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WREXHAM

FOOTBALL CLUB



INSIDE TODAY'S ISSUE...

Sam Williamson
Inside Out with the Dragons' defender

MAKE MINE A DOUBLE

MIKE WILLIAMS OPENS HIS ACCOUNT WITH A MIDWEEK BRACE

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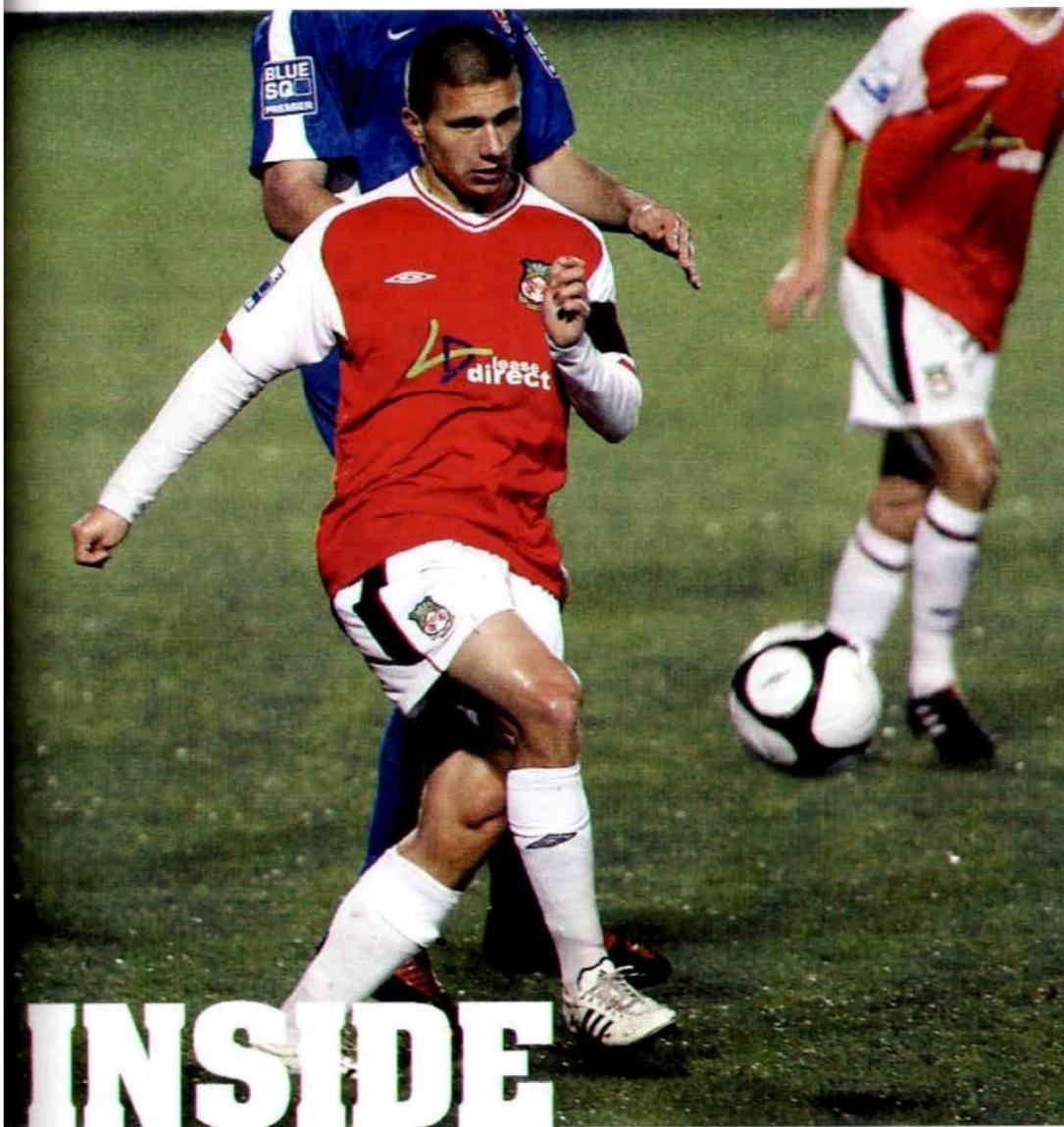
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INSIDE

- 5 DEAN SAUNDERS** Reflects on the midweek draw with Kidderminster
- 6 UPFRONT** We bring you the latest news and views from The Racecourse
- 15 VERSUS** Swindon made it three wins on the bounce against Huddersfield
- 27 FANZONE** Who are the famous sons and daughters of Swindon?
- 37 RETRO** We pick a Cherry out of the archives for a game with Bournemouth
- 54 PLAY** Action and reaction from the game against Hayes & Yeading United
- 64 STATISTICS** Mani loses his ever-present tag as suspension rules him out

WREXHAM FC OFFICIAL PROGRAMME SEASON 2009/10

Co-Editors: David Roberts, Geraint Parry, Phil Jones.

Contributors: Martin Astley, Colm O'Callaghan, Gareth M. Davies, Paul Davies, Robert Doman, Stephen Edwards, Mark Griffiths, Ian Gwyn Hughes, David James, Peter Jones, Bryan Still, Mark Thompson, Shaun Williams.

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Last Tuesday night's home match with Kidderminster Harriers produced a feast of entertainment for the sparse crowd which braved the monsoon conditions. Whilst the Man of the Match award went to Frank Sinclair, Dragons' groundsman Paul Challinor deserves a special mention for producing a pitch which allowed both sides to play some excellent football.

As for the action itself, few would have thought that, come virtually the end of November, Mike Williams would be ahead of his brother Marc in the goalscoring stakes. The defender's brace against Kiddy was almost eclipsed by a last minute block by his sibling but the ball rolled agonizingly wide of the visitor's net.

Indeed, it would have been a welcome change of fortune in front of goal for the flame haired Welsh Under-21 international but no one could doubt his work rate as he harried the Kidderminster back four throughout the entire 90 minutes.

This afternoon we face the challenge of a Swindon Town side riding high in the League One promotion race. Our games with The Robins down the years have often been close fought encounters and today will hopefully prove no exception.

Wrexham's love affair with the FA Cup is long standing but this match is an opportunity to create a little piece of history, albeit an unwanted one in many respects. During our initial non-league days up until 1921, The Dragons' never managed to beat a Football League side in the competition.

Let battle commence!



Mike Williams takes the acclaim after his second goal against Kidderminster



WREXHAM FC

(2006) Limited

The Racecourse Ground,
Mold Road, Wrexham LL11 2AN

Office: 01978 262129

Fax: 01978 357821

Community: 01978 358545

Chairman:
Directors

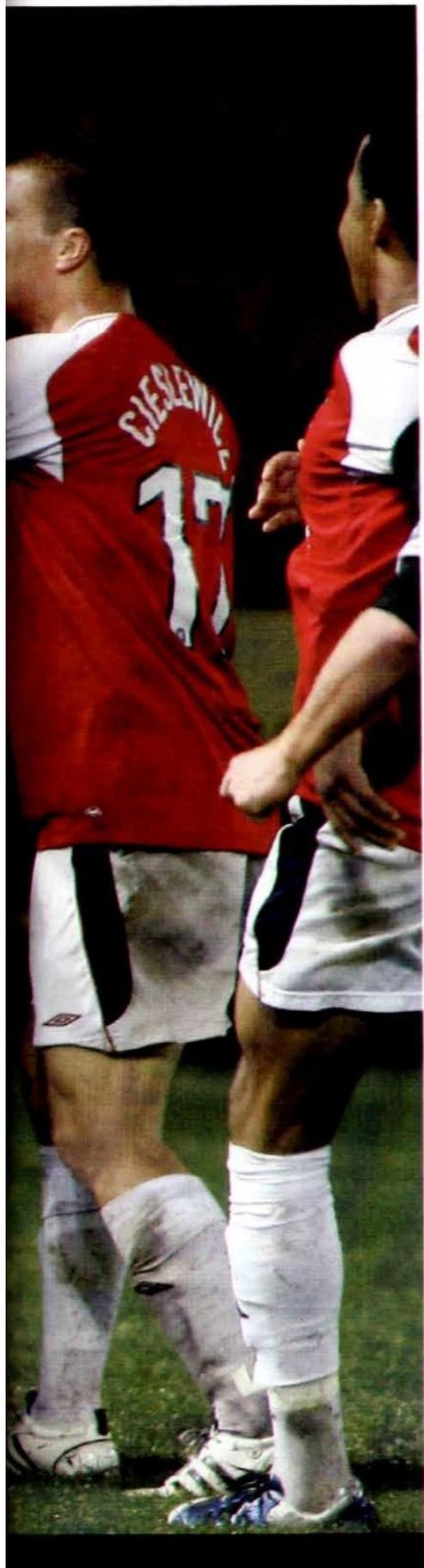
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DEAN SAUNDERS



I was delighted with the way we played against Kidderminster here on Tuesday night. Coming off the back of a tight, defensive battle at Histon, this was a very different game from the off. Mark Yates' side came to attack which makes a welcome change from so many teams that visit The Racecourse and, as a result, we had a real end-to-end tussle.

Bearing in mind that Kidderminster had come off back-to-back wins over Oxford and Kettering, the fact we created nine good chances against them was particularly pleasing.

With Gareth Taylor suffering a slight strain, I decided to change things around a little up front with Marc Williams pairing Wes Baynes. Their combined pace caused a number of problems and it was nice to see Marc back approaching his best.

Frustratingly, that all-important goal just wouldn't come for him. When he blocked their keeper's clearance right at the end, I honestly thought that the ball was going to roll into the net – sadly it went just the wrong side of the post!

That's often the way for a striker after you go a few games without scoring but nobody could question either his work rate or commitment on Tuesday night. I'm told his first senior goal was against Swindon so, who knows, maybe today will be the day.

In some respects, I wish we'd played poorly and won 1-0 but that's football. We've only lost once in our last nine matches now but too many of those have ended in draws. We need to start stringing some wins together to get ourselves into play-off contention.

Moving onto our visitors and there's no doubt that Swindon are a very good side. Their position in League One underlines that fact and they are on a decent run at the moment, beating a very useful Huddersfield side in midweek.

In our two previous FA Cup ties this season, we have come up against sides prepared to defend in depth which can

make it very difficult. Lowestoft, for example, had virtually all eleven players behind the ball throughout the 90 minutes but I'm sure that Danny Wilson's side will come here and try and impose their pattern of play upon us which should make for another entertaining game.

On paper, they are a better team than us and should beat us; but this is the FA Cup after all. Stranger things have happened and we represent a potential banana skin for them. We will need everybody to be at the top of their game mind you but, if that happens, then I think we can cause them problems.

For most of my career, I've been on the other side of the fence – the one trying to avoid the banana skin – so it's a nice change today to be able to go out there without any real pressure on us. With so many younger players in the side, that's an important aspect and should allow them to express themselves.

Most of all, I want the players to enjoy this afternoon because this is where they get the chance to measure whether they have the ability to play at League level. Swindon are two divisions above us and have some very experienced players to call upon, so it will be a good test.

We are at home again on Tuesday night when we entertain Forest Green Rovers. I fully understand that three home games in a week can put real pressure on the family finances at this time of year but rest assured that your support is very much appreciated.

The way you got behind the team against Kidderminster was great and we will need much more of that this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.



UPFRONT



RUGBY LEAGUE CRUSADE

Wrexham's Racecourse Ground will have the privilege of staging the opening fixture in the 2010 Engage Super League season when

Crusaders play host to reigning champions Leeds Rhinos on Friday, 29 January, 2010, kick-off 8.00 p.m. – a match which will be televised live on Sky Sports.

With the Crusaders, Wales' only Super League side, also looking to schedule their home fixture with Warrington here, chief executive Paul Retout is delighted at the opportunity to stage top flight Rugby League in the town.

"We are delighted that the Crusaders have chosen Wrexham Football Club as a venue," he said.

"They could have played at Bridgend, Newport, or the Millennium Stadium, but to have them coming to Wrexham is excellent.

"Wrexham is effectively the capital of the north and to have the opportunity to stage top class rugby is a huge money generator and brilliant coverage for the club.

"It is important that we utilise the stadium

for different sports and to have Wales only Super League side is excellent. We are pushing hard to get their matches with either Wigan or Warrington because that would see the ground packed.

"I can't remember the last time professional rugby was played in north Wales and it will be good to see 8-12,000 people watching the Crusaders."

The Crusaders recently appointed a new coaching team of Brian Noble, John Sharp and Iestyn Harris and the trio will be hoping for better luck than in their new side's last meeting with the Headingley outfit – that game ended in a crushing 68-0 defeat at Rodent Parade, Newport.

The 13-man code has enjoyed somewhat of a chequered history at club level in Wales despite the country producing some of the game's greatest players, such as former Widnes star Jonathan Davies.

Indeed, Crusaders are the sixth Welsh side that the Rhinos have played since an 18-7 win over Ebbw Vale in December 1907; the others being Barry, Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd and Bridgend Blue Dragons.

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...

OXFORD UNITED

Country: England
Colours: Yellow and Blue
Nickname: The U's
Founded: 1893

Oxford United Football Club was originally formed under the name Headington United in 1893, but had to wait 69 years before reaching the Football League.

By then the club had taken on its current name, and made history in 1964 by becoming the first Fourth Division club to reach the FA Cup sixth round; the only time it has reached that stage of the competition.



Oxford then won promotion in 1965 and again to the Second Division in 1968.

As a Third Division side in 1982 the club faced closure due to its outstanding debts with Barclays Bank. Businessman Robert Maxwell took over as chairman to rescue the financially stricken club, and with manager Jim Smith, guided The U's to successive promotions to reach the old First Division.

In 1986 the club gained its highest accolade as it won the League Cup [known then as the Milk Cup]. However following Maxwell's departure in 1987 Oxford's fortunes declined rapidly, and in 2006 they suffered the ignominy of becoming the first winner of a major trophy to be relegated from the Football League.

FA Trophy First Round

The draw for the first round proper of this season's FA Carlsberg Trophy was made on at Wembley Stadium on Monday lunchtime and saw Wrexham paired with fellow BSP side Altrincham, a club with a great tradition in the competition.

Following on from the midweek replays, here's the full updated draw:

- 1 Vauxhall Motors v Kings Lynn
- 2 Mansfield Town v Tamworth
- 3 Gateshead v Harrogate Town
- 4 Corby Town v Farsley Celtic
- 5 Workington or Solihull Moors v Nuneaton Town
- 6 Guiseley v Redditch United
- 7 Hinckley United v York City
- 8 Wrexham v Altrincham
- 9 Kettering Town v Barrow
- 10 Chester City v Fleetwood Town
- 11 Witton Albion or Matlock Town v Kidderminster Harriers
- 12 Nantwich Town v Stalybridge Celtic
- 13 Southport v Gainsborough Trinity
- 14 Blyth Spartans v Ilkeston Town
- 15 Welling United v Eastbourne Borough
- 16 Bishop's Cleeve v Maidenhead United
- 17 Chelmsford City v Truro City
- 18 Stevenage Borough v Ebbsfleet United
- 19 AFC Wimbledon v Boreham Wood
- 20 Hampton & Richmond Boro v Lewes
- 21 Rushden & Diamonds v Billericay Town
- 22 Havant & Waterlooville v Dover Athletic
- 23 Bashley v Crawley Town
- 24 Arlesey Town v Chippenham Town
- 25 Oxford United v Hayes & Yeading United
- 26 Woking v Forest Green Rovers
- 27 Weymouth v Salisbury City
- 28 Farnborough v Newport County
- 29 Weston Super Mare v Carshalton Athletic
- 30 Cambridge United v Luton Town
- 31 Worcester City v Grays Athletic
- 32 Maidstone United v Histon

Games due to be played on Saturday, 12 December, 2009



Cup Tie Pedigree

While Frank Sinclair, Gareth Taylor and Dean Saunders can look back fondly on their F.A. Cup memories with other clubs, Mark Jones is one of the few players left at The Racecourse to have experienced success in the competition with Wrexham.

His superb goal at Scunthorpe in the second round in December 2006 helped to set up an upset as we beat a side which were topping League One and earned a tie at Derby County. Naturally, the thought of locking horns with Football League opposition once more is an appetising one for the Welsh international.

"Hopefully we can get through this game and then get a big team in the third round! My F.A. Cup dream would be to one day draw Manchester United away and get to play at Old Trafford!

"It's a game to look forward to and I think it will be a good occasion as well. I just hope we can get a win; that's the main thing. We just want to get into the hat for the third round.

