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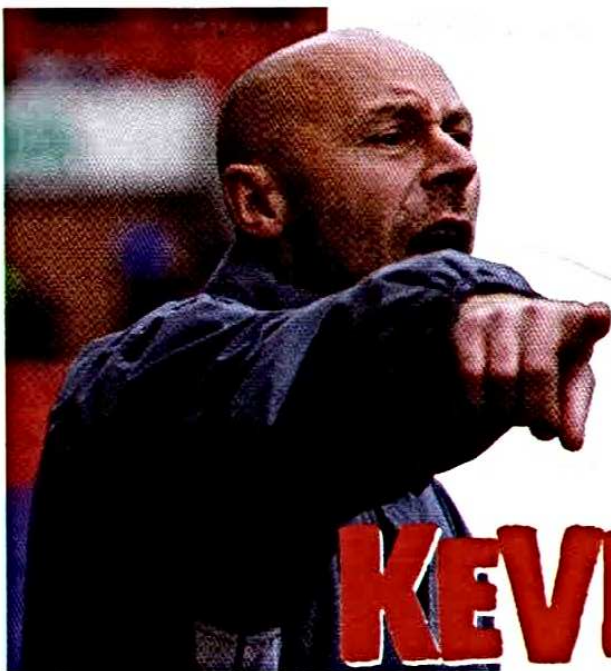
RED DRAGON NEWS

WREXHAM v. SWINDON TOWN



NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 2
SATURDAY 26 JANUARY 2002
KICK-OFF 3.00PM





STRAIGHT TALKING KEVIN RUSSELL

Hopefully the gaffer will be back on the sidelines for today's game after his recent illness. The lads were all upset to hear of his problems following the trip to Carmarthen Town and we had been hoping to cheer him up with a few points from last Saturday's visit to Oldham, but that's another story - or rather the same one of late!

Joey and I have been working hard to make sure that the gaffer's absence has disrupted the players as little as possible. We normally take the training sessions earlier in the week anyway, so their routine will not have altered much, especially as we didn't have a midweek match on Tuesday.

We have just had to get on with it and hopefully he will have been well enough to come in for the tactical side of things later in the week.

As it is I have seen Swindon recently, on their visit to Oldham a couple of weeks ago, so at least I have some first hand knowledge of Andy King's side. Things have changed a few bit off the field since we travelled to the County Ground back in November, so we will have to see how that affects them on the park tonight.

They come here on the back of two unbeaten games, a draw at Peterborough United last weekend and then a 1-0 victory over Notts County on Tuesday, when Danny Invincible scored their winner.

Last Saturday we left Boundary Park almost shaking our heads that we had lost to an Oldham side riding high in the table. Naturally we were very disappointed, because if you look back over the past month, I think our performances have been good enough to merit another 12 points at least.

The first half we played very well, but I think what cost us the game was our defending in the first 15 or 20 minutes of the second half, when we were sloppy.

After they had equalised we got on top again and at 2-1 down, I still felt we not only looking to snatch a draw but we might have gone onto even win it. Obviously their last goal has made things look worse, but at that stage that third didn't really matter.

On the positive side, the lads did what we asked of them in the opening 45 minutes and it's getting a bit

embarrassing saying this every week, because we are not getting the results. Something has to turn for us sooner or later, but having said that, our finishing was not the best.

It was a big blow to lose Brian Carey to a straight red card so early in the second half and, obviously, with them scoring from the resulting penalty, it didn't make our task any easier. Credit to the players though, they carried on battling away and created enough chances with 10-men to have taken something from the game.

There is still a long way to go this season and after the performances the lads have been putting in, it's hard to criticise them. We have to work at keeping their confidence high, but we have no complaints about their effort or performances - it's just the finishing and results!

There have been plenty of positive things to come out of these recent games, but we certainly aren't having the luck. We have given away too many sloppy goals, like their first on Saturday. The ball was in the air a long time, maybe we could have dealt with it

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Darren just fails to halt a Wycombe player



better. It came close to half time and was one of the few chances they had on our goal, which made it even more frustrating.

Don't forget though that Oldham have spent a lot of money on their team this season and yet some of the football we produced was excellent. We were competing with them and we have been competing really well recently, but the final finishing touches still seem to be missing.

Today we start an important week for the club, as on Tuesday we travel to Bury and then on Saturday it's across to Peterborough. You don't need to be a mathematician to realise that we need to start picking up points and quickly. Virtually all the midweek results went against us, although all we can only ever rely on ourselves to get us out of our present situation.

Thanks to everyone who travelled to Oldham last Saturday, it was a good turn out and you gave the lads great support. Lets continue that this afternoon and see if we can start our rise up the table with a long overdue victory.

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CROESO TREF SWINDON

Gall gem p'nawn 'ma yn erbyn y "Robins" o Swindon ynghyd a'r gem Nos Fawrth nesaf yn erbyn Bury droi allan i fod yn ddwy o gemau pwysigaf y tymor i'r Dreigiau os ydym am lwyddo yn ein cais i aros yn yr Ail Adran. Byddai triphwynt p'nawn 'ma yn erbyn tim Roy Evans ynghyd a buddugoliaeth ar Gigg Lane yn rhoi hwb enfawr i obeithion y Dreigiau o ddringo o waelodion yr adran i ddiogelwch cymharol canol y tabl.

Fodd bynnag, "haws dweud na gwneud" yn ol yr hen ddihareb! Ni fydd Swindon heddiw na Bury Nos Fawrth yn ildio triphwynt i'r Dreigiau yn ddi-rwystr. Mae un peth yn siwr, bydd rhaid i'r Dreigiau chwarae llawer gwell nac a wnaethont i lawr ar y County Ground ynghynt yn y tymor. Bryd hynny enillodd y "Robins" 3-1, a'r unig beth i ddathlu i'r Dreigiau oedd y ffaith iddynt sgorio gol o gic gornel am unwaith!

Felly does ond croesi'n bysedd amdani p'nawn 'ma felly a gweddio am fuddugoliaeth.

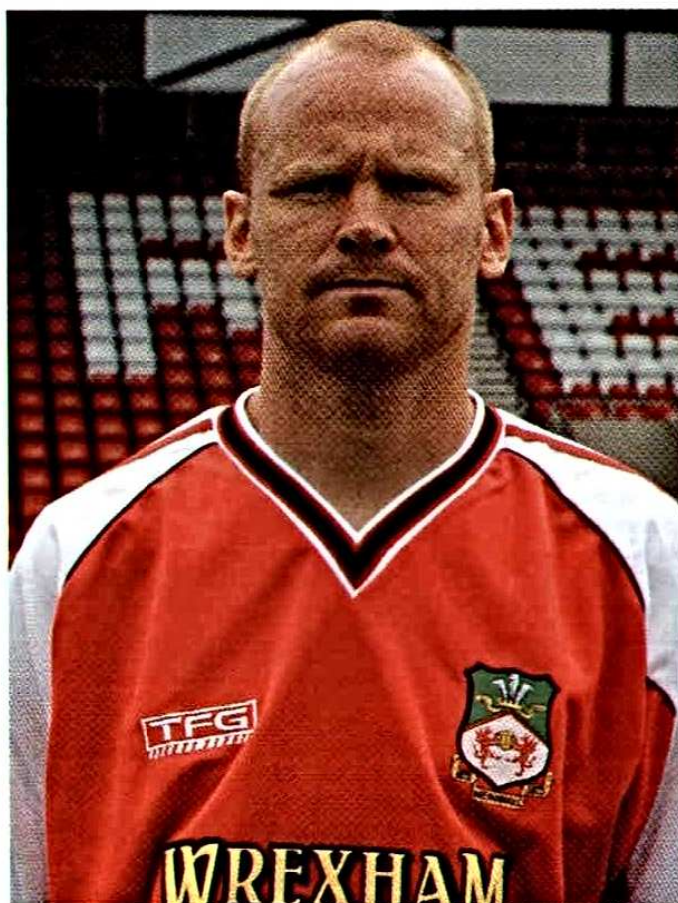
Mwynhewch y gem



300 NOT OUT!

Assuming that Brian Carey gets on the pitch at some stage this afternoon, then this will be his 300th appearance in a Wrexham shirt. Not a bad total and one that ranks him right alongside some of the greatest servants of this club.

Mind you, when the big Irishman first joined us on loan from Manchester United back in January 1991, I'm sure such an achievement was the furthest thing from his mind. Indeed, that brief spell only saw him play three games before returning to Old Trafford. Less than a year later he was back and just in time to be a part of the team that beat Arsenal and took West Ham United to a replay. On this occasion Brian enjoyed a three-month spell with us and



went onto play for his country shortly afterwards.

Leicester City had spotted his performances and in 1993 he moved to Filbert Street in a £250,000 deal, going on to play in over 60 games for the Foxes.

When manager Brian Flynn was looking for a replacement for the departing Barry Hunter to Reading, he had no hesitation in securing the big man's services in July 1996. So at the third attempt, we had finally got our man.

Since then Brian has gone onto skipper the team and has lifted the Premier Cup on two occasions.

With at least another year left on his contract, the man from Cork City will be looking to push his total up to 350 and beyond.

SEASON BY SEASON RECORD:

	LEAGUE		FA CUP		LEAGUE CUP		WELSH CUP		F.R.T.		PLAY - OFF'S		TOTAL	
	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G
1990-91	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
1991-92	13	1	3	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	20	2
1996-97	38	-	9	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	50	-
1997-98	43	1	3	-	2	-	8	1	1	-	-	-	57	2
1998-99	36	2	3	-	2	-	8	-	5	-	-	-	54	2
1999-00	43	1	5	-	2	-	5 (1)	1	-	-	-	-	55 (1)	2
2000-01	33	3	-	-	1	-	6 (1)	-	1	-	-	-	41 (1)	3
2001-02	13 (1)	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	0 (1)	-	-	-	15 (2)	1
TOTAL	222 (1)	9	23	-	10	-	29 (2)	3	11 (1)	-	-	-	295 (4)	12



SUMMARY:

	APPS	GOALS
League	222 (1)	9
FA Cup	23	-
League Cup	10	-
Welsh/Premier	29 (2)	3
LDV	11 (1)	-
Play-Off's	-	-
TOTAL	295 (4)	12
	299	



ON THE ROAD

Don't forget that we travel to Gigg Lane this coming Tuesday night (7.45) for a re-arranged Division Two game, the one that should have been played on New Year's Day.

Coaches leave the Racecourse at 5.30pm on the day and you can book your tickets at the Club Shop this afternoon. Adults £6.00, Concs £5.00.

KEEPER JOINS ROBINS

Young goalkeeper Paul Whitfield has agreed to join League of Wales side Newtown on loan for the next three-months, which will see him through to their final league game on April 13th. Newtown manager Brian Coyne was in Wrexham last week to tie up the transfer and expressed the hope that Paul will help his club through a difficult spell as they look to pull away from the drop zone: "We have seen Paul play on a number of occasions and he certainly made a good impression during his time with Connah's Quay. Hopefully he will display that sort of form for us over the last three months of this campaign."

The player himself was also keen to start playing again: "I really enjoyed myself with Connah's Quay Nomads at the start of this season. But since I've returned to Wrexham it's been very hard to even get a game with both Kristian and Dave either playing first team or in the reserves."

"I'm too old for the Academy, so really I'm in a little bit of a no man's land situation. Newtown have been good enough to come in and offer me the opportunity to play on a regular basis, and at a good standard."

"If I'm to progress at Wrexham, then I do need to be playing and gaining experience. Hopefully this three-month loan period with them will be of benefit to both sides." Paul has first hand experience of the LoW with Connah's Quay Nomads, playing at the Deeside Stadium for the first month or so of this season and helping them to top spot in that competition.

He returned to the Racecourse when David Walsh was injured and was thereafter ineligible to have a second loan spell with the Nomads in the same season, despite them wanting to take him back. Some 18 months ago Paul was with TNS, joining them as cover for first choice Lee Williams and sat on the bench for their two European Cup games with the Estonian champions.

The Robins have 15 league games remaining this year and at present only sit three points off a relegation spot. Paul made his debut last Saturday at home to Haverfordwest County and helped the Robins to their first win in seven games. Also in the Newtown squad are two other ex-Wrexham players in Scott Williams and Andy Thomas.

CARD FEVER

Pit came as a bit of a shock to all the lads to hear that the gaffer was ill last week and although he came in on the Friday before Oldham, he obviously didn't look right. Hopefully by now he will have recovered and ready to take his place on the bench.

In the meantime, both Rooster and Joey have done a great job of stepping in and looking after team affairs. Kevin really has adapted to the role and he seems to be relishing the opportunity. They ran operations from the bench on Saturday at Oldham and almost guided us to what would have been a deserved victory at Boundary Park.

For me, and I suspect most people, the turning point in that game was my sending off early in the second half, which also saw Oldham awarded a penalty, from which they took the lead.

I was still unhappy after being booked for a tackle on the halfway line a few minutes earlier and I didn't feel there was that much contact between Stuart Balmer and myself when Mr Cowburn pointed the penalty spot.

We had let Oldham have too much possession at that stage and they were putting us under pressure. When the ball was played in from our left, the two of us went for the cross at the near post, but I still feel it wasn't much of a clash.

Anyway, it was bad enough to have the penalty given against, but then I realised he was calling me over. I knew that a second yellow would see me off, but he then told me I had denied their player a clear goalscoring opportunity and he produced a straight red.

Naturally I didn't agree with the decision and was equally upset that I had left the team a man short and then a goal behind.

The only good bit of news that came out of the whole incident was that I'm likely to miss two games, as against the three that we first thought. Apparently I'll get a one-match ban for the red card, as that is punishment for denying a goalscoring chance, and then there is an additional one-match for this being my second sending off in a season.

We had thought about asking the referee to review his decision, but even if he had changed his mind to a yellow card then I would still have to sit out two games, so it's hardly worth going through the process.

Even at 10-men we still created enough chances to have drawn level. I got to see the rest of the match from the stands and the lads never let up on the game. There was one header cleared off the line and a few shots that might have seen us equalise. As it was Oldham made the scoreline flattering deep into added time with a breakaway third, but by then we had to sacrifice our defence in search of a point saver.

A few days before going to Boundary Park, there was the Premier Cup tie at Carmarthen Town, which really was a good run out for us.

The atmosphere was good and they gave us a battle. We just about withstood what they threw at us and came from a goal down to rise above their challenge. There were some good goals scored in the game and the longer it went on the more confident I was with our performance.

In the second half the football was flowing and we produced some good stuff, which was the continuation of our displays of late. Against Carmarthen we were able to turn that play into goals, which is something we have to do on a regular basis in the Football League.

The draw for the semi-finals has given us a home tie with Cardiff City, which should be an interesting night. It will depend on what sort of side the Bluebirds send north, as I suspect their priorities are more focused on promotion from Second Division.

For us though the Premier Cup is an important competition and I think our record speaks for itself. We take a great deal of pride in winning this all-Welsh trophy and it has been good to us over the years.

Today is an important fixture as we start to see the season closing in on us. I missed the game at Swindon before Christmas with a hernia, but was told it was not our best performance of the year. This is a match we really have to win as we look ahead to a vital week for us. If we can come out of the Peterborough game next Saturday with a good number of points from these three games, then we will give ourselves a much better chance of avoiding the drop.

Lets hope that by the time I'm writing my next set of programme notes, we all have something to smile about!

BRIAN CAREY

CORK STOPPER



RED PASSION PRESENTATION

Our picture shows the presentation of club ties to representatives from the Stewards before a recent match. The Red Passion fanzine has been good enough to sponsor the design and manufacture of special ties which also carry not only the club crest but have the word 'Steward' embodied onto them. Chief Safety Officer Colin Edwards was delighted with the new ties: "We have to thank Red Passion for agreeing to sponsor these ties and I think they will only help make more staff look more



professional as they go about their duties.

"With colouring and wording, the ties are subtle, but supporters will have no difficulty identifying a steward inside the ground. "We are continually training and up grading the skills of our stewards, so these ties can only assist us in the image we give to the public on matchdays." Pictured handing over the ties from Red Passion are Gareth Collins, their San Francisco based webmaster and Peter Davies, their Huddersfield based editor.

FOOTBALL 2nd

round-up



A Hard Winter Ahead

A bit like panning for Gold, the teams that are going to find it a long hard winter are beginning to fall away leaving the gems to fight it out. First impressions

are often correct, and the first two teams I saw in play in this Division this year were Reading and Bristol City, both of whom are looking strong favourites for promotion. In Danny Wilson and Alan Pardew, they're equipped with managers who know how the game of football should be played, the amount of scientific analysis the Reading boss carried out the day we visited their training ground was staggering – he must have mountains of box files documenting every individual player. And Danny Wilson's young team are beginning more and more to resemble those other Reds he managed – Barnsley, who won promotion to the Premier League by passing the ball. Include

Stoke, Brighton, Brentford and QPR in that bracket too. But two new managers have plenty to do at the bottom end of the table. John Taylor will be an even bigger hero than he is already at the Abbey if he can save the U's, and Billy Dearden must steer a steady course if Notts County aren't going to get dragged into it. The real struggle starts now!

FOOTBALL 2nd

on the ITV Sport Channel, is your dedicated highlights programme for the Second Division every Sunday at 11.00am. Presented from a different league ground every week it gives you the best of the Saturday afternoon action and all the goals. Football 2nd delivers everything the die-hard fan wants to know about their side and their rivals.

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You can see Isabella Clarke and Ned Boulting presenting Football 2nd, on the ITV Sport Channel, every Sunday at 11.00am.

QUIZ MATCH

Remember you can play
on-line at the club's web
site wrexhamafc.co.uk



1. When Swindon won the League Cup in 1969, which current Premiership side did they defeat in the final?
2. Which club did the Robins defeat in the 1992/93 First Division play-off final at Wembley that secured their place in the top flight for the 1993/94 season?
3. Can you name the current Premiership manager who has been in charge at the County Ground during the last ten years?
4. Who scored in the very first minute for Wrexham on our visit to Swindon last season?
5. Which former Racecourse legend scored his first Wrexham goal in a match against today's opponents in September 1977?
6. Two non-league sides reached the third round of this season's FA Cup competition, who are they?
7. Against which side did Barnet lose 7-4 in their inaugural Football League match in August 1991?
8. Manchester United failed to win the League championship for over 25 years between 1966/67 and 1992/93. Can you name the eight different sides to achieve the feat during this period?
9. Name the three other countries that were in Scotland's group at the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina?
10. For which country is Manchester City striker Shaun Goater a full international?

