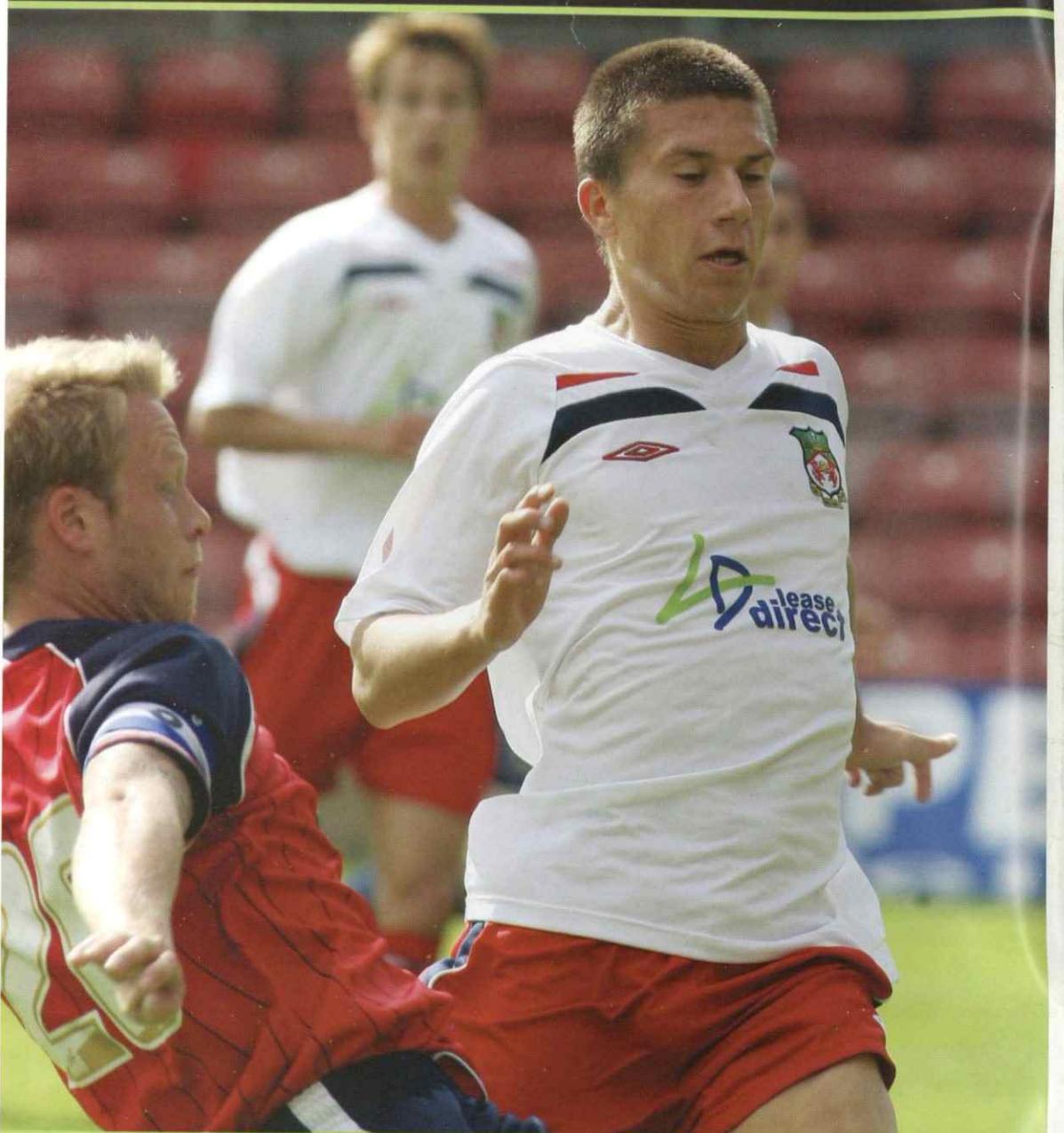


**WREXHAM v LUTON TOWN**  
BLUE SQUARE PREMIER  
22.09.09 | KICK-OFF 8.00PM

# Proud to be sponsoring Wrexham Football Club for a fourth season 2009 - 2010



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## GRESFORD MEMORIAL ORDER OF SERVICE

**7.40pm** The Llay Welfare Band will play 'The Gresford Hymn'  
**7.45pm** Match delayed by 15 minutes to recognise the Miners changing shifts. 'The Gresford Ballad' will be spoken by the children of Gresford  
**7.50pm** Vicar John Barden Davies will say a Prayer of Remembrance  
**7.53pm** A wreath will be laid on centre circle on behalf of the club by Wrexham manager Dean Saunders in memory of the miners that died  
**7.55pm** Both teams will enter the pitch wearing black armbands and line-up with eleven mascots from Gresford and Llay  
**7.56pm** The Welsh National Anthem - 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' will be sung by Samantha Williams  
**7.57pm** A one minute's silence will commence on the referee's whistle - 266 black balloons will be released to represent each of the miners that died  
**8.00pm** Match kick-off

**T**onight we are gathered here at The Racecourse for a football match; indeed just being able to go to a game is something we all take for granted. Yet for many Wrexham fans 75 years ago this very day, their hopes of watching their team play were cruelly extinguished.

This area has long been synonymous with the mining industry, and consequently hundreds of the club's supporters worked at the nearby Gresford Colliery. With the side due to face Tranmere Rovers on the afternoon of Saturday, 22 September, 1934, many miners were working back-to-back shifts so that they could finish in time to make the match.

Indeed, the club's regular 3.15 p.m. start time was scheduled with those same miners in mind; the extra fifteen minutes giving them the chance to get from the colliery to the ground after the shift had ended.

Tragically, that day, they didn't make the kick-off.

An explosion in the Dennis Shaft in the early hours was followed by a raging fire which trapped 261 miners, all of whom perished in the ensuing blaze. Four more died in the futile rescue attempts, whilst a further surface worker was killed by flying debris from a secondary explosion three days later.

This evening we pay our respects to those 266 people who lost their life in what became known simply as the Gresford Disaster.

As supporters, we pass our tales of great games and famous players on to each generation. For those in the Dennis Shaft, their memories may have died with them but we will not forget.


**WREXHAM FC**

(2006) Limited

 The Racecourse Ground,  
Mold Road, Wrexham LL11 2AN

**Office:** 01978 262129

**Fax:** 01978 357821

**Community:** 01978 358545

**Chairman:** Geoff Moss  
**Directors:** Paul Atkinson  
 Paul Retout  
 Ian Roberts

**Football Secretary:** Geraint Parry  
**President:** Arfon Griffiths  
**Vice Presidents:** Nev Dickens  
 John Marek

 Malcolm K. Davies,  
 Dave Griffiths,

**Wrexham Supporters Trust:** Wrexham Supporters Trust  
**Manager:** Dean Saunders

**Assistants:** Terry Darracott  
 Brian Carey

**CofE Manager:** Andy Davies  
**Youth Coaches:** Joey Jones

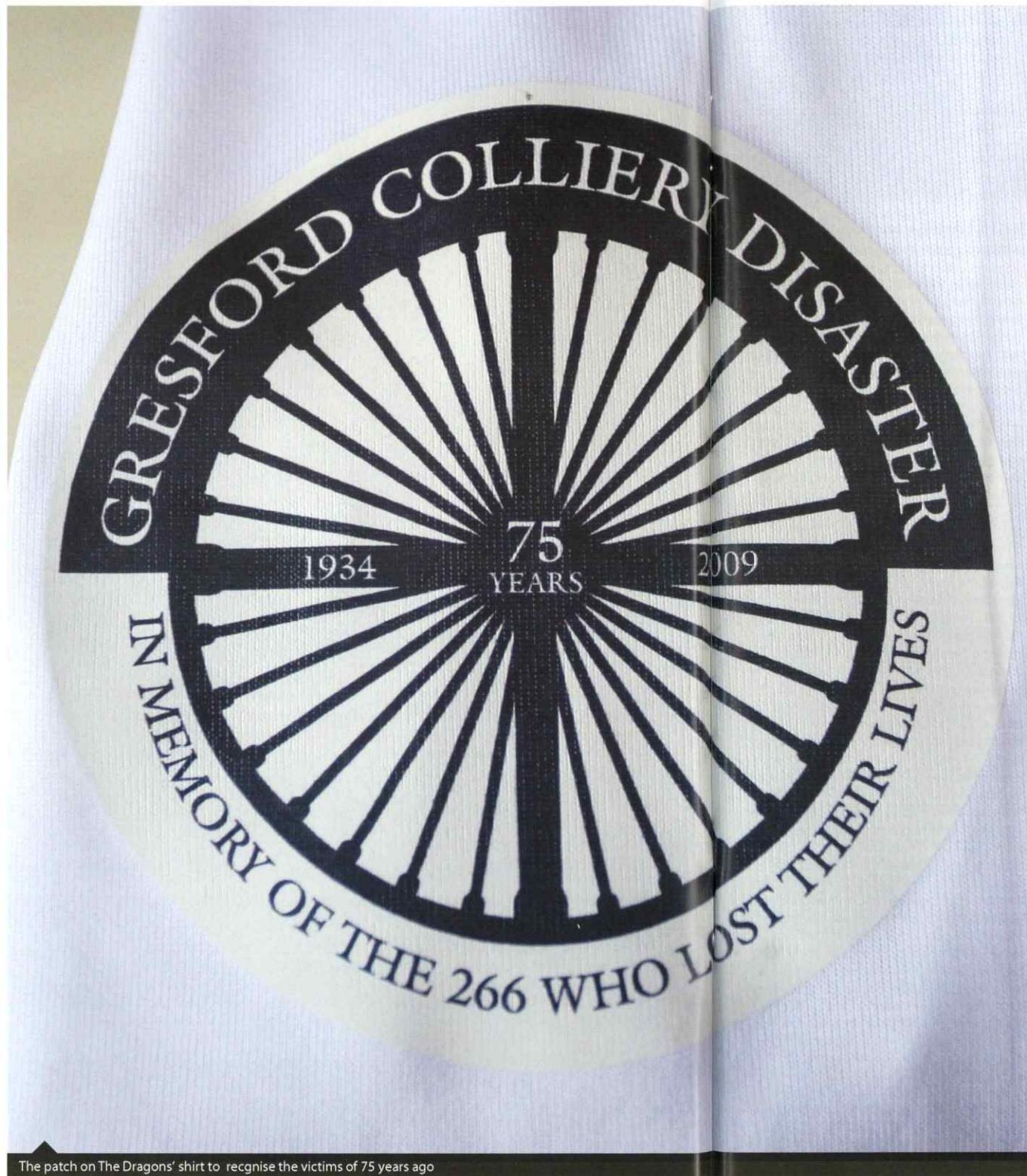
**Fitness Coach:** George McGowan  
**Paramedic:** Mal Purchase

**Safety Officer:** Evan Meredith

**Groundsman:** Colin Edwards

**Doctors:** Paul Chaloner  
 Roger Van Heerden  
 Hywel Hughes

The patch on The Dragons' shirt to recognise the victims of 75 years ago


**DEAN  
SAUNDERS**


**G**ood evening and welcome to what is a very special night here at The Racecourse. As footballers, we are fortunate enough to lead very privileged lives and are paid for playing a game we all fervently love; something most people can only dream of.

Being brought up in South Wales myself, you naturally have an affinity with the coal mines because they have been the lifeblood of the valleys since the last century. It's the same here in the north where the pits were an integral part of the local community. The miners led a very harsh existence and few would envy their day's work.

Tonight we pay tribute to the 266 men, many supporters of the club, who lost their lives in the Gresford Colliery Disaster exactly 75 years ago. It's an event which is with us every day because our training ground, Colliers Park, sits on the site of the former pit and was named in tribute to those very same miners.

For many, it will be an emotional evening and I hope that both sides can produce a match worthy of the occasion. However, if we are to do that then we need to improve significantly on Saturday's disappointing display at Cambridge.

Despite looking lively in the opening stages, we conceded another poor goal from a free-kick and once again found ourselves having to chase the game. That's always difficult at any level but we still managed to create a number of chances to have got back on level terms, and certainly had the better of the exchanges in the second-half before letting in a second goal late on.

It was very quiet on the coach on the way back to Wrexham; we all know we are capable of playing far better than we did but we're struggling to find the right balance at the moment. That's why I'm having to make changes to the starting line-up each week.

No manager wants to do that because when you've got a settled side it invariably means that the team is playing well and, more importantly, winning.

Football is a results business and irrespective of all the hard work that has gone on behind the scenes since my arrival last October, ultimately every manager is judged on results.

Our last home match with Oxford showed that we are capable of competing against the top teams in this league. Again we started brightly, with a good tempo, and had the better of the play only to give away another set-piece goal when the officials failed to spot an infringement on Chris Maxwell.

Worse was to come after the interval when Frank Sinclair was shown a second yellow card for the most innocuous of challenges; it my opinion it wasn't even a free-kick let alone a bookable offence. I went to talk to the assistant referee about what he had seen and found myself following Frank down the tunnel. That made it doubly frustrating but, try as we might, we couldn't engineer an equaliser.

We added Lamine Sakho and Angelos Tsiakis to the squad last week and both featured in the defeat at Cambridge. Lamine has come through a rigorous fitness schedule and showed excellent close control to engineer a couple of goalscoring chances against The U's.

Aneglos had a brief spell with us last term and is a skilful midfield player who works hard for the team and has a creative edge to his play. He has initially signed a monthly contract and we will assess the situation from there.

As for tonight's visitors Luton, they started the season as overwhelming favourites for promotion and with that comes the burden of supporters expected to see their side win every week; that can be difficult for the players to cope with. Mick Harford's side have made a solid start to the campaign and will prove us with another stern test but it's one we have to be able to cope with. Enjoy the game!



# UPFRONT

## THE GRESFORD DISASTER



**Tonight's match falls on the 75th anniversary of the Gresford Disaster. In the first of a two-part article, we look back at the chain of events surrounding the disaster, its impact on the local community and the football club.**

**I**t was ten o'clock on the evening of Friday, 21 September, 1934 when the night shift began at the Dennis Section of the Gresford Colliery. First opened in November 1907, and named after Mrs Dyke Dennis who had cut the first sod, the shaft was completed to a depth of 2,263 feet by the summer of 1911 and now proved work for over 2,200 local people.

The dangers of working so far below ground were self-evident with an average of one thousand killed in British pits each year, each miner having a one in seven chance of being seriously injured. But times were hard and jobs scarce; for most men it was a risk worth taking to make sure that they could feed their families.

At least they could look forward to watching their beloved football side. Wrexham, resplendent in their dark blue jerseys, were playing host to Tranmere Rovers in a top of the table clash in the Third Division (North) the next day. Both sides were undefeated and a big crowd was expected at The Racecourse.

For many of the miners, it was an opportunity too good to miss and several were working double shifts – two consecutive eight-hour stints – in order to watch the game. This was, of course, illegal but everybody turned a blind eye to it because money was tight and football a welcome relief.

The Gresford site had two main shafts sunk less than 50 yards apart. The Dennis was the downshaft and carried both men and fresh air to the coalface; it was also the main route for bringing the 'black gold' out of the ground. Just a short distance away, the southern Martin upshaft, named after Sir Theodore Martin, primarily brought stale air back to the surface but was also utilised for getting men and supplies underground.

The men had stopped for 'snapping', the mid-shift meal break, at 2.00 a.m. on the Saturday morning when the Dennis Section was rocked by a load explosion just a matter of minutes later.

Fred Davies, who was in his cabin at the bottom of the shaft, heard and felt the explosion; he left the cabin to find out what

had occurred, but couldn't see anything as he was completely enveloped in dust. Davies rang the surface to warn them that an explosion had taken place. He then rang the 'Clutch' where the haulage machine was but his second call remained unanswered.

Apart from a handful of miners working near the pit bottom, and one deputy and five men who managed to escape from the Section itself, every man on the shift was killed – all 261 miners.

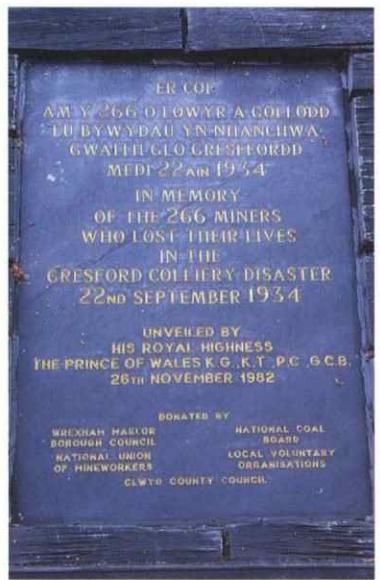
Amazingly, the six had managed to escape after they made their way through the cramped return airway from the 29s district, clambering over roof falls, climbing ladders up the fault that passed through the pit and just keeping one step ahead of the deadly gas following in their footsteps.

The rescue operation was still in full swing when Wrexham and Tranmere took to the field at The Racecourse, less than two miles away from the site of the disaster. Some 10,100 attended the match but many argued that the game should have been called off, the local Wrexham League having already taken the decision to postpone all its scheduled matches as a mark of respect.

Others felt that it was an opportunity to take people's minds off the tragedy and allow them to seek solace with missing friends and family; in some cases men who would have been stood next to them on The Racecourse terracing but for the disaster. The thoughts of those buried underground no doubt remained in the minds of those at the game throughout the ninety minutes play.

Both teams appeared from The Turf dressing rooms wearing black arm bands and the players, along with officials and directors, walked out onto The Racecourse pitch to line-up in the centre of the field. The crowd removed their hats and caps and stood bareheaded for a two minutes silence which was impeccably observed. Ironically, the pre-match music was to have been provided by the Gresford Colliery Silver Prize Band.

As for the football, both teams maintained their unbeaten records courtesy of a 2-2 draw. George Frewin and George Snow scored Wrexham's goals, whilst Urson and Baker netted for Tranmere. Snow also missed a penalty for Wrexham, Welsh international keeper Albert Gray saving it before Snow shot the rebound over the bar.



Above ground, news began to spread that an accident had occurred. Families began to gather at the pithead desperate to find out information about what had happened to their loved ones and to see if they could aid the rescue attempt in any way.

Knowing instinctively that the chance of finding any survivors amongst the near 300 men and boys beneath the surface was slim, the rescue teams nevertheless worked tirelessly during the night but were forced back by fumes, fires and rock-falls.

Three of the rescuers were killed during an attempt to explore the return airway to another mining district; a rescue operation that saw the only 11 bodies recovered. In each case the cause of death was found to be carbon monoxide poisoning and probably the toxic gas sent to sleep all those who were

The Wrexham team that fateful day was: Ted Adams; Alf Jones, Jim Hamilton; Jim Bulling, Hugh McMahon, Matt Lawrence; Bill Bryant, George Frewin, Tommy Bamford, George Snow, Harry Waller.

Following the final whistle, many supporters made their way to Gresford to seek news of survivors but the rescue attempt was by now growing ever more dangerous. Despite the determined efforts of over 200 men to control the raging fires, there was little they could do but let the fire burn itself out.

As such, at 7.45 p.m. on the Sunday evening, William Bonsall, the colliery manager, Sir Henry Walker, the Chief Inspector of Mines and Edward Jones, the Miners' Agent agreed to abandon and seal off the pit.

Explosions had been heard inbye (further in to the pit) of the rescue work during the afternoon and there was a fear that unless the rescuers got out, the death toll could be greater still. The pit was duly sealed but two days later the build up of gases saw the seal blown off the Dennis shaft with the resultant debris killing a surface worker.

In all, the disaster had claimed the lives of 266 men.

## ROLL OF THE DEAD

*The names of the men who were killed in the Gresford Disaster, September 1934*

Name	Job	Age	Name	Job	Age	Name	Job	Age
Anders, John Thomas	Repairer	31	Higgins, W. (William Henry)	Haulage	27	Penny, Stephen	Filler	23
Anders, John	Beltman	27	Holt, Alfred (F.)	Cutter	31	Penny, William H.	Ambulance	32
Andrews, Alfred	Repairer	67	Hold (Houlden) John Henry	Haulage	21	Perrin, Frank C.	Haulage	23
Archibald, Joseph (John)*	Cutter	43	Hughes, Cecil	Packer	23	Peters, Henry	Packer	38
Archibald, Thomas	Cutter	30	Hughes, Daniel	Rescuer	56	Phillips, George	Haulage	22
Baines, David	Haulage	26	Hughes, Francis O.	Repairer	60	Phillips, Herbert	Filler	30
Bateman, Maldwyn	Haulage	15	Hughes, G. (Harry)	Cutter-man	44	Phillips, John	Filler	40
Bather, (Edward) Wynne	Collier	36	Hughes, Peter Joseph	Repairer	58	Pickering, John Frederick	Haulage	22
Beddoes (W.) Edward	Collier	58	Hughes, Robert John	Collier	27	Powell, Charles	Railman	57
Bewdley, Thomas Lloyd	Collier	58	Hughes, Walter Ellis	Packer	24	Price, (Prince) Ernest	Cutter-man	27
Bow (Bew) Arthur	Cutter	45	Hughes, William	Collier	43	Price, Samuel	Haulage	32
Bowen, Alf (F.)	Borer	53	Humphries, Ben	Rescuer	54	Prydding, John	Repairer	59
Boycott, Henry	Packer	38	Humphries, Joseph (John)	Cutter-man	30	Prince, Mark	Repairer	54
Brown, Herbert	Repairer	31	Husbands, Thomas	Collier	34	Prince, William	Repairer	54
Bramwell, George	Haulage	30	Jarvis, Ernest	Cutter-man	40	Pritchard, S. (Isah)	Doggie	49
Brannan, John	Collier	52	Jenkins, William T.	Collier	25	Pugh, Ernest	Collier	54
Brown, George*	Rescuer	53	Jones, Percy	Packer	27	Ralphs, John	Cutter-man	53
Brown, William Arthur	Rider Haulage	22	Jones, Thomas R.	Borer	31	Rance, Thomas R.	Haulage	21
Bryant, John A.H.	Packer	20	Jones, Albert Edward	Header	37	Rees, Albert	Piperman	56
Buckley, A.	Haulage	21	Jones, Azariah	Collier	26	Reid, Lloyd	Haulage	20
Burns, Fred	Collier	41	Jones, Cyril	Repairer	33	Roberts, Arthur A.	Repairer	63
Capper, John A.	Packer	35	Jones, Daniel	Cutter-man	36	Roberts, Edward	Collier	35
Carterwright, Albert Edward	Packer	24	Jones, David L.	Repairer	64	Roberts, Edward C.	Collier	42
Carterwright, Charles	Filler	25	Jones, Edward	Repairer	56	Roberts, Ernest	Filler	26
Chadwick, Stephen	Filler	22	Jones, Edward	Repairer	56	Roberts, Frank	Haulage	26
Chesters, Edwin	Rider	67	Jones, Edward George*	Haulage	23	Roberts, George W.	Repairer	28
Clutton, Arthur	Packer	29	Jones, Eric	Filler	23	Roberts, Idris	Haulage	16
Clutton, George (Albert)	Packer	21	Jones, Ernest	Packer	36	Roberts, John David	Collier	47
Clutton, John Thomas*	Rider Haulage	35	Jones, Evans Hugh	Repairer	55	Roberts, H. (John)	Packer	33
Collins, John (J.)	Shot Fifer	62	Jones, Francis O.	Haulage	27	Roberts, Olwyn	Filler	24
Cornwall, Thomas R.	Haulage	30	Jones, Fred	Packer	30	Roberts, Percy	Haulage	26
Crump, William	Cutter-man	36	Jones, Frederick H.C.	Borer	31	Roberts, Robert John	Filler	-
Darlington, Thomas	Ripper	47	Jones, George	Beltman	47	Roberts, Robert Thomas	Railman	57
Davies, Arthur	Filler	24	Jones, I. (George Humphrey)	Haulage	22	Roberts, Robert William	Packer	38
Davies, Edward	Repairer	45	Jones, John Gwynn	Repairer	52	Roberts, Robert	Repairer	33
Davies, George (William)	Haulage	26	Jones, Henry	Collier	59	Roberts, Thomas James	Filler	19
Davies, Hugh T.	Borer	69	Jones, John (I.)	Haulage	37	Roberts, William	Packer	45
Davies, James	Repairer	31	Jones, John (J.)	Haulage	52	Roberts, William H. (T.)	Collier	40
Davies, James	Repairer	37	Jones, Jabez (James)	Haulage	43	Robertson, William	Cutter-man	41
Davies, James (Edward)	Filler	21	Jones, John Dan	Repairer	33	Rogers, Edward Lew.	Haulage	29
Davies, John	Collier	64	Jones, John Richard	Repairer	33	Rogers, Grenville	Collier	34
Davies, John	Repairer	45	Jones, John Robert	Repairer	55	Ross, Harry	Collier	17
Davies, John E.	Collier	32	Jones, Llewelyn	Haulage	40	Rowland, John David	Cutter-man	36
Davies, E. R. (John R.)	Repairer	69	Jones, Llewelyn	Repairer	49	Rowlands, John	Collier	36
Davies, D. (Peter)	Repairer	24	Jones, Llewelyn	Collier	38	Salisbury, William	Fireman	36
Davies, Peter	Filler	25	Jones, Neville	Beltman	30	Shaw, George	Collier	63
Davies, Peter	Borer	21	Jones, Richard Henry	Haulage	21	Shone, James (John)	Packer	34
Davies, Peter	Packer	34	Jones, Richard J.	Repairer	34	Shone, Richard	Doggie	49
Davies, Robert Thomas	Collier	35	Jones, Robert	Packer	49	Slawson, Arthur	Haulage	22
Davies, Samuel	Filler	35	Jones, Robert	Deputy Fireman	57	Smith, Leonard	Haulage	20
Davies, Thomas	Repairer	31	Jones, Thomas	Packer	55	Stratford, Stanley	Packer	39
Davies, William	Repairer	33	Jones, Thomas E.	Collier	16	Stevens, Richard T.	Haulage	22
Dodd, Thomas	Ripper	39	Jones, Thomas John	Haulage	58	Tuttle, Edward	Collier	35
Duckett, Fred	Collier	28	Jones, Thomas O.	Collier	59	Tarrant, John	Repairer	50
Edge, Joseph (John)	Haulage	30	Jones, William	Filler	21	Taylor, William Henry	Cutter	53
Edge, S. T. (Samuel)	Collier	32	Jones, William	Haulage	51	Thomas, Berwyn	Haulage	26
Edwards, Albert	Repairer	62	Kelsall, John (Jack)	Packer	37	Thomas, John Elias	Repairer	29
Edwards, Ernest	Haulage	23	Kelsall, James	Haulage	40	Thomas, Robert	Haulage	22
Edwards, I. (E. Glyn)	Haulage	23	Lawrence, William*	Haulage	40 (43)	Thomas, Tec	Collier	26
Edwards, Ernest Thomas	Ripper	53	Lee, John Thomas	Repairer	30	Thornton, John	Repairer	24
Edwards, Frank	Pipe-man	23	Lee, Thomas	Packer	55	Tittle, Edward	Repairer	44
Edwards, James Sam	Haulage	28	Lewis, David	Repairer	44	Trowe, Ernest	Collier	41
Edwards, E. John (Edward)	Collier	39	Lewis, Jack (John)	Rescuer	48	Valentine, S. (Fred) A	Haulage	24
Edwards, John C.	Packer	30	Lilly, Joel	Repairer	41	Vaughn, John Edward	Repairer	28
Edwards, E. T. (Thomas David)	Ripper	40	Lloyd, Thomas	Packer	55	White, John	Beltman	38
Edwards, William	Ripper	32	Lloyd, William	Collier	59	Williams, George	Collier	31
Edwardson, John	Beltman	41	Lloyd, William Sydney	Haulage	17	Williams, Harold	Collier	37
Ellis, George (Edward)	Collier	50	Lucas, John	Collier	59	Williams, Hugh (L.)	Collier	43
Evans, Fred	Collier	32	Mathias, Samuel	Repairer	30	Williams, John	Repairer	62
Evans, Joss (John)	Cutterman	32	McKean, Joseph (John)	Repairer	30	Williams, John Thos.	Packer	41
Evans, Norman	Doggie	45	Maggis, Colin V.	Haulage	17	Williams, J. T. (John D.)	Repairer	29
Evans, Ralph	Cutter	37	Mannion, Albert	Filler	29	Williams, John	Repairer	44
Fisher, Len	Haulage	30	Manuel S.A. (Thomas A.)	Repairer	33	Williams, John	Repairer	44
Foulkes, H. (Irwin)	Haulage	21	Martin, William Henry	Ripper	37	Williams, Joseph (James)	Collier	66
Gabriel, Richard George	Collier	61	Martins, William V.	Haulage	18	Williams, N. (Morris)	Electrician	24
Gittens, Joseph (John Henry)	Repairer	42	Meades, William	Packer	39	Williams, Reg	Repairer	57
Goodwin, John	Packer	51	Mitchell, George	Haulage	23	Williams, Thomas	Repairer	57
Griffiths, Edward	Filler	21	Monks, Ernest	Haulage	23	Williams, William A.	Cutter-man	29
Griffiths, Ellis	Packer	50	Morley, Edward	Repairer	57	Wilson, John Walter	Haulage	32
Griffiths, Emmanuel	Packer	53	Morris, Alfred	Haulage	20	Witter, Henry	Repairer	56
Griffiths, E. C.	Repairer	25	Morris, Harry	Repairer	32	Wynne, Edward	Repairer	68
Griffiths, Frank (John Francis)	Repairer	57	Nichols, John	Collier	29	Yemm, Morgan (J.)	Repairer	28
Griffiths, Walter	Repairer	50	Nichols, William (Henry)	Packer	54	* Indicates body recovered all others apart from rescuers were sealed in the pit.		
Hall Water	Packer	49	Owens, Evan Henry	Haulage	20	List researched and compiled by Peter Chadwick		
Hallan, Thomas W.	Packer	62	Palmer, Alexander	Repairer	40	Wrexham.		
Hamington, Arthur	Repairer	21	Parry, I. S. (Isac)	Repairer	65			
Harrison, Arthur	Collier	15	Parry, John E.	Haulage	31			
Harrison, Charles Edward	Haulage	56	Parry, F. J. (John Richard)	Haulage	21			
Hewitt, P. (Phillip J.)	Repairer	56						

# UPFRONT

## Croeso

Heno rydym wedi ymgynull yma ar Y Cae Ras ar gyfer gêm bêl-droed; ond mae dod i weld gêm yn rywibeth rydym i gyd yn ei gymryd yn ganiataol. Ac eto i nifer o gefnogwyr Wrecsam union 75 mlynedd yn ôl i hedi ffeddlanodd eu gofeithion o weld y tim yn chwarae unwaith ac am byth.