"Swindon will be a good test for us, and in pre-season we did quite well against the teams that came looking to play football against us. We also showed that against Kidderminster, who certainly didn't come to The Racecourse looking to keep a clean sheet as so many sides do."

Jones has been out of the reckoning for a starting place in recent games, but

looked lively in a cameo against Kidderminster on Tuesday, and will now hope to play a greater role today.

"I've been on the bench for the last few games, although I missed out last week as I was ill as well. Naturally I enjoyed getting on for the last twenty minutes against Kidderminster. Obviously I want to be starting rather than being a substitute, but I have to do enough to convince the manager that I deserve my place in the team.

"I came on and played on the left side of centre really. It was good to get on the pitch and I hope I'm able to play a part against Swindon too."

It was a performance by the team which showed encouraging signs of creativity, with Marc Williams and Adrian Cieslewicz offering lots of movement and threat up front.

"Adrian is always looking for the ball behind the defence and Marc likes to drop off and get the ball to feet, so for a player like me who's looking to pass the ball from midfield it's good to have that sort of movement. The conditions were nice; the ball was zipping around with the weather and they gave the midfield some nice options.

"It's just a shame we didn't finish them off. If only one more of those chances had gone in.

"Look at that late header by Adrian which just skimmed the post. On another night we would have won that."

Perhaps Wrexham's luck was been stored up for the cup?



UPFRONT

Croeso

Nos Fawrth ddiwethaf, yng nghanol y ddrycin, cafodd y dorf denau fodd i fyw gyda gwledd o bêl-droed yn erbyn Kidderminster Harriers. Er mai Frank Sinclair a enwyd fel chwaraewr amlyga'r gêm, mae clod arbennig yn ddyledus i dirmon y Dreigiau, Paul Challinor am ei gampwaith yn darparu maes a ganiataodd i'r ddau dim chwarae pêl-droed safonol.

O ran y gêm pwy fysa'n meddwl, ar ddiwedd Tachwedd fel hyn, y byddai Mike Williams ar y blaen i'w frawd Marc yn rhestr y prif sgorwyr. Ond wedi dweud hynny mi fyddai pawb wedi anghofio am ddwy gol Mike petai Marc wedi llwyddo i roi'r bêl yn y rhwyd wrth daro lawr gic golwr yr Harriers ym munud ola'r gêm.

Mi fyddai sgorio wedi bod yn brofiad tra derbyniol i flaenwr pengoch tim dan 21 Cymru. Er nad yw wedi cael fawr o lwc o flaen gol eleni fe weithjodd yn galed gan boenydio amddiffyn Kidderminster trwy gydol yr awr a hanner.

Mae tasg enfawr yn ein hwynebu'r prynhawn yma gyda'r ymwelwyr Swindon Town ymhlith ceffylau blaen Adran Un. Rydym wedi cael sawl brwydr agos gyda'r Robins dros y blynyddoedd, a gobeithio na fydd heddiw ddim gwahanol i'r arfer.

Mae gan Wrecsam draddodiad hir a pharchus yng nghwpan Lloegr ond mae'r gêm hon yn cynnig cyfle i greu dipyn o hanes - er nad dymunol ar sawl ystyr. Yn ystod y dyddiau cyn ymaelodi â'r gynghrair yn 1921 doedd Wrecsam erioed wedi llwyddo i guro tim o'r gynghrair yn y gystadleuaeth hon.

I'r gad felly!

Racecourse Weekly Cash Lotto

Due to its on-going success, we are looking to expand the successful Racecourse Weekly Cash Lotto. We are therefore currently seeking new lottery agents in Wrexham and the surrounding areas. Each agent is entitled to a season ticket, as well as a commission payment on all the money they collect.

There are various other benefits to being a lottery agent for the club including invitations to a number of parties throughout the season, membership of exclusive draws for club memorabilia and an invitation to be a guest of the directors for one game each season.

If you are interested in helping the club and supplementing your income please contact Andy at the club offices on 01978 262129.

Please note: Existing Agents will be automatically incorporated into these offers.

IAN GWYN HUGHES



BBC Wales' Football Editor IAN GWYN HUGHES looks back on a FA Cup tie from his youth when Dave Smallman shot Wrexham to glory

Despite some awful conditions, I'm sure that everyone who turned up at The Racecourse on Tuesday night thoroughly enjoyed the game. There was plenty of action with Wrexham creating plenty of chances to have won the game comfortably.

There were plenty of near misses as well as a fantastic save by The Harriers goalkeeper Dean Coleman to deny Andy Fleming what seemed a certain goal. What is it about Harriers goalkeepers and Wrexham?

It is FA Cup weekend of course and with that in mind the conditions on Tuesday reminded me of one the first FA Cup ties that I watched as a youngster which produced a shock. It was the first real cup run under John Neal and ended with a one nil quarter-final defeat to Burnley.

The game that comes to mind is the visit of Middlesbrough. A big strong, powerful side managed by the former Leeds United and England centre-half Jack Charlton. Middlesbrough were runaway leaders of the old Second Division, now rebranded The Championship.

In their side there were players of the quality of Stuart Boam, Willie Maddren and Bobby Murdoch. Only a few years earlier, 1967 to be precise, Murdoch had won the European Cup with Celtic and had been a fantastic midfield player for Scotland. Now he was pulling the strings for Boro.

Wrexham though more than matched them in a cup run that brought a young David Smallman (pictured) to the attention of the wider public. I well remember standing throughout the 90 minutes in the rain getting absolutely drenched but it mattered not as

Wrexham caused an upset winning by a goal to nil.

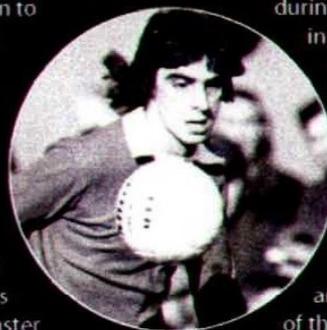
Of course it wasn't the only time Wrexham were to beat Middlesbrough in the FA Cup. Indeed, one of the editors on the Match of the Day programme, Paul Armstrong is a massive 'Boro fan and is convinced Wrexham will win today and knock his team out of the competition in round three!

This afternoon's opponents featured during another League Cup run in the late seventies with a two-nil win at The Racecourse. Along with that particular game I recall fondly two others against them. The first saw Steve McMahon, the former Liverpool player, in charge and they arrived in north Wales top of the league whilst Wrexham had started poorly.

But from 3-1 down if I recall correctly, and Barry Jones sent-off, Brian Flynn's team hit back to win 4-3. And in the last but one season in the Football League, Swindon came here with Dennis Wise and Gus Poyet in charge; in fact they arrived unbeaten at the Racecourse.

Dennis Smith's side won 2-1 with a fine second-half comeback in front of nearly six-thousand fans. I left the ground that Bank Holiday August weekend convinced that it was Wrexham's year. Three days later Wrexham were hammered 5-0 at Accrington Stanley and the season went from bad to worse.

High up in League One, Swindon enjoyed a good 2-1 home win over Huddersfield on Tuesday night. They have an excellent manager in Danny Wilson and, whilst they may not be an Arsenal, a Middlesbrough or a Newcastle United - big teams who have been beaten here in the past - a win this afternoon, considering Wrexham's current status, would be a big upset.



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...



SAM RUSSELL

Sam Russell has been selected to stand on behalf of the Labour Party in Hertsmere at the next General Election. Good job Parliament doesn't sit on Saturdays then! Perhaps his double life explains why, on the Hertsmere Labour Party's website we're promised that his personal site is available, but it turns out he hasn't actually got round to doing it yet!

Sam Russell is also the eighth richest person in Scotland, an MBE and business entrepreneur of the Year 2001! Which doesn't stop a blog run by former employees of his company, SIMCLAR (Ayrshire), who found their plant shut down despite their efforts to keep their jobs, from putting a less than complimentary slant on his operations. "Sam Russell Fabricates The Truth" is one of the more typical article titles.

Sam Russell is also the lead singer of a band called, er, Sam Russell. Modest to a fault, his Facebook page declares the band members are "Sam Russell...and a bunch of other people I can't remember." Classy. He does manage to bring himself to name them eventually, and as the instruments they play include mandolin, banjo and fiddle we think we might just give them a miss. Although on the other hand, the fact that a band member called Nathan Wade plays the singing saw, maybe we should reconsider!

The creative process behind their first album, "The Salted Caramel Sinner", is described thus: "Penguins died, rainbows were drained and Don Julio was poured into a blender than slathered on CD like a honey on a bagel, then chopped into 16 pieces with each individual segment toasted, microwaved, seered, or simply served raw."

Final decision: we're not reconsidering!



Sam Russell
Hertsmer Constituency Labour Party Parliamentary Candidate

Local Labour Party member Sam Russell has been selected to stand on behalf of the Labour Party in Hertsmere at the next General Election. He will be taking on the incumbent Tory MP, James Clappson, when the Prime Minister decides to call the next election.

Sam and his family came from Buxley where he was educated at Buxley Hall School. At the University of Kent he played a leading role in creating one of the most dynamic and active student organisations in the country. Sam works as a Local Government Planner.

Sam has been an active campaigner in the local area since the age of 15, both campaigning and standing in the local Elections each year.

Commenting on his election, Sam said:

"I'm delighted to be selected by Hertsmere Labour Party as their candidate at the next General Election. I am absolutely determined to stand up for the interests of everyone in Hertsmere, and to expose the very record of James Clappson, the Tory MP over the past 15 years.

I think that it is time for change in Hertsmere. The Tories have shown that they are out of touch with Hertsmere residents through such disasters as the A52 recycling scheme, the 4th Arms and increasingly inadequate. Meanwhile, James Clappson remains silent, as always. Only Labour, in Parliament and in the Council, can make a real difference in Hertsmere."

Sam's website is currently in development but will be available here very soon.



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...

SEPP BLATTER

SATURDAY 10.04

You know what the most important principle in the world is for me? Fair play! As long as everything as above-board and transparent, then my job in world football is done. I'll give you an example; only the other day one of FIFA's executive board came to me and said his federation hadn't received enough sweeteners from countries bidding to host the 2018 World Cup. I was straight on the phone, and within an hour sixty Sweetna Tablets were on a jet to Central America. We have to do our bit to alleviate suffering in the deprived countries which make up football's heartland.

SUNDAY 09.23

Dear me, there are some good teams who haven't made it straight into the World Cup Finals! France! Portugal! Russia! How could the principle of fair play be upheld if these fine sportsmen aren't represented? Some say the best way to resolve such matters is on the field of play, but how can that be fair? It isn't fair to the millions of Russians; there's a lot more than them to be upset than there are Slovenians! And what about those poor French broadcasters? They've already spent millions of euros on the rights to the World Cup, thinking their team would be there! How fair would it be to them if we didn't do everything we could to make sure they qualify!

SUNDAY 12.28

There was only one reasonable thing to do in the circumstances: rejig the basis for the draw. I'm sure our actions will be justified in the play-offs, when everyone will see that natural justice always needs a helping hand!

TUESDAY 14.58

What a humanitarian I am! I've just footed the hospital bill of another member of our executive board. He picked up a nasty injury when he got his fingers caught in a till.

WEDNESDAY 22.55

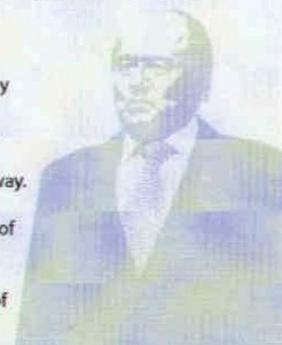
There seems to have been a serious controversy at the France-Ireland game, and I don't mean the Chablis ran out in the Coca Cola box! Although obviously, that would also be dreadful. Perhaps more so.

THURSDAY 21.33

Just got up. In the interests of fair play, I thought I'd intervene decisively in the Thierry Henry case by staying out of it and letting the whole thing blow over. So I stayed in bed all day watching Loose Women.

FRIDAY 09.38

The fuss is starting to die down now, and the principle of fair play remains intact. The important thing is nobody got upset. Well, nobody who can influence my campaign to be re-elected, anyway. Henry did what he had to do; in handling the ball he made a lot of people happy. Sponsors, broadcasters, merchandisers, bureaucrats: the beating heart of football. Fair play to the lad.





UPFRONT

Reputation Matters

Whilst Wrexham's French-born defender Mansour Assoumani lost his ever present tag in midweek, that coming courtesy of a one match ban after collecting his fifth yellow card of the campaign at Histon last weekend, there's no doubting his desire to be back in the thick of the action against Swindon today.

"It was disappointing to miss out on Tuesday night but that's part and parcel of being a defender in the modern game; bookings are now far easier to collect! Now I just have to concentrate on getting my place back in the side.

"The match with Swindon is a big game for the club because Wrexham have a great cup tradition. Having beaten sides like Arsenal before, I know that our supporters will be expecting us to have a real go and it would be great if we could write our own chapter in the club's history.

"It won't be easy; in fact it is going to be very hard. But it is good to be in this position and not to be favourites. We have got nothing to lose and the pressure is all on Swindon.

"Swindon is about as tough a tie as we could get at this stage but we played well against League sides in pre-season. They are going to come here and play football so we know we can do something.



"Shocks do happen, that is the way it is in the FA Cup and we are confident about the game. I would love us to be in the third round and then maybe draw a big Premier League side."

France is one of the few other European countries where cup football is as popular as the domestic league and Mani

acknowledges the special place that this competition has in world football.

"Everybody knows about the FA Cup and I can always remember sitting down to watch the final on TV back home in France. It is a great competition which has a proud history and it is a fantastic honour to be able to play in it."

The Declan Swans

Saturday, 28 November, 2009 8.00 p.m.
Live @ Wrexham FC Centenary Club

In aid of Wrexham Former
Players' Association

Tickets £5.00 at the door, from the Club
Shop or Nick Hencher on 07742 601200
<http://www.myspace.com/thedeclanswans>



Set-piece King

What a couple of weeks Mike Williams has had! In the Kidderminster programme last Tuesday he was reflecting on how he'd recovered from a rough ride against Hayes & Yeading to turn in a good performance at Histon, but his performance against The Harriers took things to a different level again!

When he slid in to score from Wes Baynes' wicked free-kick, he registered his first goal since he hit the net against Lewes last November. Things would get even better before the first-half was over though; benefitting again from Baynes' excellent set piece delivery, he headed the ball accurately inside the far post to score two in a game for the first time.

And all on the hundredth league appearance of his career; doubling his career goalscoring total was quite a way to commemorate the anniversary!

"You know with Wes you're going to get good quality on the delivery. For the first one I just anticipated it and fortunately it went in. For the second one we've been working hard on set pieces; the gaffer's been saying we need to score more from them, and this time it worked and it went in for us!

"Obviously it's the performance which comes first, but if you get a goal it's nice and if you get two it's a little bit special!

With Mani Assoumani and Gareth Taylor absent it wasn't the tallest Wrexham side which lined up on Tuesday, yet ironically both goals were scored from set pieces.

Indeed, the threat from Baynes' dead ball delivery was such that Williams even managed to get the ball in the net a third time, volleying in Christian Smith's nod down from a Baynes corner which, unfortunately, had swung out of play before making its way into the box.

"Near the end I thought I could have got the hat-trick with the disallowed goal. I must be honest, though, and say that before I hit it I saw the referee had pulled it back and everyone had stopped. I still put it in, just in case though!"

Ironically, Mike's goals take him ahead of brother Marc in the scoring table this season as the younger brother searches for his first goal of the campaign. A terrific, tireless performance up front deserved to be rewarded with a goal, but instead the final whistle went with 'Williams The Defender' two goals ahead of 'Williams The Forward', although Marc's work was nearly rewarded in the last minute of injury-time when the Kidderminster keeper's clearance hit his body and rebounded agonisingly close to the post!

"We were having a little laugh in the changing room between Marc and I, saying he should be the one getting the goals and I should be the one defending!

"Right at the end I thought that was going to be Marc's first goal. We've said it'll end up coming off his back or his knee or something like that to get him off the mark, and I thought that was it! It just crept past the post though!"

ASHLEY WESTWOOD



You can't beat the FA Cup and today's a great opportunity to test ourselves against higher level opposition. It's a chance to prove if we're as good as we think we are and it's also a game we can play without pressure as we're not expected to win. So we have nothing to fear and the most important thing is that we go out there and give a good account of ourselves.

Funnily enough, I had a short spell at Swindon myself a few years ago which ended in the side getting promoted. That's always a great feeling for any player and I'm really looking forward to playing against my old side.

Not that there will be too many players left from when I was there mind you. I was having a quick look down their squad list on Friday and there's probably only the likes of Lee Peacock left at the County Ground from my brief spell.