ANSWERS
1 Arsenal 2 Leicester City 3 Glens
Hoddle 4 Martyn Chalk 5 Dixie
McNeil 6 Canvey Island and
Dagenham & Redbridge 7 Crewe
Alexandra 8 Arsenal, Aston Villa,
Derby County, Everton, Leeds
United, Liverpool, Manchester City
and Nottingham Forest 9 Holland,
Iran and Peru 10 Bermuda.

UNHAPPY MEMORIES FOR O'LEARY

One may suggest that early January in Wales could hardly be described as Leeds United manager David O'Leary's favourite time or place - not by any stretch of the imagination!

As a member of the Arsenal side who were involved in one of the biggest upsets all time, when dumped out of the FA Cup in a third round tie at the Racecourse Ground against Fourth Division Wrexham in January 1992. Did he ever envisage that lightning might strike once again in Wales?

Now, almost ten years to the day and likewise the second year of a new decade, he has again been on the receiving end of a Welsh shock, this time at Second Division Cardiff City.

There can be no doubt that the Bluebirds deserved their success, as they seemed to want it far more than the illustrious opponents from Elland Road on the day. It is strange that so often an early goal works against the team that scores first, in the context of 90 minutes, as was the case at Ninian Park.

Mark Viduka's early strike was cancelled out by the excellent Graham Kavanagh who is making a nonsense of his transfer fee from Stoke City and will surely end up in the Premier League, with or without Cardiff City!

Scott Young, the Wales U21 central defender, was however rightly voted Man of the Match. Not only for his 'just at the right time' winner, but also a great tackle when Viduka was again odds on to score. Young's superbly timed tackle robbed the Australian of the chance to put the Premier League leaders into the next round. Cardiff's record against the Yorkshiremen is surprisingly good in the FA Cup, having won as many as they have lost. If City were to win this time round, then surely 2-1 would have the prediction given the astonishing sequence of results between the two clubs since the 1950's.

When the third round draw for the competition was made in 1955/56, 1956/57 and 1957/58, each time Leeds United came out first, with amazingly Cardiff City as their opponents on each occasion. As if this sequence of events was not enough of a coincidence on its own, the fact that the Bluebirds won each tie 2-1 at Elland Road makes it even more unbelievable (but true) and among the most remarkable records in the history of the FA Cup.

Perhaps if David O'Leary had know all this, added to the fact that Arsenal had suffered 2-1 at the hands of the Wrexham Robins, he would not have turned up at Ninian Park let alone let himself in another third round 2-1 defeat. To say nothing of the off the field antics which sadly made most of the headlines!

We all have our own opinion of the latter, but it must be said that 'over-reaction' by the media did not help the situation. However, it is well known there is a general feeling in the game that City do carry an 'Achilles Heel' among their supporters and this could be a factor in whether the club ever makes the progress hoped for by chairman Sam Hammam. One does feel for their genuine fans, who must suffer great frustration in having their 'glory' taken from them. All followers of Welsh football must love to see a team from Wales in the higher echelons but lets do it the right way!

O'Leary himself hardly hit the 'right note' in making certain 'ill-judged' statements at the launch of his new book "Leeds on trial". One would have thought that with what has been going on in recent months concerning a couple of his star players he might have played down events and let the authorities handle matters, but lets face it a publication of this nature was not best advised for such a launch date anyway. Finally on a happier note, it was good to see a number of former Cardiff City, Leeds United and Wales stars involved at the game. Mark Aizlewood and Brian Flynn were employed by the media, no doubt their connections with all three teams adding spice to the proceedings, while another certain 'King' John Charles led out the two teams at the start to a terrific ovation and was a 'guest' of both clubs'. It is good to see the 'legend' receiving certain recognition at last. His latest a moving 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the recent BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year ceremony will be followed by the Freedom of his home city - Swansea, later this year. He has received the CBE, but it is the Knighthood we all want for him and we will not rest until we see Sir John Charles in his rightful place in the Honours List.

GARETH M DAVIES

WELSH FOOTBALL

RED DRAGON ONLINE

Hopefully most of you will know that the official club website www.wrexhamafc.co.uk is fully up and running, to offer Wrexham supporters, no matter where in the world you live, just about everything you need to know about the football club.



Whether you want the latest stories in **Breaking News** or looking for a report on one of our matches this season on Fixture List, we should have just what you want.

The website is packed with news, information, statistics and general articles. We can offer online shopping, whether it's Wrexham souvenirs or general items, from digital cameras to retro football shirts to cut price top chart CD's.

We also own our own betting service **WrexhamBET**, which offers an excellent array of odds on every Wrexham game. We have the usual first goalscorer and correct scores, to the speciality bets, which today included:

FOUR STAR DRAGONS - Wrexham to score 4 or more goals 14/1
NO HALF MEASURES - Wrexham to win both halves 6/1

ROBINS GROUNDED - Wrexham to win to 'nil' 12/5
WE ARE COCK ROBINS - Wrexham to win by more than one goal 11/4

EXPANSION 'BRIDGE' - Craig Faulconbridge to score 2 or more goals 13/2

THE 'MORAL' COMES AT THE END - Andy Morrell to score the winner for Wrexham 11/1

First goalscorer sees Lee Trundle and Craig Faulconbridge named at 11/2, or how about a long shot with Shaun Holmes at 50/1! You could also have Andy Morrell to follow up his goal at Oldham last week, with one at any stage in today's game at 7/4.

We have interviews with the manager both before and after the game, together with quotes from the day's main players. The match report will be online within minutes of an away game finishing and soon after for home fixtures, although you don't have to wait even that long to hear Mark Griffith's match commentary. We cover every Football League match - LIVE. You get the full 90 minutes over the internet and you can listen to it anywhere in the world!

Get online today and log on to www.wrexhamafc.co.uk. The internet can be a vital source of income to the football club, to which you contribute every time you visit us. We also make money if you buy via our shopping site or have a flutter on the betting site, so if you do see something you like then please consider buying it online with Wrexham AFC.

While we are looking to maximise our returns through the site, we also want it to be a source of information and entertainment for Wrexham supporters no matter where you live. You can chat online with other fans via the Messageboards or sit back and sign up for one of our weekly Newsletter which will be delivered direct to your email address.

Missed any of goals this season, then we have then

achieved in our video library for you to watch again and again. We are expanding our services all the time and very soon you will be able to listen to interviews to the manager and players, to get their views on events and games as they happen.

There is even an online business directory for when you need the telephone number of a local taxi firm or are looking to buy a washing machine!

If you are connected, then get connected to

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IT MIGHT NOT BE PRETTY



It is almost exactly a year since Swindon last visited the Racecourse, and it was commented upon then that they had been through quite an extra-ordinary year.

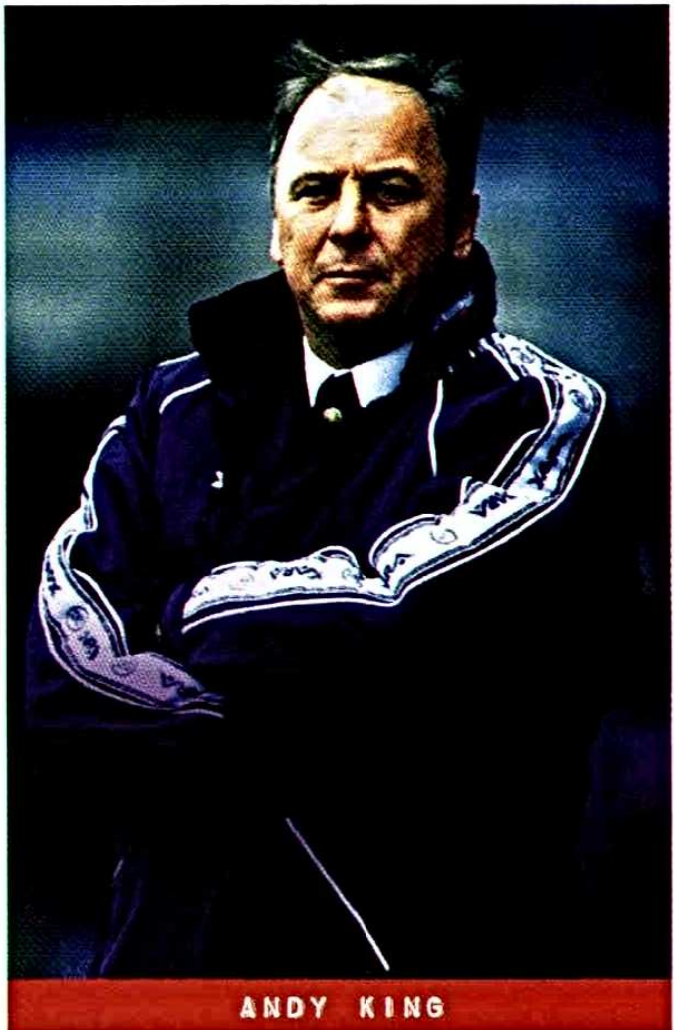
Takeovers, the club in administration, a new manager, they had seen it all, or so it seemed. For if they were a 12 months of turmoil, then the latest chapter in the history of Wiltshire's only professional football club, has hit new highs, in terms of drama.

Football wise, the club retained its Division Two status by the skin of its teeth last May, finishing their first season back in football's third flight, just a point ahead of West Country rivals Bristol Rovers, who were condemned to life in the lower division. It's hard to cast your mind back these days, to 1994 and the Swindon Town team that was in the Premier League, albeit for just one season, and a club that was to be ultimately at its modern day peak. It may sound obvious now, but those Premier League days must surely have contributed to the overall demise of the club, as during the period that followed long and costly contracts were given to players, who simply did not cut the mustard. That ultimately contributed to huge debts that have riddled the club in recent years, even to the present day, with losses said to running to an amazing £100,000 every month.

Hardly an article seems to go by on the opposition this season, except with a few obvious exceptions, without a clear depiction of that particular club's parlous financial state, and a trend picked up recently in the national press, about life in the lower leagues.

The most recent months in Swindon's history, would read well in a football novel. The problem is we have to cope with reality and with a new consortium at the helm, the fans will be hoping that it's full steam ahead once again at the County Ground.

As recently as early November, the Robins were in the High Court, judgement being granted to a new consortium to lead Swindon out of its financial abyss and assume control of the club. With ex-Champion jockey, an avid Swindon fan, Willie Carson amongst its ranks, the new regime would seek to wipe out the existing club debts. It would then look to bring some sort of structure back to the club, in order that it can compete with firstly its Division Two rivals and maybe then talk about



ANDY KING

future promotion.

The consortium had been set up to wrest control from the old board and previous Chairman Danny Donegan was ousted from control by the courts. Under his charge, the club had not held an AGM since 1999 and rumours surrounding the financial situation at the County Ground had abounded. Speaking after gaining control following the High Court hearing, Carson seemed ready for the challenge ahead. He told PA sport about his immediate plans, and his hopes of persuading Roy Evans to stay as manager:

"The consortium would love Roy and Neil Ruddock to stay. The team is playing nice, attractive football and we're doing better than last year. The public have responded and the gates are good, but the club has had financial problems for the last three years, and we don't know what they are because there has



BART GRIEMINK

been no AGM in recent years.

"I'm an old director, but this has nothing to do with me becoming a director or chairman. I'm concerned about getting the club back on a stable footing. There's at least four people in the consortium, including the son of Sir Seton Wills, whose father is the club's major shareholder. New funds will be available, but until we have an EGM we cannot make any decisions. Once we do, we can find out what the hell has been going on at the club."

Unfortunately for Carson, Evans had presumably been assessing his own position and being a Donegan appointee decided to walk away from the County Ground just prior to Christmas. Evans had been given the job in August, after Donegan, who had invested over £3m in the club, sacked Andy King. The ex-Mansfield boss had himself only been in charge of team affairs since October of the previous season, after the brief reign of Colin Todd. King had a lengthy contract to pay up, and it came as no surprise to many that, after Evans decision to go, King was back at the helm, following a short spell when former Wrexham man Malcolm Crosby's was caretaker.

It was also made clear that Evans' salary was



ANDY GURNEY

indeed substantial, and in re-instating King, the club was in a position to get the best out of its current financial situation.

But the fans were far from impressed and having seen Evans' style of football, they felt that King could not produce anything comparable and vented their anger at the decision.

However, since Christmas it has become clearer that the new consortium are intent on paving the way for a bright future at the County Ground. A £45,000 debt was paid off to the PFA allowing the transfer embargo to be lifted, the debt was a result of the previous board borrowing the funds from the players union to pay wages prior to holiday period. If you thought that was bad, the Inland Revenue have also had £600,000 paid to them, a huge debt amassed under the previous regime. So with normality now returning, King was allowed then to bring in a loan signing, Dominic Foley arrived from Watford, and as a striker he is seen as the ideal man to kick start the Robins' season. King will now be judged on results and given the club's now well documented ills, he will be desperate to impress.

Recently dumped out of the FA Cup by Manchester City, King will be looking to league fortunes to



DANNY INVINCIBLE



STEVE ROBINSON

improve over the next weeks of the season. That began last Tuesday with a morale boosting home victory over Notts County, a result which moved the Robins up towards mid-table safety. The victory was only Swindon's third in 14 games and that included the 3-1 result over Wrexham back in November.

The 4,000 plus who saw our defeat at the County Ground also made up their smallest gate of the season to date, an indication of fortunes at that time. Wins over upper half of the table teams have been rare, Colchester and Brentford were overcome at the County Ground, whilst amazingly Reading were comprehensively thumped at the Madejski. But Stoke, Cardiff, Chesterfield and QPR have imposed similar drubbings on Swindon themselves.

Inconsistency has been the key, and goalscoring has been at a premium, which is why Tuesday's victory was so important to the Robins. The game was not pretty, but the result was perfect in the classic six-pointer, as Andy King told Clubcall after the game.

"I could stand here and say how awful we were, and yes the first half was atrocious. But when everyone is against you, including our own crowd,

then you have to say that it was a great result.

"I've never heard a home crowd which has booed its own players so much as I have tonight, the stick that Alan Reeves got was disgraceful. The fans have to realise now that we have a squad and we have to live with that, given what has gone on before here. We just have not got the resources.

"The way in which Alan Reeves responded was magnificent. I've seen players freeze and he could have done, but he showed true character and gave a Captain's performance, and he'll be in the side again at Wrexham on Saturday.

"There were other positives such as Danny Invincible being positive for the goal, that was the first time he had been positive all night. This side is capable of winning games and its down to confidence. We relax more away from home and I'll look forward to Saturday.

"We have to get our own house in order. It's down to arithmetic at this stage of the season and if we'd have lost tonight we'd have been back in the mire, but we're now nine points clear of the drop zone. We have to scrape results now and its not going to be pretty, the crowd need to appreciate that. Yes we were awful at times tonight, but the three points speak for themselves."



FIRST ON THE SHEET

PAUL DAVIES TAKES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT ANDY KING'S FIRST TEAM SQUAD WHICH MAKES THE JOURNEY TO THE RACECOURSE TODAY

SOL DAVIS

A hard-working and fully committed left-back, Sol is now a firmly established member of the Robins first squad. Born in Cheltenham, he has come through the junior sides at the County Ground prior to signing his first professional contract with the club in May 1998. Now aged 22, he is a player with an excellent attitude who made his 100th League appearance in the opening weeks of the current season.

DAVID DUKE

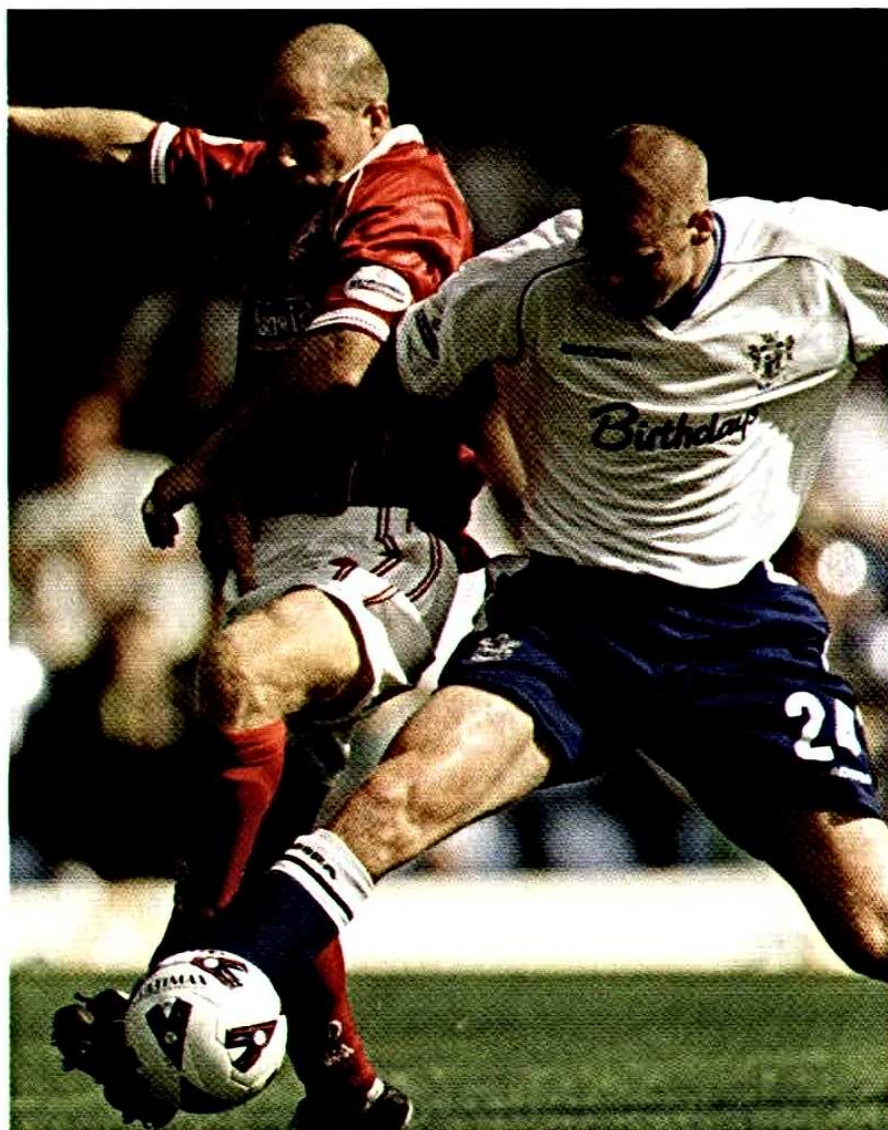
A versatile member of the squad, David can operate as a left wing-back or in his more usual midfield position and has proved to be a useful signing since initially arriving on trial from Sunderland at the start of last season. Born in Inverness 23-years ago, the Scot was spotted by the Black Cats when playing for Redby CA and agreed terms with the Wearsiders in July 1997. Failed to register a first team appearance during his time at the Stadium of Light, but is a player with a fearsome long throw, which frequently causes danger for the opposition.