Mae gan yr ardal hon draddodiad hir a'r diwydiant glo; dim syndod felly bod cannoedd o gefnogwyr y clwb wedi gweithio ym mhwl glo Gresfordd dros y blynnyddoedd. Gydâ'r tim i gwrdd â Trannere Rovers ar brynhawn Sadwrn Medi 22, 1934 roedd nifer o lowyr yn gweithio dwy shifft yn syth ar ôl ei gilydd er mwyn gorffen eu dyletswyddau mewn da bryd i weld y gêm.

Ac roedd amser cic gynta gemau'r clwb bryd hynny am 3.15 wedi ei drefnu yn bwrpasol gyda'r glowyr mewn golwg; y chwarter awr ychwanegol yn rhoi cyfle iddynt ymlwybro o'r pwll i'r cae wedi'r shifft waith ddirwlyn i ben. Ond y diwrnod hwnnw - fe ddigwyddodd trychineb Gresfordd, ac ni wnaethon nhw gyraeodd y cae o gwbl.

Yn dilyn ffrwydriad yn shafft Dennis yn oriau mân y bore fe gynheuodd tân rheibus a gaethiwoodd 261 o lowyr, pob un ohonynt yn marw yn y fflamau gwyllt. Lladdwyd 4 arall mewn ymgais ofer i'w hachub, gydag un gweithiwr ar yr wyneb yn cael ei ladd tridiau yn ddiweddarach yn dilyn ail ffrwydriad.

Heno rydym yn rhoi teyrnged i'r 266 a gollodd eu bywydau yn y digwyddiad erchyll, a adnabyddir yn symf fel trychineb Gresfordd.

Fel cefnogwyr, rydym yn trosglwyddo hanes gemau cofiadau a helyniant chwaraewyr disgrair y gorffennol i'r cenedlaethau i dddod. I'r rhai oedd yn shafft Dennis, rydym yn eu coffau hyd heddiw.



## Silver Service

Wrexham FC stewards Louise and Dilwyn Baker celebrated 25 years of marriage this summer by organising a special Charity Night at Brymbo Sports & Social Club. Over 200 family and friends attended the event, which raised over £920 for Nightingale and Hope House Hospices, and the couple were recently on hand to present a cheque to Rachel Jones from Hope House.

## IAN GWYN HUGHES



*BBC Wales' Football Editor IAN GWYN HUGHES reflects on tonight's special memorial to the victims of the Gresford Disaster*

**W**e have all done it of course; had a real moan about our club. That they're not doing this, not doing that and that they pay no attention to what the fans really want. But, on this occasion, Wrexham Football Club and chief executive Paul Retout have got it spot on, one hundred percent right and they deserve plenty of praise.

I am of course referring to the club and the tribute being paid tonight to the 266 people who lost their lives in the Gresford Colliery tragedy, 75 years ago this very day. My father was just three at the time, my father-in-law would have been four, both living in the Coedpoeth, Rhosllannerchrugog area of Wrexham.

Too young of course to have witnessed the tragedy, too young to have realised its significance, but they do recall the feeling in the respective households. "Mae rywibeth mawr wedi digwydd yn Gresford," which translated means "that something big has happened in Gresford."

Over the years at sporting events tragedies are remembered. In football we have plenty, in recent memory the Hillsborough Disaster and the Bradford Fire. I can recall hearing about the spectators being killed during a crowd surge at a Glasgow derby between Rangers and Celtic after a Colin Stein goal in the early 1970's. And I was watching Bolton versus Stoke on Saturday in the Premier League, a game which recalled sad memories of another tragedy at Burden Park in the middle of the last century.

Some are remembered in a high profile way and gain much publicity, others like the Bradford Fire in a quieter more sombre, reflective manner. This evening is somewhat different. It is a remembrance of an event that affected the community in a huge way, and Wrexham Football Club is part of that

community. It did not occur at The Racecourse but affected many families who used to come to watch Wrexham play.

So many of the younger members of the BBC Sports Department in Cardiff have asked me at work why the kick-off tonight is being put back to 8.00 p.m. They were fascinated when I explained that

Wrexham used to start matches at 3.15 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon so that miners could finish their shift and get to the match at The Racecourse in time for kick-off.

I pointed out that community, not television, determined the kick-off time. It's so very different today of course when TV can dictate that some fans might not get back on a Sunday night until the early hours of the morning before having to go to work.

And the fact that the football club is playing such a central part in the day is huge. It shows that it is and wants to be part of the community, that Wrexham Football Club exists day-in, day-out, and that it is not just somewhere to go once or twice a fortnight to watch ball being kicked.

It is part of the fabric which makes Wrexham what it is as a town - and in the surrounding area - and what it should be and it's a reason for supporting the club through thick and thin. It is part of history.

And that is why, come eight o'clock, once the referee blows his whistle, we will all cheer or praise what is good, get frustrated and moan when things go wrong, or when someone makes a mistake or a wrong decision. Because it is something we all care about.

But come ten o'clock, win - hopefully secured with the style Steve Fox showed in a 3-1 win here some 30 years ago with a memorable chip over Jake Findlay - lose or draw, we should all remember that it is only a game. And there will be another chance.

## ALTER EGO

*Ever typed your own name into Google to see just what's out there? Go on, you know you have and so that's just what we've done for each of the Wrexham players. This week it's the turn of...*



## ASHLEY WESTWOOD

Our skipper is rather let down by his namesakes across the internet!

If you type 'Ashley Westwood' into YouTube you only get one result, posted by a person with that name entitled 'Me Messing Around!'. Trust us, this person exhibits few of the qualities required to lead Wrexham out at The Racecourse!

You can also hook up with an 'Ashley Westwood' on Facebook, but we wouldn't particularly recommend it. For novices, here's a little basic netiquette: anyone who posts purely in capitals is a worry - what suppressed rage lies beneath? It's the sort of thing Vinny Jones would do!

Regardless of the capitalisation, if their message reads "MY NAME IS ASHLEY WESTWOOD CHEERS DEMONS I LOVE CRADLE OF FILTH", you probably should be receiving another subtle message to steer well clear.

Why not spend £5 on 'Vodka Poetry' by Ashley Westwood instead? Published last year, and we strongly suspect still in its first print run, its key themes are listed as autobiography, poetry, borderline personality disorder, abuse, relationships and empowerment.

Hurrah!

It doesn't sound like the most cheerful read; she and her husband [the author of 'Suicide Junkie' by the way] have both got 'you and me vs. the world' tattooed on their bodies.

And Alex Ferguson thought he was good at creating a siege mentality!

# twitter

....YE NOT

*Each week our intrepid reporters have been scanning the new social networking phenomenon to find out the up to date thoughts of the great and the good. So with apologies to all concerned, here's our own light-hearted slant on recent events...*

## EMMANUEL ADEBAYOR

**SATURDAY 12.44**

We play Arsenal today! Magnifique! I can't wait to see all my old chums!

**17.59**

That was brilliant fun! I even scored a goal. It was a great header, and I was so pleased that I ran the length of the pitch to celebrate with the fans. Obviously I felt a bit daft when I remembered that I don't play for Arsenal any more, and I'd gone to the wrong end. What a twit I am! Still, nobody seemed bothered - in fact the Arsenal fans went absolutely crazy! It was just like the good old days - they must love me so much!

**18.21**

I'm confused. When I went into the changing room the chief executive came in and said I'd better go out and say sorry. Obviously I didn't have a clue what he was talking about. He said a steward had been injured during my celebrations. Honestly, if you can't have a bit of fun with your mates then the world's gone crazy! The fans were so pleased with me they showered me with gifts. Not sure what I'll use a stool for though. Artexing the ceiling?

**19.22**

Now Robin Van Persie's complaining about me. I just don't get it! He's always showing off about his new boots, so I thought he'd like to have a closer look at mine. You know what my problem is? I'm too friendly sometimes.

**MONDAY 10.52**

Had a great time in training today. I thought I should show my new boots to my team mates too, but Mister Hughes came across and told me to stop. He said I had to finish training in solitude. I know I'm new to the area but I think it's pronounced 'Stockport'. Anyway, I didn't have to go there in the end, as he let me run round a field on my own instead.

**WEDNESDAY 11.41**

I've been charged with bringing the game into disrepute! It seems like everyone thinks they spotted me doing something bad. Even Arsene Wenger saw it! Still, if I'm suspended for a month it won't be too bad. It'll give me more of a chance to artex that ceiling. This stool's an absolute godsend for getting to those hard to reach places!

## Last Line Of Defence

**O**xford's first win at The Racecourse, after twelve attempts stretched over forty-five years, was certainly memorable, if not for the right reasons. As a catalogue of bizarre incidents disfigured the game it even became hard to follow for those in the thick of it, as Andy Fleming attests.

"It got a bit crazy in the last fifteen minutes. It got a bit open and we started getting a little desperate because we had a man sent-off, which was a debatable decision," said the midfielder.

The dismissal of Frank Sinclair was what prompted the harum-scarum conclusion as Wrexham's desperation, despite their numerical disadvantage, led to risks having to be taken. The red card incident was not seen by many in the ground though, as most of the crowd and the referee were busy watching a tussle between Marc Williams and Oxford striker James Constable.

It was on the testimony of the assistant referee that Sinclair was given a second yellow, and Fleming admitted to being as flummoxed as everyone else by the decision.

"It was an incident on our left wing: their player got played in and I thought the ref was going to blow for a foul for us but there was a challenge, then a scuffle with Frank and the linesman called the ref, who didn't see it, and he sent him off. It was all very confused!"

The ensuing reorganisation had to be carried out in the absence of Dean Saunders, who was dismissed in the subsequent melee and therefore couldn't keep his hand on the tiller. It led to Fleming having to fill a rather unexpected position, as the diminutive midfielder was asking briefly to fill in at the back in a three-man defence!

"It got a bit confused because Frank got sent-off and we pushed Mani up front. There was a bit of a hole at the back and I filled in!"

"It was disappointing – it always is when you lose, of course. Taking into account the chances that we had, we could've won the game or, at worst, got a draw out of it.

"It was a shame there was no midweek game, so we could get out there and put it right. We need to get our heads up and try to start getting results."

Fleming is certainly right. With the top of the table sides starting to pull away and a run of tough games yielding no reward so far, there's no doubt that Wrexham need to start accumulating eye-catching results, and soon!



## Jonah Moaner

**T**he return of Mark Jones to the Racecourse in the summer was greeted with glee by Wrexham's fans, who were delighted to see their talented prodigal son come home. While his efforts in midfield can't be faulted, it has been a frustrating start to his second stint in a red shirt though, as results deteriorate.

Things came to a head with another defeat, and another clean sheet for the opposition, at Cambridge on Saturday, and Jones was massively frustrated afterwards.

"It's not good enough, plain and simple. We could have been playing out there until next Saturday and I don't think we would have scored. It's the same story every week: sloppy mistakes and we don't look like scoring."

Cambridge's first goal particularly

## THE X-FACTOR

*You all know the quiz question: "How many past and present Football League sides have an 'X' in their name?" Well we thought we'd expand the search out across the World Wide Web, so step aside Simon Cowell because here's Wrexham's very own X-factor...*

### LA GALAXY

**C**ountry: USA  
**C**olours: All white  
**N**ickname: The Galaxy  
**F**ounded: 1995



Major League Soccer's second most successful side, Los Angeles Galaxy, gained worldwide recognition in 2007 when they signed former England captain David Beckham from Real Madrid. Making him the highest paid player in MLS history, Galaxy has now become the league's most profitable club.

The club takes its name from the fact that Los Angeles is home to the stars of Hollywood, and shares a stadium with local rival Chivas USA at the 27,000 seater Home Depot Centre stadium in Carson.

In the first ten years of their existence, Galaxy tasted great success. Winning the Western Conference five times, the club also won two MLS Cup's, two US Open titles and lifted the CONCACAF Champions Cup in 2000.

Since 2006 however, the club has struggled to maintain its winning ways and several managers have come and gone. Beckham is yet to inspire his team to any silverware since his arrival, and his loan move to Milan upset many of The Galaxy's following as well as his team mates; highlighting the current disharmony at the club.

## Trading Places

**F**or Welsh Under-21 international Marc Williams our last home game against Oxford United was a new experience as the flame-haired striker was deployed a little further back than usual in an unfamiliar role in the centre of the pitch.

"I've played off the striker before, which is probably my preferred position, but playing in midfield was a new experience for me. It's a bit different when you are tracking runners going the other way, but if that is the way that I can get in the team then I'm not going to complain," he explained.

"Hopefully from there I can try and make my way back up front.

"I have been working on my sharpness with Mal (Fitness Coach Mal Purchase) in training every day, doing short stuff, so as the weeks go on my sharpness should come back. After that then hopefully I can reproduce the form that I showed last year before I got injured."

Saturday saw Marc return to the subs' bench for the visit to Cambridge before he was introduced at the expense of new boy Angelos Tsiakis with 25 minutes left. He so

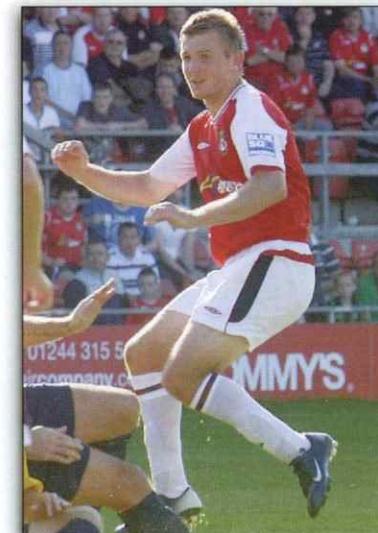
nearly made a dramatic entry as he almost grabbed an equalising goal within minutes of his introduction when he pounced on Lamine Sakho's shot but unfortunately his effort was scrambled off the line by a home defender.

"It just got cleared away but that's my luck at the moment. I've had a few chances here and there but they've either been cleared off the line or the keeper's made a save so I've just got to keep going and I'm sure that they will go in eventually."

"This result has come on the back of last week's defeat and that's not good enough. We have to start somewhere and going into Tuesday, which is a big game against Luton, we have got to start picking up three points."

"It was a scrappy game and I don't think that either side played well, it was two scrappy goals, but that is just the way things are going for us at the moment. It is up to the players that we've got at the club to turn it around and, like I said, hopefully we can start on Tuesday."

"It's a big week for us. We were looking for the lads to start the week with a win today to take us into the Luton game but now we are going to have to concentrate on the next two. We need to look to get maximum points from them and hopefully that will kick-start the season from there."



At least with Jones back on board there's no doubt that Wrexham have, at their heart, a committed talent determined to haul The Dragons back to the Football League.

## ASHLEY WESTWOOD



**O**bviously Saturday's result speaks for itself. We keep talking about being contenders for the Championship but if we can't go to places like Cambridge and get a result then we're kidding ourselves, to be honest. It's up to us the players to get us out of this situation – no one is going to do it for us – and we need a reaction tonight against Luton because Saturday simply wasn't acceptable.

If you look at Cambridge's side individually and you look at ours, then we all believe that we have the better players man-for-man but it's simply not happening out there on the pitch. It's not the fault of the manager or the coaching staff, rather as a group of players we're letting everybody down at the minute and we need to turn it around quickly.

We've lost five times already this season, so every game now becomes must win if we're to be the promotion contending side we think we are. That starts here and now with Luton, a side who are also coming to terms with the demands of playing Conference football.

There's quite a few of the lads at Luton that I know having played alongside George Pilkington for Port Vale, whilst Fred Murray was with me at both Northampton and Stevenage. Last year I actually did my pre-season with The Hatters, so I'm sure I'll see a lot of familiar faces tonight but the time for renewing old friendships will be after the final whistle.

The only thing I'll be thinking about tonight is three points and, just as importantly, the whole team putting on a good performance for you the fans. Given that we're also marking the 75th anniversary of the Gresford Disaster, it's vital because we train each day on the site of the former colliery and the players know how much this means to the people in the town.

Whether I'll be fit enough to play remains to be seen. I twisted my knee early on against Cambridge and it swelled up quite badly. Hopefully, it will have cleared up in time because this is a match I desperately want to play in.

# SCENESETTER

## LOOKING FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH

*Sitting in the bottom half of the table wouldn't have been what Wrexham supporters would have envisaged after the first nine games. Indeed, with the players at his disposal, manager Dean Saunders would have been hoping that a place in the top six wouldn't be beyond his side's reach at this stage.*

Whilst results so far have been indifferent, performances on the whole have left the Wrexham faithful frustrated that their team haven't yet 'clicked'. However, but for a poor display against Barrow, our play has seen us create chances and keep things tight at the back. Whereas results and sometimes goals have failed to follow, the quality of the players at the club should mean that we can turn those indifferent results into a more consistent run.

At our last home game against Oxford United, the Dragons created plenty of goalscoring opportunities but ultimately our inability to put any of them away was our undoing. On another day we could have scored two or three and, whilst we restricted the league leaders to just one goal, we also showed that our build-up play can worry defences and allow us to assert our own game upon the opposition.

Home fans will be hotly anticipating their first sighting of Lamine Sakho this evening after the Senegalese international successfully proved his fitness. The former Marseille and Leeds United man (pictured) put pen to paper with Wrexham on Friday, and his availability will definitely be a boost to Dean Saunders' options up front. Sakho has signed a deal that will keep

him at the club until January, and he has been joined by returning midfielder Angelos Tsialkis, the former Manchester City youth academy player joining former colleagues Curtis Obeng, Sam Williamson and Adrian Czeslewicz at The Racecourse.



Today's opponents Luton Town will present another stern challenge after the tests of Oxford and Cambridge in the last ten days with Oxford the only side to inflict defeat on The Hatters this term, a feat Wrexham will be hoping to repeat this evening against a side relegated from the Football League last May.

Whilst Luton's free weekend saw them drop to sixth place in the fledgling BSP table, Saunders' frustration was only heightened after a disappointing showing

at Cambridge where Wrexham slumped to their fifth defeat of the campaign.

"We're still struggling to find that winning formula," admitted the former Welsh international striker following the final whistle at the quaintly named R Costings Stadium. "It's easy when you're winning games because the side almost picks itself.

"But at the moment, I'm not getting what I want from the players and so that's why we're making changes. We've shown glimpses of what we're capable of which makes it all the more frustrating for me, the coaching staff and the players themselves."

But it's a positive result which he will crave most tonight as he hopes that the team can kick-start their season in front of their home fans.

Wrexham do have the luxury of two games in hand but it is the confidence of the team going into those games that will concern Saunders. He knows that a good performance resulting in a win for the Dragons tonight will go a long way to strengthening the belief of his players.

Should we fail to take anything from tonight then we will be well adrift of the top places, and may struggle to reel in some of the teams vying for promotion.

But it can only take 90 minutes for a side to put their season back on the right track, and Wrexham fans can play their part in what could be a pivotal night in our campaign at The Racecourse as we hope that your support can pave the way for all three points.

Robert Domar



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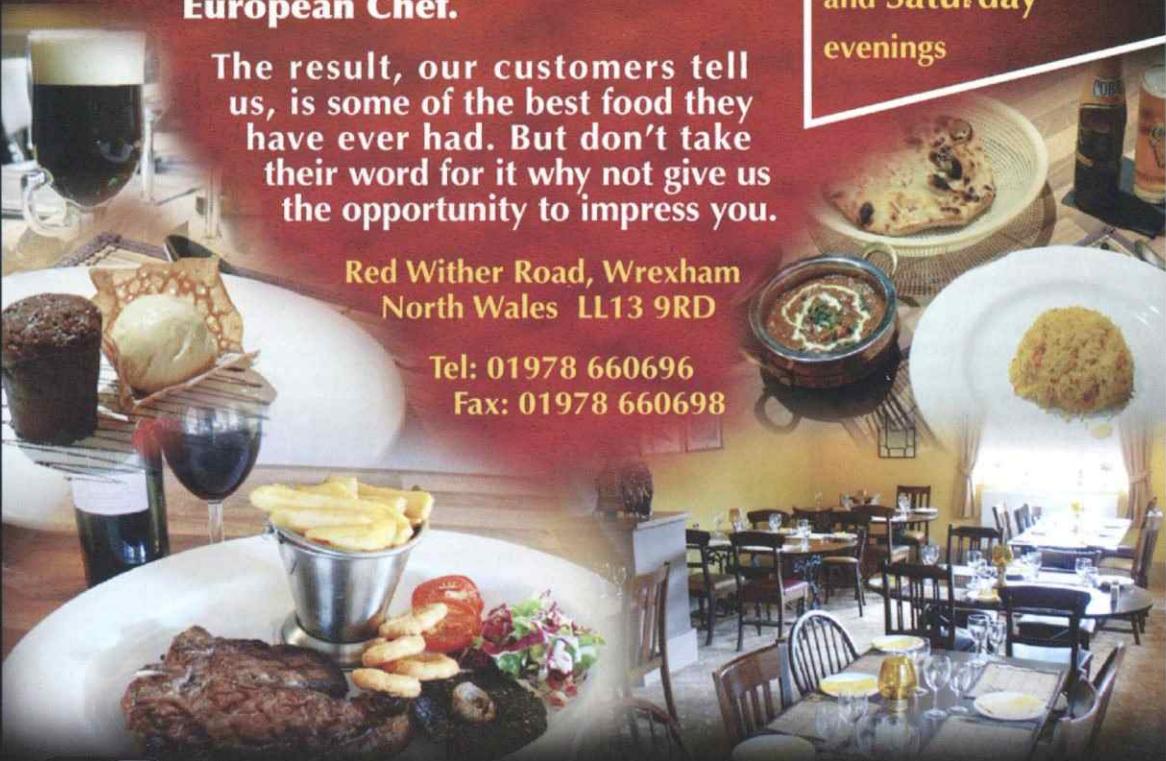
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# SCENESETTER

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*Robert Domar*

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# VERSUS

LUTON TOWN >>>

## Cult Hero

Steve Foster



Mention the name Steve Foster and you immediately think of a white headband; indeed, it became the centre-back's trademark during a career which saw him make over 600 senior appearances. Born in Portsmouth in September 1957, Foster began his playing days with his home town club before joining Brighton & Hove Albion in 1979. At the Goldstone Ground, he became a cornerstone of the Seagulls team which reached the FA Cup Final in 1983 only to miss the final through suspension. Thankfully for the giant defender, the game ended in a 2-2 draw but there was to be no happy ending, as Foster's return couldn't stop Manchester United winning the replay 4-0 and Albion also being relegated. Eager to remain playing top flight football, he had a brief and unhappy sojourn at Aston Villa before signing for Luton in November 1984. The move to Kenilworth Road saw him produce some of the best football of his career and he captained The Hatters to Littlewoods Cup glory in 1988. Foster retired in 1996 after further spells with Oxford United and Brighton.

[www.wrexhamafc.tv](http://www.wrexhamafc.tv)



Rossi Jarvis in action for The Hatters

# Luton Town

**H**aving lost to Oxford United in our last home match, Wrexham now face another challenge from one of the Conference's genuine title contenders when Luton come to town, and you don't just have to take that from me! United's manager Chris Wilder warned that Luton have the wherewithal to mount a title challenge when he described them in glowing terms to BBC Oxford recently.

"They have good players all over the pitch, and they move the ball really well. They are a top side and I do believe that any team that finishes above Luton will be champions. There are a quality team from back to front, and Mick Harford is a fantastic manager who will have his side fired up to get results."

Town will be bolstered by the return from injury of Liam Hatch. The target man was hailed as perhaps the most impressive of a series of summer coups as Luton showed they intend to bounce straight back to the Football League at the first time of asking by signing a number of players with fine pedigrees for Conference football.

The 27-year old, who has previously hit the target at The Racecourse for Barnet, arrived on a season-long loan from Peterborough United with a view to a permanent deal, but was struck down by injury soon after arriving at Kenilworth Road.

He required keyhole surgery when bone fragments were found in his ankle, but he has recovered sooner than expected to lead The Hatters' line.

"I don't think any footballer likes being inside and stuck in the gym," he told BBC Three Counties Radio. "It's great to be out there and great to come back into a winning side. When they talk about four to

12 weeks, you sit there and look back, and think not again.

"I've missed four weeks. It's a quick recovery and now it's all right. As soon as I could get outside, and felt I could run, I wanted to be back involved. Luckily the physiotherapists let me come back in and it's been all right. I've had no reaction from it, so it's been good."

Hatch made his debut as a late substitute in Luton's previous game, against Barrow, and his arrival was something of a coup for Harford, as he told Luton's official website: "We've trailed him for a long time. He's had success where ever he's been and it's fantastic that we got him."

Negotiations had been ongoing for several months and we've got the option to sign him permanently. It was always our aim to get a player of Liam's ability to the club. He'll be a massive influence for us and a striker that will complement the other forwards we have at the club. Liam is ready for the challenge and is desperate to play for us."

Town director Antony Brown reiterated Harford's point: "It's a testament to what we're trying to achieve here at this football club to be able to attract a player of Liam's ability to Kenilworth Road. To be able to beat off competition from clubs in the upper half of League 1 for a player of Liam Hatch's quality shows the ambition and attraction that Luton Town still has."

The match against Barrow which saw Hatch make his first Luton appearance ended in a hard-fought 1-0 win as the Cumbrians showed the same tenacity they'd already exhibited at The Racecourse this season.

Indeed, the solitary goal came about in rather fortuitous circumstances, as the only way Luton could beat the magnificent Tim

## Form Guide

Date	Opponents	V	Comp	Res
Aug 8	AFC Wimbledon	A	BSP	1-1
	Scorer: Craddock (pen)			
Aug 11	Mansfield Town	H	BSP	4-1
	Scorers: Pilkington 2, Perry o.g., Craddock (pen)			
Aug 15	Gateshead	H	BSP	2-1
	Scorers: Hall, Gallen			
Aug 18	Forest Green Rovers	A	BSP	1-0
	Scorer: Craddock			
Aug 22	Chester City	H	BSP	0-0
Aug 29	Kettering Town	A	BSP	0-0
Aug 31	Forest Green Rovers	H	BSP	0-0
Sep 1	Crawley Town	H	BSP	3-0
	Scorers: Pilkington 2, Craddock			
Sep 5	Salisbury City	A	BSP	1-1
	Scorer: Gallen			
Sep 8	Oxford United	A	BSP	0-2
Sep 12	Barrow	H	BSP	1-0
	Scorer: Newton			

Deasy in Barrow's goal was when winger Adam Newton mishit a cross which flew directly into the net!

Still, it was a result which went some way towards erasing the memory of a disappointing 2-0 defeat to league leaders Oxford in their previous match, as Newton told Dunstable Today: "It was meant to be a cross. I obviously didn't get my foot round it enough! If the keeper did get a touch to it he was unlucky."

"It's nice to bounce back as a team after Tuesday's disappointment. I think we set out from the first few minutes that we wanted to win and took the game to them. We've set our own standards since the first day of the season. We've got to turn the possession into goals and we weren't able to do that today but we got the three points."

The keeper kept them in it to be fair. At least we are getting chances. We will keep working in training and putting the ball away and hopefully we will take confidence from these chances. As long as we keep a clean sheet we are more than confident of scoring goals.

## DID YOU KNOW >>> VERSUS

► Tonight's game will be the 31st league meeting between the clubs with Wrexham having won 13 and Luton 11 of the previous 30, with 6 games finishing all square.

► The teams also met in the League Cup during the 1981-82 season when Wrexham triumphed 2-1 on aggregate with both sides winning their respective away games!

► The first meeting between the two sides took place here in November 1963 with Wrexham winning 2-0 thanks to goals from Arfon Griffiths and Mickey Metcalf. Luton won the return game 3-1.



► Wrexham have won 10 out of the 15 previous league games here with Luton winning just twice, although The Hatters did win 2-1 on their last visit in April 2005 thanks to goals from Curtis Davies (left) and Chris Coyne after Andy Holt had given the Dragons the lead.

[www.wrexhamfc.tv](http://www.wrexhamfc.tv)



Back of the net! George Pilkington notches for Luton against Crawley at the start of this month, much to the delight of The Hatters' faithful

It's nice to get off to a start and getting a goal for Luton Town and I hope to get a few more in the near future. Any goal is a goal. As long as I keep putting them in the back of the net for Luton Town I would be more than happy!"

