earnshaw even had an effort ruled out for offside after he tapped home from a yard out after Ledley's free-kick had hit the woodwork.

In the end the game would end 1-0 in favor of the visitors; however the result was of little importance as the evening was all about remembering Speed and what he did over the course of his life before it was cruelly cut short.

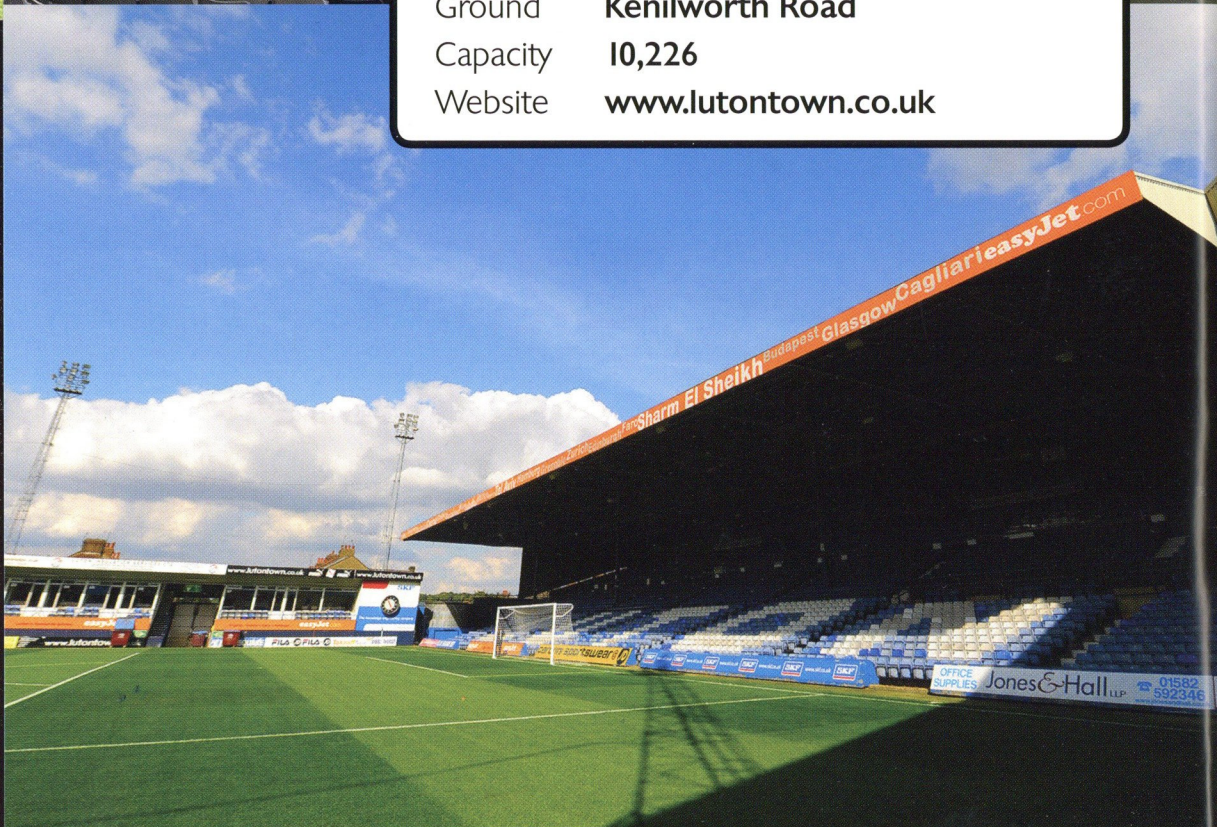
Wales: Price, Gunter, Blake, Williams (Gabbidon 70), Matthews (Ricketts 74), Robson-Kanu, Allen (Collinson 62), Crofts, Vaughan (Ledley 68), Bellamy (Earnshaw 73), Morison (Vokes 67)
Subs not used: Brown, Taylor

Attendance: 23,193



Introducing Luton Town

Manager **Gary Brabin**
 Formed **1885**
 Ground **Kenilworth Road**
 Capacity **10,226**
 Website **www.lutontown.co.uk**



The Visitors

Visitors Fact File

A look at Luton Town in 2011-2012

Current League Position 3rd

Aggregate Home League

Attendance 108,272

Highest Home League

Attendance 7,270 v Wrexham, 18/10/11

Lowest Home League

Attendance 5,261 v Mansfield Town 25/01/12

Average Home League

Attendance 5,698

Top League Goalscorer

9 Danny Crow, Amari Morgan-Smith

Best Win

5-0 v Kettering Town, Away, 26/12/11

5-0 v Kettering Town, Home, 01/01/12

Heaviest Defeat

0-3 v York City, Away, 24/09/11

Wrexham versus Luton Town, Previous Meetings

This evening we welcome a fellow promotion hopeful in the form of Luton Town. The Hatters have always been in the mix for promotion back to League Two after dropping into this level back in 2009. Like ourselves though they have been unable to cross the final finishing line despite being close on a number of occasions.

Tonight's match is set to be shown live on Premier Sports and games against Luton certainly seem to be a favourite with the TV cameras as it will be the fourth time that it has been show on Premier Sports in the last two seasons. Ok two of these came in the Play Offs, but you will of course remember that last season's home fixture against the Hatters was also shown live on



TV. A blustery Thursday evening in November saw us edge over the line courtesy of a 1-0 victory, albeit in very difficult conditions.

Earlier this season we recorded an exact same scoreline to this at Kenilworth Road when a single Mathias Pogba strike back in October proved to be the difference between the two sides.

As mentioned above who can forget that we also met in last season's Play Off's when a brilliant opening

30 minutes from Luton blew us away in the first leg here at the Racecourse and despite putting up a valiant effort in the return leg we would ultimately come up short as Town went onto lose on penalties in the final.

Despite both clubs having long and proud histories we have actually faced Luton Town on very few

occasions during our times as football clubs. In fact when you take a more in-depth look at our previous meetings with the Hatters we have met just 40 times in the past with this evening's game being the 20th between the sides at the Racecourse.

It is actually ourselves that hold the upper hand though in terms of overall victories having triumphed 17 times in the fixtures between the two sides compared to Luton's 15 since our first meeting in 1963.





A look back at the history of today's visitors

Luton are a famous name amongst the footballing community having achieved great success over the years. In recent times the club hasn't had the best of times as they dropped through the leagues before ending up in the Football Conference back in 2009.

Like a number of sides who fall out of the league set-up (ourselves included) the Hatters have found it hard to bounce back into League Two, despite having two very close calls in recent seasons. However Luton players and supporters would suffer playoff heartbreak twice in quick succession, leading to the 2011/12 campaign being a third consecutive one at this level.

Luton Town Football Club was formed on 11 April 1885, the product of a merger of the two leading local teams, Luton Town Wanderers and Excelsior. Initially based at Excelsior's Dallow Lane ground, the club moved to Dunstable Road in 1897. In 1890, the club began making payments to certain individual players. The following year, Luton became the first club in southern England to be fully professional.

Luton Town was a founder member of the Southern Football League in 1894, and, after finishing as runners-up in its first two seasons, the team left to help form the United League. In the league's inaugural season the club came second, before joining The Football League for 1897–98. The club continued to enter a team to the United League for two more seasons, and won the title in 1897–98. Poor attendance, high wages, and the high travel and accommodation costs that resulted from Luton's distance from the northern heartlands of The Football League crippled the club financially, and made it too expensive to compete in that league. A return to the regionally organised Southern League was therefore arranged for the 1900–01 season.

Eight years after arriving at Dunstable Road, Luton moved again, settling at their current ground, Kenilworth Road, in 1905. Captain and left winger Bob Hawkes became Luton's first international player when he was picked to play for England against Ireland on 16 February 1907. A poor 1911–12 season saw Luton relegated to the Southern League's Second Division, but the club managed to win promotion back two years later. When war broke out, the

schedule was reduced to a series of friendlies, but Luton took part in The London Combination for 1915–16. A key player of the period was Ernie Simms, a forward. Simms was wounded while serving in Italy in the First World War, but returned to score 40 goals during the following season.

The Luton side first played in the white and black colours which the club has retained for much of its history during the 1920–21 season, when they rejoined The Football League; until then, the players had worn sky blue shirts with white shorts and navy socks. Such was the quality of Luton's team at this time that despite playing in the third tier, a fixture between Ireland and England at Windsor Park on 22 October 1921 saw three Luton players on the pitch – Louis Bookman and Allan Mathieson for Ireland, and club top goalscorer Simms for England. However, after Luton finished fourth in the division, the squad was broken up as Simms, Bookman and Mathieson joined South Shields, Port Vale and Exeter City respectively. Luton stayed in the Third Division South until 1937, when the team finished top and won promotion to the Second Division, at that time the second tier of English football. During the promotion season, striker Joe Payne scored 55 goals in 39 games; during the previous season he had scored 10 in one match against Bristol Rovers, which remains a Football League record.

