

Red Dragon

RHAGLEN SWYDDOGOL

Y DDRAIG GOCH THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WREXHAM FC



LUTON TOWN

Blue Square Bet Premier
Division Play-Off
Semi-Final Second Leg

Monday
7th May 2012

KO 4.30pm

£3.00



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Red Dragon Contents

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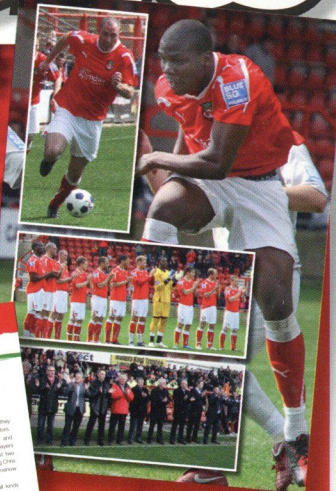
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RED DRAGON REVIEW

We bring you up-to-date with all the latest action



PLAY-OFF ENCOUNTERS

Dan Jennings takes a look back at some of our more memorable Play-off games from the past

Ten years of the -Play-Offs

The Conference play-offs were introduced in 2002-03 and this year's final of seasons play-offs will be the 10th set that have been contested!

The 10th anniversary of the Conference play-offs is being celebrated with a special double issue of Red Dragon. The first issue features a special double page spread of memories of the 10th anniversary of the play-offs, plus a special double page spread featuring the 10th anniversary of the play-offs. The second issue features a special double page spread of memories of the 10th anniversary of the play-offs, plus a special double page spread featuring the 10th anniversary of the play-offs.

Year	Winner	Score	Goalkeeper	Manager
2002/03	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2003/04	Grays Athletic	2-1	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2004/05	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2005/06	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2006/07	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2007/08	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2008/09	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2009/10	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood
2010/11	Grays Athletic	1-0	Neil Wood	Neil Wood

The Play-Offs Here we go again...

It has always been a defining moment for the club, the weekend of the play-offs. It's a time of tension and excitement, and it's a time when the club's fortunes are determined. The play-offs are a special time for the club, and it's a time when the club's fortunes are determined. The play-offs are a special time for the club, and it's a time when the club's fortunes are determined.

PLAY-OFF WINNERS

Scott Smith details what has happened to those sides that have been successful in gaining promotion to the Football League

All Roads lead to Wembley

The Wrexham play-offs have been a success for the club, and it's a time when the club's fortunes are determined. The play-offs are a special time for the club, and it's a time when the club's fortunes are determined.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO WEMBLEY

We take a look at what the winners from this afternoon's tie can look forward to in less than two weeks time



David Roberts



Good afternoon and welcome to the Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium for what is without doubt our biggest

game of the season to date.

Luton Town may hold a two-goal lead from Thursday night's first leg at Kenilworth Road but that is by no means insurmountable. And that's where all Wrexham supporters, young and old, need to play their part.

We have to become the 12th man today and cheer the team on from start to finish, just as we did against Brighton back in January. The atmosphere in this old ground when it's full is simply electric and together we can make a difference and get Wrexham to Wembley.

We've all played our part in just keeping this club alive; however we know that there is a lot more hard work ahead of us. Key to this is Season Ticket income and so you'll find details of next season's pricing structure being handed out today.

When setting the prices for 2012-13 campaign we wanted to achieve a better balance between Matchday and Season Ticket prices, irrespective of what league we are playing in.

As a result, we've streamlined the Matchday prices in

both the Mold Road and Yale Stands and reduced the highest priced Adult ticket to just £18. There's also a £1 reduction for Adults in the Glyndwr University Stand.

Our younger and older supporters will also benefit with reduced prices for Under-16s and a new low cost category for our most senior supporters.

Moving on to Season Ticket prices, we all recognise that last summer's fire sale cannot be repeated. So yes, prices have gone up. However, we've tried to offset the increase by recognising the need to reward our most loyal supporters.

That's why we've introduced a £25 discount for Wrexham Supporters' Trust members, Junior Dragons members and existing Season Ticket Holders.

That means that Adult Season Tickets now start from just £8.70 per game whilst Over-60s and Under-21s pay just £5.43 per game, all of which still represents excellent value for money.

We also want to encourage more families to come to The Racecourse, hence the additional discounts available for combined Adult and Junior tickets. These are only available in the Mold Road and Yale Stands with Under-11 Season Tickets costing just £10 – that's less than 50p per game!

In arriving at these prices we've consulted our various Supporters' Groups and the positive feedback we've received has been very encouraging.

We're all in this together now because it really is our club and our future.

Come On You Reds!

Andy Morrell

Good afternoon and welcome back to the Racecourse Ground for this play-off semi-final, second leg against Luton Town. I'd like to welcome Paul Buckle and everyone connected with Luton to north Wales today.

Although things didn't go our way the other evening we have to keep going this afternoon, and your backing of the team will be crucial over the course of the next 90 minutes.

Looking back at Thursday evening, not enough of us showed up in the first half of the game. It was so disappointing for everyone, as we are fortunate that the tie isn't over altogether with the chances that they have had. The second half was so much better from us, but I can't put my finger on why this would be the case. In a 180 minute tie, we didn't turn up for 45 of those and we have got to put it right this afternoon.

We have watched Thursday's game again and you could see that they looked lively from the start, whereas we weren't, and when you have got that combination it isn't good. Although in the first half we were under pressure, in the second we really pegged them back, had chances and kept the ball for a bit. That is always important as when you have got it they haven't, so they can't break on you. We moved the ball better in the second period and looked like a decent team, although the first 45 minutes hasn't killed us off yet it has certainly hurt us.

The tie is still alive, the atmosphere was great at Luton and I'm sure that it will be here this afternoon as well. Hopefully you will have come out in your droves for today's game, as if you can get behind us and give us the superb support similar to that which you gave us at Luton then that would help us massively. We certainly have the believe that we are able to turn around the scoreline in our favour, but if we play like we did in the first half at Luton then it will be game over as they will certainly punish us.



We understand that it is going to be tough out there today, as we have put ourselves into a really difficult position, but it's not impossible. It's better than what it was last year and if we can play like we did in the second leg on that occasion then we have got a chance. I really believe in this bunch of lads as they do want it. It hurts them, as well as me, when we don't do as well as we should but they will try to correct that today.

We hope to have Jake Speight back this afternoon.

He has been ill for the past week or so and, hopefully, he will be right as he hasn't been well. While Glen Little has had a sore calf recently, so we will assess him ahead of today's game and make a decision then. We just need everyone firing on all cylinders today to make sure we have a chance.

Hopefully, we can replicate the kind of performance that we put in against Braintree Town in our last home game. That was more like us, following the disappointment in the previous weeks, and we got the goals that the performance deserved on the day.

When you look back at the season as a whole, to get 98 points and not go straight up is frightening really. We knew that life would be difficult at the start of the season, but it has been an incredible achievement from this squad of players, I would probably say that we have overachieved in some respects. Despite this we know that the play-offs are a complete lottery but hopefully we can come out on the right side of them.

Continue to give the team your backing this afternoon, like you have done all season, and as long as you are there for us then this side will continue to play with everything they have got in order to pick up the right result.

Andy

Sponsored by **The Cavaliers**





Commercial Matters

COMMERCIAL MATTERS

Good afternoon and welcome to the Glyndŵr University Racecourse Stadium for the visit of Luton Town.

MATCH SPONSORS

I must begin by thanking our Match Sponsors Brother Industries. Brother have in the past had a long and successful relationship with this football club and I'm delighted that they have renewed this partnership in taking the sponsorship for this afternoon's game.



So I'd like to welcome Graham Halliwell and the team here today and hope that they have an enjoyable afternoon.

Our Matchball Sponsors today are J.D.E. Electrical. Julian Davies and his staff have kindly sponsored the match ball in memory of lifelong Wrexham supporter Gwylm Aled Davies, better known as 'Nani', who sadly recently passed last month.

Born in 1957, Nani was a loyal and dedicated fan for over 50 years. Such was his commitment to the cause that he would often walk from Wrexham to Ruthin, if there was no bus service after a midweek game. He'll be sadly missed by everyone fortunate enough to have known him.

Once again we are in the fortunate position of having sold all of our hospitality boxes and we also have a capacity attendance in the Bamford's Suite.

My thanks therefore go to George Powell, Jason and the team from CS Cable Services in Wrexham and John Gray from Dacs in Connah's Quay together with our regular sponsors Proserve, Airbus, and Glyndŵr for their tremendous support.

WELLIE DRAGONS AT BORRAS PARK SCHOOL

Danny Wright and Declan Walker were the surprise visitors to Borras Park Infants School last week. They were there to help launch Wrexham County Borough Council's Wellie Dragon initiative.

For the last five years Wrexham County Borough Council has entered the Royal Horticultural Society 'Wales in Bloom' competition. In 2007 they were awarded Silver Merit and in 2008,



2009 and 2010 received a Silver Gilt award. In 2011 they came first in the City Category and were awarded Silver Gilt in the Britain in Bloom Competition.

As part of the campaign they like to encourage children to participate. This year they launched the Wrexham Dragon Competition, asking schools to make and then decorate their own Wrexham Dragon. The best Wrexham Dragon will win a prize for their school.

Once the dragons have been placed in the shops across Wrexham Town Centre, they will then launch another competition for children to find and write down as many of the dragons as possible. This will encourage the children to take part in the Wales in Bloom competition and encourage families into the Town Centre, to follow the Dragon Trail.

All the prizes will be sponsored by Tesco and the entry forms will be located in the Tourist Information Office and the Contact Centre from 22 June 2012 onwards.

Good luck to you all!

THE LEADER

I'm delighted to welcome the promotional team from 'The Leader' here this afternoon to the Racecourse.

You will notice as you take your seat that there will be a complementary poster supporting the team here at Wrexham Football Club. The Leader provide national and local news daily through their three local titles covering Wrexham, Chester, and Flintshire as well as excellent coverage of all of our games.

Remember there are generous discounts still available for home delivery so call 01352 707707 for more details.

AND FINALLY...

We're working on a host of ideas for next season so if you're interested in sponsoring Wrexham FC then drop me a line at Phil.jones@wrexhamfc.tv or call me on 07933 661289.

Enjoy the game!

Phil

Around The Racecourse

REDS HAND OUT PRO CONTRACTS

The club was delighted to announce last week that three of our scholars were to be rewarded with the offer of first year professional contracts. Stepping up to the full time ranks will be midfielder Jamie Morton, central defender Anthony Stephens and defender Steve Tomassen. Youth coaches Joey Jones and Andy Davies were naturally happy to see the trio make the next step up the professional ladder.

"We are delighted for them as they have all worked hard and each has been involved with the first team, but they have to now seize the opportunity and push on," said Andy.

On the flip side of the coin it is very difficult to have to tell players that we are not able to offer them new contracts for the coming season. To this end both Max Fargin and Ed Marsh have been released, while Louis Moss will be joining a club in the US.

Joey and Andy joined together in wishing the departing players well for the future. "It is without doubt the worst part of our job," said Andy.

"We will not just cut them adrift though, as both Joey and myself will be supporting them over the coming weeks and helping to find new clubs for them to continue their footballing careers.

"We hope that they will look back on their time with us as an enjoyable one and that we have been able to help them develop not only as footballers but as people."

It is also a time to look forward to a new season and with it comes a new crop of scholars to join the club, although three of them will be familiar faces to supporters who keep an eye on the Reserves.

The new intakes will be: Louis Gray, Sean Smith, Robert Evans, Bradley Reid, Ross Weaver, Ross White and John Hodgkin.

Goalkeeper Louis Gray and midfielder Robbie Evans were in the first team squad that travelled to Newport County last week, with Rob making his senior debut in the closing stages of the game at Spytty Park.

Full back Sean Smith has been a regular with our youth team for the last 12 months and he will be joined by Wales U17 internationals Bradley Reid and Ross White. Making up the squad will be Prestatyn's Ross Weaver and John Hodgkin.

NEIL HOOVERS UP AWARDS

He has been coolness personified on the pitch this season, but Wrexham's star player Neil Ashton admits he was wracked by nerves during the 'Player of the Season' awards ceremony - just as he was standing ready to take his penalty against Braintree Town.

However, the dressing room chatterbox went all shy and retiring when he was the centre of attention at the bash, held at The Lion Quays Resort in Oswestry.

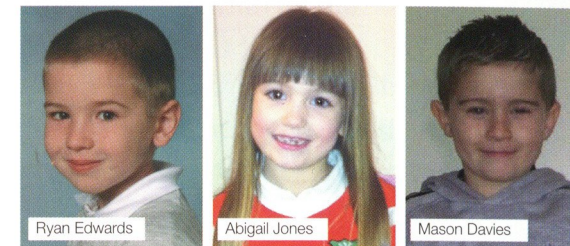
"When they asked me to make a speech I was shaking like a leaf," said Neil. "I do talk a lot out on the pitch as that's my comfort zone. But when it's in a room full of people where all the eyes are on you, that's a little bit different."

The left-back was overwhelmed at the clutch of awards he picked up but stressed it was a team effort which led to his personal triumphs.

"I didn't expect to win in the slightest. We've had some great individual performances this season. I've gone about my job quietly and thankfully

the fans have picked up on that and voted for me for so many awards. "I play with a smile on my face and I think that's been reflected in the awards I've won. But you don't win anything with split squads and the boys here are all in it together. It was said in a meeting that we are like musketeers in the sense it really is all for one and one for all."

TODAY'S MASCOT



This afternoon we have nine-year-old Ryan Thomas Edwards with us here at the Racecourse. Ryan attends Ysgol Penrhyn School and lists Mark Creighton as his favourite player. We hope that Ryan and his family, who are here this afternoon, have an enjoyable time in our company. Against Braintree Town there were two mascots whose pictures didn't make it into the programme. These were Mason Davies and Abigail Jones whose pictures are on this page today. We hope they had a great day with us.

REDS RETURN TO ADIDAS

Wrexham FC will kick off next season in style after signing a two-year kit supply partnership with adidas. It is 34 years ago that Wrexham memorably clinched promotion to English Football's second tier with a 7-1 win over Rotherham United, when Arfon Griffiths' star-studded side were resplendent in adidas.

The sportswear giant has now renewed its partnership with the club to supply all playing and training kit until the end of the 2013-14 season. A launch date for The Red Dragons' new home shirt will be announced in due course, along with price and size details. New away and third strips will also be unveiled soon.

Wrexham first wore the famous Three Stripes in the two legs of the memorable European Cup Winners' Cup quarter final against Anderlecht during the 1975-76 season. Adidas went on to supply the club's kit for four seasons between 1977 and 1981.

Wrexham FC chief executive, David Roberts, said: "We are delighted to team up with adidas again, particularly at a time where the club is enjoying a magnificent season.

"adidas were our kit suppliers during one of the most successful periods in the club's history and it seems fitting to announce the deal 34 years after the club won promotion to the Second Division wearing an adidas strip."

Steve Holland, Commercial Club Partnerships Manager at adidas, said: "We are delighted to link up with Wrexham again as they look to bounce back into the Football League."

Keep an eye on the official website and on Twitter, @Wrexham_FC for updates.