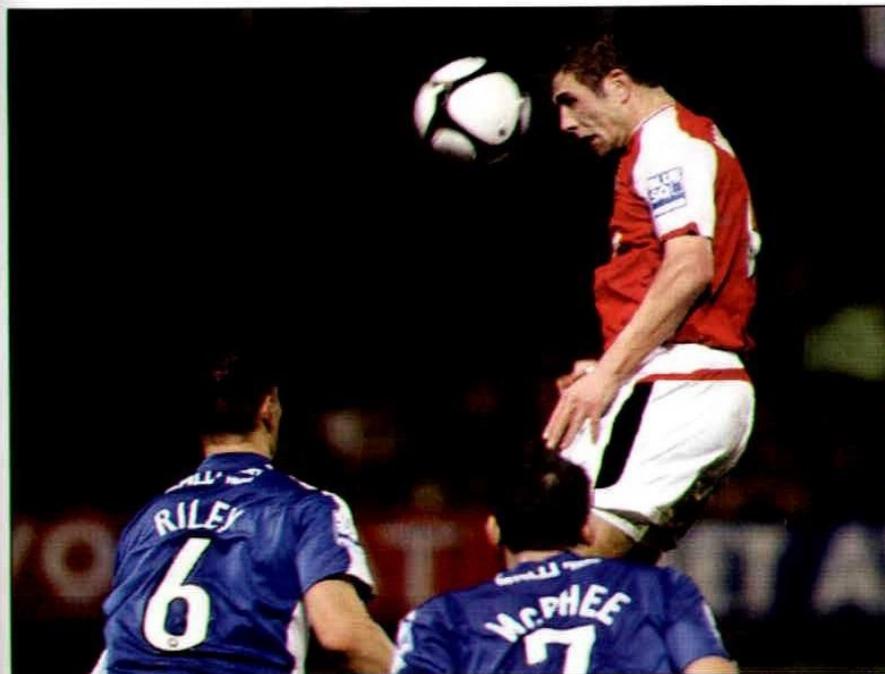
Obviously, Paul Sturrock left as manager and there have been quite a few changes in the interim because a new manager like Danny Wilson will obviously want to bring in his own players; that's only natural.

Looking back at Tuesday night's home match with Kidderminster, I thought we certainly created enough chances to have won the game. And the encouraging thing was that we looked more penetrative in the final third.

For those fans who braved the dreadful conditions, it must have been an exciting game to watch. But we need to push on from there now and try and convert some of these draws into wins because that makes a real difference when you look at the league table.

With Mani suspended after picking up his fifth booking at Histon, I moved back into the centre of the defence alongside Frank Sinclair. That's the first time we played together at the heart of the back four and it's always great to have somebody with that level of experience alongside you.

At our age though, you don't mind who you play alongside. For us, it's more about communication and letting each other know where you are. We'll certainly need to do that today because Swindon will pose a real threat with the likes of Billy Paynter.



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SCENESETTER

SECONDS OUT, ROUND TWO

Manager Dean Saunders admitted that Wrexham "have a problem up front" after their disappointing 0-0 draw at Histon.

The Dragons were guilty of wasting a number of opportunities to grab the win at The Glassworld Stadium last Saturday afternoon, and whilst Saunders was quick to praise the commitment of his players, he knows his team needs to score more goals.

So it would have been to his delight that his players responded by earning themselves a hard fought 2-2 draw with Kidderminster Harriers in midweek.

A Mike Williams double paved the way for an encouraging performance from The Reds, and Wrexham can go into today's FA Cup clash with a spring in their step.

Swindon Town stand between us and a place in the third round, our last appearance at that stage coming in 2007 when we lost 3-1 at Derby County.

Today's visitors will be very much aware of our FA Cup tradition and won't relish coming to The Racecourse this afternoon to play in the wind and the rain.

A daunting atmosphere will need to be our twelfth man throughout what will be another hard fought encounter, and hopefully the game will turn into another pulsating cup tie reminiscent of past glories.

But the opposition are a tough prospect, currently sitting in seventh place in League One after their victory over Huddersfield Town on Tuesday night.

And having witnessed them demolish Tranmere Rovers on Merseyside just a few weeks ago, I'm sure that Robins boss Danny Wilson will be expecting to get the job done.

Swindon appeared to be under the cosh

for the first-half hour on that day, but scored twice in five minutes through two excellent counter attacks before going on to register a 4-1 win.



Wrexham must not be caught out by the visitor's swift bursts from defence if they are to give themselves a chance of causing an upset today. Do that and we could well be sitting expectantly around the television for the third round draw come Sunday afternoon.

Saunders will certainly be backing his players to put up a fight after the resolute display against Kidderminster, although he confessed to his frustration regarding the missed chances that could have snatched a win.

"I thought the effort from the players was fantastic. They have all had a go which is just what I asked them for," he said. "We just have to keep going, but I'll go home tonight shaking my head that we've missed so many opportunities.

"We did score goals which was a big improvement. I was pleased for Mike Williams to score them both, he's had an up and down fortnight, but tonight he's played well.

"That goes for all the players and if we can keep that effort up then we'll get the luck. Now we'll move on and try to win an FA Cup game on Saturday."

Meanwhile Swindon boss Danny Wilson recently revealed that his players are quickly forming a "winning mentality", and having seen his side lose just three league games so far this season, will not allow the team to become unstuck at The Racecourse today.

"The confidence is sky high at the moment, we look very resilient and we're really starting to see that winning mentality in the boys that we've talked about," said Wilson.

"The performance [against Huddersfield] was fantastic and the players were very committed in spite of the conditions."

Swindon however have it all to lose when they step onto The Racecourse turf, and if the crowd can play a part then hopefully we can force an extra uncertainty into the minds of the visitors.

With nerves jangling in front of an inhospitable away crowd Swindon Town might be grateful to get back on the team bus and bury their heads into the night, for Wrexham FC knows how light the touch paper of the FA Cup.

Robert Doman

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VERSUS

SWINDON TOWN >>>

Robins frontman Ben Hutchinson

Cult Hero

Don Rogers



To fans of a certain vintage the mere mention of the name Don Rogers will elicit a response immediately of 'Swindon Town'. He is synonymous with the football club for a very good reason; he scored the two extra-time goals that gave Swindon a shock victory over Arsenal in the 1969 League Cup Final at Wembley. Rogers arrived at the Wiltshire club in 1961, a tricky left winger with more than an eye for goal and went on to make 490 first team appearances for the Robins, scoring over 181 goals. He attracted bids from several other clubs during his career, including one from Liverpool, but the club helped him set up his own sports shop business in Swindon as a lure to keep him. He still runs it to this day although he did eventually depart the County Ground in 1972 for a club record £147,000 fee, rejoining his former Robins boss Bert Head at Crystal Palace. He subsequently played for QPR before returning home in 1976.





Swindon Town

Swindon's fans find themselves in a depressing situation which is all too familiar amongst supporters these days. With an experienced man like Danny Wilson at the helm, things look to be under control on the pitch, but worries off the field are not far from the surface.

Last Saturday saw The Robins claim an impressive away win when a long trip to Carlisle ended in a 1-0 win. The side broke up the marathon trip by putting some work in at Bolton's training ground the day before, and were rewarded with a victory in the face of the driving rain and high winds which have bedevilled Cumbria recently.

A goal in the third minute by Charlie Austin and a subsequent determined rearguard action earned the win, which Wilson described as a "big result."

"I anybody had questioned our attitude then it was answered today," he told the Swindon Advertiser. "The conditions weren't ideal for both teams, but we showed fantastic professionalism. We had the benefit of getting the early goal, but I thought throughout the game we looked very solid and determined."

"It was a difficult game anyway, regardless of the conditions, so this was a very big result for us. In the first-half I thought we dealt with them well, but that extra bit of muscle in the second-half [following the introduction of Scott Dobie] made it more difficult. But we dealt with it great."

"The defensive side of our game was immense, against two very strong players in the second-half in Pericard and Dobie. They can be a real threat but we stood our ground great, and could have ended up with a better scoreline than it was."

"You've got to go away from home and roll

your sleeves up, and we've done that. We never thought it would be a pushover, despite where they are in the league. We've come here, had a really good go and thankfully come away with a result. It was a big result today and important that we got three points to keep us in touch with some of the top teams.

"The weather was terrible and it's a credit to Carlisle that they wanted the game on, and a real credit to the work of everyone that it went ahead. Thirty-six hours ago you wouldn't have thought this game would have been played, but thankfully for us it did."

"It was a fantastic effort and they deserve a lot of credit because a lot of teams would have just called the game off and not bothered about it."

The match saw Town earn a third clean sheet in a row, which pleased Wilson immensely: "They've been a long time coming. I'm not saying we've conceded a lot of goals but it had been a while since we had a clean sheet. "It gives the defenders some confidence. They always get the credit for clean sheets, just as strikers get the credit for winning games. But collectively they have been two very good clean sheets and we can build on that."

Town's ability to keep clean sheets should be enhanced by the embarrassment of riches Wilson can choose from in goal, with two high quality keepers competed for a spot in the starting eleven. David Lucas has been ill, allowing Phil Smith his chance, and he took it by keeping back-to-back clean sheets.

"The two clean sheets have put Phil very much in the frame but he didn't really have to do that anyway," Wilson told the Swindon Advertiser. "Phil has been massively improved certainly from when I came in last year."

"He's come on leaps and bounds and has responded very well to the pressure of having

Form Guide

Date	Opponents	V	Comp	Res
Aug 8	Gillingham	A	FL1	0-5
Aug 11	MK Dons	A	LC1	4-1
Scorers: McGovern, Paynter 2, McCracken o.g.				
Aug 15	MK Dons	H	FL1	0-0
Aug 18	Southampton	H	FL1	1-0
Scorer: Morrison				
Aug 22	Oldham Athletic	A	FL1	2-2
Scorers: McGovern, Paynter				
Aug 25	Wolves	A	LC2	*0-0
Aug 29	Southend United	H	FL1	2-1
Scorers: Cuthbert, Obadeyi				
Sep 5	Yeovil Town	A	FL1	1-0
Scorer: Forbes O.G.				
Sep 12	Colchester United	H	FL1	1-1
Scorer: Obadeyi				
Sep 19	Walsall	A	FL1	1-1
Scorer: Paynter (pen)				
Sep 26	Wycombe Wanderers	H	FL1	1-1
Scorer: Amankwah				
Sep 29	Exeter City	A	FL1	1-1
Scorer: Amankwah				
Oct 3	Brentford	A	FL1	3-2
Scorers: Revell 2, Hutchinson				
Oct 6	Exeter City	A	JPT1	#0-0
Oct 10	Millwall	H	FL1	1-1
Scorer: Cuthbert				
Oct 17	Hartlepool United	H	FL1	0-2
Oct 24	Norwich City	A	FL1	0-1
Oct 31	Tranmere Rovers	A	FL1	4-1
Scorers: Paynter 2, McNamee, Ferry				
Nov 7	Woking	H	FAC1	1-0
Scorer: Paynter				
Nov 10	Norwich City	H	JPT2	@0-0
Nov 21	Carlisle United	A	FL1	1-0
Scorer: Austin				
Nov 24	Huddersfield Town	H	FL1	2-1
Scorers: Paynter, Austin				

*lost 6-5 on penalties # won 4-3 on penalties @ lost 5-3 on penalties

David Lucas coming in. He's become a very established keeper, which is exactly the scenario that we were hoping for. Thankfully both him and Dave have risen to the challenge. It will be a very difficult decision for me, but one that I will make."

The air of optimism was echoed by Wilson's assistant, Peter Shirtliff, in his diary on the club's website.

"We could make some real progress this week. It's all fine margins and if we could have converted a few draws into wins we would be right up there, but we've got to move on and see if we can get a series of wins in succession which would really shoot us up the league."

DID YOU KNOW >>> VERSUS

> Today's game will be the first FA Cup tie between the two sides. However, the clubs have met three times in the League Cup with Wrexham winning all three encounters.

> That first cup meeting took place in December 1977 when a crowd of 10,015 witnessed a 2-0 Reds victory courtesy of goals from John Lyons and Graham Whittle. Wrexham's reward was a quarter-final tie with Liverpool.

> Four seasons later the clubs met at the first round stage of the League Cup with Wrexham winning both legs. Firstly 3-2 here, followed by a 2-0 victory at the County Ground.



> Wrexham have only reached the second round stage of the FA Cup twice in the last nine seasons and both times the draw sent them to Glanford Park, Scunthorpe.



Celebrations during Tuesday night's victory over Huddersfield Town

"We've had a couple of clean sheets in a row now and there is a good week coming up with a couple of league games and then the cup tie at Wrexham, so we could make some real progress this week."

While things might be starting to point in the right direction on the pitch, Swindon fans have had cause for nervousness lately as matters off the pitch have taken a worrying turn. It was reported earlier this month that the failure to repay a £2.45million loan to property developers St Modwen had led to the company seeking a winding-up order on the club.

The company initially became involved with The Robins when they were looking to move away from the County Ground and into a new stadium. The deal would have entailed St Modwen to build housing on the site of the current ground, and as part of the partnership they lent the club £1.45m in order to pay a VAT bill. As Swindon had been in administration twice already, they were understandably eager to mollify the tax man as there was a real possibility of it happening again.

Subsequently, Swindon were taken over by a

consortium which certainly looks to have the experience required to take on their problems: chaired by entrepreneur Andrew Fitton, they also number in their ranks doyen of The City Sir Martyn Arbib, and the brother of one of Betfair's founders.

When they took over in 2007 the proposed relocation of the club was shelved, so St Modwen asked for its loan to be repaid. A two-year period of grace was agreed, but when it ran out in August the repayment hadn't been made.

St Modwen issued a statutory demand for repayment, but were not satisfied that it would lead to repayment so they decided to go to court, demanding a winding up order if the original £1.45m loan plus £1m in interest is not paid up, meaning the club would go out of business and its creditors receive the profits from the sale of its assets.

Swindon responded by issuing a statement which sought to allay fears for the club's future: "Swindon Town Football Company Limited's financial statements for the period to May 31 2009 clearly show this matter as subject to a dispute between the parties.

"This matter dated back to 2003 where the club's former holding company established a joint venture company, Shaw Park Developments Ltd, with St Modwen.

"Discussion between the parties have been ongoing for some time now and though no resolution has been reached the club will continue to use all endeavours to bring the matter to satisfactory conclusion."

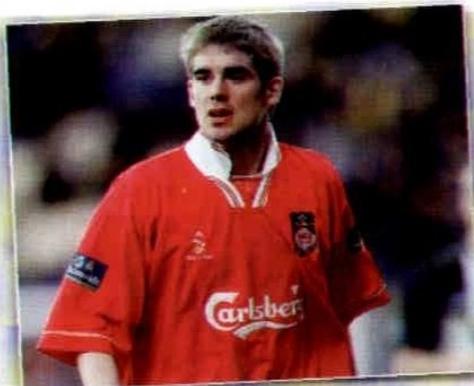
The board received unequivocal backing from Wilson, who told the Swindon Advertiser: "I'm not going to go into the details of things, but everything has been spoken through and talked through by Mr Fitton and the rest of his board members.

"And I can assure you that this club is in fantastic hands. It couldn't be in any better hands quite honestly, so I don't think anybody has got any worries whatsoever about this.

"The most disappointing part of it was that it went public, as there was no need for that. But I can assure you the club is in terrific hands, they are going to take us forward and progress us into the future, that's for sure."

Let's hope, for the sake of everyone at The County Ground, that Wilson is right!

> The last FA Cup second round tie played here was in November 1999 when Wrexham edged past Rochdale 2-1, Neil Roberts and Craig Faulconbridge (right) getting the goals.



> The second round game that most Wrexham fans will remember best took place at the Deva Stadium, Chester in December 1997 when 'King' Karl Connolly got both goals in a 2-0 win against the auld enemy.

> After joining the Football League, Wrexham's first game in the FA Cup second round was in 1926-27 when they travelled to Rhyl and lost 3-1. The first game here was in the following season when Carlisle were beaten 1-0 in front of 7,522 spectators.



GOALKEEPERS

David LUCAS

Has been first choice gloveman for the Robins this season after signing a two-year deal in the summer following his release from fellow League One side Leeds United. The experienced stopper was in and out of the side at Elland Road last term having previously worn the colours of Preston, Darlington (loan), Scunthorpe (loan), Sheffield Wednesday and Barnsley. The 32-year-old is now approaching 250 league games and was one of Swindon's penalty scorers in the Carling Cup defeat at Wolves in August.