Since that match Luton have suffered a lay-off enforced not by international call-ups or a widespread bout of the flu, but political problems.

Their scheduled match against York last Saturday could not take place as banned protest group the English Defence League threatened a march through the town on that day.

The police were concerned that they would not be able to handle both the march and the match, and Town were asked to postpone the fixture, which will now take place next month.

The Home Office have barred the extreme right wing group from holding a march in



► Luton's only other league win here was in their promotion season of 1981-82 when they won 2-0 with Steve White and Mal Donaghy scoring for David Pleat's team.

[www.wrexhamfc.tv](http://www.wrexhamfc.tv)

centre was gutted by an arson attack. There were further disturbances in May, which also led to arrests.

Still, there might be a silver lining to the cloud, for The Hatters at least, as the blank weekend might help Luton to prepare for tonight's game!

Apart from Hatch, Town have Andy Burgess and Lewis Emanuel struggling to regain their fitness, and the extra breather might give them a chance to feature tonight.

Hatters' director Antony Brown told Dunstable Today: "We would always prefer to play a game on a Saturday. But with everything taken into account we think its fine.

"We will use it to our advantage. We will have a little change around in training and it can only be to our advantage. We have key players injured and it gives us an extra four or five days to get them fit."

► In September 1997 Karl Connolly became the first Wrexham player since Graham Whittle some twenty-years earlier to score a Football League hat-trick away from home as the Reds beat Luton 5-2.

**GOALKEEPERS**
**Mark TYLER**

The 32-year-old keeper has been in outstanding form this season, going 488 minutes without conceding a goal up until the 1-1 draw at Salisbury. The Norwich-born gloveman joined The Hatters on a two-year deal in the summer after 15 years and 483 appearances with Peterborough United. A former England youth international who had spells on loan at both Bury and Watford last term, Tyler was reportedly the number one transfer target for Luton boss Mick Harford during the close-season.

**Shane GORE**

Born in Ashford, Gore began his playing career with Wimbledon making his solitary appearance for the Dons in a 6-2 defeat at Grimsby in March 2002, conceding three goals in a nine-minute cameo after Ian Feuer had been dismissed. A highly rated keeper in non-league circles, he has also played for St Albans City (loan), Peterborough (loan), Barnet, Stevenage, Havant & Waterlooville, East Thurrock and Maidenhead. The 28-year-old joined Luton on the eve of the season and recently signed a new one-month deal.

**DEFENDERS**
**Claude GNAPKA**

Gnapka will forever have a place in Hatters folklore having scored the extra-time winner in the Johnstone's Paints Trophy Final victory over Scunthorpe last April when coming on as a substitute for Tom Craddock. Marseille-born, he joined the club in August 2008 after having helped Peterborough United to promotion the previous term. Whilst he can play at centre-back, the 26-year-old prefers the right-back berth having plied his trade across Europe with Montpellier, Racing Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz.

**Alan WHITE**

A summer signing from his home-town club Darlington, White is an experienced, no-nonsense right-sided central defender who has formed a strong partnership with George Pilkington in the heart of the Luton defence. A former Middlesbrough trainee, he initially joined The Hatters in the summer of 1997 for a £40,000 fee, making 93 appearances before

leaving for Colchester some three years later. Dominant in the air, the 33-year-old has also worn the colours of Leyton Orient, Notts County and Boston United.

**George PILKINGTON**

A centre-back with an eye for a goal, Pilkington has already netted four times this season to make him Luton's joint leading scorer. An England youth international who was on Everton's books as a trainee, he joined the Kenilworth Road club in August 2008 after 223 making appearances for Port Vale. The 27-year-old defender was club captain at Vale Park and twice named Valiants 'Player of the Year'. After struggling with injury last term, Pilkington has been an ever present this season on the left side of defence.

**Fred MURRAY**

With Lewis Emanuel sidelined by a broken toe, manager Mick Harford moved quickly to bring in Murray on a six-month loan deal from Grays Athletic and the left-back made his Luton debut within hours of signing in a 4-1 home win over Mansfield last month. Somewhat bizarrely, the 26-year-old Irishman had only joined the Essex club a few days earlier and left without having even played for them! Murray is a graduate of Blackburn's youth system and can also include Cambridge, Northampton, Stafford, Stevenage and Exeter amongst his list of former clubs.

**Lewis EMANUEL**

Emanuel turned down offers from a number of Football League clubs to sign a new one-year deal with The Hatters this summer, only to then find himself sidelined for two months after breaking his toe in the opening day draw with AFC Wimbledon. The Bradford-born right-back emerged through the ranks at his home town club to register over 150 appearances for the Bantams before joining Luton on a £100,000 deal in July 2007. Still only 25, he had a brief loan spell with Brentford in October 2007 and can also play on the left side of midfield.

**Callum REYNOLDS**

The Luton-born defender will be well known to the Dragons' management team after having spent a month on trial with Wrexham earlier this year. The 19-year-old began his career with

Rushden & Diamonds before signing for Portsmouth in the summer of 2007. Eager to gain first-team experience, he joined Luton in August on a six-month loan deal and was handed his Hatters debut on the opening day of the season. Sent-off in his first home start against Mansfield, he has made four appearances to date but has not figured in recent games.

**Shane BLACKETT**

A talented player who can play anywhere along the back four, Blackett has also seen red this season having been dismissed in the season opener at AFC Wimbledon.



The ex-Dunstable, Arlesey and Dagenham & Redbridge defender first came to prominence with the Daggers, whom he put on the path to promotion from the Conference before joining Peterborough in January 2007. Hampered by injury during his spell with The Posh, he signed for his home-town club this summer on a two-year deal which was partially funded by a friendly between the two sides.

**Jake HOWELLS**

Born in Hemel Hempstead, the 18-year-old left-back has come through the ranks at Kenilworth Road, signing his first professional contract this summer. Howells made his first-team debut on the final day of the 2007-08 campaign as a late substitute in a 1-0 home defeat against Huddersfield. Primarily used from the bench again last term, he figured prominently in the closing weeks of the season making a total of 36 senior appearances.

**MIDFIELDERS**
**Asa HALL**

An extremely versatile player who has also played in both attack and defence for The Hatters, Hall is likely to figure on the right-side of a three-man midfield this evening. Born in Dudley, he joined Birmingham City as a trainee eventually signing professional forms for the St Andrews club in November 2004. An England international at both U19 and U20 level, he enjoyed loan spells with Boston United, Ashford Town and Shrewsbury before

moving to Luton last August. Scored 10 goals in 42 league games and opened his goal account this term against Gateshead.

**Keith KEANE**

Keane is a locally-born midfielder who has been at the club since the age of nine and was handed his full debut when just 16-years-old by ex-boss Mike Newell. An Irish U21 international, he won a League 1 championship medal with the Hatters in season 2004-05 and his versatility has since seen him make over 150 appearances for the Kenilworth Road outfit. A determined ball-winner whose ability to read the game allows him to time his tackles well, Keane began the current campaign in central defence but has been the midfield anchor in Kevin Nicholls' absence.

**Rossi JARVIS**

Norfolk-born Jarvis started his career at Norwich City, making his reserve team debut for the Canaries when aged just 14! He had to wait a further three years for his senior bow which came in a League Cup tie at Birmingham which Norwich lost 2-1. After loan spells at Torquay and Rotherham, he joined Luton on a free transfer in August 2008 since when the combative left-sided midfielder has made 44 league appearances. Despite netting twice in cup competitions, Jarvis's only Hatters league goal to date came in a 1-1 draw at Barnet last April.

**Kevin NICHOLLS**

The tough-tackling midfielder made a surprise return to first-team action last month after recovering from a long-standing back injury. Currently serving a three-match suspension after his recent dismissal against Oxford, the Luton skipper was also handed a five-game ban and a £1,000 fine by The FA last March after allegedly applauding Luton fans for throwing missiles at the match officials following a 3-3 draw with Bradford City. Now in his second spell at Kenilworth Road, the 30-year-old can also include Charlton, Brighton

(loan), Wigan, Leeds and Preston on his footballing CV.

**Andy BURGESS**

A self-confessed Hatters fan, Burgess was Mick Harford's first signing in the summer after being released by Rushden & Diamonds where he was captain last term. An England C International, the 27-year-old left-footed midfield player had two spells at Nene Park, interspersed with a year at Oxford United, and played a significant part in Diamonds' Conference and League Two title winning sides in 2001 and 2003 respectively. Burgess has been sidelined recently, missing Luton's last four games after suffering a badly torn hamstring in training.

**FORWARDS**
**Kevin GALLEN**

Gallen is a vastly experienced striker who, despite the club's relegation from the Football League, signed a one-year contract extension with The Hatters last May. Hammersmith-born, he spent almost 14 years in two separate spells at Queens Park Rangers playing over 400 times for The Hoops and scoring 97 goals in the process. A proven goalscorer who will be the fulcrum of the Luton attack, he celebrated his 34th birthday yesterday and has been ever present this term, netting against Gateshead and Salisbury respectively. A former England U21 international, he has also played with distinction for Huddersfield, Barnsley, Plymouth and MK Dons.

**Tom CRADDOCK**

Joint top scorer for Luton so far this season with four goals, Craddock will be remembered by Dragons fans for his loan spell here back in October 2006 when he scored the decisive goal on his only appearance against Bristol Rovers. Unfortunately a knee injury cut short his time at The Racecourse and he returned to Middlesbrough, the club where he started his career. The Darlington-born striker arrived on loan at Kenilworth Road last October before completing a permanent £80,000 move from Boro in the January transfer window. In all, he scored 12 goals for The Hatters last term, including one at Wembley in the JPT final, and has recently been playing on the left-side of a three-man attack.

**Adam NEWTON**

Completing the attacking trio will be Adam Newton, a St.Kitts & Nevis international who scored his first goal for The Hatters in the recent 1-0 home victory over Barrow. The 28-year-old signed a two-year deal in the summer after recording back-to-back League 2 promotion winning seasons with Peterborough and latterly Brentford. Often utilised on the right-hand side of a midfield four, Newton has made almost 300 league appearances in a career which has also seen him represent West Ham, Portsmouth (loan) and Leyton Orient. The former England U21 international actually scored for Brentford against Luton in their final League match.


**Liam HATCH**

After signing a season-long loan deal from Peterborough, the Hitchin-born striker injured his ankle in training but made a quicker than expected recovery from keyhole surgery to make his debut from the bench in the recent win over Barrow. The 27-year-old arrived at London Road via successful spells at Gravesend & Northfleet and Barnet, where his goals helped the Bees regain their Football League status. Hatch scored nine goals in 29 appearances on loan at Darlington last season after failing to break into Darren Ferguson's promotion winning outfit.

**Steve BASHAM**

Another familiar name to Wrexham fans having played five games for the Dragons whilst on loan from Southampton during the 1997-98 campaign, Basham is an experienced striker whose career has been sadly plagued by injury. When fully fit, there is little doubt that he is a proven goalscorer whose movement and awareness makes him a handful for any opposition defence. Signed from Exeter City on a free transfer during the close-season, the 31-year-old has also played for Preston and Oxford gaining a Division Two championship medal with the Deepdale club back in 2000. Five of his six appearances this term have been from the subs' bench.

**DID YOU KNOW >> VERSUS**

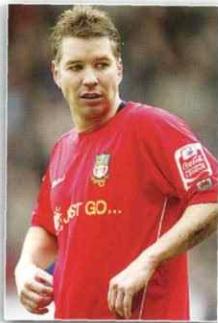
► Young Wrexham striker Peter Williams scored his only goal for the club in a 2-0 win over Luton in May 1979. Steve Buxton also got his name on the scoresheet that day.

► Wrexham and Luton share the distinction of having won the LDV/Johnstone's Paints Trophy in the same season as they were relegated and had points deducted.

► Former Wrexham loanee Tom Craddock (right) scored Luton's last goal in the Football League in a 1-1 home draw with Rochdale in front of over 7,000 fans at Kenilworth Road last April.



► Luton have won just once on their travels in the BSP this term, beating Forest Green 1-0. However, they've only lost once mind you, going down 2-0 at Oxford where over 10,000 fans turned up resulting in the kick-off being delayed due to crowd congestion.



► Luton's finest hour came in 1988 when they won the League Cup beating Arsenal 3-2 at Wembley with Brian Stein scoring twice and Danny Wilson also on target. Goalie Andy Dibble, later to play for Wrexham, saved a penalty during the game.



► In October 2000 Luton were 3-0 up at home to Wrexham and cruising to victory when goals from Craig Faulconbridge, Chris Killen and Martyn Chalk got Wrexham level and Darren Ferguson (left) got the winner to send the travelling Wrexham fans home happy.

► Three years later in a role reversal, Wrexham led 2-0 at Luton before Adrian Forbes, Steve Robinson and Lee Mansell scored to give The Hatters victory.

► The 475 Oxford fans that were here for the Red Dragons last home game was the highest away following since Wrexham were relegated to the BSP.



**Mick Harford has seen his beloved Luton start their first season of non-league football for 89 years in fine fashion, his reshaped Hatters' side having suffered just one solitary defeat against league leaders Oxford United in their opening ten matches.**

The former talismanic targetman is a Luton legend; voted their greatest ever player in a fans poll, he had two separate playing spells with the club helping them to a Littlewoods Cup Final win over Arsenal in 1988 as well as two FA Cup semi-final appearances.

Luton were an established top flight side in those days but when the Sunderland-born Harford took over as manager, in January 2008, the club was not only in administration but in the process of fighting an unsuccessful battle against relegation from League 1.



## LOCAL REPORT >> VERSUS

*Alec Swann, Sports Reporter for the Luton News, gives us the lowdown on The Hatters...*

*After the traumas of the past two seasons, how have Luton adapted to life in the Blue Square Premier? At the time of writing, Luton are sitting second in the embryonic Blue Square Premier table, which is a fair indication that they've taken to the non-league game pretty well. It would've been far too easy after the perceived injustice of last season for Mick Harford's side to have approached this campaign with a substantial chip on their shoulder, but that hasn't been the case. They have approached each game in the right manner and given their opponents the required amount of respect. There has been enough to suggest that Luton are not going to have it all their own way and that, as it is often said, the Blue Square will indeed be a hard division to get out of.*

*What are the biggest changes you noticed from your Football League days and how are the Luton players adapting to the fans' expectations that they should win every game?*

The expectation among the Hatters' faithful, from the moment relegation from the Football

league was confirmed, was that promotion should be a formality. There have been instances of boozing at Kenilworth Road suggesting that there is less than satisfaction with what is being produced. And to a certain extent they would be right.

There has been a lack of fluency in Luton's performances which has manifested itself in the number of goals – 13 – that have been scored in 10 games. A switch from the preferred 4-4-2 to 4-3-3 has been forced to a certain extent by the absence of Andy Burgess with a hamstring injury, but it has compromised the strengths of Tom Craddock who has found himself out wide rather than the central role he is used to. That being said, although going forward there is plenty to come, they have looked solid at the back which has enabled them to churn out results.

keeper Mark Tyler has proved to be an excellent acquisition and centre-half George Pilkington has been in superb form throughout. There is a good platform to work from, but the fans want domination not pragmatism and this

will continue whether they are at the top of the table or not. Some of this is a hangover from being a Football League club and there is a reluctance to accept that some sides will attempt to spoil rather than match like for like, but that was the same at times last year. If there is any difference to League Two it is that more sides will employ a more direct style, but that was known all along. As for promotion back to the league, anything less will be seen as a failure.

*Finally, which sides do you see as your main rivals for promotion?*

Harford did well to keep a large proportion of his squad at the club and has made a few decent signings. Luton have the resources to make their stay in the Blue Square a brief one and their agenda will contain little else. As for rivals, it is difficult to see past Oxford United. After the 2-0 defeat earlier this month, Harford stated that whoever finishes above Oxford will go up and it looks, even at this early stage, as if this will be the case.

## MANAGER >> VERSUS

Football and first-team coach to Mike Newell, the pairing guided Luton to a creditable tenth place in the first season together.

But the temptation of working once again with Kinnear proved too strong and, in November 2004, Harford joined Nottingham Forest after turning down a five-year contract with The Hatters. With his former boss under mounting pressure at The City Ground, Harford's arrival came to late to save his managerial mentor from the sack some two months later. Initially installed as Forest's caretaker-manager, he too departed some six games later.

After a brief spell as Andy King's assistant at Swindon, Harford was appointed Rotherham United manager in April 2005 but left at the year's end following a 17-match winless run. Further assistant-managerial roles followed at both Colchester United and QPR before he took the helm at Kenilworth Road.

### CV

#### Mick Harford

AGE: 50

#### PLAYING CAREER:

Previous Clubs: Lincoln, Newcastle, Bristol City, Birmingham, Luton (twice), Derby, Chelsea, Sunderland, Coventry, Wimbledon

#### MANAGERIAL CAREER:

Previous Clubs: Nottingham Forest (Caretaker), Rotherham, QPR (Caretaker), Luton

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# The Premier League giveth and ESPN taketh away...

**T**here have been plenty of stories flying around the Conference in the last ten days, both on and off the field, but its matters of high finance that have been making the most headlines with the failure to arrange a new TV deal offset by the largesse of the Premier League.

Last week the Conference Board declared that they were "on the brink of a major television deal" but any hopes of securing a replacement for the now defunct Setanta collapsed at the eleventh hour, Disney-backed ESPN declaring that televising Blue Square Premier games did not fit into their "portfolio for the forthcoming season."



ESPN — not interested in the BSP

Coded words which suggest they would be unable to get a sufficient return in such recessionary times, especially when you consider that ESPN already have a wide array of football on their screens.

With the likes of the Europa League and European domestic football to choose from, and add to that its 46 game Premier League deal, you wonder quite where the Blue Square Premier would have fitted into the ESPN schedule?

For the moment that will remain an unanswered question but the news came as a bitter blow to the Conference clubs, many hoping that the ever-increasing number of high-profile former Football League sides would have clinched the deal.

"We have a lot of top quality football at present, but we decided that it did not make business sense for us to show this league on our channel at this time," continued the ESPN press release.

profile of the league and for the clubs. But most clubs had probably accepted they weren't going to get any TV money."

What the clubs certainly didn't expect was a £1 million windfall from the Premier League, which occurred just hours after the collapse of the TV deal was announced. The one-off donation will be distributed amongst all 68 of the Conference's member clubs with Premier League chief Richard Scudamore explaining the thinking behind the decision.

"The Conference is an integral part of the football pyramid; it was absolutely the right thing to do. The Premier League clubs discussed the difficulties facing their counterparts in the Conference, and were happy to be in a position to offer them some financial support."

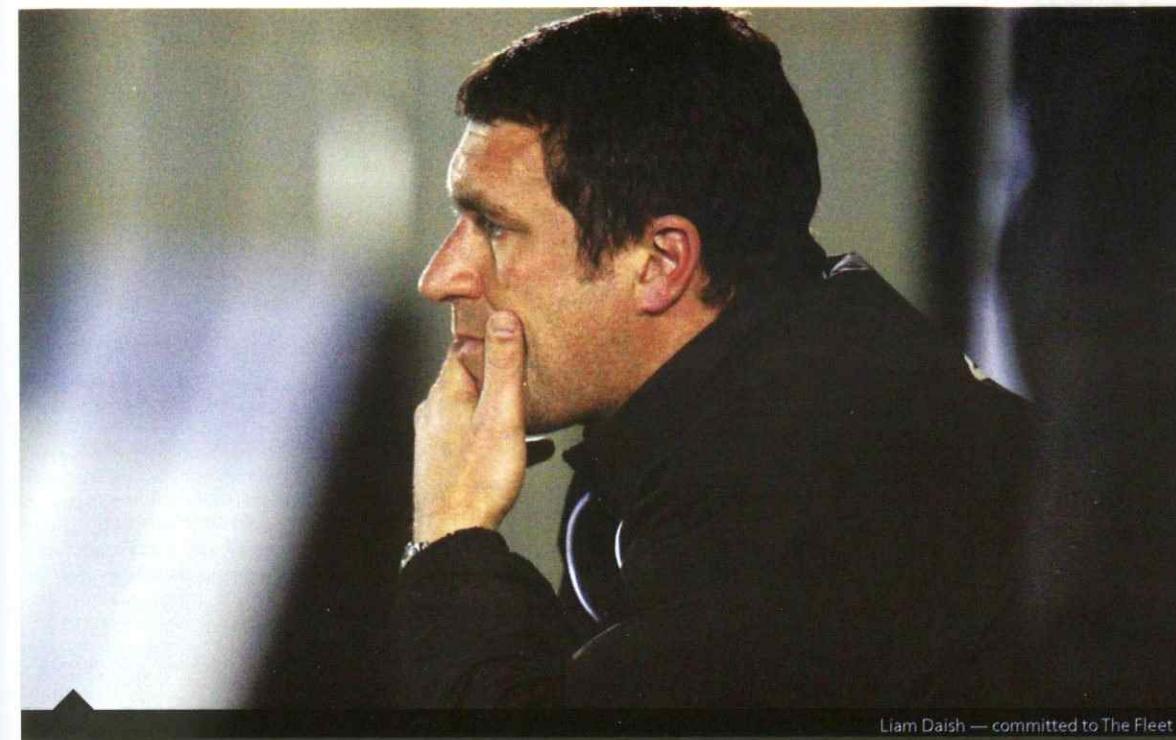
He went on to emphasise the importance of football at this level, adding: "All 68 clubs are extremely important to their local fans and their communities."

Conference Chairman Brian Lee was clearly delighted by the gesture: "It's a gift of solidarity; the Premier League had a meeting and it was asked what more could be done to support non-league football. This present comes at a time when perhaps it is most needed."

"This is no gimmick, it is a gesture of comradeship, and it is one which we are extremely grateful for. There are a lot of clubs feeling the pinch, it has not been a wonderful week, but their generosity will no doubt help soften the blow," he told The Non-League Paper.

The Conference will now consider a number of options including live internet streaming for its games, however such a solution will need the help of a suitably experienced broadcast partner to give it the level of professionalism needed to enhance the league's image.

The Premier League cash itself will not replace the funds lost by the Setanta collapse, therefore the member clubs will still be keen to push for a sale of broadcast rights as a matter of urgency to help fill the financial void.



Liam Daish — committed to The Fleet

One Conference club certainly feeling the pinch of late are Ebbsfleet United, born out of an internet idea conceived in times when ready cash was in abundance, albeit at the click of the mouse.

The Fleet have found the going far from easy in recent months with its 'membership' numbers dwindling significantly, making Liam Daish's job as manager of the Kent outfit that much harder.

Enter then the local council who this week bought the Stonebridge Road ground in a bid to keep it out of the hands of property speculators who had been expected to acquire the ground when it came up for auction later this year.

Gravesham Council also confirmed that the club will pay a peppercorn rent of just £1 per annum, albeit with a caveat that they have to raise funds to purchase the stadium within a set time structure.

Ebbsfleet chairman Duncan Holt was naturally delighted to have secured the deal, stating that: "This leaves the club in a very strong position and our thanks must go to the council."

Councillor Mike Snelling told of why the deal was done: "We have taken the decisive action to resolve a huge problem, which was threatening the very existence of our local football club. This gives them the

opportunity to secure the long term future as well as protecting the site for the community as a major sporting asset."

Whilst many neutrals might find it difficult to term Stonebridge Road as a "major sporting asset," the deal is a salutary lesson for such clubs to maintain a healthy working relationship with their local council.

The ground was previously owned by property firm Land Securities and, whilst it remains unclear as to how much was paid to avoid the site going to auction, the council was at pains to reassure its tax payers that it would not financially impact upon them.

As for Daish, the former Republic of Ireland international gave the news a cautious welcome: "My job is to look after events on the field; I'm really pleased for the club but the priority is on the pitch, getting to mid-table, then pushing on from there."

"I'm working as hard as I can with a small budget. The pressure I'm under is mainly brought on by myself and its good experience for me. Yes, I'm under financial restraints and I may have to release money in other parts of the team in order to bring new players in."

Daish has been linked with a number of Conference jobs in recent times, including

the post at Cambridge United, but he remains committed to getting The Fleet up the BSP table after agreeing a new two-year deal.

Another manager who finds it hard to keep out of the news is Crawley's Steve Evans and, financially at least, he is very much worse off this week thanks to another fine and touchline ban.

The self-styled 'bad boy' of the Conference was fined £750 and could be banned from "attending three games" after being found guilty of "improper conduct" during a game against Salisbury last February.

Evans could yet trigger a further ten game ban, previously suspended pending his good behaviour, but Crawley chairman Vic Marley is backing his man all the way as he fights to clear his name.

"Steve has been found guilty, but having looked at the evidence, I feel that it has more to do with his reputation from the past rather than anything in this particular case. The punishment handed out is, I feel, severe."

Severe it may be but The FA are currently looking at all aspects of the game, especially in light of their high-profile 'Respect' campaign. Therefore it's a safe bet to say that Evans won't be fronting that in the foreseeable future.



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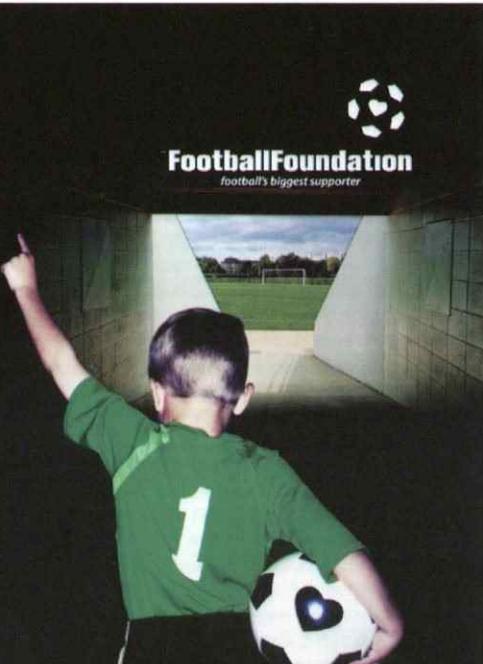
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# Further encouragement but no end product

**A** cracking end-to-end final home game in our qualifying group was worthy of a far bigger turnout than just over the 11,500 who witnessed the Russia clash, the visitors still having a chance of piping Germany to the automatic qualifying spot.

Despite the 3-1 reverse, Wales still have a shout of third place which would ensure a higher seeding for the forthcoming European Championships and represent progress in itself. However, this will need John Toshack's side to beat both Finland and Lichtenstein in their own back yards next month.

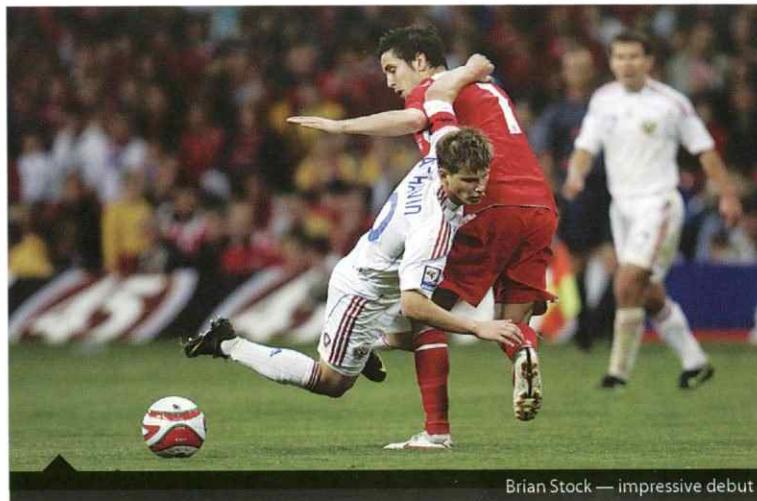
It's a task which is not beyond Wales but the European minnows confirmed their continuing improvement with a draw against the Finns on the same night as that Russia encounter, so even that game cannot be considered a forgone conclusion.

The Welsh performance against Guus Hiddink's side was at least worthy of a draw at the sparsely populated Millennium Stadium, James Collins' deft flick drawing Wales level midway through the second-half.

Wolves midfielder David Edwards had a chance to put his side in front but his shot was smothered by the Russian keeper and Wales' flickering hopes of victory were quickly extinguished by two late goals. And it was this lack of potency in front of goal which eventually proved the difference between two countries whose respective populations are 3 million and 140 million!

Still Toshack can feel well pleased that his young players managed to match their more illustrious opponents who currently stand in sixth place in the FIFA rankings. The Russians superior finishing was evident in their superb opening goal, but the Welsh defence will have been disappointed at the individual errors which contributed to the visitors other two strikes.

That lack of punch in attack for Wales is worrying, what with Craig Bellamy having to 'fetch and carry' on his own when he himself should be in a striking position, especially if the Manchester City forward is being deployed as a lone attacker. His work rate can never be questioned – as witnessed in Sunday's thrilling Manchester derby – but in your scribe's humble opinion he does



Brian Stock — impressive debut

need greater support, particularly in home matches.

The biggest plus of the night was the debut of Brian Stock, the Doncaster Rovers midfielder. As early as the fifth minute, he flashed a tremendous 20-yard shot narrowly wide and although – at 27 – a relatively late entrant to the senior international scene, he did enough to suggest that he will figure in many more of Toshack's squads in the years to come.