DOMINIC FOLEY

The most recent acquisition to Andy King's squad, Dominic is a Republic of Ireland Full and Under-21 international who arrived at the County Ground on loan from Watford a little over a fortnight ago. Hailing from Cork, the 25-year-old frontman was picked up by Wolves in August 1995, whilst turning out for St James' Gate, in exchange for a fee of £35,000. During his time at Molineux, he spent short loan spells with both Watford and Notts County prior to agreeing a free transfer move to Vicarage Road in June 1999.

GIULIANO GRAZIOLI

A quick and enthusiastic forward who is a favourite with the Town supporters, Giuliano is always dangerous in and around the penalty area and will need watching constantly if selected this afternoon. Now aged 26, he was brought into the full-time game by Peterborough on a free transfer from Wembley in 1995 and spent nearly four years at the Posh, prior to his move to



Wiltshire. Originally came to prominence during a loan spell with Stevenage Borough during the 1997/98 season when scoring the winner against Swindon at the County Ground in a Third Round FA Cup tie and also netting against Newcastle in the following round.

BART GRIEMINK

A tall and commanding goalkeeper who was signed on a free transfer from Peterborough at the start of last term, Bart is a Dutch born stopper who has impressed this season following the departure of former number one Steve Mildenhall to

Notts County during the summer recess. Initially arrived in the Nationwide League at Birmingham, having been signed on a free transfer from WVK Emmen in 1995, but made just 26 appearances for the Blues prior to a £25,000 move to the Posh just eleven months later. Initially moved to the County Ground on loan in February 2000 but the deal was made permanent five months later when he was released by Peterborough.

ANDY GURNEY

Having been granted a free transfer by neighbours Reading, Andy was quickly

snapped up by Swindon and has since proved to be a powerhouse on the right side of the defence or midfield. Having celebrated his 28th birthday just yesterday, the Bristolian will no doubt be looking for the perfect present here this afternoon. Started his pro career with Bristol Rovers in July 1992, he has also been on the books of Torquay prior to joining the Royals for a fee of £100,000 in January 1999.

MATTHEW HEYWOOD

Having struggled to get a game at Burnley under the stewardship of Stan Ternent, Matthew accepted the offer of a move to the Robins on a free transfer twelve months ago and has since proved to be a revelation at the heart of the defence. Despite originally hailing from Kent, the 22-year-old came through the junior ranks at Turf Moor and went to pull on the famous claret shirt on no less than 15 occasions. A no-nonsense defender, who uses his height and power to good effect in the rearguard.

BOBBY HOWE

A former England Youth international, Bobby is a hard-working and strong-running midfielder who at his best can run the show from his berth in the middle of the park. Born in Cramlington, he was with Nottingham Forest as a youngster and turned pro with them in 1990, gaining experience in the Premier League during his time at the City Ground. Swindon signed him from the Forest for a fee of just £30,000 in January 1998 and since then he has made around 100 appearances for the club.

DANNY INVINCIBLE

Boasting one of the most powerful surnames in professional football, Danny was always set to make a big impact at the County Ground and has become a firm favourite with the supporters during his time in Wiltshire. An Australian by birth, the 22-year-old attack-minded midfielder arrived at West Ham for a trial match but was spotted by the then Town boss Colin Todd who wasted little time ensuring a two-year contract was quickly forthcoming. Whilst based in Oz, he was a regular with Marconi Stallions and had previously represented the country at Schoolboy level. The club has recently rejected a six-figure bid from divisional rivals Blackpool for his services.

PAUL McAREAVEY

A Northern Ireland Under-21 and Youth international, Paul hails from Belfast but has been attached to the Robins for over two-years. Still aged just 21, he appeared to be on his way out of the County Ground last term when loaned out to League of Ireland side Kilkenny City. However he returned in fine form and as a result the left sided midfielder was offered a further twelve-month contract.



ERIC SABIN

RICHARD MCKINNEY

The Robins' second choice goalkeeper, Richard is a giant of a man who spent two seasons as a professional at Manchester City alongside our own Shaun Holmes. Originally from Ballymoney in the Republic of Ireland, the 22-year-old was spotted by a scout from the Maine Road club whilst turning out for Ballymena United and offered the chance to try his hand in the Nationwide League. On being released by the Mancunians last summer, the 6' 3" stopper was offered a deal at the County Ground.

ALAN REEVES

A vastly experienced central defender, who is on the books of his sixth League club, Alan was signed from Wimbledon on a free transfer in the summer of 1998 and is the current club captain. Born on the Wirral in November 1967, he was initially on Norwich's books, but made his League debut during a short loan spell with Gillingham towards the end of the 1998/99 season. He actually made his name during spells with both Chester and particularly Rochdale, and his fine form at Spotland led to a £300,000 transfer to Wimbledon for whom he played top flight football at the heart of the Dons defence. Due to start a suspension after this afternoon's game, having been red-carded against Bristol City a fortnight ago. It's back to the Halfway for Alan after today's match!

MARK ROBINSON

A vastly experienced right-sided defender who is now into his twelfth season in the professional game, Mark has competed in

over 300 first team games for Swindon, since his arrival from Newcastle in July 1994 for a fee of around £600,000. Currently the longest serving player on the County Ground payroll, the 33-year-old started out with West Bromwich Albion and has also served Barnsley and Newcastle during a long and distinguished career. A member of the Robins side that captured the Second Division title in 1996, he now has well over 500 senior appearances to his name.

STEVE ROBINSON

Having been captured for the bargain fee of just £50,000 from Birmingham City almost twelve months ago, Steve has quickly established himself as a favourite with the County Ground faithful. A creative midfield dynamo, who celebrated his 27th birthday just nine days ago, he is always keen to have a pop at goal from his berth in the centre of the field. Born in Nottingham, he had a five game loan spell with Peterborough during his days at St Andrews and racked up his 100th League appearance towards the end of last term.

ERIC SABIN

A regular up front for Swindon so far this term, Eric has been a revelation since his free transfer from Wasquehal. The 27-year-old Frenchman has proved to be an excellent acquisition, possessing good close control and electrifying pace which has been used to terrorise defences with alarming regularity this season and has led to him scoring a number of goals. Whilst in his native France, he was on the books of Sarcelles prior to his move to Second Division side Wasquehal, for whom he scored seven goals in 58 outings.

ADAM WILLIS

Now into his fifth season at the County Ground, Adam has made infrequent appearances during his time with the club, averaging around 15 outings per season, but has been involved in the first team squad during recent weeks. Hailing from Nuneaton, he was at Coventry as a youngster but failed to make the breakthrough, and was allowed to move to Wiltshire on a free transfer in April 1998. Was told by former Town boss Colin Todd that he could leave the club but knuckled down and impressed sufficiently to be awarded a new contract towards the end of last term.

ALAN YOUNG

A youngster in his formative years in the professional game, Alan was locally born and no doubt takes great pride from turning out for his hometown team. Having made eight first team outings last season, which resulted in his first goal against Ilkeston in the FA Cup, he has been involved on the substitutes bench on a number of occasions this term. The 18-year-old was voted as the clubs 'Young Player of the Year' last term.

NEW FLOODLIGHTS - BUT NO DAZZLE

THIS AFTERNOON, NIGEL WYNN REFLECTS ON WREXHAM'S FIRST HOME GAME UNDER FLOODLIGHTS AS SWINDON VISIT THE RACECOURSE DURING SEPTEMBER 1959.

The inaugural home game under floodlights is an historic occasion for any club, and Wrexham's came on 30th September 1959 for the visit of Swindon Town in a Third Division match. A crowd of 15,555 turned up to witness the event, but Swindon were to spoil the party, winning 2-1.

The four 100ft high pylons and their lamp frames cost the Reds £14,000 in total. The same pylons are still in place today, but what would they cost now? A week earlier the Reds had travelled to Swindon's County Ground, where they gifted their hosts three of their four goals and had hit the woodwork twice in a 1-4 defeat. This return fixture also saw Swindon benefit from defensive errors as Wrexham's habit of finding the goal frame this season continued.

Wrexham were themselves chasing the game almost immediately. Indeed, before some of the large crowd had even passed through the turnstiles, the visitors were ahead. Gift number one came with just 40 seconds on the clock.

There was no trace of danger when Reds' half back Ewan Fenton took a throw in on the left. The ball fell to George Evans, but the Wrexham centre half failed to control it. In a flash, Swindon's Jimmy Gauld won it back and streaked away with our defenders in futile pursuit. Gauld fired in a vicious drive that goalkeeper Charlie Hughes got a hand to, but couldn't stop. Swindon's bigger and more rugged side played some neat football early on but the Reds' tactics didn't help their cause. Long, high crosses

into the Swindon box were easily dealt with by the tall, visiting defenders.

Both Don Weston and winger Gren Jones missed good chances before Bernard Evans saw a shot tipped onto the crossbar by Swindon 'keeper Sam Burton, one of several

Swindon's leading goalscorer the previous season, who strode away unopposed to shoot home with Hughes again making a valiant but unsuccessful attempt to save.

However, the Reds fought back and reduced the arrears within a minute as left winger, Stan Bennion scored on his first team debut. As 'keeper Burton and right back Peter Chamberlain hesitated in going for a low cross, Bennion nipped in between them and tucked the ball home to give Wrexham a glimmer of hope. Full marks for opportunity to the clerk from Saltney, who signed part-time professional forms for the Reds only 24 hours earlier.

Bennion filled Wrexham's big problem spot at outside left admirably. He was by far our best forward and he might have paved the way to victory if he had received better support, particularly in the second half.


But, too many Wrexham players were below par. Right winger Gren Jones had been off form all season and Bernard Evans did not seem at home in the inside left slot,

although he brought the best out of Burton with a hard drive and went close with a powerful header. Centre forward, Don Weston produced his usual all-out endeavour but the close attentions of big centre half Ken Mellor and some poor support play kept the Wrexham flyer more subdued than usual.

This was a poor season for Wrexham who were to suffer relegation, finishing in 23rd place, while Swindon could only manage 16th position themselves.

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OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWITCHING
ON OF THE FLOODLIGHT SYSTEM
by MAJOR F. EVELYN SOAMES, President, Wrexham A.F.C.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1959



Photograph by courtesy of "Wrexham Leader"

WREXHAM
v.
SWINDON T.
KICK-OFF—7.45 p.m. No. 2166 PRICE—3d.

good saves by the custodian.

At times Wrexham were their own worst enemies with many passes going astray and these continued after the interval, although Ron Hewitt hit a post with a great shot with Burton well beaten. Gift number two arrived in the 72nd minute and again the unfortunate George Evans was involved. Indeed, he showed little of his usual commanding, reliable form. His attempted up field clearance was blocked by Swindon inside right Bob Edwards. The ball fell just right for Edwards,

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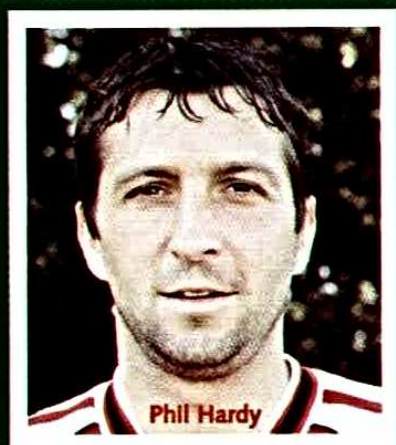
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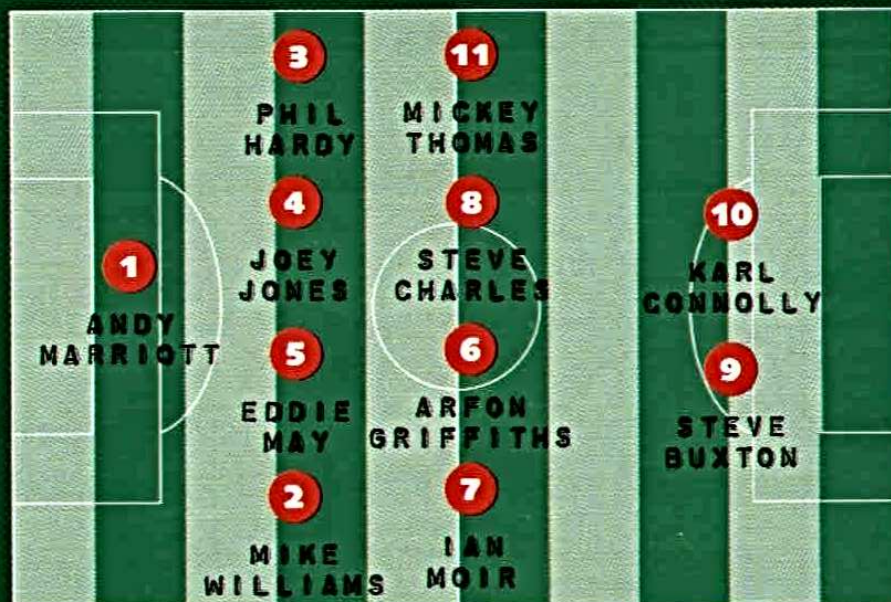
REDS 11

TODAY'S MANAGER HAS GONE FOR AN 4-4-2 LINE-UP

Write in with your Red Dragons' dream team and you could win two tickets for a home game courtesy of Carlsberg, sponsors of Wrexham A.F.C.



Phil Hardy



SUBS 12 MICKEY EVANS 13 STEVE WATKIN 14 ALBERT KINSEY

THE MANAGER

Buckley-based supporter Andy Artell takes over the hot seat this afternoon to pick his Wrexham AFC Reds XI, based on players that he has seen pull on the famous red shirt during his period as a Racecourse regular.

Now aged 41, Andy has been attending Wrexham games since the late 1960's, but does not recall any of those early visits. Indeed, his first Reds memory is from a match in the long forgotten Watney Cup, when West Bromwich Albion came to North Wales in July 1971.

A familiar face to supporters who travel away, Andy celebrated the occasion of his 700th consecutive Wrexham match earlier this season, with a 3-0 defeat at Bournemouth - a remarkable run we are sure you will agree.

Andy has enjoyed many memorable matches but ranks the trip to Portugal in 1984 for that European Cup Winners' Cup meeting with FC Porto as the best of the lot. Playfully adding: "Typical Wrexham, my best game has to be one that we lost!" Although, it should be pointed out that the 4-3 defeat was enough to see us progress on the away goals rule over one of the continent's biggest clubs. He also confessed to a particularly memorable trip to Nottingham for an FA Cup tie against Forest which was delayed for 24 hours due

to fog. However, this appears to be more to do with a night out rather than the match itself, despite the fact that Wrexham actually won.

He rates Ian Edwards' spectacular strike away to Derby at their old Baseball Ground home as the best goal he has seen by a Red Dragons player, while in general football terms he also confessed a liking to the goal by Peterborough that relegated Chester from the Football League a couple of seasons back!

THE TEAM

"I am privileged to have seen a number of great players during my time watching the club and it is only when you start to pick a team like this that you realise how difficult it is and how many players you have forgotten about.

"Anyway, my team would play in a conventional 4-4-2 system with Andy Marriott as the last line of defence. I felt that although he was a bit dodgy on crosses, he was a good shot stopper and saved us many points with his displays. "My defence would see Mike Williams at right-back. Although this is not his usual position, he was a versatile and very underrated player whose career was tragically cut short by injury. Phil Hardy would be on the left, due to his reliability with Joey Jones and Eddie May in the

centre. Let's face it, with those two not much is going to get past and certainly not more than once!

"Arfon Griffiths would be at the heart of the team as he was a midfield maestro and so skilful. Steve Charles would be playing alongside him, a player who stood out during the dark days of the 1980's. My two wide men would be Ian Moir, a tricky winger who was very entertaining, and Mickey Thomas who was a character both on-and-off the pitch.

"My front two will no doubt surprise a few people with Steve Buxton partnering Karl Connolly. I always admired Steve as he never gave less than 100% and always left his 'mark' on a game, or an opponent involved in the game!

"Karl meanwhile, was a very skilful player who was also a great header of the ball. Although he was probably a better winger than a forward, he's got to be up front in my team.