Phil SMITH

After suffering with form and confidence through most of last term, Smith bounced back and earned himself a new deal in the summer. Harrow born, he originally signed for at the County Ground in July 2006 and has made over 80 appearances for the Robins. This season he has been restricted to a back up role, although he has recently given his manager a selection headache with two clean sheets including one in the cup win against Woking when Lucas had flu. The 29-year-old stopper started his career at Millwall before dropping into non-league circles with Crawley, Folkestone, Dover and Margate.

DEFENDERS

Kevin AMANKWAH

Still only 27, Amankwah signed a two-year deal for The Robins at the start of last season and has been ever present so far this term. Harrow born, he started at Bristol City and has now made almost 200 first team appearances in a career that has seen him also play for Torquay, Yeovil, Cheltenham and Swansea. The tall right-sided defender likes to push forward when he can and has contributed two goals to the Robins' cause so far this season and seems to have put behind him the unsavoury incident involving Millwall's Neil Harris earlier in the campaign.

Scott CUTHBERT

The 22-year-old Scottish defender signed for Swindon in the summer after skipping Celtic's reserve team and playing 28 SPL games on loan at St.Mirren last term. Cuthbert has international representative honours up to B

level with Scotland and has established himself at the heart of Wilson's flat back four in recent weeks, scoring his first goal for the Robins in the win over Southend United.

Gordon GREER

A Glaswegian centre-back who spent three months of last season on loan at the County Ground after injury cost him his place in parent club Doncaster Rovers side. The 28-year-old impressed so much that, upon his summer release from the Keepmoat, Danny Wilson signed him and immediately installed him as the Robins skipper. The Scottish B international started his career at Clyde before trying his luck south of the border at Blackburn and Stockport (loan). Released from Ewood Park in the summer of 2003, he returned home and played over 100 SPL games for Killmarnock before once more trying his luck in England at Doncaster.

Lescinel JEAN-FRANCOIS

The Haitian international is a robust, strong tackling defender who has already served a one match suspension this term for reaching five bookings. The 23-year-old is able to play at both centre back or left back and arrived at the County Ground in January this year, doing enough to earn himself a new contract in the summer. Lescinel started his career in France playing for Sedan and Paris St.Germain, and had a brief spell in Scotland with Falkirk before returning across the English Channel to play for Guincamp.

Callum KENNEDY

The Chertsey born full back earned himself a new one-year deal in Wiltshire after being on the fringes of the first team last season. The 20-year-old started his career with the academy at Reading but has been in and out of the starting eleven this campaign with six starts and five substitute appearances to his name so far.

Alan SHEEHAN

The Republic of Ireland Under 21 international signed for The Robins on loan from Leeds United on Thursday, joining his ex-colleagues David Lucas and Jonathan Douglas at the County Ground. The 23-year-old left back has already had one spell out on loan this campaign making 9 appearances for Oldham Athletic. Athlone born, he started his career at

Leicester City having loan spells at Mansfield and Leeds before signing a three-year deal at Elland Road at the beginning of last term. He spent some time on loan at Crewe last season after losing his place in the Leeds team due to suspensions and injury.

MIDFIELDERS

Jon Paul MCGOVERN

McGovern has been at The County Ground since the summer of 2007 and is a strong running winger with the ability to deliver a telling cross. Despite losing his place in the side at back end of last season, he has fought his way back into Danny Wilson's starting XI missing just one game to date and scoring two goals in the process. The 28-year-old is an experienced campaigner having turned out for home town club Celtic and Livingston north of the border, as well as both Sheffield clubs and MK Dons in England.

Jonathan DOUGLAS

Monaghan-born Douglas is a full international for the Republic of Ireland having started his career as a trainee at Blackburn Rovers. After loan spells with several clubs, he signed for Leeds United going on to make well over 150 appearances for the Elland Road club and also skipping the side before joining Swindon in the summer. The combative midfielder was recently suspended for his sending-off against Millwall and when the Robins appealed the ban was increased from three matches to four! The 28-year-old returned to the side against Carlisle having completed his suspension.

Simon FERRY

The 21-year-old midfielder is on loan from Celtic until the end of January and has established himself as an ever present in Wilson's midfield quartet since making his debut against Southend at the end of August. Scottish born, he came through the ranks at Parkhead and after an injury hit two-and-a-half years he made the bench on several occasions last term as well as scoring the goal that clinched the SPL reserve league title for the Bhoys. Ferry has represented his country at Under-19 level and is enjoying his spell in Wiltshire so much he has recently expressed a desire to extend his stay past the original period.

DID YOU KNOW >>> VERSUS

> Wrexham and Swindon have clashed 32 times in the league with Wrexham having won 11, Swindon 14, whilst seven have finished all-square. Here, Wrexham have won eight of the 16 games, losing four and drawing four.

> Swindon's last visit here was in 2007 when they arrived having won all six of their league games. They took the lead through Paul Evans but goals from Ryan Valentine and Mark Jones ended Denis Wise's sides unbeaten run.

> Swindon got their revenge later in the season winning 2-1 at the County Ground with Welshman Christian Roberts (right) getting the Swindon winner after Marc Williams had scored his first league goal for Wrexham.



> That game at Swindon was Brian Carey's first game in charge of the Dragons following the departure of Denis Smith. Carey gave a debut to loan signing Paul Mitchell.

Anthony McNAMEE

The Kensington born England Youth international is a diminutive, skilful winger who can deliver a dangerous cross and has featured in all the Robins matches so far this term scoring two goals. The 25-year-old joined Swindon in January 2008 after starting his career at Watford, where he helped the Hornets to gain promotion to the Premier League, and also played five games on loan at Crewe Alexandra. Boss Wilson rates the player highly after fighting off a transfer deadline day interest from Norwich City.

Michael TIMLIN

The 24-year-old is able to play in a number of positions for the Robins including left and central midfield and left back. Born in Ireland, he has represented his country at Under-21 level on eight occasions. Timlin signed permanently for Swindon in March 2008 after spending some time on loan there from his previous club Fulham. He is a busy, energetic player who can pass the ball well but has been in and out of Danny Wilson's starting eleven so far this season.

Craig EASTON

Easton is another of the strong Scottish contingent at The County Ground, joining the Robins in August 2007 and, despite injury and loss of form making last season a frustrating one for him, he was offered a new deal in the summer. The 30-year-old former Scottish Under-21 international has had to be content with a place on the substitutes' bench in recent weeks. At his best a strong running central midfielder, he started his career at Dundee United and has also worn the colours of Livingston and Leyton Orient making over 300 career appearances in the process.

STRIKERS

Billy PAYNTER

The Liverpool born striker is Swindon's top scorer this campaign with eight goals to his name including the winner in the first round tie against Woking. The 25-year-old started his career at Port Vale before moves to Hull, Southend and Bradford (loan) saw him end up in Wiltshire in August 2007. A tall, powerfully built striker, his attitude impressed manager Danny Wilson recently when, after being left



Robins' top scorer Billy Paynter

out of the first eleven, he gave a whole hearted appearance for the reserve side earning himself a first team recall which he promptly celebrated by netting twice in the visit to Prenton Park at the end of October.

Alex REVELL

Revell is on loan from Southend United until January, actually signing for the Robins after playing as a substitute for his parent club in the fixture between the two sides in August. The 26-year-old started his career at his local club Cambridge before playing for Braintree and Brighton, eventually signing for the Shrimps in January 2008 for a £150,000 fee. The strong running, hard working striker netted a brace recently against Brentford and is looking to get games under his belt for the Robins after thankfully recovering from a broken leg sustained against Leyton Orient last January.

Ben HUTCHINSON

Hutchinson is another Celtic youngster looking to gain experience on loan in Wiltshire after making substitute appearances in the Champions League last term against the likes of Manchester United. The 22-year-old striker has joined the Robins until January 2010 but so far has struggled to establish himself in the first team, netting only once after making his debut at against Southend United. The burly striker

started his career at Middlesbrough before joining the Bhoys in January 2008 making his debut the following month. Hutchinson may well feature today with Charlie Austin cup-tied.

Lee PEACOCK

Peacock is a vastly experienced front man who has been at Swindon since a free transfer from Sheffield Wednesday in January 2006. Now 33 years of age, the Paisley-born striker has attracted several large transfer fees in his career that has seen him play across the length and breadth of the UK for Carlisle, Mansfield, Manchester City, Bristol City and Sheffield Wednesday. Able to play up front or in midfield, the former Scottish Under-21 international always gives his all and boss Wilson has been able to use him from the bench in recent weeks now that he is regaining full fitness after missing the start of the season with a career threatening back injury.

Danny WARD

Yorkshire born Ward signed on a month's loan on deadline day from Bolton Wanderers. With two substitute appearances in the Premier League and six goals in the reserves this term Ward, who signed from Leeds United as a 16-year-old, looks to have a bright future in the game and no doubt will be looking to gain valuable experience at Swindon.

> In 1995-96 Swindon lost just four league games all season, the first of which was a 4-3 defeat here. Wayne Allison (2) and Peter Thorne netted for Swindon whilst Karl Connolly grabbed a hat-trick for Wrexham, Barry Hunter also scoring.

> Ten years previously Swindon were Fourth Division Champions despite losing at home on the opening day of the season 1-0 to Wrexham, Steve Charles getting the goal on his debut for the club.

> Racecourse legends Dai Davies and Dixie McNeil both made their Wrexham debuts against today's opponents in September 1977; Dixie (right) scoring the first of his 88 goals for the club to set up a 2-1 win.



> Wrexham's first ever trip to Swindon was on the opening day of the 1958-59 season which was also the initial season of non-regionalised football in the lower divisions. Swindon won the game 1-0 in front of over 15,000 fans at the County Ground.



When previous Swindon manager Maurice Malpas was sacked last November it took chairman Andrew Fitton and his board of directors six weeks before they finally appointed their man.

They were under pressure to make a choice but were looking for a manager with experience and ambition and with Danny Wilson they certainly achieved their goal.

When he was unveiled as the new boss at The County Ground on Boxing Day last year it was the Wigan born ex-Northern Ireland international's sixth managerial appointment and his first task was to keep the Robins in League One which was secured with a win over Bristol Rovers in April.

In the summer 14 players left the club and, using his extensive contacts in the game, the 49-year-old set about bringing in players of the quality of Jonathan Douglas, David Lucas and Gordon Greer as he built a side ready to mount an assault on League One.

In his playing career, Wilson made over 600 appearances winning the League Cup with Luton in 1988 and Sheffield Wednesday in 1991 and earning a runners-up medal in 1993; the same year that Wednesday also lost in the FA Cup Final in which he also played. His managerial CV includes promotions to the Premier League with Barnsley and League One with Hartlepool, whilst he also won the Football League Trophy at Bristol City.

His reputation in the game has meant that he has hardly been out of work in his career

as a manager, Swindon snapped him up only two weeks after his departure from the Victoria Ground and he was inevitably linked with the vacant Barnsley post earlier in the season.

Even after 15 years as a football manager, if evidence was ever needed that Wilson retains his passion for the game came only recently when he was sent-off by referee Jarnil Singh after a touchline incident with Yeovil's Terry Skiverton; the Swindon boss

was far from happy with the official's intervention branding it as "pathetic."

The Robins boss has also targeted FA Cup success this season, commenting before the first round tie against Woking that: "We want to get to the minimum of the third round because that's when the big boys come in, and it's when you hope you can start earning a good few quid for your club."

Let's just hope Dean Saunders men can frustrate Wilson in this particular ambition.



CV

Danny Wilson

AGE: 49

PLAYING CAREER:

Previous Clubs: Bury, Chesterfield, Nottingham Forest, Scunthorpe United (Loan), Brighton, Luton Town, Sheffield Wednesday, Barnsley Northern Ireland International (24 caps)

MANAGERIAL CAREER:

Barnsley 1994-98, Sheffield Wednesday 1998-00, Bristol City 2000-04, MK Dons 2004-06, Hartlepool United 2006-08, Swindon Town January 2008-date

LOCAL REPORT >>> VERSUS

Chris Tanner, Swindon Town's Media Manager, gives us the lowdown on The Robins...

After a busy summer, manager Danny Wilson looks to have made his mark on the squad?

The quality of player within the squad has definitely improved when compared to previous seasons. Players like David Lucas, Gordon Greer and Jonathan Douglas have all added tremendous experience to the squad – and are all still at an age where they can make a valuable contribution for several seasons to come. Centre-back Scott Cuthbert has also been an impressive addition from Celtic.

What have been the highlights of the season so far?

Performances on the road have shown considerable improvement with four goals scored at MK Dons (Carling Cup) and Tranmere Rovers whilst the win at Carlisle

United last weekend was impressive. A clean sheet combined with a goal on his full debut from recent signing Charlie Austin made it a worthwhile trip to Brunton Park. Austin joined from non-league Poole Town and has made his mark already with two goals in as many games – although won't be eligible for the FA Cup.

What do you remember of games between Wrexham and Swindon in recent seasons?

My first ever visit to Wrexham was in August 2004 – the day which saw Andy Caton come off the bench to score on his debut. Chris Armstrong scored late on from the penalty spot which meant it was a defeat on the opening day of the season. Andy Gurney scored a pretty impressive strike – the only goal of the game – in

September 2003 whilst Sam Parkin scored a hat-trick against Wrexham two years later.

With a place in the FA Cup third round at stake this afternoon, who will be the ones to watch for Swindon?

Defensive solidity will be the key I think. After three clean sheets in the last four games if Town can keep it tight at the back once again then they will have every chance of progressing to the next round. Charlie Austin will be suspended so Billy Paynter (who scored the winner in the last round) will have a big part to play. Goals have also come from other areas of the team so if the likes of Cuthbert, Greer or McGovern can get amongst the goals then hopefully a place amongst the big boys will follow.

On home advantage

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BLUE SQUARE
PREMIER

It's the luck of the draw for Blue Square Premier sides

With the 'Weakest Link' still running strong on television, I wonder what Anne Robinson would have made of the efforts of the Blue Square Premier's clubs in the first round proper of the FA Cup.

Given that so few survived the fourth qualifying round, some choice descriptions may well have been used. So who were the teams with a "few clowns short of a circus" or "whose doughnut was out of jam?"

Of the nine survivors through to the second stage, we are at least guaranteed two representatives in January's third round. Oxford and Barrow, and Cambridge and York play each other, whilst the other five have a great chance of progression to what is often termed the "money making stage."

Only when you are down at Conference level do you start to appreciate the income the FA Cup can generate, and clearly some Football League clubs take that for granted. Indeed, the fact that we have had to postpone a league game to take part in this round soon makes you realise that we are simply not expected to be in this round at all. How times have changed!

The purse from the competition is generous but, for a non-league club, it can make or break a season. Paulton Rovers may have lost heavily to Norwich in the last round, but the television revenue will keep the club afloat for years not months, such was the financial effect of the live TV cameras.

So for two of the four Conference clubs drawn together, the incentive is all too apparent. Barrow's visit to Oxford United is harsh reward for their exploits in the last round. They travelled to the Deva Stadium after a 1-1 draw at Holker Street and rampaged past the Cestrians 4-0; so they would have hoped for better fare than a trip to the league leaders.

Any similar attitude to that shown at the Deva will produce an upset; keep an eye on the odds as there could be an upset here. Do Oxford United need a FA Cup run with teams breathing down their neck in the league?



Martin Foyle — his team is in fine form

Last weekend saw a dress rehearsal for this clash, and The U's came away with a narrow one goal victory. Joint boss Dave Bayliss, believed that his side wash harshly done to.

"I thought that we deserved to get something out of the game we've played worse and won. We were outstanding and more than a match for them, for the majority of the game. Apart from one dreadful bit of defending, we can be proud of the way we played, and hopefully regroup and go on another long unbeaten run."

For Oxford boss Chris Wilder, he was just happy to get the three points: "There was not a lot of quality out there, it's true, but conditions played a big part. Teams who want to be successful need to grind results out and that is what we did.

"We had chances and if we get goals that changes the attitude of the players. If we'd have done that it would have been a more comfortable last half hour."

York's reward for their fine 3-2 victory over Dario Gradi's Crewe, another eye-catching result, is a trip to Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium.

York are flying, with their current league form lifting them into the play-offs places. With leading Conference striker Richard Brodie heading the goalscoring list on seventeen goals, and earning a recent England 'C' call up, times are good at the Kit-Kat Crescent.

Former Dragons assistant boss Martin Foyle has enjoyed significant progress since taking charge of the Minstermen last year, and they have a genuine chance of promotion back to the league.

And he now has another striker on the mend, former Ebbsfleet front man Michael Gash made his re-appearance after spending six weeks out with a foot injury (sustained against Stevenage), in last Saturday's victory over AFC Wimbledon.

