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BARROW AFC

BARROW AFC v Luton Town

Blue Square Bet Premier - Tuesday, February 21, 2012 (Kick-Off 7.45pm)



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WHO'S WHO

First Team Manager: Dave Bayliss
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Club Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon: Mr. S J Shaw.
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The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of Barrow AFC.

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Images used courtesy of the North-west Evening Mail

ADAM OFF TO JOIN ENGLAND SQUAD

Adam won't be playing tonight because of a suspension but a week later our striker Adam Boyes will be heading for Fleetwood for the second time this season as a member of the England "C" squad to play Italy at the Highbury Stadium.

Adam will hopefully have the chance to add to the run out he got earlier in the season against Gibraltar and his previous appearance at this level when he was with York City.

Adam's goal in the game with Grimsby took his tally for the season to 20 and within range of Jason Walker who netted 22 times in all competitions two seasons ago.

The goal equalled Jason's tally of 14 league goals that season and that opens up the question of our top league goalscorer at this level in a season.



Full record for league goals at this level:

Season	Scorer	Goals
79-80	Colin Cowperthwaite	12
80-81	Colin Cowperthwaite	15
81-82	Colin Cowperthwaite	16
82-83	Colin Cowperthwaite	12
84-85	Colin Cowperthwaite	13
85-86	Colin Cowperthwaite	15
89-90	Colin Cowperthwaite	12
90-91	Colin Cowperthwaite	18
91-92	John Brady	11
98-99	Andy Mutch	8
08-09	Jason Walker	18
09-10	Jason Walker	14
10-11	Jason Walker	11

And, indeed, Andy Cook must have a chance of beating the current record of 18 league goals in a season.



View from the dugout

All games are big and important to us. But believe me, opposition doesn't come any bigger than Luton Town, tonight's visitors. I had four seasons at Kenilworth Road and know just how big the club is. It was savage points deductions by the Football League - for financial indiscretions, that inevitably had to be punished that saw them lose their Football League place.

They must wonder how three seasons later they are still playing in the Conference and not back in the League. But that is ample proof of the strength of this league and how difficult it is to get promotion from it.

Luton's gates that average over 6,000 must have some clubs in Leagues 1 and 2 looking at them with envy, never mind the rest of the Conference sides. But good gate receipts don't go hand in hand with promotion, even if Luton have been in the last two top-four play-offs.

That will be their target again this season and it is up to us to throw a spanner in the works. We will treat them with the respect they deserve but will not be overawed by them. You know my thoughts - the bigger they are, the harder they fall. So I'm looking forward to a very interesting game.

We still have plenty to play for and the final couple of months of the season are really vital to the players. For some the question will be: Do they want to be at Barrow next season? For others these remaining games could decide whether or not they actually stay in football. They are playing for contracts here or elsewhere.

This is a ruthless game and decisions have to be made. My planning for next season is well advanced, I have a good idea where I want to go and the players I need - but my mind is open to being changed. It is up to the players.

Some have excelled and passed all expectations; sadly some have not quite achieved in the way they should have done. They set their own targets but believe me, they have a lot at stake. Once you are in the game you need to pull up trees to stay there. I can't tell you how much it hurts that I no longer get out on the park every week. For some, careers can be fairly long - but not as long as retirement.

Some more of your excellent support tonight, please. The boys really appreciate the way you get behind them. And I hope we will see you again on Saturday.

Dave Bayliss

Watch it in the CROSS BAR

All the important matches are shown on the big screens in the Cross Bar.

Before our game with Forest Green Rovers this coming Saturday (February 25), we will be showing the Championship clash between **West Ham United** and **Crystal Palace** (kick-off 12.45). And after our match we will be screening the Premiership meeting between **Manchester City** and **Blackburn Rovers** (kick-off 5.30pm).



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Furness Building Society Stadium Review

By Phil Yelland

warm welcome this evening to our visitors from Luton Town for this re-arranged game.

Whilst Town are a little adrift of the top two in the table, Wrexham and Fleetwood Town, that is more because they have stuttered a little at home rather than on the road. They come into tonight's game with only one league defeat away from home all season – at York in September.

We played them at Kenilworth Road the following week and having taken a first minute lead thanks to Jack Mackreth's first goal for the club, we ended up on the end of a 5-1 defeat. Hopefully tonight we can avenge that and score our first home goal as a non-League club against them as our two previous meetings here at the Furness Building Society Stadium have seen the Hatters win 1-0.

Our last home League game against them in Division Three was in February 1970 when we won 3-1 with goals from Tony Morrin and Jim Mulvaney. A repeat of that result tonight would be very welcome for us.

On the bench

Following Darren Sheridan's departure, I am sure we would all like to wish those now assisting Dave Hayliss all the best in their new roles.

Since the FA Trophy Final it seems Robin Hulbert has had little or no luck with injuries and now he will be helping on the bench on match days. Meanwhile Gavin Skelton is to be involved in coaching during the week.

I understand from a friend that last season when Gavin was in Scotland he was doing some coaching at Stirling University and made a favourable impression. Hopefully he will do that again.

Cambridge re-arranged

Our only game to have fallen victim to the weather, at Cambridge, has now been re-arranged. We will make the cross country trip on Tuesday, March 13 for a 7.45pm kick off.

On the corresponding week of the season last season we had three away games – at Forest Green Rovers, Southport and Eastbourne Borough. We came back with three wins – our only three away wins all season.

This season we have a real challenge as we travel to Wrexham, Cambridge and Mansfield in the same eight day period.

Harvey stays

Midfielder Adam-Ray Harvey has agreed a deal to stay with us on loan from Burnley, of the Championship, until April 11. The deal cannot run until the end of the season because of the way the league rules work and the maximum loan period for him is 93 days. We hope he continues to enjoy his spell with us.

Thank you

For all of you who have come along tonight to support the club through the gate, as well as buying this programme and probably BDF raffle tickets, a huge thank you. Why?

Well, we live in interesting or difficult times. If anyone thought football was immune from the economic pressures of the real world then the last couple of weeks have been a sharp reminder again.

Who would ever have thought that a club like Glasgow Rangers would be forced to enter administration? It's true that they have a different business model to us for example but the reality is that they have built up massive debts over a lengthy period of time and the stage had been reached where HMRC, in particular, were not prepared to let them continue.

In Scotland, Heart of Midlothian seem, according to reports to have lurched between failing to pay players and failing to pay the tax man. In England, Portsmouth are entering administration for a third time and our league colleagues Darlington are in the same position. These are cold hard facts. Anyone who is involved in business or the regulation of a business will be able to tell you tales right now of established businesses teetering on the brink of financial ruin.

When this game was re-arranged to give us three home games in a week, a lot of fans, according to the unofficial forum, were unhappy and understandably so but there are realities to deal with here.

The league requires clubs to play a postponed game within six weeks of its postponement, as I understand matters. On that basis given other fixture commitments, the earliest midweek date available would have been Tuesday, March 20 – a matter of days before the visit of Braintree Town.

No one likes to have to play games in this way but the underlying issue is cash flow. We had a really good gate when Darlington visited on January 7; the gate for the visit of Grimsby on January 24 was poor but that was probably to be expected. The visit of Kettering Town last Saturday was our first Saturday home game for six weeks and despite all the efforts of Martin Lewis and everyone else, the main source of income for the club remains as that paid at the gate and we are not unusual in that.

I can understand why fans may become tired of the words from the board about needing more people through the gate but it is a harsh reality of life; of course all of you who are reading this

are not what might be termed the problem. The reality is that you are here and many of you not only come here regularly but travel hundreds of miles to watch the team.

The problem is the armchair fan who pops up when we go to Middlesbrough and Sunderland or when we have a tasty home tie, for example against Rotherham. What can we do to get them to come to a live match?

One of the posters on the Fans Forum blamed Sky and they are a factor – you can sit in the comfort of your own home and watch wall-to-wall football most weekends. That is really what is damaging grass roots football.

I'm sorry for repeating the obvious but we, like everyone else at our level, are having a struggle. Please just keep coming and helping to make ours a more manageable struggle.

Next in town

We are at home again this coming Saturday when our visitors will be Forest Green Rovers. They are a much improved side this season and will be looking to avenge the fact that we did the double over them last season, winning 3-0 here with goals from Jason Walker and Simon Wiles (2). The game was Simon's last outing at Holker Street before the injury he sustained in the next game at Altrincham that saw his career ended.

The away game last season saw us record a 3-2 win thanks to goals from Mike Pearson, Richie Baker and Wayne Curtis – it was our first away win of the season.

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Our Opponents: Luton Town



The birth of Luton Town Football Club was never going to be easy. At the meeting to discuss a merger between local clubs Wanderers and Excelsior an argument ensued. Wanderers maintained they had been using the name 'Luton Town' for several months and that the meeting was pointless. Nevertheless 'Luton Town Football Club' was dragged screaming into the world on April 11, 1885.

After war hostilities ceased in 1918, the Southern League was asked en bloc to form a new Division Three of the Football League and Town enjoyed 17 seasons at this level mostly. In 1936 wing-half Joe Payne was handed his debut at centre forward against Bristol Rovers and he altered the record books at a stroke when scoring 10 goals in a 12-0 victory. In the next season his remarkable 55 goals out of a total of 103 helped secure promotion to Division Two.

The final push in the fight to earn a Division One spot came in 1954/55 when Town eventually won through on goal average.

The FA Cup band wagon took off but in 1958/59 as Town fought their way past Leeds, Leicester, Ipswich and Blackpool before seeing off Norwich in the semi-final. A record Kenilworth Road crowd of 30,069 saw the quarter-final replay against Blackpool and as many travelled to White Hart Lane for the semi-final which Town won in a replay.

The final itself was a massive disappointment with Town not performing on the day, leaving ten-man

Nottingham Forest to win comfortably 2-1. From that moment on, the Hatters' fortunes went into a steady decline. Just six years from their FA Cup Final appearance, they slumped to the football basement. Three seasons later they walked away with the title. They were buoyed by this success and the wealth of new directors Reggie Burr and Tony Hunt, owners of insurance giant Vehicle and General. But the March 1970 announcement of the collapse of Burr and Hunt's business meant the rise came to an abrupt halt.

In 1973/74 promotion was gained from a very average Division Two but relegation soon followed. The championship was won in great style in 1982 with a brand of attacking football that was to become the David Pleat hallmark but he eventually found the call of Tottenham too great and he departed amid much acrimony. He eventually returned as boss but Town had used up their nine lives and sank back down in 1992. Pleat departed once more and Town failed to hit the heights for several seasons, even suffering two periods in the hands of receivers as well as a season in the football basement.

2006-2007 was largely dominated by the Hatters' off-the-field problems with manager Mike Newell blowing the whistle on underhand transfer activity within the game. He was dismissed and form began to tail off before the club were deducted 10 points for falling into administration in November.