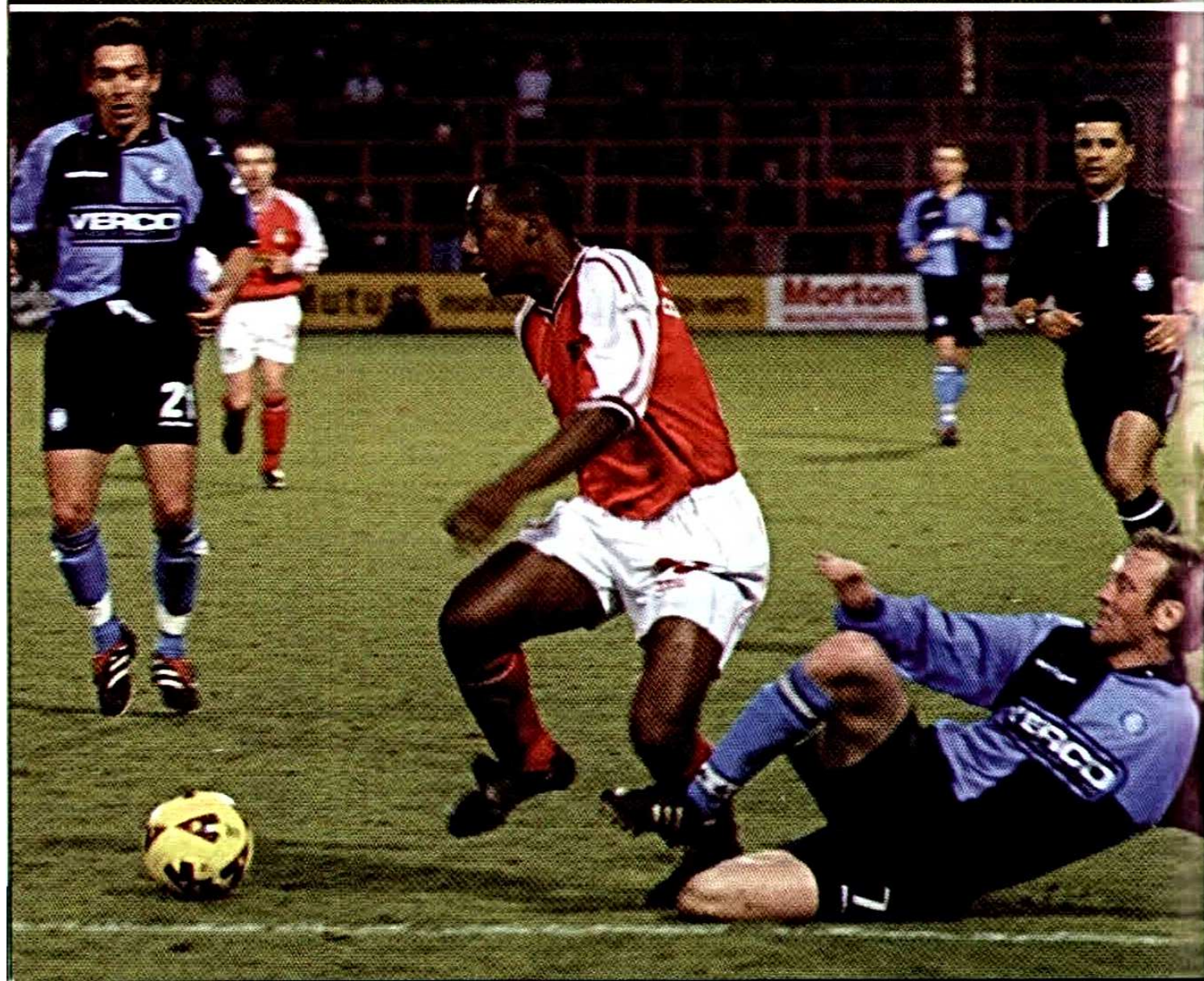
"In reserve I would have Mickey Evans, a good all-rounder whose versatility would be invaluable, Steve Watkin, a great team member who always worked hard and was vastly underrated, and Albert Kinsey, a tremendous goalscorer who topped the Football League charts during our 1969/70 promotion campaign."

NOMINATE YOUR TEAM AT www.wrexhamafc.co.uk



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ANDY MORRELL

"I SAW MY JOB AS PUTTING THE PRESSURE ON THOSE PEOPLE AHEAD OF ME AND IF I DID THAT, THEN IT COULD ONLY BE GOOD FOR THE TEAM AS A WHOLE. IF YOU GO OUT WITH THE ATTITUDE THAT YOU WILL NEVER MAKE THE FIRST, THEN THAT'S JUST WHAT WILL HAPPEN."

Here's a question for you, just how old is Andy Morrell? Well he's been at with us since 1997, plus completed a degree course at Newcastle University, does that help?

Did anyone guess at 27? Because that's how old he really is!

Obviously a later starter in the professional game, Andy is nevertheless an experienced player who has been playing at a high level since he was at school in Leicestershire, but in those days basketball was his preferred sport.

"I attended a small school, Twycross House, near my home in Market Bosworth, one which only had 60 pupils when I started, but the numbers had risen to 250 by the time I left. Even so, we never had the numbers in each year to fill all the different sports teams, so the football team was also the rugby team and the cricket team!

"I suppose this is why I thoroughly enjoy all types of sport, but my association with basketball came about through the games master being captain of the Great Britain basketball team. My older brother David excelled at the sport and when his work took him to live in Northern Ireland he played for Dungannon in the Irish National League.

"Mind you I was still playing football and on Sunday's turned out for a local youth side called Desford Dynamos. Two of the lads went to Leicester City, but I wasn't one of them and got a call up to the Nuneaton Under 14's schoolboy team. Which I think I the same path that Craig Faulconbridge took on his path to Coventry City.

"I was happy playing football and basketball in the winter and cricket during the summer months. Indeed, I don't think there was a moment that my brother and me weren't out in the streets playing some sport or another.

"As I was going up through the age levels I was told a couple of clubs came along to watch me, but there were never any offers.

"I stayed at school and after gaining my 'O' levels, I carried on to take three 'A' levels. Strangely enough former Luton player Kirk Stevens spotted me at a sports

presentation day at school.

"He had been invited along to hand out the prizes and I kept getting called up. Top scorer, player of the year and so on. It got to the point that he took me to one side and asked if I would be interested in playing for Nuneaton Borough's youth team, where he could watch my progress.

"I joined the club, then in the Southern League and played for both their youth and reserve teams, ending up as top scorer with the youth side. If I remember rightly Darren Bullock of Bury was in the first team at the time.

"With no professional clubs coming forward, I took my Dad's advice to continue my education at University. As he said, I could always return to professional sports in the future and to be fair, it's the best decision I have ever made.

"I wanted to do a Sports Science course and was torn between Birmingham and Newcastle. Birmingham was closer to home, but needed higher grades, so when my results came through I decided against waiting to see if Birmingham would take me and opted straight for Newcastle.

"I had enjoyed my visits there and was happy to travel north, for what were to be the best three years of my life. The accommodation was fine, in a number of houses that the University owned and looked a bit like the close in Brookside, with a friend of mine from home living just five houses down.

"You did feel like a small fish in a big pond to start with, but I soon settled in. We tried out for the University football team, but found the competition very hard and we never even got selected for the lesser sides, let alone the first team.

"We then started our own five-a-side team just to carry on playing. We entered the University league and got all the way through to the semi-final, only going out to side made up of lads from the first team. This gave us some recognition amongst the older players and the following season they let us bypass the selection trials and invited us directly to train with them.

"I made it into the University team and we had a good season, reaching the semi-final of the inter university





cup only losing out 3-2 in the semi-finals to Crewe after being 2-0 up. Along the way we had beaten the favourites Loughborough, when they had come to our place and didn't fancy playing against us on a snowy pitch.

"We had a number of ex-YTS lads from clubs like Notts County, Preston and Chelsea, so there were some very good players in the team.

"In my third year I started playing for a local club called Gosforth Bohemians on a Saturday afternoon. The boss there was Rob Atkin, who was the head coach with Newcastle United's Football in the Community scheme.

"When he left to join Newcastle Blue Star, he took a number of us with him and I enjoyed playing at this higher standard.

"Mind you I was also getting an early taste of what it was like to be a manager myself, as along with a friend I was running all the different University teams. It was a nightmare, as not only were we doing all the paperwork involved in getting games on, we were picking the teams as well. I soon learnt all about people complaining when they were not selected and the pressure others put on you to pick their friends!

"We also asked Rob to come along and coach the University players so I was getting to know him quite well. Therefore after leaving University with my degree and moving to work in Leeds, he still asked me to carry on playing for Blue Star, which I was happy to do.

"A friend had spotted an advert for two jobs at a Hotel/Leisure complex in Headingley and we both got taken on. It was a good year, as I enjoyed the job and Blue Star were riding high in the table, with me finishing with 47 goals, although I was only joint top scorer in the Northern League that season!

"While I was happy with my form, I was still getting no interest from any professional club when I by fate I was introduced to SKY reporter Rob McCaffrey at work. We chatted away and when he found out my goalscoring record, as well as my desire to get into the professional game, he told me to write down all my details and he would pass them onto Joey Jones.

"Sure enough, then next day I got a phonecall from Rob inviting me over to Wrexham for a trial. I spoke to Brian Flynn and he asked me to come along for a week, I was delighted and got time off work.

"This was in February 1998 and after my first day the boss said that although I was nervous he was happy for me to stay for the rest of the week. I played for the reserves against Derby County and at the end of the week, Brian asked if I would be interested in playing with the reserves for the rest of that season.

"At the end of the season the manager invited me along for a month in August - two weeks of pre-season training and then the first two weeks of the season. Work were great with me, but on the second day back I was flattened by Robin Gibson in a reserve friendly at Connah's Quay Nomads and broke my cheekbone!

"This put me out for a month and I had to return to Leicestershire for an operation. Happily I was invited back that November and did well enough that the gaffer asked me to stay for another month.

"I said it would not be a problem and promptly rang work to say I was leaving. They were very good and told me that they had expected just such a call. It was a gamble, but it was time that I gave it a real go.

"Jake Edwards was there at a similar time and we got

on well, sharing a house together. Two weeks later Brian Flynn offered me non-contract forms until the end of the season, which was great - as I was actually going to get some money!

"In March 1999, on deadline day, the offer came of a full professional contract to see me through the next season. I was made up and straight on the phone to my parents - at last I was a professional footballer!

"I made my debut before the season was out, in a Welsh Cup game, before playing in seven Football League games. But come that summer there was an influx of strikers to the club and I fell to seventh in the pecking order behind David Lowe, Craig Faulconbridge, Ian Stevens, Dean Spink, Neil Roberts and Jake Edwards.

"I always try and live up to the motto 'If you work hard enough, then things will come your way'. So I just knuckled down and got on with doing my best when I had the chance in the reserves. Over the next nine months I did play 13 Football League games and scored my first goal - away at Colchester United.

"Along with those games I went made in the Welsh Cup and after knocking four at TNS, I ran in seven against Merthyr Tydfil a few weeks later. This is a club record and I'm very proud to be the holder. I was also the top scorer in the competition, which brought with it a £10,000 prize that was handed out amongst the lads.

"I saw my job as putting the pressure on those people ahead of me and if I did that, then it could only be good for the team as a whole. If you go out with the attitude that you will never make the first team, then that's just what will happen.

"In the reserve league last season I was also our top scorer, hitting 21 goals in 15 games, which also made me the top scorer in the whole of the Avon Insurance League. Obviously the arrival of Lee Trundle was a big help to the side, as we formed a good partnership which was to carry the pair of us into the first team at Walsall.

"My aim is to establish myself as a first team regular, but injuries usually seem to upset my plans. This present run is the longest I've had in the side and I was delighted to finally get a goal at Oldham last Saturday. In the end it wasn't enough to get us the points, but at least I'm off the mark.

"I know strikers are always judged by the number of goals they score, but it's been a boost to hear the gaffer say that he appreciates the other aspects to my game. Now I just want to go on and earn myself a new contract for next season."

Watching Andy from the stands today will be his brother David, who has travelled across from his Irish home with a couple of friends: "He has been over to watch me a few times this season, but not for a few months so it will good to meet up with him again.

"Hopefully I'll be able to add to the goal I scored at Oldham last week, my first league strike of the season and now that has gone in, I'm determined to get a few more.

"For the moment though I'm settled in Wrexham. I have a nice house in Gresford, which I share with my girlfriend Philippa and the two cats, Lester and Bertie. You may have noticed that I still follow the Foxes, mainly via the internet, but do get to see them once in a while."

PLEASE SIR!

PETER JONES CATCHES UP WITH FA CUP HERO GORDON DAVIES AND FINDS OUT WHAT HE'S BEEN UP TO SINCE THAT MEMORABLE DAY IN JANUARY 1992

Having just celebrated the 10th anniversary of our famous 2-1 FA Cup win over Arsenal, Peter Jones caught up with one of the stars of that team to look back on his playing career, former Welsh international, Gordon Davies. In his broad South Walian accent, he went on to explain how he had virtually given up his dream of becoming a professional footballer when he left school at 18. He attended University to become a PE teacher, and once qualified he returned to his native Merthyr. It was whilst playing for his local side that he impressed enough for Second Division Fulham to sign him for £5,000, and at the relatively late age of 22 he realised his dream.

Born and bred in Merthyr Tydfil, Gordon attended Cysarthfa Grammar School in the town. "I played both rugby and football for the school team, playing either scrum-half or outside-half at rugby and in midfield at football. It was at football that I represented both Merthyr and Glamorgan Schoolboys. Away from school I played football from the age of eleven for George Town Boys' Club right through the different levels until I was 16. However, it was at the age of 14 that I was forced to choose between rugby and football. I was offered trials for the Welsh under-15's at both sports, but they were both on the same day. Though I loved rugby, football was my first love, and that was the route I took."

"I played in the Welsh schoolboy team

as Brian Flynn, Carl Harris, Barrie Vassallo and Richie Morse. It was when I'd represented Wales that Football League clubs began to show an interest, and shortly after I joined Manchester City on schoolboy forms, which meant travelling up to Manchester during the school holidays. However, when I came to leave school at 16, I was disappointingly never offered an apprenticeship. No one spoke to me about not being taken on. All I got was a letter saying thanks, but no thanks. The bottom dropped out of my world at that time. It was what I'd always dreamed of as I'd supported City since a young lad.

"I then stayed on at Grammar School, but continued to play football, first for Hoover Sports reserves in the local Merthyr League, which was quickly followed by promotion to the first team in the Welsh League South. Not long after I signed for Merthyr Tydfil, and played for their reserves before going into the first team who played in the Southern League.

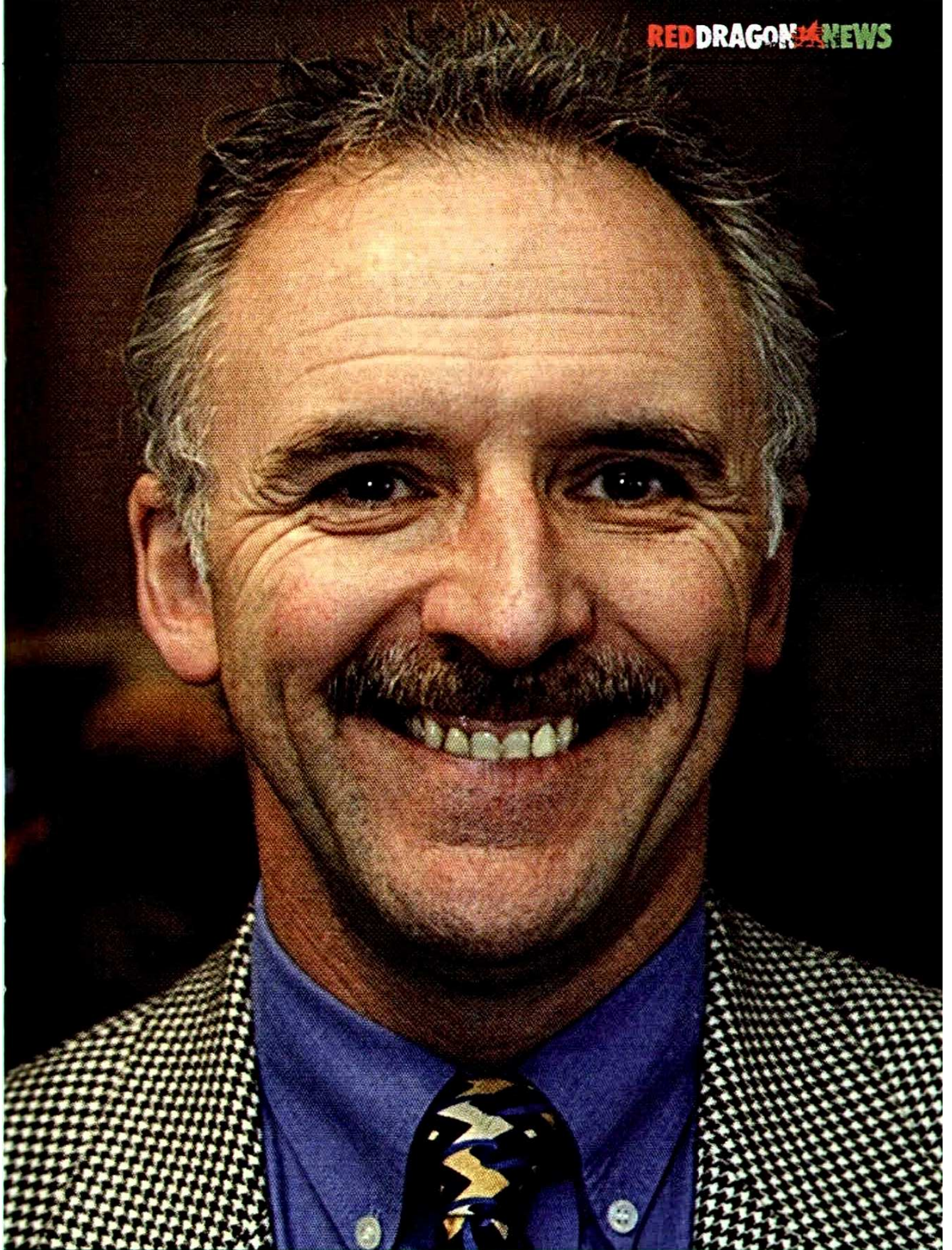
"At 18 I went to Keele University for three years to become a qualified PE teacher, which meant I could only turn out for Merthyr when I returned home for weekends or holidays. At Keele I played for the University team in the Staffordshire League, and we also played in the British Colleges knock-out trophy, reaching the final one year, but losing to Borough Road, London. I was also chosen to play in representative games for the

Staffordshire FA.

"Having qualified as a PE teacher, I returned to Merthyr where I became a teacher at Gwernllywn Junior School in the town. I also began turning out on a regular basis for Merthyr, helping them to the final qualifying round of the FA Cup, but losing to Wycombe Wanderers, who were a non-league side themselves then. I'd scored 30 goals in my first season back at Penydarren Park, and in my second season there, I'd scored 22 goals by February which brought a host of scouts to look at me.