"I've been doing a lot of ball work, a lot of running, twisting and turning. I'd started scoring goals and enjoying my football and to get an injury like that to put me out for over a month is very frustrating," explained Gash.

"Luckily enough for the team we've got four top strikers that are all battling for a starting place and, as you see from whatever team the gaffer puts out there, they're scoring goals and helping the team win games.

"You want to fight for your position; otherwise it can sometimes get too easy for you on the pitch knowing you're going to start every game because there's not another player to fill your boots if you're not playing well.

"So, to have competition is what you need to keep performing at the highest levels and keep you on your toes. But the front two at the moment that he [boss Martin Foyle] is starting with, Brodes [Richard Brodie] and Ranks [Michael Rankine], everything he [Brodie] touches goes in the back of the net and I think Ranks has

probably been one of our best players in the last month."

You would not bet against York getting a result at Cambridge today, neither would you bet on Brighton & Hove Albion disposing of Rushden & Diamonds. The form team of the moment, the Nene Park outfit are flying and have won six in a row.

That run includes an eye-catching victory at Luton Town, as well as victories at Chester City and Salisbury City. So a trip to the Withdean will not hold any trepidation for manager Justin Edinburgh, who has quietly gone about his job at rebuilding the Diamonds following Garry Hill's departure last season, his caretaker role became permanent in April.

Edinburgh was equally delighted to get two Diamonds players into the England C set up for the victory over Poland Under-23's last week, explaining what it meant to the club on their website.

"I'm delighted, it's a great achievement for the players at this club; we had four players selected, initially, which says everything about the club. All of these boys have a bright future ahead of them."

Luton Town also travel to an athletics stadium, the Don Valley Stadium in Sheffield, currently home to Rotherham. They have a tough ask as the Merry Millers are currently fourth in League Two. And having survived administration, they are looking to climb back out of that division, and the FA Cup could give them a welcome financial boost. They overcame a tricky tie at Wealdstone in round one, winning by the odd goal in five, but Luton will provide a far tougher test.

Kettering face Leeds United in tomorrow's televised game and have decided to charge maximum prices for the clash, with a '£1.50 policing fee' added to each ticket. Imraan Ladak, Kettering's chairman, who is already at odds with the Conference, is unrepentant about the price hike.

Finally, Forest Green Rovers travel to Bath City and I'm sure that Bath would have been delighted that the boys from the New Lawn surprisingly defeated Mansfield in their replay at Field Mill to set up this 'derby' clash.

Any visit to Twerton Park is a difficult one, and with Bath City now being the 'only' side in Bath following Team Bath's resignation from the Blue Square south last season, City will be keen to get their club back on the football map. Currently in mid table, they will fancy their chances against a side whose only other win on their travels was that at Chester City back in September.

How many Conference sides in Round Three then? My bet's on four but I'm not saying which four!

Friday Night Fever!

DAVID JAMES OF SUNSET + VINE (CYMRU) KEEPS US UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST FROM THE PRINCIPALITY WELSH PREMIER LEAGUE.

Almost half of this weekend's matches in the Welsh Premier will have been played by the time this is read. Four games were contested last night as clubs try to maximise support through the turnstiles.

In fact fixture planning and scheduling was one of the topics discussed at a high level meeting held this week in Cardiff on future plans for the development of the League. The board of directors of the Principality Welsh Premier met with a sub-committee of the FAW to discuss the appropriate strategy to adopt in order to move the League forward from 2010-11 onwards.

It is common knowledge that the league will re-structure next season to consist of just twelve clubs, rather than 18 as at present. Eligibility for the league membership next season will be determined not only by league placing at the end of the current campaign but also by the acquisition of the Domestic licence.

This UEFA-promoted concept was first presented in 2000 with the FAW's Club Licensing manual gaining accreditation three years later. Its focus is on establishing a higher set of standards within Welsh domestic football. And it is hoped that this will benefit all concerned in the football community, spectators as well as various other stakeholders.

The standards are presented in the form five criteria headings; infrastructure, sporting (youth and coaching), legal, personnel and administration & financial. There are 24 current applicants for the licence, with all but one of the current WP clubs aiming to secure that 'passport'.

The exception being Technogroup Welshpool, who clearly felt that there was far too much they needed to do in the time available in order to reach the targets set. The other seven aspirants are from the feeder leagues, north and south - in their midst are Buckley Town.

This afternoon last season's champions

Rhyl will be looking to gain maximum points in their home clash with Haverfordwest County. Greg Strong's (below) side have struggled somewhat of late but hope that home advantage will prove to be the telling factor.



Another side who have dropped down the table recently is Bala Town - the Lakesiders will hope to arrest that slide at home to Carmarthen Town. Two sides languishing at the foot of the table meet at nearby Plaskynaston Lane; Elements Cefn Druids have only found the net three times in six home matches in the league - clearly the root of their problems - which they need to address against Welshpool.

Porthmadog welcome back their former striker and all-time Welsh Premier top scorer Marc Lloyd-Williams to Y Traeth when Airbus UK Broughton are the visitors. Port are on something of a roll at the moment, having won their last two matches to rise off the bottom.

In the other matches, Newtown entertain fifth placed Port Talbot, and the featured match on Sgorio Cymru on S4C tonight at 9.30 pm is Neath versus Prestatyn Town with English language commentary available via the red button.

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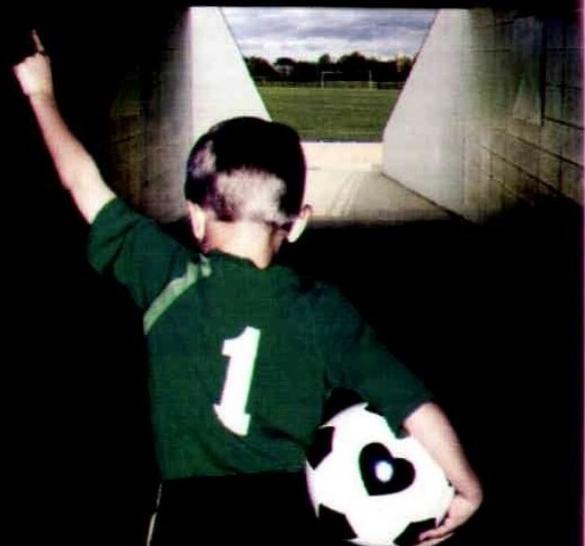


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Moving on from 'Sunday School to Church'

As John Toshack remarked before the home friendly with Scotland – the first international played at Cardiff City's new stadium – quoting the words of Bill Shankly (Tosh's mentor in his early Liverpool days) in the process: "Young players who show any sort of advancement are progressing from Sunday School to the Church itself."

If the 3-0 success against an albeit poor Scottish side is anything to go by, then this sort of advancement is hopefully going to see a number of them become elders of the religious establishment before too long!

Likewise, if ever a game was destined to become the 'definitive' moment as regards the judgement of Toshack and Flynn's philosophy in bringing the kids through their continuity programme then this was perhaps it, without of course wanting to get too carried away in the overall scheme of things.

Having said that, it was really encouraging to see the contribution of the emerging talents, especially with the likes of Craig Bellamy, James Collins, Simon Davies and Chris Gunter all sidelined by injury. The quality of the squad is improving all the time when you consider the riches that Brian Flynn still has available to him at Under-21 level.

Aaron Ramsey stole the show on the day with a mercurial performance that drew high praise from the watching media, his solo strike capturing many of the headlines in the weekend papers. His growing maturity is testament to his continued development under both Arsene Wenger at Arsenal and the Welsh coaching staff.

His was not the only positive contribution though, with Simon Church (his name in keeping with the opening title) producing another accomplished display showing a sense of awareness and anticipation in his game that belies his young age.

That's something Wales have often lacked in more recent times and Church's goal against the Scots underlined those skills, the Reading forward dedicating his strike to his late father who sadly passed away last month.

One also saw the progress of Joe Allen who came on for Ramsey in the second-half when sadly he was booed by a small minority of the Cardiff fans who should really know better. Club rivalry has to be set aside when

the national team play – remember, we are one country after all!

What Wales really needs now are a couple of wins against higher seeded countries when the next set of European Championship qualifiers come around. This would boost confidence and engender a much needed degree of self belief.

As for the new venue, that also proved a huge success although the attendance of just over 14,000 must have disappointed the FAW bigwigs, especially with close on 5,000 having made the trip from north of the border. The players definitely responded to the more intimate atmosphere, especially when compared to the yawning open spaces of the Millennium Stadium.

It's just unfortunate that there will now be a four month gap before the next friendly, with Toshack having opted for four 'warm up' matches ahead of what will probably prove his last attempt at leading Wales to

qualification for a major tournament.

Those opponents have still to be finalised and one suspects that much will depend upon the forthcoming World Cup and European Champions draws, the latter not taking place until next February in Poland. One thing that has been confirmed though is that Wales will be amongst the fourth seeds when those groups are decided.

The 'feel good' factor generated by the win over Craig Burley's man was tempered rather by the Under-21's defeat in Bosnia-Herzegovina some four days later in Sarajevo. This has given Group Three a very different look and, with away matches to come in Hungary and Italy next September, Wales still have a lot to do to ensure reaching the play-off stages for a second successive tournament.

It never gets easier, does it? So keep that faith alive.

Gareth M. Davies



Ched Evans congratulates Aaron Ramsey after his goal against the Scots

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Cut a dash through Mold Town Centre on Sunday 6th December 2009

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Neighbourhood
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Ten to Tackle
Inside Out



FANZONE

THE REGULARS >>>

Fanfile

Mark MacDougall

NAME:

Mark MacDougall

LIVES IN:

Wrexham

WHEN DID YOU START SUPPORTING WREXHAM?

It was the first game of the 1970-71 season against Bury.

We'd just won promotion and there was a big crowd to see us gain a thrilling 3-2 victory. I can remember sitting in the old Pigeon Loft on the Kop.

WHO IS YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE WREXHAM PLAYER?

Mark Jones; a local lad who has a great deal of talent and has scored some cracking goals.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALL TIME WREXHAM PLAYER?

It may surprise a few people, but I'll plump for Alan Dwyer. He was a wonderful attacking left-back in the all-conquering 1977-78 Championship side.

WHAT IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE WREXHAM GAME?

That's when we beat West Ham United here 4-3 back in December 1978. It was the opening of what is now the Eric Roberts Stand and I was lucky enough to be chosen one of the ball boys!

WHO IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE MANAGER OF WREXHAM?

John Neal (*right*) although Brian Flynn comes a close second; both had similar philosophies in how to play the game.

WHAT IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE WREXHAM SHIRT?

I like most of them although the worst has to be the hideous 'deckchair' shirt we wore in the late 1980s.

WHAT IS YOUR ALL TIME FAVOURITE WREXHAM GOAL?

I've got two. First up is Chris Armstrong's winner over In Lyngby in 1990 whilst the second is Keiron Durkan's opener in the FA Cup tie at Old Trafford in January 1995.

HOW MANY HOME GAMES DO YOU GO TO IN A SEASON?

I come to every home game and try to sit in the same seat; front row of the Yale Stand, Kop End, level with the 18-yard box.

HOW MANY AWAY GAMES DO YOU GET TO GO TO IN A SEASON?

When we were in the Football League there were always plenty of games in and around Yorkshire we could get to. Now it's much more difficult.

WHAT MEMORABILIA IF ANY, DO YOU OWN FOOTBALL WISE?

Somewhere I have the Gareth Davis Testimonial programme signed by the legend that was George Best, I just wish I knew where it was!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE RACECOURSE GROUND?

The Turf Pub! Let's be honest, it's where it all began.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-MATCH RITUALS? I ask the wife's permission to go to the game (ha, ha, ha!) and always visit the Turf pub.





BEEN THERE, SEEN THAT DONE IT! >>>FANZONE

The County Ground, Swindon

WHEN?

Following Denis Smith's departure back in January 2007, Brian Carey's first game as Wrexham manager was a League Two away game at Swindon, then flying-high. And the new boss enjoyed a dream start; Marc Williams rising to knock home Simon Spender's cross within the first ten minutes. But the lead lasted barely sixty seconds and, after Ryan Valentine handled in his own box, Christian Roberts lashed home the resultant penalty – and the winning goal – with twenty minutes left on the clock.

WHERE?

The County Ground will be familiar to long-time Wrexham fans and, back when we were a Football League club, was always a friendly destination. That said, it's a deceptively long car trip, often taking three hours to cover the 115 miles, door-to-door, out the M54 and then onto the M5. But Swindon is well served by the train; the station there is a brisk ten minute walk away. The County Ground still boasts a traditional set of floodlights in all four corners of the ground, and these will lead you there. But if being stuck in the Conference has any one benefit, it's that away fans don't have to negotiate Swindon's infamous Magic Roundabout, a vast web of five roundabouts within a roundabout on the immediate approach to the ground.

WHAT?

The County Ground has a capacity of almost 16,000 with easy access and plenty of space for away supporters, who are usually located in The Arkells Stand, on one side of the stadium. The Cricket Club, which

sits immediately behind The Arkells Stand, usually caters for both home and away supporters on match days, while hooch is also served in the away end during the game. Otherwise, the ground is a fifteen minute walk from Swindon town centre.

HOW?

Although Ricky Shakes hit the post twice from Swindon corner kicks, Wrexham were unlucky not to take at least a share of the spoils. Carey's decision to start Marc Williams was a big call that, after he headed home early-on, also looked like an inspired one. Given that Swindon were then in excellent nick, Wrexham produced a creditable performance and could – and should – have snatched a point. But little did those away fans think leaving the ground that it would be another nine games before they'd see a Wrexham victory. And while we famously retained our league status on the last day, Swindon were promoted automatically.

WHY?

From the start of his tenure as manager, Brian Carey insisted it was Wrexham's younger players – Spender, the Williams brothers, Mackin and Done – who were going to help us out of our torpor and back up the leagues. But with a lack of experience on the bench, was such faith in youth – however well intentioned – a tad naïve? Because while, in hindsight, much of Carey's tenure as Wrexham manager was pock-marked by bad luck, the team was far too often the architect of its own misfortune. Starting in Wiltshire.

Just in case today's game ends in a draw and The Dragons have to head to Swindon for a replay, we thought we'd give you an insight to some of the area's most famous sons and daughters, sporting and otherwise...

DIANA DORS

Born Diana Mary Fluck in Swindon in 1932, this iconic British actress' decision to change her name rates as the most important career choice she ever made.

"They [agents] asked me to change my name," she used to claim. "I suppose they were afraid that if my real name was in lights and one of the lights blew ..."



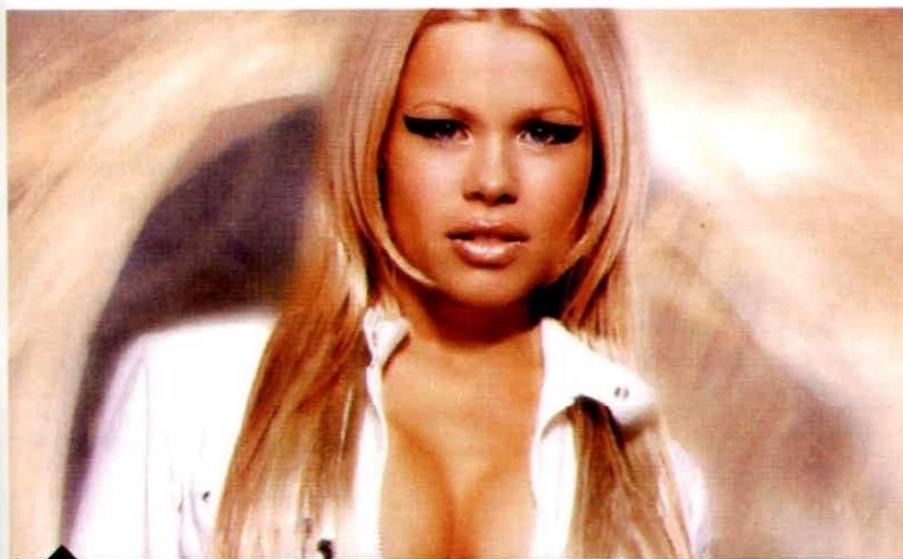
The daughter of a railway clerk, Diana Dors achieved fame as a ubiquitous 'blonde bombshell' and once described herself as "the only sex symbol Britain has produced since Lady Godiva."

But it was only after her death in 1984 – following a long battle with cancer – that her life and work, much of which was based largely around her hourglass figure and platinum blonde hair, was properly reviewed.

And although she died prematurely, she'd enjoyed one hell of a roller-coaster ride.