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byddwch yn rhan o'r hanes

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TheNext Generation



Just ahead of the end of the first teams' season the Youth Team brought their season to a close with two very positive results. Saturday 14th April saw them record a comprehensive 4-0 victory over Accrington Stanley. While a week later they recorded an equally important victory by the same score over 7th place Bury.

The youngsters can be very pleased with how their season has once again progressed as they look to come through the ranks and eventually on into the reserve and first team levels here at the club. After an indifferent start to the season they managed to turn things around and move into a comfortable mid-table position well before the end of the season.

The Under 18's also made great progress once again in the F.A. Welsh Youth Cup, making it all the way through to the semi-final of the competition. The team would finally come unstuck against TNS, but despite this they can be pleased with how they performed in this prestigious competition.

The last two results should be looked at upon as equally impressive as the coaching staff blooded a number of younger players as they started to get ready for the 2012/13 campaign, which will be underway in no time at all.



North West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
C Preston North End	24	19	2	3	60	22	+38	59
2 Burnley	24	19	1	4	57	25	+32	58
3 Walsall	23	15	6	2	62	21	+41	51
4 Carlisle United	24	16	1	7	62	33	+29	49
5 Tranmere Rovers	23	14	1	8	45	35	+10	43
6 Rochdale	24	11	3	10	46	42	+4	36
7 Bury	24	10	4	10	47	47	0	34
8 Oldham Athletic	24	8	8	8	32	31	+1	32
9 Wrexham	23	9	4	10	42	37	+5	31
10 Port Vale	23	9	3	11	44	44	0	30
11 Stockport County	23	9	1	13	40	58	-18	28
12 Wigan Athletic	23	8	3	12	32	42	-10	27
13 Shrewsbury Town	23	6	4	13	32	46	-14	22
14 Macclesfield Town	23	5	7	11	24	38	-14	22
15 Morecambe	24	5	4	15	38	69	-31	19
16 Accrington Stanley	24	4	3	17	23	58	-35	15
17 Blackpool	24	4	3	17	29	67	-38	15

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	1-2
Saturday 10 March	Rochdale	Away	2-3
Saturday 17 March	CARLISLE UNITED 1pm KO	HOME	1-2
Sunday 18 March	THE ROCK (CEFN DRUIDS) TNS FAWYCSF		3-5
Saturday 24 March	Shrewsbury Town	Away	1-1
Saturday 31 March	Burnley	Away	0-3
Saturday 14 April	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	HOME	4-0
Saturday 21 April	Bury	Away	4-0

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Racecourse Foundation

THE YEAR SO FAR

During the past season the Racecourse Foundation has made great strides in promoting the football club and has achieved accreditation with the FAW Trust, The Children's University and has gained the Kite mark for the Wrexham Award For Excellence. It has also completed projects with the Football Conference, Sports Wales, Show Racism the Red Card and The Princes Trust.

The team on the pitch has certainly matched the Foundation in terms of results this season and hopefully we can complete a fantastic season both on and off the pitch with promotion back to the Football League. Plans are already in place for next season in terms of the direction of the Foundation and you will continue to see the growth over the coming seasons as it moves into different sectors such as Disability, Education, Social Inclusion to name but a few.

JUNIOR DRAGONS

Members of the Junior Dragons will shortly be receiving their first newsletter with a review of the first Junior Dragon Day at Colliers Park and plans for next season.

If you would like to become a member call in to the shop for a form or visit www.thercf.co.uk to download one.

SCHOOL PROGRAMME

As the season draws to a close we have seen over 50 schools in Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire participate in our after school programme.

Each child has had the opportunity to play a small sided game on the pitch at half time and I'm sure you will see the numbers of schools rise next season and even more children on the pitch during half time.

Schools that will be visiting early next season will be: Maes Y Llan, Sychdyn, Ysgol Terrig, Kinnerton, Bodhyfryd, Hooson, Rhosymedre, Alexandra, Bwlchgwyn, Minera, Y

Faenol, Cefn Mawr, Froncysyllte, St Marys Ruabon and Penarlag.

WHIT FUNDAY - 6th JUNE

The next funday will be held on Wednesday 6th June at Glyndŵr University. Registration will be at 9:45am in Glyndŵr University Sports Centre.

The cost of the course is £15 and will run from 9:45am-2pm. Due to the players having their end of season break a ground tour will be put in place of their visit. There will also be Funday's running each Wednesday through the summer holidays with the possibility of a day on The Racecourse and at Colliers Park training ground.

Junior Dragon members will receive a 10% discount on this course.

THANK YOU

The Racecourse Community Foundation would like to thank the following for their help and support throughout the season.

- Board of Trustees
- Andy Morrell, Billy Barr and the players
- Geraint Parry, Wyn Griffiths and Kim Roberts
- Universal Builders (George Powell)
- Tasha Woods and Kim Powell
- Linda and Gareth (Mascots)
- All coaches and volunteers
- Paul Challinor
- Glyndŵr University
- WST
- Les Evans
- Becky Ashton at All Media Solutions
- Donna Finegan Design
- Sue O'Brien / Dave Boddy at The Football Conference

Apologies if we have missed anybody out.

Have a fantastic summer and see you next season in the Football League!!

If you would like to get involved with the Foundation or be interested in future sponsorship then please contact 01978296397 or email lee.jones@wrexhamfc.tv or junior.dragons@wrexhamfc.tv





Terrace Talk!

Has anyone else got déjà vu? That's right, we're back at the Racecourse for another semi-final play-off with Luton Town; only this time its win or bust.

As a point of reference, I'm writing this before the away leg at Kenilworth Road so I have no idea what score we've got to keep hold of or come back from. I do know that the away end would have been packed with red shirts and today promises the same sight throughout the Racecourse.

Whatever happened last Thursday, whether we're 3-0 down again, 3-0 up or somewhere in between, everyone needs to put in one mighty shift this afternoon. The players, the fans, the staff and everybody united, just like at the beginning of the season.

That day when Wrexham Football Club was saved by its loyal, die-hard supporters is still a memorable one. It was my birthday. My best friend was getting a tattoo done while I checked Twitter for updates on that unbelievable story.

Having already paid the players' wages we all joined together and raised enough money for a bond to allow us participation in The Football Conference this season. That was quite a birthday gift.

You guys made sure we existed to see this day while the team ensured we made it here. That's the ethos instilled at the club now. Team spirit. Fighting for each other. No one deserves to enjoy promotion more than you the fans and this team.

Unfortunately, that's not how life works though. It's been a great season but the 46 league games mean nothing now. Luton, York and Mansfield all enter the play-offs with a clean slate, as we do. That's why it's considered a lottery. It's all about who comes out victorious on the day.

Last year we were the rabbits caught in a car's headlights, making silly defensive errors in front of a packed home ground. This time we have a better team and more experience. We need to go out there like we did against Brighton, without fear.

Until the 90 minutes are over and the job's been done, the only word sung beginning with 'W' should be Wrexham. We'll certainly be up for this. Make us proud boys.

Thanks

Lewis

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Red Dragon Review

Saturday 28th April 2012

Wrexham 5
Braintree Town 1



By Dan Jennings

Pre-match build up

Wrexham went into the match knowing their fate, the play-offs beckoned and it was just a case of who the opposition would be. With second place long assured the afternoon's result would be of little significance in the big picture but the Reds wanted to sign off the regular season in style.

Team selection and line-ups

Andy Morrell fielded a very young team in Tuesday's win over Newport County, giving some regular first-teamers a rest whilst also giving a number of fringe players the chance to prove themselves. Tuesday's goal-scorer Adrian Cieslewicz must have done just that as he was the only player from the 1-0 midweek victory to maintain a starting place. Alan Devonshire named Bradley Quinton on the substitute's bench; an appearance would turn out to be his 527th for the Iron, a club record.

Wrexham (4-3-3): Mayebi; S Wright, Creighton, Knight-Percival, Ashton; Harris (Hunt 65), Keates, Tolley (Clarke 46); Pogba, Morrell (D Wright 70), Cieslewicz

Subs not used: Maxwell, Westwood

Braintree Town (4-4-2): McDonald; O'Connor (Quinton 67), Wells, Bailey-Dennis, Thomas; Gibson, Paine, Davis, Reason (Symons 76); Guy (Bentley 80), Wright

Subs not used: Peters, Haxell

Ebb and flow

The Dragons started slowly allowing the Iron a few half chances. Once they settled their quality shone through with Jay Harris at the heart of everything. Some neat feet allowed him to play in Stephen Wright who squared for Morrell to open the scoring before a cute through ball put a second goal in as many games on a plate for Cieslewicz. To their credit, Braintree came back into it after the break. Braintree's top-scorer Ben Wright notched his 17th league goal of the campaign and things could have got worse but right-back Wright survived a handball appeal moments later. Mathias Pogba's individual strike took the pressure back off the home side while the two late goals were probably a little harsh on the visitors.

What an end to the season.....

Yes, 5-1 maybe flattered Wrexham a little but it was great to end the season on such a high note. Substitute Danny Wright staked his claim for a starting place as he started and finished an excellent move in the 88th minute; as good a team goal as any of the 85 the Dragons have amassed all campaign. Neil Ashton was unlucky not to register his first Wrexham goal from open play in stoppage time but no-one was more deserving to tuck away the resulting spot kick than the player-of-the-season. That penalty also brought back memories of former left-back Phil Hardy scoring his only goal for the club in similar circumstances in a 1-0 win over Colchester United on April 24th, 2000.

A sign of things to come?

Two players who proved what they're capable if called upon in the play-offs were Cieslewicz and Pogba. Both players are still young, still learning the game and on some occasions frustrating to watch. However, with Cieslewicz's pace and Pogba's power,

all Wrexham fans know that on their day they are unplayable and a goal piece can have only boosted their confidence.

Star performers

Jay Harris ran the show as his niggles now look to be behind him. He played a key part in the opening two goals and was so close to scoring himself with a 20-yard drive that flew back off the upright early in the second period. The four forwards – Cieslewicz, Pogba, Wright and Morrell himself, will give the player-manager a selection headache as they all performed well and, most importantly, scored. With leading marksman Jake Speight still to return from illness, I'm sure it is a problem Morrell would rather have than not.

Attendance

3,303 (58 from Braintree). A home crowd of over three thousand enjoyed the goal fest while many more will have been disappointed they missed out. The play-off double header, and a possible trip to Wembley, makes it an expensive end to the season and it is understandable some fans may have been saving their money for the bigger games.

Post-match reflection

The performance was more ruthless than it was flawless. There remain a few mistakes to iron out but after a hard couple of months Wrexham look close to rediscovering the form that shot them into title contention.

Post-season reflection

Despite narrowly missing out on automatic promotion, second place was a large over-achievement after the build-up to the campaign. Huge credit must go to the players, management, coaching staff and the fans – who saved the club from the brink of extinction last summer and now proudly own it. The 98 points gathered along the way is a new club record, and one that could remain so for a long, long time to come.



Red Dragon Review

Luton Town
Wrexham

2
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Creighton, Knight-Percival, Ashton, Harris, Keates, Tolley, Cieslewicz (Hunt 87), Morrell (D Wright 68), Pogba

Subs not used: Westwood, Clarke, Maxwell

The game itself

Luton Town put in a fine display to take a two-goal cushion to Wrexham for the second leg of the Blue Square Bet Premier play-off semi-final.

Stuart Fleetwood was the provider for the opener, collecting Keith Keane's long ball on the right side and cutting the ball back to Andre Gray, who rifled past Joslain Mayebi for his sixth goal in 10 games for the Hatters since joining from Hinckley in March.

The roles were reversed shortly afterwards, as Alex Lawless dispossessed Nat Knight-Percival on the halfway line and gave it to Gray. He fed Fleetwood and the Welshman saw his shot go in off the left-hand post.

Wrexham's sole first-half effort came when Andy Morrell's low shot drew a fine save from Mark Tyler, tipping the ball around the post.

The half-time team talk from player-manager Morrell seemed to lift Wrexham, who continuously turned to the power and persistence of Mathias Pogba for inspiration.

The pressure drew a barrage of corners - six in the opening 11 minutes of the second half - but Knight-Percival's wayward header was all they could show for their efforts.

Luton remained dangerous on the counter attack, with Gray forcing a superb stop from Mayebi and Willmott hitting his six-yard effort straight at the keeper following good work from Gray.

And Robert Kovacs looked to have grabbed a third when Mayebi and

Neil Ashton's mix-up presented him with an open goal, but Knight-Percival managed to scurry back to clear off the line.

Attendance

For there to be a crowd of over 9,000 for a Blue Square Bet Premier fixture is a great achievement for both clubs. It shows that both sides still have a support base better than many a Football League side. Credit must also go to the 900 or so Wrexham supporters who made the long trip south to Luton. Your backing on the night for the players was fantastic and we will certainly need more of that this afternoon.

Bogey side?

It seems that when it comes to play-off games, Luton are very much our bogey side. The Hatters have now achieved three victories out of three in these two-legged fixtures, something which we will be looking to put right today. We know that they are beatable though having defeated Town twice already this season, both times without conceding - something which we will need to repeat here at the Racecourse if we are to have a chance of progressing into the final.

What they said

Andy Morrell, "Again we haven't showed up in the first half which is so disappointing. I don't know why and we can't afford to do that in a 180-minute tie.

"The tie could have been over but we've hung in there and the second half was so much better. The lads have stood up and been counted in the second half. They could have gone under and it could have been over but it wasn't. The tie's alive. We've got to put it right Monday."



Red Ladies



Wrexham women on brink of double

One side associated with Wrexham are on the brink of a league double, with the Wrexham Ladies side just a handful of points away from making it a very memorable year in north Wales.

Last Sunday, 29th April, it was confirmed that the Ladies were Champions of the FAW Womens Premier League – Northern Section after nearest rivals Llanidloes Town were beaten at Caernarfon Town.

The ladies now face the winners of the Southern Section UWIC in a play-off fixture which will see the winners qualifying for a spot in the UEFA Women's Champions League. For those that are interested this fixture will take place at Llanidloes Town ground on Sunday 13th May.

For your information, The Welsh Premier League is the top level women's football league in Wales. It was founded in 2009 and was the first women's football league in Wales. In previous years the national cup winner was sent into European competition.

The league is divided into two Conferences that play a double round robin, with the winner of both contesting a final for the championship, as our ladies will do in just six days time. The first season featured no relegation, from the 2010-11 season onwards, the last placed team in each conference gets relegated.

FAW Womens Premier League Northern Section

#	Team	Pld	Pts
1	WREXHAM LFC	7	16
2	Llanidloes Town LFC	8	13
3	Caernarfon Town LFC	8	13
4	Aberystwyth Town LFC	8	13
5	Northop Hall Ladies FC	7	0

The leagues are broken up as follows

NORTHERN SECTION

Aberystwyth Town
Caernarfon Town
Llanidloes Town
Northop Hall
WREXHAM

SOUTHERN SECTION

Caerphilly Castle
Newcastle Emlyn
Swansea City
UWIC

2010/2011 Winners - Swansea City

2009/2010 Winners - Swansea City

While the Wrexham ladies have already clinched this crown they are looking to make it a double by also claiming the North Wales Women Division One title. In fact this could well have been achieved by the time you read this if results went for them in the fixtures over the weekend.