A consortium headed by Hatters fan and TV presenter Nick Owen plus former Hatters legends Steve Foster

and Godfrey Ingram and other influential businessmen was named to take over by the administrator. By mid-March they were 12 points from safety and relegation to League 2 was confirmed on April 12.

With the new owners set to take full control the Hatters prepared to begin their League 2 campaign with 15 points deducted for failure to agree to a Company Voluntary Agreement. However the Football League decided because they had been in administration for the third time in nine years, they would punish them further by deducting five more points.

Worse followed. They were still being investigated by the Football Association for the irregularities made public during Mike Newell's time and as a result the club had a further 10 points docked which meant they had to start with an incredible 30 point penalty.

Once the club was officially taken over a week before the season started, they had only six professionals and the burden of the points deductions proved too much and relegation out of the Football League was confirmed on Easter Monday - meaning the club starting life in the Blue Square Premier in 2009/10 after 89 years in the Football League.

In their first season in non-League they finished second behind Stevenage but lost the play-off semi-final to York City. They again suffered play-off heartache in 2010/11 when, after finishing third and beating Wrexham, they lost on penalties to AFC Wimbledon in the Promotion Final.

Hatters Town playing staff for this season are...



MARK TYLER
(Goalkeeper)

Signed in June 2009 following release by Peterborough United. Made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road and rewarded with testimonial against Liverpool in 2007. Found team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 was loaned to League 2 Weymouth where made 11 appearances. Former England Youth international signed new contract last summer.

EVIN PILKINGTON (Goalkeeper)

Joined Hatters in May 2010 after release from Notts County. Began with Mansfield playing six times in Premier League. In six years at Old Trafford had spells at Rochdale, Rotherham and Macclesfield before two-year stay at Port Vale. After 23 League appearances for Macclesfield, Aberystwyth Town and Wigan Athletic were next ports of call. Found ability at Mansfield and featured 167 times in League over five years. In 2005 signed for Notts County and in another year stay made 141 appearances. Sacked out of County team with arrival ofasper Schmeichel, joined Hatters before move made permanent.

GEORGE PILKINGTON
(Defender)

Signed on free transfer in August 2008. Everton trainee, joined Port Vale in June 2003 after loan spell at Exeter City. Started 223 League games for Valiants. String of 2009/10 end-of-season awards followed by new contract.



IAN GLEESON (Defender)

Signed in summer of 2010 from home town club Cambridge United. Product of Hatters' academy, made debut at 18 and became regular making 61 League appearances before Notts County snapped him up in 2006. In one season at Meadow Lane featured 17 times before was back at the Abbey on loan before re-signing permanently in 2007. Has won seven England C caps.

GREG TAYLOR (Defender)

Signed from Darlington in November. Started as junior with Northampton before signed for Kettering Town and then Darlo.

ED ASAFU-ADJAYE (Defender)

Made progress through club's youth set-up. After loan with Walton & Hersham made breakthrough into first team under former boss Mike Newell when club stretched through injury and suspension. With first team opportunities limited, went on loan to Salisbury City where earned rave reviews. Made full debut in March 2008.

SHANE BLACKETT (Defender)

Mick Harford's sixth summer signing of 2009. Began with Dunstable Town before switch to Arlesey Town in 2003 and form alerted Dagenham & Redbridge who signed him in May 2004. Made 83 appearances and helped Daggers win promotion to Football League in 2006/07. Peterborough snapped him up in January 2007 and made 38 appearances.

ALEX LACEY (Defender)

Made first team debut as 17-year-old in FA Trophy, earning man-of-match award. Signed professional contract to remain at Kenilworth Road until end of 2011/12.

DEAN BECKWITH (Defender)

Second signing of summer of 2011 following release from Northampton Town. Was key member of Cobblers' squad in 2010/11 which reached fourth round of League Cup following wins over Brighton, Reading and Liverpool. Experienced promotion from Blue Square Bet Premier in Hereford United side that won play-off final in 2008. Has almost 250 senior appearances to his name after starting career as junior at Gillingham.

CURTIS OSANO (Defender)

Signed contract following departure from Rushden & Diamonds in July 2011. Kenyan-born, began career as youngster at Reading. Failed to make appearance with Royals but enjoyed loan spells at Aldershot, Woking and Rushden before making move to Nene Park permanent in 2008 and making over 150 appearances.

JANOS KOVACS (Defender)

Hungarian has just signed 18 month contract. Arrived on loan for second spell at club in September. Formerly with Chesterfield and Lincoln, first signed in January 2010 before joining Hereford United.



ROBBIE WILLMOTT
(Midfielder)

Penned an 18-month contract 12 months ago after hitting 10 goals for Cambridge United. Came through ranks at

Abbey Stadium. Performances for U's youth team saw him make senior debut as 17-year-old in September 2007.

JAKE HOWELLS (Midfielder)

Came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made first team debut as substitute in May 2008. After 36 appearances in 2008/09, England C international rewarded with professional contract in May.

GODFREY POKU (Midfielder)

Signed from Blue Square South outfit St Albans City in January 2010 as Hatters beat competition from several Football League clubs. Impressed in Reserves and made debut as substitute in 1-0 win at Barrow in October 2010.

JJ O'DONNELL (Midfielder)

Joined Town with St Albans team-mate Godfrey Poku in January 2010. Made his first team debut in 4-2 FA Cup first round replay win over Corby Town.

KEITH KEANE (Midfielder)

Made debut as 16-year-old in November 2003 and had extended run in team whilst still in first year of his scholarship. Appeared for Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level and joined Hatters at age of nine having been scouted in local football, making rapid progress through club's centre of excellence and youth teams. Penned deal to keep him at club to end of this season.



ADAM WATKINS
(Midfielder)

Signed professional forms in June 2010. Made first team bow in 1-0 defeat at Southampton in FA Cup third round in January 2010. Broke into first team squad during 2010/11, scoring twice on full debut.

CHARLIE HENRY (Midfielder)

England C international signed from Blue Square Bet Premier Newport County in November 2010. Came through Hatters youth ranks but told was too small to continue scholarship and left when he was 15. Now 24, after spells with host of non-League sides is back where it all began.

ALEX LAWLESS (Midfielder)

Former Wales U-21 midfielder signed in November 2010 initially on-loan from York City before permanent deal went through in January 2011. Cardiff City scholar, took-up non-League football in Wales before earned first professional contract with Premier League Fulham in 2003. Without featuring for Cottagers it was off to Torquay United but after just a year and 16 appearances moved to Forest Green in 2006 and in three seasons helped Gloucestershire consolidate in Conference. Moved on to York in summer of 2009.

JAMES DANCE (Midfielder)

Trainee at Birmingham City but made name in non-League circles in West Midlands before catching eye of Kettering Town in 2009. Signed for Crawley in January 2011 but after picking up Blue Square Bet Premier winners' medal found himself out of Red Devils' starting XI and Hatters' bid accepted.

JOHN PAUL KISSOCK (Midfielder)

Signed on two-year contract for undisclosed fee from Southport in August 2011. Former England U-16 and U-18 international was trainee at Premier League Everton. Regular in Toffees' youth and reserve teams and surpassed Wayne Rooney's record as youngest ever player to feature for their second-string. In January 2008 signed on loan for then Scottish Premier League Gretna, earning rave reviews before return to Goodison. With first team opportunities limited - despite named as unused substitute nine times in Premier League - was released at end of 2008/09 and signed Hamilton Academical. Dropped down to Cheshire County League level in bid to resurrect career and performances alerted Southport who signed him in December 2010.

DANNY CROW (Forward)

Joined Hatters in May 2010 following expiry of contract at Cambridge United. Trainee with Norwich City, made senior bow in Premier League in December 2004. Released towards end of 2004/05 and signed for Peterborough. Following short loan spell at Notts County, was released by Posh and signed for Cambridge in September 2008 and had strike-rate of 22 goals in 43 league starts.



AARON O'CONNOR
(Forward)

Signing following expiry of deal with Rushden & Diamonds where scored 27 times in two seasons after arriving from Mansfield Town. On YTS forms with

Derby County. Had spells at Scunthorpe United and Nuneaton Borough and with Gresley Rovers between 2004 and 2007, scoring 80 goals in 127 games, before move to Mansfield and then Rushden in summer of 2009.

DAN WALKER (Forward)

Signed in July 2010 after impressing in pre-season in games. Previously with Bedford Town and Stony Stratford.

AMARI MORGAN-SMITH (Forward)

Started as trainee with Wolves. Signed for Crewe and then Stockport where made one League appearance before moving to Ilkerton where in two years scored 34 goals in 77 starts. Arrived at Kenilworth Road as free agent.

CRAIG McALLISTER (Forward)

Signed on loan from Newport County for rest of 2011/12. Joined Newport just months after helping Crawley Town win Blue Square Bet Premier title. Although born in Glasgow, was raised on South Coast and began career with Eastleigh. In 2002 signed for Basingstoke Town, scoring 53 times in 96 appearances to earned move to Stevenage Borough. First team opportunities were limited so joined Woking in 2005 and had stints at Grays, Oxford and Exeter. In 2010 signed for Crawley's 'Project Promotion' plan, scoring a dozen goals and proving perfect foil for prolific strike partner Matt Tubbs.

STUART FLEETWOOD
(Forward)

Signed for undisclosed fee from Hereford United on deadline day in August 2011. Scored 28 goals last time played at Conference level whilst with Forest Green Rovers. Trainee at Cardiff City, featuring eight times. In January 2006 signed for Hereford for first time before move to Forest Green in June 2007 where plundered 32 league and cup goals in a season. Wales U-21 international turned down new contract at FGR to sign for then Championship Charlton in June 2008 but was loaned to Cheltenham, Exeter and Brighton. Returned to Edgar Street and scored 18 goals as helped the Bulls avoid drop.



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View From The Boardroom

Welcome everyone to our second of three home matches in a week. On Saturday we played Kettering Town and at the time of writing the result is not known but hopefully a positive result was obtained despite our depleted squad. Next Saturday we entertain Forest Green Rovers and tonight, obviously, we play hosts to Luton Town.

It is remarkable that we have played so few home matches this year due to a variety of reasons - and then suddenly we have three so close together.

In today's hard economic times, it is not ideal and some supporters will probably choose their games to watch. This football club is no different to probably any other football club at this level and still relies heavily on its gates as a major income stream.

Over the last few years we have managed to open up many other income streams and if the future work off the field comes to fruition, other income to the club may well be opened.

The future of the club is very exciting and we understand everyone's impatience regarding the feasibility study. Negotiations are positive and ongoing and with luck more information should be available in the months to come.

This evening we welcome the chairman, directors, management, players and supporters of Luton Town to the Furness Building Society Stadium and although their stay with us will be short, we trust they have an enjoyable visit to Cumbria and a safe journey home afterwards.