As is the norm in the Welsh camp these days, the manager had to contend with yet another distraction in the build-up to the game. This time it was the announcement that the enigmatic Jason Koumas had decided to retire from international football and so concentrate on his club career. The Wigan player never realised his full potential at this level and his persistent withdrawals from overseas matches will not be missed by the majority of Welsh fans.

By contrast, Jack Collison and Simon Church both lost their fathers in the week prior to the Russia match and were understandably not available. All in Welsh football extend their sincere condolences to Jack, Simon and their respective families at a time when football is rightly secondary in their thoughts.

There could yet be another change of heart from Danny Collins who has said that

he now wants to be involved again in the Welsh set up. His new manager at Stoke City, following the defender's transfer from Sunderland, is none other than Tony Pulis and he proved a breath of fresh air on BBC2's 'Sport Wales' programme recently with his support for Toshack and the latter's youth policy.

Pulis has confirmed that he will do his most to encourage his fellow countrymen to return to the fold. There is no doubt that Collins would be a big plus to the Welsh senior side, with Pulis wisely advocating that it is the player who should make the first move by picking up the phone and speaking to Toshack.

Phone calls only of the congratulatory nature however for Brian Flynn and his Under-21 players for a superb 2-1 success over the talented Italy side at the Liberty Stadium, where a superb goal from Aaron Ramsey sent the 5,000 plus crowd into raptures.

Wales have only one more home game in Group 3 against Bosnia-Herzegovina to come but then face three tough away ties in the next year, and while top at present, one feels that the final game in Italy next September will ultimately prove decisive.

Keep the faith always.

Gareth M. Davies



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**DIXIE MCNEIL**, Lottery manager for Wales Air Ambulance would like to thank Wrexham Supporters Trust who kindly donated their VIP box for the Forest Green fixture.

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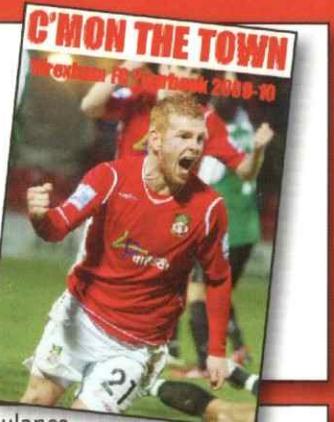
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[www.wst.org.uk](http://www.wst.org.uk)

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**Inside**  
Neighbourhood  
Watch  
Been There  
Ten to Tackle  
Inside Out



# FANZONE

THE REGULARS >>>

### Fanfile

Chris Roberts



**NAME:** Chris Roberts  
**LIVES IN:** Coedpoeth  
**WHEN DID YOU START SUPPORTING WREXHAM?** It was in the mid 1990s; my mother was working at the club as a matchday steward and I just sort of tagged along. I've been coming to The Racecourse ever since.

**WHO IS YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE WREXHAM PLAYER?** It has to be Marc Williams. I admire his work-rate, his 100% commitment and he's a natural goalscorer to boot. When he got injured last season, it proved to be a major factor in how our season turned out. We didn't really replace him and struggled to find goals.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALL TIME WREXHAM PLAYER?** 'King' Karl Connolly; he was a wizard on the left-wing, full of tricks and with an eye for goal especially when he netted twice against Chester in a televised FA Cup tie.

**WHAT IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE WREXHAM GAME?** 'Survival Saturday' against Boston. The atmosphere was incredible, as was the sight of Chris Llewellyn having to play the last few minutes in a fan's shirt after having thrown his into the crowd upon scoring!

**WHO IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE MANAGER OF WREXHAM?** For me it's Denis Smith because he worked so hard during what was a difficult period for the club. He also guided us to success in the LDV Trophy.

**WHAT IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE WREXHAM SHIRT?** The red one in which we won promotion in back in season 2002-03. It had green and white trimmings on the collar and just looked the business.

**WHAT IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE WREXHAM GOAL?** This might seem a little strange but it's a goal scored in a match we lost against Shrewsbury Town. If my memory serves me right, it was a long range left footed effort by Danny Williams.

**WHAT MEMORABILIA IF ANY, DO YOU OWN FOOTBALL WISE?** I signed Manchester United shirt from around 2003. I was on an organised tour of the ground and won it in a raffle.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND?** Anfield, the atmosphere is electric and when the singing starts it raises a hair on the back of the neck.

**HOW MANY AWAY GAMES DO YOU GET TO GO TO IN A SEASON?** Around eight to ten; I would love to do more but work commitments, coupled with the long distances now involved, makes it very difficult for me.

**HOW MANY HOME GAMES DO YOU GO TO IN A SEASON?** I have a season ticket for the Eric Roberts Stand and I'm in the 'choir' led by the 12th man; as the old saying goes: "Be loud, be proud."

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE GROUND?** The bar in the Mold Road Stand!

**DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-MATCH RITUALS?** An essential ritual is the trip to the Pub; it can be either one in the town itself or sometimes The Turf. I find a little tipple helps with the pre-match nerves and of course helps lubricate the singing voice!

## BEEN THERE, SEEN THAT DONE THAT >>FANZONE

### The Aggborough Stadium, Kidderminster

#### WHEN?

Our most recent visit to Kidderminster came last November and was a bitter-sweet affair. Those who travelled to Aggborough in vast numbers witnessed a terrific game that swung both ways; Wrexham picked up the tempo after the break and dominated our hosts in the second half, playing some of our best football of the season. The 0-1 reversal meant that our fine unbeaten run under Dean Saunders had come to an end, but fans were re-assured when we at least went down fighting. Had there been any justice, we'd have taken at least a point.

#### WHERE?

On what was possibly our shortest Saturday afternoon trips of the season, over 800 Wrexham fans made the effort; in fact, for those fans based in Shropshire, the fixture constituted a local derby. Our crew left Wrexham in mid-morning and were at the stadium well in advance of kick-off; it's a straight-forward run down, really, down the A5 and then off towards Bridgnorth. For those travelling by rail, Aggborough is within reasonable walking distance of the railway station at Kidderminster and within spitting distance of the town centre. There's a decent boozer at the station and a quality chippy immediately opposite.

#### WHAT?

We'd previously been to Aggborough in March, 2003, when a brace of Lee Trundle goals [one of them claimed by Brian Carey] kept our promotion push on track. Since then, the impressive East Stand – which was under construction at the time – is now fully operational and, as a four-sided ground, Aggborough is now one of the best in the division. This time, as then, the away fans were housed in a covered terrace behind one of the goals, where the atmosphere was excellent and the views unrestricted. It was just a shame that we couldn't score, although we did everything but. The range of grub available inside the ground was excellent, and those who arrived at the ground early were able to enjoy a decent pint in The Harriers Arms, located behind The Reynolds Stand. The bar filled up closer to kick-off and both it and the club's Social Club – on the other side of the ground – were both hopping once the away coaches started to off-load.

#### HOW?

Exactly. Having hit the woodwork three times after half-time – and having forced Adam Bartlett, the impressive Kidderminster goalkeeper, into a series of fine saves – quite how Wrexham left empty-handed was the main talking point on the away end. As Dean Saunders concluded afterwards, we'd already won games where we'd played far worse, and would do so again. Not that the result unduly affected us; immediately afterwards we resumed winning ways and stayed unbeaten in the league until the turn of the year.

#### WHY?

Even in defeat, those Wrexham fans who travelled to Aggborough in their numbers left the ground in good form; they'd seen a decent game between two strong sides on the up. The atmosphere all afternoon was excellent, with plenty of good-humoured banter flying backwards and forwards. That said, the home side's goalkeeper, Adam Bartlett, certainly didn't distinguish himself with his juvenile behaviour in front of the away end towards the end of the game. But not even that – nor the reversal – could detract from what was a decent day out to a vibey, well-appointed ground.

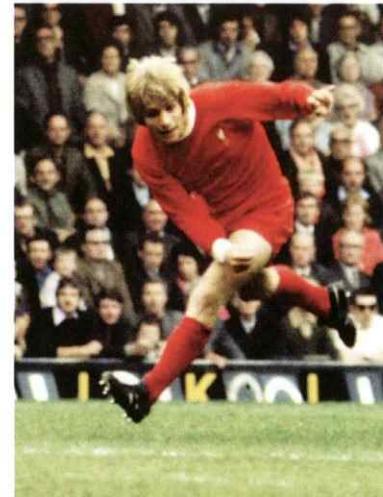


Next up on the old Sat Nav is Kidderminster. So as a prelude to our trip to Aggborough, we thought we'd give you an insight to some of the area's most famous sons and daughters, sporting and otherwise...

#### ALUN EVANS

Not to be confused with the long-standing Secretary of the Football Association Of Wales [and current Chairman of the League Of Wales] or indeed the Rhondda-born professional darts player of the same name, Alun Evans was a prodigious teenage striker who briefly the limelight at Liverpool during the late 1960s and early 70s.

Kidderminster-born, he started his career with Wolverhampton Wanderers before becoming Britain's first ever £100,000 teenage signing when Bill Shankly took him to Anfield in 1968.



As Keith Perkins writes as part of his excellent Impressive Forgotten Heroes series on the Liverpool website, [www.thisisanfield.com](http://www.thisisanfield.com): "Bill Shankly's attention was first drawn to this precocious young player when Liverpool hosted Wolves in 1967. In this particular match, Evans had the gall to make Ron Yeats look average by using his quick turns, sudden changes of direction and flicks and tricks."

Evans went on to enjoy a dream Liverpool debut, scoring within ten minutes of his debut against Leicester. And he went better again on the following week, returning to Molineux within days of his departure and scoring twice – this time in a red shirt – in a 6-0 rout.

He's also started to make waves off of the pitch; with his blond, Beatles-inspired mop-top, he certainly cut a dash and was quickly adopted as an Anfield poster-boy.

Sadly, he struggled to capitalise on his rapid-fire impact and a string of injuries and a gassing incident in a night-club in Wolverhampton stunted his progress and compromised his swagger.

#### PETER COLLINS

Kidderminster's most famous sporting son is unquestionably the Formula One driver Peter Collins who, during six glorious years in the 1950s, participated in 35 World Championship Grand Prix races, winning three of them and achieving podium finishes in nine.

The son of a haulage contractor from Kidderminster, Collins began his career as a teenager, initially racing 500cc Formula 3 cars; after spells attached to the Vanwall and Maserati teams, he signed up with Ferrari in advance of the 1956 season.

Following a second place finish in Monaco – behind Sterling Moss – and subsequent wins in Belgium and France, Collins had clearly announced himself on the biggest stages of all.

He scored his third win on the circuit the following season when he landed the British Grand Prix at Silverstone but, sadly, it was the last race he'd finish.

Later that season, in hard pursuit of the race leader, Tony Brooks, at the German leg of the championship at the Nurburgring, he lost control of his car, spun off of the track and disappeared over a perimeter bank.



Robert Plant

## KIDDERMINSTER

And although he featured briefly towards the end of the following season, bagging a hat-trick against Bayern Munich in a European Fairs Cup game and also scoring in an FA Cup semi-final against Everton, he was never again to regain his form at Anfield.

Leaving Liverpool for Aston Villa, he subsequently played at Walsall before calling time on his professional career before his thirtieth birthday and emigrating to Australia.

#### ROBERT PLANT

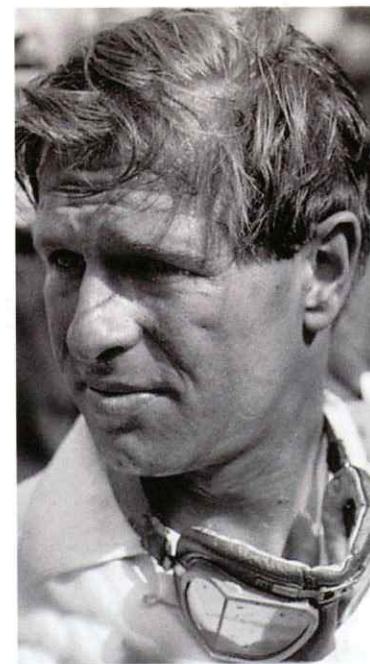
Critically derided at regular junctions and seemingly forever on the cusp of self-parody, Led Zeppelin are arguably the most successful and influential heavy-metal outfit in the often-bizarre history of the genre.

Best known to this day for the eight-minute 'Stairway To Heaven', it was singer Robert Plant – alongside guitarist Jimmy Page – who defined the Led Zeppelin sound from the off and, by nodding to classic blues and folk music, helped to distinguish their group from the rest of the hard rock litter.

As recorded in the Rolling Stone Encyclopaedia Of Rock And Roll: "Page and Plant were grounded in British folk music and fascinated by mythology, Middle Earth fantasy, and the occult, as became increasingly evident from the band's later albums."

The original Led Zeppelin line-up – which also included John Bonham and John Paul Jones – quickly gained enormous world-wide success but the group's life-span was short, if prolific; they recorded together for the last time in 1978.

As the group enjoyed more and more success – Led Zeppelin have sold far in excess of 100 million albums – the group dynamic began to come apart at the seams.



Thrown clear of his car, he hit a tree, suffered critical injuries to his head and died later that afternoon. He was 26-years-old.

Known as 'The Gentleman Driver', his remains are buried in the churchyard at Saint Mary's in Mustow Green, Kidderminster.

John Day – on [www.ferrariownersclub.co.uk](http://www.ferrariownersclub.co.uk) – remarks that "there is no reference to his career or achievements on the gravestone; it simply bears the inscription 'With a cheerful smile and a wave of the hand he journeyed into an unknown land'."



# FORZA VIRTUS!

## VIRTUS VERONA - KNUCKLING DOWN

Having scored six goals in their opening two fixtures, Virtus Verona had certainly hit the ground running in the first week of the Italian football season.

And with Wrexham losing 1-0 to Oxford United some Dragons fans would have been looking at our Italian cousins to provide them with some consolation, after a frustrating Saturday afternoon for the Reds.

Serie D - Girone C - 13th September 2009

### ASD Manzanese 1

### USD Virtusvecomp Verona 0

With a 3-1 win over AS Villafranca in the Serie D Coppa Italia coupled with a three-all draw against Jesolo in their first league game, Luigi Fresco would have taken a Virtus Verona side full of confidence into their next match.

But Virtus suffered their first defeat of the season, losing by the odd goal at Manzanese as they struggled to break down the home sides' resolute defence.

Whilst they managed to create some chances, the visitors couldn't apply the finishing touch that seemed to desert them after a prolific opening two games.

And Manzanese took advantage of the chances missed by the visitors, scoring a goal of their own to secure all three points and ensuring that travelling Virtus fans went home disappointed.

Serie D - Girone C - 16th September 2009

### USD Virtuscomp Verona 1

### SSD Domegliara 1

Virtus Verona hosted early league leaders Domegliara as they looked to bounce back from defeat at Manzanese last time out. And with Domegliara having won both their league games so far this season, Virtus



needed a strong performance to upset the visitors perfect start.

But Virtus did just that with defender Andrea Peroni (pictured) getting on the score sheet to secure a point for his side against in form opposition.

The result leaves Virtus with just two points from three league games, but with two encouraging performances at home they know that they can play with confidence in front of their fans.

They will however be looking to improve their away form, and have the chance to do just that as they visit FCB Unione Venezia this coming weekend.

Venezia gained their first point of the season at Villafranca on Wednesday night but still sit bottom of Girone C, having conceded six goals in their first three games.

### Serie D - Girone C - Current Standings

SSD Domegliara	4	2	2	0	7	3	4	8
Nuova Veroiese Calcio	3	2	1	0	3	1	2	7
Calcio Montebelluna	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
AS Union Quinto	4	1	3	0	4	3	1	6
Montichiari	3	1	2	0	6	3	3	5
AS Villafranca	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	5
SP Tamai	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	5
AC Belluno 1905	4	1	2	1	6	6	0	5
ASD Sanvitese	3	1	1	1	5	2	3	4
US Citta di Jesolo	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	4
AC Este	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
Pordenone Calcio SSD	3	0	3	0	4	4	0	3
Sagittaria Julia	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	3
Albignasego	4	0	3	1	2	3	1	3
ASD Porfido Albiano	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
ASD Manzanese	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
USD Virtusvecomp Verona	3	0	2	1	4	5	-1	
AC Palazzolo 1913	3	0	2	1	1	5	-4	2
UC Montecchio Maggiore	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	1
FBC Unione Venezia	3	0	1	2	5	9	-4	1



# We all follow the Wrexham...

## WREXHAM FC SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

c/o 4 Lyndale Grove, Wrexham, LL12 8DQ. Tel 01978 266600 or 0789 9823055.

Website [www.wrexhamfan.co.uk](http://www.wrexhamfan.co.uk).

Email [carroll.clark@btopenworld.com](mailto:carroll.clark@btopenworld.com)

Meeting Venue Lager Club Wrexham.

Meeting Frequency Monthly

## SHROPSHIRE REDS

c/o PO Box 547, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 8YY

Website [www.shropshirereds.co.uk](http://www.shropshirereds.co.uk)

Email [shreds@wafc123.freesserve.co.uk](mailto:shreds@wafc123.freesserve.co.uk)

Meeting Venue Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton

Meeting Frequency Bi-monthly

## RHOS AND DISTRICT REDS

c/o The Coach & Horses Inn, Vinegar Hill, Rhosllanerchrugog, Wrexham LL14 1EH Tel 01978 841 749

Website [uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/rhosanddistrictreds/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/rhosanddistrictreds/)

Email [rhosanddistrictreds@yahoo-groups.co.uk](mailto:rhosanddistrictreds@yahoo-groups.co.uk)

Meeting Venue Coach & Horses, Rhosllanerchrugog

Meeting Frequency Bi-monthly

## BUCKLEY AND DISTRICT REDS

c/o PO Box 182, Buckley CH7 9BR Tel 07783 430301

Website [www.buckleyreds.co.uk](http://www.buckleyreds.co.uk)

Email [admin@buckleyreds.co.uk](mailto:admin@buckleyreds.co.uk)

Meeting Venue Buckley Cricket Club

Meeting Frequency Monthly

## LONDON REDS

## COCHION LLUNDAIN

c/o 18 Minster Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 4DZ Tel 07973 512258

Website [www.londonreds.co.uk](http://www.londonreds.co.uk)

Meeting Venue Please see website

Meeting Frequency Monthly

## MOLD & DISTRICT REDS

## COCHION YR WYDDGRUG A'R FRO

c/o Mold Delivery Office, 18 Earl Road, Mold CH7 1AA

Email [moldreds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:moldreds@hotmail.co.uk)

Website [www.moldreds.co.uk](http://www.moldreds.co.uk)

Meeting Venue Alternates between Mold Ex-Servicemen's Club and Bryn Griffiths Club (known locally as the Top and Bottom club)

Meeting Frequency Monthly

## KINGS MILLS REDS

c/o Kings Mills Public House, Kingmills Road, Wrexham LL13 0NS Tel 01978 364849

Meeting Venue Kings Mills Public House

Meeting Frequency Last Thursday of every month

## HOLYWELL & DISTRICT REDS

Email [evans-p1@sky.com](mailto:evans-p1@sky.com) or [shaunhoulden11@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shaunhoulden11@hotmail.co.uk)

Meeting Venue Abbot Arms in Pen-Y-Maes, Holywell

Meeting Frequency Monthly

## DEESIDE REDS

Tele 07889 825969

Meeting Venue Carlton Club, Shotton

Meeting Frequency Monthly

Website [www.deesidereds.co.uk](http://www.deesidereds.co.uk)



# TEN TO TACKLE

Test your knowledge by trying to answer the following about Wrexham and today's opponents...

1. Affectionately known as 'Deidre', name Wrexham's former keeper who was particularly pleased when we recovered from 0-3 down to win 4-3 in a Division Two game at Kenilworth Road in October 2000.
2. When Luton were 2-1 down and with only 10 minutes left at Wembley, which 'keeper - later to play for Wrexham - saved a Nigel Winterburn penalty in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final? For the record, The Hatters went on to win 3-2.

3. A month before their 1988 Littlewoods Cup triumph, against which club did Luton lose 4-1 in the Simod (Full Members) Cup final at Wembley (Mick Harford put the Hatters 1-0 up but their opponents hit back with goals from Beavon, Tait, Gilkes and Smillie)?
4. In the final of which competition did Luton lose 2-1 to Nottingham Forest in 1959?

5. Which Scouse striker scored a hat-trick when Wrexham won 5-2 at Luton in September 1997?
6. Which club beat Luton in an FA Cup Semi-final in 1988 in front of a White Hart Lane crowd of just 25,963?

7. Name the two Wrexham players who starred for Wales Under-21s in the eye-catching 2-1 win over Italy earlier this month?
8. On the last day of which season did Luton survive in the top flight by beating Manchester City 1-0, prompting boss David Pleat to dance on the Maine Road turf in his beige suit?

9. Name the centre-back, currently with Aston Villa, who Luton sold to West Brom in 2005 for a £3,000,000 transfer fee.
10. On route to retaining the Isle of Man International Trophy in 2002, Wrexham enjoyed a thrilling 3-2 win over Luton under floodlights at the NSC in Douglas. From their initials, can you identify the Wrexham line-up, including the five subs, who condemned the Hatters to a third placed play-off against Rochdale: 1-KD (tyre fitter from Peel), 2-SP, 3-WP (sub CE), 4-KR, 5-BC, 6-DB (Singaporean), 7-JW (sub SH), 8-PE (sub SR), 9-LJ (sub HS), 10-LT, 11-AM (sub ST).

Answers  
1. Kevin Dalglish; 2. Andy Dibble; 3. Reddington; 4. Steve Thompson; 5. Karl Canning; 6. Michael Dawson; 7. Chris Maxwell; 8. Neil Taylor; 9. 1982-83; 10. Curtis Davies; 11. Lee Jones; 12. Lee Trundle; 13. Andy Morrell; 14. Paul Edwards; 15. Russell; 16. Brian Gough; 17. Dan Potts; 18. Jim Phillips; 19. Kevin Phillips; 20. Paul Edwards; 21. Kevin Phillips; 22. Andy Morrell; 23. Curtis Davies; 24. Paul Edwards; 25. Lee Jones; 26. Brian Gough; 27. Dan Potts; 28. Jim Phillips; 29. Kevin Phillips; 30. Paul Edwards; 31. Kevin Phillips; 32. Andy Morrell; 33. Curtis Davies; 34. Paul Edwards; 35. Lee Jones; 36. Brian Gough; 37. Dan Potts; 38. Jim Phillips; 39. Kevin Phillips; 40. Paul Edwards; 41. Kevin Phillips; 42. Andy Morrell; 43. Curtis Davies; 44. Paul Edwards; 45. Lee Jones; 46. Brian Gough; 47. Dan Potts; 48. Jim Phillips; 49. Kevin Phillips; 50. Paul Edwards; 51. Kevin Phillips; 52. Andy Morrell; 53. Curtis Davies; 54. Paul Edwards; 55. Lee Jones; 56. Brian Gough; 57. Dan Potts; 58. 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Curtis Davies; 114. Paul Edwards; 115. Lee Jones; 116. Brian Gough; 117. Dan Potts; 118. Jim Phillips; 119. Kevin Phillips; 120. Paul Edwards; 121. Kevin Phillips; 122. Andy Morrell; 123. Curtis Davies; 124. Paul Edwards; 125. Lee Jones; 126. Brian Gough; 127. Dan Potts; 128. Jim Phillips; 129. Kevin Phillips; 130. Paul Edwards; 131. Kevin Phillips; 132. Andy Morrell; 133. Curtis Davies; 134. Paul Edwards; 135. Lee Jones; 136. Brian Gough; 137. Dan Potts; 138. Jim Phillips; 139. Kevin Phillips; 140. Paul Edwards; 141. Kevin Phillips; 142. Andy Morrell; 143. Curtis Davies; 144. Paul Edwards; 145. Lee Jones; 146. Brian Gough; 147. Dan Potts; 148. Jim Phillips; 149. Kevin Phillips; 150. Paul Edwards; 151. Kevin Phillips; 152. Andy Morrell; 153. Curtis Davies; 154. Paul Edwards; 155. Lee Jones; 156. Brian Gough; 157. Dan Potts; 158. Jim Phillips; 159. Kevin Phillips; 160. Paul Edwards; 161. Kevin Phillips; 162. Andy Morrell; 163. Curtis Davies; 164. Paul Edwards; 165. Lee Jones; 166. 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**FULL NAME:** Matthew Wolfenden  
**POSITION:** Striker  
**FORMER CLUBS:** Oldham Athletic  
**SQUAD NUMBER:** 24

#### TOP SECRET

**What are your parents' names?** Colin and Anne

**Married?** No

**Do you have any pets?** No, but my sister did used to have two rabbits called 'Smudge' and 'Snuggles'

**Best mate outside football?** I've not really got one best mate as such; I'm still in touch with a lot of my mates from school

**Where did you live as a child?** My family have always lived in and around the Oldham area; we were in Failsworth for a while and then moved to the outskirts of Saddleworth

**Any other family members who are good at sport?** My Uncle Ivan was always good at football but he never played professionally. He used to play in the local leagues around Oldham

#### FAVOURITES

**Colour?** Blue

**Food?** Lasagne

**Drink?** Oasis Summer Fruits

**Film?** The Shawshank Redemption or The Green Mile

**TV Show?** I quite enjoy Mock The Week at the moment

**Group/singer?** Stereophonics; I went to watch them last year at the MEN Arena and they were brilliant. Kelly Jones' voice is as good live as it is when you listen to him on CD at home



**Car?** Ferrari F355 but it's got to be in red!

**Place visited?** I went to Ayia Napa with a few of the lads a couple of years ago, so that's probably been my favourite to date

**Football team?** Oldham Athletic; they were my boyhood club and it seemed so strange to get the chance to play for them

**Other footballer?** Michael Owen when he was in his heyday at Liverpool

**Sport (other than football)** I played rugby league when I was younger because Oldham is quite a big rugby town

#### GUilty AS CHARGED

**What is the cheesiest film that you own?**

Recently it has to be Marley and Me!

**What is the most tragic CD in your collection?**

Most people would say Mariah Carey but I quite enjoy her music. I've even got her greatest hits!



**What food(s) do you eat that you know you shouldn't?**

I just love crisps; normally the Walkers' Chilli Sensations

**What is the worst car that you have owned?**

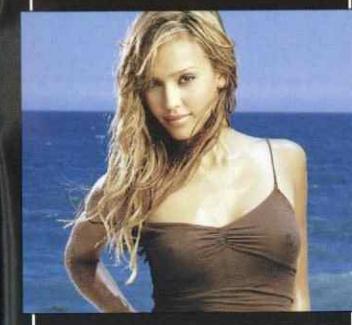
I've only ever had one, a Seat Leon; it's my dad's but he doesn't use it much now and it's quite a decent car to be fair

**What is the ring tone on your mobile?**

It's just the standard one although I did have the Crazy Frog one when I was younger!

**Which celebrity do you secretly fancy?**

Jessica Alba



# INSIDE OUT

#### ALL IN THE GAME

**What is your nickname?**

Wolfy

**If you weren't a footballer, what would you be?**

I'd probably have gone to University. I did my A-Levels whilst I was still at Oldham; they were in English Language, English Literature and PE, so it would have to be something along those lines

**Best thing about being a footballer?**

Seeing other people going in to work nine-till-five when you're doing something you love doing every day

**Worse thing about being a footballer**

Injuries, definitely! Losing games and not being in the team can also get you down as well

**Best ground that you have played on?**

Either Wolves or Everton; they were both great stadiums

**How do you relax outside football?**

Watching a DVD with friends or maybe playing snooker. My highest break is 20-odd but I've not played for a while

**What is your advice for a youngster who would like to become a professional footballer?**

Work hard and never give up. Don't let what other people say get you down because you have to have belief in your own ability

**Who is your football hero?**

I always enjoy watching old videos of Pele

**First football match you attended**

I went with my friend and his dad to watch Manchester United and QPR at Old Trafford in the mid-90s

**Best game played in**

When I was at Oldham we were 2-0 down at home to Crewe in September 2007 and I came off the bench to score the equaliser. We won in the last minute as well to make it even sweeter!

**Highlight of your career?**

It has to be my first senior goal in the League 1 Play-Off semi-final against Blackpool at Bloomfield Road in May 2007. Hopefully they'll be many more to come!

#### TEAM MATES

**Best mate(s) in the Wrexham squad?**

Because myself and Sam Williamson have both been injured at the same time, I'd have to say him because I've only been here a short time

**Funniest member of the squad?**

Flemo but I don't actually think he's trying to be funny. He's not the sharpest is he!

**Roommate with on away trips?**

I was with Flemo down at Crawley and I found out some interesting stuff about him!

**Best dressed?**

I think everybody has said Wes Baynes so far, so who am I to argue

**Worst dressed?**

Obi comes in with some bad gear to be fair!

**Best motor?**

I like Frank Sinclair's Range Rover

**Biggest geek?**

Christian Smith; he always seems to be on his mobile or on Facebook. And he's always shouting 'Yeah, boy' which I've just found out is off a film called 'Friday' but I haven't got a clue what it's about!