With her when she passed away was her third husband, the film director Alan Lake – with





Melinda Messenger

SWINDON

whom she had made some of her saucy films – and a self-confessed alcoholic prone to violent outbursts.

Lake killed himself five months after her death.

Professionally, Dors was a sharp actress of no little ability, but her film career saw her usually cast as a good-time girl.

And although she attracted decent notices for her performance in 'Yield To The Night', she famously turned down the chance to star in 'Saturday Night, Sunday Morning' because the leading man – Albert Finney – was then a largely unknown and untried actor.

Dors and Lake threw well documented hedonistic parties at their mansion in Sunningdale, where the guest list regularly included the likes of Oliver Reed, Richard Harris, Sean Connery, Freddie Starr and Keith Moon.

The actress' son, Jason, told The Mail in 1999 how: "Everyone would be falling over and smoking dope and having sex, and dear old Mum would be there in a kaftan or whatever, interrupting to offer everyone a cup of tea, and baking scones."

A 1996 Channel 4 documentary claimed that Dors also enjoyed an affair with the British porn star, Mary Millington. Indeed both Dors and Lake were among the best known mourners who attended Millington's funeral in Dorking in 1979.

Later sued for back taxes and declared bankrupt, she became a regular on the chat show and daytime television circuit during her final years, usually riffing frankly about her illness, weight gain and her colourful past.

Asked how she survived her tempestuous lifestyle, she replied: "Because I have a great sense of humour and I never believed my own publicity."

JOHN FRANCOMBE

It was the heavily decorated NBA star, Charles Barkley, who bizarrely claimed that he'd been misquoted in his own autobiography.

You'd imagine that the seven times National Hunt Champion Jockey and Channel 4 Racing presenter, John Francombe, was probably a bit more attentive with his own memoirs, given the writing career he's had going in parallel since the 1980s.



Earlier this year he published his twenty-fourth novel, 'Deadly Finish'.

Francombe cuts an unusual figure in racing circles given that, unlike most of his peers, he had no prior family or historic connection with the sport.

"I liked riding but never had any intention of being a jockey," he told The Guardian in 2006. "I had no interest in racing and, if it came on the television, I would turn over to the other channel."

Instead, his primary interests were in wheels, pinions and racks. "I'd always been interested in cars," he told Jonathan Sale. "My father was a dealer at one stage and I'd been buying and selling cars since I was fourteen."

It was through his family's connections that he started as an apprentice panel beater with a local firm in Swindon, but it was a short-lived posting.

"It was a really dusty job, too dusty for me," he claimed. Twelve months later – and by now an apprentice riding out at Fred Winter's yard – he rode his first ever winner on board a horse called Multigrey.

And that victory at Worcester kick-started a long and eventful career, during which he won over one thousand races.

Not that he recalls his debut victory with any real fondness: "I was absolutely useless," he recalled back in 2003. "I'd struggled to make the weight and was as weak as anything. The horse just carried me round."

MELINDA MESSENGER

Tabloid Britain's despairing search to replace Diana – The People's Princess, in the nation's psyche, continues.

The most obvious contender is X-Factor judge and girl-band singer, Cheryl Cole who fits the bill perfectly.

She scrubs up well, is happy to tease with and flaunt her personal life and has never displayed either a trace of an opinion or a latent talent.

Perfect breakfast fodder, then, for a nation that's asleep at the wheel. But there was a time, and it wasn't that long ago, when the surgically-enhanced Swindon-born glamour model, Melinda Messenger, could have been that contender.

Having done the obligatory stint as a flight attendant, she was spotted by the Yvonne Paul Agency – which had over-seen Samantha Fox's career fifteen years previously – and was quickly announced as the "Girl of The Thrillium" after her first appearance on The Sun's Page 3.

There followed a relentless and intensive period of self-promotion based, by and large, on Messenger's implanted breasts, countless television appearances and an attempt to 'conquer America'.

These days, though, she's a far more sanguine and mature proposition. Married to her long-time partner, Wayne Roberts, Messenger is now a public campaigner on parenting issues and has long since been an ambassador for Barnardos.

Pushing forty, her day job sees her manage the electronics company she runs with her husband and that employs a staff of fifty people.

But then there was always a suggestion that Messenger was a far more clued-in character than her carefully sculpted public image ever lead us to believe.

Asked recently if – as a mother-of-three – she harbours any regrets about her career as a glamour model, she replied: "Not at all. I made a lot of money and it's enabled me to make even more as a television presenter.

"I remember being paid more for one job than I had earned in the whole of the previous year."



FORZA VIRTUS!



VIRTUS VERONA - PROVING IT'S NO FLUKE!

Overcoming their early season form in recent weeks Virtus Verona are showing something of a resurgence, now going six consecutive games unbeaten to claw themselves out of the drop zone.

Virtus have conceded only three goals in their last six games having shored up a previously leaky defence, and have scored five to reassure fans that they are back on the goal trail too.

Manager Luigi Fresco will have been delighted with his side's most recent outing, having come away from AS Villafranca with a two goal win. He knows that his team can put together a string of results until Christmas that can allow them to push further up the table with real intent in the New Year.

Serie D - Girone C - 22nd November 2009

UC Virtusvecomp Verona 1

UC Montecchio Maggiore 0

Virtus Verona gave supporters their first home win of the league season as they beat UC Montecchio Maggiore at the Stadio Gavignon.

Montecchio would not have relished their trip to Verona on the back of their recent form, but despite coming away empty handed, put in a determined display that frustrated the home side throughout.

Matteo Lallo's



(pictured) tenth minute penalty proved to be the difference between the two sides however, meaning that Virtus have now won two games in succession for the first time this season.

Virtus did have chances to extend their lead, carving out several opportunities to which the visiting goalkeeper was equal.

And on another day the visitors themselves could have snatched a draw had they not been guilty of some wayward finishing.

But the one goal was sufficient to give Luigi Fresco's side their third win of the season, and enough to delight the patient Virtus supporters that had to wait until the 14th game of the season to see their team win a league game at home.

Virtus fans will be able to revel in victory until next weekend when they play third placed SP Tamai, and will be backing themselves to get a result on current form.

Serie D - Girone C - Bottom half

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pt
11 AS Union Quinto	14	4	6	4	18	18	0	18
12 Pordenone Calcio	14	4	6	4	17	17	0	18
13 SSD Domegliara	14	4	4	6	19	18	+1	16
14 USD Virtis Verona	14	3	6	5	17	22	-5	15
15 ASD Santivese	14	3	5	6	16	18	-2	14
16 AC Belluno 1905	14	2	5	7	17	27	-10	11
17 ASD Manzanese	14	2	4	8	9	19	-10	10
18 ASD Porfido Albiano	14	2	4	8	13	25	-12	10
19 Montecchio Maggiore	14	1	4	9	13	28	-15	7
20 AC Palazzolo 1913	14	0	4	10	8	24	-16	4



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c/o c/o 4 Lyndale Grove, Wrexham, LL12 8DQ.

Tel 01978 266602 or 0789 9823055.

Website www.wrexhamfan.co.uk

Email 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.shropshireredes.co.uk

Email shreds@wafc123.freemove.co.uk

Meeting Venue Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton

Meeting Frequency Bi-monthly

RHOS AND DISTRICT REDS

c/o The Coach & Horses Inn, Vinegar Hill,

Rhoslanerchrugog, Wrexham LL14 1EH

Tel 01978 841 749

Website uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/rhosanddistrictreds/

Email rhosanddistrictreds@yahoo.co.uk

Meeting Venue Coach & Horses, Rhoslanerchrugog

Meeting Frequency Bi-monthly

BUCKLEY AND DISTRICT REDS

c/o PO Box 182, Buckley CH7 9BR

Tel 07783 430301

Website www.buckleyreds.co.uk

Email 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

Meeting Venue Please see website

Meeting Frequency Monthly

MOLD & DISTRICT REDS

COCHION YR WYDDORUG A'R FRO

c/o Mold Delivery Office,

18 Earl Road, Mold CH7 1AA

Email moldreds@hotmail.co.uk

Website 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 or

shaunholden11@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



TENTOTACKLE

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

1. Paid for by the Supporters' Association, what were used for the first time at The Racecourse Ground on the evening of 30 September 1959 when Swindon won 2-1 here?
2. Which former Blue Square Premier opponents of Wrexham (we drew both games 1-1 against them last season) did Swindon knock out of the FA Cup at the first round stage this month, squeezing past them 1-0 at the County Ground thanks to Billy Paynter's header?
3. Name the former Wales left-back (23 international appearances between 1990 and 1994) - right - whose son Billy made his Under-21 debut at The Racecourse Ground this season in Wales' 2-0 win over Bosnia & Herzegovina.
4. In which Division were Swindon when they beat Arsenal in the 1969 League Cup final?
5. Still a Wrexham player, who headed us into a 1-0 lead at the County Ground in January 2007 before Paul Sturrock's Swindon side fought back to win 2-1?
6. The furthest Swindon have progressed in the FA Cup was in 1910 and in 1912 when they lost both times to the eventual winners, Newcastle and Barnsley respectively. Which round did Swindon reach?
7. What competition did Swindon win in 1971? They were 3-0 up when the final at the Stadio San Paolo was abandoned on 79 minutes due to hooliganism but the result stood.
8. Signed by Arfon Griffiths from Everton and Hereford, name the two players who made their Wrexham debuts in the 2-1 win over Swindon at the Racecourse Ground in September 1977.
9. In which season did Swindon play in the Premiership?
10. Swindon boasted a 100% record at the top of League Two when they last visited The Racecourse Ground in September 2006. From their initials, can you identify the Wrexham line-up, including the two subs, who cut Denis Wise's Swindon team down to size, beating them 2-1 in front of a jubilant crowd of 5,257: 1-MI, 2-LR, 3-RV, 4-DW, 5-SE, 6-SP, 7-MD, 8-MJ, 9-NR (sub JN), 10-DF (sub MC), 11-CL.



1. Floodlights; 2. Woking; 3. Paul Bodin; 4. Division Three; 5. Marc Williams; 6. Semi-final; 7. Dai Davies and Dixie McNeil; 8. Anglo-Italian Cup; 9. 1993-94; 10. 1 - Mike Ingham, 2 - Lee Roche, 3 - Ryan Valentine; 4 - Danny Williams, 5 - Steve Evans, 6 - Shaun Pelfr, 7 - Marty Done; 8 - Mark Jones, 9 - Neil Roberts, 10 - Darren Ferguson, 11 - Chris Llewellyn; Subs - Jon Newby and Matt Crowell.

Answers



NAME THE BADGE

Can you recognise the badges above? To give you a clue we've scrambled up the names of the teams they represent below...

1. LLIWMALL
2. HUTSDONE INDUTE
3. KOSTE TICY

WHOAMI?

Can you name this Dragons player?



MEET THE MASCOT

Name: Olivia Miller

Aged: 10

Interesting Fact: Olivia has been a Wrexham fan as long as she can remember and is looking forward to the day when we get back into the Football League. During the summer she was an important part of the Junior Dragons squad in the Colliers Park 5-a-sides.



Edgess; 1. Millwall; 2. Southend United; 3. Stoke City
Who Am I? Mant Assoumani



FULL NAME: Sam James Williamson
POSITION: Defender
FORMER CLUBS: Manchester City
SQUAD NUMBER: 3

TOP SECRET

What are your parents names? Alison and Gary

Married? No, but I've got a girlfriend. Her name's Jen.

Do you have any pets? Yes, a golden retriever called Ella – I grew up with her but it's more my mum's dog really!

Best mate outside football? Daniel Frost, he's at Manchester University studying to be a surveyor

Where did you live as a child? Macclesfield, it was a decent place to grow up.

Any other family members who are good at sport? No! We're not really a sporty family.

FAVOURITES

Colour? Blue

Food? Nando's

Drink? Fresh orange juice

Film? Probably 'Snatch', the Guy Ritchie film with Brad Pitt



TV Show? Heroes, I download it with my friend and we love watching it.

Group/singer? I like James Morrison and The Killers

Car? Audi R8

Place visited? Switzerland, I just love the mountains and the scenery there.

Football team? Liverpool

Other footballer? Steven Gerrard, he's just the complete player.

Sport (other than football) Rugby Union, I've been to watch Sale Sharks a couple of times.

GUILTY AS CHARGED

What is the cheesiest film that you own?

There's a couple of chick-flicks I could think of!

What is the most tragic CD in your collection?

Well I've got Britney Spears new album in the car if that counts - but it's actually pretty decent



What is the worst car that you have owned?

I've only ever owned two, so it would have to be my first which was a Renault Clio

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

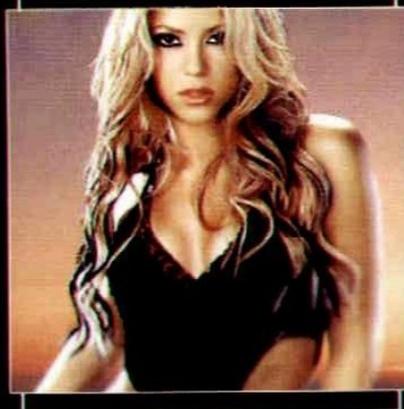
Chicken Kiev's!

What is the ring tone on your mobile?

It's the silent vibrating one that comes with the phone

Which celebrity do you secretly fancy?

Shakira

**INSIDE OUT****ALL IN THE GAME**

What is your nickname?

I don't really have one

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

I'd probably have tried a bit harder at school and gone to university

Best thing about being a footballer?

Winning!

Worse thing about being a footballer?

Losing!

Best ground that you have played on?

The City of Manchester Stadium; especially because it was full when I made my debut for City against Portsmouth there in the Premier League

How do you relax outside football?

I just tend to chill out with my friends

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

Work hard and don't be afraid to ask for help



Who is your football hero?

Steve Gerrard again

First football match you attended

It was Man City against Macclesfield at Maine Road back in the days when they were in the old Third Division. I'd just signed for City as a youngster and they gave me some free tickets!

Best game played in

The FA Youth Cup Final for City against Liverpool when we won the trophy

Highlight of your career?

Probably my City first team debut against Portsmouth at Eastlands

TEAM MATES

Best mate(s) in the Wrexham squad?

There's a few; Nathan, Kai and the like but everyone tends to mingle and we all get on with each other really well

Funniest member of the squad?

Angelos Tsiaklis; I know he's an idiot but he does make me laugh!

Roommate with on away trips?

This season it's been Christian Smith

Best dressed?

Wes Baynes; he tries far too hard!

Worst dressed?

That's Obi for the white pants he wore to training one day - words can't describe how bad they were!

Best motor?

I like Frank's Audi Q7

Biggest geek?

Christian because he's forever saying 'Yeh, boy!'

Most annoying team-mate?

Forget Neil Taylor, it's Christian again for singing all those stupid songs that I don't want to hear!

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

Ashley Westwood, Mal Purchase and Hedi - he's becoming a bit of a psycho these days!





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Inside
Old Flame
The Way We Were
Foreign Foes
FA Cup Second Round
Hat-trick Heroes



RETRO

IF YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY >>>

Big Picture

Wyn Davies

Looking back over the post-war history of Welsh football and there's little doubt that one of the greatest strikers ever to have worn the red shirt of his



country is Wyn Davies. Born in Caernarfon, it was whilst with his home town club that he was first spotted by Wrexham.

After trials with both Aston Villa and Manchester United, Wrexham stepped in to secure his services for just £500 in December 1959. Brought up in a Welsh-speaking community, Wyn struggled to settle at first but still ended the season with a Welsh Youth Cup winners' medal and his first Youth international cap.

His first-team debut came the following term when he netted in a 3-1 home win over Exeter and he managed a further seven goals in 25 games. Quickly nicknamed 'Wyn The Leap' for his prodigious aerial ability, Davies' last game for the club saw him score a hat-trick in a 10-1 demolition of Hartlepool United in March 1962.

Within days he had signed for Bolton Wanderers for a reported £20,000 fee with Ernie Phythian travelling in the opposite direction as part of the deal. Yet it could have been all very different as the caption to this press photo seems to indicate that the talented striker was all set to sign for...Sheffield Wednesday! The rest of course is now history.





ON THIS DAY >>> RETRO 28th November

1928

It was FA Cup action all the way as fellow Third Division (North) strugglers Accrington Stanley provided what turned out to be stern opposition as we made the relatively short trip to Peel Park. However, it was the home supporters who were soon cheering the loudest as Stanley progressed to the second round thanks to four unopposed goals, with Jepson grabbing a hat-trick and Rooks the other, as Wrexham were disappointingly outclassed on the day. The draw was kind to the Lancashire club as they were paired with Blyth Spartans at home, whom they beat 5-0, before Bolton Wanderers ended their dream with the only goal of the third round tie at Burnden Park.