Luton are currently in the play-off positions and are no doubt chasing hard to overtake Wrexham and

Fleetwood Town and take the magical top spot and automatic promotion back to the Football League. We wish them well.

From our perspective, we would hope to gain some revenge on tonight's opponents for our heavy defeat on an unusually sweltering day at the beginning of October in Bedfordshire. Jack Mackreth did open the scoring that day but that sadly was the highlight of the day. In reality though, we should not even be able to compete with Luton Town with the respective funds that are available to both clubs.

On top of that we have a massively depleted squad at the moment with injuries and suspensions. With luck, James Owen and Paul Rutherford have returned to bolster the squad following their injuries. Top scorer Adam Boyes and local loanee from Burnley, Joe Jackson, both miss tonight through suspension.

As mentioned before, the club were very sad at the departure of Darren Sheridan and despite a few supporters wishing to know the reasons, the deal between both parties was legally binding and confidential from both sides. That has to remain so.

Our next midweek game is in two weeks when bottom club Bath City make the long trip North and we follow that with three very tough away fixtures - Wrexham, Cambridge United and Mansfield Town. That will be a massive test for the players but one we know they are looking forward to.

Back to tonight, despite our depleted resources, we desperately hope to give Luton a good game and perhaps we can beat them for the first time at this level. Be our 12th man, make plenty of positive noise. See you Saturday.

Neil Chalker,
On behalf of the directors of Barrow AFC.



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Good evening and a very warm welcome to the Furness Building Society Stadium for tonight's Blue Square Premier match against one of the "big" names in the league, Luton Town.

This is the second match in a busy week here at the ground after what seems like an eternity without a game. The lack of home games in January and half of February obviously has a massive impact on the cash flow of the club and although three home games in a week isn't ideal from the point of view of affordability for fans, hopefully we'll have a decent crowd for all the games this week to boost the coffers.

I was talking to a businessman last week about the impact of moving this game from the scheduled date of Saturday, February 4 to tonight and I estimated that the club could be in the region of £15,000 down in actual cash, just by having to move the fixture (through no fault of our own) to a Tuesday evening.

This was based on us losing virtually all the people who had booked into Corporate Hospitality for the original date and, probably, the gate being down by between 100 and 600 - quite a fact.

The 2012/13 Sponsorship Draw is taking shape nicely with a lot of interest among both local businesses and groups of supporters. With all the pledges received to

date, we have raised in excess of £5,000 and with a full two months to go to the draw, we are looking to at least double that figure. For more information on the draw, please contact me at the club on 01229-823061

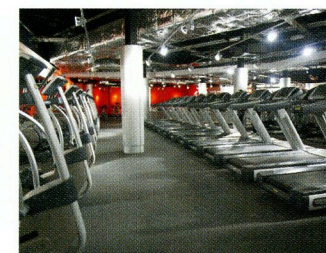
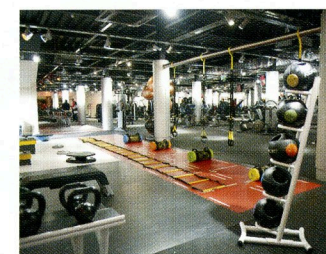
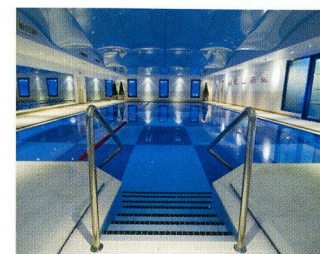
The other way we have been asking fans to help us raise some extra sponsorship is by opening a Bluebirds Premier Savings Account at the Furness Building Society. As part of the sponsorship deal that saw the ground take on the Furness Building Society name last year, it was agreed that if we could reach a target of 500 account holders by the end of May 2012, the club would receive a further amount of money.

We currently need about 150 more people to sign up for an account and given the interest that has been generated on the fans forum this week, I believe this figure is easily achievable. The account is an instant access account and can be opened with as little as £1 simply by calling in to any branch of the Furness Building Society.

We still have places left in Corporate Hospitality for the majority of games left this season so if you are interested in coming along with a group of family, friends, or colleagues to watch the game and have a bite to eat, and a few drinks, do not hesitate to contact me at the club by phone or e-mail office@barrowafc.com

Have a fantastic evening Martin Lewis, Commercial Manager, Barrow AFC

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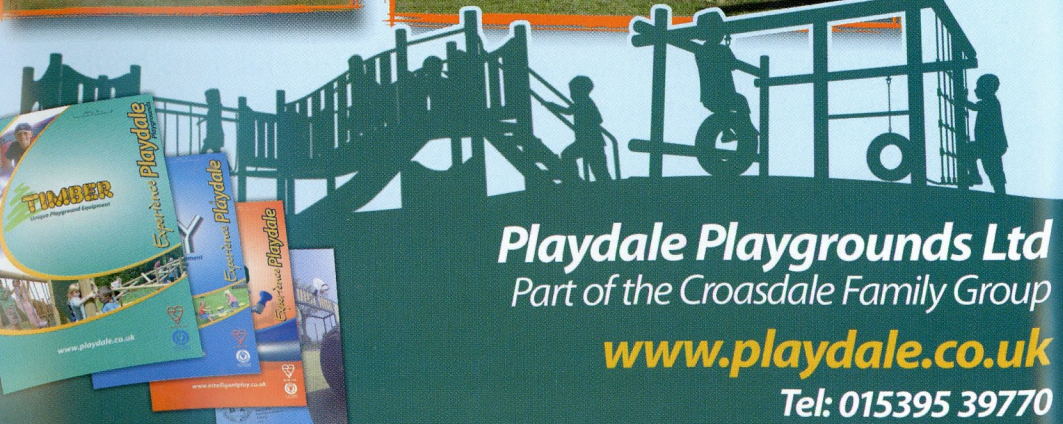
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**No 19:
Season
1990-91**

Down Memory Lane

by Phil Yelland

After the glory of winning the FA Trophy in May 1990, Ray Wilkie was faced with challenges ahead of the 1990-91 season. Two of his key defenders had moved on - Ken Gordon had emigrated to Australia whilst Steve Higgins had decided to leave the club because of the travelling involved from his North-east home. Another North-east based player, winger Paul Ferris, also decided to play nearer to home.

Three new players joined the squad. Barrie Stimpson joined from Colne Dynamos whilst Darren Marsh and Charlie Butler joined from Northern League clubs, Billingham Town and Billingham Synthonia. Neither had played at this level before.

The season began badly with an opening day home defeat by Kidderminster Harriers in front of 1,329 fans - so much for the expected rise in the attendance as a result of the FA Trophy triumph.

It wasn't until the sixth league game of the season that a win was recorded, 2-0 at home to Stafford Rangers. That result began a six match unbeaten league run. There was League Cup progress as Altrincham were defeated over two legs with both full backs - Darren Marsh and Tony Chilton - scoring in the 3-2 home win, their only goals of the season.

A defeat at Sutton United started a run of four straight league defeats before November began with a comfortable 3-1 home win over Fisher Athletic.

The team lost the annual game between the previous season's FA Trophy holders and Conference champions Darlington at Holker Street with the Quakers winning 4-0 but one of the advantages of that Trophy win was that the team had not required to play in the FA Cup qualifying rounds.

At this point, however, the club lost the services of summer signing Butler in curious circumstances. A compliant by his former club, Billingham Synthonia, that Barrow had not gone through the proper channels when signing him was upheld and as a result he was allowed to sign for league rivals Gateshead.

In the FA Cup first round the club negotiated a tricky trip to Northern Premier League Bishop Auckland and came away with a 1-0 win thanks to a well taken Ian Burgess goal. One of the stars on a murky Durham afternoon was Gary Messenger who had successfully been converted from a striking role to playing in central defence.

December was an interesting month. It began with the return to the club of popular winger Danny Wheatley who had been playing in Belgium. His made his return in a 4-2 defeat at Welling United. An ATS Trophy first round tie against Leyland DAF at home was successfully negotiated with a hat-trick from Billy Gilmour whose contribution from midfield in terms of goals was becoming vital.

He was on target in the next game when the team travelled to the North-east again in the FA Cup second round and this time beat Whitley Bay 1-0. The original game had been called off due to high winds and the win against a side including former winger Paul Ferris was revenge for Bay defeating Barrow in the same competition 15 months earlier.

The club had drawn Bolton Wanderers, then, in what is now League One, in the third round of the FA Cup at Burden Park. Preparations, however, were not what we might have wanted. A 5-1 drubbing at Gateshead on Boxing Day - inevitably Charlie Butler scored for the home side - was followed by a 3-1 defeat Runcorn. On New Year's Day, we defeated Gateshead 3-1 in the return game thanks to a hat-trick from Neil Doherty on a badly waterlogged pitch.

continued overleaf

PAGE SPONSORED BY: BRIAN WADSWORTH

www.barrowafc.com - 19



own Memory Lane

so to Bolton. I remember the game well because as meant to drive down from Edinburgh. However the force winds and severe weather warnings meant didn't make the trip. A crowd of 11,475 saw Barrow title away and hold their own until Tony Philiskirk the home side ahead. We had a chance to equalise but Billy Gilmour failed to find the target in a case of what might have been.

the following week we began our defence of the FA trophy with a home win over Chorley but we were out to lose another key player. Kenny Lowe had been a talisman on the road to Wembley the previous season and his silky skills in midfield were admired by a number of clubs including several in the Football League.

came as no surprise then when, at the end of January, he joined Barnet who were battling for the Conference title. The deal was allegedly worth £10,000. Lowe's replacement was Peter King from Grimsby, a neat passer of the ball but not in the same class as Lowe in terms of inspiration.

we relinquished our hold on the FA Trophy in a 2-1 extra time replay defeat at Kettering before Barnet came calling at Holker Street. As if to show the departed Lowe what he was missing, the team turned the performance of the season in a 4-2 win with goals from Messenger, Cowperthwaite, Doherty and Wheatley. Lowe's return boosted the gate to over 1,500.

the team's attention then turned to the League Cup (Bob Lord Trophy). Having been knocked out of the FA Cup by Marine, this was the one piece of silverware the team could capture and wins over Altrincham and Macclesfield Town brought Stafford Rangers to Holker Street.

the team recorded a 2-1 win with goals from Kevin Proctor and Mike Ballantyne who had been persuaded to sign forms for the club having been the outstanding local player in a creative midfield role for several seasons at Holker OB. However this was his only appearance of the season.

at this point Robbie Vincent rejoined the club to provide cover in midfield.

March saw good performances at home in the league and one outstanding away performance, a 3-0 win at Yeovil. But the main focus was on the Bob Lord Trophy semi-final over two legs against Kidderminster Harriers. The home leg was won well with goals from Kevin Proctor and Billy Gilmour. The return at Aggborough the following Monday was played in awful conditions, driving rain and a pitch that had been heavily sanded.