With local neighbours Cefn Druids pulling out of the league with just a few weeks to go, with them unable to complete their fixtures. It means that although Wrexham are some 11 points clear of Llandudno Junction in second spot, who have just four games remaining, it is actually fifth placed Caernarfon Town who are the biggest threats.

For one reason and another Town have only played nine games this season meaning that if they were to win all of their remaining fixtures they could still finish on 47 points, and ultimately pip Wrexham to the title if things went their way.

With our ladies playing against Caernarfon yesterday, if they were able to pick up all three points then it would mean they would be crowned Champions as Town would only be able to get to 44 points.

Whatever way you look at it, it looks like the ladies will achieve a league double this season and that is something which should be celebrated.

North Wales Womens League Division One

#	Team	Pld	Pts
1.	WREXHAM LFC	15	43
2.	Llandudno Junction LFC	14	32
3.	Prestatyn Town LFC	16	22
4.	Northop Hall LFC	16	22
5.	Caernarfon Town LFC	9	20
6.	Denbigh LFC	13	20
7.	Buckley Town LFC	16	18
8.	Airbus UK LFC	16	16
9.	Cybi LFC	15	4
10.	Kinmel Bay LFC	12	3
11.	Cefn Druids LFC	0	-3

Today's Match Sponsors

Brother Industries (UK) Ltd is very happy to be match sponsors for this very important game between Wrexham FC and Luton Town, especially as we have sponsored Wrexham FC in the past, through our team building programme with the employees on-site at Brother.

It was a privilege to be asked to sponsor this game, so now we need a consolidated effort from those Brother participants at the game along with all the other supporters, backroom staff and players – good luck lads!

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Joe Clarke

One player who you can always rely upon to put a shift in for his side in the the middle of the park is midfielder Joe Clarke. Although he didn't start the campaign in the side he has proven to be a great assist for the team over the course of the 2011/12 season, racking up over 30 appearances despite not breaking into the starting XI until the start of October away at Gateshead.

Just ahead of last Thursday evening's trip to Luton Town for the first leg of the play-off semi-final Scott Smith managed to speak to Clarke in order to get his views on how his first season at the club had gone.

Clarke started off by explaining how these two extra end of season fixtures are a completely new experience for the one time Darlington man, as Clarke explained, "I've never been in the play-offs before, so I'm very much looking forward to the challenge that they bring. These games are going to be like three cup finals as form really doesn't play a part in any of the games. It's just all about on the day whoever turns up is most likely to pick up the result that they want."

The midfielder was quick to stress that despite beating The Hatters twice already this season, this means nothing when it comes to the play-offs, "They have got a new manager from when we played them before and they picked up a few good results towards the end of the season, so they will be a completely different team to the one that we played before. So these two fixtures will be a new challenge for us."

We asked the 23-year-old if there had been any talk of last season's play-off semi-final loss to the same opponents ahead of these two meetings in quick succession, "There has been a little bit of talk about last year, saying that we owe them one for beating us in the play-offs last time etc. But in all honestly we haven't really thought about that as we have just got to concentrate on the job in hand and make sure that we pick up the right results this season."

As we spoke before Thursday's game Joe was unable to comment on how the first leg had gone. Whatever the result the midfielder stated that it was important for us to be at home in the second leg for a variety of reasons, "The Racecourse is a tough ground for people to come to, the Wrexham supporters have been brilliant all season as they always make a lot of noise and get behind the lads and that is what we will need again on Monday. It should be a sell-out, and the lads can't wait to get back there hopefully on the back of a good result on Thursday night. If we do then we can take it back to the Racecourse, get

the Wrexham fans behind us and act as the 12th man."

We asked Clarke if minds had perhaps started to wonder towards a possible date at Wembley on Sunday 20th May, "There have been no thoughts about Wembley yet as we have all been concentrating on Thursday's game. We haven't even thought about Monday's game either. It's all about taking it one step at a time. It's obviously in the back of everyone's minds as it would be nice to play at Wembley as it's probably the best way to go up. But it is also not a very nice way to end a season there. As I say it's all about Thursday night then Monday and hopefully then we have done enough to get into the final."

Whatever the outcome of these play-off games the 2011/12 campaign has certainly been a magnificent one for everyone connected with the club. We stated that Clarke must have been pleased with how things had gone, "Definitely, from the start of the season we didn't really know what was happening if I'm honest, at both a club and a personal level. To get 98 points out of a season is tremendous really and on any other season we would probably go up automatically.

"The lads aren't down about that though and these upcoming games will be a good chance for us to prove what a good team we are. We have got two difficult games and if we can get through them then it will be another difficult game at Wembley. I think we have got the squad of players here though and those that have learnt from last season in order to see us in good stead in the next couple of weeks."

The midfielder was asked to look back at those games and try and pick out the most memorable one for him personally, "The Brighton games were good for me, as I was able to play in both of them. Over the two games the team played well and I felt personally I played well also. Obviously going to Brighton and playing in front of all those supporters was a great experience for me on a personal level. I'd also say my first start against Gateshead away, when I got a goal. There was a few injuries, Mozza had not long come in and he believed in me and threw me straight in and it give me a lot of confidence and helped me then in the next games that I played."

The interview was ended with by asking Clarke after such a steady campaign, if anything had yet been agreed for the future, "Nothing has been said yet. To be honest I'm just concentrating on doing my best on the pitch and then we can worry about that hopefully on the 21st May as I will be knocking on the gaffers' door and hopefully we will be in League Two!"





The season that was

We have reached that stage of the campaign where it once again time to take a look back on what has been overall an excellent and exciting nine months for this football club. With much uncertainty surrounding the club over the summer of 2011, it was great to see supporters come together in order to make sure that this great football club could once again start to raise from the flames.

August

Following a steady pre-season schedule the Reds got ready to open up another Blue Square Bet Premier



campaign against Cambridge United for the second season running. It looked as if for the second year on the trot we would gain a 1-0 victory as Andy Morrell's first half goal put us on course for victory. However a 91st minute strike from Conal Platt would earn the visitors a share of the spoils.

This wouldn't dent the Reds confidence though as just three days later they travelled to Bath and picked up a 2-0 victory thanks to a Morrell brace. While the week was ended unbeaten following a 2-1 victory at Lincoln City on a Friday night in front of the Premier Sports cameras.

Fixtures continued to come thick and fast and the Reds were soon moving into top spot with a 3-0 victory over Tamworth here at the Racecourse, with late goals from

Jamie Tolley and Adrian Cieslewicz securing the victory. Dean Saunders side ended the month with games against Alfreton Town and Fleetwood Town over August Bank Holiday. Saturday 27th August would be a memorable day for Jake Speight as he bagged his first goals for the club, scoring a hat-trick in a 4-1 demolition of the Derbyshire side.

Two days later Speight was at it again as he notched in just the second minute against Fleetwood before Morrell secured the victory with a strike in the second period to keep the Dragons top of the table.

September

Wrexham picked up where they left off just days earlier as they recorded yet another home victory, this time against promotion hopefuls Kidderminster Harriers. After Tolley had put the Reds 1-0 up Danny Wright bagged his first goal for the club three minutes into the second period.

Following the best start to a league campaign in a number of years Wrexham headed north to Barrow aiming for their seventh consecutive victory. Unfortunately despite taking the lead we would end up on the wrong side of a 3-1 scoreline in a controversial fixture which saw Wright dismissed in the second half.

The next week followed a similar theme as we lost our unbeaten home record to York City (0-3) before drawing 0-0 at Southport.

Just two days after this result the club was rocked by the news that Dean Saunders would be departing north Wales to join become manager of Championship strugglers Doncaster Rovers. It couldn't have really come

at a worse time for the team as they looked like finally making a major push on gaining promotion back to the Football League.

The team regrouped though and with Andy Morrell put in caretaker charge of the side they headed to Grimsby Town aiming to get back on track. This they did with a great 3-1 victory at Boundary Park. A rather indifferent month would be end with a 3-1 defeat at home to Mansfield Town in a game which saw both sides reduced to ten men.

October

If September was indifferent then October would turn out to be the total opposite as Morrell's men roared back into form. The third month of the season opened up with a quick

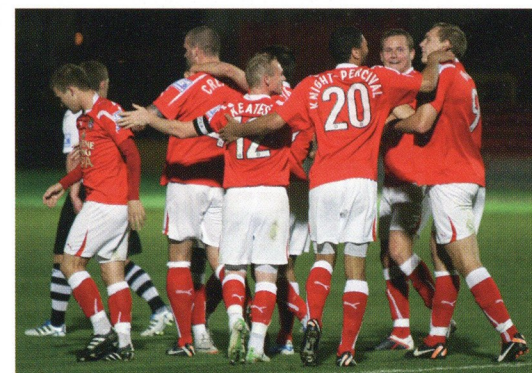
Season Review



succession. This saw us extend our lead at the top of the table to four points with over a quarter of the season played.

We weren't able to make it a clean sweep of victories though as Newport County held on for a 0-0 draw at the Racecourse in the last league game of the month.

The month was ended with progression in the F.A. Cup as we defeated York City 2-1. Nat Knight-Percival put us on course before we were pegged back. However Morrell's low cross was turned into his own net by David McGurk to see us home.



November

Just a week later we faced York in the first league game of November. It would turn out to be one of more forgettable fixtures of the season as we took a point home in a 0-0 draw. Six days later it would be back to Cup action as we travelled to Cambridge United for our First Round tie. Despite taking the lead twice we would be pegged back on two separate occasions as the home side forced a replay.

After over a week's gap between fixtures we were able to complete our first double of the season on Saturday 19th November after defeating Lincoln 2-0 at the Racecourse thanks to a Mathias Pogba double.

Just a couple of days later we would once again switch between competitions as we battled it out with Cambridge in order to gain a trip to Brentford in the Second Round of the F.A. Cup. Goals from Pogba and one for Wright against his former side would prove to be the difference despite a late scare from the visitors.

With a trip to League One Brentford confirmed we would make sure we ended the month unbeaten after picking up a point at Braintree Town before leaving it late to steal all three points against Darlington. With both our goals coming in the last 12 minutes to see us record a 2-1 victory and leave us joint-top of the table with Fleetwood.

double header of fixtures.

A Speight penalty 12 minutes from time would see the Reds complete a 1-0 victory over Ebbsfleet United before the team made the long trip up to Gateshead for a big top of the table clash on a Tuesday evening. An early strike from Wright got us on the way before Joe Clarke grabbed his first goal for the club. This was soon followed by an own goal and despite the hosts reducing the arrears a Dean Keates penalty earned us a fabulous 4-1 victory.

The Reds were now in full flow and they made it five victories on the trot after seeing off Hayes & Yeading United, Stockport County and tonight's visitors Luton Town in quick

Season Review

December

Cup fever was sweeping north Wales with the Reds getting ready to test themselves against Football League side Brentford. A trip to Griffin Park opened up the month for Wrexham as they looked to make the Third Round proper.

It would turn out to be a very memorable Saturday for everybody connected with the club as Jamie Tolley lashed home an excellent effort from the edge

The month would be ended by two much more important games as we played host to Gateshead and travelled to AFC Telford United over the Christmas period. Two victories in quick succession insured we would head into 2012 with a two point advantage at the top of the table.

January

2012 opened up in style as we completed the double over Telford



of the box after 33 minutes. Following a resolute defensive performance the Reds were able to produce the shock of the round by giant killing the League One side and possibly set up a tie with a Premier League club.

Just three days later it was back to league action as we prepared for the important visit of Southport. Goals in each half from Speight and Cieslewicz would be enough for us to earn a vital three points and keep that top spot.

The third game of the month would see yet another change of competition as we hosted Hinkley United at the Racecourse in the First Round of the F.A. Trophy. It would be an ultimately forgettable afternoon for us though as we lost 2-1 despite Glen Little's first goal for the club.

following a very convincing 4-0 victory. The outcome of the game was decided in two first half minutes following an own goal and a first goal for the 'Beast' in Wrexham colours.

This set Morrell's men up perfectly for the trip south to take on Brighton & Hove Albion in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup. Many wrote off the Reds before the game but with over 2,000 Welshmen backing the team it certainly made for a great atmosphere inside the Amex Stadium. It looked as if the Cup journey could be over as Brighton scored early on in the second half but a wonderful run and finish from Ciss insured that we would get a chance to take on Albion at the Racecourse.

Before that though we had an important league game at Tamworth to negotiate, which we managed to do



following a 2-1 victory.

It was back to the Cup and with the winners knowing Newcastle United waited for whoever progressed it served to produce a classic cup tie at the Racecourse. After the game had been delayed 24 hours due to bad weather over 8,000 Wrexham supporters were soon in raptures as the gaffer superbly fired home on 23 minutes. After a battling display the Reds were finally pegged back 13 minutes from time. With neither side being able to find a further breakthrough it came down to a penalty shoot-out, with the Championship side sneaking through 5-4 from the spot.

Morrell's side didn't let this affect them though as they brushed aside Kettering Town 4-1 just three days later with young Jay Colbeck having a dream second-half after bagging a brace.

The month was ended with two further league games with a forgettable 1-0

loss at Forest Green Rovers and a 2-0 victory over Bath City. The loss at the New Lawn allowed Fleetwood to jump to the top of the table by a single point.

February

After seemingly surviving the winter without major disruption, the start of February saw games across all levels postponed due to a big cold snap throughout the UK. We didn't play



until the 18th February when we hosted Hayes & Yeading at the Racecourse and ran out comfortable 4-1 winners.

Three days later we were back in action as we made the short trip to Kidderminster. A tight game saw manager Morrell score right on halftime to put us into the lead, a goal which would eventually turn out to be the winner.

The month was ended by a massive swing in the title race in the favour of Fleetwood as we suffered a 1-0 loss at Stockport County. With the Cod Army taking full advantage they moved five points clear for the first time this season.

March

With February being a quiet month March was always going to be one where catch-up would be required. The opening week of the month saw Wrexham drag themselves very much back into the title race as they picked up a maximum nine points out of nine.

A 1-0 victory away at Kettering Town was followed by two consecutive 2-0 home victories over Luton Town and Barrow to put the Reds back in with a great chance of claiming that top spot.

The busy start to the month was added to on Tuesday 13th March when we made the long trip to Kent to take on Ebbsfleet United. A completely dominant performance saw

the team secure an excellent 5-0 victory. This result coupled with Fleetwood only drawing at Mansfield meant that things were back in Wrexham's hands when it came to the title hunt.

What happened next though ultimately didn't help the side as they were forced into an 11 day gap, due to Newport County's F.A. Trophy commitments.

This meant that all momentum had been lost and it showed as Forest Green arrived at the Racecourse and nicked all three points with virtually the last kick of the game. A morale boosting 4-2 victory at Darlington followed before a second trip to Cambridge this season followed. With the title hanging by a thread the chance to win it was handed back to Fleetwood after we could only force a 1-1 draw with United courtesy of Rob Ogleby's first goal for the club in stoppage time.

April

After battling it out for eight months the destination of the number one side in the BSBP in 2011/12 would be decided in the last month of the season. The side knew that they had to win every game and hope that Fleetwood dropped points along the way.

This was instantly made harder as the Reds lost 1-0 at home to Alfreton on Easter Friday to almost hand the title to Town. This result coupled with Fleetwood's at York a day later meant we headed to the Fylde Coast knowing that we had to avoid losing if we were to stop the Cod Army picking up the title against us.