"It was at this time that Fulham manager Bobby Campbell offered me the chance to turn professional. They wanted to sign me before the transfer deadline, but Merthyr had a big game coming up against Wrexham in the Welsh Cup. The fans wanted me to stay and help them, as we felt quietly confident that we could get a result. However, I was told that if I didn't sign and happened to get injured, I might not get another chance to sign, so I accepted their terms."

Gordon signed for the 'Cottagers' in March 1978, and made his debut the same month as a substitute for Mark Lovell in a 2-0 home defeat by Mansfield Town. His first goal came in his full league debut, a 2-1 win at Blackpool the following month. "That was an eventful debut! I gave a penalty away in the first few minutes, and I asked myself at that time what I had let myself in for? However, I set up Les Strong for the equaliser, and



then shot in the winner from 18 yards."

He soon settled in at Craven Cottage, and endeared himself to the Fulham fans, who affectionately nicknamed 'Ivor' by the Fulham fans, after Welsh TV character Ivor the Engine. His prolific goalscoring form continued, finishing top scorer in five of the six seasons he was at Fulham. "We were relegated in 1979/80, but won promotion two years later, and the following season just missed out on promotion to Division One by one place."

It was in 1980 that Gordon was rewarded for his goalscoring ability by winning his first cap for Wales, and what an international debut it was! "My Father had always said to me that if I played for Wales he would be there to see me. However, the game was a World Cup qualifier in Turkey! And my father never had a passport! It was a good job really as it was a hellish place. It was played in Izmir, and we were kicked off the park. At the end of the game we pelted with rotten oranges, with the Police having to use their shields to cover us back to the dressing room."

'Ivor' went on to gain a further 17 caps for Wales, including an appearance against England at Wembley on a half frozen pitch, but his most memorable game was beating England 1-0 at Wrexham. "Mark Hughes scored the winning goal in what was the last ever match between the two countries. As for my time with Wales, it was a great honour to have played at the top level, but I never really did myself justice. I was a greedy player, that's how I scored most of my goals, but with Wales I was having to play more as a team player, and it just wasn't my game. I scored twice, one against Saudi Arabia and another against Northern Ireland in Wales first win in Belfast for 26 years."

Although on the small side, Gordon was a determined player who had a good eye for the half chance, and he continued to score goals for Fulham, with his never-say-die attitude helping him to win the Player of the Season on two occasions.

However, in November 1984 he was given the chance to play at the top level with Fulham's neighbours Chelsea. "I had been on a week to week contract with Fulham. Chelsea manager John Neal offered me the chance to play in the First Division,

but it was a strange way to leave Craven Cottage because the transfer fee had to be decided at a tribunal. Fulham wanted £350,000, and Chelsea offered £50,000. It was eventually decided on £90,000, much to the disgust of Fulham. I never really wanted to leave Fulham, but the chance to play in Division One at the age of 28 was too good to miss.

"Joey Jones, Mickey Thomas and Eddie Niedzwiecki, whom I'd played with for Wales, were all at Chelsea when I joined them. My debut was in a 1-1 at Sheffield Wednesday, but during my twelve months at Stamford Bridge I



never played regular first team football because Kerry Dixon and David Speedie were the main forwards at the club.

"My most memorable game for Chelsea was in a 4-3 win at Everton. They were top of the league and we beat them 4-3. I scored a hat-trick. Mike England was at that game watching the Welsh contingent, as Everton had Southall, Ratcliffe and Van Den Hauwe. I'd been overlooked since Mike England took charge, so when I scored that hat-trick, I thought I'd be in with a chance of a recall. The following week when the squad was announced there was only my name missing out of the players who played in that Everton game! By the way, if anyone has the video of that match I'd love to borrow it, as I've never seen that hat-trick on TV!"

In October 1985 Gordon, now 30,

rejoined Manchester City for a £70,000 fee. "Ken Bates was the man who got me the move. Chelsea had just beaten City 1-0, and the City director Freddie Pye told him that City would have won if they'd had someone who could score goals. It was then that Ken Bates recommended me! I know he takes a lot of stick, but I have the highest regard for Ken Bates.

"The chance to join City was too good to turn down, as I'd supported them as a boy, and wanted to prove them wrong after they turned me down as a schoolboy. It was a proud day when I wore that City blue shirt for the first time, but it ended in a disappointing 3-2 defeat at Watford. I was enjoying my time at Maine Road, but manager Billy McNeil was the type who ruled by fear, and when he left to take up the manager's job at Aston Villa he put the knife in for four or five players, including myself. He left me out of the side to play in the Manchester derby, saying he wanted to spare me because of the Full Members Cup Final, and when that was played he never included me in the squad. That hurt. "Jimmy Frizzell took charge, and he told me that half the board wanted me to leave. I played in the first five games of the 1986/87 season, but was then told that Ray Lewington, who was managing Fulham wanted me to go back. I jumped at the chance as I was sick and tired of the politics and back stabbing that had occurred during my time in the First Division. A fee of £50,000 was paid, and I returned to a club I loved in a bid to help them return to the Second Division."

Gordon made his second debut for Fulham in a 2-1 defeat at Doncaster, but scored in his next game - another defeat, 3-1 at Chesterfield. He continued to score goals, and in doing so overtook Johnny Haynes' club record of 157 League and Cup goals, followed in 1991 by breaking Bedford Jezzard's club record of 154 League goals, eventually reaching 159. He was granted a testimonial by the 'Cottagers' in 1990.

"The full Welsh squad came to Craven Cottage to play Fulham in a warm up game to a World Cup qualifier. I was injured at the time, and could only manage a cameo appearance for the last ten minutes, but nevertheless it was a great day.

"My last season at the club, 1990/91, was disrupted by having three operations on my Achilles, which

made it an awkward season for me. At the end I was told that my contract would not be renewed. I was still injured, but I felt that I could still do a job. I was still living near Nantwich at the time, so I returned home and wrote to a number of clubs in that area.

"Crewe contacted me, and I went to see Kenny Swain who was assistant manager, but he never got back to me. My old Welsh team mate Brian Flynn then contacted me and invited me along to Wrexham to train and play in a few pre-season games, but he warned me that he had his full quota of players for the new season.

"Anyway, I began pre-season training and then played in a number of friendly games. We then played Millwall in a friendly and by that time I was linking up well with Chris Armstrong. He absolutely slaughtered the Irish international centre-half, Mick McCarthy, and the manager George Graham came in and bought Chris a week later.

"His move meant that there was a vacancy at Wrexham, and Brian immediately invited me in for talks. I was enjoying my time at the club and had no problem in signing. There were a lot of promising players at the club at that time, and Brian required my experience to help bring them along. I went on to thoroughly enjoy my six months at the Racecourse, and made some good friends."

Gordon made his Robins debut in a 1-0 home defeat by Hereford in the first game of the season, while his first goal came in a 4-0 home win over Scunthorpe. He became a great help to the many youngsters in the side, including the likes of Lee Jones, Steve Watkin, Gareth Owen, Phil Hardy, Wayne Phillips, James Kelly, and Karl Connolly. However, his biggest memory of his time with Wrexham was the FA Cup run of that season. "We'd beaten Winsford and Telford in the earlier rounds, but were then drawn at home to the Football League champions, Arsenal. By that time I had already been in contact with a Norwegian side, called Tornado, to a view of becoming player/manager. Eddie May, who had managed them a few seasons earlier, had contacted Brian Flynn, and asked if he knew of anybody who would be interested in joining them. I wanted to go into coaching, and accepted the offer, however, there was still a small game

in the FA Cup to think about!

"Arsenal came to the Racecourse has red hot favourites to win, but the more the game went on the more we came into it. I never fancied that they were going to pull away, as they began to argue amongst themselves, and although they kept the ball they never really got at us in the second-half. The referee gave a free-kick against David O'Leary for climbing on me, and what a strike by Mickey Thomas.

"I thought we would then get a goal every time we went forward, and so it proved with Steve Watkin sliding the ball in. The celebrations after the game

HARD FACTS

Date of Birth: 08.08.55

Place of Birth: Merthyr Tydfil

Signed: 08.91 from Fulham

Full Debut: 17.08.91 v. Hereford United (h)

Appearances: 26/3

Goals: 5

Honours: 18 Welsh International caps; Welsh Schoolboy International.

Other Clubs: Manchester City; Hoover Sports; Merthyr Tydfil; Fulham; Chelsea; Manchester City; Fulham; Tornado (Norway); Northwich Victoria

Did You Know?

Gordon was featured in both teams pen-pictures in the 1990 Full Members Cup Final match programme, but he never actually played in the game!

were simply unbelievable and it has to rank alongside the best ever moments in my football career.

"We then played West Ham at Upton Park in round four, and I thought that our actual performance was better than the one against Arsenal in a well-earned 2-2 draw. With a replay it meant I had to once again postpone taking up the post in Norway for another week. My final game for Wrexham was the replay against the 'Hammers' on the Racecourse.

"We'd played really well, and were very unlucky not to have got something out of the game. I was substituted by young Lee Jones, and when I came off the pitch, the crowd, who knew that it was to be my last game before going to Norway, gave me a rousing ovation, which still sticks with me today. It was a feeling that the Wrexham supporters just wanted to

say thank you."

Gordon took up his appointment in Norway within days of leaving Wrexham. "When I finally arrived there, I felt that I needed to bring in four or five players, but the chairman said no. As they'd just won promotion the previous season, he felt that the players were good enough to hold their own.

"It was always going to be a fight against relegation and so it proved. Fitness wasn't good, and they could only seem to be able to play to one system. I ended up playing for them as a sweeper! I decided to leave half way through the season, but the players wanted me to stay on as a player!" Having returned to the UK, Gordon joined up with Sammy McIlroy at Conference League side, Northwich Victoria. "I joined them for pre-season training in July 1993, and signed a twelve month contract. It was a nice way to finish playing. I applied for the manager's job at Chester, and didn't even have a letter from them thanking me for my application. Graham Barrow got the job.

"I thought then that I better begin to look away from football, and it was around this time that I was offered employment with Rentokil in Oxford as a Salesman. I worked for them for almost five years, progressing to Sales Manager. I left in February 1998 to start up my own pest control company, which I am still involved with. It's called Integral Pest Management, and is based in Leicestershire where I now live." Gordon, who is a keen golfer, still keeps a keen interest in football. "I play five-a-side once a week to try and keep the weight off, but I also go to Craven Cottage for every Fulham home game. I work in the corporate hospitality side for the SKY box, which means starting at mid-day and leaving at six."

Gordon finished off by saying of his time at Wrexham. "Although I was only at the Racecourse for six months, I hope that I played a small part in helping the younger players, who I have already mentioned. The West Ham game was a lovely way to finish my League career, and the reception I had when I left the field will forever stick with me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Wrexham supporters for their support when I was at the club, and wish the club well for the future."



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Denis SMITH Manager



Joey JONES Coach



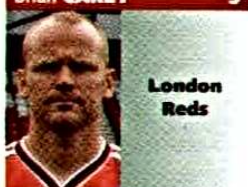
Shaun HOLMES 3



Martyn CHALK 4



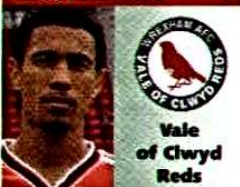
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Dennis LAWRENCE 6



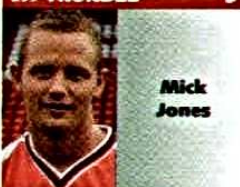
Carlos EDWARDS 7



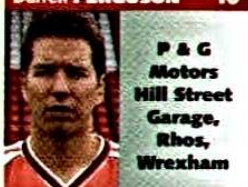
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Lee TRUNDLE 9



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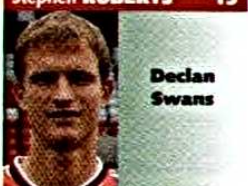
David WALSH 13



Robin GIBSON 14



Stephen ROBERTS 15



Wayne PHILLIPS 16



Andy MORRELL 17



David WARREN 18



Stephen THOMAS 19



Michael BLACKWOOD 20



15 STEVE ROBERTS

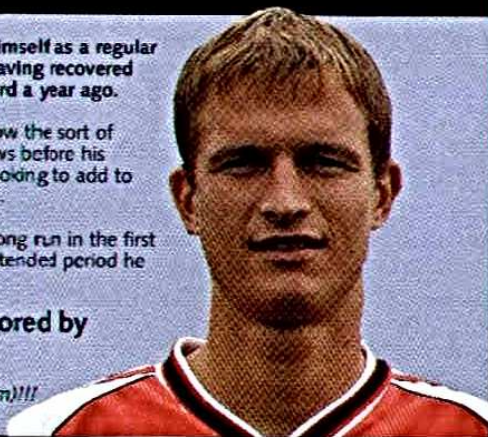
Steve is currently establishing himself as a regular in the Red Dragons back four, having recovered from a nasty broken leg at Oxford a year ago.

Now back to full fitness he is showing the sort of form that earned him rave reviews before his injury and he will no doubt be looking to add to his collection of Wales U21 Caps.

Steve will be hoping to enjoy a long run in the first team to help make up for that extended period he spent on the sidelines.

Steve Roberts is sponsored by
Declan Swans

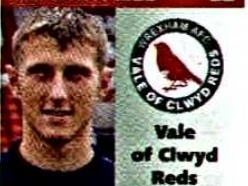
(Watch Out for their new Album)!!!



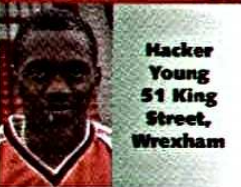
Kristian ROGERS 21



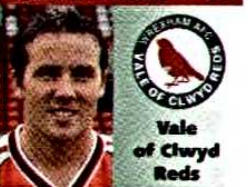
Paul WHITFIELD 22



Hector SAM 23



Gareth WILLIAMS 24



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Saturday, August 11th Match: ADG
Matchball: Hole in the Wall

COLCHESTER

Saturday, August 25th Match: European Sheeting
Matchball: -

BURY

Friday, August 31st Match: Geoffrey Morris & Ashton
Matchball: Mike Pryde

BRIGHTON

Friday, September 14th Match: John R. Boyle,
Wrexham Ltd.
Matchball: Malcolm Davies Builders

PORT VALE

Tuesday, September 25th Match: NFU
Matchball: NFU

PETERBOROUGH

Saturday, September 29th
Match: Wrexham Supporters Association
Matchball: Nigel Roberts

QPR

Saturday, October 13th Match: News of the World
Matchball: Vale of Clwyd Reds

BLACKPOOL

Tuesday, October 23rd
Match: West Brom Building Society
Matchball: Mike Pryde

CARDIFF

Sunday, November 4th Match: Edmunson Electrical
Matchball: Consignia Advisory Board, Wales

STOKE CITY

Saturday, November 24th Match: Pertemps Select
Matchball: Nibbs Office Supplies

NORTHAMPTON TOWN

Saturday, December 1st
Match:
Matchball: Nigel Roberts

BRISTOL CITY

Saturday, December 8th
Match: Celyn FS Matchball: Deep Pan Pizza

NOTTS COUNTY

Wednesday, December 26th Match: Gareth Collins
Matchball: Wrexham Club Ties

READING

Saturday, December 29th Matchball: - John Nugent
Match: Neil Shone uPVC Windows

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

Saturday, January 12th Match: Shropshire Reds
Matchball: Stansty House Nursing Home

SWINDON TOWN

Saturday, January 26th Match: Pace
Matchball: Wescott Williams

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Saturday, February 9th Match: Eric Roberts Builders
Matchball: Nigel Roberts

TRANMERE ROVERS

Tuesday, February 26th Match: Minerva Roof Trusses
Matchball: Hole in the Wall

CHESTERFIELD UNITED

Saturday, March 2nd Match: WAFU Supporters Ass.
Matchball: Nibbs Office Supplies

BRENTFORD

Saturday, March 9th Match: Holywell Reds
Matchball: Mountford Business Systems

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

Saturday, March 30th Match: HSBC
Matchball: M & M Driving School

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Saturday, April 6th Match: Gareth Collins
Matchball: Nigel Roberts

BOURNEMOUTH

Saturday, April 20th Match: Pertemps Select
Matchball: Hole in the Wall

HULL CITY

Tuesday, August 21st Match: Celyn Fin Services
Matchball: Scotts Nightclub

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Tuesday, 16th October Match: Stans Superstore
Matchball: Potters Wheel Pub, Buckley



Good afternoon and welcome back to the Racecourse for this afternoon's important game with our friends from Swindon Town, who recorded a welcome win for themselves in midweek over Notts County.

We still have a little score to settle with them after our early defeat at the County Ground and hopefully today we can pick up some vital points to aid our case for staying in this division.

This afternoon we welcome Pace Telecom as our matchday sponsors. They are most welcome to the Racecourse and I hope everyone in their party has an enjoyable time with us.

Once more we are delighted to welcome Wescott Williams as our matchball sponsors today and we thank them for their continued support of the club. Although not based locally, this company is a regular sponsor at the Racecourse and their assistance is much appreciated.

At our last home game against Wycombe, match sponsors the Shropshire Reds choose Steve Roberts as their Man of the Match and he is pictured above receiving his award.

I know The Shreds and their guests had great day with us and while obviously the result was not what we had hoped, at least they enjoyed their time with us. Thanks also to Stansty Nursing Home for their support as our matchball sponsor.

If you are connected to the Internet, then please don't forget that you can keep up to date with all the latest news from the Racecourse by clicking onto www.wrexhamafc.co.uk. We are offering a new service to supporters with our very own online club shop, which has already proved very popular with Wrexham fans all around the world. Now no matter where you live, whether it's Llandudno, London or Los Angeles you can order your souvenirs direct from us via our secure server.