I shared the commentary box with Russell Dodd and we watched as another remarkable Barrow performance unfolded. We won 4-2 with Billy Gilmour netting a hat-trick. Gilmour enjoyed a remarkable March collecting six goals in seven games that won him the Conference Mail On Sunday "Goalscorer of the Month" award. He netted 18 goals in total across the season.

April was tough in terms of fitting in league games but there were good away wins at Boston and Fisher Athletic as well as beating Altrincham at Holker Street – Neil Doherty's goal effectively killing off their title challenge and Kenny Lowe's Barnet pipped Colchester United and the Robins to the crown and promotion to the Football League.

Sutton United were the opponents in the Bob Lord final with the first leg at Holker Street. There was a shock for the home fans after Stuart Todhunter collected a serious knee injury days before the game against Merthyr Tydfil which meant a debut for local defender Paul Slater.

The team disappointed on the night with Colin Cowperthwaite netting in the 1-1 draw. United were threatened with relegation and 48 hours before the second leg of the final they travelled to Holker Street again and lost 3-1.

The final's second leg was a disaster as a tired and patched up Barrow side lost 5-0 (6-1 on aggregate). It was not the place for long serving player and assistant manager Neil McDonald to make his 343rd and final appearance for the first team as a substitute.

It had been a season of consolidation and some cup success; could the team now go to the next level?

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Hatters fans lead the way both home and away

A mid-week trip all the way to the North-west will be a real test for Luton supporters tonight – but while they cannot expect their usual travelling support, they will still clearly remain the Blue Square Bet Premier club with the best away following.

Up to February 4 they had taken a total of 10,410 fans (average 694 per game) to away fixtures.

Tonight's "away fans" figure will show just what financial hit was taken by Barrow when the scheduled Saturday game was postponed and re-arranged for a Tuesday, because of Luton having an FA Trophy tie.

The BSP away support stats are a testament to the loyalty of the fans of Luton, Grimsby Town, Wrexham, York City, Stockport County and Cambridge. Normally they can be seen as pay-days within the division.

While Barrow are 13th in the "away support" chart, the club can be proud of the 133 average figure considering the 166-mile round trip to Fleetwood is the shortest we have.

The division's average of the averages shows over 5,000 will travel on a normal Saturday, giving a slightly more realistic divisional average of 211 visitors. The happy Hatters nearly treble that.

The figures at the end of January were -

Crowd puller	Total turnstile clicks	Average Gate
1 Luton Town	96,694	6,043
2 Wrexham	60,722	3,795
3 Stockport County	53,216	3,326
4 Grimsby Town	51,777	3,236
5 York City	47,067	3,137
6 Cambridge United	38,050	2,536
7 Mansfield Town	37,117	2,474
8 Darlington	39,453	2,465
9 Lincoln City	36,682	2,445
10 AFC Telford United	34,025	2,268
11 Kidderminster Harriers	29,700	1,980
12 Fleetwood Town	25,256	1,804
13 Kettering Town	23,953	1,497
14 Barrow	20,989	1,399
15 Newport County	19,565	1,397
16 Southport	19,460	1,297
17 Tamworth	16,156	1,154
18 Forest Green Rovers	17,025	1,064
19 Ebbsfleet United	16,825	1,051
20 Gateshead	15,061	941
21 Braintree Town	13,662	910
22 Bath	13,342	889
23 Alfreton Town	13,087	872
24 Hayes & Yeading	5,915	369

The total away fans turnstile clicks and averages in full for the BSP to February 4 are

Team	Total	Average
1 Luton Town	10,410	694
2 Grimsby	7,170	478
3 Wrexham	6,594	471
4 York City	7,344	459
5 Stockport	5,072	317
6 Cambridge United	4,740	316
7 Lincoln City	4,350	290
8 Mansfield Town	4,200	280
9 Darlington	4,185	279
10 AFC Telford United	3,264	204
11 AFC Newport	2,850	190
12 Kidderminster Harriers	2,144	134
13 Barrow	2,128	133
14 Fleetwood Town	2,096	131
15 Southport	1,840	115
16 Alfreton	1,776	111
17 Kettering	1,290	86
18 Ebbsfleet United	1,221	81
19 Tamworth	1,218	81
20 Gateshead	1,045	70
21 Bath	989	66
22 Forest Green Rovers	967	65
23 Braintree Town	843	56
24 Hayes & Yeading	444	30

The Hatters also draw the top home crowds and were eclipsed for the first time on January 28 when Darlington v. York City attracted 6,413.

Mind you Luton's 5,658 against Alfreton would be a credit to League 2 never mind the BSP. Grimsby Town, Wrexham FC and Stockport County also broke the three and a half thousand barrier

Elsewhere the crowds were not so good that day with a below average 2,281 at Cambridge's defeat at home to Tamworth but spare a thought for Forest Green Rovers (922), Braintree (685) and Hayes (294).

The division as a whole is managing to keep the home average above 2,000 at a fairly respectable 2,029.

OUR LAST HOME GAME

Some 1,090 fans saw a closely fought encounter, Barrow's 3-0 result reflecting our well taken chances and Kettering's missed ones. The Poppies kicked off towards the Holker Street end, playing with the strong westerly breeze, and had the first attempts on goal in the 13th minute. A Verma shot was blocked and then Pearson saved a close range Mills header.

However, five minutes later, Barrow debutant Chris Turner was tripped as he advanced on goal and the resultant Baker penalty was calmly slotted home.

Next, Sangare struck wide for the visitors from close range and just after the half hour Mackreth went close for Barrow as his long range shot went just over the bar.

Kettering kept up the pressure; Kelly was tripped 5 yards outside the penalty area and his resultant 37th minute free kick grazed the bar. At this stage Barrow were living dangerously; first a Ralph cross whizzed along the goal-line and then three minutes before the break, Pearson was stranded as Kelly passed to Mills on the left wing but with an open goal beckoning, Mills rolled his shot inches wide of the far post.

Although Turner had a shot saved after a corner in the last seconds, Barrow's lead looked vulnerable at half-time and even more so as we struggled to keep possession and gave away free kicks as the second half progressed.

Even so, the Poppies did not seriously threaten Barrow's goal until the 61st minute when a Mills shot was blocked. Pearson saved well from a Phil Ifil corner ten minutes later and then launched Barrow's first attack of the half, Owen bringing a save from Walker.



BARROW 3, KETTERING TOWN 0

Barrow stepped up a gear in the last 20 minutes and in the 78th minute, Cook capitalised on a miss-kick from the Poppies' keeper to score. Five minutes later a 25 yard Baker free kick was rolled to Rutherford whose persistence helped him keep the ball in play and his well-aimed cross led to Cook's second, a header from close range. D.W.



Player Statistics

BARROW AFC 2011 / 12																	
February 18th			TOTALS			CONFERENCE			F A CUP			F A TROPHY			LANCS TROPHY		
No.	38 Apps	Games Subs	Goals	32 Apps	Games Subs	Goals	2 Apps	Games Subs	Goals	2 Apps	Games Subs	Goals	2 Apps	Games Subs	Goals		
1 Hurst	29	0	0	25			2			1					1		
2 Pearson M	11	1	1	9	1	1	2								0		
3 Skelton	34	0	0	29			2			2					1		
4 Nicholas	9	7	0	7	6		0	1							2		
5 Bolland	21	1	2	16	1	2	2			2					1		
6 Hulbert	7	1	0	7	1		0								0		
7 Rutherford	28	4	2	22	4	1	2		1	2					2		
8 Baker	25	7	9	21	6	6	2					1		1	2		
9 Cook	26	5	16	22	4	15	1	1		2				1	1		
10 Ferrell	15	3	0	12	2		0	1		2				1			
11 Boyes	35	0	20	31		14	2			2		2		0			
12 Owen	20	4	0	17	2		2			1				0	2		
14 Sheridan	2	1	0	1	1		0							1			
15 Smith	29	5	3	25	3	3	2			1	1			1	1		
16 Mackreth	30	5	3	26	4	3	2			2				0	1		
17 Jackson	1	4	2	1	3	2						1					
17 Quinn	18	0	0	18													
18 Almond	12	15	1	10	13	1	1	1			1			1			
19 Lomax	20	4	0	17	3		0	1		1				2			
20 Moyo	3	4	0	3	4		0							0			
21 Pearson S	9	2	0	7			0			1	1			1	1		
22 Brooke	1	4	0	1	4												
22 Hone	15	0	1	13						2			1				
23 Hollis	2	1	1	2	1	1											
24 Harvey	3	1	0	3							1						
24 Rowe	8	5	1	6	4	1	0			1				2			
25 Turner	1	0	0	1													
27 Cairns	0	0	0														
31 Clancy	0	0	0														
Beresford	1	0	1											1	1		
Ricketts	1	0	0											1			
Rushton	1	0	0											1			
Salau	1	0	0											1			
Own Goals			1			1											
Totals	418	84	64	352	67	51	22	5	5	22	6	4	22	6	4		
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D	Clare Jenkinson	Claire Hannaway	Jill Charnley	Owen Collar	John Story	Danielle Clark	Christine Dewey	Andrew Steel	Western Express In Memory of Sundance Kidd
E	Ellie Vaughan	Kevin Crisp	Reay Mackay	Major Mac	Victor Hughes	Gill Mackay	Elaine Warden	Eddie Moore	Peter Steel
F	Reay Mackay	Major Mac	Helen Mackay	Moore in Loving Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin
G	Victor Hughes	Gill Mackay	Moore in Loving Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
H	Hartley's Gang	Gareth Morgan	Pat & Herbie Moore	Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin
I	Pat & Herbie Moore	Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
J	Pat & Herbie Moore	Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
K	Jean Edmondson	In Loving Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
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M	Jean Edmondson	In Loving Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
N	Jean Edmondson	In Loving Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
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R	Jean Edmondson	In Loving Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
S	Jean Edmondson	In Loving Memory of Fred Edmondson	Ultras Barrovia	We Three Loggerheads	Lord Vader Irving	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin	John Griffin
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OVER THE YEARS



21st February by Phil Yelland

The club has played on 21 February regularly over the years.
Here are highlights of some of those games.

1903 Lancashire League Chorley 0 Barrow 1

Barrow travelled down into Lancashire to play Chorley side in the bottom four in the table. The previous season Barrow had defeated the Magpies away from home and were looking for repeat result.

Unfortunately, their form on the road had been patchy. Since a win at Earlestown in early November they had lost at Darwen and Rochdale - the latter game being a nine-goal thriller where Barrow lost out 5-4 - and drawn at Wigan United and Bacup. The team went into the game on the back of two good home wins over Workington and Wigan United where they had scored nine times.