In one of the best performances of the season we made sure that we were party poopers with a gritty 1-1 draw, after Jake Speight had given us an early second half lead.

The destination of the title was known following our next game though as we could only manage a 2-2 draw with Grimsby at the Racecourse meaning Fleetwood could celebrate promotion to League Two.

The effects of a long season were on show less than a week later as we suffered a 2-0 loss at fellow promotion hopefuls Mansfield Town. However this was followed up by an excellent performance from the back-up players at Newport County four days later as the gaffer made eight changes to the side in order to give some of the other first team players a rest.

That 1-0 victory set us up nicely for our last game here as we put five past Braintree to record a comfortable 5-1 victory.

These two final results will have given the side great belief as we got ready to head into possibly three of the biggest games in our more recent history.

Ten years of the Play-Offs

The Conference play-offs were introduced in 2002-03 and this year's end of season play-offs will be the 10th set that have been competed in at this level.

The first winners were Doncaster Rovers who beat Dagenham & Redbridge on sudden death to regain Football League status after an absence of five years. A regionalised Conference Second Division was added in 2004-05 with the winners of the North and South play-offs meeting in the final.

LEIGH EDWARDS summarises the complete record of the Conference National play-offs:



2002/03

S/F	Dagenham & Redbridge	v	Morecambe	2-1, 1-2
	Daggers won 3-2 on penalties			
S/F	Doncaster Rovers	v	Chester City	1-1, 1-1
	Doncaster won 4-3 on penalties			
F	Dagenham & Redbridge	v	Doncaster Rovers	2-3
	Doncaster won on sudden death in extra-time			

2003/04

S/F	Aldershot Town	v	Hereford United	1-1, 0-0
	Aldershot won 4-2 on penalties			
S/F	Barnet	v	Shrewsbury Town	2-1, 0-1
	Shrewsbury won 5-3 on penalties			
F	Shrewsbury Town	v	Aldershot Town	1-1
	Shrewsbury won 3-0 on penalties			

2004/05

S/F	Aldershot Town	v	Carlisle United	1-0, 1-2
	Carlisle won 5-4 on penalties			
S/F	Stevenage Borough	v	Hereford United	1-1, 1-0
F	Stevenage Borough	v	Carlisle United	0-1

2005/06

S/F	Halifax Town	v	Grays Athletic	3-2, 2-2
S/F	Morecambe	v	Hereford United	1-1, 2-3
F	Halifax Town	v	Hereford United	2-3

2006/07

S/F	Exeter City	v	Oxford United	0-1, 2-1
	Exeter won 4-3 on penalties			
S/F	York City	v	Morecambe	0-0, 1-2
F	Exeter City	v	Morecambe	1-2

2007/08

S/F	Exeter City	v	Torquay United	1-2, 4-1
S/F	Burton Albion	v	Cambridge Utd	2-2, 1-2
F	Exeter City	v	Cambridge Utd	1-0

2008/09

S/F	Stevenage Borough	v	Cambridge Utd	3-1, 0-3
S/F	Torquay United	v	Histon	2-0, 0-1
F	Cambridge United	v	Torquay United	0-2

2009/10

S/F	Rushden & Diamonds	v	Oxford United	1-1, 0-2
S/F	York City	v	Luton Town	1-0, 1-0
F	Oxford United	v	York City	3-1

2010/11

S/F	Wrexham	v	Luton Town	0-3, 1-2
S/F	Fleetwood Town	v	AFC Wimbledon	0-2, 1-6
F	AFC Wimbledon	v	Luton Town	0-0

What happens to the play-off winners?



After seeing on the previous page the sides that has been fortunate enough to gain promotion through this end of season lottery, we felt that it would be right to take a look at what happens to these teams once they reach the promised land of the Football League.

After the announcement that the Conference were going to be allowed a two up two down situation with what was then Division Three, ahead of the start of the 2002/03 season it came of great interest as to who would be the first side to benefit from this new ruling.

Doncaster Rovers would be the first side to earn promotion in the play-off final at Stoke City's Britannia Stadium. After defeating Dagenham & Redbridge 3-2, this was just the start of the rise for Rovers as the following season they stormed to promotion from Division Three as Champions. After three seasons of top half finishes in League One Rovers were on the move again in 2008 as they gained promotion through the play-offs to the Championship. Two mid-table finishes were eventually ended this season as they were relegated back to League One.

2003/04 winners Shrewsbury Town made sure that it was to be only a one season stop at this level as they triumphed 3-0 on penalties in the play-off final over Aldershot Town. The following season saw Town narrowly avoid an immediate return to this level before consolidating their position and qualifying for the League Two play-offs in 2007. Shrewsbury would reach the final but lose 3-1 to Bristol Rovers, before suffering a forgettable 2007/08 campaign. 2010 saw yet another play-off final heartbreak before promotion to League One was finally achieved in 2012 after another season of suffering in the play-offs in 2011.

The 2004/05 campaign would see another one stop club gaining promotion back to the Football League in the form of

Carlisle United. After earning promotion with a 1-0 victory over Stevenage Borough, Carlisle continued their upward trend by clinching the League Two title in 2006. League One is where the club have stayed ever since, finishing in the end of season play-offs once and avoiding a relegation place on another occasion.

Hereford United became the fourth side to gain promotion through the play-offs from this level in 2006 after they defeated the now defunct Halifax Town 3-2. After securing their place in the 2006/07 season Hereford went onto achieve further glory in the 2007/08 campaign by finishing third and with it promotion to League One. However they were relegated just one year later and have since found themselves in League Two. Their place here was not certain for next season though as this weekend they could well have been relegated back to the Conference.

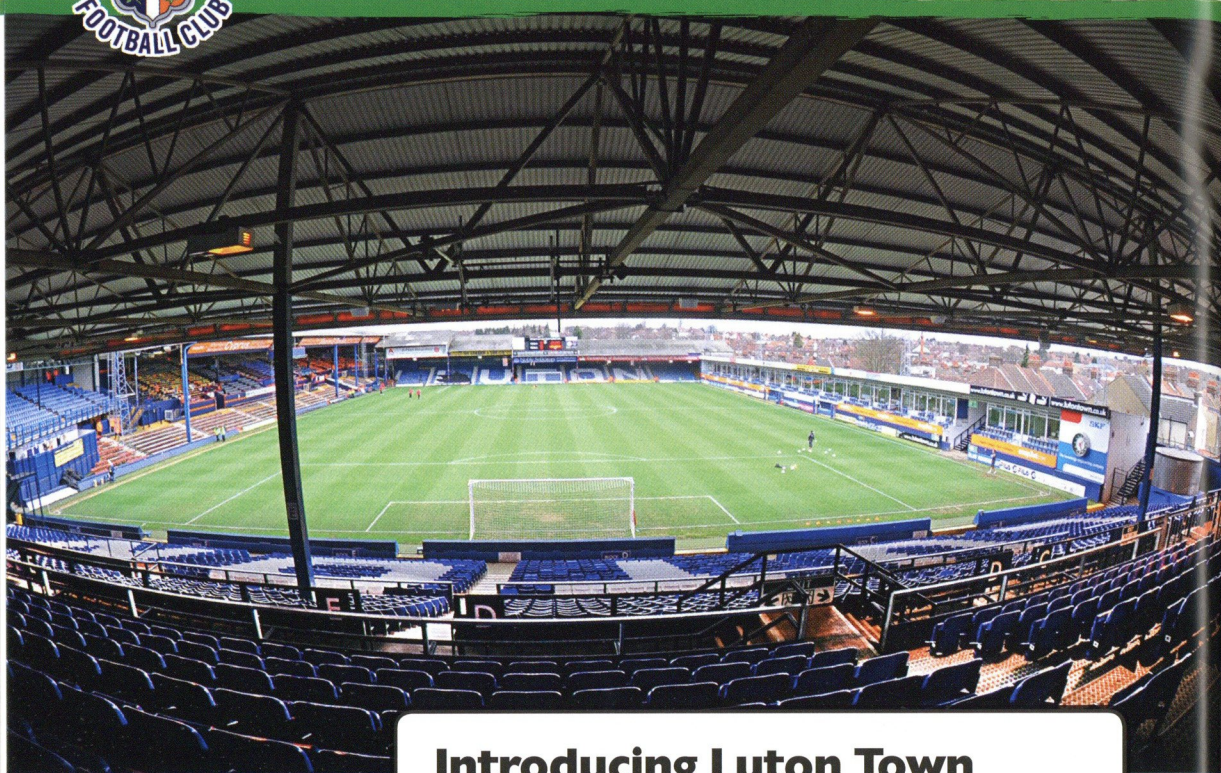
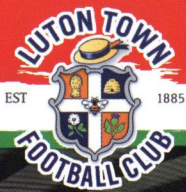
In the 2006/07 season the play-off final took place at Wembley Stadium for the first time and Morecambe were the first side to win at the new ground by defeating Exeter City 2-1. This saw them move into the Football League for the first ever time. Two consecutive 11th place finishes was eventually followed by a play-off berth in 2010, but they lost out 7-2 to Dagenham & Redbridge on aggregate. Since then Morecambe have managed to secure their place in the league set-up once again.

2008 saw Exeter City finally gain a place back in the Football League and this was the start of an upward momentum as the following season they claimed a second place finish behind League Two Champions Brentford. The 2009/10 season was a tense one for the club as they avoided relegation on the last day of the season before finishing 8th last time around. This season was however a forgettable one as the club were relegated back to League Two.

After missing out in 2008 Torquay United finally made it back to League Two in 2009. In their first season back in League Two, Torquay finished the season 17th with 57 points. The following season, United came 7th, guaranteeing a play-off place on the final day of the season on goal difference. Torquay contested the play off final at Old Trafford following a 2-0 aggregate win in the play-off semi final against Shrewsbury Town. They lost 1-0 to Stevenage on Saturday 28th May, 2011, and remained in League Two for the 2011-12 season, where they were hoping to achieve automatic promotion from last weekend.

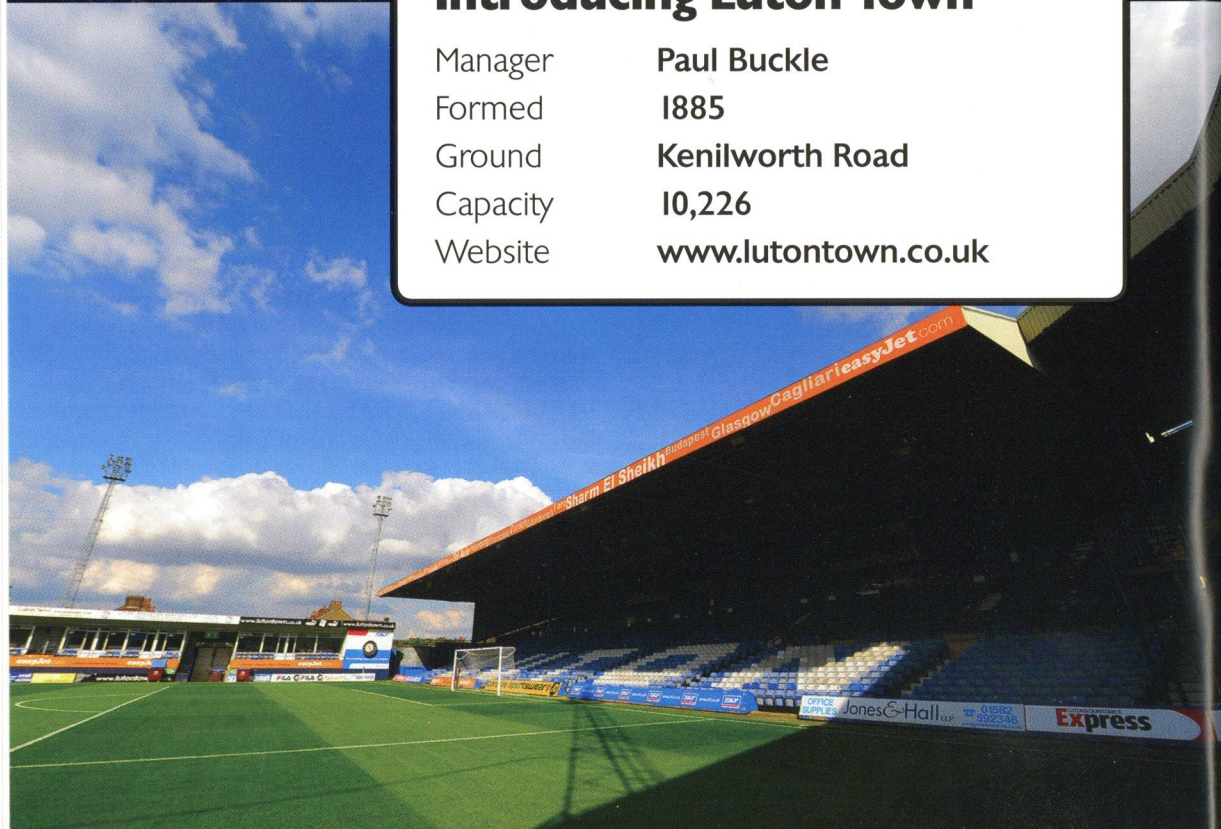
2009 saw one of the biggest clubs to play at this level finally gain promotion back to the Football League. On May 16, 2010, Oxford won the play-off final against York City 3-1, to return to the Football League. The attendance was 42,669, a new record for the final, with around 33,000 being United fans. United finished the season in 12th place, before mounting a promotion push this time around.

Last time around a new (if old) name made it into League Two as AFC Wimbledon and their supporters saw their dream realised as the Wimbledon name got back onto the footballing map. After defeating Luton Town 4-3 on penalties they have managed to keep their place in League Two for another season after a steady if spectacular 2011/12 campaign.



Introducing Luton Town

Manager **Paul Buckle**
 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 5th
Aggregate Home League Attendance 140,560
Highest Home League Attendance 8,415 v Kidderminster Harriers, 21/04/12
Lowest Home League Attendance 5,261 v Mansfield Town 25/01/12
Average Home League Attendance 6,112
Top League Goalscorer 11 Stuart Fleetwood
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



2009. Like ourselves though they have been unable to cross the final finishing line despite being close on a number of occasions.

Today's match is once again 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 sixth time that it has been show on Premier Sports in the last two seasons.

Ok four of these have come in the play-offs, but you will of course remember that both of our last two normal home games against the Hatters have

also been shown live on TV. Our two games this season saw us claim bragging rights as we picked up six points out of a possible six. Tuesday 18th October Earlier this season saw us record a 1-0 victory at Kenilworth Road when a single Mathias Pogba strike proved to be the difference between the two sides. While on Wednesday 7th March a 2-0 victory for ourselves kept us

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Despite both clubs having long proud histories we have actually faced Luton on very few occasions during our times as football clubs. In fact when we take a more in-depth look at our previous meetings with the Hatters we will remember that both of our last two normal home games against the Hatters have

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Wrexham versus Luton Town, Previous Meetings

This afternoon we welcome fellow promotion hopefuls in the form of Luton Town back to the Racecourse just less than two months since their last visit here. The Hatters have always been in the mix for promotion back to League Two after dropping into this level back in

also been shown live on TV. Our two games this season saw us claim bragging rights as we picked up six points out of a possible six. Tuesday 18th October Earlier this season saw us record a 1-0 victory at Kenilworth Road when a single Mathias Pogba strike proved to be the difference between the two sides. While on Wednesday 7th March a 2-0 victory for ourselves kept us

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A history of today's visitors Luton Town

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.