During the early 1950s, one of Luton's greatest sides emerged under manager Dally Duncan. The team included Gordon Turner, who went on to become Luton's all-time top goalscorer, Bob Morton, who holds the record for the most club appearances, and Syd Owen, an England international. During this period, Luton sides also featured two England international goalkeepers, Ron Baynham and Bernard Streten, as well as Irish internationals Seamus Dunne, Tom Aherne and George Cummins. This team reached the top-flight for the first time in 1955–56, after finishing the season in second place behind Birmingham City on goal average. A few years of success followed, including an FA Cup Final appearance against Nottingham Forest in 1959; at the end of the season, Owen was voted FWA Footballer of the Year. However, the club was relegated the following season, and, by 1965, was playing in the fourth tier.

In yo-yo club fashion, Luton were to return. A team including Bruce Rioch, John Moore and Graham French won the Fourth Division championship in 1967–68 under the leadership of former player Allan Brown; two years

The Visitors

later Malcolm Macdonald's goals helped them to another promotion, while comedian Eric Morecambe became a director of the club. Luton Town won promotion back to the First Division in 1973–74, but were relegated the following season by a solitary point. Former player David Pleat was made manager in 1978, and by 1982–83 the team was back in the top-flight. On the last day of the club's first season back in the top tier, the side narrowly escaped relegation: playing Manchester City at Maine Road, Luton needed to win to stay up, while City could escape with a draw. A late winner by Yugoslav Raddy Antić saved the team and prompted Pleat to dance across the pitch performing a "jig of joy", an image that has become iconic. The club achieved its highest ever league position, seventh, in 1987, and won the League Cup a year later with a 3–2 win over Arsenal. With ten minutes left on the clock and Arsenal 2–1 ahead, a penalty save from stand-in goalkeeper Andy Dibble sparked a late Luton rally: Danny Wilson equalised, before Brian Stein scored the winner with the last kick of the match. The club reached the League Cup Final once more in 1989, but lost 3–1 to Nottingham Forest.

The club was relegated from the top division at the end of the 1991–92 season, and sank to the third tier four years later. Luton stayed in the third-tier Second Division until relegation at the end of the 2000–01 season. Under the management of Joe Kinnear, who had arrived halfway through the previous season, the team won promotion from the fourth tier at the first attempt.

Owner John Gurney terminated Kinnear's contract on his arrival in May; replacing him with Mike Newell before leaving Luton as the club entered administration. Newell's team finished as champions of the third-tier Football League One in 2004–05. While Newell's place was taken by first Kevin Blackwell and later former player Mick Harford, the team was then relegated twice in a row, starting in 2006–07, and spent the latter part of the 2007–08 season in administration, thus incurring a ten-point deduction from that season's total. The club then had a total of 30 points docked from its 2008–09 record by The Football Association and The Football League for various financial irregularities. These deductions proved to be too large an obstacle to overcome in the league, but Luton came from behind in the final of the Football League Trophy to win the competition for the first time.

Relegation meant that 2009–10 saw Luton playing in the Conference National, a competition which the club had never before contested. In their first season in non-league football the Town finished second behind champions Stevenage but lost in the Play-Offs at the semi-final stage to York City. During that campaign Richard Money took over from Mick Harford where the Town also reached the third round of the FA Cup.

The Hatters again suffered Play-Off heartache in 2010/11 and again there was a change in manager - Gary Brabin taking over from Money in March. After finishing third this time around and beating Wrexham in the semi-finals the Town lost on penalties to AFC Wimbledon in the Promotion Final at the City of Manchester Stadium after the game ended goalless after 120 minutes.

Meet the players of LUTON TOWN

GOALKEEPERS

Mark Tyler

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 to become Mick Harford's fifth signing of the summer following his release from Peterborough United.

Mark made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road but after falling down the pecking order at Posh he found first team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 he was loaned out to League 2 Bury.

After a hugely successful two years between the sticks at Kenilworth Road, Mark signed a new contract in the summer of 2011.

Kevin Pilkington

Vastly experienced goalkeeper who joined the Hatters in May 2010 after his release from Notts County.

Pilkington began his career with Manchester United playing six times in the Premier League. During his six years at Old Trafford Pilkington enjoyed loan spells at Rochdale, Rotherham and Celtic before a two-year stay at Port Vale.

He was soon on the move again to Aberystwyth Town and Wigan. However, he found stability at his next club, Mansfield, joining the Stags in 2000 and went onto feature 167 times in league action over the next five years.

In 2005 the Hitchin-born stopper made the short hop down the M1 to sign for Notts County and another five year stay resulted in him making 141 appearances at Meadow Lane.

DEFENDERS

George Pilkington

Highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having began his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly-regarded defender has been named Player of the Year twice.

Injury frustrated the centre-half in his first season at Kenilworth Road in

2008/09 but he still managed to pick-up a Johnstone's Paint Trophy winners' medal.

Dan Gleeson

Tall and athletic defender, primarily a right-back, Gleeson signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2010 from his home town club Cambridge United. A product of the U's academy, Gleeson made his debut at 18 and soon became a regular at the Abbey Stadium making 61 league appearances before Notts County snapped up his signature in 2006.

Gleeson only lasted a season at Meadow Lane, featuring 17 times before he was back at the Abbey, firstly on-loan before resigning permanently in 2007. Recognised as one of the best right-backs outside the Football League, Gleeson's performances have seen him rewarded with seven England C caps.

Ed Asafu-Adjaye

Capable of playing in any position across defence, Asafu-Adjaye has made significant progress through the Club's youth set-up.

After a loan spell with non-league side Walton & Hersham, he made the breakthrough into the first team under former boss Mike Newell.

Making his full debut in March 2008 at Kenilworth Road against Crewe Alexandra he has gone from strength to strength and was part of the Town team that won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley in 2009.

Greg Taylor

Left-back signed from Darlington in November 2011 who made his Town debut in the 1-1 draw at Cambridge United.

Started his career as a junior with Northampton before he signed for Kettering Town. He then joined Darlo, linking up with boss Mark Cooper at the Darlington Arena.

Shane Blackett

Luton-born Shane became Mick Harford's sixth summer signing of 2009 after penning a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road. Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesey Town in 2003.

His form with the United Counties side alerted the attentions of Dagenham & Redbridge who signed the 6ft 3in defender in May 2004. His reputation as a pacey defender alerted the attention of Peterborough who snapped him up.

Alex Lacey

Up-and-coming centre-half who made his first team debut as a 17-year-old in the FA Trophy first

round tie against Welling, earning the man-of-the-match award for an excellent performance. Signed a professional contract to remain at Kenilworth Road until the end of the 2011/12 season.

Dean Beckwith

Centre-back Beckwith became the Hatters' second signing of the summer of 2011 following his release from League 2 side Northampton Town. The 27-year-old, who signed a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road, was a key member of the Cobblers' squad in 2010/11 which reached the fourth round of the League Cup.

The commanding 6ft 3in defender has experienced promotion from the Blue Square Bet Premier before having been part of the Hereford United side that won the Play-Off final against Halifax Town in 2008.

The defender turned down offers from a number of Football League clubs but was delighted to agree terms to bolster the Hatters' defensive options.

Curtis Osano

Lightening quick attacking defender who signed a six-month contract at Kenilworth Road following his departure from Rushden & Diamonds in July 2011.

Able to play anywhere along the backline, the strong Kenyan-born defender began his career at Reading as a youngster.

He failed to make an appearance with the Royals but enjoyed loan spells at Aldershot, Woking and Rushden before making the move to Nene Park permanent in 2008, going onto make over 150 appearances for the Northamptonshire club.

Janos Kovacs

Hungarian defender who signed on-loan for his second spell at the club in September 2011. Formerly with Chesterfield and Lincoln, Kovacs first signed in January 2010 before signing for Hereford United in the summer of that year. Signed a 18-month contract in January 2012.

MIDFIELDERS

Keith Keane

Another product of the youth system who regularly appeared for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level. He joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local football, and made a rapid progression through the club's centre of excellence and youth teams, demonstrating enough potential to convince Mike Newell to give him his first taste of senior action.

Keith has featured most prominently on the right of midfield, bursting forward to great effect to

provide many goals for himself and his team-mates. Over the course of his career at Kenilworth Road Keane has proved to be one of the, if not the most, versatile players to pull on a Luton shirt.

Jake Howells

The young winger, who can also play at left-back, came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road. After making 36 appearances for the Hatters in the 2008/09 season the England C international was rewarded for his efforts with a professional contract in May 2009.

In his first season as a pro, Howells made huge strides with impressive performances on the left-side of midfield, ending the 2009/10 campaign with six goals.

Robbie Willmott

Harlow-born winger who penned an 18-month contract with the Hatters in January 2011 after hitting 10 goals for Cambridge United. Capable of playing on either wing or behind the front two, Willmott came through the ranks at the Abbey Stadium and wowed the home faithful with his pace, dribbling, close control and eye for goal.

After signing his first professional contract, the midfielder was mainly used as an impact substitute during 2007/08 but continued to impress: eight goals in his first season as a pro followed in 2008/09 while his level of performance and his assist tally soared last season as the U's finished in mid-table.