1959

Exactly fifty years ago today, Wrexham and Reading were stepping out to do battle on The Racecourse and it was The Robins who emerged with both the points on offer from this Third Division fixture. With The Reds having lost both their previous two games – and more worryingly conceded three goals in each – it was imperative that manager John Love arrested the slide and got us back on track quickly. In the end though, the crowd of 8,172 were treated to a sixth home victory of the season to date as goals from Gren Jones and Ronnie Hewitt were enough to secure a 2-1 victory over The Royals.

1981

Our final season in the second tier of the Football League saw us facing Oldham Athletic at The Racecourse in good heart as our last two games had produced four points from a 2-2 stalemate at Barnsley and a 3-1 win in the Welsh derby against Cardiff City. However, the promotion chasing Latics were a completely different kettle of fish and the crowd of 4,330 were left

stunned as the visitors ran out comprehensive 3-0 victors to move up to fourth place in the table. Jim Steel, who later moved to The Racecourse, was once again a thorn in our side but it was Roger Wylde who did most of the damage as he helped himself to the matchball with a hat-trick past the vastly over-worked Eddie Niedzwiecki.

1987

The Robins were given little chance of success as they faced a daunting trip to the West Midlands to face high-flying Wolves at their then dilapidated Molineux ground but, as we all know, football is a funny old game. Dixie McNeil's side were struggling in the lower reaches of the Fourth Division while the Old Gold were at the top of the table but an 18th minute strike from on-loan striker Robert Alleyne opened the scoring and stunned the crowd of 8,541. With the home side having The Reds penned in their own penalty area for much of the game, it was left to Kevin Russell to tie



the points up when he rifled home the second completely against the run of play with just two minutes remaining.

1998

Eleven years ago, The Reds produced another win as Notts County, under the management of the emerging Sam Allardyce, arrived in north Wales for a battle between two strugglers in Nationwide League Division Two. However, having gone seven League games without tasting success, it was certainly overdue for Brian Flynn's side as former Meadow Lane frontman Kevin Russell (pictured) lobbed the ball over the advancing Darren Ward for the only goal of a tight game on 14 minutes. Indeed The Magpies enjoyed the majority of the play, and certainly deserved to take something from the game, but in the end the vast majority of the crowd of 2,811 went home happy to have seen their side end that barren run.

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...

GEORGE JONES

A half back who starred for Wrexham in the 1950s, George Jones made 127 appearances for the club, scoring seven goals, although he would have managed to play in many more matches if injury hadn't cruelly shortened his career, forcing him to leave The Racecourse before his twenty-fifth birthday.

Having had a trial with Tottenham Hotspur, Jones being recommended to them after shining in a representative game for the army during his national service, he was offered a deal by the North London giants.

However, and hard as it might be for us to believe these days when we consider the gulf between the two clubs, he opted to sign for his home-town side, Wrexham, instead!

"I was in the army for eighteen months, and when I came home in 1950 I signed for Wrexham. I was there for five years before I got injured. I was out for about eighteen months, with ligament and cartilage, and that finished me with Wrexham.

"We were very close to going up one season – only three points behind the champions, Oldham. It was the old Third Division (North) then, of course, and only one team went up. I remember scoring against Oldham in the last couple of minutes to get a 2-2 draw.

"We used to get big crowds then, but the money was poor, compared to today. Mind you, it was better money than you would get if you were working. We used to work in the summer then, you know, in the close season. I used to make grates, labouring, and I went in the steelworks for a couple of years. Current players wouldn't think of playing in their summer now!

"I played at Stoke in the third round of the FA Cup back in January 1953 and we lost 2-1. Stoke were in the First Division then, they had the England centre half Franklin playing for them, but we played well that day, I think we deserved a draw at least. We were unlucky there – it was a very good game.

"We had terrific support down there – there were coaches and trains going down there. We went 2-0 down and everyone said that the goals were mistakes by our keeper Archie Ferguson. I didn't think so, though. I liked him as a goalkeeper, he let you know he was there, at the back of you. I thought he was a very good goalie. He was a heck of a character too!

"Billy Tunnicliffe pulled one back – he was from the Potteries, too – but we couldn't equalise. He was a great winger, with a hell of a shot one him! When he took penalties I used to be frightened for the goalkeeper, he hit them that hard! And of course there was the heavy ball then, before they brought the lighter one out.

"I remember when they brought the new ball out, Billy scored nearly from the half way line, because it was so much lighter than the old one. You'd be heading the heavy ball and it had a lace on it too, so you had to be careful!"

Talk of Tunncliffe sees Jones cast his thoughts back to some of his fellow teammates during his days at The Racecourse.

"Ronnie Wynn was a big, strong lad. There were three centre halves at Wrexham in my time: Big Ron; George Spruce and Peter Wilson. Ron Hewitt played then too, I think he came from Darlington to Wrexham, and he came as an outside right, but he moved inside and played just in front of me.

"He was a good player, very quick, especially in the box. He'd score some goals from you.

"Then we had a good inside forward from Chester, Tommy Tilston, and Tommy Bannan, the centre forward, and two Wrexham lads, Gordon Richards on the left and Glyn Hughes from Llay on the right. That was a very good forward line – we were a good side back then. We had two good left halves, Stuart McCallum, but he went to Arsenal, and then Johnny Tapscott.

"There were three goalkeepers too, Ferguson, Connor and an Irish lad named Bill Hayes. Centre forwards could charge them then, of course, and knock them into the net if they had hold of the ball. You had to be tough to be a goalie in those days, and those lads were.

"There were good people running the club then, Peter Jackson was the manager then. His two lads played for Wrexham too."

Like many former players, you only have to mention Chester to see their eyes light up! That derby atmosphere is clearly something special for those within the white lines as well as those of us who watch from the stands!

"I used to love the games against Chester! It's good to have derby games. That was the top match, The Racecourse used to be packed when Chester came! I scored against them at the end of the season when we nearly got promoted, and we beat them 7-0! It's a long time



ago, though; I can't remember too much about it!

"I do recall that the crowds weren't vicious then. When we played Chester, the fans of Wrexham and Chester would stand together! There was banter, but no trouble. There's all this nastiness now; it's a shame.

"It was a very different game then, of course. Referees weren't that keen on pulling play up, they expected you to get stuck in."

Of course, The Racecourse has changed considerably since then as well.

"There was the Mold Road stand and the rest stood on the banks all the way round. We didn't change in the Turf then, we changed in the far corner of the Mold Road Stand. When you see what a nice modern stadium the ground is now, it's hard to imagine it's the same place! I don't think any of what used to be there when I played is there now."

Jones' time at The Racecourse was touched by tragedy as well, though. On Saturday, 4 April, 1953 John Kirkby, a right back who had turned out three times for Wrexham's first team, played in a reserve match at The Racecourse

against Crewe Alexandra. After sixty five minutes he collapsed and despite efforts to save him he died before he could reach the hospital. The sad event was put down to natural causes as no-one was around him when he fell, and naturally the incident stunned the club.

"The worst moment I had at Wrexham was a lad named Jock Kirby died in a reserve game. We all went to his funeral in Stoke, it was terribly sad. He was a nice lad. It's hard to take the football seriously when that happens."

As he mentioned earlier, Jones' career was cruelly cut short by injury. Serious damage to his knee caused when he fell awkwardly in a match in Barrow meant he needed two operations, and his attempts to return to the pitch after each of them were doomed to failure.

Despite his efforts, he was forced to leave the club in 1955, and although he was able to play at a lower level, helping Oswestry Town to the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup and also playing for Winsford United, Holywell Town and Barmouth. It would always be as "a terrier of a wing half" for Wrexham that he would be remembered though.

CV

George Jones



BORN:

Wrexham, 19.07.1930

CLUBS:

Bersham RBL, Wrexham, Oswestry Town (twice), Winsford United, Holywell Town, Barmouth & Dyffryn United



THEY PLAYED AT THE RACECOURSE >>> RETRO

No. 38

Craig Short

Considering the usual international stars who are the subjects of this article, today's subject might not appear to be the most exciting player to have graced The Racecourse's turf. Bear with me though, he might not be a superstar but he might have just taken a first step towards becoming the next Jose Mourinho; if not, he has certainly been the subject of one of European football's most unlikely stories of the last few years.

Craig Short was not cut out to be one of life's Paolo Maldinis. Hardly cutting a dashing figure, he was the most robust of centre backs, long on commitment rather than finesse, wider than Richard Dunne, squarer than Spongebob. His career started out at the bottom rung of the Football League and didn't exactly move up from there in a terrible hurry. Yet he has just been appointed manager of one of Europe's sleeping giants.

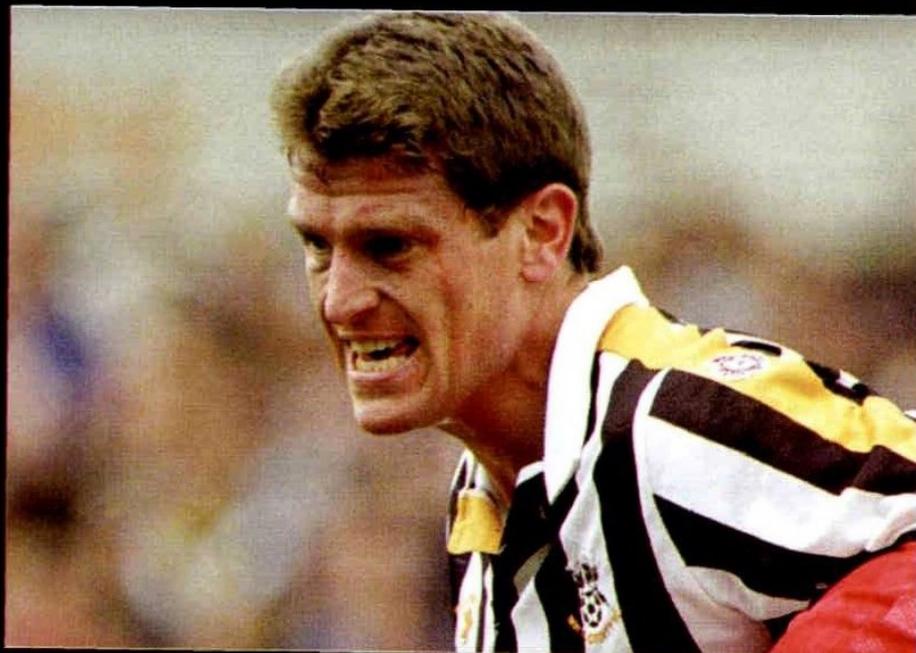
Short made two appearances at The Racecourse; the first saw him come on as a substitute for Scarborough, at the time top of Division Four, but he was unable to help his side fight back from an early goal. After working a one-two with Darren Wright, Paul Emson found the net early on to score the only goal of the game and halt the visitors' good run.

Short enjoyed better fortune the next season, playing all ninety minutes in a 2-0 win, but now he is focussed on more exotic fields. Remarkably, Short has taken the reins at Ferencvaros, a giant of Hungarian football.

Champions twenty-eight times, Cup winners twenty times and runners-up in the 1975 European Cup Winners Cup, the Budapest club has appointed the ex-Notts County centre back to his first management post, although he has been assistant there under Bobby Davison. He might not last long though, as he only had until the winter break on 21 November to convince the Fradi bosses that he's the man for the job!

His surprise appearance on the Danube can be traced back to an unexpected shift in their ownership three years ago. Short ended his playing career at Sheffield United, and the Blades' chairman Kevin McCabe won a tender to buy into Ferencvaros in 2006. His Hungarian firm, Esplanade Kft, took advantage of the Fradi's dire financial state to buy the land they own, including their historic stadium, for just £8.45m.

The move was consistent with United's global business approach as they also have



an interest in Chinese club Chengdu, making them the first foreign owners in that country, and Royal White Star Woluwe of Belgium.

"They are the Manchester United of Hungary and the fans want them at the top," Short told BBC Radio Lancashire. The winter break's nearly here so I've got to give it a go. Kevin's been over this week and asked me if I want to take it on, although I think they may still have someone else in mind.

"If we win [games] it makes me a stronger candidate for the job. It's been a steep learning curve but also a really good education from me."

His first experience on the bench was an unhappy and unorthodox one as his side, who are languishing in mid-table, failed to reverse their recent poor form. At home to unheralded Diosgyori VTK, they were 3-0 down when the game was abandoned because of crowd trouble.

"We were 3-0 down at home and then when we scored the fans left the stadium, for some reason. They then created a diversion at the front of the ground which the police went to. Then they came in through the family stand onto the pitch to have a go at the players. Riot police appeared from the corner of the stand and managed to stop them.

"Flares were thrown at players and they were taken off. We came back on after 10 minutes, but were only on for another four or five minutes before it all started again. So, the game was abandoned and the result

stands as a 3-0 win.

"A lot of the players, who aren't Hungarian, just couldn't believe it. There were some frightened players because there's a lot of pressure for them to perform in that sort of cauldron."

However, things picked up for him after that: "Our next game was at home against third in the league Gyori ETO, but it was behind closed doors. We played so well and it was a total transformation because there was no pressure on the players.

"We won 1-0 and the belief came flooding back. We then had a game three days later at a team in fourth position [Papa] and we also beat them 1-0. We played just as well and gained loads of confidence."

Who knows if Short can take advantage of this remarkable opportunity, but if he does, we could see an ex-Scarborough trainee on the most prestigious dug-outs of Europe! From The Seadogs to the San Siro? Who knows?

Saturday 31st October 1987

Division Four

WREXHAM 1 SCARBOROUGH 0

Wrexham: Mike Salmon, Roger Preece, Darren Wright, Joe Hinnigan, Mike Williams, Joey Jones, Steve Buxton (Robert Alleyne), Geoff Hunter, Jim Steel, Ian Fairbrother, Paul Emson
Scarborough: Kevin Blackwell, Les McJannet, Neil Thompson, Ian Bennyworth, Steve Richards, Tommy Graham, Colin Russell, Ernie Moss (Craig Short), Ray McHale, Mitch Cook, Paul Kendall

STEVE WATKIN

Wrexham 5 Winsford United 2
FA Cup First Round
15th November 1991

This game marked the start of our love affair with the FA Cup in the 1990s but it could have been all so different as, until Steve Watkin's late intervention, we were heading for a replay in Cheshire.

In games such as this an early goal can knock the stuffing out of the part-time visitors but, despite us going ahead as early as the 8th minute when a slip by John Whitney allowed Karl Connolly to shoot into the roof of the net, this was not the case on this occasion.

The HFS Loans League club were determined not to allow us to have it all our own way and midfielder David Esdaile, later to join Wrexham, equalised just six minutes later with a clever turn-and-shot after good work by Darren Sheridan and Jimmy Cameron.