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. 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. 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 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. The club reached the League Cup Final once more in 1989, but lost 3-1 to Nottingham Forest.

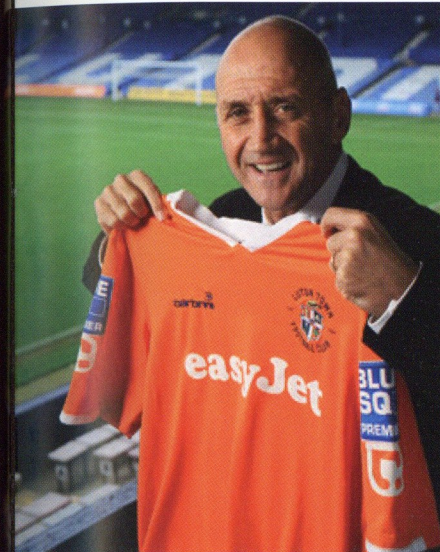
Luton were relegated from the top division at the end of the 1991-92 season, and sank to the third tier four years later. Town stayed in the third-tier Second Division until relegation at the end of the 2000-01 season. Under the management of Joe Kinnear, who had arrived halfway through the previous 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.

The Visitors

Luton at this level

Monday 13th April 2009 will be a day that all Luton Town supporters will want to erase from their memories. A 0-0 draw against Chesterfield was a pretty forgettable result as it was but this was the afternoon which saw Luton come to terms with losing their place in the Football League following a gallant battle against all the odds.



Despite a 30 point deduction ahead of the 2008/09 season Luton came up just short in the end and thus started a new chapter in the history of the football club as they ended an 89 year association with the Football League.

The Hatters were certainly determined to make it just

a one season stop at this level as they started the 2009/10 campaign in impressive form. The opening seven games saw Luton go unbeaten, winning four of these before finally losing to Oxford United in early September.

This steady form continued well into 2010, however a run of four league games without victory in February and March ultimately left Town clinging onto the coattails of Stevenage with Borough eventually going onto secure the title by 11 points.

Now under the guidance of Richard Money Town headed into the play-offs in poor form with only one victory from their last four league games and it perhaps came as no surprise when York City won both play-off games in order to progress into the final.

Luton were determined to put this right last season as they started the campaign with three straight victories. However this was to set a tale for the next couple of months, as groups of victories were often clumped together to be followed by three/four games without picking up three points.

Despite this as we headed into 2011 the Hatters were very much in a three way battle for the league title. Due to F.A. Cup and Trophy exploits the club were well behind their league campaign and this started to show in the final months of the season.

Luton were forced to play a massive 16 league game between the start of March and the end of April and certainly didn't help their cause. A run of one victory in 10 games sandwiched in the middle of these games meant it would once again be the lottery of the play-offs for Town.

There was also a change of manager to contend with in these final few weeks with Gary Brabin taking over from Money in March, with the aim of getting the club back into League Two.

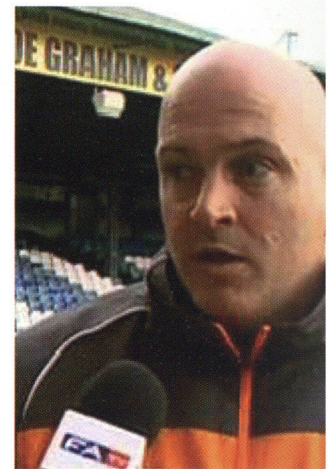
After finishing third, behind Crawley Town and AFC Wimbledon, and beating ourselves

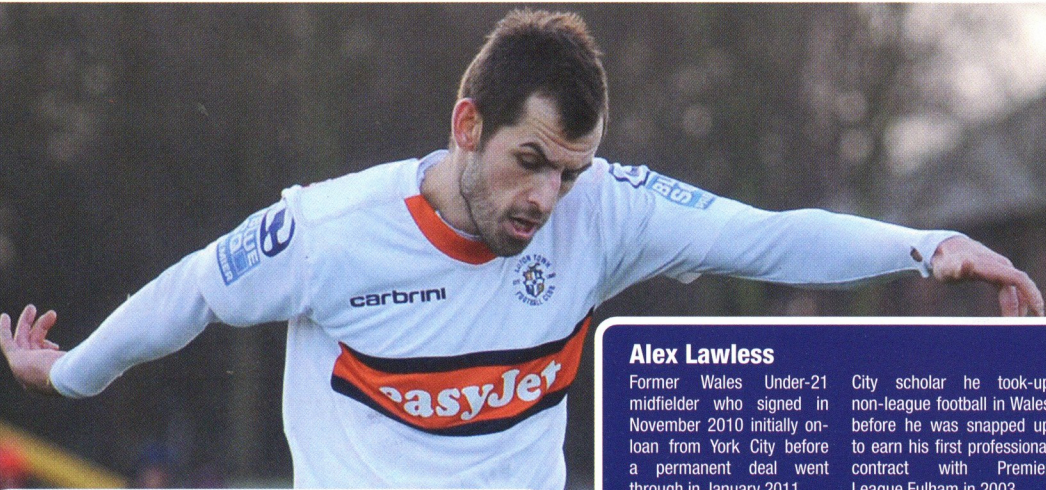
in the semi-finals of the play-offs Town lost on penalties to Dons in the Promotion Final at the City of Manchester Stadium after the game ended goalless after 120 minutes, meaning a third straight season at this level.

After suffering play-off heartache once again it was a case of third time lucky for Luton. A steady if spectacular start to the current campaign saw Town once again hovering around top five.

A push for the top spot never really materialised although they were still mathematical in with a shout as they headed to Racecourse back in March. However that 2-0 defeat by Fleetwood Town but ended any hope of taking top spot from Fleetwood Town.

This result started a run of eight games in all competitions without victory, which eventually cost Brabin his job. So the third year running Luton get ready to head into a play-off campaign with a different manager in-charge of the club to that which started the season. It remains to be seen if it will be a case of third time lucky for the long suffering Hatters supporters.





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.

A star of the Minstermen's campaign last season which saw them lose in the Promotion Final to Oxford United, Lawless featured prominently in all four of the meetings with the Hatters last term at the heart of midfield.

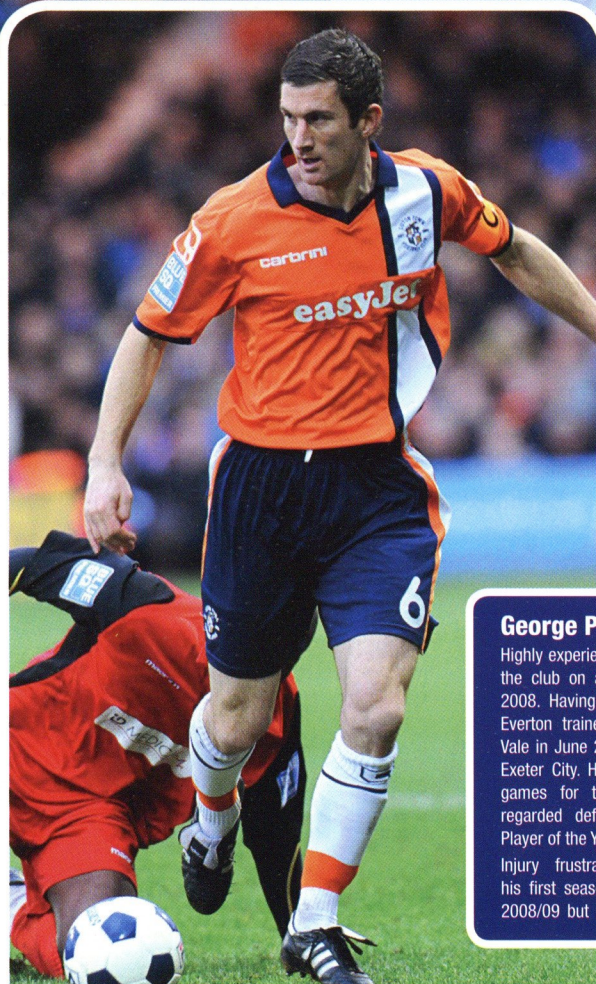
He only joined York at the start of last season, impressing then boss Martin Foyle enough to prise the 25-year-old away from Forest Green Rovers where performances in a variety of positions - in defence and across midfield - had also caught the eye of Football League scouts.

It's not just the 150 games experience in the Conference that Lawless has with Forest Green and York that he has on his CV. A 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.

Arriving at Bootham Crescent in the summer of 2009, local media announced him merely as a "utility player" but that was far from the case, and alongside Neil Barrett he forged a formidable partnership in the centre of City's midfield, changing the Yorkshire club's relegation worries from one season to making them just one game away from promotion the next.



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.

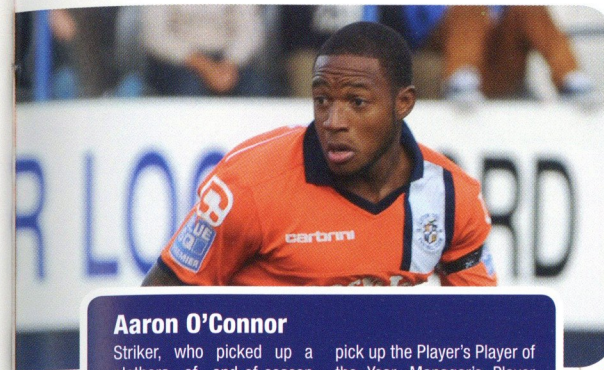
Injury frustrated the centre-half in his first season at Kenilworth Road in 2008/09 but he still managed to pick-

up a Johnstone's Paint Trophy winners' medal.

Pilkington hit the headlines for his goalscoring exploits in the Town's first season in the Conference, twice scoring braces in early season victories over Mansfield and Crawley.

His impeccable form on the pitch led to him winning a string of end-of-season awards and underlined his loyalty to the Hatters by signing a new contract at the end of the 2009/10 campaign.

The Visitors



Aaron O'Connor

Striker, who picked up a plethora of end-of-season awards at Nene Park, arrived at Kenilworth Road after signing a two-year contract following the expiry of his deal with Rushden & Diamonds.

He scored 27 times in two seasons at Nene Park after arriving from Mansfield Town and went onto to be a huge favourite at the Northamptonshire club.

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 which saw him

pick up the Player's Player of the Year, Manager's Player of the Year and Supporter's Player of the Year awards two seasons in succession.

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, where he played under Justin Edinburgh.

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.

Known for his strength and turn of pace the Nottingham-born front man can also play wide.



Amari Morgan-Smith

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

He put pen to paper on a two-year deal after two years with the Blue Square Bet North side in which he scored 34 goals in 77 starts.

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, earning his first cap against the Republic of Ireland in May.

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.

Before the 2009/10 season began the striker impressed in a trial for Championship side Derby County and has since gone on to score three goals in seven appearances for Ilkeston.

Earlier this season his former boss Kevin Wilson hailed the striker, who scored 23 goals last season, as the "hottest property in non-league football".

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.

And, hours after completing the paperwork, Morgan-Smith was thrust into action for his debut against Mansfield and scored in the 2-0 victory.

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war Luton Town 'Classic Campaigns'.

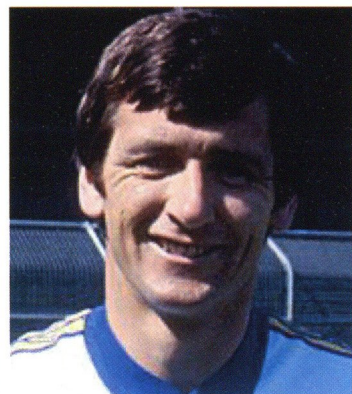
1954/55

Gordon Turner scored 32 goals as Luton Town won promotion to the top-flight for the first time in 1954/55. The Hatters began with a 3-0 victory at home to Nottingham Forest and soared up the Second Division table with six straight wins. Gordon Turner grabbed a hat-trick as Luton trounced Blackburn 7-3 and they triumphed 5-1 at Nottingham Forest. Dally Duncan's side maintained their challenge, slamming four goals past Hull City, Rotherham, Liverpool and Port Vale. Tom Aherne and Shay Dunne were ever-present as Luton pipped Rotherham to the runners-up slot on goal average with a 3-0 win at Doncaster.

The Hatters were unbeaten in their opening ten First Division games, trouncing Manchester City 5-1 and scoring four goals past West Ham and Preston. They recovered from a lean spell to beat Arsenal 6-3 and Burnley 6-2, then top scorer Allan Brown netted four goals in a 5-1 demolition of Nottingham Forest but poor results over the closing weeks saw them finish below mid-table. Luton defeated Leeds 5-1, Leicester 4-1, Ipswich 5-2, Blackpool 1-0 and Norwich 1-0 in the FA Cup before Syd Owen's side lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest in the final.

1967/68

Bruce Rioch netted 24 goals as Luton Town won the Fourth Division



title in 1967/68. New captain Terry Branston made his debut as the Hatters kicked off with a 1-1 draw at Wrexham and Ian Buxton arrived from Derby in September. Luton lost just two of their first 18 matches and beat Charlton in the League Cup first round, scoring 27 goals in a run of eight successive wins. Allan Brown's side went top of the table with a 2-0 win at Brentford in February and Keith Allen, Max Dougan, Fred Jardine, John Moore and Ray Whittaker also starred as they

remained in pole position, clinching the title with a 4-0 victory over Crewe.

1969/70

Malcolm Macdonald scored 25 times as Luton Town won promotion in 1969/70. The Hatters had narrowly missed promotion the previous season and Bruce Rioch was sold to Aston Villa for a record fee, with Alec Stock signing Malcolm Macdonald, John Ryan and John Collins. Luton were early leaders after remaining unbeaten in their opening 13 matches, recruiting Chris Nicholl from Halifax and Matt Tees from Charlton. Malcolm Macdonald grabbed hat-tricks in 5-0 wins over Bradford City and Reading, with Luton unbeaten in their last six matches and clinching promotion as Third Division runners-up with a 0-0 draw at Mansfield

1973/74

Luton Town regained top-flight status after an absence of 14 years in 1973/74. The Hatters recovered from a 4-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest on the opening day to hammer Carlisle 6-1, embarking on an eight-match unbeaten run. Harry Haslam signed Alan West from Burnley and Jimmy Husband from Everton as Luton maintained their promotion challenge. Husband netted a hat-trick in a 3-1 victory over rivals Orient, then leading marksman Barry Butlin scored three in a 4-2 win over Preston. Alan Garner and Bobby Thomson were ever-present and other stars included Peter Anderson and John Ryan as Luton finished runners-up.

1981/82

David Pleat guided Luton Town to the Second Division title in 1981/82. The Hatters had narrowly missed promotion in the previous two years and Tony Grealish was swapped for

Luton Town Classic Campaigns



Brighton's Brian Horton. They raced to the top by winning their first three games and hammered rivals Watford 4-1, then Steve White scored four times in a 6-0 demolition of Grimsby. Richard Money arrived from Liverpool and was an influential figure as Luton were unbeaten in their last 14 matches. Leading marksman Brian Stein, Mal Donaghy, Kirk Stephens and Steve White were all ever-present as Luton won the title with 88 points.