But the youngster's talents during this campaign have really come to fore. Weighing in with 10 goals and eight assists from just 29 starts for Martin Ling's side, Willmott's turn of foot and delivery from set-pieces has also become a highly sought-after commodity.

Godfrey Poku

Tenacious defensive midfielder who signed from Blue Square South outfit St Albans City in January 2010 on an 18-month contract. A tough-tackling and non-nonsense midfielder, the Town beat off competition from several Football League clubs for his signature. Spent part of the current campaign on-loan at Southport.

JJ O'Donnell

Tricky winger who joined the Town with St Albans team-mate Godfrey Poku in January 2010. Also capable of playing at left back the youngster featured for the Hatters' reserve and youth teams during 2009/10. He made his first team debut as a substitute in the 4-2 FA Cup first round replay win over Corby Town and was handed a one-year contract extension in June 2011.

Adam Watkins

Young midfielder who signed professional forms at Kenilworth Road in June 2010. He broke into the first team squad during 2010/11 campaign scoring twice on his full debut in the 4-0 FA Trophy win over Uxbridge. Watkins then scored his first league goal on his first league start in the 3-1 win over Braintree in August 2011.

Charlie Henry

Winger Henry signed from Blue Square Bet Premier rivals Newport County in November 2010, signing initially on-loan until January when the England C international will complete a permanent switch.

Henry is no stranger to Kenilworth Road as he came through the youth ranks at the Club but was told he was too small to continue his scholarship and left when he was 15.

From South Wales via after spells with a host of non-league sides since leaving Kenilworth Road he's back when it all began and ready to try and help the Town back into the Football League.

Alex Lawless

Former Wales Under-21 midfielder who signed in November 2010 initially on-loan from York City before a permanent deal went through in January 2011. He only joined York at the start of last season, impressing then boss Martin Foyle enough to prise the 25-year-old away from Forest Green Rovers.

The former Cardiff City scholar he took-up non-league football in Wales before he was snapped up to earn his first professional contract with Premier League Fulham in 2003.

Without featuring for the Cottagers it was off to South West to Torquay United for the young Lawless but after just a year and 16 appearances at Plainmoor he was on the move again, to Forest Green in 2006 and in his three seasons he helped the Gloucestershire consolidate in the Conference before moving onto York.

James Dance

Energetic, tricky winger who joined the Hatters from Crawley Town in July 2011. Able to play on either flank or as a central striker, Dance began his career as a trainee at Birmingham City but, after being released, he made his name in non-league circles in the West Midlands before catching the eye of Kettering Town in 2009.

He signed for Crawley in January 2011. However, after picking up a Blue Square Bet Premier winners' medal last term, Dance found himself out of the Red Devils' starting XI and, after the Hatters' bid was accepted by the League 2 club,

the Coleshill-born man was quick to agree a two-year deal.

John Paul Kissock

Creative attacking midfielder John Paul signed a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee joining from Southport in August 2011. The former England Under-16 and Under-18 international began his career as a trainee at Premier League Everton.

In January 2008, he signed on loan for then Scottish Premier League Gretna, earning rave reviews before he returned to Goodison Park. With first team opportunities limited he was released at the end of the 2008/09 campaign before for he signed Hamilton Academical.

A short spell with Accies followed and, after attempting to find a new club, he dropped down to Cheshire county league level in a bid to resurrect his career. His performances for firstly Newton, and then Formby, alerted the attention of Southport manager Liam Watson who signed the Liverpoolian in December 2010.

FORWARDS

Craig McAllister

The frontman signed on loan for the rest of the 2011/12 season from Newport County. The powerful 6ft 1in striker signed for Newport in the summer just months after helping Crawley Town win the Blue Square Bet Premier title last season.

Although born in Glasgow, McAllister was raised on the South Coast of England and began his career with Eastleigh.

In 2002 he signed for Basingstoke Town, scoring 53 times in 96 appearances at the Camrose which earned him a move to Stevenage Borough. However, with first team opportunities limited at Broadhall Way, he joined Woking in 2005 and went onto hit 23 goals in 83 games for the Cards.

Stints at Grays, Oxford and Exeter followed - the latter coming in 2008. He made 38 appearances in two years at St James Park - notching seven goals in eight league starts for the Grecians before signing for Crawley in 2010.

Dan Walker

Quick young forward capable of playing down the flanks who signed a one-year deal in July 2010 after impressing in pre-season in games for and against the Hatters. Previously with Bedford Town, Walker has also played for Stony Stratford Town and Leighton Town.

Amari Morgan-Smith

Striker or wide man who arrived at Kenilworth Road as a free agent following a two-year spell

at Ilkeston Town.

The fast and skilful frontman's impressive form for the Robins earned him a call-up to the England C squad at the end of last season.

Wolverhampton-born Morgan-Smith started his career as a trainee with Wolves. He then signed for Crewe and then Stockport where he made one Football League appearance before moving to Ilkeston.

With huge interest in the forward, Town boss Richard Money was delighted to beat off competition from a number of Championship and League One sides for Morgan-Smith's signature.

Stuart Fleetwood

Prolific striker who signed for an undisclosed fee from Hereford United on deadline day in August 2011. The Gloucester-born frontman, who scored 28 goals the last time he played at Conference level whilst with Forest Green Rovers, signed a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road.

He began his career as a trainee at Cardiff City, making the grade to feature eight times for the Bluebirds between 2003 and 2006.

In January 2006, Fleetwood signed for Hereford for the first time scoring eight times before he signed for Forest Green in June 2007. The Wales Under-21 international turned down a new contract at FGR to sign for then Championship Charlton in June 2008 but was loaned out Cheltenham, Exeter and Brighton.

Fleetwood then returned to Edgar Street last summer and scored 18 goals as he helped the Bulls avoid the drop in League 2.

Aaron O'Connor

The striker arrived at Kenilworth Road after signing a two-year contract following the expiry of his deal with Rushden & Diamonds.

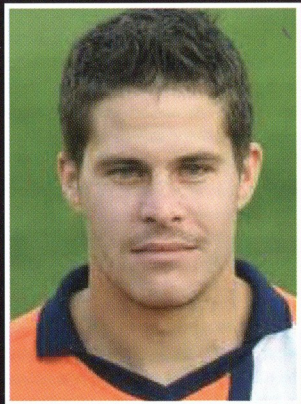
Aaron started his career on YTS forms with Derby County before moving to Ilkeston Town. He then had spells at Scunthorpe United and Nuneaton Borough before returning to Ilkeston.

He then joined Gresley Rovers where between 2004 and 2007 he scored 80 goals in 127 games. O'Connor nearly signed for Rushden in 2006 when Paul Hart was in charge, however, after playing in pre-season friendlies, he returned to Gresley, later moving to Grays Athletic.

Aaron went from Grays to Mansfield in 2008 where he scored eight times in 39 games at Field Mill prior to his switch to Rushden in the summer of 2009.

One to Watch

DANNY CROW



A nippy poacher of a striker, Crow joined the Hatters from Cambridge United in May 2010 following the expiry of his contract at the Abbey Stadium.

The front man started his career as a trainee with Norwich City and made his senior bow in the Premier League for the Canaries in December 2004.

A loan spell at Northampton followed towards the end of the 2004/05 season before he was released by Norwich and signed for Peterborough in the summer of 2005, notching 17 goals in his debut season at London Road.

Following a short loan spell at Notts County, Crow was released by Posh and was snapped up by Cambridge in September 2008.

The energetic forward's strike-rate of 22 goals in 43 league starts won him many admirers and his 19 goals during 2009/10 saw him scoop the U's online Player of the Year award.



Star Graduate

BRUCE RIOCH

Continuing his look back at one of the opposition's former greats Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS profiles one of Luton Town's finest-ever players

and fierce shooting. He also had great competitiveness and a ruthless streak.

Bruce was Luton's leading marksman in 1966-67 and again in 1967-68 when he missed just two matches as the Hatters stormed to the Fourth Division

present and leading marksman with 15 League goals in 1974-75 when Derby won the League Championship for the second time in four seasons.

Towards the end of that title campaign, he scored one of his most memorable goals with a surging run from near the half-way line against Newcastle United at St James' Park. The following season, he hit a thunderous free-kick in the FA Cup sixth round win at home to Newcastle, then scored four goals in Derby's remarkable 8-2 First Division victory over Spurs in October 1976.

Rioch could play for Scotland through parental qualification and made his international debut in their 1-0 victory over Portugal at Hampden Park in May 1975. He scored his first international goal to clinch Scotland's 2-2 draw with Wales four days later and went on to become the first English-born player ever to captain Scotland, leading them in the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina.

Sold to Everton for £180,000 in December 1976, Rioch returned to Derby a mere 11 months later but fell out with Tommy Docherty and Colin Addison and had loan spells at Birmingham City and Sheffield United. After that he played for Seattle Sounders, becoming Torquay United's player-coach in October 1980 and later their player-manager. He then took charge of Middlesbrough, managing them from the Third Division to First in consecutive seasons.