Barrow: Team Unknown

This was a much tighter game that was decided by a single goal. The scorer for Barrow was Caterall. Sadly research doesn't show up very much about the goalscorer but it seems to be clear that he joined the club that season.

He scored his first goal in the 3-1 home win over St Helens Recreation in October and went on to total nine goals in the season.. He wasn't on the score sheet when the team completed the double over Chorley in March.

The win at Chorley was part of a run of four successive wins that ended with defeat at Stalybridge Rovers in early March.

1931 Division Three North Hull City 1 Barrow 1

Barrow made the long trip across the Pennines - there was no M62 in those days - to Boothferry Park to play Hull City. The Tigers had been relegated from Division Two (now the Championship) at the end of the previous season and were playing at this level for the first time.

Back in October, their first ever trip to Holker Street had ended in a 3-0 defeat and they were looking for revenge. Two weeks earlier, in their last game, Barrow had recorded a 3-2 win over Lincoln City at Holker Street and manager John Commings named an unchanged side.

Up to that point of the season Barrow had won just twice on the road - at Carlisle and Nelson - and drawn a single game at Doncaster.

On this occasion the Barrow defence stood firm and William Millar's goal was enough to secure a 1-1 draw. That was a very good result in the context of the team's away record and the fact that City lost only twice at home all season.

In a further ten visits to Humberside over future seasons the club achieved only two other draws and lost eight times.

The club played a further five away games that season and the best result achieved in those games was a draw at Wrexham. The scorer that day, William Millar, was easily the top scorer that season netting 28 times in 43 League and Cup games.

Barrow: Davis; Host, Cowie, Briggs, McLaughlan; Moon, Allen, Reid, Smith; W. Millar, Parker.
Gate: 6,206

1959 Division Four Coventry City 2 Barrow 0

Barrow travelled to Highfield Road for the first time since 1925 looking to avenge a defeat at Holker Street in October the previous year when the Sky Blues had won 3-0. The only previous meetings between the sides was during City's only season in Division Three North - 1925-26 - when they won 4-1 at Holker Street and 2-0 at home.

City had an excellent home record whilst Barrow went into the game having lost their previous five away games, scoring twice and conceding 18 goals. Seven days earlier, another promotion chasing side, Shrewsbury Town, had won 4-3 at Holker Street and manager Bill Brown made four changes.

He gave a debut to defender Ben Clark who had been signed from Derby County for a small fee. Clark was

to become a Barrow legend as he made 219 appearances for the first team in the next five years. He replaced Dave Proctor. There were recalls for Jack Keen, Matt Murray and Jackie Robertson who took the places of Norrie McCredie, Bobby McIlvenny and Andy Torrance.

Whilst the team put up a spirited performance they were no match for the home side who coasted to a 2-0 win and at the end of the season City were promoted as runners up to Port Vale, losing only once at home all season.

Barrow's away form didn't improve. They lost their six remaining away games including the record 10-1 defeat at Hartlepool United in early April.

Barrow: Cogan; Coole, Clark, O'Connor, Jackson; Murray, Keen, Ritchie, Porter; Purdon, Robertson.
Gate: 15,645

1998 FAT (3) Barrow 1 Northwich Victoria 0

Barrow went into this FA Trophy third round tie against Northwich Victoria from the Conference on the back of one defeat in 13 league and cup matches - the defeat in the ATS Trophy at Southport.

The team was sitting at the top of the UniBond Premier Division and manager Owen Brown had built a strong side which was to win the league title. The previous Saturday the team had ended a run of eight successive league away wins with a 1-1 draw at Colwyn Bay.

The first half was tight and whilst Barrow played the better football, Vics enjoyed the better of the chances

but found goalkeeper Steve Farrelly in inspired form. The second half followed a similar pattern with the visitors clearly content to take the game to a replay.

The game had entered injury time when Barrow won a corner which was played into the box by skipper Gary Bauress. Defender Eddie Johnston climbed above his marker to bullet a header past Dean Greygoose. Holker Street erupted with wild celebrations and you can still see the picture at the ground of Johnston tearing off in celebration pursued by his team mates. That set up a quarter-final tie away to another Conference side, Dover Athletic, but that is another story.

Barrow: Farrelly; Higgins, Jones, Johnston; MacAuley, Bauress, Marsh, O'Keeffe, Robertson; Coates, Morton.
Subs: Cooper for Morton 73 mins; Prior for Marsh - 80 mins; J. Brown for MacAuley - 87 mins.
Gate: 2,185

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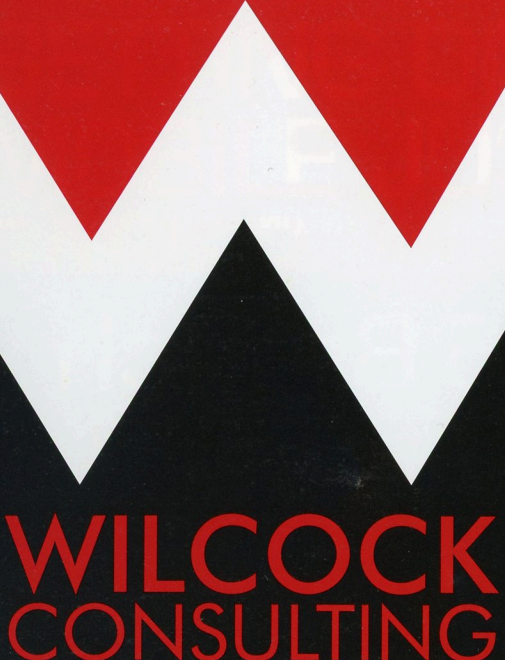
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Around the Premier

by Phil Yelland



Since the game against Grimsby Town last month the transfer window has closed and the loan transfer window has re-opened. In the next few home programmes we will bring you up to date with the news of the league on and off the field.

AFC TELFORD

Boss Andy Sinton brought in striker Ryan Brooke, who was here at Barrow on loan earlier in the campaign, on a one month loan from Oldham Athletic of League One. He is joined by winger Jonathon Brown on a one month loan from Southport. Another new face is former Kidderminster Harriers winger David McDermott who signed after a successful trial having been released in January by York City.

Leaving the Bucks as the transfer deadline approached was winger Greg Mills who was allowed to join Worcester City in Blue Square Bet North. He was followed by midfielder James Reid who has joined Ilkeston FC who are chasing promotion from the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League First Division South.

Meanwhile striker Craig Farrell, who joined the club from Rushden & Diamonds last summer, has now joined Hinckley United of Blue Square Bet North on a permanent deal after a spell on loan.

ALFRETON TOWN

Town boss Nicky Law brought in 26 year old Darren Kempson, an experienced defender who made his name with Accrington Stanley before joining Grimsby Town in the summer of 2010. His contract with the Mariners were cancelled before Christmas and he joined Town after failing to secure a deal with Scottish Premier Division side Dunfermline Athletic where he had a trial.

BATH CITY

Manager Adie Britton brought attacking midfielder Hector Mackie back to the club for a third spell. Mackie, who has also featured for Hayes and Yeading United and St Albans City in recent times, rejoined the club from Evo-Stik South and West Division side Yate Town. A second new face is 34 year old midfielder Lee Collier who has not played at this level before but has

extensive experience in the non-League game. He joins after leaving Larkhall Athletic whom he had led to the top of the Toolstation League Premier Division as player manager.

A further new face is another midfielder, Chris Sheppard, initially on a one month loan from League One Exeter City. The fourth new arrival at Twerton Park is 30-year-old midfielder Tom Doherty who was released in January by Newport County.

BRAINTREE TOWN

Boss Alan Devonshire brought in midfielder Brendan Keiran from AFC Wimbledon, of League Two, initially for one month and he made his debut against us. He has now been joined by Britt Assombalonga, a striker from Championship side Watford whose deal is also for a month. We have cause to remember him as he scored for Wealdstone against us in the FA Trophy. Leaving Cressing Road is popular striker Chib Chilaka who has relocated to Yorkshire and rejoined Harrogate Town in Blue Square Bet North where he had a spell last season. Also leaving is midfielder Andy Yiadom who joined the club last summer from Hayes & Yeading United and has won himself a deal with Barnet of League Two.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

As transfer deadline day approached, boss Jez George made two important signings. He secured the services of promising striker Andy Pugh from Welling United of Blue Square Bet South for a reported fee of £15,000. He then agreed a deal to bring in defender Brett Johnson from AFC Wimbledon of League Two, on a one month loan. Ryan Jackson, another defender who had a spell on loan at Fleetwood Town earlier in the campaign, has joined from AFC Wimbledon in a deal that runs for the rest of the season. In addition defender James Jennings and midfielder Josh Coulson extended their deals with the club.

DARLINGTON

Having ensured survival, at least for now, boss Craig Liddle brought in young goalkeeper Jordan Pickford on loan from Sunderland, having lost experienced Sam Russell to Forest Green Rovers.

The manager also secured experienced midfielder Clark Keltie who played for the club in the Football League and recently featured in Blue Square Bet North for Stalybridge Celtic. Liddle has also taken youngster Liam Bagnall on loan from neighbours Sunderland.

EBBSFLEET UNITED

Boss Liam Daish strengthened his defensive options with 31-year-old Ross Smith who returns to the club for a third time after a spell playing in Canada. Another defender Yado Mambo will remain on loan from Charlton Athletic until March 3.

Another new face is striker Gozie Ugwu on loan from Championship side Reading.

FLEETWOOD TOWN

Having brought in new faces earlier in the window, the last moves saw departures from the title chasing club with former Bluebirds defender Paul Edwards loaned to Mansfield Town for a month and striker Danny Rowe seeing his loan to Stockport County extended for the rest of the season.

FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Manager Dave Hockaday brought in midfielder Michael Pook who has League experience with both Swindon Town and, more recently, Cheltenham Town. This season he has been in Blue Square Bet South with Maidenhead United. A second newcomer is veteran striker Tommy Wright, a free agent who has served a number of clubs in the Football League and at this level, most recently Darlington and Luton Town. Perhaps their most significant signing however was midfielder James Collins who agreed to join them from Aldershot Town of League Two on an 18 month deal.

GATESHEAD

Boss Ian Bogie signed 23-year-old defender Carl Magnay who was released by Chelsea some time ago. Originally from the Newcastle area, he played regularly in the Chelsea reserve set-up. He has been joined at the Tynesiders by former Northern Ireland international winger Andy O'Brien who was released by Yeovil Town of League One in January and has previously featured for Swindon Town and, in Scotland, for Hibernian.

Around the Premier

by Phil Yelland

GRIMSBY TOWN

The Mariners joint bosses Rob Scott and Paul Hurst added just one player to their squad but he could be a crucial signing as Louis Soares has been one of the stand out players for Hayes and Yeading United this season and can play in both midfield and attack. Meanwhile striker and skipper Anthony Elding has extended his current deal.