1987/88

Ray Harford plotted Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Danny Wilson replaced Peter Nicholas in midfield, while Micky Weir arrived from Hibernian and Mike Newell moved to Leicester. The Hatters won 5-2 at Oxford and Ian Allinson was signed from Stoke in October, with Luton losing just twice in 12 matches including a 7-4 win in the return match against Oxford, finishing ninth in the top-flight. They defeated Wigan 5-2, Coventry 3-1, Ipswich 1-0, Bradford City 2-0 and Oxford 3-1 in the Littlewoods Cup before beating Arsenal 3-2 in the final. Luton were also FA Cup semi-finalists and Simod Cup finalists.

1988/89

Luton Town were Littlewoods Cup finalists for the second consecutive season in 1988/89. Departures were Brian Stein, Mark Stein and Andy Dibble, while newcomers included Roy Wegerle, John Dreyer and Steve Williams. Luton's first home win was 1-0 against Liverpool and they beat Southampton 6-1 in January but First Division form was generally disappointing, with the Hatters narrowly avoiding relegation by winning three of their

last four games. Luton defeated Burnley 2-1, Leeds 2-0, Manchester City 3-1, Southampton 2-1 and West Ham 5-0 in the Littlewoods Cup before losing 3-1 to Nottingham Forest in the final.

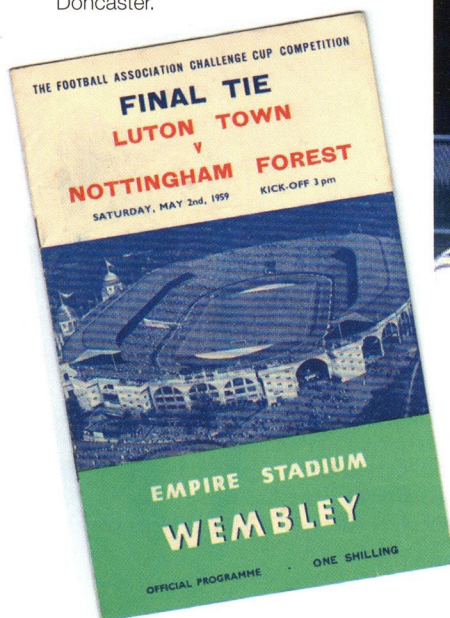
2001/02



Steve Howard scored 24 times as Luton Town won promotion in 2001/02. Joe Kinnear's side were early leaders after winning their opening two matches and newcomer Carl Griffiths netted a hat-trick in a 5-1 win over Torquay. The Hatters briefly regained pole position after beating Darlington 5-2 in October, signing Chris Coyne from Dundee, Jean-Louis Valois from Lille, Dean Crowe from Stoke, Ahmet Brkovic from Orient and Dave Bayliss from Rochdale. A run of 12 successive wins, slamming five goals past Halifax and Mansfield, took Luton back to the top with two games remaining but they finished runners-up to Plymouth.

2004/05

Mike Newell managed Luton Town to the League One title in 2004/05. The Hatters stormed to the top of the table, winning 10 of their first 12 games before three successive defeats. They beat Bradford City 4-0 and Wrexham 5-1, then Steve Howard netted a hat-trick in a 4-1 win at MK Dons. The 1-0 victory over Port Vale in December heralded a 14 match unbeaten run and Luton bounced back from a 3-1 defeat in the return fixture to hammer Bristol City 5-0. Briefly displaced as leaders by Hull, they triumphed 4-1 at Torquay and secured promotion with four games remaining. Luton won the title with a record 98 points.



1958/59

Luton Town were FA Cup finalists for the first and only time in 1958/59.

While we have already taken a glance back through the past nine months of our campaign it is only right to take a look back at what the season through up for the other teams in the division.

Scott Smith gives his views on how the other Blue Square Bet Premier sides have fared this season.



AFC Telford United Final position: 20th

After taking seven years to get back to the level the former Telford United were at, the current team started the season aiming to make it more than a one campaign stop. Although they were in the bottom half of the table for the majority of the season they spent very few weeks in the bottom four.

In the end United would just creep over the line after picking up just one victory in their last six games. This proved to be enough though as Telford finished some five points above fourth bottom side Hayes & Yeading. Andy Sinton will be looking to improve on this in the coming years though as Telford aim to re-establish themselves.



Alfreton Town Final position: 15th

This campaign was all about survival for the league new boys after celebrating promotion from the Blue Square Bet North last time around. This aim looked unlikely to happen in the first half of the season as they looked like being a one campaign wonder with the team sitting in the relegation zone.

A stirring second half of the season ensured a second year at this level though. The excellent 2012 was demonstrated with the six victories out of eight in March which made them all but safe by the start of April.



Barrow Final position: 13th

Barrow will be kicking themselves when they look back upon this campaign and potentially thinking what could have been. After being on the edge of the top five for the majority of the campaign the Cumbrians eventually finished some 21 points off the play-off places.

Victories over ourselves, Fleetwood Town and Luton will stand out from the 2011/12 season which also saw joint-manager Darren Sheridan depart the club after five years with Barrow. It will be interesting to see what decisions Dave Bayliss makes now he is in charge of the side on his own.



Bath City Final position: 23rd

If there was ever an example to show of the second season syndrome at a club then it was Bath City in their latest campaign. After surviving comfortably enough first time around Adie Britton's side got found out on more than one occasion this season, ultimately something which cost them their place in the top tier of non-league football.

There position was seemingly set some months before the end of the season and although they rallied in the final few weeks of the season they would eventually finish some 15 points from safety. 67 games without a no score draw also didn't help their cause.



Braintree Town Final position: 12th

In total contrast to Bath, Braintree and their supporters will have been delighted with how the club have adapted to life at this level. With Alan Devonshire only joining the club a year ago it was interesting to see how they would do under his leadership.

Fantastic would be the answer to that. Despite losing their first game of the season Braintree stormed back with a 5-0 demolition of Grimsby Town in their second and briefly topped the league during the first two months of the campaign. Victories against the likes of Luton (3-1) and Barrow (4-0) will certainly stand out but the Essex side will be hoping that next season is as just as successful and they aren't involved in a relegation battle.



Cambridge United Final position: 9th

Cambridge are a funny side as this season proved that they are equally capable of matching the promotion runners but also come unstuck against sides at the bottom of the table. Finishing ten points off the play-offs will give Jez George some hope that they can mount

a promotion push next season.

United have this season had to rely on a number of younger players and this perhaps shows why they never really got involved with the promotion push. It all bodes well for the future though and Cambridge could well be one side to look out for next season.



Darlington Final position: 22nd

The last two years have certainly been ones to forget for Darlington as they first lost their Football League status and are now looking very likely to leave the Conference set-up all together. With the DFC 1883 Ltd group withdrawing the CVA plan in recent days, Darlington could well be playing the in the Northern Premier League next season.

Even without this the club would have still been facing up to life at a lower level having finished in the bottom four this season. A place they would have occupied even without the ten points they lost for going into administration. It is certainly dark days up in the north east and we wait to see if the current club will survive as we know it.



Ebbsfleet United Final position: 14th

All at Ebbsfleet can be pleased with their work this season as with Liam Daish guiding his part-time squad to mid-table safety in their first season back at the highest level of non-league football. The aim this season was just to stop up, and this they did with some relative ease.

Despite still in with a chance of being involved with a relegation battle at the turn of the year the club pulled together some excellent results in 2012 and by March they will all but safe from a potential immediate return to the Blue Square Bet South.



Fleetwood Town Final position: 1st

Fleetwood's dramatic rise through the football pyramid continued this season as they clinched the league title just ahead of ourselves. After just two season at this level the Cod Army will be gracing the Football League come August, a great achievement for a club that found themselves some five divisions below this some ten years ago.

With the hefty backing of owner Andy Pilley they were able to bring in players such as Jamie Vardy and Andy Mangan in order to fire the side to promotion. It will be interesting to see how they cope next season in League Two.



Forest Green Rovers Final position: 10th

For a long time they have been known as the little club on the hill, but after their best finish for a number of seasons they are looking to be a real force in this league next season. They have already shown their intentions with the signing of Magno Vieira from Fleetwood and he will be the first of many that come in over the summer.

This season has seen the club move forward both on and off the pitch and had it not been for a lean spell around the February and March time then they could well have gate crashed the top five. That is something that they will be aiming for next season though.



Gateshead Final position: 8th

The early pacesetters in the league, along with ourselves, will probably be disappointed not to be involved in the end of season play-offs. Gateshead looked nailed on for a place at one point, eventually finishing seven points outside of them in 8th place.

It is defeats to the likes of Braintree, Newport County and Bath which would ultimately see them miss out. It remains to be seen if they will once again be up there again but with Jon Shaw on board again for next season and manager Ian Bogie signing a contract, they certainly know what they have to do.



Grimsby Town Final position: 11th

As we have seen, and experienced, once you drop into this level of football it can be very difficult to get back out of it. That is exactly what Grimsby have found out once again as they were sort of nearly men this season.

In the end they could never really string the results together that were needed in order to make a conservative push for the play-offs. With the loss of a number of experienced players already you have to wonder if Grimsby will be able to come back strong again next year and mount a challenge for promotion.



Hayes & Yeading United

Final position: 21st

Hayes & Yeading's association with the top tier of non-league football finally came to an end this season as the club were relegated to the Blue Square Bet South. After a good run of form at a crucial time

last season they were unable to repeat that this time around and just couldn't accumulate enough points to stop up.

Hopefully they will stay loyal to manager Nas Bashir who has made the club competitive over the last few years, despite having no home ground to play at this season. If they can keep their squad together they could well make an immediate return.



Kettering Town Final Position: 24th

Another side who will want to forget the 2011/12 season quickly are Kettering Town. After moving into Nene Park, the former home of Rushden & Diamonds, the club struggled to find league form like they had done in previous years. With managers coming and going and off the field problems it was no surprise Kettering struggled.

At one point it was a question as to whether the Poppies would complete the season, this they did though and had the unenvied position of bottom of the table. With the team staying full-time next season it is a big risk and it remains to be seen if Town will bounce back to this level again.



Kidderminster Harriers Final position: 6th

Kidderminster were once again the nearly men of the league. After just missing out last season they came even closer to making the play-offs this time around, only to miss out in the final week of the season. After manoeuvring themselves into fifth spot, Harriers surrendered it with losses against Luton and Mansfield Town.

Steve Burr has called for an extra automatic promotion place in recent weeks and you can see why; as his side would have been involved in the last two play-off campaigns if there had been so. Harriers will once again be a dangerous opponent next season.



Lincoln City Final position: 17th

Another big name from the Football League to fall into this level and struggle upon first arriving were Lincoln. City struggled to get to grips with the BSBP after relegation on the last day of last season and following a poor start it cost Steve Tilson his job.

David Holdsworth came in and steadied the ship but right up until the last few weeks of the season things still looked in the balance. It wasn't until big victories against Tamworth (4-0) and Darlington (5-0) and a battling point at Fleetwood (2-2) that City could confirm their survival.



Luton Town Final position: 5th

After a very hit and miss season this could well be the year which Luton go up when perhaps they aren't expected to. As late as last week Keith Keane commented that his side wouldn't be entering the play-offs with the confidence of before. This sometimes can work in your favour.

Town kept pace with the top two for the majority of the season but then started to fall away badly in March and April, leading to the arrival of Paul Buckle as the clubs new manager. With promotion at Torquay United on his CV, could 2012 be the year for the Hatters?



Mansfield Town Final position: 3rd

Mansfield have been one of the best sides in this division over the course of the last four months. Ever since the turn of 2012 the Stags

A look back at 2011/12

have really turned on the style and win after win saw them leapfrog others eventually finish third, not far behind us.

The first half of the campaign was steady as Paul Cox's new look side got to each other. But when they clicked they have suddenly pushed on and onto play-offs in great form with six victories from their last six games.



Newport County Final position: 19th

Newport are another side that perhaps will feel that they did not live up to the expectation that they had set themselves in the play-off campaign. After finishing in a solid 9th position in 2011, this

took a dramatic nosedive in fortunes with manager Anthony Hudson being at the end of September after picking up just one win in his first 12 games. Justin Edinburgh came in and after a spluttering start he turned things making ground up on the sides above them in the table. Despite moving of the bottom four it wasn't until the 21st April that their safety was confirmed. County have one thing left to look forward to though, that being the F.A. Final this coming weekend.



Southport Final position: 7th

For long periods of the season it looked as if Southport were to finish in the top five and have a shot at promotion. Liam Walsh fell in the last month though with no win in any of their league games, ultimately costing them fifth spot.

Southport should be proud of what they have achieved this season though. They still being part-time the club have punched above their station all season. This campaign can only set them up for potential promotion pushes in the future.



Stockport County Final position: 16th

Just like Lincoln, Stockport really failed to get to grips with the fifth tier of English football. Inexperienced manager Ian Hamann couldn't breathe new life into the club and with the backing promised he walked away. Step forward Jim Gannon, a club legend lead them to safety.

With the club hovering around the bottom four the future looked bleak, a five victories from their last seven games meant that County wouldn't be any last minute worries when it came to relegation. It will be interesting to see how Gannon does after a summer of rebuilding behind him.



Tamworth Final position: 18th

Marcus Law will have been alarmed by the way that his side has away after a good start to the season. Only two victories in the last six games will be a worrying stat for Law and his side and they will hope to carry this into the 2012/13 season.

Perhaps the side were living on the back of an excellent F.A. Cup run when they travel to Everton in the Third Round. In the end though just seven points separated Tamworth from the drop and this is something which they will be looking to address for next season.



York City Final position: 4th

Following a good start to the season, York were always going to be there or thereabouts come the end of the campaign. Although never challenged for top spot a play-off place was always something which they were able to achieve in the last but not

of the season. Four victories out of their last five means that they headed into the play-offs with spirits. Being away second leg probably won't affect them with the Mins having one of the best away records in the league, losing just three times all season.

Around the Blue Square Bet Premier



Playing Stats 11/12

ROLLS CONFIRMS COOPER INTERVIEW

Kettering Town acting chairman George Rolls expects to name a new manager in the near future after beginning the interviewing process last week.

Caretaker manager Ashley Westwood is in the running for the full-time job, but Rolls has confirmed that former Poppies boss Mark Cooper has also been interviewed.

Cooper is one of the club's most successful managers and is currently unattached after parting ways with Darlington in October 2011.

The 43-year-old returned to Kettering at the turn of the year in a caretaker manager capacity, but departed the club after just one game.

ARTUS AND THANOJ GET NEW DEALS

Grimsby Town midfielders Frankie Artus and Andi Thanoj have been handed new contracts at the club, while James McKeown has already signed a new deal.

Artus has received a one-year deal after an impressive first season at Blundell Park. Thanoj has the opportunity to sign a new two-year contract. The Albanian has made 16 appearances this term after making his way through the club's youth system.

McKeown has put pen to paper on a two-year contract that will keep him at the club until at least the end of the 2013/14 season.

However, Anthony Church and Kiernan Hughes Mason have been released. Talks are still ongoing with Charlie l'Anson but the Mariners are yet to speak to Gary Silk, due to illness.