After a spell as Millwall's manager, he became Bolton Wanderers' boss in May 1992 and plotted two promotion successes, also leading them to the 1995 League Cup final. He spent a year as Arsenal's manager before the appointment of Arsene Wenger, signing Dennis Bergkamp and David Platt, then managed Norwich City, Wigan Athletic and Danish side Aalborg.



Powerful midfielder Bruce Rioch was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town, but it was at the Bedfordshire where he first made his name.

Born in Aldershot, where his father was a regimental sergeant major, Bruce was raised in Luton and became an apprentice at Kenilworth Road. Rioch turned professional in September 1964 and made his League debut in Luton's 1-0 defeat at home to Southend United two months later. His first League goal came in the Hatters' 3-2 defeat at Bradford City in December 1965 and he soon attracted interest from bigger clubs with his pace, power

title. Rioch was also an important figure as Luton narrowly failed to win promotion again in 1968-69, netting 47 goals in 149 League games before moving to Aston Villa for a then club record £100,000 in July 1969. His younger brother Neil, an England Youth international, followed him from Luton to Villa shortly afterwards.

Bruce played for Villa in the 1971 League Cup final and starred in their 1971-72 Third Division title triumph. Moving to Derby County for £200,000 in February 1974, he took over from the injured Henry Newton and helped Dave Mackay's side to finish third in the top-flight that season. Rioch was ever-

Football Historian, LEIGH EDWARDS, looks back at this week over the Conference years

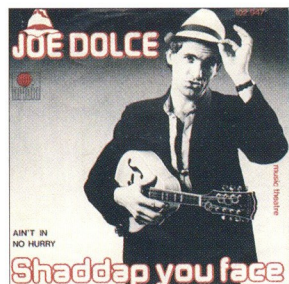
1981

Robbie James, Leighton James and Nigel Stevenson scored to give Swansea City a 3-1 Second Division victory at home to the following Wrexham team on 6th March 1981: Dai Davies, Steve Dowman, Alan Dwyer, Joey Jones, Wayne Cegielski, Frank Carrodus, Steve Fox, Mel Sutton, Mick Vinter, Dixie McNeil, Les Cartwright (Alan Hill).

Goals by Kevin Dove, Anni Iannone and Dave Singleton gave Weymouth a 3-0 victory over Barnet at Underhill Micky Tuohy and Gary Wright gave Worcester City a 2-1 win over Maidstone United at St George's Lane Strikes by Stuart Atkins and Derek Duggan gave Kettering Town a 2-1 victory over Telford United at Rockingham Road.

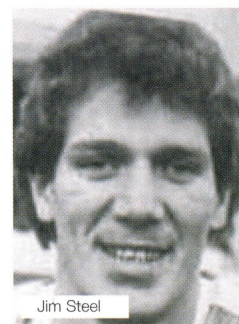
David Armstrong and David Shearer netted to give Middlesbrough a 2-2 draw with Arsenal at Highbury Brian Flynn's second-half goal clinched Leeds United's 1-0

victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford Peter Withe scored to give title-chasing Aston Villa a narrow 1-0 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux.



No 1 single: Shaddap You Face – Joe Dolce
Music Theatre

1986



Jim Steel

Jim Steel's first-half goal gave Wrexham a narrow 1-0 Fourth Division win over Northampton Town watched by 1,433 at the Racecourse Ground on 4th March 1986: Don Ferguson, Neil Salathiel, Shaun Cunningham, Frank Jones, Mike Williams, Paul Comstive, Andy Edwards, Barry Horne,

Jim Steel, Steve Charles, Dave Gregory.

Ricky Chandler and Graham Withey scored to give Bath City a 2-0 victory over Boston United at Twerton Park Colin Barnes' goal gave Maidstone United a narrow 1-0 win over Cheltenham Town at London Road Gary Hooley, Russ Wilcox and Paul Wilson netted to give Frickley Athletic an exciting 3-3 draw at home to Barnet.

Goals from Kevin Ratcliffe and Gary Lineker gave leaders Everton a 2-0 victory over local rivals Liverpool at Anfield Tottenham Hotspur ended a run of six games without scoring as goals by John Chiedozie and David Howells secured a 2-1 win at Sheffield Wednesday Luton Town were held to a 1-1 draw by QPR at Loftus Road.

No 1 single: When The Going Gets Tough – Billy Ocean

1991

Two goals by Charlie Henry plus another from Dave Puckett gave Aldershot a 3-2 Fourth Division win at home to the following Wrexham team on 5th March 1991: Mark Morris, Wayne Phillips, Phil Hardy, Geoff Hunter (Rob Jones), Nigel Beaumont, Joey Jones, Jon Bowden, Gareth Owen, Steve Watkin, Lee Jones, Andy Preece (James Kelly).

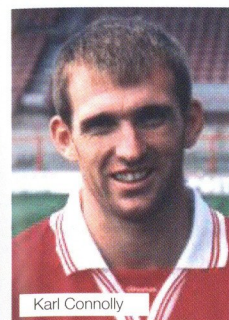
Ken McKenna and John Brady both netted hat-tricks as Altrincham hammered Boston United 6-2 at York Street Two goals by Paul Wilson plus others from Peter Conning and Paul Hirons gave Yeovil Town a 4-0 win at home to Cheltenham Town Steve Worrall scored twice in Telford United's 2-0 victory at home to Runcorn.

Goals by David O'Leary, Paul Merson, Alan Smith and Kevin Campbell gave leaders Arsenal a 4-0 win at home to Crystal Palace Title rivals Liverpool lost 3-1 on the artificial surface at Luton Town Paul McGee, Keith Curle, Terry Gibson, John Fashanu and Alan Cork scored in Wimbledon's 5-1 win at home to Tottenham Hotspur.

No 1 single: Do The Bartman – The Simpsons

1996

Goals by Wayne Phillips, Martyn Chalk and Karl Connolly gave Wrexham a 3-0 Second Division win over Chesterfield in front of 2,656 at the Racecourse Ground on 5th March 1996: Andy Marriott, Deryn Brace, Phil Hardy, Wayne Phillips, Tony Humes, Barry Jones, Martyn Chalk, Kevin Russell, Karl Connolly, Lee Jones, Peter Ward.



Karl Connolly

Graham Withey and Adie Mings scored to give Bath City a 2-1 victory over Halifax Town at Twerton Park Simon Hutchinson's first goal for the club gave Sammy McIlroy's Macclesfield Town a 1-0 win at home to Runcorn High-flying Woking were held to a 1-1 draw by Kettering Town at Kingfield Sports Ground.

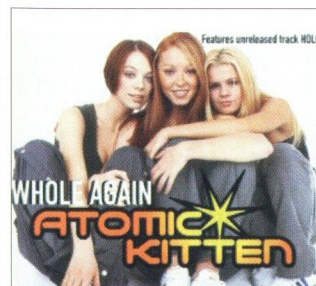
Two goals by Philippe Albert plus another from Faustino Asprilla gave leaders Newcastle United a 3-3 draw at Manchester City Liverpool triumphed 3-2 at Blackburn Rovers with two goals by Stan Collymore plus another from Michael Thomas Paul Scholes scored twice in Manchester United's 6-0 victory at Bolton Wanderers.

No 1 single: Spaceman – Babylon Zoo

2001

Lee Trundle's hat-trick plus two goals by Darren Ferguson gave Wrexham a 5-3 Second Division win over Oxford United at the Racecourse Ground on 6th March 2001: Kevin Dearden, Mark McGregor, Lee Roche, Paul Barrett (Carlos Edwards), Brian Carey, Dave Ridler, Robin Gibson (Mike Blackwood), Darren Ferguson, Kevin Russell, Lee Trundle, Andy Morrell.

Hereford United beat Morecambe on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Edgar Street in the FA Trophy fifth round replay Conference high-fliers Yeovil Town lost 2-1 at Burton Albion in the FA Trophy fifth round Stevenage Borough lost on penalties after a 0-0 FA Trophy fifth round replay draw at home to eventual winners Canvey Island.

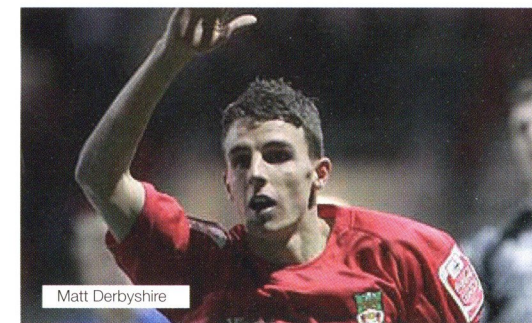


Liverpool beat Birmingham City 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the Worthington Cup final Dwight Yorke's hat-trick plus goals by Roy Keane, Ole-Gunnar Solskjaer and

Teddy Sheringham gave leaders Manchester United a 6-1 win at home to Arsenal Struggling Derby County beat Aston Villa 1-0 at Pride Park.

No 1 single: Whole Again – Atomic Kitten

2006



Matt Derbyshire

Mark Jones and Matt Derbyshire scored to give Wrexham a 2-2 League Two draw with Barnet watched by 2,127 at Underhill on 4th March 2006: Michael Ingham, Simon Spender (Dean Bennett), Andy Holt, Matty Crowell, Denis Lawrence, Shaun Pejic, Mark Jones, Jim Whitley (Darren Ferguson), Sam Williams, Matt Derbyshire, Danny Williams.