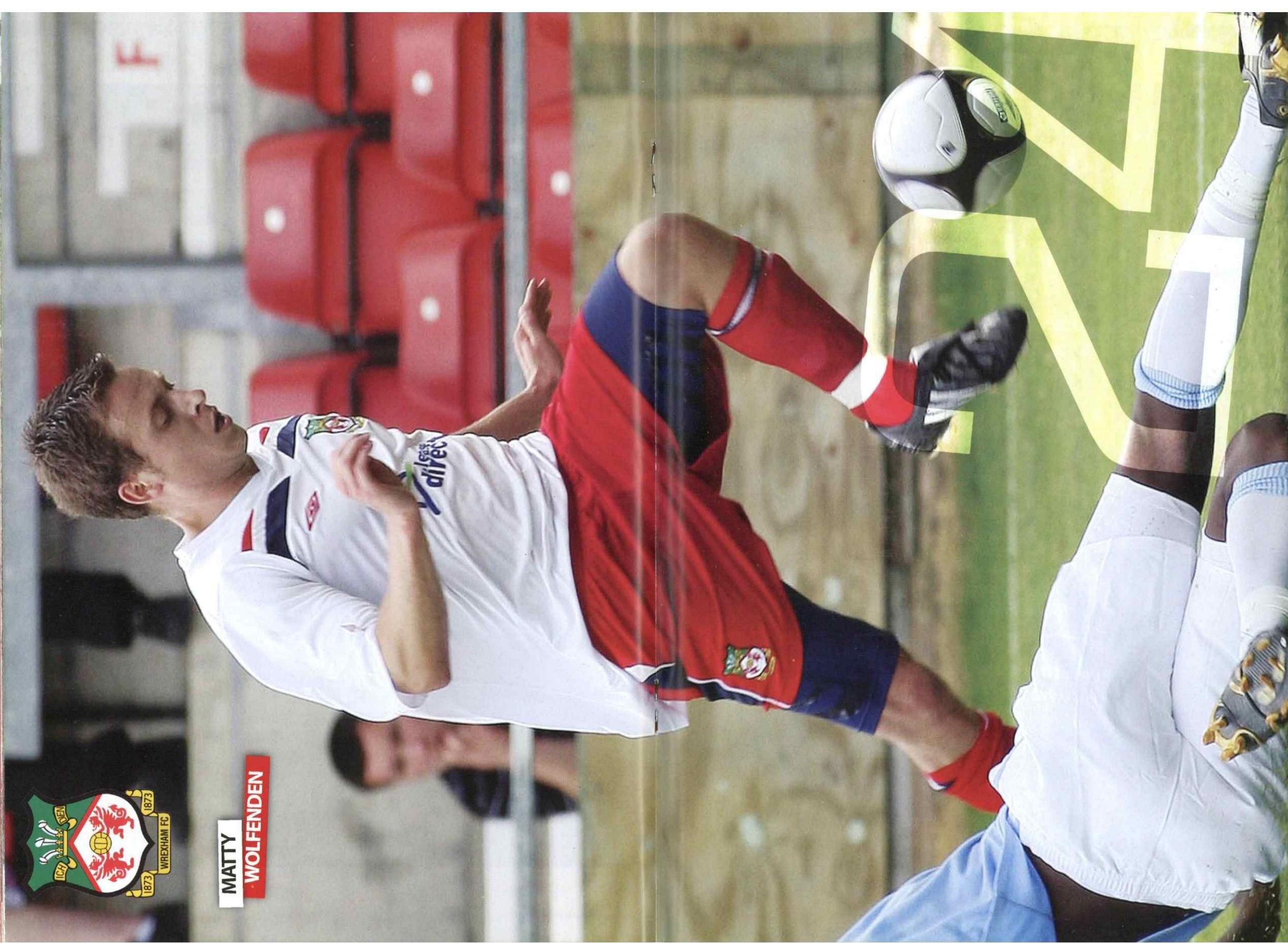
**Most annoying team-mate?**

No one really; I've not even found Neil Taylor that annoying! I'll have a better idea in a few months time mind you.

**If you were in a fight, who would you want alongside you?**

It's got to be fitness coach Mal Purchase. I've spent quite a bit of time with him over the past few weeks and he's a real hard nut





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## Inside

Old Flame

The Way We Were

Foreign Foes

Division Three Beckons Thee

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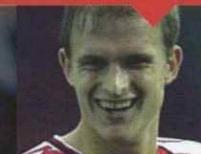
# RETRO

IF YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY >>>



## Big Picture

Stephen Roberts



Cast your minds back to April 2003 and a Racecourse Ground in party atmosphere as Denis Smith's side faced Cambridge United knowing victory would seal promotion back to Nationwide Division 2 at the first attempt.

A 6-1 hammering of Carlisle United seven days earlier had made it five wins on the bounce for the Dragons and few in the 9,960 crowd present for the visit of The U's anticipated anything other than another three points.

And that's how it panned out with Wrexham three goals to the good inside the opening 23 minutes. Paul Barrett opened the flood gates on 16 minutes when he fired home Carlos Edwards' cross before Brian Carey added a second barely three minutes later when he headed in Darren Ferguson's centre.

Fellow central defender Stephen Roberts then had his moment of glory when he made it 3-0 slotting the ball past Shaun Marshall at the far post, as today's picture shows.

Paul Edwards added goal number four with a delicate lob before Lee Jones raced clear to complete the scoring with fully 28 minutes left. But by then the score was irrelevant, all the fans wanted to do was start the celebrations as the players made a hasty retreat to the dressing rooms at the final whistle!

**1928**

A six-game unbeaten start to the 1928-29 season saw Wrexham in confident mood ahead to the visit of Gateshead, who had to make the long and arduous journey down from the North East for a Third Division (North) fixture. A crowd of 10,148, the best of the season at The Racecourse up to that point, filtered through the turnstiles and they were rewarded as Albert Mays scored the only goal of a tight game. Having drawn at Ashington the previous weekend, this win was the first of four consecutive victories for The Robins before Stockport ended the run with a 6-2 thumping the following month.

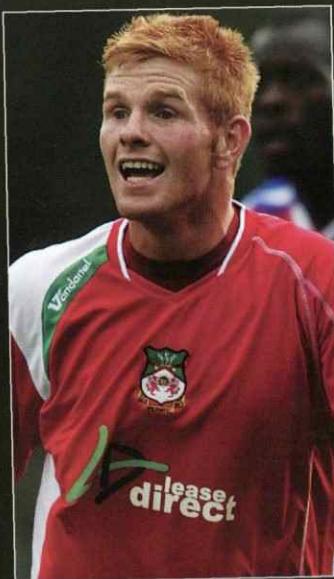
**1956**

The month of September 1956 saw Wrexham pack no less than nine Division Three (North) games into a four week spell and it was certainly a productive period as we won no less than seven of those games, losing the other two, both against title favourites Derby County.

Boothferry Park in Hull was the destination for The Robins on 22 September and they returned with both points courtesy of a 2-1 win over The Tigers. Two goals from former Cardiff City inside-forward Elfed Evans stunned the crowd of 16,667 and contributed to a run of five successive wins.

**1965**

Having disposed of near neighbours Chester by the comprehensive margin of 5-2 in the first round of the League Cup, Wrexham were drawn to face Fulham in the second round. A crowd of 12,001 assembled at The Racecourse


**2007**

A large following of Wrexham supporters made their way to Edgeley Park to witness the Coca-Cola League 2 game against Stockport County, but they returned disappointed as the home side ran out 2-1 winners. Boss Brian Carey made changes from the side beaten at home by Rotherham United the Saturday before and that seemed to have paid dividends when Marc Williams' (above) long range header put us in front. However, The Hatters turned the match around with goals from Anthony Elding and Dominic Blizzard to leave The Dragons pointless for the fifth time in six matches.

**The Dragons have had some great players down the years, all breathing with fire as they gave their all for the Wrexham colours. Intrepid reporter Mark Griffiths spent his summer months catching up with some familiar faces...**

**NEIL SALATHIEL**

As Wrexham struggled through the 1980s, it took a strong personality to stick with the team, both for players and supporters! Neil Salathiel certainly fitted the bill on the pitch: a robust, whole-hearted right-back, he put in nearly a decade of service for the club and was witness to a difficult but fascinating period in the club's history.

"My first game was at QPR [in October 1980] but I wasn't even expecting to play," explained the sprightly looking now 46-year-old. "We went down on the train, which was a bit of a novelty in itself, and when we got to the ground Arfon Griffiths pulled me to one side about an hour before kick-off and told me I was starting."

"I just didn't know which way to turn then! QPR were a very strong side, at the top of what is now the Championship, and they'd just bought a new left-winger from Nottingham Forest as well; they'd paid a couple of hundred thousand pounds for him, which was a lot of money in those days!"

"I thought 'Well, here we go!', but it went really well! We won 1-0, Mick Vinter scored the goal, and everybody else thought I'd played quite well and so I was made up! It was absolutely wonderful!"

"Coming back on the train there were characters like Joey Jones, Dai Davies, Arfon Griffiths and Dixie McNeil – it was marvellous. A great day out! All those players who'd made such names for themselves, and then there was me, a little seventeen-year-old!"

Salathiel was hardly famed for his goalscoring mind you, hitting the net just three times in his Wrexham career which encompassed some 325 senior games. Yet, the circumstances of two of those goals were somewhat bizarre as the redoubtable defender vividly recalls.

"We were down at Southend in March 1987 and it was an amazing game! Dixie was in charge and we played with a new system, with a sweeper. We won 3-0, and it was one of the best games I ever played in for Wrexham."

"I scored two goals – both from outside the box – so you can imagine the stick I got after from the rest of the lads! Sadly, it was down in Essex on a Friday night, so hardly any Wrexham fans were there to see it."

By then the former Welsh Youth international was already in his second spell at The Racecourse, despite having only turned 24 a few months earlier. "As a young lad I was originally going to sign for Sheffield Wednesday, but a couple of things didn't work out, so I came home to Wrexham. When I turned 18, I went to see the manager. He said I'd be kept on until the end of the season and we'd go from there. Then the financial problems cut in and so I had to leave."



"I went to Crewe, and they appointed a new manager a couple of months later; it was Arfon, the man who'd just released me! But he treated me very well and I had a good time there, and played about sixty games for them."

"When I left them I went to play in South Africa for a bit, and I only came back for Christmas, but Wrexham phoned me up to ask if I'd like to train with them to keep fit while I was over. I agreed and the next thing I knew they asked if I'd fancy signing for them."

"They'd got rid of a lot of the experienced players – the high earners – because of their financial situation. I said I'd give it a whirl for a couple of years, but I ended up staying for seven or eight years in the end and had a great time!"

"Bobby Roberts was the manager by then; he was a nice man but again had a hard time because of the lack of money. I thought he did a very good job considering the financial problems we had."

The highlight of the Scot's managerial reign came in the opening months of the 1984-85 season as Wrexham produced one of the great European shocks of all-time, as Salathiel recalls with obvious relish.

"Then they scored and made it 4-2, and I was soon asking Steve some more questions! Barry Horne then pops up with about ninety seconds left and scores the 'away' goal that put us through. All hell broke loose, on and off the pitch!"

"I heard Barry's dad had some trouble after the goal went in; he was jumping up and down, but he was the only one doing that in the entire stand!"

"We played Roma next. It was the same thing as the last round; you looked at all the international players they'd got and we just decided to go out and give it your best shot."

"The first leg was in the Olympic Stadium in Rome and we got beaten 2-0,

but Jackie Keay and I both swear that the first goal was handball. Their player went up at the near post for a corner and pushed it on with his hand."

"The second goal was from about twenty-five yards, out and a player was standing offside in Stuart Parker's line of vision. So it could easily have ended 0-0 and then the return would have been a different matter altogether."

"We lost that second leg 1-0, which was the first European game the club had ever lost at home."

"We certainly didn't let ourselves down though," added Salathiel with no hint of understatement.

Roberts left in March 1985 and Wrexham's directors turned to former striking legend Dixie McNeil to try and arrest the club's ailing fortunes.

"Dixie McNeil was appointed manager after Bobby and we just missed out on the play-offs in his second season in charge. Then that summer he brought in a young lad from Portsmouth called Kevin Russell and he was electric."

"The two seasons that he was with us saw us get ourselves organised and then, in the second season, finally get into the play-offs. Kevin was the outlet and he was flying. His hair wasn't though. He had more then, but not a lot!"

Wrexham reached the play-off final against Orient, but sadly for Salathiel the goalless first-leg is mostly remembered for a chance he missed.

"If only somebody had scored with a header! Some of the lads I work with now were at the match, and as soon as they mention football, someone mentions headers!"

"We drew 0-0, and lost 2-1 down there. They went 1-0 up, we equalised, they scored again and then Kevin Russell hit a shot at the end which went straight through the keeper's hands but hit him in the face and dropped safe! If that had gone in we'd have gone up! It was so disappointing. We should have done it really."

After McNeil, Brian Flynn was made manager which didn't turn out well for Salathiel.

"He made me club captain and then he let me go! Finances played their part again, but who knows what would have happened if I'd stayed? When Dixie was in charge I could have gone to a number of clubs, but I decided to stay."

"Who knows what will happen? You decide to stay, then don't see eye-to-eye with another manager and things are suddenly very different. I suppose with hindsight he did me a favour, but I didn't think so at the time!"

## THEY PLAYED AT THE RACECOURSE >> RETRO

No. 31

### Ally MacLeod

It might have been tongue-in-cheek, but ten days ago the subject of today's column was announced as Scotland's greatest ever sporting hero!

Admittedly, the sobriquet came was conferred by BBC Five Live's Fighting Talk, who were recognising what they considered a remarkable slight of hand: in 1978 he succeeded in convincing a horrified English nation that Scotland were capable of winning the World Cup!

MacLeod has been seen as a figure of fun since that World Cup campaign in Argentina fell apart, which is a shame as he achieved a great deal in his career. Still, it's for the unfortunate conclusion to his stint in charge of his national side that he'll always be remembered.

MacLeod's managerial career began with Ayr United and Aberdeen, his success with each earning him a chance to take charge of Scotland. Admittedly his capacity for blowing his own trumpet would come back to haunt him, but at first his confidence was matched by his achievements. He announced on his appointment that "my name is Ally MacLeod and I am a winner," and initially he certainly was.

Scotland qualified for the World Cup from a group containing European champions Czechoslovakia and Wales, who were famously denied by a highly controversial penalty for handball at Anfield, despite the fact that it was Scottish striker Joe Jordan who committed the deed!

To make MacLeod even more popular, his side defeated England in the Home Internationals, and the fact that England failed to qualify for Argentina just made things even sweeter. While the neighbours seethed, Scotland worked itself up into a frenzy of anticipation, MacLeod promising he'd come back with "at least a medal."

The team appeared on 'Top of the Pops' as their World Cup song got to number six in the charts and 25,000 fans were at Hampden Park to see the side circle the pitch in an open top bus before they headed to a Prestwick airport to be seen off by thousands more, before many of them made their own epic journey to South America. Asked on the tarmac "What do you plan to do after Scotland



win the World Cup," MacLeod replied: "Retain it."

Such hubris would come back to haunt MacLeod. A humiliating 3-1 defeat against Peru was followed by a draw against Iran which virtually ended their campaign. To progress Scotland had to beat Holland by two clear goals, and they nearly managed it as they showed why pundits rated their chances before the tournament began. However, a 3-2 victory wasn't enough and one game later MacLeod resigned.

He went on to manage Motherwell, Airdrie and Queen of the South, playing a reserve game for the last side, and scoring from the spot, at the age of 61! However, his legacy was already established, although he claimed in his autobiography: "I am a very good manager who just happened to have a few disastrous days, once upon a time, in Argentina."

Perhaps appropriately MacLeod's playing career began bizarrely. His debut for Third Lanark ended dramatically as the stand caught fire and the players had to grab their clothes and run from the changing room!

After six years at Third Lanark – followed by six weeks at St. Mirren – he moved to

the Football League. MacLeod's career at Blackburn, indeed his entire sojourn south of the border, lasted just five years, but he made a genuine and lasting impact. He was man of the match in the 1960 FA Cup Final, although he no doubt drew little comfort from that as Rovers lost 3-0 to Wolves.

Also, he was a leading figure in the PFA's campaign to abolish the maximum wage, working tirelessly alongside Jimmy Hill, although it would seem that his stance might have brought his time at Rovers to an end as following his crusade other players in the squad were offered a pay rise, but not him!

He therefore entered negotiations with Hibernians, who offered him the pay rise his Blackburn colleagues had received. When Rovers realised that he was likely to leave they matched the offer, but too late: MacLeod felt honour-bound to accept Hibs' deal and move north.

MacLeod played over 200 games for Rovers on the left-wing, scoring one goal in every four, but no doubt the low point of his time in England came at The Racecourse. Rovers, who were in the top ten of the First Division at the time, drew us at Ewood Park in the fourth round of the inaugural League Cup but failed to make the most of home advantage.

A 1-1 draw meant the sides reconvened a week later in North Wales, and Blackburn were victims of a famous giant-killing. The first-half contained no goals, although Blackburn were fortunate to survive, but early in the second-half their luck ran out as Mickey Metcalf opened the scoring. However, Rovers hit back, Northern Ireland legend Derek Dougan equalising to send the game into extra-time.

He had only earned a stay of execution though: two more goals from Metcalf ensured Wrexham progressed at Rovers' expense.

**Wednesday 14th December 1960**

*League Cup Fourth Round*

**WREXHAM 3 BLACKBURN ROVERS 1**  
(after extra time)

**Wrexham:** Charlie Hughes, Peter Jones, Aly McGowan, Fred Davis, Alan Fox, George Evans, Gren Jones, Arfon Griffiths, Harvey McCreadie, Mickey Metcalf, Ron Roberts

**Blackburn:** Harry Leyland, Ken Taylor, John Bray, Andy McEvoy, Matt Woods, Ronnie Clayton, Roy Isherwood, Peter Dohing, Derek Dougan, Bryan Douglas, Ally MacLeod

### KARL CONNOLLY

**Luton Town 2 Wrexham 5**  
Nationwide League Division Two  
20th September 1997

Whilst Wrexham and Luton had suffered similarly poor starts to the Division Two campaign, the vast difference in the club's respective financial positions was highlighted in the build-up to the game as The Hatters splashed out £400,000 to recruit Northern Ireland international Phil Gray; the former Fortuna Sittard striker

being handed his debut against the Reds.

With Brian Flynn's side having failed to capitalise on an opening day win over Oldham – picking up just one point from their next four outings – at least the previous Saturday's home success over Bristol City had lifted spirits ahead of the tough trip to Kenilworth Road.

It came as no surprise then that Flynn should stick largely to the side that had defeated The Robins, the only change to the starting XI seeing Barry Jones come into the defence for the injured Tony Humes.

As for Luton, their squad had been decimated by injury; hence the arrival of the aforementioned Gray.

And so the match itself. After Stuart Douglas had wasted a couple of good positions for the home side, it was Wrexham who took the lead with their first serious attack with just 10 minutes played.

Crowd pleaser Karl Connolly took the ball out on the right-wing and his pass into the area resulted in a race between Dave Brammer and Luton's veteran keeper Andy Dibble; thankfully from a Wrexham viewpoint, the midfielder got there first and he calmly steered his shot around the advancing custodian to give the Reds a 1-0 advantage.

The game could, and probably should, have been put to bed early on as Mark McGregor and Connolly both wasted good opportunities before Wrexham's lead was finally doubled on 22 minutes. Gary Waddock sliced his clearance horribly and Connolly fired home a tremendous strike from the edge of the penalty-area which Dibble got nowhere near.

A good header by Steve Davis from a Richard Harvey corner-kick reduced the arrears to a single goal just before the interval and this meant that the home side came out with all guns blazing after the break.

A mix-up in the Wrexham defence allowed Gray the time and space to fire home into an unguarded net for 2-2 and thus make a good first impression on the Luton faithful in the crowd of 5,241.

The game was now on a knife-edge but it was Wrexham who stepped up a gear

and they finally gained their reward just after the hour mark. Winger Craig Skinner out-paced Bryan Small, but was then hauled back for his trouble by the on loan Birmingham City defender.

With referee Mark Rejer having little option but to point to the penalty spot, 'Skins' picked himself up and took great delight in duly converting the penalty. The home side were struggling to cope with Wrexham's greater pace and passing style of play and it was now merely a matter of what Wrexham's final margin of victory would be.

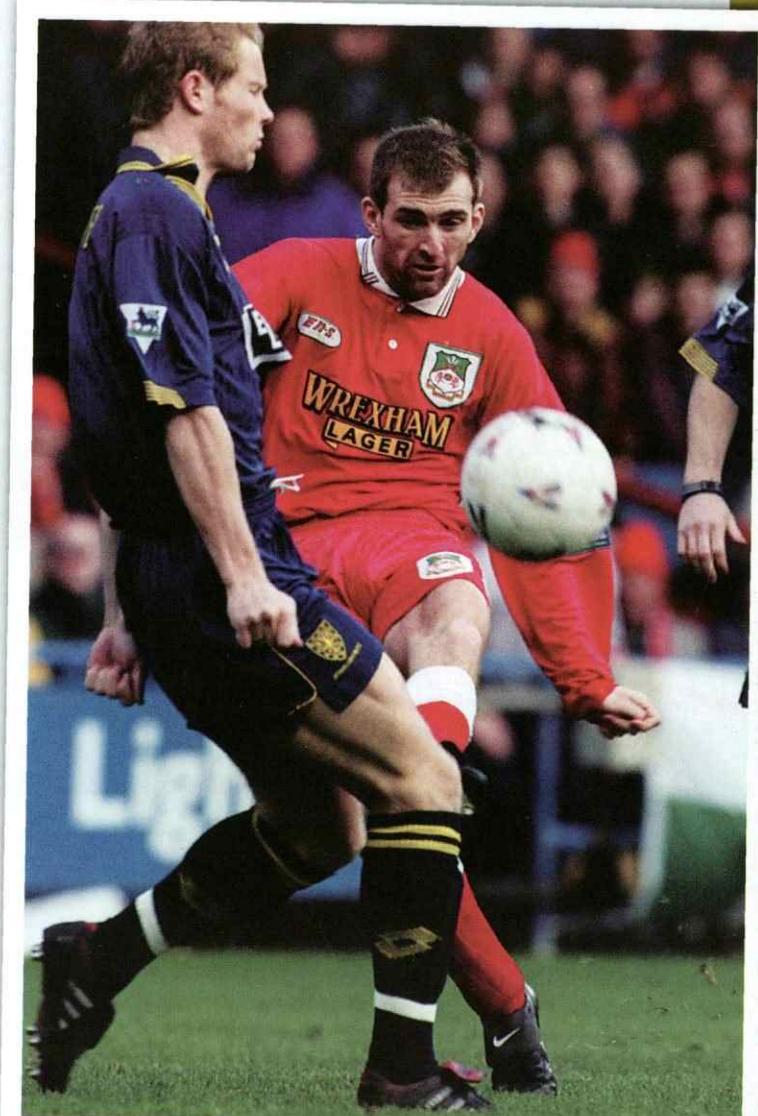
Within a minute of Skinner's penalty, the North Wilians had regained their two-goal cushion and this effectively ended the game as a contest; McGregor

pumped a long ball forward for Connolly who looped his header over Dibble and into the back of the net.

'Lugger', who had tormented The Hatters defence all afternoon with his searing pace and direct running, finally secured a well deserved hat-trick in the 73rd minute; Skinner once again was the provider and the likeable Scouser calmly beat the advancing keeper to make the scoreline 5-2.

This hat-trick was the 100th scored by a Wrexham player since joining the Football League in 1921, and the win was also the club's biggest away from The Racecourse since routing Chesterfield 6-0 in September 1976.

A memorable day all round.



# SEPTEMBER 1981

**Football supporters are often overly hasty and emotive in arriving at conclusions and assessments and Mel Sutton – who spent eight seasons at the coal-face here and who made over 350 appearances for us – probably knows this better than most.**

So given how majestically he performed for us in the heart of our midfield, is it unfair that his place in Wrexham's lore is so sullied by the one season he spent as manager?

After John Neal spent £15,000 to bring him from Cardiff City in the summer of 1972, the Birmingham-born stylist hit the ground running; he scored winning goals in both his away and home debuts on consecutive weekends.

Comfortable on the ball and always perfectly poised, few new signings have won over the Wrexham crowd so quickly and so convincingly.

And when Arfon Griffiths departed The Racecourse in May 1981 after refusing to trim his backroom staff, Sutton eventually found himself in an invidious position; manager by default.

As one of the senior professionals at the club, as well as Griffiths' de facto assistant, he eventually became a target for the then chairman, Fred Tomlinson, but only after the board had made overtures to several well-known figures including former Everton boss Gordon Lee.

Although clearly in the wrong place at the wrong time, Sutton was damned if did and damned if he didn't take the job when Tomlinson finally offered it to him a month later.

History now tells us that Wrexham AFC at the start of the 1980s was the ultimate poisoned chalice, haemorrhaging money, its best players and supporters in equal measure.

With a mounting debt and caught square in the eye of an appalling recession, it was clear that the club was existing way beyond its comfort zone, clinging onto its Division Two status almost in spite of itself.

Compounding the impact of Griffiths' departure further was the bubbling inertia of the natives; uninspired by a lack of investment at board level and by a lack of ambition on the field, attendances at home games had started to dwindle.

Mel Sutton's initial impact as a Wrexham player nine years previously contrasts greatly with his start in the dug-out; four defeats in his opening five league games set the alarm bells off early.

Under his management, Wrexham's starting eleven, when fit, bore a familiar look, and this was clearly part of the problem; the side was carrying huge mileage and the wafer-thin squad was rarely injury-free.

Only the emerging Eddie Niedzwiecki and Simon Hunt offered fresh options, otherwise, the nucleus was still built around Joey Jones, Gareth Davies, Dixie McNeil, Alan Hill and Ian Arkwright, who was unavailable from the off because of injury.

To this end Sutton had attempted to snare at least one additional signing during pre-season, but Ian Atkins had decided to stay put over at Shrewsbury Town while Bristol Rovers' Tony Pulis arrived on trial but never showed enough to warrant terms.

Upstairs, the cupboard was just as bare and the chairman and directors made

frequent public appeals to the absent support base.

Before a ball was kicked in anger, chairman Tomlinson declared that: "We face many problems and threats, the biggest one being finance. Only by maintaining high standards and high efficiency can we beat these problems."

For all of the chairman's laudable candour, this kind of talk did nothing to entice the sceptics.

The club, then, was caught in an invidious and all-too-familiar cycle; the lack of funding impacted on the team's ability to compete and, as the side started to leak, so too did its support start to melt.

When Charlton Athletic arrived at The Racecourse towards the end of September, 1981, we still hadn't won a single league game and, although three of our defeats were by one-goal margins, we looked leggy and bereft of ideas up-front.

The Addicks, clearly on the rise, had come up the previous May and were themselves working to a new manager.

Mike Bailey had overseen the previous season's promotion winning campaign but, after having quickly departed for Brighton, had since been replaced at the front of the team bus by Alan Mullery.

And it was a plucky and hard-working side he'd inherited. From the erstwhile Nicky Johns between the sticks to the appropriately named Steve Gritt and the reliable full-back, Terry Naylor, Charlton were certainly one of the soundest outfits in the league.

But it was up front where they looked most potent. Derek Hales, still the club's all-time record goalscorer, was back for a second spell at The Valley and, alongside him, the emerging, cavalier Paul Walsh and Martin Robinson presented a formidable punch.

But faced with the Steve Dowman-Wayne Cegielski axis, they struggled to catch fire all afternoon and, against all of the pre-match odds, it was the home side that dominated the game from the off; Johns was by far the busier goalkeeper throughout, making a series of fine stops.

Continuing a recent trend, the match was decided by one goal; Dixie McNeil converted a penalty twenty minutes from time after the Charlton goalkeeper was deemed to have fouled him inside his area.

But while the decision looked harsh, neither the Wrexham fans in an official attendance returned at 3,076 nor Mel Sutton were complaining; the home side had recorded its first league win of the season, with a clean sheet thrown in for good measure.

Sadly, Wrexham failed to capitalise on the momentum and went on to spend the most part of the season in the doldrums, only rarely spotting dry dock and infrequently hitting any sort of highs.

Two poor runs of league form that bookended the year had effective done for us; any outbreaks of real form were intermittent and irregular and the fact that the club's 'Player of the Year' was its goalkeeper, Niedzwiecki, told the story of the season's traffic flow.

By the following May, and on the back of further boardroom upheaval and continued financial losses, Sutton was deemed surplus to requirements; barely four years after the single greatest season in the club's history and we'd blown the boom.

And although Sutton goes down in history as the season's sacrificial lamb, revisionism asks if the Wrexham manager – clearly a victim of circumstance – was really more sinned against than sinning

## SOUNDTRACK >> RETRO



**John Lennon – the former Beatle and one of popular music's most influential and prolific talents – was shot dead by Mark Chapman in New York City on 8 December, 1980.**

Earlier that evening the greatest songwriter of his generation – who had been stalked for months – had autographed a copy of his most recent album, 'Double Fantasy', for his would-be assassin.

For the next twelve months, Lennon's back catalogue dominated the album charts while select cuts from 'Double Fantasy' went straight to the top of the singles charts worldwide, staying there over Christmas and well into the New Year.

'Imagine' and 'Woman' held the top berth one after the other in January 1981, shamefully replaced – however briefly – by Joe Dolce's novelty song, 'Shaddup Ya Face', which in turn was toppled by a Roxy Music version of a Lennon classic, 'Jealous Guy'.

Not to be out-done, Cardiff's Shakin' Stevens – known to his mother and father as Michael Barrett – also enjoyed a pair of Number One singles that year, with the mildly irritating but terrifyingly infectious 'This Ole House' and 'Green Door' doing the honours.