TYNESIDERS RELEASE 11 PLAYERS

Top-eight club Gateshead have offered new contracts to 12 players while releasing 11 from the squad. Top scorer, and Player of the Year, Jon Shaw is one of the dozen to be offered a new deal along with mid-season signings from Darlington, Jamie Chandler and Liam Hatch.

Nathan Fisher, who missed half the season through injury, is another along with mid-season signing Carl Magnay and emerging talents Josh Gillies and James Marwood.

Yemi Odubade, who suffered two broken feet during his first season on Tyneside, is also among the 12 along with experienced centre backs Ben Clark and James Curtis. Experienced midfield pair Micky Cummins and Phil Turnbull are also on the list.

Of those released five are former Newcastle United players, including long serving pair Craig Baxter and Kris Gate. The duo have played almost 500 games between them for Gateshead, Baxter, 25, having spent six years at the club and Gate, 27, five years.

Other former Magpies released include a trio of wingers; Martin Brittain, Chris Moore and Republic of Ireland international Alan O'Brien.

The Heed will also be on the lookout for two new goalkeepers following the release of both Tim Deasy and Paul Farman.

Four full backs have been released including experienced trio; Chris Carruthers, Eddie Odhiambo and Sam Rents who all joined the club last summer. Young midfielder Rob Briggs, who didn't start a senior game, completes the list of players who will be heading for pastures new.

EBBSFLEET OPTIMISTIC OF RENEWING LIAM DAISH'S CONTRACT

Ebbsfleet United have opened talks with manager Liam Daish about extending his contract with the club. In their first season back in the Blue Square Bet Premier, Fleet exceeded expectations by finishing 14th, 13 points clear of the relegation zone.

And MyFootballClub director Jessica McQueen has already had a couple of "positive meetings" with Daish.

Should 43-year-old Daish accept a new contract at Stonebridge Road, he will replace Andy Ford as the longest-serving manager in the club's history next season, having first taken charge in 2005 when the club was called Gravesend & Northfleet.

Although his own contract talks are ongoing, Daish has also begun work to tie members of the team to new deals.

HATTERS RELEASE THREE PLAYERS

Luton Town have confirmed the release of defender Ed Asafu-Adjaye, winger Charlie Henry and midfielder Christian Tavernier.

Asafu-Adjaye has racked up 82 appearances for the Hatters since joining the club in 2008, but has struggled to cement his place in the first-team over the last season.

Henry has only played six games this season for Town and has been on loan at Aldershot Town this year, following a serious foot injury, while 18-year-old Tavernier has played in only two Luton games.

APPEARANCES GOALS

	APPEARANCES				Mis on Pitch	GOALS			
	Lge	FAC	FAT	Total		Lge	FAC	FAT	Total
Chris Maxwell	10		1	11	994				
Curtis Obeng	28	6		34	3038	1			1
Neil Ashton	44	6		50	4530	1			1
Mark Creighton	39 (1)	6		45 (1)	4182	3			3
Jay Harris	39	5		44	2705	3			3
Lee Fowler	14 (3)	2 (2)	1 -	17 (5)	1569	2			2
Danny Wright	27 (6)	4 (1)		30 (7)	2377	6	1		7
Jake Speight	33 (5)	3 (2)	1 -	36 (7)	2970	21			21
Andy Morrell	32 (11)	4 (2)		36 (13)	2858	10	3		13
Jamie Tolley	29 (5)	5		34 (5)	2535	5	1		6
Nat Knight-Percival	44	6		50	4500	4	1		5
Joseph Mayebi	36	7		43	4110				
Chris Westwood	12 (2)		1 -	13 (2)	1108	1			1
Adrian Cieslewicz	19 (26)	4 (1)	1 -	24 (27)	2632	6	1		7
Mathias Pogba	30 (10)	3 (1)		33 (11)	2600	11	1		12
Steve Tomassen	- (2)			- (2)	8				
Joe Clarke	19 (7)	5	1 -	25 (7)	2420	2			2
Gareth Taylor	- (1)			- (1)	1				
Dean Keates	24 (6)	- (2)		24 (8)	2326	1			1
Glen Little	3 (13)	- (2)	1 -	4 (14)	640			1	1
Obi Anoruo	- (3)		1 -	1 (3)	101				
Johnny Hunt	4 (7)	1 (3)	1 -	6 (10)	695				
Louis Moss	- (1)		- (1)	- (2)	17				
Kyle Parle			1 -	1 -	90				
Leon Clowes	1 -		1 -	2 -	184				
Jay Colbeck	1 (3)			1 (3)	136	2			2
Daniel Alfei	5 -			5 -	450				
Steven Leslie	10 (3)			10 (3)	815	1			1
Stephen Wright	11 (1)			11 (1)	1110				
Rob Ogleby	2 (4)			2 (4)	208	1			1
Declan Walker	1 -			1 -	94				
Rob Evans	- (1)			- (1)	5				
Own Goals						4			4

REMAINING FIXTURES

Today
Mansfield Town v York City
Wrexham v Luton Town

Saturday 12th May

FA Carlsberg Trophy Final
York City v Newport County

Sunday 20th May

Blue Square Bet Premier Play-off Final

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER TOP GOALSCORERS

Player	Total
Jamie Vardy (Fleetwood Town)	31
Matt Green (Mansfield Town)	29
Jon Shaw (Gateshead)	28
Liam Hearn (Grimsby Town)	26
Tony Gray (Southport)	24
Jake Speight (Wrexham)	21
Andy Mangan (Fleetwood Town)	19
Callum Willock (Ebbsfleet United)	19
Yan Klukowski (Forest Green Rovers)	18
Richard Walker (York City)	18
Andy Cook (Barrow)	17
Ben Wright (Braintree Town)	17
Adam Boyes (Barrow)	16
Louis Soares (Grimsby Town)	15
Nick Wright (Kidderminster Harriers)	15
Sean Marks (Braintree Town)	14
Liam Enver-Marum (Ebbsfleet United)	13
Danny Rose (Fleetwood Town)	13
Louis Briscoe (Mansfield Town)	12
Anthony Elding (Grimsby Town)	12

Final Blue Square Bet Premier League 2011-12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Fleetwood Town	46	31	10	5	102	48	54	103
2 Wrexham	46	30	8	8	85	33	52	98
3 Mansfield Town	46	25	14	7	87	48	39	89
4 York City	46	23	14	9	81	45	36	83
5 Luton Town	46	22	15	9	78	42	36	81
6 Kidderminster Harr.	46	22	10	14	82	63	19	76
7 Southport	46	21	13	12	72	69	3	76
8 Gateshead	46	21	11	14	69	62	7	74
9 Cambridge United	46	19	14	13	57	41	16	71
10 Forest Green Rovers	46	19	13	14	66	45	21	70
11 Grimsby Town	46	19	13	14	79	60	19	70
12 Braintree Town	46	17	11	18	76	80	-4	62
13 Barrow	46	17	9	20	62	76	-14	60
14 Ebbsfleet United	46	14	12	20	69	84	-15	54
15 Alfreton Town	46	15	9	22	62	86	-24	54
16 Stockport County	46	12	15	19	58	74	-16	51
17 Lincoln City	46	13	10	23	56	66	-10	49
18 Tamworth	46	11	15	20	47	70	-23	48
19 Newport County	46	11	14	21	53	65	-12	47
20 AFC Telford United	46	10	16	20	45	65	-20	46
21 Hayes & Yeading Utd	46	11	8	27	58	90	-32	41
22 Darlington *	46	11	13	22	47	73	-26	36
23 Bath City	46	7	10	29	43	89	-46	31
24 Kettering Town **	46	8	9	29	40	100	-60	30

*Deducted ten points for going into administration
**Deducted three points for financial problems



2011/12 Red Dragons

	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	Maxwell	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	Cislewicz
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	Cislewicz
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	LINGCOLN 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	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	2-0	4,206	80	2	Mayebi	Ashton	Harris	D WRIGHT 1	Speight
Saturday 10 March	BARROW	H	2-0	3,432	83	2	Mayebi	Ashton	D WRIGHT1	SPEIGHT 1	Keates
Tuesday 13 March	Ebbsfleet United	A	5-0	990	86	2	Mayebi	Ashton	SPEIGHT 1	MORRELL 2	Keates
Saturday 24 March	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	H	1-2	4,451	86	2	Mayebi	Ashton	Creighton	Harris	SPEIGHT 1
Tuesday 27 March	Darlington	A	4-2	1,401	89	2	Mayebi	Creighton	Harris	SPEIGHT 2	Morrell
Saturday 31 March	Cambridge United	A	1-1	3,014	90	2	Mayebi	Creighton	Harris	Cislewicz	Morrell
Friday 6 April	ALFRETON TOWN	H	0-1	4,673	90	2	Mayebi	Ashton	Creighton	D Wright	Morrell
Tuesday 10 April	Fleetwood Town	A	1-1	4,994	91	2	Mayebi	Alfei	Ashton	Creighton	D Wright
Saturday 14 April	GRIMSBY TOWN	H	2-2	3,147	92	2	Mayebi	Alfei	Ashton	Creighton	D Wright
Friday 20 April	Mansfield Town	A	0-2	3,665	92	2	Mayebi	Ashton	Creighton	Harris	D Wright
Tuesday 24 April	Newport County	A	1-0	1,431	95	2	Maxwell	CISLEWICZ1	D Wright	Clowes	Hunt
Saturday 28 April	BRAINTREE TOWN	H	5-1	3,303	98	2	Mayebi	ASHTON 1	Creighton	Harris	CISLEWICZ 1
Thursday 3 May	Luton Town POSF1L	A	0-2	9,012	-	-	Mayebi	Ashton	Creighton	Harris	Cislewicz
Monday 7 May	LUTON TOWN POSF2L	H									

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

Fowler,	Wright	Speight	MORRELL 1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cislewicz	Taylor	Pogba	Tomassen	Mayebi
Fowler	Wright	Speight	MORRELL 2	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cislewicz	Taylor	Pogba	Clarke	Mayebi
Fowler	Wright	Speight	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Cislewicz	Taylor	Tomassen	Clarke	Mayebi
Fowler	Wright	Speight	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	CISLEWICZ 1	Taylor	Tomassen	Clarke	Mayebi
Fowler	Wright	SPEIGHT 3	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cislewicz	Taylor	POGBA 1	Keates	Clarke
Fowler	Wright	SPEIGHT 1	MORRELL 1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Cislewicz	Keates	Taylor	Pogba	Clarke
Fowler	WRIGHT 1	Speight	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Cislewicz	Keates	Taylor	Pogba	Little
Wright	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Cislewicz	Keates	Taylor	Anoruo	Little
Speight	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Creighton	Cislewicz	Keates	Little	Anoruo
Fowler	Keates	Speight	Knight-Percival	Morrell	Pogba	Cislewicz	Little	Tolley	Anoruo	Westwood
FOWLER1	Speight	Keates	Knight-Percival	Westwood	POGBA 1	Morrell	Little	Tolley	Clarke	Mayebi
FOWLER1	Wright	Speight	Keates	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Cislewicz	Morrell	Little	Tolley	Mayebi
Wright	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Keates	Tolley	Westwood	Cislewicz	Little	Pogba	Clarke	Ward
Cislewicz	WRIGHT1	Morrell	KEATES1	Knight-Percival	CLARKE1	Hunt	Little	Anoruo	Pogba	Ward
Wright	Morrell	Keates	Tolley	KNIGHT-PERCIVAL1	Clarke	Speight	Hunt	Little	POGBA 1	Ward
Cislewicz	MORRELL1	Keates	Tolley	KNIGHT-PERCIVAL2	Pogba	Wright	SPEIGHT1	Hunt	Clarke	Maxwell
Cislewicz	Speight	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	POGBA 1	Wright	Morrell	Hunt	Clarke	Maxwell
Cislewicz	Speight	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Wright	Morrell	Hunt	Clarke	Maxwell
Cislewicz	Speight	Hunt	KNIGHT-PERCIVAL1	Pogba	Clarke	Fowler	Wright	Morrell	Clowes	Little
Cislewicz	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Fowler	Wright	Hunt	Westwood	Maxwell
MORRELL2	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Clarke	Cislewicz	Speight	Clowes	Hunt	Little
Wright	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	POGBA 2	Clarke	Cislewicz	Fowler	Speight	Westwood	Maxwell
WRIGHT1	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	POGBA 1	Clarke	Cislewicz	Fowler	Speight	Hunt	Little
Wright	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Cislewicz	Fowler	Speight	Westwood	Maxwell
CISLEWICZ1	Wright	Morrell	Hunt	Westwood	Clarke	SPEIGHT 1	Clowes	Little	Moss	Maxwell
Cislewicz	Fowler	Wright	Speight	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Morrell	Hunt	Little	Westwood	Pogba
Fowler	Wright	SPEIGHT1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	CISLEWICZ1	Morrell	Little	Maxwell	Westwood
LITTLE 1	Fowler	Clarke	Cislewicz	Speight	Anoruo	Moss	Stephens	Morton	Colbeck	Ward
Fowler	WRIGHT1	Speight	Knight-Percival	POGBA 1	Clarke	Cislewicz	Little	Tolley	Westwood	Maxwell
Wright	SPEIGHT1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	CLARKE 1	Cislewicz	Keates	Hunt	Little	Maxwell
CISLEWICZ1	SPEIGHT1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Morrell	Keates	Hunt	Little	Maxwell
CISLEWICZ1	Speight	Morrell	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Keates	Clowes	Hunt	Little	Anoruo
Cislewicz	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	TOLLEY 1	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Wright	Keates	Hunt	Little	Maxwell
Cislewicz	Wright	MORRELL1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Keates	Clowes	Hunt	Little	Onoruo
Cislewicz	MORRELL1	Keates	Little	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Clowes	Hunt	Anoruo	COLBECK 2	Maxwell
Cislewicz	Morrell	Keates	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Hunt	Little	Anoruo	Colbeck	Maxwell
Cislewicz	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Hunt	Anoruo	Clarke	Colbeck	Maxwell
Cislewicz	SPEIGHT1	Morrell	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Leslie	Hunt	Little	Westwood	POGBA 1	Maxwell
Cislewicz	Speight	MORRELL1	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Leslie	Hunt	Little	Westwood	Pogba	Maxwell
Morrell	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Clarke	Leslie	Cislewicz	Wright	Hunt	Little	Maxwell
Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Clarke	Leslie	S Wright	Cislewicz	Morrell	Hunt	Little	Maxwell
KEATES 1	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	S Wright	Cislewicz	Morrell	Clarke	Leslie	Maxwell
Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	Pogba	Leslie	S Wright	Cislewicz	Morrell	Hunt	Clarke	Maxwell
Tolley	Knight-Percival	Westwood	POGBA 1	LESLIE 1	S Wright	Cislewicz	Hunt	Clarke	Ogleby	Maxwell
Morrell	Keates	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Leslie	S Wright	Cislewicz	Little	Westwood	Clarke	Maxwell
Keates	Hunt	POGBA 1	KNIGHT-PERCIVAL1	Leslie	S Wright	Cislewicz	Little	Tolley	Westwood	Maxwell
Keates	Hunt	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	S Wright	Little	Westwood	Leslie	OGLEBY 1	Maxwell
Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Leslie	S Wright	Cislewicz	Little	Westwood	Ogleby	Maxwell
SPEIGHT 1	Keates	Little	Knight-Percival	Pogba	Clarke	Cislewicz	Tolley	Westwood	Ogleby	Maxwell
SPEIGHT 1	Keates	Little	Knight-Percival	WESTWOOD 1	Pogba	Cislewicz	Leslie	S Wright	Ogleby	Maxwell
Speight	Keates	Knight-Percival	Clarke	Ogleby	S Wright	Cislewicz	Morrell	Westwood	Leslie	Maxwell
Walker	Westwood	Clarke	Colbeck	Leslie	Ogleby	Morrell	Tolley	Evans	Stephens	Gray
MORRELL 1	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	POGBA 1	S Wright	D WRIGHT 1	Hunt	Westwood	Clarke	Maxwell
Morrell	Keates	Tolley	Knight-Percival	Pogba	S Wright	D WRIGHT	Hunt	Westwood	Clarke	Maxwell



FLYNN'S EXIT INITIALLY INCREDIBLE BUT UNFORTUNATELY INEVITABLE

Mark Pitman takes a look at the work of Brian Flynn as the Intermediate manager of Wales

The Welsh national team has been a popular topic of discussion and debate over the last eighteen months, and another twist emerged last week, as the Football Association of Wales confirmed that Brian Flynn would not continue with his role as Intermediate team manager after his contract expired at the end of April. The initial reaction was one of surprise as much as it was disappointment, such is the respect commanded by the diminutive former Wrexham manager in the Welsh game, and replacing Flynn will now be another tough off the field decision for Chris



Coleman to make since he took charge of the national team. High-standards have indeed been set by the man that saved Swansea City from relegation out of the Football League in 2003, and while many will understandably view the decision as an unnecessary and potentially dangerous change to the national team set-up, Flynn's exit was ultimately inevitable despite the part he has played in the emergence of this new and exciting generation of Welsh football talent.