Goals by Paul Mullin and Robbie Williams gave leaders Accrington Stanley a 2-1 victory over Burton Albion at the Crown Ground Andy Bishop grabbed a hat-trick as York City hammered Forest Green Rovers 5-1 at KitKat Crescent Andy Williams and Stuart Fleetwood scored in Hereford United's 2-0 win at home to Stevenage Borough.

Frank Lampard and Arjen Robben scored to give leaders Chelsea a 2-0 win over Portsmouth Morten Pedersen's strike gave Blackburn Rovers a 1-0 victory at home to Arsenal Two goals by Wayne Rooney plus others from Louis Saha and Cristiano Ronaldo gave Manchester United a 4-0 win over Wigan Athletic in the Carling Cup final.

No 1 single: Thunder In My Heart Again – Meck featuring Leo Sayer

Blue Square Bet Premier



Premier Manager and Player awards

Barrow boss Dave Bayliss has been named the Blue Square Bet Premier 'manager of the month' for February.

The month started with Bayliss left in sole charge of the club after the departure of his long-term joint-manager at Holker Street, Darren Sheridan.

The Bluebirds went on to take seven points from a possible nine during the period, including an impressive 1-0 home win over Luton Town, ending the Hatters' long unbeaten run.

Barrow moved up to 10th place in the table just five points off the final play-off berth.

Meanwhile, Sam Foley from Newport County has been named the Blue Square Bet Premier 'player of the month' for February.

Foley has been an ever-present for the Exiles during the month and has also stepped up to fill captaincy responsibilities for Justin Edinburgh's side.

Kicking off the period with an FA Trophy goal against Carshalton, Foley also scored the only goal in a valuable league win over Mansfield Town and another in their only defeat at Tamworth.

2011/12 Season - February awards summary:

MANAGERS

Blue Square Bet Premier - DAVE BAYLISS from Barrow

Blue Square Bet North - KEVIN WILKIN from Nuneaton Town

Blue Square Bet South - SPENCER DAY from Farnborough

PLAYERS



Blue Square Bet Premier - SAM FOLEY from Newport County

Blue Square Bet North - TOM WARD from Boston United Utd

Blue Square Bet South - BRADLEY BUBB from Eastleigh

2012/2013 Season key dates

The league's governing body, the Football Conference, have confirmed the opening

and closing dates for the 2012/2013 Blue Square Bet Premier season.

Next season's Blue Square Bet Premier campaign will kick-off on Saturday 11 August 2012, while the Blue Square Bet North and South will start the following week, on Saturday 18 August 2012.

All three divisions will finish on Saturday 20 April 2013 to allow for the Blue Square Bet Premier play-off final to take place at Wembley

Stadium on Sunday 12 May 2013.

Potential Kettering owner Rolls donates to club

Former Weymouth owner George Rolls says he has paid money into Kettering Town FC to help the club, potentially prior to a full takeover. Rolls, who sold his family's shares in Weymouth last week, has been advising the troubled club.

He said, "I think it needs a lot of hard work because the club's debts are huge. I've donated a five-figure sum to show goodwill, but it needs a lot of help. Ultimately, fans can play a big part. "It's no secret I've been helping out and trying to assist in any way I can."

Rolls says that no-one can take over the club from current owner Imraan Ladak until a winding up petition is heard on 2nd April.

Telford extend Brooke loan to end of season

AFC Telford United have extended Oldham forward Ryan Brooke's loan until the end of the season.

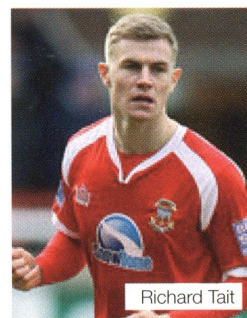
The 21-year-old Crewe-born striker has reportedly been impressed by the set-up at New Bucks Head and told boss Andy Sinton he was keen to stay.

He scored on his debut in the 1-0 win against Braintree Town after coming on as a substitute. Brooke, who has also had a loan spell at Barrow, has played 29 matches for Oldham in League One.

York sign young defender

York City have signed centre-half Ben Gibson on loan from Middlesbrough until the end of the season. The 19-year old came through the academy system at Boro and spent time on loan in League Two at Plymouth earlier this season.

Gibson won honours at England Under-17 and Under-18 levels and he was part of the England team that won the UEFA European Under-17 Football Championships in 2010.



Defender Tait signs new Tamworth deal

Tamworth defender Richard Tait has agreed a new contract with the club. The 22-year-old has signed a deal which keeps him tied to the Lambs until the end of next season, with a view to extending the contract by an additional 12 months.

Tait joined the Lambs on a free transfer in 2009 following his release by Nottingham Forest. He has since made over 100 appearances for Tamworth, scoring five goals.



Playing Stats 11/12

	APPEARANCES				Mts on Pitch	GOALS			
	Lge	FAC	FAT	Total		Lge	FAC	FAT	Total
Chris Maxwell	9		1	10	900				
Curtis Obeng	28	6		34	3038	1			1
Neil Ashton	34	6		40	3626				
Mark Creighton	30 (1)	6		36 (1)	3391	3			3
Jay Harris	32	5		37	2157	3			3
Lee Fowler	14 (3)	2 (2)	1 -	17 (5)	1569	2			2
Danny Wright	20 (4)	4 (1)		23 (5)	1774	3	1		4
Jake Speight	25 (5)	3 (2)	1 -	28 (7)	2438	14			14
Andy Morrell	25 (7)	4 (2)		29 (9)	2241	7	3		10
Jamie Tolley	22 (2)	5		27 (2)	2135	5	1		6
Nat Knight-Percival	32	6		38	3417	3	1		4
Joseph Mayebi	24	6		30	2730				
Chris Westwood	7 (1)		1 -	8 (1)	641				
Adrian Cieslewicz	15 (18)	4 (1)	1 -	20 (19)	2188	4	1		5
Mathias Pogba	19 (10)	3 (1)		22 (11)	1616	8	1		9
Steve Tomassen	- (2)			- (2)	8				
Joe Clarke	16 (4)	5	1 -	22 (4)	2006	2			2
Gareth Taylor	- (1)			- (1)	1				
Dean Keates	12 (6)	- (2)		12 (8)	1246				
Glen Little	1 (9)	- (2)	1 -	2 (10)	366	1			1
Obi Anoruo	- (3)		1 -	1 (3)	101				
Johnny Hunt	1 (6)	1 (3)	1 -	3 (9)	399				
Louis Moss	- (1)			- (2)	17				
Kyle Parle			1 -	1 -	90				
Leon Clowes			1 -	1 -	90				
Jay Colbeck	- (3)			- (3)	51	2			2
Daniel Alfei	3			3 -	270				
Steven Leslie	4			4 -	318				
Stephen Wright	1			1 -	90				
Own Goals						4			4



THIS WEEK'S BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH

Wrexham v Luton Town

FRIDAY 9th MARCH

Kidderminster Harriers v Fleetwood Town

SATURDAY 10th MARCH

AFC Telford United v Southport

Braintree Town v Gateshead

Grimsby Town v Forest Green Rovers

Hayes & Yeading United v Kettering Town

Lincoln City v Alfreton Town

Stockport County v Cambridge United

Tamworth v Mansfield Town

Wrexham v Barrow

TUESDAY 13th MARCH

AFC Telford United v Kidderminster Harriers

Cambridge United v Barrow

Darlington v Luton Town

Ebbsfleet United v Wrexham

Grimsby Town v York City

Mansfield Town v Fleetwood Town

Southport v Kettering Town

SATURDAY 17th MARCH

AFC Telford United v Fleetwood Town

Bath City v Lincoln City

Braintree Town v Kidderminster Harriers

Cambridge United v Gateshead

Darlington v Ebbsfleet United

Forest Green Rovers v Hayes & Yeading United

Grimsby Town v Tamworth

Kettering Town v Alfreton Town

Mansfield Town v Barrow

Southport v Stockport County

Blue Square Bet Premier League 2011-12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Fleetwood Town	35	25	7	3	83	37	46	82
2 Wrexham	34	24	5	5	61	21	40	77
3 Luton Town	34	18	11	5	64	28	36	65
4 York City	34	16	12	6	67	36	31	60
5 Southport	35	17	8	10	54	57	-3	59
6 Mansfield Town	34	15	13	6	56	39	17	58
7 Kidderminster Harriers	35	16	9	10	61	48	13	57
8 Grimsby Town	33	16	7	10	65	46	19	55
9 Barrow	35	16	7	12	55	49	6	55
10 Gateshead	34	15	9	10	55	51	4	54
11 Forest Green Rovers	35	13	13	9	49	34	15	52
12 Cambridge United	32	13	10	9	41	30	11	49
13 Braintree Town	35	13	8	14	57	61	-4	47
14 Ebbsfleet United	35	11	10	14	55	61	-6	43
15 Tamworth	34	11	8	15	41	55	-14	41
16 Stockport County	36	7	14	15	40	57	-17	35
17 Newport County	34	8	10	16	41	49	-8	34
18 Lincoln City	35	8	9	18	37	52	-15	33
19 AFC Telford United	34	7	12	15	33	48	-15	33
20 Alfreton Town	34	7	8	19	41	72	-31	29
21 Darlington*	35	10	8	17	35	50	-15	28
22 Hayes & Yeading	34	7	6	21	45	73	-28	27
23 Kettering Town**	35	7	7	21	34	77	-43	25
24 Bath City	35	3	9	23	31	70	-39	18