But it was the war-painted, post-punk dandies, Adam And The Ants, who were

occupying pole position by the time that Alan Mullery was addressing his troops in the away dressing room at The Racecourse Ground that September.

Fronted by actor Stuart Goddard, 'Prince Charming' was the group's second Number One single of the year; Adam And The Ants had reached the summit with 'Stand And Deliver' earlier in the year.

Elsewhere, The Specials' politically charged 'Ghost Town' was unquestionably the year's darkest and most intriguing Number One single while, on the other extreme, Soft Cell announced themselves as an electronic pop act of import when they hit the top with 'Tainted Love'.

But if Mel Sutton, in the midst of a horrific season as Wrexham manager, needed comfort around Christmas time from the popular music chart, he hardly felt any positive messages from Queen and David Bowie's November chart-topper, 'Under Pressure'.

And during his quieter, more reflective moments alone he may have cited the title of The Human League's Christmas-time Number One, 'Don't You Want Me, Baby?' in any imaginary conversations with the Wrexham FC fan-base.



# Ayr United

Down the years the Dragons have faced various sides from Europe and beyond, whether it be in European competition or merely friendlies. In this series we look back at some of those games and chart just what's happened to those sides in the intervening years...

To my mind, not enough Conference programme articles open with quotes from Eighteenth Century Scottish poetry, so let's start the trend with a little something from the bard himself, Robbie Burns.

*"This truth fand honest Tam O'Shanter,*

*As he frae Ayr ae night did canter;*  
*(Auld Ayr, wham ne'er a town*  
*surpasses,*

*For honest men and bonie lasses."*

Don't worry, you haven't inadvertently fallen foul of a renegade band of 'Poetry Weekly' salesmen roaming outside the ground in hope of a lucky sale: Burns' words have a salient connection to a side which Wrexham faced in a friendly ten years ago.

Surely Ayr United are unique in boasting a nickname drawn from literature: as you can see above, in his great work, 'Tam O'Shanter', the eponymous hero ventures into Ayr, a town Burns lauds as having particularly upright inhabitants. Hence their nickname: 'The Honest Men'.

Not that Kilmarnock fans would necessarily agree! Their rivalry might not capture many headlines, but it's one of the most heart-felt in British football. But don't take my word for it, ask a man whose career was bookended with a spell with the two Ayrshire rivals, and also played in derbies in Glasgow, Munich and Birmingham!

Sky Sports pundit Alan McInally might have experienced white-hot atmospheres all round Europe playing for his clubs and Scotland, but he told Sky Sports that the Ayrshire derby was just as big: "I played Celtic v Rangers, Aston Villa v Birmingham, Bayern Munich v Nuremberg and this compares. If you support Ayr or Kilmarnock, this is as big.

"I remember playing in one game at Somerset Park. It would have been about



1981 and we had a guy called Ian McAllister who could have played at a higher level. Big Derek McDicken played for Killie and even saying his name frightens me! He used to work for Curries lemonade and could have carried the truck.

"Derek had a shot in the 93rd minute that went past the post, bounced back and hit the back of the netting. The ref gave the goal and all hell broke loose. It went mental. Ian was kicking everything and going crazy. I was at the other end so never really saw it but we restarted and then it was full-time.

"It kicked off after the game and Cally wanted to go into the other dressing room and kill everybody. Then we reminded him it was big Derek who scored and it might not be a good idea! But that sort of intense feeling was my first real experience of an Ayrshire derby and it was great."

The savour of the Ayrshire derbies is added to by the fact that they are rare these days. Ayr have slipped down the divisions in comparison to Kilmarnock recently, and the sides were last at the same level back in 1993, the longest period of separation the

duo have suffered since Ayr were formed in 1910.

"Quite simply, they don't get the chance to meet any more," McInally explains. "They talk about Spurs struggling just now but if they beat Arsenal twice a season their folk are happy. Can you imagine Rangers and Celtic not in the same league? Hibs and Hearts?"

McInally's father Jackie, was a legend at Kilmarnock but his loyalties lie with his first club.

"I went to Kilmarnock when I came back from Bayern Munich and it was because of one person – Tommy Burns. I would have done anything for Tommy but I never thought I'd play for the club my father did as I always saw myself as an Ayr player.

"I was there from 13 until about 20 before I went to Celtic. I didn't want to play for a club my dad was such a hero with. He won a league there. I got stick but it wasn't too bad. I had one advantage, though. My dad was Jackie McInally, so I was always going to be alright."



Despite their diminished circumstances, Ayr have been offered opportunities to take on their great rivals in the cups though, and they've taken the chances with both hands!

The season after their separation they drew each other in the Scottish Cup and Kilmarnock triumphed 2-1, but as the sides continued to draw each other with uncanny frequency, the underdogs embarked on a remarkable run of success. Four times in five years they came together and each time Ayr were victorious, once with the help of a penalty shoot-out.

After a hiatus of seven years the sides met once more last season in the Scottish Cup, and the sides fought out a dramatic game at Ayr, with the home side snatching a late equaliser through Alex Williams, to the delight of McInally, not only because of his preference for United, but because it gave him an opportunity to present the replay live on Sky Sports and sample the atmosphere of an Ayrshire derby once more!

"I was in the Sky studio doing Soccer Saturday when Ayr scored late and Jeff Stelling looked at me. He couldn't say anything at the time but then the scoreline came through. I thought, 'ya beauty' as it would give me the chance to come up for the replay. At first, I was told Alex was booked for kissing the ref. Then I heard he'd taken his top off but even that was a joke.

"The ref has never been in that position but a billion people would have swapped with Alex at that moment. I know; I've been there. Jockey Mick Fitzgerald said winning the Grand National is better than sex. Maybe he's not quite right but it's not far off.

"It's great to get a replay and now Ayrshire football is going to be at the forefront. It's terrific for both clubs and there will be some money in it."

United raised their game for the cameras as they looked to continue their terrific run against their rivals, and after just ten minutes Bryan Prunty gave them a lead which they held onto until half-time.

Soon after the restart Killie equalised, but when they had a player sent-off with twenty minutes left it looked like the giant-killers had their opportunity. Oddly, the dismissal seemed to spur the home team on though: seven minutes later they took the lead and soon afterwards snatched a third to foil United.

Perhaps the highpoint of Ayr's rivalry with Kilmarnock came in the 1930s, when a remarkable turnaround between the two clubs took place. In April 1936 Kilmarnock emphatically secured the local bragging rights with an 8-0 victory over The Honest Men in the final of the Ayrshire Cup. However, their position of primacy wouldn't last long; just a fortnight later the sides met in the Ayr Charity Cup final and Ayr turned things around by triumphing 7-0!

The Ayrshire Cup is a spectacular trophy, looking rather like a squat Welsh Cup, decorated with all manner of little figures, jutting precariously off its edges. Its exotic nature was augmented by the presence of sides like Afton Lads, Maybole, Vale of Ayr, Coylton Coila, Kilmarnock Floors, Ayr Rovers and Ayr Athole. Sadly, the pot is no more; it was last contested in 1997, when Ayr won it for the twenty-sixth time and got to keep it in perpetuity.

A competition of more recent vintage is an impressive event to commemorate the club's centenary season. The club was founded after the amalgamation of Ayr Parkhouse and Ayr FC, making United the only side to come about after a merger by two clubs which were already in the Scottish League. To mark the event there is an opportunity to win 'The Honest Men

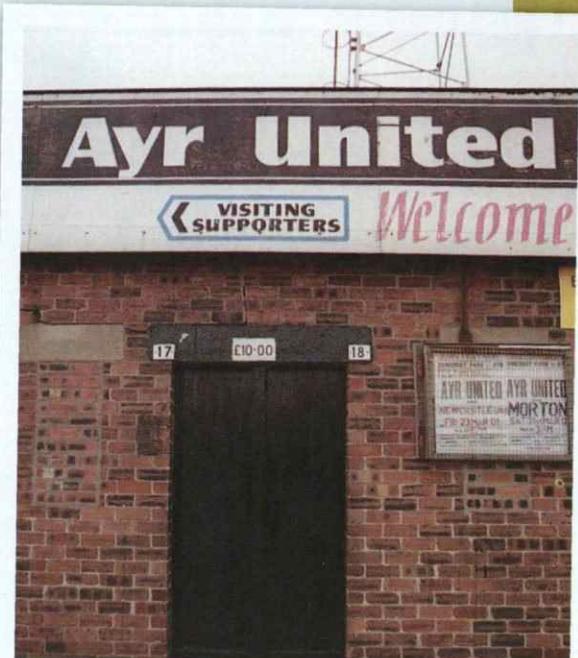
Centenary Pie Competition': who could pass up the chance to select the centenary pie?

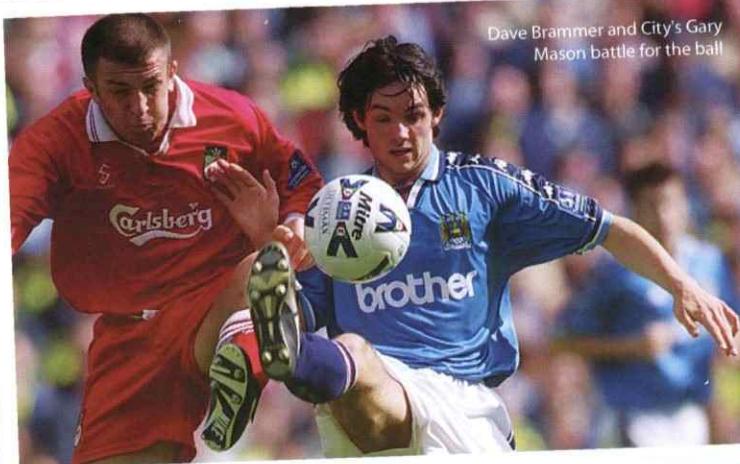
Perhaps a more substantial

achievement would be to mark the club's centenary with promotion and another crack in the league at Kilmarnock.

At the moment United are in the Scottish First Division, and having never won a major trophy, a centennial promotion to the top division would be quite an achievement.

The man who gave the club their nickname would warn against the





Dave Brammer and City's Gary Mason battle for the ball

**"Think Wrexham and you think of a Third Division side." This was a well worn mantra back in the early 1960's with many fans, both in North Wales and beyond, questioning the club's desire to break into the upper echelons of the Football League.**

Whilst that was finally achieved back in 1978, Wrexham ultimately spent more seasons in the third tier of the world's oldest league competition than any other division. In this feature, we take a look at our opponents in what became 'Wrexham's division'.

**WREXHAM'S SPELLS IN THE THIRD TIER**  
 1958-1960 – Division Three  
 1962-1964 – Division Three  
 1970-1978 – Division Three  
 1982-1983 – Division Three  
 1993-2002 – Division Two  
 2003-2005 – Division Two/League One

## LANCASTRIAN GIANTS AND MAD HATTERS

Bolton, Man City, Wigan & Luton

### 17. BOLTON WANDERERS

A founder member of the Football League back in 1888, Bolton flourished in the rarefied air of the First and Second Divisions until 1971, when they finished bottom of Division Two, dropping down alongside neighbours Blackburn.

They were still smarting from relegation when Wrexham visited Burnden Park in November 1971 and the Reds returned to North Wales with both points, Ian Moir and Graham Whittle netting in our 2-0 win. This was Wrexham's sixth win in a row but the season went pear shaped after that as we recorded only one win in the next 17 games, a

run that included a 1-2 reversal at home to Bolton.

Under the astute management of Jimmy Armfield, Bolton consolidated in their first season in Division Three, and then won the title a year later, finishing four points ahead of Notts County. In so doing, the Trotters beat Wrexham twice, becoming the first visiting team to win at The Racecourse Ground that season [3-1 with goals from Lee Phillips, Gary Jones and Stuart Lee] and edging home 1-0 at Burnden Park thanks to Paul Jones' goal.

Although we have faced Wanderers since then at Second and Fourth Division level, seasons 1971-72 and 1972-73 occasioned our only meetings in the third tier.

### 18. MANCHESTER CITY

Although a chasm now appears to separate Manchester City from Wrexham, only 11 years ago we faced the Mancunian giants as equals in Nationwide Division Two.

Joe Royle had replaced Frank Clark as City's manager in February 1998 with the club deep in relegation trouble but couldn't arrest the slide into the uncharted territory of the third tier of the game. Nevertheless, City were hot favourites to bounce back at the first time of asking.

In August 1998 Ian Rush found himself replaced by Neil Roberts in the Wrexham side that travelled to Maine Road but Roberts saw little of the ball as our hosts, unsurprisingly, dominated possession.

Shots and crosses peppered the Wrexham goalmouth where Mark Cartwright produced the best performance of his career to keep the score at 0-0. Royle admitted: "He [Cartwright] stopped everything. We had enough chances to win it yet he kept everything out."

In the return at Wrexham on Boxing Day, it was Manchester City keeper Nicky Weaver's turn to produce a man-of-the match performance. Wrexham dominated possession but City, with Gareth Taylor in their ranks, stole

#### Wrexham's full third tier record against Bolton Wanderers:-

Home			Away		
P	W	D	L	F	A
4	0	0	2	2	5 1

Biggest home win – None  
 Biggest away win – 2-0 (1971/72)  
 Worst home defeat – 1-3 (1972/73)  
 Worst away defeat – 0-1 (1972/73)  
 Wrexham Top Scorer  
 Arfon Griffiths, Ian Moir, Mickey Thomas & Graham Whittle – one goal each  
 Highest home attendance  
 5,547 – 30 Oct 1972  
 Highest away attendance  
 16,732 – 30 Jan 1973

#### Wrexham's third tier record against Manchester City:-

Home			Away		
P	W	D	L	F	A
Home			Away		
P	W	D	L	F	A
2	0	0	1	0	1

Biggest home win – None  
 Biggest away win – None  
 Worst home defeat – 0-1 (1998/99)  
 Worst away defeat – None  
 Karl Connolly – three goals  
 Highest home attendance  
 9,048 – 26 Dec 1998  
 Highest away attendance  
 27,677 – 22 Aug 1998

#### Wrexham's full third tier record against Wigan Athletic:-

Home			Away		
P	W	D	L	F	A
Home			Away		
P	W	D	L	F	A
12	1	3	2	7	9

Biggest home win – 2-0 (2001/02)  
 Biggest away win – 3-2 (2001/02), 1-0 (1999/2000)  
 Worst home defeat – 1-3 (2000/01), 0-2 (1998/99)  
 Worst away defeat – 1-3 (1982/83)  
 Wrexham Top Scorer  
 Karl Connolly – three goals  
 Highest home attendance  
 5,271 – 26 Aug 2000  
 Highest away attendance  
 7,245 – 29 Apr 2000

#### Wrexham's full third tier record against Luton Town:-

Home			Away		
P	W	D	L	F	A
Home			Away		
P	W	D	L	F	A
16	6	1	1	14	7

Biggest home win – 3-1 (2000/01), 2-0 (1963/64)  
 Biggest away win – 5-2 (1997/98)  
 Worst home defeat – 1-2 (2004/05)  
 Worst away defeat – 1-5 (2004/05)  
 Wrexham Hat-Tricks – One  
 Karl Connolly 20/09/1997  
 @ Kenilworth Road  
 Wrexham Top Scorer  
 Hector Sam - 4 goals  
 Highest home attendance  
 6,614 – 23 Apr 2005  
 Highest away attendance  
 7,144 – 6 Nov 2004

## DIVISION THREE BECKONS THEE >> RETRO

a 1-0 win when Dutch defender Gerard Wiekens headed in Kevin Horlock's corner.

Wrexham ended the campaign in 17th place and, although finishing behind Fulham and Walsall, Manchester City went up via the play-offs. Famously, City miraculously recovered a two-goal deficit with just sixty seconds of normal time remaining to send their Wembley clash with Gillingham into extra-time.

Having netted the last gasp leveller, Paul Dickov then missed in the penalty shoot-out but the striker's blushes were spared when Blues' keeper Nicky Weaver saved all bar-one of the Gills spot-kicks to clinch promotion in the process.

### 19. WIGAN ATHLETIC

Even more recently than the games against Manchester City, Wrexham were competing in the third tier against Wigan. Although we parted company when Wrexham were relegated in 2001-02, we still beat the Latics three times that season!

Our first win was by a thumping 5-1 margin in the LDV Vans Trophy in front of 1,550 at The Racecourse Ground; an own goal from Keith Hill put the visitors into a 25th minute lead but two goals from Lee Trundle, another brace from Andy Morrell, and a fifth from Steve Thomas secured our safe passage.

At the JJB Stadium four days later, Wrexham again went behind, to a Tony Dinning penalty. Keith Hill equalised but we went behind again when Kristian Rogers saved a second penalty only for Simon Haworth to net the rebound.

The former Cardiff man celebrated with 'The Ayatollah' in front of the Wrexham fans but we had the last laugh when a Hector Sam special and a predatory strike from Craig Faulconbridge gave us a 3-2 win.

The Falcon scored again as we beat the Latics 2-0 at home in February 2002 [Dennis Lawrence getting the other goal] but we won only three out of our remaining 13 games and dropped into Nationwide Division Three.

Admitted to the League in 1978 in place of Southport, Wigan first met Wrexham in December 1982 in a Third Division match that finished 1-1, Eamon O'Keefe nodding in a late leveller for Latics after Ian Arkwright had given us the lead.

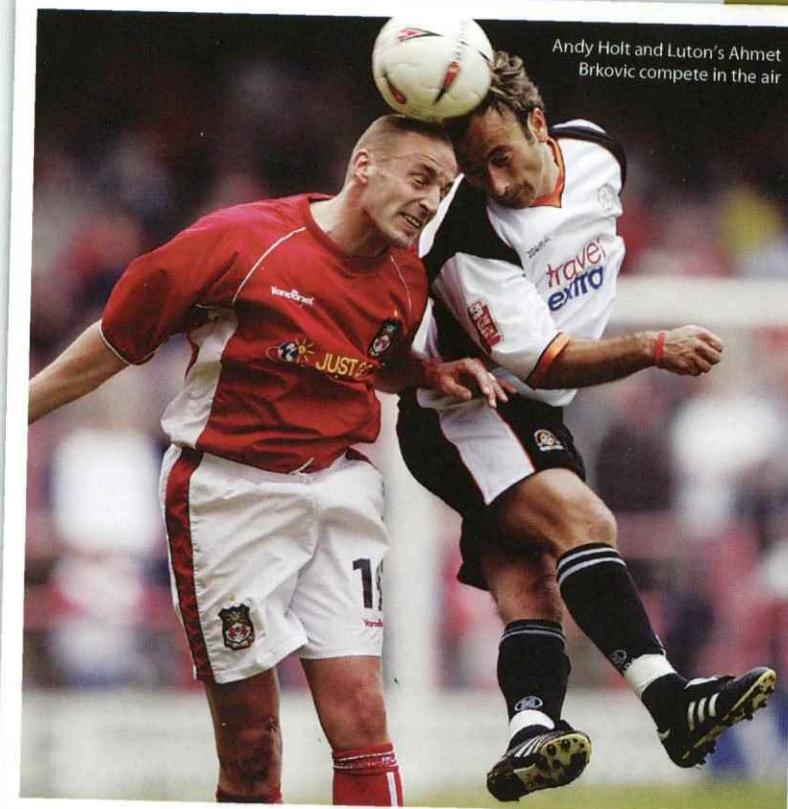
The following Easter, John Muldoon put us ahead at Springfield Park but Wigan hit back to win 3-1. In three visits to their old ground, we never won, but in our 3 visits so far to the JJB Stadium we have never lost. Karl Connolly hit the only goal as we won there in April 2000 and we held out for a 0-0 draw there on New Year's Day 2001.

Luton, our 5-2 win being the club's biggest away win in the League since a 6-0 romp at Chesterfield in September 1976.

An even more remarkable result was our most recent win at Kenilworth Road, 4-3 in October 2000. With half an hour left to play, Brian Flynn's team were 3-0 down. Faulconbridge swooped to head in a goal back and further strikes followed from Chris Killen, Martyn Chalk and Darren Ferguson, Fergie sliding in the winner with three minutes left in front of the raucous travelling supporters.

On our most recent visit to Bedfordshire, we ended up outclassed, five goals down with half-an-hour to play, there was to be no fairy-tale ending this time, though Hector Sam salvaged some pride to make the final score 5-1.

Some 2,500 Hatters made their way to The Racecourse Ground for the rematch in April 2005. Andy Holt headed Wrexham into the lead but our visitors hit back with second-half goals from Curtis Davies and Chris Coyne to clinch the League One title. Our ten point deduction for entering administration proved too much to make up as Wrexham were relegated, eight points from safety.



Andy Holt and Luton's Ahmet Brkovic compete in the air

# FERRIS WHEELS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Ken Ferris, 1995

Like many a long-suffering and faceless football widow, Ken Ferris's partner, Nicky, is clearly a most understanding woman who has gone far beyond the boundary in the best interests – one hopes – of her domestic set-up.

Because without her support – both as one half of a relationship and as a mother to the couple's son, Lyle – its questionable whether or not the long-standing Tottenham Hotspur supporter's 1995 travelogue, 'Football Fanatic', would have ever seen the light of day.

In equal part a football diary, social essay and real-time tussle with the vagaries of the British Rail schedules, Ferris sets himself the ultimate anorak's challenge; to visit all 92 league grounds in the quickest time possible and to maybe even land himself into the Guinness Book of Records.

And this while holding down a full-time job and a family life.

There have, of course, been many far more important books on British Football but, to anyone who has ever found themselves stranded in Mansfield after a Tuesday night Johnstone's Paint Trophy defeat, 'Football Fanatic' has a wonder and a strange beauty of its own.

Applying an unscientific maths formula, Ferris – then working in financial broadcasting – hits the parade, barely stopping for breath and touching the country's most extreme [and depressing] out-posts.

"A quick back-of-the-envelope calculation told me that I would have to see three games a week for 25 weeks of the season and two games a week for the other nine weeks," he reveals in the introduction.

It's a schedule that takes him to Wrexham for a regular Saturday afternoon encounter with Leyton Orient on 14 January, 1995.

Then revelling under Brian Flynn and powered by the goals of Gary Bennett, the club – and the town – was in buoyant humour; on the previous weekend, Ipswich Town had been slain in an FA Cup Fourth Round tie.

Having encountered the bi-lingual signposts and the usual slew of flag-draped cars bearing travelling supporters going both directions on the motorway, he fetches up at the ground in good time and, in the best traditions of the day-tripper, heads immediately for the club shop.

Tooling up with a couple of fanzines [he name-checks 'The Sheeping Giant'] and a match programme, he encounters a developing orderly queue in search of coach tickets for an up-coming trip to Old Trafford and over-hears a pointed comment from a random regular.

"Who are all these people?" moaned one fan. "Why aren't they here every week?" said another who was scrambling around to get vouchers for his mates.

Leafing through the programme, and surprised to discover "only one Hughes [Bryan] – a very skilful young player (pictured) – and one Jones [Barry]," he notes that the issue is: "Full of coverage of that famous victory over Ipswich, including a centrefold picture of the players in the bath."

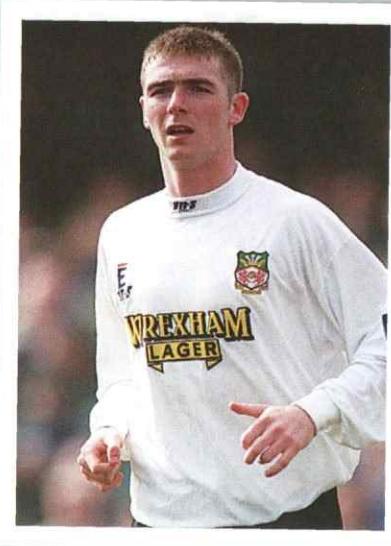
"The caption read: 'This is the least revealing. However, we still have the negatives and are prepared to listen to cash offers from certain players'."

But its Gary Bennett, inevitably, who captures the visitor's attention, and Ferris refers repeatedly to the player and the acclaim afforded him by the home [and away] supporters.

Impeccably briefed and, like all anoraks, precise with his facts and correct with his detail, Ferris mentions Bennett's nick-name and refers to the back-ground to the player's infamous 1987 tackle on Sheffield Wednesday's Ian Knight that ended with a High Court settlement.

True to form, 'Psycho' scores an excellent hat-trick on the day; one of his three goals starts with a forty-yard run down the touch-line and ends with a twenty-yard strike dispatched into the roof of Paul Heald's net.

After side-footing home a third goal – Wrexham's fourth – Ferris writes how: "The



Wrexham number seven ran towards the Kop, ripped off his shirt, as he'd done after scoring the winner against Ipswich in the Cup the week before, and pretended to throw it to his adoring fans. They lapped it up."

At the final whistle, and after the home side crafts an impressive victory [the game finished 4-1], the visitor follows another well-worn and much lamented tradition and heads to The Turf Hotel.

"It belongs to Border Breweries, who also own the ground itself, and serves a fine pint of Marston's bitter," he writes.

There, in time honoured fashion, he strikes up loose talk with a barman who offers Ferris a quick – and subjective – club history and recalls those heady days, pre-1985, when beer was still served from The Turf to those attending on the Mold Road side of the ground.

In retrospect, Ken Ferris proved to be an excellent charm for us that season.

He had previously encountered us when he visited AFC Bournemouth one month earlier, on a bitterly cold Friday night during the pre-Christmas run-up. On that occasion we won 3-1, with Bennett also on the score-sheet.



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# COMMERCIAL NEWS

Today's match against Luton Town is a very important game not only for Wrexham Football Club but for the town and the surrounding area as a whole as we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Gresford Collier's Park Disaster where 266 souls were tragically lost.

On the tickets you will notice the Gresford Collier's Wheel; alongside this the Wrexham players are all wearing the image on the sleeve as a mark of respect. We are also very fortunate to have the Llay Welfare Band here with us today, and they will be playing the Gresford Hymn prior to kick-off.

In conjunction with this, we will be releasing 266 black balloons which have been sponsored by The Leader and laying a wreath in the centre circle which has been donated by Regent

House of Flowers in Wrexham.

Our proud Match Sponsors today are Stan's Superstore and the rebranded Leader; the Match Ball has been sponsored by The Commercial Pub. As well as dining with us before the game, our sponsors will also receive a complimentary bottle of champagne, a tour of the stadium, a match day programme, a team sheet and Executive match day seating in the Director's Box.

Add to this a half-page advert in the match day programme, their company name of the front and back of the programme, PA announcements, and a photograph of their group and presentation photographs in the following home programme and you can understand why this is such great value starting at just £100 per person plus VAT.

We are foregoing the WreXFactor this week to commemorate the Gresford Colliery Disaster; tonight's music being provided by Samantha Williams who will be singing the Welsh National Anthem and Davi Chris who will be singing 'Working Man' and 'The Price of Coal'.

Samantha, as you will probably be aware, entered the WreXFactor and wowed us with her voice and so we have asked her to come back tonight as a result. Davi Chris is an ex-steel worker turned professional singer; his genre is 'Tenor Robusto' and he has performed in front of both Jerry Springer and Robbie Williams. The songs he will be singing today are all about the coal mining industry and so will provide a fitting and poignant tribute.

For any further information on the sponsorship opportunities available please contact us on 01978 296398.

## PRESENTATION TIME

Our last home BSP match saw Wrexham lose 1-0 to league leaders Oxford United. Joint Match Sponsor's JDE Electrical and The Railway Inn chose the Dragons' Curtis Obeng as their Man of the Match and our first picture shows Curtis receiving his bottle from a representative of The Railway Inn.

The Dragons' defender was also centre stage when pictured presenting a signed shirt to Julian Davies of JDE Electrical in recognition of their Match Sponsorship.

Remember this could be your business featured here so for further details contact the Sales and Marketing Team on 01978 296390 or 01978 296398. Alternatively, e-mail [sponsorship@wrexhamfc.tv](mailto:sponsorship@wrexhamfc.tv) today.



For further details please contact the Commercial Department on 01978 296398 or email [sponsorship@wrexhamfc.tv](mailto:sponsorship@wrexhamfc.tv) or follow the links off the website for all sponsorship and hospitality opportunities. All prices exclude VAT.