HAYES & YEADING UNITED

As the window closed Naz Bashir signed former Kettering Town defender Nathan Koo-Boothe who had been playing in Spain for CD Castellon. In addition he signed former Rushden & Diamonds winger Tyrone Berry who has been in the Ryman League Division One South this season with Burgess Hill Town. Midfielder James Mulley has signed on loan from AFC Wimbledon, of League Two, for the rest of the season.

Leaving the club is the versatile Louis Soares who has joined play off chasing Grimsby Town.

KETTERING TOWN

Off the field the good news for the Poppies has been an agreement with the tax authorities about the winding-up order which was due to be heard in early February. An agreement has been made to make instalment payments over the next two months to clear the debt but the postponement of successive home games could not then have helped – the second, against AFC Telford, was set to be played behind closed doors according to reports as a result of an unpaid police bill.

Meanwhile Ashley Westwood has returned to the club as acting player/manager following the departure of Mark Cooper.

Former Motherwell midfielder Steve Meechan has left after serving notice and youngster Jordan Cross has also moved on. Only new face is defender Lewis Hornby on a youth loan from Northampton Town of League Two.

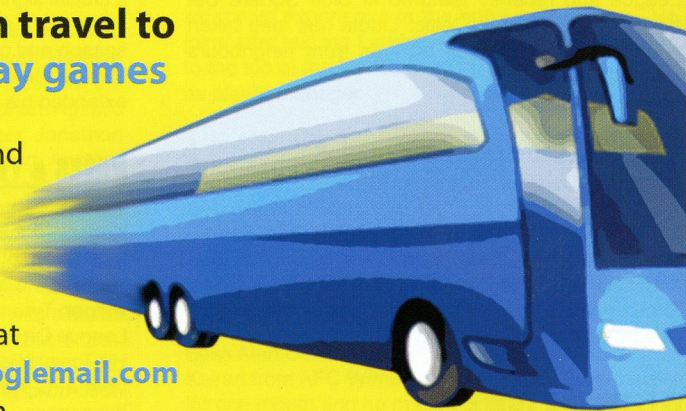


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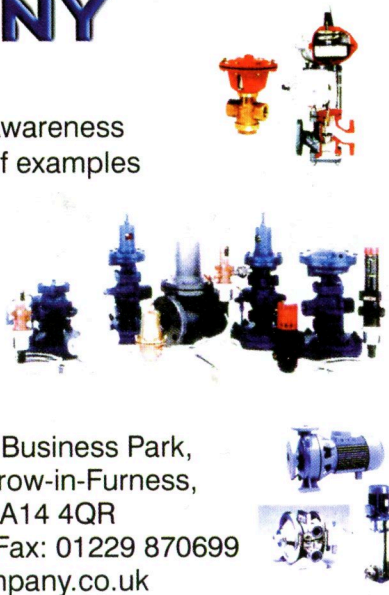
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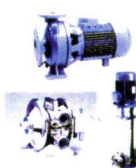
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Ex Bluebirds in the news

By Phil Yelland

First to news of two players who both made a single appearance for us.

Louis Horne played for us in October 2009 at Oxford. He was regarded as a promising player at League Two side Bradford City but he was released last summer. He began this season in Blue Square Bet North with Hinckley United but has since featured in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Premier Division for both Buxton and Northwich Victoria.

After recent difficulties at Northwich, he has now returned to Blue Square Bet North with Vauxhall Motors where he will link up again with Paul Jones.

Back in December, former Burton Albion defender Michael Ricketts featured for us in the United Co-operative Trophy defeat at Radcliffe Borough. He has now signed a deal with Hednesford Town of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Premier Division. They are one of a clutch of clubs pushing for promotion.

A player on loan to us earlier in this season, defender Hadyn Hollis, has gone out on loan from League One side Notts County to Blue Square Bet North side Hinckley United, initially for a month.

Meanwhile one club who will be missing a former Bluebird for up to two months are Blue Square North promotion chasers Guiseley. They have come to rely heavily on the goals of Gavin Rothery who was here on loan two seasons ago. Rothery has now broken a toe and his absence will mean they need to find goals from another source – perhaps another former Bluebird, Danny Forrest.

Saturday, January 28

In the FA Cup fourth round, our former striker Grant Holt was on the mark again, netting as Norwich City advanced with an excellent 2-1 win at the Hawthorns against West Bromwich Albion.

In League Two several former players made the news. Luke Joyce scored for Accrington Stanley, with Kevin McIntyre in midfield, as they recorded a 4-3 home win over Gillingham. Less fortunate was former defender Adam Dugdale who saw red as Crewe Alexandra went down 2-0 at Barnet.

Three former Bluebirds featured as Port Vale recorded a 1-0 win over Plymouth Argyle. Former keeper Stuart Tomlinson kept a clean sheet for Vale whilst our former loan striker Tom Pope netted their winner. For Argyle, former striker Nick Chadwick featured but was pulled off after an hour.

In Blue Square Bet Premier Jon Shaw scored again for Gateshead but they went down 3-2 at home to Newport County who scored twice in injury time.

In the Evo-stik Northern Premier Division, former Bluebird Alex Taylor got the goal for Kendal Town as they drew 1-1 at home to Frickley Athletic. Reports suggest that the visitors felt Taylor should have been dismissed before he scored as a result of a "studs up" challenge.

In the Evo-stik Northern Premier League First Division North, former Bluebird Dave Swarbrick netted from the penalty spot as Lancaster City recorded an excellent 4-1 home win over play-off rivals Farsley Celtic.

Week commencing January 30

The weather put paid to a lot of soccer that midweek but there were some former Bluebirds who were in the news.

On the Monday night in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Northern Final second leg, three former loan signings featured. Oldham Athletic fielded defender Paul Black and midfielder Chris Taylor but they were unlucky as they went down on the night and on aggregate to Chesterfield for whom former loan striker Jordan Bowery made a very late substitute appearance and now has a trip to Wembley to look forward to.

On the Wednesday night, at the home of the Lancashire FA at Leyland, two former Bluebirds played a major part in helping Kendal Town to the final of the United Co-operative Trophy with a 5-2 win over our conquerors Radcliffe Borough. Former Bluebird Alex Taylor scored one of the goals whilst former player Ciaran Donnelly was outstanding in midfield.

They will now meet Chorley, also of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Premier Division in the final at the Reebok Stadium on Monday, March 12. The Chorley side may include a former Bluebird in midfielder Steve Flitcroft, brother of their manager Gary.



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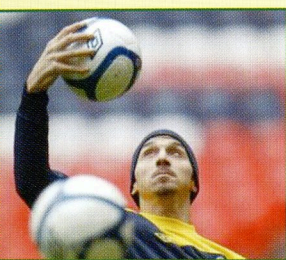
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The Top 10 paid players

By Neil Yelland

Seemingly every week at the moment, players are signing bigger contracts at the bigger clubs. Whilst some may deserve these wages more than others, I decided to put into perspective just how much they earn, the clubs that they could buy (according to Football Manager 2011 club values). The information on players' earnings was taken from www.forbes.com.



10 - ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC (AC Milan)

Who? Hot-headed AC Milan striker, counts Inter and Barcelona amongst his former clubs, twice in Uefa team of the year.
Honours: 2 Eredivisie titles, 6 Serie A titles (2 revoked whilst with Juventus), La Liga Title, Serie A top scorer. **Earnings per year:** \$17 million (£10.8 million).
Why he deserves it: A proven winner, capable of individual moments of brilliance.
Why he doesn't: Notoriously difficult to work with, never produced in Europe.
Sponsorships: Nike, PRV (his own brand).
Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase: Swansea City FC.

9 - FRANK LAMPARD (Chelsea)

Who? Record-breaking Chelsea midfielder, started at West Ham then moved cross-city, to be player of the year 3 times.
Honours: 3 Premier Leagues, 3 FA Cups, 2 League Cups, Ballon D'or Silver award. **Earnings per year:** \$17 million (£10.8 million).
Why he deserves it: Goalscoring midfielder, integral to Abramovich-era Chelsea.
Why he doesn't: Lack of pace, struggled to reproduce at international level. **Sponsorships:** Adidas, EA Sports.
Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase: Millwall.

8 - WAYNE ROONEY (Manchester United)

Who? Former Premier League youngest goalscorer, moved to Manchester United for £26 million, joint 9th English top scorer.
Honours: 4 Premier Leagues, 2 League Cups, 1 Champions League. **Earnings per year:** \$20 million (£12.8 million).
Why he deserves it: Ability to change a game, Can score and create. **Why he doesn't:** Hot-headed, off-field 'issues'.
Sponsorships: Nike, Ford, Asda, Nokia, Coca-Cola.
Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase: The entire Blue Square Premier League.

7 - THIERRY HENRY (New York Red Bulls)

Who? 3rd top scorer of all time in the Premier League, Arsenal's all-time top scorer, 5 time UEFA team of the year and 2 time European Golden Boot winner.
Honours: 2 Premier Leagues, 2 La Ligas, 1 Champions League, 1 World Cup, 1 European Championship.
Earnings per year: \$21 million (£13.5 million).
Why he deserves it: Five 30+ goal seasons, captain and leader on the pitch, got 'va-va-voom' into the dictionary.
Why he doesn't: Hated by the Irish, arguably failed at Barcelona. **Sponsorships:** Renault, Puma, Gillette, Pepsi.
Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase: Derby County.



6 - RONALDINHO (Flamengo)

Who? 2 time FIFA World Player of the Year, Barcelona legend now back in Brazil and reclaimed his Brazilian jersey.
Honours: 2 La Ligas, 1 Serie A, 1 Champions League, 1 Copa America, 1 World Cup.
Earnings per year: \$24 million (£15.4 million).
Why he deserves it: Showboater and superstar, had the Nou Camp on its feet when he played for Barca.
Why he doesn't: Alleged to be fond of a pie, arguably wasted his talent, hard-partying lifestyle.
Sponsorships: Nike, music business interests.
Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase: Leicester City.

5 - KAKA (Real Madrid)

Who? Golden boy of Brazilian football, 2nd most expensive player of all-time, 2007 Ballon D'or winner.
Honours: 1 Serie A, 1 Champions League, 1 World Cup. **Earnings per year:** \$25 million (£16 million).
Why he deserves it: Single-handedly kept AC Milan competitive, endless list of individual awards.
Why he doesn't: Failed to produce at Real Madrid, injury-prone.
Sponsorships: EA Sports, Adidas. **Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase:** Leicester City.

4 - SAMUEL ETO'O (Anzhi Makhachkala)

Who? Most decorated African player of all-time, scored in 2 separate Champions League finals, recovered from being released by Real Madrid as a youngster.
Honours: 3 La Liga's, 3 Champions Leagues, 1 Serie A, 2 African Nations Cups. **Earnings per year:** \$30 million (£19.2 million).
Why he deserves it: One of the best finishers in the world, a proven winner, raised profile of African football.
Why he doesn't: Shipped out of clubs for fall-outs, moved to Russia in interesting circumstances.
Sponsorships: Puma, soccer schools. **Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase:** Cardiff City.