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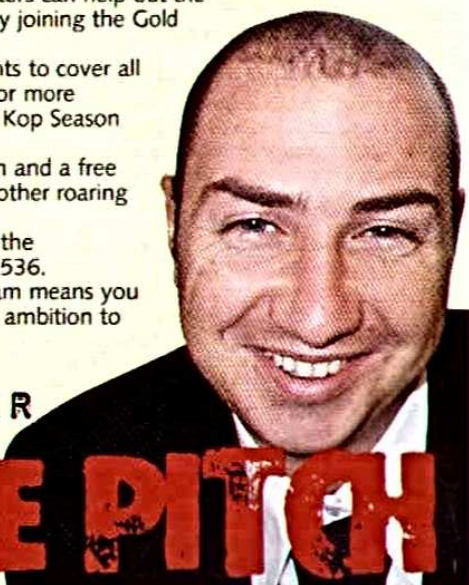
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PHILLIP SADLER

OFF THE PITCH



SEVEN-UP REDS KNOCK THE FIZZ OUT OF CLARETS

JOEY JONES AND STEVE WEAVER'S AFTER MATCH ANALYSIS

Saturday 12th January 2002

FA Academy Under-19s

LIVERPOOL U19 5 WREXHAM U19 0

WREXHAM: Peter Clitheroe, Alec Stacey, Matthew Dabbs, Shaun Pejic, Adrian Moody, Darren Jones (Paul D Jones 60), Osian Jones (David LeGrand 75), Mark Jones, Frankie Lacken, Mark Evans, Adam Arkell.

The Dragons' under-19s resumed Academy action following a three-week break over the festive period with the daunting prospect of a trip to Liverpool's impressive Academy complex in Kirkby.

And Coach Steve Weaver knew exactly the size of the task that faced his side: "They hadn't played for a few weeks either and so they took the opportunity of putting a strong side out. They were probably the strongest side we have played in the two years we have been playing at this level," he said. "In fact, they haven't lost yet this season at either under-19 or under-17 level."

The Dragons' ring-rustiness was evident in the opening few minutes as the home side took an early lead. A long ball forward wasn't dealt with and striker Neil Mellor, whom everyone at Anfield has high hopes for, was given a clear run on goal and finished well. But Wrexham shook off this disappointment and clawed their way back into the game to the extent that the next 10 or 15 minutes were even-steven.

Unfortunately the home side then doubled their advantage with a goal reminiscent of Michael Owen in the Merseyside club's first team - the home striker peeling off the last defender to score.

Understandably, the disappointment of conceding a second goal rocked the Dragons for a while but again they regained their composure and enjoyed a good spell of possession during which time they forced several corners.

Chances also came the Dragons' way with Frankie Lacken electing to shoot early when he could have rounded the keeper and both Osian Jones and Mark Jones going close.

However a third goal right on the stroke of half time, when a home midfielder turned on the edge of the penalty area before bending the ball into the top corner of the net, gave the half time score a rather undeserving look as far as Wrexham were concerned.

"It had been an even half in terms of possession and I couldn't be too critical with the lads during the break," Steve added. "But they had a typical goal threat - as you'd expect from a Premiership side. I was pleased with how we'd kept the ball and got forward and told the lads not to be afraid and have a good go at them in the second half."

It was the home side that got off to the better start to the second period though and Clitheroe had to make a couple of good saves to prevent them from further increasing their lead.

Frankie Lacken, no doubt boosted by his first goal for the reserves in the midweek encounter at Birmingham City, then should have pulled a goal back but was thwarted by a fine save from the Liverpool keeper.

This clearly gave the Dragons a boost and they were to enjoy a spell when they were easily the better side and were unfortunate not to make a deserved breakthrough - especially when Shaun Pejic saw a header from a corner cleared off the line by a defender.

However, despite carrying a threat going forward, the impressive Liverpool back line stood firm and the Dragons were unable to get the goals their play had undoubtedly deserved.

To rub salt into the wounds Liverpool then brought a flattering look to the scoreline with two goals in the closing five minutes when Mellor added two more goals to complete his hat trick.

"As I said earlier, they were probably the strongest side we have faced at this level," reflected Steve. "They play well for the entire 90 minutes and it is this level of concentration that is the biggest difference between Premiership and Second Division sides. But if you take out the first and last 10 minutes of the game then there was nothing in it. There were a lot of positives we could take from the

game, with Frankie Lacken doing particularly well up front and Mark Jones equally so in the midfield. At the end of the day we lost to a very good side but I couldn't really fault the lads - they worked their socks off. The difference between a Premiership side and a Second Division side was evident to everyone though but remember they haven't lost all season. If we could play like that against other teams we'd be OK."

Saturday 12th January 2002

FA Academy Under-17s

LIVERPOOL U17 6 WREXHAM U17 0

WREXHAM: Aaron Crotty, Dylan Owen, Jimmy McNulty, Craig Morgan, Simon Spender, Kieran Quinn, Andy Hughes, Levi Mackin, Mark Redshaw (Phil Gray), Joe Fearney (Lee Blythin), Simon Myerscough (Gareth Jones).

SUB: Mike Williams.

When you're facing one of the best teams of their age group in their own back yard, and a side previously unbeaten this season, the last thing you want is to turn in one of your worst performances of the season.

But that's what befell the young Dragons in this comprehensive defeat at the Liverpool Academy in Kirkby.

Back in November when the sides met at Stansty Park the Premiership side's young starlets were given one of their toughest games to date. On that occasion they had to come back from a Dylan Owen penalty down to win 4-1 thanks to a devastating 20-minute spell in the second half in which they scored four times.

Unfortunately it was never going to be quite the same story here - but Liverpool's under-17s aren't unbeaten for nothing!

Wednesday 16th January 2002

Avon Insurance League Premier Division

WREXHAM 7 BURNLEY 1

WREXHAM: David Walsh, Adrian Moody, Dave Warren, Shaun Pejic, Dennis Lawrence, Paul Barrett, Carlos Edwards, Martyn Chalk, Lee Trundle, Mark Evans, Gareth Williams.

SUBS: Adam Arkell, Darren Jones, Osian Jones, Paul D Jones, Mark Jones.

GOALS: Lee Trundle 13, 84, Adrian Moody 45, Gareth Williams 67, Mark Evans 82, Martyn Chalk 87, Carlos Edwards 89.

CAUTIONED: Adrian Moody 47, Shaun Pejic 64.



The Dragons gained their second win of the season in devastating style at the Racecourse with an emphatic seven-goal romp against Burnley.

And it was no fluke either! For although the Clarets could, and probably should, have had a couple more goals themselves the Dragons could easily have come close to doubling their final tally - much to the delight of the small band of reserve regulars.

A glance at the pre-match League table would give no hint whatsoever of what

transpired on the pitch, with the visitors sitting in a healthy fourth place in the table with a chance of overtaking leaders Barnsley if they won their two games in hand. They'd also only let in 16 goals in their 14 games coming into this game.

Wrexham on the other hand, although having seen a modicum of improvement results-wise in recent weeks, sat bottom of the table with only one win from 15 League outings. Who said it was funny old game?

Although there was no way of predicting the emphatic final scoreline in the early stages the Dragons did set off like the proverbial runaway train. And they could have opened the scoring in the first

10 seconds but Carlos Edwards' dangerous ball from the right just evaded Lee Trundle near the six-yard box.

The Trinidadian wingman, who constantly beat his marker almost at will throughout the entire 90 minutes, then bamboozled left back Paul Scott again on four minutes and his shot, catching keeper Luigi Cennamo off guard at his near post, cannoned back into play off an upright.

The long overdue (even at this early stage) opening goal finally arrived on 13 minutes - and from the predictable left boot of Trundle.

In a near carbon copy of Steve Thomas' free kick at Carmarthen 24 hours earlier Martyn Chalk rolled the ball into Trundle's stride and the former Rhyl man gave Cennamo no chance with a sweetly-struck low drive from 22 yards.

Trundle the forced a fine save by Cennamo with a superb volley from Edwards' corner a few minutes later but then, against the run of play, the visitors conjured up an equaliser on 24 minutes.

A dummy by Damien Hindle allowed the ball to run onto Sergio Kandaurov, a Ukrainian international on trial at Turf Moor, and his shot on the turn from 12 yards deflected off Shaun Pejic and past David Walsh in the Dragons' goal.

That proved only a brief respite for the beleaguered Burnley defence with Carlos again at the centre of everything.

Paul Barrett brought a smart save from Cennamo with a 20-yard shot and Carlos saw a side-footed effort blocked by a defender with the keeper struggling to get across his goal.

Gareth Williams wasted a great chance to regain the lead but snatched at a shot with the end result the ball drifting a yard or two wide of the goal.



Lee Trundle



Martyn Chalk

However, the Dragons did finally take a lead into the interval thanks to a superbly worked goal a minute or so before the break.

Chalk's cross-field pass was helped on, first time, by Adrian Moody down the line for Carlos to breeze past Scott and pick out Moody who'd continued to move forward, who smashed the ball in from close range. Burnley had hardly been in the game in the opening 45 minutes but they started the second period very much on the front foot and Earl Davis wasted a decent headed

opportunity on 49 minutes and Hindle stooped low to head against the post from Scott's free kick.

Dave Warren then had to clear Andrew Leeson's near post header off the line at the far post as the visitors looked destined to find an equalising goal - but, happily, it never materialised and for the closing 35 minutes or so the Dragons enjoyed almost embarrassing ascendancy.

Cennamo was at full stretch to turn away a daisy cutter from Edwards on 54 minutes and then parried an angled drive from the same player behind for a corner as Wrexham continued to press. The third goal did eventually arrive on 67 minutes when Barrett swept forward before slipping the ball into the stride of Williams who took a quick touch to steady himself and then, with Cennamo seemingly inviting him to score, duly obliged from eight yards out. The busy keeper was then left stranded by a Trundle volley that smacked against the post before he even knew what was happening. However, the goal avalanche wasn't far away as the Dragons amazingly scored a further four goals in the closing eight minutes - and it could have been more!

Cennamo's poor punch under pressure from Dennis Lawrence allowed Mark Evans to make it 4-1 from close range on 82 minutes. Leeson looked to have put his body between the ball and the goal line, and even appeared to handle the ball, but it still found its way into the net.

Two minutes later and Trundle made it 5-1 with a superb lob over the dispirited Cennamo from 18 yards and, following another poor punch, Chalkie latched onto the loose ball and thumped it into the top corner of the net from fully 30 yards to make it 6-1.

Carlos completed the scoring, and capped a superb individual performance, after 89 minutes with a 20-yard right foot shot that flew into the bottom corner, before nearly adding an eighth in added-on time but Cennamo made a great save diving to his left to concede a corner.

What a night - and what a performance!

Saturday 19th January 2002

FA Academy Under-19s

WREXHAM U19 0 CREWE ALEXANDRA U19 3

WREXHAM: Peter Clitheroe, Alec Stacey, Chris Hamill, Shaun Pejic, Adrian Moody, Luke Campbell (Mark Jones), Paul D Jones, Darren Jones (David LeGrand), Frankie Lacken, Mark Evans (Osian Jones), Adam Arkell.

I'm afraid it's a case of the same old story for the Dragons under-19s - a fine performance but an inability to turn possession into goals. Dario Gradi's Crewe are widely regarded as having one of the best youth set-up's in the country, something emphasised by the fact that the Railwaymen don't have a reserve side. Instead, they prefer to concentrate on bringing young talent through the ranks. Their success down the years shows they have been successful with this policy.

However, this was a game that the Dragons could have won, as Coach Steve Weaver admitted after the game: "I honestly thought we were the better team over the course of the 90 minutes," he said. "But we've come away with nothing. It seems to have been the story of our season. If you can't score you inevitably put pressure on your defence."

And that's how it turned out - although the blustery conditions did little to help either side play the quality of football they would like. In the difficult conditions it was inevitable that it would start off scrappy, and it did, but the visitors still took the lead after just eight minutes.

It all started with a Wrexham move that had reached the Alex penalty area before breaking down. A quick break down the right saw their right winger beat Adrian Moody and cross for the centre forward to score.

And the visitors could have doubled their advantage a few minutes later when they sprung the Dragons' offside trap but Peter Clitheroe pulled off a good save.

Wrexham then settled down and began to enjoy a lot of the territorial advantage but, with a strong wind behind them causing untold problems, rarely looked like scoring.

However, they did have strong claims for a penalty turned down, just as they had done in the reverse encounter at Crewe earlier in the season when they had at least three decent penalty shouts turned down. Adam Arkell was clearly brought down inside the Crewe box just before the break but the referee waived away the Dragons' appeals.

And so a rather uneventful first half ended with the Dragons trailing by a goal to nil - despite dominating the game territorially.

The second half began with Wrexham looking a completely different team and numerous chances were created, the best of which fell to Luke Campbell near the penalty spot but the midfielder took too long making his mind up and his final poorly struck effort was easily saved.

Luke also went close with a header, as did Shaun Pejic, while Arkell, Frankie Lacken and Darren Jones weren't too far away as the Dragons pushed for an equaliser.

Unfortunately, following Campbell's gilt-edged chance Crewe broke right up the other end and added a made it 2-0.

The Dragons had to throw everything forward in the closing stages and a quick counter attack brought Crewe their third goal.

"Despite the result, it was probably the best we've played at home all season," added Steve. "Everyone did their jobs well and we played some good football. It was one of those games when had we enjoyed some better results earlier in the season then we'd probably win a game like that. It's probably a confidence thing."

"The lads were understandably disappointed to lose against what was a very good Crewe team. We were as good as they were but couldn't find the goals. We have deserved something from games, especially the Manchester United and Crewe away games."

"But, when you analyse this game they have scored three goals from breakaways when we have been attacking in their third of the field. They probably only had four chances - but scored from three of them. That's the difference."

"There were a lot of positives to take from the game though. Paul Douglas Jones probably had his best game for us and Frankie Lacken was a real handful for their defence, he's now knocking at the reserve team door and starting to form a good partnership up front with Mark Evans."

YOUNG REDS TABLES 2001/2002

AVON INSURANCE LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tranmere Rovers	16	9	4	3	31	19	31
Barnsley	16	9	3	4	27	19	30
Preston North End	16	9	2	5	40	29	29
Burnley	15	6	6	3	29	23	24
Wolverhampton W.	16	7	3	6	20	17	24
Rotherham United	14	6	4	3	25	12	25
Sheffield United	15	5	7	3	23	21	22
West Bromwich A.	15	4	6	5	16	15	18
Birmingham City	15	4	5	6	21	22	17
Huddersfield Town	15	3	8	4	18	24	17
Oldham Athletic	16	3	3	10	18	41	12
Wrexham	16	2	5	9	28	36	11
Port Vale	13	2	3	8	10	28	9

RESERVES FIXTURES 2001-02

Wed 15 Aug	H	West Brom	0-1
Mon 20 Aug	A	Oldham Ath	3-3
Wed 29 Aug	A	Barnsley	0-2
Wed 5 Sept	H	Birmingham	2-2
Wed 12 Sept	A	Burnley	2-2
Wed 19 Sept	H	Tranmere Rovers	4-5
Mon 8 Oct	A	Preston N.E.	4-7
Wed 17 Oct	H	Sheffield Utd	0-2
Wed 31 Oct	H	Port Vale	0-1
Wed 14 Nov	H	Wolves	1-1
Wed 21 Nov	A	Rotherham	0-3
Wed 28 Nov	H	Oldham Ath	3-3
Mon 3 Dec	A	West Brom	1-0
Wed 12 Dec	H	Barnsley	0-1
Wed 19 Dec	A	Tranmere Rovers (LC)	3-1
Wed 9 Jan	A	Birmingham	1-2
Wed 16 Jan	H	Burnley	7-1
Wed 23 Jan	H	Kidderminster (LC)	
Wed 30 Jan	A	Sheffield Utd	
Mon 4 Feb	H	Stoke City (LC)	
Wed 13 Feb	H	Preston N.E.	
Wed 6 Mar	A	Huddersfield	
Wed 13 Mar	A	Port Vale	
Wed 20 Mar	H	Huddersfield	
Mon 25 Mar	A	Wolves	
Wed 10 Apr	H	Rotherham	

RESERVES APPEARANCES AND GOALS 2001/2002

	APPS	GLS
Adam ARKELL	1(3)	0
Paul BARRITT	16	1
Michael BLACKWOOD	5	1
Chris BOULTON	1	0
Luke CAMPBELL	2(1)	0
Brian CAREY	2(1)	0
Martyn CHALK	6(1)	3
Danny COLLINS	2	0
Matthew DABBS	10	0
Carlos EDWARDS	13	3
Mark EVANS	9	3
Darren FERGUSON	2	0
Robin GIBSON	9	0
Chris HAMILL	0(1)	0
Richard HARVEY	2	0
Oslan JONES	0(4)	0
Frankie LACKEN	1(5)	1
Dennis LAWRENCE	8	0
Finbar LYNCH	1	0
Adrian MOODY	8	1
Craig MORGAN	4	0
Andy MORRELL	9	1
Chris PARRY	1	0
Shaun PEIC	11(3)	0
Manuel PEREIRA	1	0
Wayne PHILLIPS	8	0
Steve ROBERTS	5	0
Kristian ROGERS	4	0
Kevin RUSSELL	2(1)	0
Hector SAM	9(1)	7
Gareth SUDLOW	1	0
Steve THOMAS	3	2
Lee TRUNDLE	6	6
Jason VAN BIERK	2	0
David WALSH	9	0
Dave WATKIN	8(1)	0
Danny WATKIN	1	0
Paul WHITFIELD	1	0
Gareth WILLIAMS	4(5)	1
Own Goals		1

Up to and including Monday 21th January 2002



UNDER-19 FIXTURES 2001-02

Sat 25 Aug	H	Tottenham Hotspur	0-3
Sat 1 Sep	A	Wolverhampton W.	0-2
Sat 8 Sep	H	Derby County	0-2
Sat 15 Sept	A	Sunderland	0-0
Sat 22 Sept	A	Sheffield United	1-4
Sat 29 Sept	H	Newcastle United	2-7
Sat 6 Oct	A	Manchester City	0-2
Sat 13 Oct	H	Blackburn Rovers	1-11
Sat 20 Oct	A	Everton	0-5
Sat 27 Oct	A	Manchester United	2-3
Sat 3 Nov	H	Liverpool	1-7
Sat 10 Nov	A	Crewe Alexandra	1-2
Sat 17 Nov	H	Stoke City	0-3
Sat 24 Nov	H	Coventry City	1-5
Sat 1 Dec	In-Service Physio/internationals		
Sat 8 Dec	A	Bolton Wanderers	2-8
Sat 22 Dec	H	Manchester United	2-3
Sat 5 Jan	Christmas Break		
Sat 12 Jan	A	Liverpool	0-4
Sat 19 Jan	H	Crewe Alexandra	
Sat 26 Jan	A	Stoke City	
Sat 2 Feb	A	Coventry City	
Sat 9 Feb	H	Bolton Wanderers	
Sat 16 Feb	H	Manchester City	
Sat 23 Feb	A	Blackburn Rovers	
Sat 2 Mar	H	Everton	
Fri 8 Mar	A	Barnsley	
Sat 16 Mar	H	Middlesbrough	
Sat 30 Mar	Easter		
Sat 6 Apr	A	Sheffield Wednesday	
Sat 13 Apr	H	Nottingham Forest	
Sat 27 Apr	Semi-Final		
Wed 8 May	Final 1		
Tue 14 May	Final 2		