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## AHEAD OF THE GAME

**...and after it**

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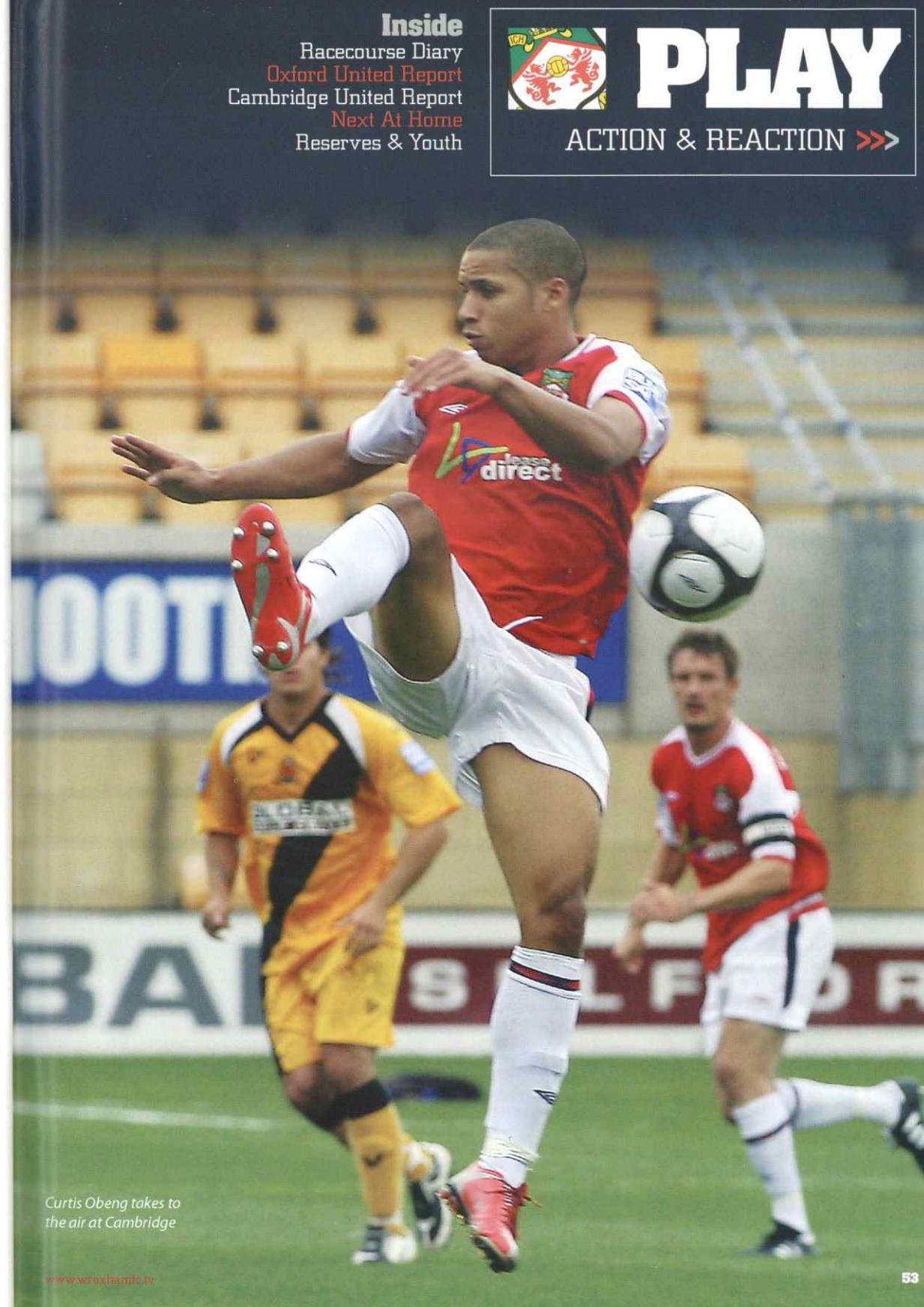


**Don't miss the Leader every morning**



**Inside**  
Racecourse Diary  
Oxford United Report  
Cambridge United Report  
Next At Home  
Reserves & Youth

**PLAY**  
ACTION & REACTION >>>



Curtis Obeng takes to the air at Cambridge

# Baynes double clinches welcome away victory at the New Lawn

After six months in the waiting, Wrexham finally getting back to winning ways on their travels as struggling Forest Green are put to the sword

## SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST

The Dragons one-hundred percent home record is ended as Kettering Town deservedly grab a 2-1 victory at The Racecourse. However, the result is somewhat overshadowed by injuries to two summer signings in goalkeeper Sam Russell, which is likely to keep him out of action for a couple of months, and striker Matty Wolfenden, which is expected to sideline him for around 2-3 weeks.

The Poppies took the lead in the 25th minute as a free-kick from Lee Fowler was headed back across goal by Exodus Geohagan at the far post and striker Damian Spencer had the simple task of netting from just a couple of yards out.

The men from Northamptonshire doubled their advantage a few minutes after half-time when Patrick Noubissi fired home from the around the penalty spot and this left The Dragons with an uphill task to secure even a point.

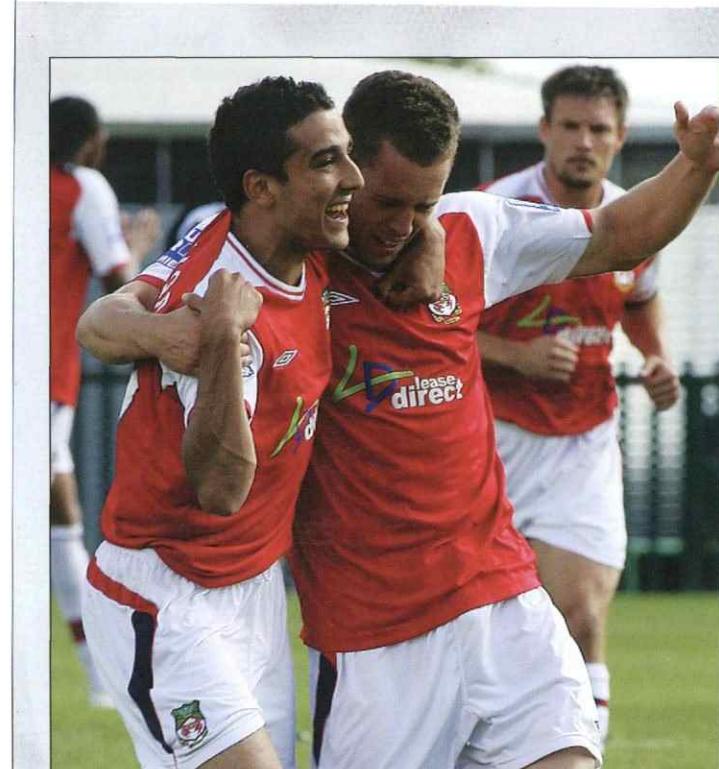
A switch of formation at half-time had seen Silvio Spann pushed into a more advanced position, swapping with Curtis Obeng, and it was from the Trinidadian's cross that defender Mani Assoumani headed Wrexham back into the game with almost half-an-hour still to play.

Russell's injury meant the home side had to play the last eleven minutes with just ten men, midfielder Hedi Taboubi going between the sticks as Dean Saunders had already used his permitted three subs.

The Williams brothers nearly combined for a late leveller; surprisingly it was Marc who set up Mike, but the defender was flagged offside by the eagle-eyed linesman before the ball had even nestled in the net.

For Taboubi taking his place between the sticks was a new experience: "It was the first time that I have played in goal. The gaffer told me to go in so I had to try and do my best. I don't know why he chose me, you'll have to ask him, but we had to score so we couldn't put a striker in goal."

"The most important thing was that we lost the game, we can't keep conceding goals from set-pieces. We will have to work on that in training. Perhaps we need to be more



WES BAYNES IS CONGRATULATED BY NEIL TAYLOR AFTER SCORING AGAINST FOREST GREEN ROVERS

aggressive, I don't know.

"We're all disappointed because we try to play good football, but you can't play good football without being aggressive and winning your battles, man for man. You had to be better than your opponent and if everyone is better then you win the game."

## MONDAY 24TH AUGUST

Having played against Wrexham for Bury in a reserve friendly match the previous week, former Chelsea and Leicester defender Frank

Sinclair joins the club on a one-year contract.

The 27-year-old former Jamaican international was pleased to get the chance to move to The Racecourse as he told BBC Sport: "I've joined as I believe that this squad had the ability to win automatic promotion. I've trained a few times with Wrexham and I have seen there is good quality and good competition in the squad."

"I have no problem dropping down to non-league. I have always been suited to playing at this level because I love heading it,

defending and making tackles. One of the main attributes of this league is battling your way out of it and putting your body on the line. I've done that all through my career."

## TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST

Despite Gareth Taylor netting with a crisp shot at the end of a fine, flowing move in the 26th minute, Wrexham fall to a shock 2-1 defeat against Tamworth at The Lamb.

The goal from the former Welsh international striker was the Dragons first away from home since Nathan Fairhurst netted the winner at Northwich Victoria back in March, and ended a barren run of 492 minutes without a goal.

The home side equalised on 37 minutes when captain Chris Smith headed home a corner, Jake Sheridan capitalising on an error from Ashley Westwood to net the winning goal with just 19 minutes left.

The Dragons had a blatant appeal for a penalty rejected by referee Mr Martin at 1-0 as Adrian Cieslewicz's fantastic length of the field run was ended by a tackle from behind, but the official indicated that he thought that the ball had been played before the man.

Other than that, Wrexham created very little and the home side ran out deserved victors at the end of a disappointing evening for the near 600 Reds fans present.

"We committed suicide again, we came out and conceded two shocking goals," fumed Dean Saunders afterwards. "The second goal is just a ridiculous mistake and it kills you."

"It is extremely frustrating for the supporters, I know that they are desperate to get back into the league and I am desperate to get the team back into the league. Maybe the desperation from everybody is making the players twitch a little bit."

Meanwhile midfielder Matty Hurdman has been allowed to join Colwyn Bay on loan, initially for a month.

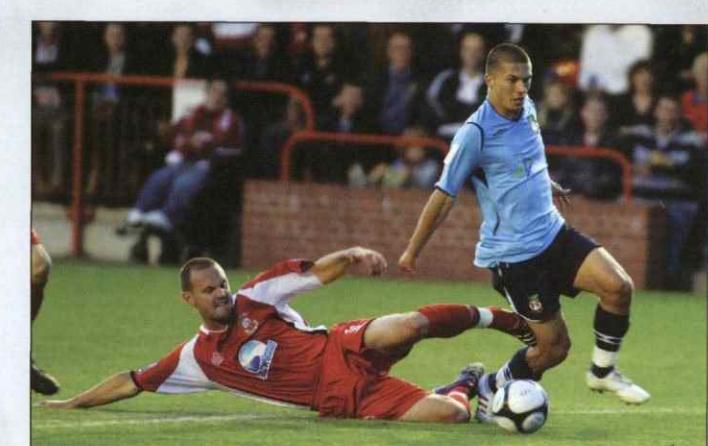
## WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST

The reserves start their Totesport.com League campaign with an entertaining 2-2 draw against Rochdale at Globe Way in Buckley, despite Wes Baynes giving Wrexham a two goal advantage with just 13 minutes remaining.

Baynes nets his first with a rasping 25-yard free-kick on 47 minutes, while the second was even more spectacular and from a distance which was even further out. Scott Spencer netted twice for Dale, the second coming a minute into time added on, as the spoils were shared.

Former loan star Angelos Tsiaklis features on trial for the Dragons while both Frank Sinclair and Lamine Sakhho get their first competitive action in a Wrexham shirt.

Meanwhile a Wales Under-23 fixture against Poland is now likely to mean the postponement of the scheduled trip to AFC



ADRIAN CIESLEWICZ IS DENIED A PENALTY AFTER THIS CHALLENGE AT TAMWORTH

Wimbledon early next month. This is because no less than five Wrexham players – Chris Maxwell, Neil Taylor, Mike Williams, Marc Williams and Kai Edwards – have been called up to the squad for the game at Carmarthen Town's Richmond Park. Silvio Spann will also be missing as he is away on international duty with Trinidad.

## FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST

In an interview with the Daily Post, goalkeeper Chris Maxwell, who has impressed whenever called on, reveals that he is out to make the goalkeepers spot his own: "I was devastated for Sam (Russell) when he got injured. I've trained with him for two months and he is a really nice lad, but it gives me a chance to show what I can do and I've got to give the manager no choice but to pick me."

Maxwell is also making a name for himself on the international scene with Brian Flynn's Wales Under-21 side, and is also involved with the Welsh Under-23 set up.

## SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST

The recalled Wes Baynes, one of six changes to the side that had lost against Tamworth, proves to be the difference between Wrexham and Forest Green Rovers as his two goals are enough to secure a 2-0 victory for The Dragons in a game where the visitors could easily have netted five or six.

Partnering Marc Williams in attack, he hammers home the first goal on 29 minutes with a long-range free-kick that flew past Terry Burton in the home side's goal.

The Chester-born player grabbed his second just three minutes later, as Mark Jones is involved in the build-up which allows Baynes to fire low past the advancing keeper.

The Reds had the ball in the back of the Rovers net a number of other times but each time the officials ruled out the 'goal', while Baynes had other chances in the second-half to grab his first hat-trick for the club.

However, the win signals the first maximum three point haul on the road since defeating Northwich Victoria back in March, and ends a run of six consecutive losses away from The Racecourse since that game at The Marston's Arena.

Understandably, Reds boss Dean Saunders was a relieved man afterwards: "That was exactly what we needed. We've not been getting the rub of the green of late with both decisions and injuries so today was great. We changed our tactics a little bit and it worked."

"Everyone was anxious to get three points today so it was a big result for us. We have to punish teams, as we had three or four breakaways which should have resulted in simple tap-ins."

"I have a squad of players available to me which must be a big advantage over clubs like Forest Green but, having said that, I would like to have a settled team which picks itself every week."

Another delighted man was debutant former Chelsea defender Frank Sinclair: "I couldn't ask for more on my debut than winning comfortably 2-0 away from home. It was a new system for the lads and they have stuck to their task well. If we stick to this system for home games as well then I can only see the players getting better and better with it."

Earlier in the day, the youth side run out 3-0 winners at Oldham; Nick Rushton, Louis Moss and Leon Clowes are all on the scoresheet, although the big defender was later red-carded.

## DEAN SAUNDERS' VIEW

"We started the game well and I thought that we played really well at times. It was a good game to watch and I thought that we could have scored three times in the first three minutes. For the lad to head it in from two yards for the goal, then it must have been a foul on the 'keeper otherwise he's in the back of the net."

"That changed the game and we're then chasing around trying to get a goal back; we had some good chances but ended up leaving some gaps at the back which happens when you are trying to get a goal back."

"You pick a team that you think is going to win. Wes Baynes scored twice at Forest Green – he could have had four the other week – and so he deserved to play. Obviously Gareth Taylor has scored four times in the games that he's started, so you make these decisions. 'Marc [Williams] went into midfield with the hope that he would get forward a bit more than Nathan Fairhurst would. We've got the best defensive record in the League after seven games and we are trying to find the right formula to get them in at the other end."



The Dragons attack from a dead ball



Frank Sinclair sees red

## PRE-MATCH

Dean Saunders continued with the 3-5-2 formation and made just one change from the side that drew with Barrow; Marc Williams started in midfield at the expense of Nathan Fairhurst who was left out of the squad. Wes Baynes continued up front with Gareth Taylor. Oxford, fresh from victory in their top of the table clash with Luton, kept the same starting XI.

## 1-15 MINUTES

The Red Dragons started brightly and had early chances to get in front as Gareth Taylor, Marc Williams and Curtis Obeng all went close for the home side. With Wrexham playing at a high tempo, it took the league leaders a while to settle into their game although they started to impose themselves with a couple of corners.

## 16-30 MINUTES

With both sides looking to get forward, it was an entertaining game for the crowd to watch. Mark Jones had an effort saved by Clarke before the old Achilles heel of conceding from corners came back to haunt Wrexham again. U's top scorer James Constable was unmarked as he headed a Jamie Cook corner home from close range.

## 31-45 MINUTES

Oxford, buoyed by the goal, forced the game and Chris Maxwell did well to save from Bulman. An error by Taboubi led to Frank Sinclair bringing down Constable earning a yellow card. Gareth Taylor's shot was saved before Mark Creighton made a superb block to deny Marc Williams. Cook should have increased the U's lead heading wide from a good position.

## 46-60 MINUTES

With no changes in personnel, the Dragons started brightly and pressed Oxford back. Mark Jones had an effort saved by Clarke before Gareth Taylor went close with a couple of headers. Hedi Taboubi fired in a shot on goal before he found himself booked for simulation. A competitive game was threatening to boil over and U's skipper Murray was booked.

## 61-75 MINUTES

Both managers made substitutions and tactical changes to try and influence the game. Adam Murray whipped in a dangerous free-kick before Chris Maxwell made a fine double save from James Constable. The referee was in danger of losing control of the proceedings as the foul count mounted whilst Mark Jones shot just wide for Wrexham. Saunders following after leaving his technical area to remonstrate. With the game now stretched, Oxford's Kinniburgh also saw red but the visitors held out.

## 76-90 MINUTES

A niggly game erupted on 78 minutes when, with Constable and Williams wrestling on the ground, the assistant alerted the referee to an offence by Sinclair which saw him receive his second yellow card; Saunders following after leaving his technical area to remonstrate. With the game now stretched, Oxford's Kinniburgh also saw red but the visitors held out.



## WREXHAM

Chris **MAXWELL**  
Ashley WESTWOOD (Adrian CIESLEWICZ 64)  
Mansur ASSOUMANI  
Frank SINCLAIR   
Curtis OBENG   
Marc WILLIAMS   
Mark JONES  
Hedi TABOUBI (Andy FLEMING 63)  
Neil TAYLOR   
Wes BAYNES  
Gareth TAYLOR  
*Unused Subs:*  
Christian SMITH  
Mike WILLIAMS  
Silvio SPANN



## OXFORD UNITED

Ryan CLARKE  
Damian BATT   
Mark CREIGHTON  
Luke FOSTER  
Steve KINNIBURGH   
Dannie BULMAN  
Adam MURRAY (Jack MIDSON 86)  
Simon CLIST  
Matthew GREEN (Adam CHAPMAN 68)  
James CONSTABLE (Kevin SANDWITH 86)  
Jamie COOK   
*Unused Subs:*  
Ross PERRY  
Billy TURLEY

Referee: R.J. West  
Attendance: 3,628 Away support: 484

## MATCH STATS

POSSESSION	Wrexham	50%	Oxford	50%
SHOTS ON TARGET	Wrexham	1	Oxford	3
SHOTS OFF TARGET	Wrexham	8	Oxford	1
CORNERS	Wrexham	3	Oxford	8
FOULS	Wrexham	12	Oxford	13

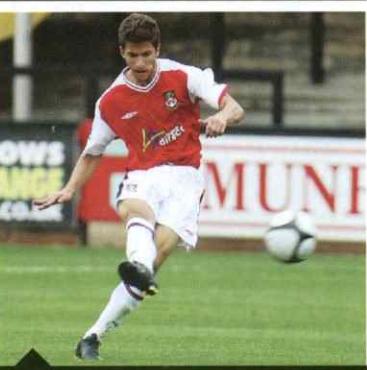
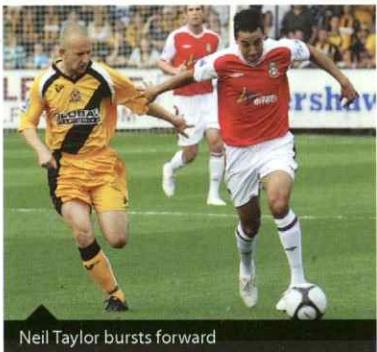


**DEAN SAUNDERS' VIEW**

"We really didn't do enough when we had the ball, and although we could have scored a few in the first-half, we didn't put the chances away. I think both their goals took deflections because I was wondering about the first one; how it had gone in?"

"Then the second has gone in off a defender, inside the near post, but their player should never have got to where he was in the first place. Even allowing for that, I'm really disappointed at the way we played – we are better than that."

"The players weren't communicating with each other as well as they should have been; then once you lose a goal you have come out. The second-half we played a great deal better."



Angelos Tsiaklis in action on his return

**PRE-MATCH**

Without a goal in over 200 minutes, Dean Saunders partnered Adrian Cieslewicz in attack with Gareth Taylor as he stuck with his 3-5-2 formation. New signing Angelos Tsiaklis was handed his 'second' debut in midfield whilst Mike Williams came in for the suspended Frank Sinclair. Cambridge named the same side for the seventh successive game.

**1-15 MINUTES**

Wrexham began brightly. A good move down the left saw Neil Taylor's whipped cross headed over by the on-rushing Fairhurst before the home side responded by taking the lead on nine minutes. Assoumani's challenge on Chris Holroyd brought Cambridge a dangerous free-kick which Wayne Hatswell dispatched low into the corner of the net.

**16-30 MINUTES**

Cieslewicz used his pace to escape the clutches of the home defence only to see his goalbound shot palmed over the bar by Danny Potter on 16 minutes. But Wrexham's attacks were spasmodic as Martin Ling's men dominated possession with their best effort coming from a Chris Holroyd free-kick which Chris Maxwell did well to save.

**31-45 MINUTES**

Dan Gleeson then forced another good save from Maxwell as Wrexham's frailty at set-piece situations continued unabated. Cambridge should have doubled their lead on 35 minutes when centre-back Brian Saah beat Maxwell to Robbie Willmott's corner but his powerful header from six yards flew wide of the target.

**46-60 MINUTES**

Clear frustrated at his side's opening 45 minute display, Saunders opted to revert to a 4-4-2 formation at the start of the second stanza. The changes worked and Wrexham began to get a foothold in the game, Gareth Taylor seeing a snap shot fly narrowly wide of Potter's left-hand post whilst the industrious Tsiaklis shot over from distance.

**61-75 MINUTES**

The introduction of Lamine Sakho and Marc Williams gave Wrexham renewed vigour and it was the Senegalese international who came closest to levelling. With Potter having failed to clear Obeng's cross, Sakho collected the ball on the edge of the area and sent a low shot heading goalwards only to see Hatswell make a timely block on the line.

**76-80 MINUTES**

With Wrexham committing more and more men to attack, the game became stretched. Sakho had another shot charged down whilst Holroyd fired tamely at Maxwell. Then, with less than ten minutes left on the clock, Cambridge made sure of the points when Willmott cut inside Obeng and saw his shot deflect off Westwood's knee and past Maxwell.

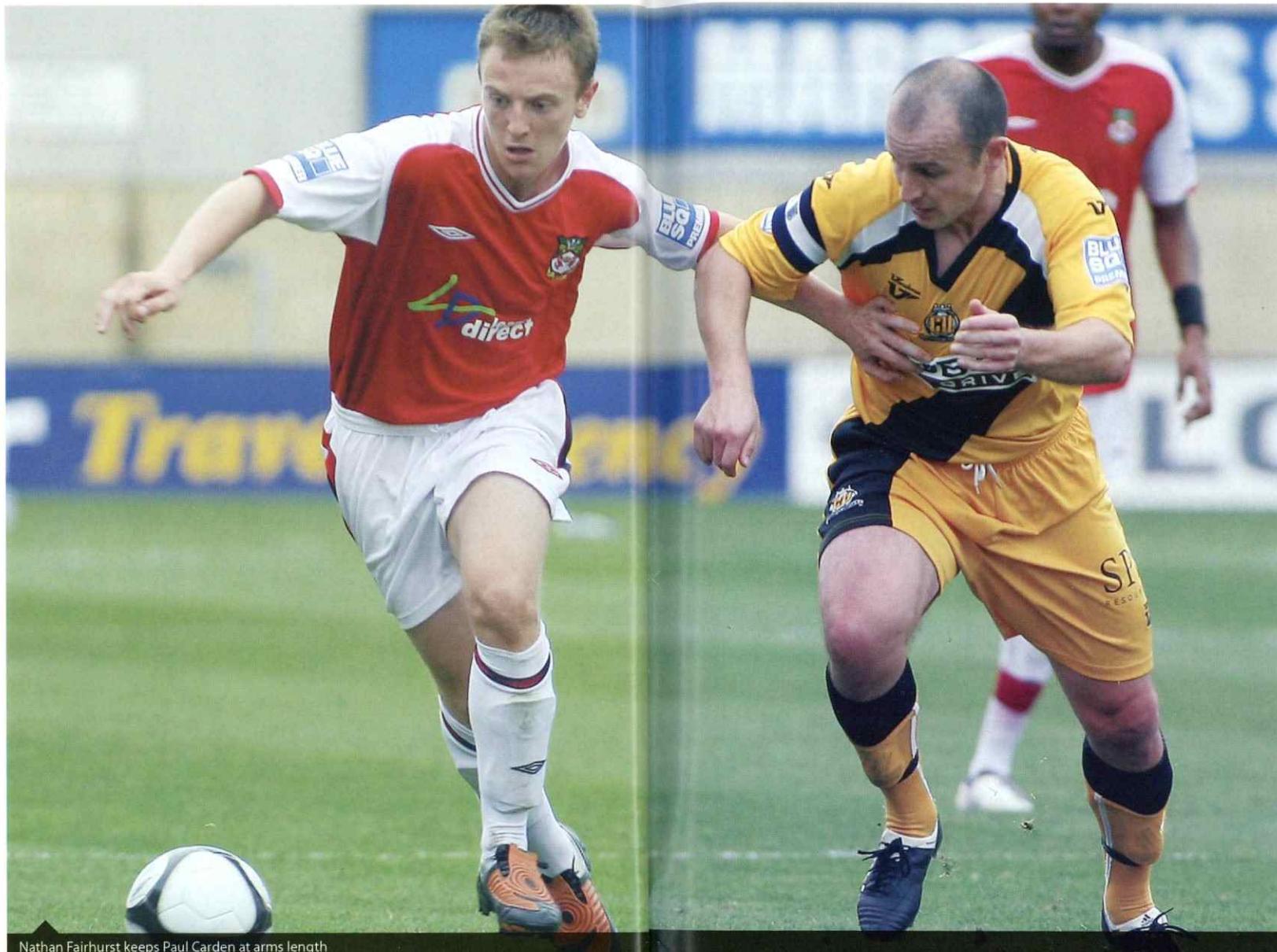
**POST MATCH**

Cambridge boss Martin Ling was understandably pleased at the final whistle: "It's always a worry at 1-0. It's a scoreline that makes a manager sit there on tenterhooks. We were the better side in the first-half and at the start of the second-half they came out at us a little bit. People get nervous – fans and managers alike – but the second goal relieved that tension."


**CAMBRIDGE UNITED**

Danny POTTER  
Dan GLEESON  
Brian SAAH  
Wayne HATSWELL  
Anthony TONKIN  
Robbie WILLMOTT (Courtney PITT 86)  
Paul CARDEN  
Jai REASON  
Andy PARKINSON  
Chris HOLROYD  
Danny CROW (Mark BEESLEY 86)  
*Unused Subs:*  
Josh COULSON  
Sam IVES  
Lee PHILLIPS

2





LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL CLUB

## Ticket Prices 2009/10

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2009-10	Adult Pre-Booked	Seniors / Young Persons Pre-Booked	Juniors Under-16 Pre-Booked	Adult Matchday	Seniors / Young Persons Matchday	Juniors Under-16 Matchday
<b>Executive Box</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	£25	N/A	N/A
<b>Mold Road Stand</b>	£16	£10	£10	£18	£12	£12
<b>Yale Stand Upper</b>	£14	£10	£5	£17	£12	£5
<b>Yale Stand Lower</b>	£14	£10	£5	£17	£12	£5
<b>Eric Roberts Stand Upper (Unreserved)</b>	£14	£10	£5	£17	£12	£5

### Family Ticket

#### Mold Road Stand and Yale Stand only

1 Adult and 1 Junior Under-16	£21
1 Adult and 2 Juniors Under-16	£26
2 Adults and 2 Juniors Under-16	£42

### Purchasing Details

The Ticket Office opening hours are as follows:

Day	Non-Matchday	Matchday
Monday-Friday	10.00am-4.30pm	10.00am-7.45pm
Saturday-Sunday	Closed	10.00am-3.00pm

Telephone requests should be made by phoning 01978 262129 (ext 1) during the above hours.

### Methods of Payment

- Tickets can be purchased by cash, cheque (supported by bankers card), Mastercard, Visa or Maestro. Please note that we do not accept Diners Card or American Express.
- Junior (Under-16) and Young Persons (16-21) qualification as on 1 August 2009. Proof of age must be shown at the time of booking.

### Additional Notes

- Tickets can also be purchased via the club website at [www.wrexhamfc.tv](http://www.wrexhamfc.tv) or by going straight to <http://www.ticketlord.com/wrexham.htm>
- All bookings made by credit card/debit card will be subject to a £1 administration charge per order.
- No tickets will be dispatched by post for orders made less than three working days prior to the match in question. The posting of all such tickets is at the purchaser's risk.
- All tickets are sold subject to ground regulations.
- All applications are subject to availability.



# AWAY GAME TICKET INFORMATION

### BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Kidderminster Harriers

Tuesday 29 September 2009, 7.45pm  
Admission is by cash at the turnstile.



**Prices** Wrexham fans have been allocated the South Stand terrace for this match.

Admission prices are £13 for adults, £8 for OAP's and £5 for Under-16's. Please note that children under the age of 8 are admitted free. Seated accommodation is available in the East Stand with admission prices £16 for adults £11 for OAP's and £8 for Under-16's. Children under the age of 8 are again admitted free.

#### Programme £2.50

**Coach Travel** Subject to demand, the Away Travel Club will be running coaches to Kidderminster. Bookings can be made at the Club Shop before and after today's game as well as during normal opening hours.

**Directions** From Wrexham follow A5 around Shrewsbury to join A458 signposted Bridgnorth. Continue on this road through Bridgnorth to join A442 signposted Kidderminster. Continue into Kidderminster itself where you will pick up Brown signs for the (SVR) Steam Railway which will take you towards Aggborough. Aggborough Stadium itself is signposted at either end of Hoo Road.

**Public Transport** There is a train service from Wrexham General to Kidderminster which departs at 16.38, changing at Shrewsbury and Smethwick Galton to arrive Kidderminster at 19.06. On the return leg, the train departs Kidderminster at 22.10 and changes at Birmingham Snow Hill and Birmingham New Street to arrive Shrewsbury at 00.49 from where you will require a taxi.