(Up to and including Sunday 4th March 2012)

*Deducted ten points for going into administration

**Deducted three points for financial problems



2011/12 RedDragons

		RES	ATT	PTS	POS						
Saturday 13 August	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	H	1-1	4206	1	16	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Tuesday 16 August	Bath City	A	2-0	1075	4	3	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Friday 19 August	Lincoln City	A	2-1	2211	7	1	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	HARRIS 1
Tuesday 23 August	TAMWORTH	H	*3-0	3353	10	2	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 27 August	Alfreton Town	A	4-1	1165	13	1	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Monday 29 August	FLEETWOOD TOWN	H	2-0	4283	16	1	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 3 September	KIDDERMINSTER HAR.	H	2-0	4102	19	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 10 September	Barrow	A	1-3	1463	19	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Harris	Fowler
Saturday 17 September	YORK CITY	H	0-3	3872	19	3	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Harris	Fowler
Tuesday 20 September	Southport	A	0-0	1710	20	2	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 24 September	Grimsby Town	A	3-1	3515	23	1	Maxwell	Ashton	Creighton	HARRIS1	Cieslewicz
Tuesday 27 September	MANSFIELD TOWN	H	1-3	3478	23	4	Maxwell	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 1 October	EBBSFLEET UNITED	H	1-0	2849	26	3	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Tuesday 4 October	Gateshead	A	*4-1	1258	29	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Sunday 9 October	Hayes & Yeading United	A	2-0	625	32	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Cieslewicz
Saturday 15 October	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	4-0	3,874	35	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Tuesday 18 October	Luton Town	A	1-0	7,270	38	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 22 October	NEWPORT COUNTY	H	0-0	4,232	39	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 29 October	YORK CITY (FAC 4QR)	H	*2-1	2,252	-	-	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 5 November	York City	A	0-0	4,295	40	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Friday 11 November	Cambridge Utd (FAC 1R)	A	2-2	2,782	-	-	Mayebi	Ashton	Creighton	Fowler	Wright
Saturday 19 November	LINCOLN CITY	H	2-0	3,424	43	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Tuesday 22 November	CAMBRIDGE UTD (FAC 1RR)	H	2-1	2,606	-	-	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 26 November	Braintree Town	A	0-0	957	44	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Wednesday 30 November	DARLINGTON	H	2-1	3,171	47	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 3 December	Brentford (FAC2R)	A	1-0	3,452	-	-	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Tuesday 6 December	SOUTHPORT	H	2-0	3,256	50	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 10 December	HINCKLEY UTD (FAT1R)	H	1-2	1,101	-	-	Maxwell	Parle	Westwood	Clowes	Hunt
Saturday 17 December	GATESHEAD	H	2-1	3,161	53	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Monday 26 December	AFC Telford United	A	2-0	4,991	56	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Sunday 1 January	AFC TELFORD UNITED	H	*4-0	5,812	59	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	CREIGHTON1	Harris
Saturday 7 January	Brighton & Hove Alb.(FAC3)A	A	1-1	18,573	-	-	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 14 January	Tamworth	A	2-1	1,923	62	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Wednesday 18 January	BRIGHTON (FAC3R)	H	**1-1	8,316	-	-	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 21 January	KETTERING TOWN	H	4-1	4,066	65	1	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	CREIGHTON1	Harris
Tuesday 24 January	Forest Green Rovers	A	0-1	1,109	65	2	Mayebi	Obeng	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 28 January	BATH CITY	H	2-0	3,583	68	2	Mayebi	OBENG 1	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 18 February	HAYES & YEADING	H	4-1	3,845	71	2	Mayebi	Alfei	Ashton	CREIGHTON1	HARRIS 1
Tuesday 21 February	Kidderminster Harriers	A	1-0	2,492	74	2	Mayebi	Alfei	Ashton	Creighton	Harris
Saturday 25 February	Stockport County	A	0-1	4,518	74	2	Mayebi	Alfei	Ashton	Harris	Speight
Saturday 3 March	Kettering Town	A	1-0	1,377	77	2	Mayebi	Ashton	D Wright	Speight	TOLLEY 1
Wednesday 7 March	LUTON TOWN	H									
Saturday 10 March	BARROW	H									
Tuesday 13 March	Ebbsfleet United	A									
Saturday 24 March	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	H									
Tuesday 27 March	Darlington	A									
Saturday 31 March	Cambridge United	A									
Friday 6 April	ALFRETON TOWN	H									
Tuesday 10 April	Fleetwood Town	A									
Saturday 14 April	GRIMSBY TOWN	H									
Saturday 21 April	Mansfield Town	A									
Tuesday 24 April	Newport County	A									
Saturday 28 April	BRAINTREE TOWN	H									

* Denotes Own Goal **Brighton won 5-4 on penalties

Fowler, Wright	Speight	MORRELL 1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cieslewicz	Taylor	Pogba	Tomassen	Mayebi			
Fowler	Wright	Speight	MORRELL 2	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cieslewicz	Taylor	Pogba	Clarke	Mayebi		
Fowler	Wright	Speight	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Cieslewicz	Taylor	Tomassen	Clarke	Mayebi		
Fowler	Wright	Speight	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	CIESLEWICZ 1	Taylor	Tomassen	Clarke	Mayebi		
Fowler	Wright	SPEIGHT 3	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cieslewicz	Taylor	POGBA 1	Keates	Clarke		
Fowler	Wright	SPEIGHT 1	MORRELL 1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cieslewicz	Keates	Taylor	Pogba	Clarke		
Fowler	WRIGHT 1	Speight	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Cieslewicz	Keates	Taylor	Pogba	Little		
Wright	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Cieslewicz	Keates	Taylor	Anoruo	Little		
Speight	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Creighton	Cieslewicz	Keates	Little	Anoruo		
Fowler	Keates	Speight	Knight-Percival	Morrell	Pogba	Cieslewicz	Little	Tolley	Anoruo	Westwood		
FOWLER1	Speight	Keates	Knight-Percival	Westwood	POGBA 1	Morrell	Little	Tolley	Clarke	Mayebi		
FOWLER1	Wright	Speight	Keates	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Cieslewicz	Morrell	Little	Tolley	Mayebi		
Wright	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Keates	Tolley	Westwood	Cieslewicz	Little	Pogba	Clarke	Ward		
Cieslewicz	WRIGHT1	Morrell	KEATES1	Knight-Percival	CLARKE1	Hunt	Little	Anoruo	Pogba	Ward		
Wright	Morrell	Keates	Tolley	KNIGHT-PERCIVAL1	Clarke	Speight	Hunt	Little	POGBA 1	Ward		
Cieslewicz	MORRELL1	Keates	Tolley	KNIGHT-PERCIVAL2	Pogba	Wright	SPEIGHT1	Hunt	Clarke	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	Speight	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	POGBA 1	Wright	Morrell	Hunt	Clarke	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	Speight	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Wright	Morrell	Hunt	Clarke	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	Speight	Hunt	KNIGHT-PERCIVAL1	Pogba	Clarke	Fowler	Wright	Morrell	Clowes	Little	Westwood	
Cieslewicz	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Fowler	Wright	Hunt	Westwood	Maxwell		
MORRELL2	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Clarke	Cieslewicz	Speight	Clowes	Hunt	Little	Anoruo	Ward
Wright	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	POGBA 2	Clarke	Cieslewicz	Fowler	Speight	Westwood	Maxwell		
WRIGHT1	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	POGBA 1	Clarke	Cieslewicz	Fowler	Speight	Hunt	Little	Westwood	Maxwell
Wright	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Cieslewicz	Fowler	Speight	Westwood	Maxwell		
CIESLEWICZ1	Wright	Morrell	Hunt	Westwood	Clarke	SPEIGHT 1	Clowes	Little	Moss	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	Fowler	Wright	Speight	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Morrell	Hunt	Little	Westwood	Pogba	Maxwell	
Fowler	Wright	SPEIGHT1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	CIESLEWICZ1	Morrell	Little	Maxwell	Westwood		
LITTLE 1	Fowler	Clarke	Cieslewicz	Speight	Anoruo	Moss	Stephens	Morton	Colbeck	Ward		
Fowler	WRIGHT1	Speight	Knight-Percival	POGBA 1	Clarke	Cieslewicz	Little	Tolley	Westwood	Maxwell		
Wright	SPEIGHT1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	CLARKE 1	Cieslewicz	Keates	Hunt	Little	Maxwell		
CIESLEWICZ1	SPEIGHT1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Morrell	Keates	Hunt	Little	Maxwell		
CIESLEWICZ1	Speight	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Keates	Clowes	Hunt	Little	Anoruo	Maxwell	
Cieslewicz	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Wright	Keates	Hunt	Little	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	Wright	MORRELL1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Keates	Clowes	Hunt	Little	Anoruo	Maxwell	
Cieslewicz	MORRELL1	Keates	Little	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Clowes	Hunt	Anoruo	COLBECK 2	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	Morrell	Keates	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Hunt	Little	Anoruo	Colbeck	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Hunt	Anoruo	Clarke	Colbeck	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Leslie	Hunt	Little	Westwood	POGBA 1	Maxwell		
Cieslewicz	Speight	MORRELL1	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Leslie	Hunt	Little	Westwood	Pogba	Maxwell		
Morrell	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Clarke	Leslie	Cieslewicz	Wright	Hunt	Little	Maxwell		
Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Clarke	Leslie	S Wright	Cieslewicz	Morrell	Hunt	Little	Maxwell		