ACADEMY UNDER-19 APPEARANCES AND GOALS 2001/2002

	APPS	GLS
Adam ARKELL	12(2)	2
Tom BODEN	1	0
Luke CAMPBELL	17	0
Peter CLITHEROE	14	0
Matthew DABBS	11	0
Mark EVANS	12(1)	1
Chris HAMILL	7(3)	0
Andy HUGHES	0(2)	0
Darren JONES	10	0
Mark JONES	9(4)	1
Oslan JONES	13	2
Paul D. JONES	6(4)	0
Frank LACKEN	15	4
David LEGRAND	8(2)	2
Adrian MOODY	12	0
Craig MORGAN	2	0
Andrew O'DONNELL	1	0
Gareth PEERS	3(1)	0
Shaun PEIC	15	0
Mike SIMPSON	4(5)	0
Alec STACEY	10	0
Gareth SUDLOW	7(1)	1
Danny VARMA	0(1)	0
Danny WATKIN	9	0

Up to and including Monday 21th January 2002



UNDER-17 FIXTURES 2001-02

Sat 25 Aug	H	Tottenham Hotspur	2-2
Sat 1 Sep	A	Wolverhampton W.	0-1
Sat 8 Sep	H	Derby County	0-3
Sat 15 Sept	A	Sunderland	0-2
Sat 22 Sept	A	Sheffield United	0-1
Sat 29 Sept	H	Newcastle United	0-7
Sat 6 Oct	A	Manchester City	0-3
Sat 13 Oct	H	Blackburn Rovers	1-2
Sat 20 Oct	A	Everton	1-1
Sat 27 Oct	A	Manchester United	0-9
Sat 3 Nov	H	Liverpool	1-4
Sat 10 Nov	A	Crewe Alexandra	1-1
Sat 17 Nov	A	Nottingham Forest	1-2
Sat 24 Nov	H	Coventry City	1-1
Sat 1 Dec	In-Service Physio/internationals		
Sat 8 Dec	A	Bolton Wanderers	2-6
Sat 15 Dec	H	Manchester United	1-4
Sat 22 Dec	Christmas Break		
Sat 29 Dec	Christmas Break		
Sat 5 Jan	Christmas Break		
Sat 12 Jan	A	Liverpool	0-5
Sat 19 Jan	H	Crewe Alexandra	
Sat 26 Jan	H	Nottingham Forest	
Sat 2 Feb	A	Coventry City	
Sat 9 Feb	H	Bolton Wanderers	
Sat 16 Feb	H	Manchester City	
Sat 23 Feb	A	Blackburn Rovers	
Sat 2 Mar	H	Everton	
Sat 16 Mar	Play-Off 1		
Sat 23 Mar	Play-Off 2		
Sat 30 Mar	Easter		
Sat 6 Apr	Play-Off 3		
Sat 13 Apr	Preliminary Round		
Sat 20 Apr	Quarter-Final		
Sat 27 Apr	Semi-Final		
Mon 6 May	Final 1		
Mon 13 May	Final 2		

ACADEMY UNDER-17 APPEARANCES AND GOALS 2001/2002

	APPS	GLS
Lee BLYTHIN	9(5)	0
Craig BRYANT	4	0
Stuart BUTLER	0(1)	0
Aaron CROTTY	4(1)	0
Joe FEARNEY	4(2)	1
Phil GRAY	0(6)	0
Mark HARRIS	0(1)	0
Andy HUGHES	13(2)	0
Richard JENKINS	3	0
Gareth JONES	0(1)	0
Levi MACKIN	10(1)	0
Jimmy McNULTY	17	0
Craig MORGAN	14	0
Neil MORGAN	12(2)	0
Simon MYERS-SCOUGH	16(1)	3
Andrew O'DONNELL	2	0
Dylan OWEN	14	2
Chris PARRY	7	0
Kieran QUINN	17	0
Mark REDSHAW	13(1)	4
Vernum ROWLAND	0(2)	0
Luke SHERBOURNE	0(2)	0
Simon SPENDER	15	1
Gavin STEPHENS	6	0
Mike WILLIAMS	4(5)	0
Steve WILLIAMS	0(2)	0

Up to and including Saturday 14th January 2002

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Peterborough United 3 v Wrexham 0

Peterborough United - Walls, Stafford, Walker, Rayner, Rigby, Norris, Hails, Emery, Bly, Smith, McNamee.

Wrexham - Johnson, Holland, McGowan, Davis, Fox, Styles, Jones, Griffiths, Evans, Harbertson, Hunter.

To London Road on Saturday, Peterborough United's first ever Football League match attracted the highest attendance outside the Second Division. Their opponents, Wrexham, who receive a percentage of the takings, may find in this some consolation for a 3-0 defeat, which rather flattered the newcomers to the competition, who were spasmodic to say the least.

Posh began this game looking like world-beaters, but soon after they had taken a 24th minute lead they began to fade. And although they periodically raised the hopes of their supporters, they were never really on top again until goal number two arrived with a quarter of an hour to go.

A reluctance to meet the ball could well have led to Peterborough's undoing for Wrexham never ceased to peg away quietly, nearly always looking half a

yard faster than Posh and building up attacks that always threatened but never materialised.

The nearest Wrexham came to scoring was just before half time when Hunter whipped the ball low across the goal mouth where Jones, within the goal area, met it first time only to see it strike Walls legs and spin clear. Harbertson was easily Wrexham's most dangerous forward and he was often on the mark only to find Walls equal to anything. In the first half with Rayner not at all settled in the right half position, Harbertson was always prominent, but he had his work cut out after the interval when Rayner suddenly began to fit into the scheme of things. More often than not Rayner came out of the tackle with the ball and just as often he seemed to feel the urge to get back into the forward line and he would surge forward whenever he could.

But the best half back on the field was undoubtedly Derek Norris. Coming unsung to Peterborough in exchange for goalkeeper Tom Daley, Norris has already made his mark with as cool a performance as one could wish to see. He was deceptive, his style was relaxed, what an asset for a footballer to be relaxed one could rarely fault him, for his positioning was so good, his strength lay in what he did when he had not got the ball.

The defence gave us many anxious moments, but one hesitates to make any criticism of a team playing its first game of the season, especially when making its debut in a higher grade of football. Faults in the defence may well be cured after a week or two and the attack which was never

always together may yet weld itself into the unit, which showed so much promise in the trial.

Terry Bly did not have the happiest of games because many of the passes were behind him rather than in front, but he certainly made the most of the one clear cut chance that came his way.

Emery, playing his first game for the club since his suspension last February got off to a grand start by scoring Peterborough's first goal in the Football League. It came after 24 minutes of Peterborough supremacy. The ball was cleared down the Wrexham left wing where Stafford nodded the ball onto Hails. He cut into the middle, squared it to the unmarked Emery who had the ball under control in a flash and his shot, never more than a couple of inches off the ground, had the diving Johnson well beaten.

At this stage Peterborough deserved their lead and might had another goal within seconds, for straight from the kick off Bly was through and although his shot had Johnson beaten again, the ball skimmed by the post and wedged itself between the ground and the net support. From then on until the last quarter, Wrexham dictated the majority of the play and up to the time Peterborough scored their second goal the Welshmen looked like spoiling the party. Emery started the United revival with a cracking drive that had the goal posts shaking and the crowd roaring.

Then suddenly McNamee came into the picture. Neglected for much of the time, he collected the ball on the wing, rounded Holland, brought the ball along the by-line, had Davis going the wrong way as he neared the goal area, and turning quickly fired in a shot that Johnson hardly saw, it was a fitting goal for the occasion. Peterborough kept up the pressure and nine minutes from time Emery bore down the right wing and centred for Bly to head a great goal.

The points were safe and Peterborough had won their first ever match in the Football League, against a team that played football all the time and may well be one of the powers in the Fourth Division. It is improbable that Referee A. W. Luty of Leeds, will have an easier game to handle, for fouls were few and none was serious.

It was to be a championship winning debut season for the POSH who were promoted along with Crystal Palace, Northampton and Bradford City. There was a good run in the FA Cup too, with them eventually going out to Aston Villa in a 4th Round replay at Villa Park. The home match incidentally had set a new FA Cup attendance record for POSH of 28,266.

The next seven seasons saw POSH finish mostly in the top half of Division Three occasionally going close to promotion to the then Division Two and it was during this period that POSH had their best ever FA Cup run, beating Arsenal at London Road in the fourth round before going out to Chelsea in the quarter-finals of 1964/65.

More recently Peterborough bounced back to the Second Division in the final season of the 1990's, by beating Darlington in a Play Off Final on the rain sodden Wembley pitch 1-0, Andy Clarke scoring the goal.

TOUR INFO

DISTANCE: 180 miles **LAST TIME:** We lost!

AWAY ALLOCATION: Seating 875, Terrace 2,500.

TICKET PRICES: Adults £15.00 seats, £10.00 terraces & Concs £7.00 both.

PROGRAMME: £2.00

BY CAR: Leave Wrexham on the A483, A5, M54 and then M6 southbound. Stay on the M6 until its last junction before the M1 and then exit onto the A14. Continue heading east on the A14 for about 35 miles past Kettering and leave at the Thrapston exit. Head north on A605 through Oundle on into Peterborough. Passing over the A1 this then becomes the A1139 Fletton Parkway. Exit Fletton Parkway at junction 3 (s/p City Centre, Sleaford A15). At roundabout turn left (s/p City Centre A1260) onto the A1260 Nene Parkway. Take 1st exit after 0.2 miles (s/p Woodston Industry, Orton Longueville) and at roundabout turn right (s/p Woodston Industry) into Morley Way. At next roundabout after 0.4 miles, turn left (s/p Woodston, Orton Longueville) into Shrewsbury Avenue. At T-junction after 0.6 miles by Longueville Autos, turn right (n/s) into the A605 Oundle Road. The Football Car Park is on the LHS after 1.0 miles.

PARKING: Large car park at the ground or another across onto the Oundle Road.

EAT & DRINK: The Bridge, London Road - Free House. A spacious, newly-renovated football-friendly pub. Sandwiches. Pool table, TV. The landlord stresses that the pub is away fans only.

The Cherry Tree, 9-11 Oundle Road - Punch-Vanguard. A city centre pub serving a variety of ales and quality food. Hot meals and snacks. Pool, darts, TV. Large car park. Open: weekends all day.

The Botolph Arms, 465 Oundle Road, Orton Longueville (for those coming from A1 South and North, it's on the LHS just after junction of the A1260 and Oundle Road) - Samuel Smiths. Smart pub/restaurant in 150-year-old building, which has retained a traditional feel. Bar menu and à-la-carte restaurant. Small family room with TV, outdoor play area. Open: all day.

The mobile burger stall on the corner of the ground's car park is still a matchday favourite: the hot dog (£1.50) was delicious. Outside the ground on the London Road is a row of shops including the 'Turkish Delight' kebab shop, 'Gino's Dialect-Pizza', the 'Lucky House' Chinese takeaway and 'Foley's Fish and Chips'. Opposite is a KFC. Near the 'Johnny Byrne's' pub are two takeaways: 'Woodston Fish and Chips' and 'Ming Gardens'.

Directions to our re-arranged midweek fixture with Bury, this coming Tuesday night, were printed in the Notts County programme from Boxing Day.



RAILTRACK

stay safe, play safe!

Good afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's game with Swindon Town.

As usual the Scheme has been very busy with both the schools programme and birthday parties being well supported. Last week saw us commence the Football Cares project, with children not in mainstream education coming along to the Community Office for lessons. The scheme will be running the project over the next three years with assistance funding from the Football Foundation, plus equipment and support from the North East Wales Youth Offending Team. The project, which is unique among Welsh clubs, will provide not only an education package for these children, but also an alternative curriculum that is geared to the children achieving minimum award status. It will also be working with youth offenders in mentoring and role model status, and providing sports related activities during the evenings when many youth offences take place.

Plans are now in place for our February Soccer School, which takes place at the NEW Sports Centre between 11th & 14th of next month. Beginners will be between 10am-12noon, with fun football and goalkeepers between 10am-2pm.

This is usually one of our busiest courses and once again will cater for not only beginners, but also more advanced and specialised goalkeeping. We still have places available on all the courses so be sure to contact us for more details.

If you are not on our mailing list you can pick up a form from the Club Shop or by ringing the Community office on 01978 358545. Due to the nature of the weather at this time of the year, we advise all children to attend in warm clothing.

Mark Morris has now commenced his specialised goalkeeping course for all aspiring youngsters, at the Gwyn Evans every Friday for the next 15 weeks. Wrexham AFC goalkeeper David Walsh is also instructing on the course. For further details please contact Mark at the Community Office.

We are currently taking bookings for birthday parties, so if your child would like a party with a difference and to play some football at our Colliers Park training ground, then contact us on the above number for further details.

As the season enters its second half, we are offering a special reduction in joining the Junior Dragons. For just £5.00 you will still receive one free match ticket, the many discounts we have on offer to members and all this is not forgetting the meal vouchers for Deep Pan Pizza worth up to £27.50. Contact us to receive the special offer forms.

Enjoy today's game and we hope to see you all back here for the visit of Wigan Athletic in two week's time.



MASCOT



This afternoon we are pleased to welcome 10-year-old Ryan Griffiths as our mascot and he will be joining club captain Brian Carey to lead out the players before today's game.

A pupil at Rhosddu School, he only lives across the road in Yale Park and lists his hobbies as football and camping with the 1st Wrexham Cubs. He plays for his school team, Rhosddu United and the Junior Dragons, while naming Hector Sam as his favourite player.

We hope that Ryan and his family have a memorable afternoon with us today.

TOPICALLY SPEAKING

Cole(s) to Blackburn

Manchester United's decision, at first glance, to sell Andy Cole to Blackburn was almost as mystifying a decision as that of Liverpool's to sell Robbie Fowler to Premiership rivals Leeds. However, Cole is 30, and, as a striker who has relied on his pace for goals over the years, most people might agree that his best years are behind him.

That said, his goalscoring record at Manchester United (89 goals in 184 games) and certainly at Newcastle (55 goals in 70 games) show his undoubted pedigree, and his lower goals per game ratio at Manchester United is still virtually a goal every two games. He has also added to his game at Old Trafford by becoming a more rounded player, i.e. creating goals as well as taking them.

But, Blackburn's problem is not making goals but taking goals! No doubt Graeme Souness would readily swap the 2002 Andy Cole for the 1995 version, however, if that were the case United would not be selling him! Even so, Blackburn's current striking rate of about a goal a game should improve with the arrival of Cole.

What does this mean for the player that all of Italy's Serie A (apparently) were trying to sign last season, Corrado Grabbi?

Grabbi arrived in a blaze of publicity from Italian Serie B side Ternana for £7 million. Since then he has singularly failed to 'grab' the headlines for his goalscoring. While Blackburn are currently spurning offers from Bologna and Napoli to sign him permanently or on loan, it remains to be seen if that situation alters if his goal-drought continues.

If it does then he will probably only feature as a squad player for Rovers, with Andy Cole, Matt Jansen and David Dunn ahead of him in the pecking order. But, whatever happens to Grabbi, it is certain that Cole's goal-touch will not desert him, as, wherever he has been as a player, he has scored.

At the very least, his goal return for Blackburn should ensure that they do not go down, something that is not beyond the realms of possibility given that they have only won six of their 22 games before this weekend. Plus seven of the 29 goals that they have scored came in one match against West Ham! So while he will probably not trouble Alan Shearer's aggregate scoring record at Blackburn during his time there, Cole's goal return will surely be better than Grabbi's.

Incidentally, one person who will know all about Andy Cole will be our own manager, Denis Smith, who signed him from Arsenal when he managed Bristol City. Denis turned the raw young striker, who had been kept out of Arsenal's first team by Kevin Campbell, into a goal-scoring machine, so much so that Newcastle paid three times his signing fee from Arsenal just a season later.

We can but hope and pray that Denis will produce similar miracles here at the Racecourse in the near future.

We shall see.

Resolute Eddie (The Coleman to save Souness!)