Prices start from £30.30 return. Please confirm all details with your local train station in advance of travelling.

### BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Kettering Town

Saturday 10 October 2009, 3.00pm  
With this match scheduled to clash with Wales' U21 international with Bosnia-Herzegovina,



coupled with the likelihood that Wrexham will have several players included in Brian Flynn's squad, there is every possibility that the Kettering fixture will have to be postponed. Please watch the club's website and local press for further information.

### BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Stevenage Borough

Tuesday 20 October 2009, 7.45pm  
Admission is by cash at the turnstile.



**Prices** Please note that Stevenage operate a two-tier pricing structure for home games. The

match with Wrexham is classed as a Category A fixture and Wrexham fans have been allocated the South Stand for this match. Admission prices are £16 for adults, £13 for concessions (OAP's, UB40's and Under-18's) and £8 for Under-11's.

#### Programme £2.50

**Coach Travel** Subject to demand, the Away Travel Club will be running coaches to Stevenage. Bookings can be made at the Club Shop before and after today's game as well as during normal opening hours.

**Directions** From Wrexham follow

A5, M54, M6 and M1. Leave the M1 at Junction 10 to join the A1081, then A505 signposted Hitchin. Continue on A505 until outskirts of Hitchin to join the A502 signposted Stevenage, eventually joining the A1(M) southbound at Junction 8. Leave the A1(M) at Junction 7 and taking the Stevenage South (A602) exit. The Lamex Stadium is on the right at the second roundabout. There is a large car park opposite the Lamex Stadium.

**Public Transport** There is a train service from Wrexham General to Stevenage which departs at 15.00, changing at Chester, London Euston, London King's Cross to arrive Stevenage at 18.38. On the return leg, the train departs Stevenage at 22.17 and changes at Finsbury Park and London Euston to arrive Birmingham International at 01.23. You are then faced with a long wait as the connecting train to Wrexham does not depart until 07.09, arriving Wrexham General 09.01 on Wednesday morning! Prices start from £74.80 return. Please confirm all details with your local train station in advance of travelling.

The Lamex Stadium is approximately one mile from Stevenage Train Station. On leaving the station take the footbridge into the town centre past the Gordon Craig Theatre. The number four bus will take you to the ground and takes five minutes. There is also a Taxi rank at the station and a taxi will cost between £2-3.

## BOXOFFICE

### HOME GAME TICKET INFORMATION

#### BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Chester City

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2009, 12.00 NOON  
Tickets for this game are now on general sale.

#### BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Salisbury City

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2009, 3.00PM  
Tickets for this game are now on general sale.

#### BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Grays Athletic

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2009, 3.00PM  
Tickets for this game are now on general sale.

NEXT HERE >> **PLAY**



## Chester City



### BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE

Sunday 27 September 2009, 12.00noon

tough job for the board and for the managing director.

"What we need is help from clubs like Burnley who have helped us with two lads, and now hopefully Wigan will also help us. We have to learn in the world of the possible, and we're doing as much as we can and we'll keep doing that."

With City already having to contend with a 25-point penalty, merely avoiding relegation would be an achievement in itself for the Deva Stadium side with Wadsworth (above) determined not to throw the towel in despite Chester's on-going financial woes.

"I've got very few options, but all we can do is keep going. We're trying to bring players in but it's not easy. In the situation that we're in when we lose it's a real kick in the backside because we're so far behind the rest of the clubs."

"When we win a game it doesn't seem to make a lot of difference, and when we lose a game it feels like we've fallen further behind. But we all know we can still do it, we can still get out of trouble, but we do need some help and we do need some players."

"I believe we need three or four key players to really give ourselves a chance, but while it is as it is we'll just continue to keep fighting hard. That's all we can do. We will always try and win games until our fate is sealed."

"There's no lack of commitment, spirit, or lack of bravery from anybody, but we've just got to keep going."

# Dragons throw away two goal lead

Pushed up front for the Reserves, Wes Baynes responds with a dazzling duo only for Rochdale to snatch a point in time added on

## Saturday 22 August 2009

Puma Youth Alliance

### WREXHAM U18 0 STOCKPORT COUNTY U18 1

The Reds suffered a disappointing home defeat against a Stockport County side who thoroughly deserved their three points. With Stewart Webber having left the club to take up a position with Liverpool, Joey Jones was joined in the dugout by Centre of Excellence manager Andy Davies and the pair presided over a first-half that was fairly even but with very little goalmouth action.

Indeed, it was the visitors who created the better of the few chances with Tom Fisher seeing his early 20-yard effort deflected away by Rob Pearson but at the other end Ed Moss' first-time shot was always rising well over Ian Ormsom's crossbar after strikers Jordan Kane and Nick Rushton had combined on the edge of the area to create a shooting opportunity.

The Hatters missed a great opportunity to open the scoring just seven minutes before the break as they nearly took full advantage of a free-kick some 20 yards from goal; showing good vision, and with the Wrexham defence having switched off for a moment, this was taken quickly to the unmarked Danny Rowe who advanced into the area.

However, as the winger attempted to slide the ball between Andy Leach and his near-post, the keeper got down well to push the ball behind at the expenses of a corner. The danger wasn't over though, as the well-flighted flag-kick saw central-defender Sam Barnes head over at the far-post when in a good position.

Just two minutes later though the Dragons fell behind as Lee Roberts was out-muscled by Matt Kosylo and, from just outside the area, the striker found the finish with a shot that flew under Leach's outstretched hand.

That advantage was nearly doubled before half-time as Max Penk was forced to hack an angled shot from Rowe virtually off the goal-line and just minutes after the interval Kosylo should have doubled his tally but Leach once again produced a good stop.

On 53 minutes, Roberts sustained a nasty looking injury as first one Stockport player tried to foul him but failed, but, unfortunately, Lewis Barnes made firm contact with a horrid challenge that led to the full-back being

carried from the field and replaced by Leon Clowes.

With the visitors now well on top, it was taking some desperate defending, plus some profligacy from the visitors, to keep Wrexham in the match. In a bid for a point, Jack Deaman was introduced to use his height in an unfamiliar forward position.

This nearly paid dividends as he set up fellow sub Aaron Malton but his shot was easily saved by Ormsom, while the same pair combined soon after but this time it was Deaman at the far post who failed to trouble the keeper when under-pressure from the Hatters defenders.

**Wrexham:** Andy Leach, Lee Roberts (Leon Clowes 53), Max Penk, Declan Walker, Josh Marsh, Rob Pearson, Liam Shipton (Jack Deaman 72), Ed Moss, Jordan Kane, Nick Rushton, James Colbeck (Aaron Malton 50). Sub: Danny Ward

## Wednesday 26 August 2009

Totesport.com League

### WREXHAM RES 2 ROCHDALE RES 2

The Dragons opened up their Totesport.com League campaign with a home game against Rochdale at Globe Way, Buckley and the sizeable crowd enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining match in which the visitors scored twice in the closing minutes to deny Wrexham victory.

For many it was a first chance to see Frank Sinclair in action and the former Chelsea defender responded with an impressive display as he guided his youthful defensive compatriots through the game.

Former Manchester City midfielder Angelos Tsialkis was a surprise inclusion in midfield, whilst Lamine Sakho's hopes of proving his fitness were hampered by a slight thigh strain which forced him to go off after 33 minutes.

But the star of the show for Wrexham was undoubtedly Wes Baynes who, playing in an experimental forward role and having rattled Matthew Edwards' crossbar as early as the 13th minute, produced two finishes of the highest quality.

His opening goal came just two minutes after the interval with a vicious free-kick from the edge of the Rochdale area which flew into



## YOUTH PROFILE

**Name:** Nick Rushton

**Date of birth:** 3rd February 1992

**Place of birth:** St. Asaph

**Position:** Striker or right-midfield

**What age did you join the club?** 14

**How did you end up getting spotted by Wrexham?** I was spotted playing for my local team, Vauxhall's

**Had you played for any other professional clubs?** No

**Footballer you most admire:**

Bas Savage or Thierry Henry

**Club supported as a boy:**  
Tranmere Rovers

**Where would you like to see yourself in 10 years?** Playing first team football at a high level

### Coach's Comments:

Deceptively quick, Nick is very much a confidence player and – along with Rob Pearson – he's done particularly well this season, especially with his runs on and off the ball. Like Jordan Kane, he needs to get a little more aggression into his game and by that I mean the desire to get into the box and to want to score goals. He reminds me a bit of Andy Morrell in the way he runs with the ball.

Joey Jones

the back of the net. Baynes' second came 13 minutes from time when, having initially miscontrolled Johnny Hunt's pass, he unleashed a dipping volley from out on the right touchline for a finish which was worthy of a far bigger stage.

The Chester-born player should have completed his hat-trick soon afterwards but fired wide when faced with just the keeper to beat and that let-off ultimately allowed the chance for the visitors to salvage an undeserved point.

Scott Spencer netted Rochdale's first with 86 minutes on the clock when he scored with a long range shot and his equaliser, sixty seconds into injury-time, was no less a finish; the former Everton man beating two players to send a fierce shot into the roof of the net.

**Wrexham:** Andy Leach, Kai Edwards, Johnny Hunt, Angelos Tsialkis, Frank Sinclair, Josh Marsh, Simon Brown, Nathan Fairhurst, Wes Baynes, Lamine Sakho (Obi Anoruo 33), Jamie McCluskey (Ed Moss 67). Subs: Luke Carding, Dean Saunders, Declan Walker.

## Saturday 29 August 2009

Puma Youth Alliance

### OLDHAM ATHLETIC U18 0 WREXHAM U18 3

Wrexham's youngsters got back to winning with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Oldham Athletic at the Latics' Training Ground but the game was marred by a scuffle which saw both Dragons' defender Leon Clowes and Oldham's Nicky Zaicvs dismissed on the hour mark.

"We were very good in the first-half," explained Centre of Excellence manager Andy Davies, "but the two sending-offs spoilt the game and we lost our rhythm because of it. It was a foul on Brian Summerskill and Leon didn't need to get himself involved.

"So we brought Jack Deaman on for Louis Moss – dropped him into the back-four instead of Leon – and went 4-1. But we never regained our pattern of play and so failed to build on what had been an excellent first 60 minutes."

It was Clowes who had opened the scoring for Wrexham just four minutes into the game, the burly defender capitalising on a long throw from Ed Moss to turn and rifle the ball home from the edge of the six-yard box for a skilful finish which would have put many an attacker to shame.

Nick Rushton added a second after 24 minutes when Louis Moss broke clear down the left and centred for the striker to head home with ease, the visitors' now breaking through the Oldham rearguard almost at will.

Four minutes before the interval Dragons' keeper Andy Leach looked to have fumbled a cross but he gathered the ball at the second attempt and showed great composure to spot Louis Moss in space near the half-way line.

The custodian's long throw was perfectly placed and gave Moss the opportunity to race clear, cut in from the right and fire a low shot into the net for the third goal, the half-time scoreline reflecting Wrexham's dominance.

Clowes' dismissal seemed to spur the home side on and they created a number of chances without seriously testing Leach in the Wrexham goal, Ryan Hooper coming closest with a long range shot which flew over.

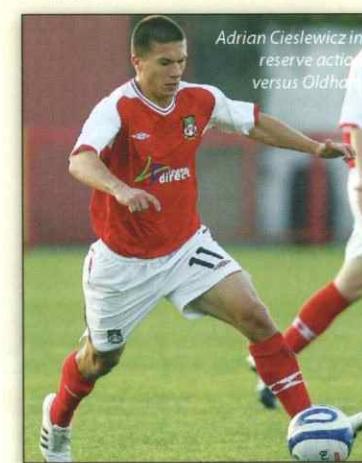
**Wrexham:** Andy Leach, Declan Walker, Max Penk, Leon Clowes, Josh Marsh, Rob Pearson, Ed Moss, Brian Summerskill (Aaron Malton 70), Jordan Kane, Nick Rushton (Jon Jones 78), Louis Moss (Jack Deaman 61). Sub: Liam Shipton

totesport.com  
League

## Reserves Fixtures

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Date	Opponents	V	Res
August				August			
Wed 26	Rochdale	H	D2-2	Tue 11	Rochdale	A	W4-0
September				Sat 15	Shrewsbury Town	A	L0-1
Tue 8	Oldham Athletic	A	W2-1	Sat 22	Stockport County	H	L0-1
Wed 16	Morecambe	H	W3-0	Sat 29	Oldham Athletic	A	W3-0
October				September			
Wed 14	Accrington Stanley	H		Sat 5	Tranmere Rovers	H	D1-1
Wed 28	Tranmere Rovers	H		Mon 7	Fleetwood Town (FAYCPQ)	A	W2-1
November				Sat 12	Wigan Athletic	H	D0-0
Wed 11	Blackpool	A		Wed 16	Elements Cefn Druids (WYCL)	A	W6-0
Wed 25	Preston North End	A		Sat 19	Macclesfield Town	A	L2-4
December				Sat 26	Walsall	H	
Wed 9	Carlisle United (2.00pm kick off)	H		October			
January				Sat 3	Cup 1		
Mon 18	Accrington Stanley	A		Sat 10	Chester City	A	
February				Sat 17	Stockport County	A	
Wed 3	Tranmere Rovers (2.00pm kick off)	A		Sat 24	Port Vale	H	
Wed 17	Blackpool	H		Sat 31	Macclesfield Town	H	
March				November			
Mon 1	Carlisle United (2.00pm kick off)	A		Sat 7	Cup 2		
Wed 17	Preston North End	H		Sat 14	Wigan Athletic	A	
Wed 31	Rochdale	A		Sat 21	Chester City	H	
April				Sat 5	Walsall	A	
Wed 7	Oldham Athletic	H		Sat 12	Tranmere Rovers	A	
Wed 21	Morecambe	A		January			
Sat 9	Blackpool			Sat 9	Blackpool		
Sat 16	Cup 3			Sat 16	Cup 3		
Sat 23	Port Vale			Sat 23	Port Vale	A	
Sat 30	Shrewsbury Town			Sat 30	Shrewsbury Town	H	
Sat 6	Blackpool			February			
Sat 13	Accrington Stanley			Sat 6	Blackpool	A	
Sat 20	Cup Semi-Final			Sat 13	Preston North End	A	
Sat 27	Morecambe			Sat 13	Oldham Athletic	H	
Sat 10	Carlisle United (12.30pm kick off)			Sat 20	Morecambe	A	
Sat 17	Bury			Sat 10	Carlisle United	H	

Adrian Cieslewicz in reserve action versus Oldham



## Puma Youth Alliance North West Conference Table

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Preston NE	5	5	0	23	2	+21 15
2	Stockport Cty	5	4	0	8	3	+5 12
3	Wigan Athletic	5	3	1	6	3	+3 10
4	Walsall	5	3	1	9	7	+2 10
5	Rochdale	5	3	0	2	10	7 +3 9
6	Shrewsbury T	5	3	0	2	9	8 +1 9
7	Carlisle United	5	3	0	2	10	0 9
8	Wrexham	6	2	2	8	3	+5 8
9	Tranmere Rvrs	5	2	2	1	8	-2 8
10	Macclesfield T	5	2	1	2	14	7 +7 6
11	Burnley	5	2	0	3	13	11 +2 6
12	Morecambe	5	2	0	3	6	14 -8 6
13	Oldham Ath	5	1	1	3	9	9 0 4
14	Blackpool	4	1	1	2	9	-12 4
15	Bury	5	1	1	3	10	-7 4
16	Chester City	5	1	1	3	4	13 -9 4
17	Port Vale	5	1	0	4	8	12 -4 3
18	Accrington S	5	0	1	4	7	23 -16 1

# STATISTICS 2009/10

Date	Opposition	Comp	Res	Att (away)	Pos	Russell	Spann	N.Taylor	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Cieslewicz*	Fleming***	Taboubi	Jones	G.Taylor*	Wolfenden*	Maxwell	Fairhurst
August	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	BSQP	W3-0	3,726 (39)	3	Russell	Spann	N.Taylor	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Cieslewicz*	Fleming***	Taboubi	Jones	G.Taylor*	Wolfenden*	Maxwell	Fairhurst
Sat 8	Crawley Town	BSQP	L0-1	1,014 (236)	16	Russell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Cieslewicz*	Fleming**	Taboubi	Jones	G.Taylor	Wolfenden**	Spann (55), Mc Williams (55), Baynes (75)	Williamson, Smith
Sat 15	YORK CITY	BSQP	W1-0	3,711 (208)	9	Russell	Spann***	Williamson	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Jones	Fleming**	Taboubi	Jones	G.Taylor	Wolfenden*	Cieslewicz (57), Smith (62), Obeng (79)	Mc Williams, Baynes
Tue 18	KETTERINGTOWN	BSQP	L1-2	3,473 (93)	14	Russell	Spann**	Williamson	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Obeng	Smith***	Taboubi	Jones	G.Taylor	Wolfenden*	Mc Williams (21), Cieslewicz (66), Baynes (78)	Maxwell, Westwood
Sat 22	Tamworth	BSQP	L1-2	1,290 (581)	16	Maxwell	Obeng***	Mk Williams	Westwood	Assoumani	Spann	Fleming	Smith**	Jones	G.Taylor	Cieslewicz	N.Taylor (59), Mc Williams (75), Baynes (86)	Fairhurst, Sinclair
Sat 25	Forest Green Rovers	BSQP	W2-0	1,021 (285)	12	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Westwood	Assoumani	Sinclair	Fairhurst	Taboubi	Jones	Mc Williams	Baynes <sup>2</sup>	Cieslewicz (74), Smith (76)	Mk Williams, Spann, G.Taylor
Sat 29	BARROW	BSQP	D0-0	3,760 (210)	12	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor**	Westwood	Assoumani	Sinclair	Fairhurst*	Taboubi	*** Jones	G.Taylor	Baynes	Mc Williams (64), Cieslewicz (78), Smith (86)	Mk Williams, Fleming
Mon 31																		
September	OXFORD UNITED	BSQP	L0-1	3,620 (484)	16	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Westwood*	Assoumani	Sinclair	Mc Williams	Taboubi	** Jones	G.Taylor	Baynes	Cieslewicz (62), Fleming (62)	Mike Williams, Spann, Smith
Sat 12	Cambridge United	BSQP	L0-2	2,823 (231)	16	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Westwood	Assoumani	Mk Williams*	Fairhurst	Tsiaklis**	Jones	G.Taylor	Cieslewicz***	Sakho (60), Marc Williams (65), Baynes (75)	Taboubi, Smith
Tue 22	LUTONTOWN	BSQP	19.45															
Sun 27	CHESTER CITY	BSQP	12.00															
Tue 29	Kidderminster Harriers	BSQP	19.45															
October	SALISBURY CITY	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 3	Kettering Town	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 10	GRAYS ATHLETIC	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 17	Stevenage Borough	BSQP	19.45															
Sat 24	Ebbsfleet United	BSQP	15.00															
November	AFC Wimbledon	BSQP	19.45															
Tue 10	HAYES & YEADING UNITED	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 14	Histon	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 21	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	BSQP	19.45															
Sat 28	Rushden & Diamonds	BSQP	15.00															
December	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	BSQP	19.45															
Sat 5	York City	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 19	MANSFIELD TOWN	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 26	ALTRINCHAM	BSQP	15.00															
Mon 28	Gateshead	BSQP	15.00															
January	Altrincham	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 16	STEVENAGE BOROUGH	BSQP	15.00															
Tue 19	Barrow	BSQP	19.45															
Sat 23	AFC WIMBLEDON	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 30	Oxford United	BSQP	15.00															
February	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 6	Tamworth	BSQP	19.45															
Tue 9	Chester City	BSQP	12.00															
Sun 14	CRAWLEY TOWN	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 20	Salisbury City	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 27																		
March	EBBSFLEET UNITED	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 13	Luton Town	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 20	CAMBRIDGE UNITED	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 27	Histon	BSQP	15.00															
April	Mansfield Town	BSQP	15.00															
Mon 5	GATESHEAD	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 10	Grays Athletic	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 17	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	BSQP	15.00															
Sat 24	Hayes & Yeading United	BSQP	15.00															



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3 COURSE MEAL (SATURDAY) — £16.50

Goalscorers in **bold**

First substitute \*

Second substitute \*\*

Third substitute \*\*\*

Booked

Sent off

## GOAL SPONSORSHIP

Buckley Reds are kindly sponsoring Wrexham FC £10 for every goal they score in the BSP this season. **Current total £80**



## BLUE SQUARE PREMIER

\* 25 points deducted  
\*\* 10 points deducted

	Subs Used	Unused Subs
1 Oxford United	Mc Williams (69), Smith (77), Baynes (85)	Maxwell, Fairhurst
2 Stevenage Borough	Spann (55), Mc Williams (55), Baynes (75)	Williamson, Smith
3 Tamworth	Cieslewicz (57), Smith (62), Obeng (79)	Mc Williams, Baynes
4 Cambridge United	Mc Williams (21), Cieslewicz (66), Baynes (78)	Maxwell, Westwood
5 Rushden & Diamonds	N.Taylor (59), Mc Williams (75), Baynes (86)	Fairhurst, Sinclair
		Cieslewicz (74), Smith (76)
		Mk Williams, Spann, G.Taylor
		Mk Williams, Fleming

## BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LATEST LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts
1 Oxford United	11	5	1	0	14	2	4	1	0	9	4	17	29
2 Stevenage Borough	10	3	1	0	8	2	3	2	1	8	5	9	21
3 Tamworth	11	4	2	0	10	5	1	3	1	6	6	5	20
4 Cambridge United	11	3	1	2	12	3	2	0	4	4	13	19	
5 Rushden & Diamonds	11	4	1	1	13	10	1	3	1	8	4	7	19
6 Luton Town	10	4	1	0	10	2	1	3	1	3	4	7	19
7 York City	10	4	1	0	9	1	1	2	2	4	5	7	18
8 Kettering Town	11	2	2	1	8	3	3	1	2	6	6	5	18
9 Mansfield Town	11	3	1	1	13	4	2	1	3	5	9	5	17
10 Kidderminster Harriers	11	4	0	2	10	6	1	2	5	4	4	17	
11 Crawley Town	11	4	1	1	10	7	1	1	3	1	9	-5	17
12 AFC Wimbledon	10	1	2	1	5	2	3	2	1	11	8	6	16
13 Altrincham	11	1	3	1	4	4	3	1	2	8	6	2	16
14 Eastbourne Borough	11	2	2	1	6	5	1	1	4	3	11	-7	12
15 Histon	11	1	2	2	6	7	2	0	4	7	9	-3	11
16 Wrexham	9	2	1	2	5	3	1	0	3	3	5	0	10
17 Barrow	11	1	3	2	3	10	1	1	3	4	7	-10	10
18 Ebbsfleet United	11	0	3	3	4	9	1	2	2	3	8	-10	

# The Numbers Game

**Now many of my friends may well be surprised when I say this but, despite all my efforts at school, I never made it into the soccer team on a regular basis.**

That said there was one memorable occasion when I got the call to arms, courtesy of our Headmaster who had banned a number of the regular choices for playing truant!

There I was, sat in the dressing room, filled with nervous excitement and then the shirt was thrown over to me. I turned it over and two numbers stared back at me. Was it number ten? No. Eleven? No. It was shirt number thirteen; I was second substitute!

For ninety minutes I stretched and strained and ran up and down the touchline like a 'wanabe' linesman. I even performed a routine I'd seen on 'Flashdance' in a bid to get the manager's attention! But it was all to no avail; I never did get on and to this day I've still not forgiven my Sports Master. In total, it's been twenty-seven years of hurt – not that I'm counting you see!

Now before anyone thinks I've lost my marbles – well actually they went many years ago when I first started watching our mighty Reds – or that I'm using this page to air my grievances, let me explain the rationale behind this week's rant.

It's simply down to the fact that the 1-to-11 numbering system which worked so well in football for so many years has now been superseded and I thought it's about time I got round to writing about it! Finger on the pulse and all that, I know.

Now when numbering was first introduced in the 1933 FA Cup Final, the players wore shirts numbered from 1-to-22. Manchester City had 1-to-11 whilst Everton donned jerseys denoting 12-22 and eventually the system was adopted by the Football League on the eve of the Second World War.

A similar system became commonplace in rugby union, although one side – from memory it might have been Bath or Leicester – decided to go with letters of the alphabet! Anyway, half the time you couldn't make out a damn thing because their jerseys were splattered in mud, so it was questionable whether it was a help to officials or supporters.

That was rarely the case in the round ball

game and the numbers soon became synonymous with actual playing positions. If you hear number one, then you immediately think goalkeeper. If you wore seven then you had to hug the touchline whilst number nine simply meant you were a goallanger!

It was an easy system to understand and seemed to make perfect sense, or so we thought. Then came the advent of American Football where each player was allocated a set number for the season and even had their surname emblazoned on the back of the shirt. Immediately, finance directors at football clubs the length and breadth of the country could hear cash tills registering!

Yes, it would help fans sort their Smith's from their Smyth's but now managers had to get real value for money from their new signings. Ian Ure was yesterday's man at only six letters; far better to go for an exotic foreign player like Jan Vennegoof of Hesselink at a staggering 23! Of course, you could even throw in an 'X' to get a double word score, or is that some other game?

You see I'm of an age when a conversation about great number seven's means talking about the likes of Kevin Keegan and his successor at Liverpool, Kenny Dalglish; what about George Best at Manchester United? That's why modern day players like Cristiano Ronaldo and David Beckham cherished the shirt they wore because it represented something very special; it was a part of the club's history.

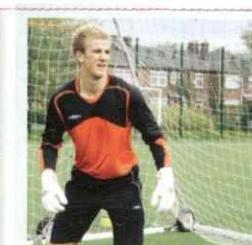
One glance at last week's Champions League fixtures threw up just about every number you could think of; just about the only thing I didn't see was somebody wearing 96.7 to promote their local radio station.

So in closing, I know squad names and numbers are here to stay because we're daft enough to pay the extra few pounds to have them printed on our replica shirts. But I ask you? In twenty years time, will we really be sitting in a pub on a cold winter's night trying to remember the number 23 who used to play for Kettering?

Let's leave Exodus Geohaghon and the big numbers to Countdown, shall we?

## SUMO

(has to take his socks off to count over ten)



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# YOU

*might not be  
able to pass,  
tackle or shoot  
like him.  
But you can  
wear his shorts.*



# THE SQUADS



## WREXHAM

**Manager:** DEAN SAUNDERS  
**Colours:** RED & WHITE



## LUTON TOWN

**Managers:** MICK HARFORD  
**Colours:** WHITE & BLUE

SAM RUSSELL	01	<input type="checkbox"/>	01	MARK TYLER
CURTIS OBENG	02	<input type="checkbox"/>	02	ED ASAFAU-ADJAYE
SAM WILLIAMSON	03	<input type="checkbox"/>	03	LEWIS EMANUEL
ASHLEY WESTWOOD	04	<input type="checkbox"/>	04	KEITH KEANE
MANSOUR ASSOUMANI	05	<input type="checkbox"/>	05	ALAN WHITE
MIKE WILLIAMS	06	<input type="checkbox"/>	06	GEORGE PILKINGTON
MARK JONES	07	<input type="checkbox"/>	07	ADAM NEWTON
HEDI TABOUBI	08	<input type="checkbox"/>	08	KEVIN NICHOLLS
GARETH TAYLOR	09	<input type="checkbox"/>	09	LIAM HATCH
MARC WILLIAMS	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	TOM CRADDOCK
NEIL TAYLOR	11	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	ANDY BURGESS
ANGELOS TSIAKLIS	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	SHANE BLACKETT
NATHAN FAIRHURST	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	SHANE GORE
FRANK SINCLAIR	15	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	ASA HALL
SILVIO SPANN	16	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	JAKE HOWELLS
ADRIAN CIESLEWICZ	17	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	ROSSI JARVIS
WES BAYNES	18	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	RYAN CHARLES
ANDY FLEMING	19	<input type="checkbox"/>	18	CLAUDE GNAKPA
JAMIE MCCCLUSKEY	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	STEVE BASHAM
KAI EDWARDS	21	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	KEVIN GALLEN
LAMINE SAKHO	22	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	CALLUM REYNOLDS
MATTY WOLFENDEN	24	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	GEORGE DONNELLY
CHRISTIAN SMITH	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	FREDDIE MURRAY
CHRIS MAXWELL	27	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	GEORGE BEAVAN
SIMON BROWN	28	<input type="checkbox"/>		



## OFFICIALS

**Referee:** R. MERCHANT  
**Assistant Referee:** C. RUSHTON  
**Assistant Referee:** J.M. LAW  
**Fourth Official:** M. D'AGUILAR

## TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER  
AFC Wimbledon v Crawley Town  
Altrincham v Tamworth  
Eastbourne Borough v Hayes & Yeading United  
Forest Green Rovers v Kidderminster Harriers  
Gateshead v Rushden & Diamonds  
Histon v Ebbsfleet United  
Kettering Town v Barrow  
Mansfield Town v Oxford United  
Salisbury City v Chester City  
Stevenage Borough v Grays Athletic  
York City v Cambridge United

## 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 the instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground. Any person whose misbehaviour could reasonably be construed as constituting 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 onto the pitch or at players, officials and other supporters; to take part in any indecent or racist chanting; to 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 and Conference grounds.

### SMOKING POLICY

In the interest of health, safety and the comfort of your fellow supporters, please note that smoking is now banned everywhere within the stadium.

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