3 - LIONEL MESSI (Barcelona)

Who? Arguably greatest player in the world, won everything at club level, Argentina captain, 2 time Ballon D'or winner.
Honours: 5 La Ligas, 3 Champions Leagues, 1 Copa Del Rey, 1 Fifa U-20 World Cup.
Earnings per year: \$32 million (£20.5 million).
Why he deserves it: Incredible goalscoring record, great team-player, part of the greatest modern side, incredibly modest, only ever needs one chance. **Why he doesn't:** Failed to reproduce club form for his country. **Sponsorships:** Adidas, Konami, Lays.
Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase: Hull City

2 - CRISTIANO RONALDO (Real Madrid)

Who? World's most expensive player, Portugese captain, free-kick specialist, one of the most technically gifted players in the modern era, Ballon D'or winner.
Honours: 3 Premier League's, 1 FA Cup, 1 Champions League. **Earnings per year:** \$38 million (£24.5 million).
Why he deserves it: Over a goal a game for Real Madrid, integral to any team, got caught in Hollywood with Paris Hilton when he was meant to be doing injury rehab.
Why he doesn't: Highly questionable temperament, arrogant, forced his way out of Manchester United, notorious for on-field controversy.
Sponsorships: Nike, Armani, Coca-Cola, Castrol. **Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase:** Osasuna.



1 - DAVID BECKHAM (LA Galaxy)

Who? England record cap holder, 2-time runner up in FIFA Player of the Year, single handedly raised profile of MLS, played at top level for 18 years.
Honours: 6 Premier League's, 2 FA Cups, 1 Champions League, 1 La Liga, 2 MLS Western Conference Titles. **Earnings per year:** \$38 million (£24.5 million).
Why he deserves it: Possibly the best dead-ball/passers in the recent era, remarkable longevity at top level.
Why he doesn't: Playing in an (arguably) sub-standard league, failed to win trophies since he left Manchester United. **Sponsorships:** Adidas, Samsung, EA, DB Brand (His own Brand).
Equivalent Football Manager club he could purchase: The entire Blue Square Premier, Blue Square North and Blue Square South Leagues!

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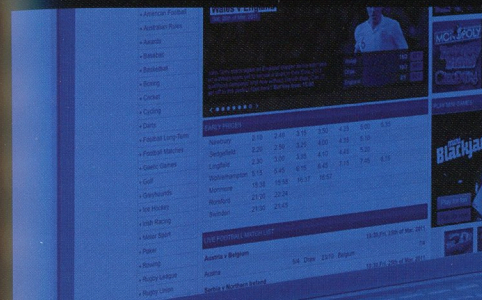


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Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Att.	Pos.	STARTING	ELEVEN				
August											
Sat 13	Tamworth	H	D 1-1	1371	10	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Quinn	Bolland	
Tue 16	York City	A	L 1-3	3075	18	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Quinn	Bolland	
Sat 20	Bath City	A	W 1-0	781	15	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Quinn	M Pearson	
Tue 23	Fleetwood Town	H	W 4-0#	1482	5	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Quinn	M Pearson	
Sat 27	Gateshead	H	L 1-2	1281	10	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Quinn	M Pearson	
Mon 29	Southport	A	L 1-2	1204	13	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Quinn	M Pearson	
September											
Sat 3	Ebbsfleet United	A	W 2-1	983	12	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Quinn	M Pearson	
Sat 10	Wrexham	H	W 3-1	1463	9	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Quinn	BOLLAND	
Sat 17	Mansfield Town	H	L 2-3	1244	11	Hurst	Moyo	Skelton	Quinn	Lomax	
Tue 20	Alfreton Town	A	L 1-2	678	13	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Quinn	HOLLIS	
Sat 24	Newport County	A	D 2-2	1315	13	Hurst	Smith	Lomax	Nicholas	Quinn	
Tue 27	Lincoln City	H	W 1-0	1188	12	Hurst	Smith	Lomax	Nicholas	Quinn	
October											
Sat 1	Luton Town	A	L 1-5	5613	12	Hurst	Moyo	Lomax	Nicholas	Quinn	
Sat 8	AFC Telford United	H	W 2-1	1109	12	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Nicholas	Quinn	
Tue 11	Grimsby Town	A	L 2-5	2675	13	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Nicholas	Quinn	
Sat 15	Hayes & Yeading Utd	H	W 3-1	1074	12	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	M Pearson	Quinn	
Tue 18	Darlington	A	W 1-0	1786	12	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	M Pearson	Hollis	
Sat 22	Kidderminster Harriers	H	W 3-1	1246	11	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	M Pearson	Quinn	
Sat 29	F.A.Cup 4Q Witton Albion	A	W 4-1	860	11	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	M Pearson	Bolland	
November											
Sat 5	Lincoln City	A	L 1-2	2090	12	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	M PEARSON	Quinn	
Sat 12	Rotherham (F.A.Cup 1)	H	L 1-2	3030	12	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	M Pearson	Bolland	
Tue 15	Colne LCT2	A	W 3-0	96	12	S Pearson	Lomax	Skelton	Nicholas	BOLLAND	
Sat 19	York City	H	D 0-0	2190	12	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Sat 26	AFC Telford United	A	L 0-1	1814	14	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Tue 29	Alfreton Town	H	W 1-0	963	12	S Pearson	Smith	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
December											
Sat 3	Ebbsfleet United	H	D 1-1	1047	11	S Pearson	Lomax	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Sat 10	Harrogate Town FAT1	H	W 3-2	868	11	S Pearson	Lomax	Skelton	Bolland	HONE	
Sat 17	Hayes & Yeading United	A	D 1-1	313	12	S Pearson	Lomax	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Tue 20	Radcliffe Borough LCTQF	A	L 1-1 \$		12	Hurst	Salou	Ricketts	Nicholas	Lomax	
Mon 26	Stockport County	H	W 1-0	2103	10	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	BOLLAND	Hone	
January 2012											
Sun 1	Stockport County	A	L 2-3	3301	12	Hurst	Lomax	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Sat 7	Darlington	H	W 3-0	2144	11	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Tue 10	Fleetwood Town	A	L 1-4	2091	11	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Sat 14	Wealdstone FAT2	A	L 1-2	722	11	Hurst	Smith	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Sat 21	Tamworth	A	W 3-2	1222	11	S Pearson	Lomax	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Tue 24	Grimsby Town	H	D 2-2	1085	11	S Pearson	Lomax	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Sat 28	Braintree Town	A	L 0-1	665	11	S Pearson	Moyo	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
February											
Sat 18	Kettering Town	H	W 3-0	1090	11	S Pearson	Smith	Skelton	Bolland	Hone	
Sat 21	Luton	H									
Sat 25	Forest Green Rovers	H									
March											
Sat 3	Kidderminster Harriers	A									
Tue 6	Bath City	H									
Sat 10	Wrexham	A									
Tue 13	Cambridge	A									
Sat 17	Mansfield Town	A									
Sat 24	Braintree Town	H									
Sat 31	Forest Green Rovers	A									
April											
Sat 7	Gateshead	A									
Mon 9	Southport	H									
Sat 14	Cambridge United	H									
Sat 21	Kettering Town	A									
Sat 28	Newport County	H									

SUBSTITUTES

Rutherford	Hulbert	Baker	BOYES	Ferrell	Almond	S Pearson	M Pearson	Cook 62	Sheridan 26	Mackreth 84
Rutherford	Sheridan	Smith	BOYES	Ferrell	Almond	S Pearson	M Pearson 76	Cook 61	Mackreth 72	
Mackreth	Rutherford	Ferrell	Cook	BOYES	Almond	S Pearson	Bolland	Hulbert 58	Owen	
Mackreth	Hulbert	Ferrell	COOK 3	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson	Bolland	Baker 89	Almond 90	Lomax 89
Mackreth	Hulbert	Ferrell	Cook	BOYES	Rutherford	S Pearson	Bolland	Baker 81	Almond 84	Lomax 75
Mackreth	Hulbert	Ferrell	Cook	Boyes	RUTHERFORD	S Pearson	Bolland	Baker 26	Almond 84	Lomax 75
Mackreth	Owen	SMITH	Cook	BOYES	Rutherford	S Pearson	Bolland 66	Baker 71	Ferrell	Almond 43
Mackreth	Owen	Smith	BOYES 2	Almond	Rutherford	S Pearson	Baker 78	Brooke 71	Ferrell	Almond 43
Mackreth	Owen	Smith	BOYES	Almond	Rutherford	S Pearson	Hulbert	Baker	Ferrell	Brooke 85
Mackreth	Hulbert	Owen	Boyes	Almond	Rutherford	Jones	Baker	Ferrell	Smith 38	Brooke 86
Mackreth	Hulbert	BAKER p	Ferrell	BOYES	Almond	Cook 70	Owen	Mackreth 46	Moyo	Brooke 86
Mackreth	Hulbert	BAKER p	Cook	Boyes	Almond	Ferrell	Owen 14	Moyo 90	Brooke 85	
MACKRETH	Baker	Owen	Boyes	Brooke	Almond	Clancy	Ferrell 58	Rowe 49		
Mackreth	Owen	Smith	BOYES p	Almond	Rowe	Clancy	Rutherford 71	BAKER 60	Brooke 88	Hollis
MACKRETH	Owen	SMITH	Baker	Boyes	Rowe	Clancy	Rutherford 68	Ferrell	Moyo	Hollis 89
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	COOK 3	Boyes	Rowe	Clancy	Nicholas	Ferrell	Almond 82	Hollis
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	Cook	BOYES	Rowe	Clancy	Nicholas 90	Rutherford	Ferrell	Almond
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	COOK	BOYES	ROWE	Clancy	Nicholas	Rutherford 75	Ferrell	Almond 86
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	Cook	BOYES 4	Rutherford	Clancy	Nicholas	Ferrell 90	Sheridan	Almond 60
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson	Bolland	Ferrell	Almond 64	Rowe 63
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	Boyes	Almond	RUTHERFORD	S Pearson	Nicholas 88	Cook 79	Ferrell	Rowe 63
Rowe	Rutherford	Ferrell	Sheridan	COOK	Rushton	Hurst	BAKER + p 46	Owen 46	Smith 46	Lomax
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson	Ferrell	Almond 78	Lomax	Rowe 87
Mackreth	Ferrell	Baker	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson	Nicholas 90	Almond 80	Lomax	Rowe 85
Rowe	Ferrell	Baker	COOK	Boyes	Rutherford	Nicholas 35	Owen	Mackreth 56	Almond	Lomax
Mackreth	Ferrell	Baker	COOK	Boyes	Rutherford	Clancy	Nicholas	Owen 90	Almond 88	Rowe
Mackreth	Ferrell	Owen	Cook	BOYES 2	Rutherford	Clancy	Nicholas	Smith 90	Almond 66	Rowe 78
MACKRETH	Ferrell	Owen	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	Hurst	Baker 66	Smith	Almond 66	Rowe
Smith	Rutherford	Baker	Almond	BERESFORD	Rowe	S Pearson 46	Owen 20	Cook	Boyes	Mackreth 35
Mackreth	Baker	Owen	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson	Ferrell	Smith 87	Almond 78	Rowe
Mackreth	BAKER 1+p	Owen	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson	Ferrell	Smith 50	Almond 87	Moyo
Baker	Ferrell	Owen	COOK 2	BOYES	Rutherford	S Pearson	Nicholas	Sheridan	Lomax 51	Moyo
Mackreth	Baker	Harvey	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson	Ferrell	JACKSON 57	Lomax	Moyo
Mackreth	BAKER	Ferrell	Cook	Boyes	Rutherford	S Pearson 28	Nicholas	JACKSON 71	Lomax	Harvey 73
Rutherford	Baker	SMITH	Harvey	Boyes	Jackson	Nicholas 80	COOK 2 62	Ferrell	Sheridan	Moyo 77
Mackreth	Baker	Smith	Cook	BOYES	Nicholas	Ferrell	JACKSON 81	Moyo 77	Harvey	
Mackreth	Baker	Smith	Cook	Boyes	Nicholas	Ferrell	Sheridan	Jackson 71	Harvey	
Mackreth	BAKER p	Owen	Harvey	COOK 2	Turner	Cairns	Nicholas 76	Rutherford 64	Ferrell 89	Moyo