Flynn was brought into the system by John Toshack back in 2004 with a clear remit. Toshack had inherited an ageing team that were far too used to ruling the roost and the former Real Madrid manager arrived with a clear intention

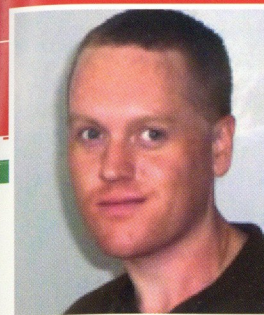
of developing a new generation for Wales. As the old-guard departed through both personal and professional reasons, Flynn was introducing talented Welsh teenagers to levels of football well above their years. Current senior players Chris Gunter and Gareth Bale made their Wales Under-21 debuts at the age of sixteen and this was a recurring trend throughout Toshack's time in charge. Flynn was made responsible for the Under-17, the Under-19 and the Under-21 teams, and his control, together with Toshack's belief in youth, enabled players to be fast-tracked through to the senior team. The system worked, and the proof is in the production of the current generation of players that have a wealth of International experience through their Welsh heritage, when compared against their club football peers.

Where the system failed for Toshack however was that his golden generation were now wise to a different era of football to their ageing coach. The old-school style of coaching and management failed to impress those spoilt by the modern-day riches of the Premier League, and despite

being fast-tracked by Wales, the majority failed to produce at the business end of the national team chain. The introduction of the late Gary Speed brought the modern-day dimension to match-day preparations that had been missing with Toshack and his dated beliefs, and Speed was able to reap the benefits of his predecessor during his time in charge, before it was cut-short in heart-breaking circumstances. Speed had introduced change behind the scenes when he succeeded Toshack however, and the arrival of controversial Dutchman Raymond Verheijen together with FAW Technical

Director Osian Roberts signalled the first indication that Flynn's status in the management set-up would soon be reduced, especially as Flynn had made a strong case for the job before the appointment of Speed.

As a passionate Welshman however, Flynn rose above what had now become a familiar setback for him, and continued with his excellent work at Intermediate level. His remit of developing the best from a limited pool of players did not change and his name was often mentioned as players such as Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey became established stars on the International stage. Flynn had played a crucial part in their development but his role had become a reduced one, he was no longer part of the senior



Mark Pitman



side, his place restricted to being the middle cog on the Welsh football conveyor-belt. While Toshack's senior stars came up short however, Flynn had enjoyed the spotlight as his Under-21 side offered hope for the future with a string of impressive results and performances, and the side earned some well-deserved media coverage. Once the senior team began to play to their potential under Gary Speed however, the focus quickly reverted to Speed and his revolutionary work, and Flynn returned back to his place in the system.

Brian Flynn was appointed, but more importantly, trusted, by John Toshack. The pair worked closely to bring through the current crop of players but the rewards appear to have emerged too late for either man to claim all the credit. The relative success of qualifying for a major tournament remains elusive and until it is achieved then Wales will remain in the shadow of their predecessors of 1958. Toshack often spoke of a long-term solution to the problems he inherited when he took charge, but the quick development and demands of his star players tested the patience of his employers, and he was unable to complete the job he

started despite spending six-years at the helm. Flynn temporarily stepped-in during following Toshack's mutual departure, and while those two disappointing games will still be his proudest career moment they signalled the end of his own project even if it took another two-years before it was confirmed.

The arrival of Osian Roberts into the senior team set-up was the most significant for Flynn. Well-respected inside Welsh football but a little-known figure outside of it, Roberts emerged as the natural successor to the role occupied by the Intermediate manager. Through his work with the Welsh Football Trust and the FAW, the UEFA Pro-Licence holder and mentor brought

a modern-day approach to the development of the game in Wales, and could offer another dimension to the traditional approach taking by Flynn. While Flynn had preferred the more traditional scouting methods, Roberts arrived with the potential of taking youth development in a new direction, much like Speed would eventually do with the set-up and players he inherited from John Toshack. Although Flynn remained a contracted part of Speed's plans, Chris Coleman now has the task of continuing the work of his predecessor, and filling the role with the right candidate. Flynn has set a high-standard however and any successor to his post would be proud to bring through half of the talent that he has over the last eight-years. His departure does complete the closure of the John Toshack era however, and neither will enjoy the rewards that the generation game project will eventually, and inevitably reap.

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

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The Play-Offs Here we go again...

By Dan Jennings

Wrexham find themselves in the lottery of the end of season play-offs for the third time since their introduction at the end of the 1986/87 season, later adopted for the Conference level in 2002/03.

The Reds first flirted with the fourth division play-offs in the late 80s under the leadership of Dixie McNeil. Having narrowly missed out in 1987/88, Wrexham scraped into 7th position a season later. They went head to head with 4th placed Scunthorpe United, who had only missed out on automatic promotion by a single point, and toppled the favourites 5-1 over two legs.

Supporter Eddie Johnson recalls the euphoria surrounding those matches, "We had a great team back then, Neil Salathiel, Nigel Beaumont, Joey Jones, Brian Flynn, Jon Bowden and obviously Rooster (Kevin Russell) banging in the goals. We were 3-1 up from the first leg and took a mass exodus to Scunthorpe. It was a huge convoy of cars, many with six or seven people crammed in."

Play-off finals were originally two-legged affairs and Wrexham went on to lose 2-1 on aggregate to Leyton Orient, who had finished the regular season four points ahead of the Reds in 6th.

Johnson added, "After scraping in on the last day, we just thought we might have the momentum but it wasn't to be. After that season we struggled for years to come, missing out in that fashion hit the club harder than we realised at the time."

This afternoon's crucial encounter with Luton Town comes just twelve months after the Reds' last play-off involvement when they faced the same opposition. On that occasion Wrexham hosted the home leg first having finished below Luton in fourth place.

829 Hatters fans made the long journey north to play their part in the atmosphere conducted in a crowd of 7,211. On that evening they blitzed the Dragons in the opening thirty-five minutes; Alex Lawless, Claude Gnappa and Ed Asafu-Adjayu scoring three quick-fire goals that effectively ended the tie as a contest.

It could have been even worse for the Dragons but for a couple of goal-line clearances from skipper Dean Keates. Dean Saunders had based the entire second half of the

campaign on a strong defensive record but for once they had no answer to the relentless pressure from the visitors. The second leg looked a foregone conclusion and Saunders had the unenviable task of rallying his players over the weekend for mission impossible. With just two changes, Lee Fowler and Adrian Cieslewicz replacing Chris Blackburn and Nat Knight-Percival, the Dragons somehow looked a different team.

Cieslewicz's pace caused the Hatters backline all kinds of problems and it was the flying winger who squared for Andy Mangan to give the Reds a glimmer of hope after just eight minutes. Ten minutes later Dan Gleeson was adjudged to have handled Mangan's cross but Gareth Taylor's spot-kick was saved by Mark Tyler.

London-based Wrexham fan Mark Simmons recalls, "If we had scored that it would have been game on. We were all over them, they were really on the back foot and the players and fans seemed worried, scared almost. If we had got the second goal then I still believe we would have turned it round, the save really took the sting out of the onslaught."

After the first-leg annihilation, taking over 900 fans was a great credit to the Dragons followers but in the long-run, Zdenek Kroca headed over Chris Maxwell shortly before half-time and Jason Walker struck late on to seal a comfortable 5-1 result.

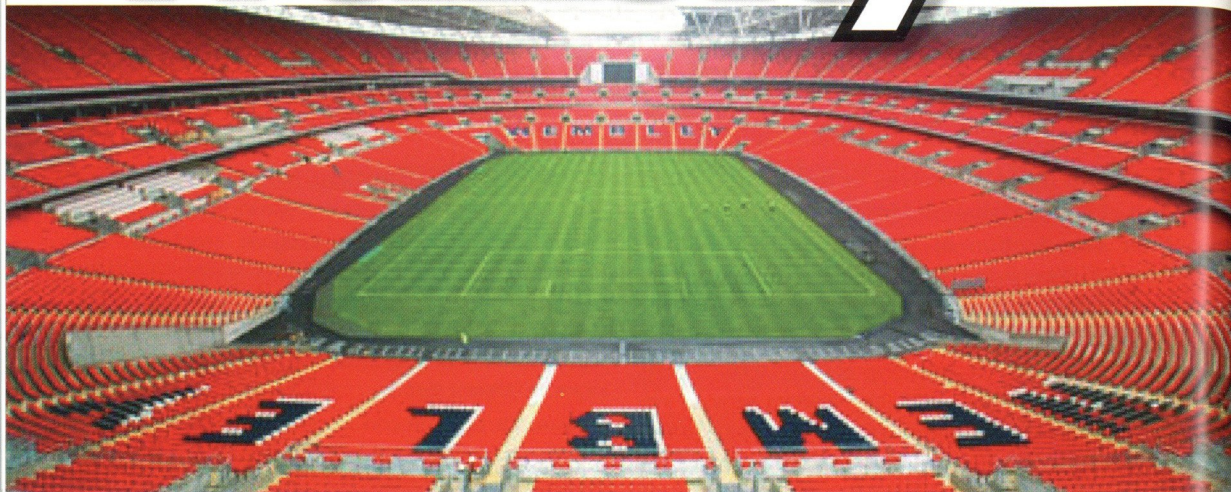
As a player, Dragons boss Andy Morrell experienced the highs and lows of the play-offs, "I went out at this stage with Bury against Shrewsbury but going up to the Championship through them with Blackpool was great. Hopefully we can do it ourselves this time."

Morrell frustratingly watched from the side-lines last year, "Obviously I wanted to be playing. I'd played a lot of the season so being out wasn't nice. Apart from thirty minutes of football we gave it a good go. We went there 3-0 down with nothing to lose and really took it to them. We had a good season last season, just like we have this season, but it is all about getting over that finish line."

Let's hope this afternoon's home advantage, with a bumper Racecourse crowd, can spur the Dragons to victory and a long overdue trip to Wembley.

Que sera sera.....

All Roads lead to Wembley



By the time we end today's game we know that one of the teams on show here at the Racecourse will be heading to Wembley on Sunday 20th May for one of their biggest games in their more recent history. With a chance of being back in the Football League for the start of the 2012/13 campaign there is probably no bigger carrot for either side this afternoon.

The prospect of playing in League Two again is a very real one for either ourselves or Luton with these play-off games being very much a lottery when it comes to the head-to-head fixtures. Although we have had a number of enjoyable years at this level there is no better place to be than back in the elite of the 92 Football League sides. However if it is to be another season in the Blue Square Bet Premier then so be it. Both clubs have certainly been welcomed into the league and enjoyed plenty of memorable games while at this level.

With the play-off final taking place at

Wembley Stadium since 2007 there has been an added extra spice to the fixtures. It is not every day that you get the chance to see your team play in a place as grand as Wembley. Year on year the attendances for the play-off final have grown as more and more supporters of the clubs involved have had a day out supporting their side in London.

Quite ironically when two southern based sides, in AFC Wimbledon and Luton, contested the final last year it had to be moved to the City of Manchester Stadium due to Wembley preparing for the Champions League final that was due to be played just a week later. Although this didn't detract from the final it may be passed a few more people by with it not being at a place as famous for promotions as Wembley.

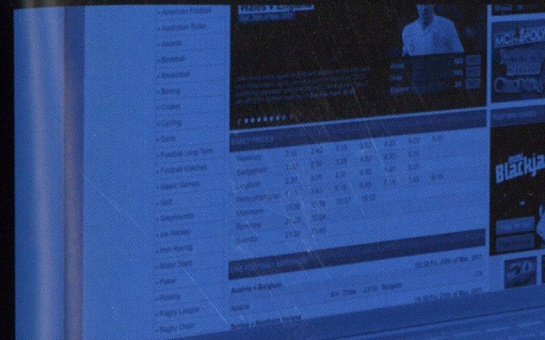
For whoever is fortunate enough to reach one of the more famous grounds in the world then they can expect to be backed by a large travelling contingent, with all four sides involved in the play-offs being ex-Football League teams and still retaining a good number of support from that time.

Hopefully the Wrexham players who were involved in the play-off campaign last season will take that experience into our two games with Luton and make sure that it is ourselves celebrating reaching the final. Of course if we aren't fortunate enough to be involved then we shouldn't forget how far we have come over the past 12 months and how much better the club is now, being run by the fans for the fans.

Make sure you give the side as much backing as possible in this afternoon's game as we try and recreate the atmosphere from that Brighton cup game earlier on in the season. Finally make sure that you enjoy the moment as both ourselves and Luton know that happier times don't always come around that often and when looking back we should remember what a season the 2011/12 campaign has been.

Whatever the outcome of this two-legged tie against Luton we will look to welcome all Wrexham supporters back to the Racecourse in just a few short months time as we get ready to start another rollercoaster ride of a season.

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wrexham

Manager **Andy Morrell**
Colours **Red & White**

2	Daniel Alfei	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>



luton town

Manager **Paul Buckle**
Colours **White & Blue**

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"/>
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"/>
22	Paul Carden	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Alex Lacey	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Godfrey Poku	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	JJ O'Donnell	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Andre Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Adam Watkins	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Dan Walker	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Lewis Kidd	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Janos Kovacs	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

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BRATT

ASS. REFEREE
MR MARK
DWYER

ASS. REFEREE
MR DAVE
AVENT

4th OFFICIAL
MR DARREN
HANDLEY

**Thank you for all
your great support
this season**

We look forward to welcoming you back here to the Racecourse for the 2012/13 campaign.