- Game Played ● Substitute
● Goal Scored ● Player Replaced

RED DRAGON NEWS

NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO TABLE 2001-02

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Reading	26	9	2	4	24	13	9	2	3	20	11	58
2 Brighton & H.A.	27	9	2	1	24	11	5	8	2	16	15	52
3 Bristol City	29	8	3	3	23	14	7	3	5	23	17	51
4 Stoke City	28	9	3	2	24	8	5	5	4	16	17	50
5 QPR	29	7	6	2	26	14	6	2	6	17	18	47
6 Tranmere Rovers	27	8	5	2	32	13	5	2	5	15	21	46
7 Brentford	28	9	3	1	31	9	4	3	8	17	23	45
8 Oldham Athletic	29	9	3	2	28	10	3	6	6	27	27	45
9 Huddersfield Town	28	8	4	3	24	15	4	5	4	18	16	45
10 Cardiff City	28	6	6	3	24	19	5	5	3	17	13	44
11 Wycombe Wanderers	27	8	4	1	25	11	2	5	7	13	24	39
12 Colchester United	29	8	2	4	25	17	3	4	8	21	30	39
13 Port Vale	30	8	3	4	26	17	3	3	9	12	26	39
14 Wigan Athletic	29	4	5	6	21	18	5	5	4	19	17	37
15 Peterborough Utd	27	7	2	3	27	12	3	3	9	10	22	35
16 Swindon Town	28	6	4	4	16	15	3	4	7	13	22	35
17 Chesterfield	27	6	1	7	25	24	3	6	4	12	14	34
18 Blackpool	28	5	7	2	21	19	3	3	8	15	28	34
19 Bournemouth	28	6	2	5	19	16	1	6	8	13	26	29
20 Bury	28	4	4	6	14	17	3	2	9	12	29	27
21 Notts County	28	3	5	5	16	19	3	3	9	19	28	26
22 Northampton Town	28	4	2	9	13	24	3	1	9	15	27	24
23 Wrexham	29	4	4	7	16	23	2	1	11	15	39	23
24 Cambridge United	28	5	6	4	19	21	0	1	12	9	33	22

RED DRAGONS ROLL CALL 2001-02

	LEAGUE APPS	LEAGUE GOALS	CUP APPS	CUP GOALS	TOTAL APPS	TOTAL GOALS
Paul BARRETT	2(2)	0	0(1)	0	2(3)	0
Michael BLACKWOOD	15(9)	1	4	0	19(9)	1
Brian CAREY	11(1)	1	1(1)	0	12(2)	1
Martyn CHALK	15(5)	3	3(1)	0	15(6)	3
Carlos EDWARDS	7(6)	3	0(2)	1	7(8)	4
Mark EVANS	0(4)	0	0	0	0(4)	0
Craig FAULCONBRIDGE	22	7	4	1	26	8
Darren FERGUSON	21(1)	3	5	0	26(1)	3
Robin GIBSON	9(7)	0	1	0	10(7)	0
Keith HILL	12	1	3	0	15	1
Shaun HOLMES	25(1)	0	4	0	29(1)	0
Dennis LAWRENCE	13(3)	1	1(1)	0	14(4)	1
Willie MILLER	5	0	1	0	6	0
Mark MORRIS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andy MORRELL	10(8)	1	1(3)	2	11(11)	3
Wayne PHILLIPS	10	1	1	1	11	2
Stephen ROBERTS	21	1	4	0	25	1
Kristian ROGERS	24	0	4	0	28	0
Kevin RUSSELL	7(2)	0	1(1)	1	8(3)	1
Hector SAM	6(10)	1	5	1	11(10)	2
Kevin SHARP	9(2)	1	0	0	9(2)	1
Stephen THOMAS	21(4)	2	4	2	25(4)	4
Lee TRUNDLE	23	4	1(2)	2	24(2)	6
David WALSH	5(1)	0	1	0	6(1)	0
David WARREN	5	0	1	0	6	0
Paul WHITFIELD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jim WHITLEY	19	0	4	0	23	0
OWN GOALS	0	0	0	0	0	0

RED DRAGONS' REVIEW SEASON 2001-02

Co-Editors David Roberts, Geraint Parry & Phil Jones

Contributors Paul Atherton, Eddie Davies, Gareth Davies, Paul Davies, Peter Jones, Paul Sleeman, Steve Trinick, Shaun Williams & Nigel Wynn

Photographs Les Evans, Wrexham Evening Leader, Action Images
The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Wrexham AFC.CLASSIC STATS
INTERNATIONAL
ROBINS

Joey Jones is Wrexham's most capped player, winning 29 caps whilst on the club's books. The following is a full list of players who have played in a full international since the end of the Second World War, while at the same time being on Wrexham's books.

Name	Country	Apps	Year of First (Wrexham) Cap
Les Cartwright	Wales	2	1978
Dai Davies	Wales	28	1977
Gareth Davies	Wales	3	1978
Carlos Edwards	Trinidad & Tobago	8	2000
Ian Edwards	Wales	1	1979
Arfon Griffiths	Wales	17	1971
Barry Hunter	Northern Ireland	6	1995
Joey Jones	Wales	29	1978
Dennis Lawrence	Trinidad & Tobago	1	2001
Brian Lloyd	Wales	3	1975
Andy Marriott	Wales	4	1996
David Powell	Wales	1	1968
David Smallman	Wales	3	1974
Mickey Thomas	Wales	12	1976



Joey Jones



Dennis Lawrence

itv
DIGITAL

Head 2 Head

itv
DIGITAL

Goals Info:



Where



3 Goals



18 Goals



10 Goals

How

Shots	19
Headers	4
Volleys	4
Penalties	2
Free Kicks	2
O.G.s	0

Top Scorers

Faulconbridge	7
Trundle	4
Ferguson	3
Edwards	3
Chalk	3
Thomas	2

2001-2002

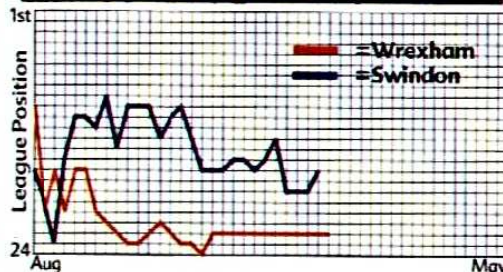
Highest Gate	5,832
vs Cardiff	
Lowest Gate	2,470
vs Bury	
Average Gate	3,778
Players Used	25
Clean Sheets	4
Failed to Score	9
Consec. Wins	2 games
Consec. Defeats	5 games

Dragons' Last 10

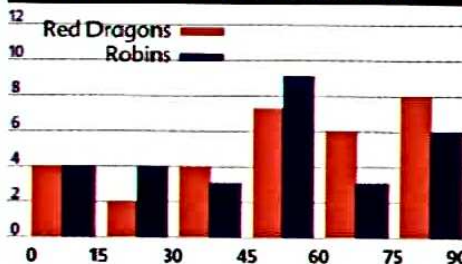
Res	Opp	Ven	Opp Pos
L	Oldham	A	7th
D	Wycombe	H	11th
L	Colchester	A	12th
L	Reading	H	5th
W	Notts County	H	21st
L	Bristol City	A	4th
L	Brentford	A	3rd
L	Bristol City	H	5th
W	Northampton	H	24th
L	Swindon	A	16th

check out the stats @ www.soccer-stats.com

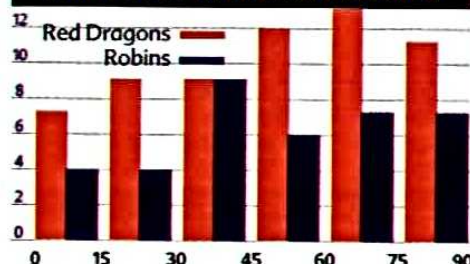
Seasonal Progress Comparison



When Goals have been Scored



When Goals have been Conceded



Craig Faulconbridge (Wrexham)



7 games
7 games
0 games
0 games

W>L 0 (0pts)
W>D 1 (2pts)
D>L 2 (2pts)

2 games
5 games

Goals 7
Games 23
Average 0.30

Top Scorers Comparison

Total Games Scored In
Games Scored 1 Goal
Games Scored 2 Goals
Hat-tricks

Season's Results and
(loss of points) without
the two goalscorers goals

Maximum scoring run
Maximum Dry Spell

3
2
2
0
0
0

Guiliano Grazioli (Swindon)



5 games
4 games
1 game
0 games

W>L 0 (0pts)
W>D 1 (2pts)
D>L 2 (2pts)

3 games
9 games

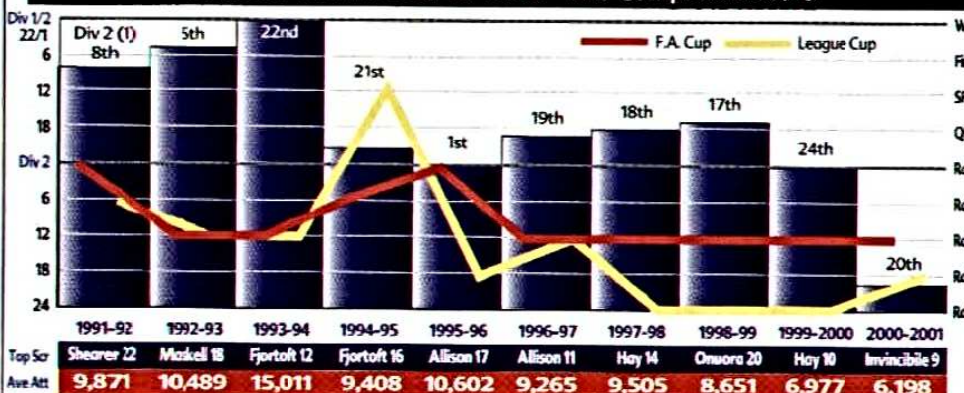
3
0
3
0
0
0

Goals 6
Games 20
Average 0.30

Wrexham Goals 31
Wrexham Games 29
Wrexham's Goal Ave 1.07

Swindon Goals 29
Swindon Games 28
Swindon's Goal Ave 1.04

Swindon Town's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record



To watch these games call 0808 100 0101

Derby County v Tottenham Hotspur

Saturday 2 February, ITV Sport Select

Burnley v West Bromwich Albion

Sunday 3 February, ITV Sport Channel

Leeds United v Liverpool

Sunday 3 February, ITV Sport Select

Middlesbrough v Charlton Athletic

Sunday 3 February, Sky Sports 1

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Subject to coverage, terms and conditions.

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DIGITAL

Division 2 Stats

itv
DIGITALcheck out the stats @
www.soccer-stats.com

Records

Highest Gate	19,329
Reading v QPR	
Lowest Gate	2,459
Bury v Wycombe	
Highest Agg Score	
Chesterfield 3 Colchester 6	
Biggest Home Win	
Peterborough 6 Bournemouth 0	
Biggest Away Win	
Northampton 0 Bristol City 3	
Chesterfield 3 Colchester 6	
Bury 0 Swindon 3	
Swindon 0 Cardiff 3	
Northampton 0 Huddersfield 3	
Swindon 0 Stoke 3	
Cambridge 0 Bristol City 3	
Consec. Wins	
Brentford 7	
Games Unbeaten	
Brighton, Wigan 12	
Consec. Defeats	
Bury 8	
Winless Run	
Notts County 13	
Total Games	338
Home Wins	160 47%
Away Wins	90 27%
Draws	88 26%

Average Attendances

	3000	6000	9000	12000	15000
Bournemouth					4,345
Blackpool					5,125
Brentford					6,342
Brighton					6,639
Bristol City					11,361
Bury					3,531
Cambridge					3,605
Cardiff					12,274
Chesterfield					4,313
Colchester					3,793
Huddersfield					10,238
Northampton					4,903
Notts County					5,366
Oldham					5,689
Peterborough					5,985
Port Vale					5,173
QPR					11,577
Reading					12,528
Stoke					13,849
Swindon					6,370
Tranmere					8,861
Wigan					5,735
Wrexham					3,778
Wycombe					6,616

Goals - When Scored

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
Bo	4	6	5	4	6	7
Bl	7	4	5	4	5	11
Bt	8	6	6	9	9	10
BHA	7	5	6	7	9	6
BC	4	7	10	12	7	6
Bu	4	3	5	3	3	8
CU	5	4	3	6	3	7
Ca	4	7	12	5	7	6
Ch	5	1	3	10	7	11
CU	10	11	7	4	4	10
HT	2	7	8	7	11	7
NT	4	0	6	3	6	9
NC	6	4	4	4	8	9
OA	5	6	11	5	10	13
PU	5	3	9	10	5	5
PV	2	4	8	9	9	6
QPR	5	6	4	8	13	7
Re	5	8	9	8	5	9
SC	3	6	5	9	5	12
ST	4	4	3	9	3	6
TB	5	3	11	8	8	12
WA	5	6	3	10	11	5
Wx	4	2	4	7	6	8
WW	7	7	8	2	9	5

Form Guide: Home & Away

Home Form	most recent result on left	Away Form
LLLDW	Bournemouth	DLDDL
WDLDD	Blackpool	LLDDL
LWWDW	Brentford	LLLLL
WDDWW	Brighton	WDDWW
LDWWW	Bristol City	WWLWW
LDLDD	Bury	LLDWW
WLDWL	Cambridge	LLLLL
WLLDW	Cardiff	WDDDL
LWWLW	Chesterfield	WDWDL
LWDWL	Colchester	LDLWD
WLDWW	Huddersfield	WDDDD
WDLWL	Northampton	WLILL
LWLDL	Notts County	LWLLD
WWWDW	Oldham	LLWWL
DWLLW	Peterborough	LWDLL
WWWWD	Port Vale	WLILL
DWWD	QPR	WLWWD
WWWDL	Reading	WWWDW
LWDWD	Stoke	LDDDW
WLWDW	Swindon	DLILL
WDWDW	Tranmere	WWLWD
LWDDD	Wigan	WDDWW
DLWLW	Wrexham	LLLLL
LWWWW	Wycombe	LDLLL

Clubs' top scorer & the points their goals have won

see key below	Leading Scorer	GS	Sc1	Sc2	HT	Gms	Gls/Gm	Pts	Run
Brighton	Bobby Zamora	20	13	2	1	27	0.74	26	8
QPR	Andy Thomson	18	9	3	1	27	0.67	22	3
Wycombe	Andy Rammell	10	6	2	0	20	0.50	11	2
Colchester	Scott McGleish	12	8	2	0	29	0.41	9	2
Wigan	Simon Haworth	10	6	2	0	23	0.43	9	3
Huddersfield	Andy Booth	9	4	1	1	25	0.36	9	2
Port Vale	Stephen McPhee	9	7	1	0	28	0.32	9	3
Brentford	Paul Evans	12	8	2	0	22	0.55	8	4
Peterborough	Leon McKenzie	8	6	1	0	15	0.53	8	2
Cambridge	Dave Kitson	7	7	0	0	21	0.33	8	2
Reading	Nicky Forster	12	7	1	1	26	0.46	7	3
Bristol City	Tony Thorpe	11	8	0	1	29	0.38	7	1
Tranmere	Stuart Barlow	10	4	0	2	20	0.50	6	2
Bournemouth	Warren Feeney	7	7	0	0	21	0.33	6	2
Northampton	Jamie Forrester	9	3	3	0	25	0.36	5	2
Cardiff	Graham Kavanagh	9	7	1	0	27	0.33	5	1
Chesterfield	Jonathan Howard	5	5	0	0	14	0.36	5	4
Blackpool	Graham Fenton	4	4	0	0	11	0.36	5	1
Bury	Jon Newby	4	4	0	0	28	0.14	5	2
Wrexham	Craig Faulconbridge	7	7	0	0	23	0.30	4	2
Swindon	Guiliano Grazioli	6	4	1	0	20	0.30	4	3
Stoke	Chris Iwelumo	6	4	1	0	22	0.27	4	3
Notts County	Danny Allsopp	8	4	2	0	26	0.31	3	1
Oldham	Carlo Corazzin	7	7	0	0	16	0.44	2	3

Key: GS=Goals Scored; Sc1=Games Scored 1 Goal; Sc2=Games Scored 2 Goals; HT=Hat-Tricks; Each club's leading league scorer and avg. goals per game (Gls/Gm). Next column shows taking off their goals, how many Points (Pts) lost. Last figure shows best scoring Run in consecutive games.

Biggest Wins & Heaviest Defeats

Club	Win - vs.	Defeat - vs.
Bournemouth	3-0 Wrexham	0-6 Peterboro
Blackpool	4-2 Huddersfield	0-4 Brhtn, Tran
Brentford	5-1 Bury	3-5 Wycombe
Brighton	4-0 Blackpool	0-3 Wigan
Bristol City	3-0 vs 3 clubs	1-4 Peterboro
Bury	3-0 Cardiff	1-5 Brentford
Cambridge	3-1 Bury	1-6 Tranmere
Cardiff	3-0 Swindon	0-3 Bury
Chesterfield	4-0 Swindon	3-6 Colchester
Colchester	6-3 Chesterfield	1-4 Brentford
Huddersfield	5-1 Wrexham	2-4 Blackpool
Northampton	4-1 Tranmere	0-3 vs 3 clubs
Notts County	3-1 Swindon	1-4 Oldham
Oldham	4-0 Bury	0-3 Brighton
Peterboro	6-0 Bournemouth	1-4 Port Vale
Port Vale	5-0 Cambridge	1-4 QPR
QPR	4-0 Swindon	1-4 Peterboro
Reading	4-1 Tranmere	1-3 Swindon
Stoke	5-1 Wycombe	1-6 Wigan
Swindon	3-0 Bury	0-4 Chfld, QPR
Tranmere	6-1 Cambridge	0-4 Brentford
Wigan	6-1 Stoke	1-3 Blackpool
Wrexham	2-0 Cambridge	0-5 Tranmere
Wycombe	5-2 Wrexham	1-5 Stoke

Numbers

PU	GS	FS
25	7	12
28	4	8
25	9	6
25	10	5
26	9	6
28	4	11
32	3	12
31	7	3
29	6	7
23	3	6
23	7	7
24	5	11
28	7	7
33	9	4
27	8	8
31	5	11
33	9	8
27	15	5
27	13	6
27	9	11
26	10	4
33	8	5
25	4	9
26	8	7

NUMBERS: PU = Players Used GS = Clean Sheets FS = Games Failed to Score

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Saturday 2 February, ITV Sport Select

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Sunday 3 February, ITV Sport Channel

Leeds United v Liverpool

Sunday 3 February, ITV Sport Select

Middlesbrough v Charlton Athletic

Sunday 3 February, Sky Sports 1

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WREXHAM v SWINDON TOWN

[illegible]

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G. Cain

Assistant Referees:

S. J. Bratt & C. D. Sarginson

Fourth Official: G. W. Foulkes



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GROUND REGULATIONS

In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at the Racecourse Ground and will be enforced by the Club's stewards, with the full support of North Wales Police:

REMEMBER

■ The club has the right to refuse entry or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a steward or police officer. ■ Any person who fails to comply with instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground. ■ Any person whose behaviour could reasonably be construed as consisting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators may be ejected.

ALSO it is a criminal offence, for which you may be arrested: ■ to throw anything on to the pitch or at players, officials and other supporters ■ take part in any indecent or racist chanting, go on to the playing surface at any time ■ to try to enter the ground with intoxicating liquor, to try to enter the ground whilst drunk ■ to possess any article, such as knives, bottles, fireworks, smoke canisters, cans and flagpoles which might be used as offensive weapons ■ to use behaviour which is threatening, abusive or insulting towards another. ■ Persons convicted of criminal offences will become subject of Exclusion Orders banning them from all Football League grounds.