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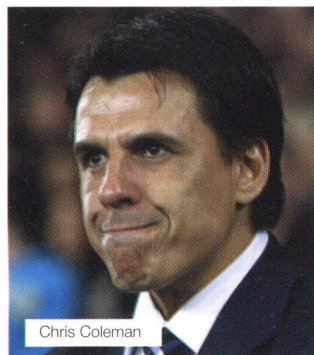
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EMOTIONAL NIGHT PROVIDES THE PLATFORM FOR PROGRESS

Mark Pitman takes a look at how Wales can now move forward after last week's memorial match.



Chris Coleman

The International match that nobody wanted has been played and Wales can now move forward as a result. The fixture against Costa Rica at the Cardiff City Stadium last Wednesday was arranged as a celebration of the life of the late Gary Speed, but the occasion proved to

be a sombre one, as the overwhelming grief over what the match represented proved too much for the young Welsh side. The 1-0 scoreline that earned Costa Rica victory was irrelevant. Chris Coleman could not have asked for a more difficult week to start his tenure as Wales manager and his post-match interview reflected the magnitude of what the occasion meant to so many. The crowd played their part in remembering Gary and showing his family in attendance what he meant to the nation that he proudly and successfully represented as a player and manager, but the most poignant moment of the night came from a 14 year-old from the Wrexham School of Excellence, and his bravery offered inspiration that even his father would not have been able to produce.

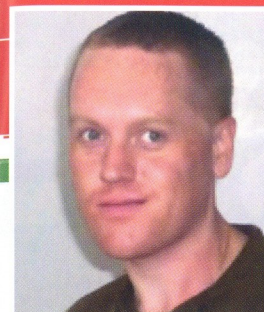
Football fans across the country have taken young Ed and Tom Speed to their hearts after their brave public show before, during, and after the memorial match played in honour of their late father. Also a talented midfielder, Ed Speed took on Gary's role following the defeat as he addressed the Wales team with a speech in the dressing room, and its impact could prove to be the inspiration needed to lift a squad of players emotionally drained from the loss of their legendary manager. Chris Coleman's post-match interviews visibly showed how emotional the few days prior to the match had been for himself and the

squad, and how he had questioned his own self-belief as he revealed how difficult it had been to respond to the players looking to him for guidance, when he needed it himself. Coleman found the strength he needed after the final whistle however, as Ed Speed spoke to his players with the same inspiration that had enabled his father to turn a struggling nation into Europe's most improved team.

Over the last few months the future success of Wales has unsurprisingly been put into question. Without Gary Speed at the helm there were many justified concerns raised over the direction of the team and if the progress that he had made during his one and only year in charge could continue. The favourites for the job failed to match the status of Speed and natural concern followed. Coleman was eventually appointed and was the right choice for the improving decision-makers at the Football Association of Wales, but the former Fulham boss was handed a tough start off the field, as controversial assistant Raymond Verheijen decided to resign from his role just days before the Costa Rica friendly. Coleman had intended to stay in the background for the match and let his predecessors management team take charge, but the resignation of Verheijen meant that Coleman would take a place on the bench together with new coach Kit Symons to offer support to FAW Technical Director Osian Roberts, who would take charge from sidelines.

Roberts had been brought into the senior set-up by Speed to mark his own progress in the game. A former manager in the Welsh Premier League, Roberts is a well-known figure in North Wales football circles and is a highly-regarded coach. The holder of the UEFA Pro-Licence, Roberts is an influential figure within the FAW and his rise offers a significant boost to those that do not have the professional playing background to support their coaching careers. Roberts directed from the edge of the technical area at the Cardiff City Stadium last week, just as Gary Speed had done in his last match in charge at the same ground against Norway in November, but the body language of Coleman in the dugout behind him represented all that was wrong with Wales on the night. Although the team created chances as the crowd lifted spirits, the sombre start to the occasion brought some sloppy play, and it was no surprise when the visitors scored early in the proceedings. The intensity of the pre-match focus on Gary Speed and his family had a visible effect on the young Welsh side, it showed in their play, and it showed on Coleman.

Although Coleman had no intention of being on the touchline for the match until the resignation of Verheijen, once there he had an important role to play. His status meant he could not only be there to offer support and advice to Roberts, he became the manager of Wales the



Mark Pitman



Ed & Tom Speed

moment he accepted the job and he does not have the option of picking and choosing the occasions. Coleman sat back and observed his side struggle in the opening exchanges, his arms draped over the seats either side of him and one leg crossed over the other, any players turning to him for inspiration would not have reacted well. His actions became clearer in his post-match interview, he admitted he had struggled to motivate the side or address the strength of emotion that had drained the camp, but that is of no discredit to the man. The situation that Wales have had to contend with was not a football problem, it was a human one, and a devastating one at that. Coleman accepted he was taking on the job in the most difficult of circumstances, but the emotion of last Wednesday night could not have been planned for or predicted.

The manager openly admitted that preparations had not been right for the match and that the focus had only been about Gary Speed, it was inevitable. While emotionally drained and clearly affected by the magnitude of the occasion, Coleman also spoke positively of moving forward now that the game had been played. It was the planned intention that the match would bring closure to the squad in a professional capacity if not a personal one, but it was only an intention, and without the intervention of young Ed Speed it is likely that the effects would have carried on for a lot longer. The impossibility of being mentally prepared for the fixture brought a frustrated performance

from Wales and the scoreline did not fit in with the script that the occasion deserved. Craig Bellamy, captain for the night and close friend of Gary Speed, showed his usual frustration when substituted, only this time it was because his side had not produced in the same way as they had for their former manager.

The defeat and performance left the squad questioning themselves after the final whistle, on the field they had failed to honour Gary as the unwritten script had demanded, and the effects of the occasion had clearly hampered their performance. The closure that the night should have brought then came from an unlikely source. Ed Speed addressed the players, his bravery far outweighing their own, each and every one. The powerful effect and inspiration of the moment was worth more than an equalising goal or a victory, it was a sign of human strength. The match against Costa Rica was intended to celebrate the life of Gary Speed, that celebration will come when his groundwork leads to the qualification for a major tournament. For now however, a victory for Costa Rica and a heartfelt speech from Ed Speed have provided a new platform, and only the realisation of Gary Speed's work will now bring the real celebration of his life.

Mark Pitman is a Welsh football journalist and blogger. Visit www.markpitman1.com for a full archive or follow him on [twitter/markpitman1](https://twitter.com/markpitman1) and on [facebook/1markpitman](https://facebook.com/markpitman).

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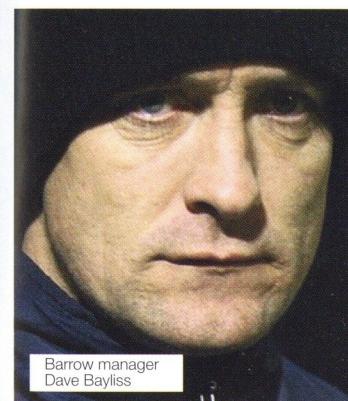
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Next up at the Racecourse



After almost three weeks away from the Racecourse you don't have to wait long before seeing the team back in action here, as our next home game takes place in just three days time.



Barrow manager
Dave Bayliss

This coming Saturday, 10th March, sees us hosting Barrow in what will be another vitally important Blue Square Bet Premier fixture for us.

With tonight's game having been put back 24 hours for live TV coverage it means that we have one less day recovery time between this and Saturday's fixture. However one thing

we can guarantee from this side is that they will never give up and with the prospect of automatic promotion still very much on the cards then they will keep fighting until the end.

Saturday's game against Barrow sees us coming up against a side that enjoyed an unbeaten February leading to manager Dave Bayliss picking up the BSBP manager of the month award. This form has seen them move up the league table into a fairly comfortable top half position as they look to secure another season at this level.

We go into Saturday's game aiming to avoid an unwanted stat this season with Barrow having the opportunity to do the double over us this campaign. Way back in September we suffered our first defeat of the season when we made the trip north to Cumbria to take on Barrow. That forgettable afternoon at Holker Street certainly won't be fondly remembered by the Reds supporters that made the trip up the coast as despite taking the lead through Jake Speight we would eventually go onto lose 3-1. The home side hit back with three second half goals although on another afternoon things could have been different as we almost made it 2-0 just before Barrow got back into the game.