KEY: FAC = Cup FAT = FA Trophy LCT = Lancs Cooperative Trophy
 # = score includes own goal * = sent off ★ = Starman CAPS = goalscorers
 \$ Lost 3-1 on pens
 SUBSTITUTED PLAYERS are in colour -
 1st Substitute = Green, 2nd Substitute = Blue, 3rd Substitute = Red

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

Buy it every Sunday from your local newsagent

We don't want big boys' reserve teams

HOW exciting is the Blue Square Bet Premier title race? Fleetwood, Wrexham, Luton and York are all in with a great chance – but don't take your eyes off Chelsea B coming up on the rails!

That's what it could be like in the future if the concept of having Premier League reserve teams in the lower leagues is ever given the green-light.

The idea is that young players can gain valuable experience in a competitive league so when the first team come calling, they are ready to hit the ground running.

It basically boils down to the fact that the reserve leagues in this country don't offer regular games. Clubs can wait for weeks between matches and young players are desperately short of meaningful action.

But to shoehorn new clubs into the system is not the right way to go about it. Not that it stops certain Premier League managers putting the idea out there.

First we had Chelsea's Andre Villas-Boas preaching the merits of introducing a similar system as they have in Spain where B teams play in the league underneath their top tier.

Then when David Moyes was asked for his views he revealed that he had tried to get an Everton B team into the Conference.

Moyes said: "Four or five years ago I would have liked to have put an Everton reserve team into the Conference because it would have been better football for them.

"That was my long (term) idea because I thought the games would have been better, more competitive and more realistic for the players.

"But we would have had to have gone into Division Nine of the North-West Outer Counties or whatever you want to call it and it would have taken 10 or 11 years to get through.

"I would have been happy just to be in the Conference – no promotion, not involved in cups or anything – just so I could have got a good reserve team and given young players a game against the men.

"If clubs had the right facilities to play on a Saturday I thought it might have helped the Conference as well.

"We have the North and South conferences so it would have been ideal if we had had two or three clubs who had wanted to go into it and it would have maybe boosted the Conference a little bit as well.

"But I think it would be unfair for any team to go into the Championship, the tradition in this country would see that not as the right thing to do."

Now this isn't meant to be a dig at Moyes. He is a fantastic manager and the job he has done at Everton is up there with the best. It can only be a matter of time before he gets one of the so-called "big" jobs.

But there is no difference in fairness between inserting a club into the Championship or the top of non-League.

The beauty of English football is that a club can go from effectively kicking around in parks all the way up to the top of the tree and beyond. It is unique the world over.

And support in this country is fiercely passionate and loyal. Arsene Wenger has it right when he says: "It is an idea we have heard before many times and it suits the bigger clubs but it does not necessarily fit with the culture of English football. Why? Because everybody is supporting a club."

The thought that reserve teams would in some way benefit the non-League game is typical of the arrogance shown towards this level of football. If the elite levels were really that concerned with helping out, maybe they could get an envelope, put some cash in it and send it For the Attention of Underfunded non-League clubs.

Clubs are desperately fighting to get into the Football League, into the Conference leagues, into Step 4, into Step 5 and so on.

Adding reserve teams that can't get promoted distorts the integrity – a loose term considering the amount of points expunged each season when clubs go to the wall – of the competition.

So, thanks for the offer, but we'll just stick to our genuine title races.

By Non-League Paper: chief reporter MATT BADCOCK

BLUE SQUARE BET
PREMIER

Saturday February 18 th	H O M E					A W A Y					GD	Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F			A
1 Fleetwood	32	9	6	1	33	17	13	1	2	37	18	35	73
2 Wrexham	31	13	2	2	36	11	9	3	2	23	9	39	71
3 Luton	32	11	3	3	36	10	6	8	1	26	17	35	62
4 York	32	9	4	3	37	18	6	8	2	27	16	30	57
5 Southport	33	7	5	5	25	31	9	2	5	26	24	-4	55
6 Grimsby	32	10	2	4	43	20	6	4	6	21	25	19	54
7 Kidderminster	32	7	7	2	31	20	8	2	6	27	24	14	54
8 Gateshead	32	6	7	3	28	23	8	2	6	23	24	4	51
9 Mansfield	31	7	5	3	28	19	5	8	3	19	16	12	49
10 Cambridge	31	8	4	3	23	10	5	6	5	17	18	12	49
11 BARROW	32	10	4	2	31	13	4	2	10	20	34	4	48
12 Forest Green	32	6	5	6	23	20	5	7	3	20	11	12	45
13 Braintree	33	8	4	4	29	24	4	3	10	25	35	-5	43
14 Ebbsfleet	32	5	5	6	25	24	5	5	6	24	27	-2	40
15 Tamworth	31	6	4	4	22	18	4	4	9	16	31	-11	38
16 Newport	32	5	4	7	15	16	3	5	8	24	30	-7	33
17 Lincoln	33	5	5	6	20	20	3	3	11	15	29	-14	32
18 AFC Telford	32	6	4	6	15	17	1	6	9	17	30	-15	31
19 Stockport	34	4	6	7	23	26	1	8	8	15	31	-19	29
20 Darlington	33	7	4	5	16	13	3	4	10	17	31	-11	28
21 Alfreton	32	5	4	7	26	37	2	3	11	15	31	-27	28
22 Kettering	32	4	4	8	20	33	3	3	10	12	38	-39	28
23 Hayes	32	4	3	9	21	32	2	3	11	23	39	-27	24
24 Bath	32	3	4	9	19	28	0	5	11	11	37	-35	18

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

TONIGHT BARROW

Bath	v	Luton
Fleetwood	v	Hayes
Kettering	v	Ebbsfleet
Kidderminster	v	Forest Green
Lincoln	v	Wrexham
Mansfield	v	Cambridge
Tamworth	v	Darlington
	v	Newport

F.A. Carlsberg Trophy Third Round

Cambridge	v	Guiseley
F.A. Carlsberg Trophy Third Round Replay		
Wealdstone	v	Dartford

TOMORROW NIGHT

York	v	Gateshead
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SATURDAY BARROW

Bath	v	Forest Green
Braintree	v	Kidderminster
Ebbsfleet	v	Kettering
Fleetwood	v	Southport
Lincoln	v	Alfreton
Mansfield	v	Telford
Stockport	v	Tamworth
	v	Wrexham

SATURDAY Continued

F.A. Carlsberg Trophy Quarter Finals

Cambridge		Dartford
or Guiseley	v	or Wealdstone
Luton	v	Gateshead
Grimsby	v	York
Northwich	v	Newport

NEXT TUESDAY

England C	v	Italy
At Fleetwood Town FC		ADMISSION FREE

SATURDAY MARCH 3rd

Alfreton	v	Telford
Darlington	v	Stockport
Forest Green	v	Cambridge
Gateshead	v	Ebbsfleet
Grimsby	v	Braintree
Kettering	v	Wrexham
Kidderminster	v	BARROW
Luton	v	Bath
Mansfield	v	Lincoln
Southport	v	Newport
Tamworth	v	Fleetwood
York	v	Hayes

TODAY'S SQUADS...



BARROW AFC

- 
1. Danny HURST
 2. Mike PEARSON
 3. Gavin SKELTON
 4. Andy NICHOLAS
 5. Phil BOLLAND
 6. Robin HULBERT
 7. Paul RUTHERFORD
 8. Richie BAKER
 9. Andy COOK
 10. Andy FERRELL
 11. Adam BOYES
 12. James OWEN
 14. Darren SHERIDAN
 15. Paul SMITH
 16. Jack MACKRETH
 17. Joe JACKSON
 19. Kelvin LOMAX
 20. Cliff MOYO
 21. Shaun PEARSON
 22. Danny HONE
 24. Alex Ray HARVEY
 31. Alex CAIRNS

(Blue and white shirts,
blue shorts, white socks)

Luton Town

- 
1. Mark TYLER
 2. Dan GLEESON
 3. Greg TAYLOR
 4. Keith KEANE
 5. Dean BECKWITH
 6. George PILKINGTON
 7. Alex LAWLESS
 8. Amari MORGAN-SMITH
 9. Craig McALLISTER
 10. Danny CROW
 11. Robbie WILLMOTT
 12. Shane BLACKETT
 13. Stuart FLEETWOOD
 14. Aaron O'CONNOR
 15. Jake HOWELLS
 16. Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE
 17. Andre BOUCAUD
 18. Curtis OSANO
 19. James DANCE
 20. John Paul KISSOCK
 21. Charlie HENRY
 22. Paul CARDEN
 24. Alex LACEY
 25. Godfrey POKU
 26. JJ O'DONNELL
 28. Adam WATKINS
 29. Dan WALKER
 30. Kevin PILKINGTON
 31. Lewis KIDD
 33. Ryan DASILVA
 34. Janos KOVACS
 36. Christian TAVERNIER

(Orange shirts; navy shorts;
white socks)

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: **Scott Duncan** (Northumberland)

Assistants: **Matthew Diccico & Shaun Hudson** 4th Official: **Kevin Mulraine**