Back then Barrow had a unique thing in this league by having a joint managerial set-up. However just after the start of 2012 things changed with the long

serving Darren Sheridan departing the club leaving Bayliss in sole control of the team. The management duo had done fantastic work for the Cumbrian club having gained promotion from the Conference North and also gaining the F.A. Trophy in their time together. Now it is up to Bayliss to carry that on in the coming years as he looks to continue to build on the foundations that have already been laid.

In Adam Boyes and Andy Cook they have two goalscoring strikers who have so far managed to bag over 30 goals between them this season, and they will certainly be ones to look out for in a few days time.

As both ourselves and tonight's visitors Luton found out to our cost Barrow have a very good home record indeed. The Cumbrian's do not travel that well on the road though, having picked up just four victories from their 16 games which they have played on their travels this season. If they improve this in these final couple of months then you never know we might well be talking about Barrow being a serious contender for the playoffs.

One thing we do know is that this game will be another very important one for us as we aim to extract revenge for the defeat handed out to us earlier on in the season and also keep our promotion push on course. Hopefully the team will once again be able to count on your continued support on Saturday.

The Next Generation



After suffering at the start of February due to the inclement weather the Youth team have managed to start playing again on a regular basis now.

The first two games of the month saw a 1-1 draw at home to Oldham Athletic achieved in the league, while just a day later a 6-1 demolition of Cardiff Corinthians saw the youngsters move into the semi-finals of the Welsh Youth Cup.

Saturday 18th February saw Wrexham playing host to Macclesfield Town at Colliers Park even though the fixture was due to take place away from home. With Macc not being able to find a ground for the fixture to take place on it was asked if the game could be switched back to Wrexham.

Playing on their own pitch the Wrexham youngsters put in an assured performance and deservedly picked up all three points thanks to an own goal. The side were indebted to goalkeeper Louis Gray who saved a penalty to preserve all three points.

A week later on Saturday the Youth team had an even better Saturday morning as they triumphed 4-1 at Morecambe on Saturday 25th February. Two goals from Rob Salathiel and one each from Matty Owen and Max Fargin saw the Reds pick up a convincing victory. The game would also be another memorable one for goalkeeper Gray who saved his second penalty in consecutive weeks.

The youngsters next scheduled fixture sees them travelling to Rochdale on this coming Saturday as they look to continue to gain ground on the sides just above them in the league table. Their next scheduled home league fixture sees them playing at Colliers Park on the morning of Saturday 17th March when Carlisle United are the visitors. It would be great to see a number of Reds supporters coming along to support the side as they come up against a team who are chasing the league title.

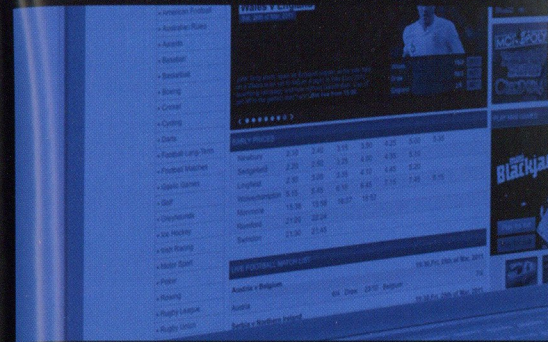
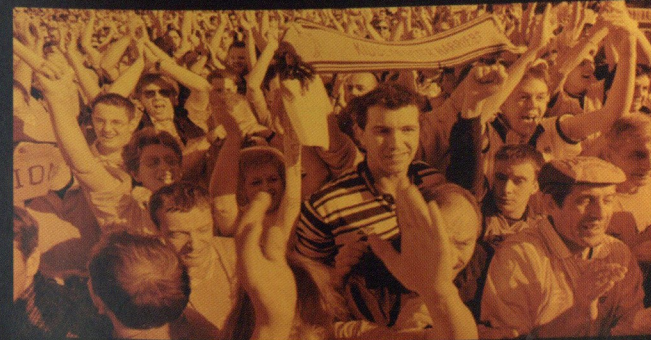
The Football League Youth Alliance North West Conference 2010/11

Saturday 6 August	SHREWSBURY TOWN	HOME	4-1
Saturday 13 August	Stockport County	Away	0-1
Saturday 20 August	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	HOME	1-1
Saturday 3 September	TRANMERE ROVERS	HOME	0-3
Monday 5 September	STOCKPORT FA YOUTH CUP	HOME	1-4
Saturday 17 September	Walsall	Away	0-3
Saturday 1 October	Wigan Athletic	Away	1-3
Saturday 15 October	PORT VALE	HOME	4-1
Sunday 23rd October	Flint Town United (FAWYC)	Away	6-0
Saturday 29 October	Tranmere Rovers	Away	4-0
Saturday 5 November	Notts County League Cup R1	Away	1-2
Saturday 12 November	WALSALL	HOME	1-1
Saturday 19 November	WIGAN ATHLETIC	HOME	1-0
Sunday 27 November	Bangor City (FAWYCR3)	Away	7-0
Saturday 10 December	Port Vale	Away	1-6
Saturday 7 January	STOCKPORT COUNTY	HOME	2-3
Saturday 28 January	Blackpool	Away	4-1
Saturday 11 February	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	HOME	1-1
Sunday 12 February	Cardiff Corinthians FAWYC4	Away	6-1
Saturday 4 February	Macclesfield Town@Wxm	Away	1-0
Saturday 25 February	Morecambe	Away	4-1
Saturday 3 March	PRESTON NORTH END	HOME	
Saturday 10 March	Rochdale	Away	
Saturday 17 March	CARLISLE UNITED	HOME	
Sunday 18 March	TNS FAWYC5F	Away	
Saturday 24 March	Shrewsbury Town	Away	
Saturday 31 March	Burnley	Away	
Saturday 14 April	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	HOME	
Saturday 21 April	Bury	Away	

Latest North West League Table

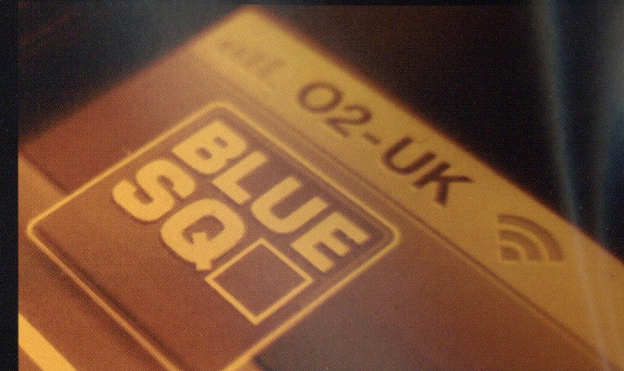
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
1 Burnley	15	12	0	3	39	19	+20	36
2 Preston North End	16	11	2	3	40	16	+24	35
3 Walsall	14	10	4	0	33	9	+24	34
4 Carlisle United	16	11	0	5	42	20	+22	33
5 Tranmere Rovers	16	9	1	6	33	26	+7	28
6 Rochdale	18	8	3	7	35	31	+4	27
7 Oldham Athletic	18	7	5	6	26	20	+6	26
8 Wrexham	16	7	3	6	29	26	+3	24
9 Bury	16	7	3	6	34	32	+2	24
10 Stockport County	16	7	1	8	32	39	-7	22
11 Port Vale	15	6	2	7	31	31	0	20
12 Macclesfield Town	16	4	5	7	18	28	-10	17
13 Shrewsbury Town	14	5	0	9	23	31	-8	15
14 Wigan Athletic	15	4	2	9	19	29	-10	14
15 Blackpool	18	4	1	13	21	52	-31	13
16 Accrington Stanley	17	3	3	11	20	40	-20	12
17 Morecambe	16	2	3	11	25	51	-26	9

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wrexham

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Colours **Red & White**

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3	Neil Ashton	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Mark Creighton	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Jay Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Adrian Cieslewicz	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Danny Wright	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Jake Speight	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Andy Morrell	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Dean Keates	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Steve Tomassen	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Johnny Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Glen Little	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Jamie Tolley	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Obi Anoruo	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Nat Knight-Percival	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Chris Maxwell	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Chris Westwood	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Mathias Pogba	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Joslain Mayebi	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Joe Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Jay Colbeck	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Steven Leslie	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Rob Ogleby	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Louis Moss	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Stephen Wright	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
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		<input type="checkbox"/>



luton town

Manager **Gary Brabin**
Colours **White & Orange**

1	Mark Tyler	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Dan Gleeson	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Greg Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Keith Keane	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Dean Beckwith	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	George Pilkington	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Alex Lawless	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Amari Morgan-Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Craig McAllister	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Danny Crow	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Robbie Willmott	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Shane Blackett	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Stuart Fleetwood	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Aaron O'Connor	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Jake Howells	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Ed Asafu-Adjaye	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Andre Boucaud	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Curtis Osano	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	James Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	John Paul Kissock	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Charlie Henry	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Paul Carden	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Alex Lacey	<input type="checkbox"/>
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