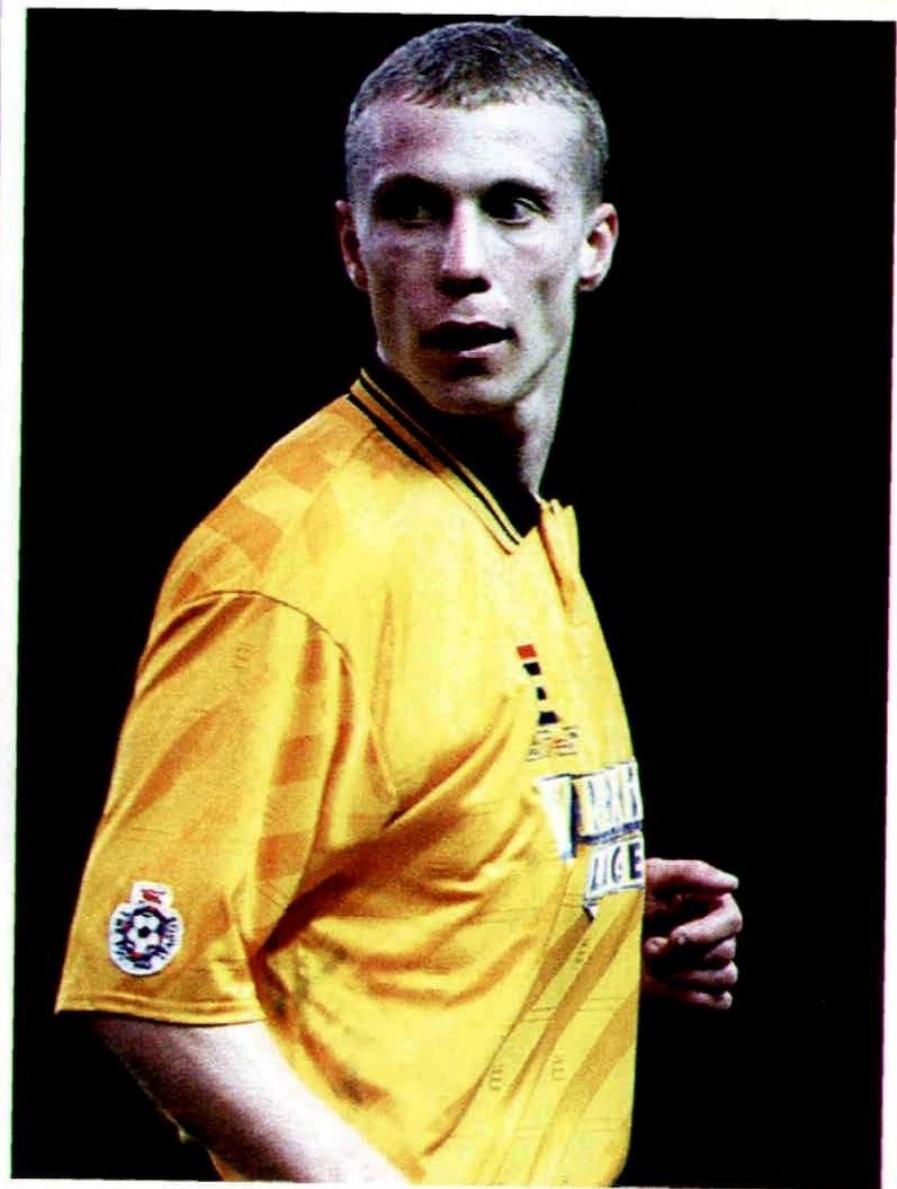
For the next hour it was an enthralling end-to-end cup tie, controlled well by Sheffield-based referee Alan Bennett, although The Reds always looked the more likely victors. During that time James Kelly struck the crossbar, Phil Hardy cleared an Esdaile effort off the goal-line, Bevon Blackwood missed a great chance, both Watkin and Hardy sliced horribly wide when in good positions and the visitors' former Crewe keeper Alex Mayfield was forced to save from both Mickey Thomas and Hardy again.

The breakthrough that we desperately needed finally came on 71 minutes thanks to a fierce volley from Watkin only for Blackwood to level the scores yet again just five minutes later with a brilliant finish after good work in the build up from Esdaile and Archie Lloyd.

The tie now seemed destined for a second match at The Barton Stadium until a late burst of goals finally settled the outcome in our favour. Thankfully, Watkin was on hand to stab us back into the lead in the 77th minute as he forced the ball home after Connolly and Thomas have done the spadework.

The latter chased a seemingly lost cause down the left before managing to retrieve the ball before finding 'Lugger' who twisted to play Watkin in and he just managed to ensure that the ball ended up in the back of the United net.

This time there was no comeback for the non-league side as Watkin added his third of the game in the 85th minute



with a fine flick from a Gareth Owen centre before Mickey Thomas finished things off in the very last minute as Watkin this time turned provider.

The crowd of 2,933 had certainly seen a good Cup tie but it was Wrexham who went on to defeat Telford in the second round. The visitors from Shropshire, who were renowned cup fighters at the time, were firm favourites in many quarters but Watkin again scrambled home the winner in front of The Kop to earn us a place in round three for the first time since 1987.

That tie saw some team called Arsenal arrive in town and that is still one of the most talked about cup shocks of all time. I'm sure you won't need reminding that Mickey Thomas lashed home a late equaliser from a free-kick

before Watkin again grabbed the winner and the headlines when he took advantage of a slip by England international defender Tony Adams to set off scenes of unbridled celebration.

We were so unlucky to be defeated by West Ham in a controversial replay here at The Racecourse Ground in round four, when many felt that Tim Breaker should have seen red for a foul on Karl Connolly with the score locked at 0-0. In the end a Steve Foster header finally settled the tie in the Londoners' favour in front of a near 18,000 crowd and this some ten days after drawing 2-2 at Upton Park; Lee Jones prodding home an equaliser with nine minutes left, and after that we nearly snatched a win there as well.

Those were the days!!



NOVEMBER 2002

In the annals of recent events at our club, this historic night now barely merits a footnote, but that doesn't make it any easier to take. Not now, not then.

The bulk of Wrexham supporters who made the trip to Bournemouth for what, on paper, looked like a routine Nationwide Division Two fixture on 24 February, 2004, did so with dulled expectations.

Although we were almost a full year off of formal administration, the cracks had started to show beneath the wall-paper. Rumours about the exact nature of Wrexham's ownership had circulated among a pocket of die-hard supporters and, on-line at least, an information campaign was taking root.

A small band of fans had serious, serious concerns.

At 0-3 down, and with five minutes remaining at Dean Court, the long whistle couldn't come quickly enough for those who'd made the thankless, five hundred mile mid-week round-trip.

But fate hadn't finished with us just yet. Even in James Hayter's wildest dreams, he was only ever joining the action as a late substitute to help wind the clock down and to make an unfussy return to competitive action.

Hayter (pictured) had missed The Cherries' previous game – away at Brighton – because of the birth of his first child. And yet within minutes, literally, he had catapulted himself into history; it had taken him 140 seconds to register the quickest hat-trick ever recorded in British football history.

As he made off with the match ball – which was recovered by an eagle-eyed member of Bournemouth's ground-staff after it was kicked away in disgust by a Wrexham player – we just about crawled from the wreckage.

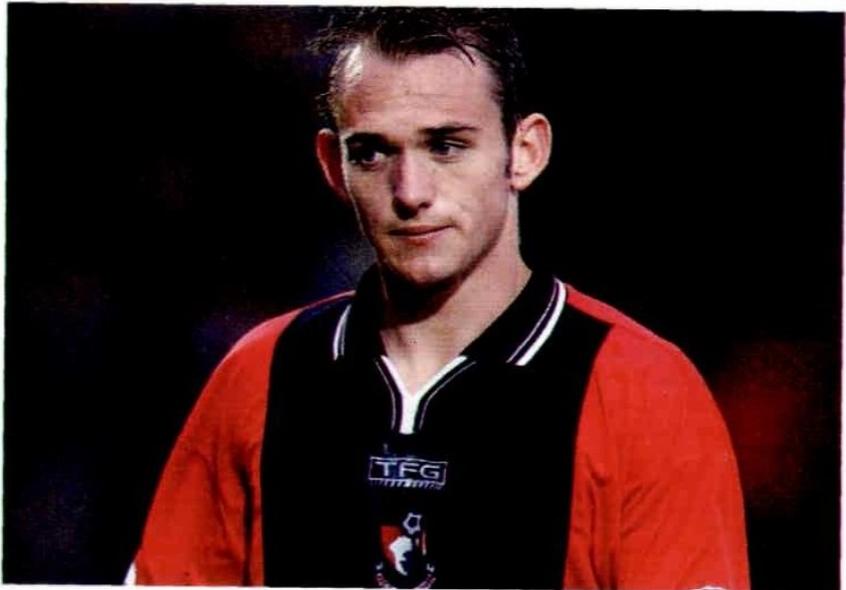
Unbelievably – on yet another dark and bleak night in our recent history – it could even have been worse: a 0-6 defeat seemed charitable.

But while the home support certainly revelled in our misery that night, you'd think that most AFC Bournemouth fans appreciate Wrexham's current plight better than most.

They have, after all, endured a series of horrific off-field experiences themselves and, in a manner that'll be familiar to many lower league clubs, have been kicked hard when they've been down.

In February, 2008, the club was deducted ten points on entry into administration and, as a second course, began life the following season with a seventeen point deduction.

Bournemouth too have spent the bulk of



their long history toiling down in the basements and so, on-field and off, we've been regular bedfellows.

On the last day of the 2001/02 season, they arrived in North Wales knowing they required three points to ensure survival in League One, while also depending on results elsewhere.

With Wrexham – at the end of Denis Smith's first half season – already relegated, Bournemouth travelled with no little hope, accompanied by a sizeable and noisy travelling support.

And in the best traditions of final day encounters, they were given cause for early optimism when Carl Fletcher opened the scoring inside the first ten minutes.

But at full-time, and having been un-done by late goals by Andrew Morrell and a last minute Carlos Edwards strike they were, as the home supporters reminded them on what was a balmy May afternoon, going down with 'The Wrexham'.

Barely six months later and, back again on the merry-go-round, Bournemouth were once more at The Racecourse; different division, same ambition.

In November 2002, we were both League Two clubs with genuine aspirations to tunnel back out of our surroundings, although of the two clubs it was Wrexham who'd been more inconsistent.

It had been an erratic start to the season for us; we'd already been undone 2-5 at home by

Paul Simpson's Rochdale but had also recorded back-to-back 4-0 victories over Exeter City and Swansea, also at The Racecourse.

But these impressive victories – and the positive returns in the goals column – looked remote by the time that Bournemouth fetched up and found us without a win in six.

The game itself was a cracking affair and, although the result certainly kept us in touch with the play-off pack, also served to highlight deficiencies on both sides.

AFC Bournemouth were certainly a well-drilled outfit and, as with all sides fielded by Sean O'Driscoll, were set-up to perform to their strengths, which were all in attack.

Wrexham – selected in Smith's favoured 3-5-2 formation – saw Paul Whitfield continue for the injured Andrew Dibble in goal, while Dan Bennett, a ball-playing Singapore-international, was preferred to Dennis Lawrence and sat alongside Brian Carey and Shaun Pejic as one of three centre-halves.

As with much of Wrexham's success under Denis Smith, it was the ability to vary the points of attack and to spring impactful options from the bench that set the sides apart at the end of a free-flowing game in which both sides enjoyed clear periods of supremacy.

Trundle had given us an early lead when he headed home a left-wing cross from the impressive Carlos Edwards who, during his career at Wrexham, was a regular thorn in Bournemouth's side.

But after contending with us for the opening quarter, The Cherries equalised on the half hour after Whitfield parried a shot from Hayter and Danny Thomas bundled home.

Indeed the visitors could have been well ahead at the break had Thomas, an energetic midfielder whose pace caused us problems in the middle all afternoon, been more composed when confronted with a sight of goal.

At the other end, Trundle was just as profligate and, as the game swung wildly from end to end, it was Neil Moss, the Bournemouth goalkeeper, who was the busiest of the net-minders.

Level at the break, it was the away side who took a deserved lead when, after 54 minutes, Hayter benefited from a lucky bounce off of the retreating Bennett and blasted home a stunning shot from twenty-five yards.

But it was Denis Smith's decision to replace Shaun Holmes and Stephen Thomas on the hour with Paul Edwards and Hector Sam respectively that saw Wrexham re-gain the initiative and drive on into the final quarter.

Operating now with three players up-front, the home side clearly carried more of a threat and, almost instantly, Sam had asked questions of Moss at the edge of his area.

With twenty minutes to play, Morrell cleverly flicked home another excellent Carlos Edwards delivery to notch his thirteenth goal of the season to set up a frenetic finish.

And after Whitfield had made a superb one-handed stop to deny Stephen Purches, it was Carlos Edwards – inevitably – who instigated what proved to be the game's fifth and decisive goal.

Paul Edwards, still working his way back to full fitness, casually took a raking cross-field ball from his name-sake under control, skipped past three tackles before belting an unstoppable shot past Neil Moss from a tight angle.

Four minutes from time, the player signed the previous summer from Swindon Town had stolen all three points for Wrexham with his first goal for the club.

"The gaffer told me to go on and be positive," he told reporters after the game. "That's what I tried to do and thankfully it worked out well today."

But it was the Bournemouth manager, Sean O'Driscoll, who said it best when he summed up as follows: "Both sides had periods when they were in total control. You could see today that Wrexham are a threat going forward while not tight enough at the back and we were probably the same."

"I said it before: the relegated teams are going to be there or thereabouts at the end of the season."

And we was right. Although Wrexham eventually finished in the third automatic promotion spot, ten points ahead of The Cherries, AFC Bournemouth endured through the play-offs and followed us back up into League One.

SOUNDTRACK>>>RETRO



On the day after Wrexham saw off Bournemouth in what was a pulsating, end-to-end game between two well-matched sides, the Irish boy-band, Westlife, achieved their eleventh British Number One single when the syrupy ballad, 'Unbreakable', claimed the summit.

But while it's easy to knock the four-piece who, even by contemporary pop standards, provide an utterly disinteresting fare, Westlife have at least hung around and stayed the course.

Last year the group celebrated its tenth year together.

This feat would have been especially pleasing to the group's manager and founder, Louis Walsh, who himself has been well and truly around the block, one of Irish pop music's great survival stories.

Walsh likes numbers and regularly refers to the fact that Westlife have amassed more consecutive Number One singles in Britain than The Beatles.

The fact that most people – himself included – have difficulty remembering the titles of those singles, seems to be conveniently forgotten when comparisons are drawn.

Now finally a celebrity in his own right and, arguably, a bigger and more influential star than any of the acts he represents, Walsh is clearly revelling in his fame.

Best known these days as a panellist on the reality karaoke series, The X-Factor, Walsh has come a long way from the ballrooms of rural Ireland where, in the

1970s and 1980s, he cut his teeth as a booker and general go-fer.

For years he represented a bizarre cross-section of acts, including relic Eurovision performers, guitar-slinging indie wannabes and bad cabaret turns.

Clearly taking more cues from Woody Allen's lead character in the film 'Broadway Danny Rose' than from either Brian Epstein or Colonel Tom Parker, Walsh believed that if he cast enough mud, some of it was bound to stick.

And it did. Impressed by the pull of an emerging Take That back in the early 1990s, he set about constructing an Irish equivalent – Boyzone – initially with farcical consequences.

Indeed the nascent six-piece's first ever television appearance – on the long-running Late Late Show – has long been a staple on comedy television review programmes.

So irrelevant did the Irish industry regard Walsh that he struggled to fund video shoots for the group's first singles, requiring third party loans to complete low budget promo clips. All of which seems a million miles removed these days.

Having achieved serious commercial success in Britain and across Europe with Boyzone, Westlife and Girls Aloud, his acts have all failed, however, to crack the world's biggest single pop market; America.

And so Walsh seems happy now to play the grinning foil to Simon Cowell's preening machismo, knowing that life could be a lot, lot worse.



Juventus



Down the years the Dragons have faced various sides from Europe and beyond, whether it be in European competition of 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...

There's a comedy website called Maximumlies.co.uk which posted a joke advert on its pages recently, advertising a rare programme: Wrexham vs Juventus: European Cup Final programme 1982. £200. Impossible to get.

Very funny, I'm sure, but what the poster surely didn't realise is that the sides have played a fixture, and the outcome was somewhat surprising! So just how did 'The Old Lady' come to cross swords with The Dragons?

Links were forged when the Wrexham academy side, bolstered by funding from the Supporters Association, went over to play a series of friendlies in Turin at Juventus' training ground. The relationship flourished, and in August 2001 came to fruition when Juventus accepted an invitation to the North Wales Under-21 International Tournament, a competition which also attracted the youth teams of Manchester City and Aston Villa.

The fixtures were split between Wrexham and Rhyl, and the local boys hardly got off

to a great start, losing 6-2 at home to Villa before going down 4-0 at the hands of City at Belle Vue. Still, those games barely seemed to matter as all eyes were on the big one: the visit of Juventus to The Racecourse.

Sadly, the Bianconeri side which travelled over from Italy wasn't quite what had been hoped for. Marcello Lippi had just been appointed as first team coach for the second time and he wanted to have a look at what his young players could do, so rather than the Under-21 side which was expected, la Vecchia Signora had to send over their Under-19 team instead.

The youngsters were overwhelmed by the Premiership sides they encountered, blown away 4-0 by City and 5-1 by Villa, so while the two English teams met to decide the title, Wrexham's big clash had the added savour of being a wooden spoon decider!

It was a game which certainly caught the imagination of Wrexham boss Brian Flynn, who told the Evening Leader: "To be involved in a pre-season tournament like this, even at Under-21 level, shows the progress the club is making. We made good links with Juventus when our Academy went to play games in Turin, and to forge links with one of the most famous clubs in the world is fantastic for Wrexham Football Club.

"It's been agreed every team can use some over-age players so whoever is not

involved in our first League game against Oldham on Saturday will be involved against Juve on Sunday".

In the top of the table clash City triumphed 2-1 at Belle Vue, but all Wrexham eyes were on the clash at The Racecourse. Initially Flynn had planned to keep to his promise to allow youth coach Steve Weaver to use a couple of senior players in the match; both Lee Trundle and Martyn Chalk were suspended. However, it was decided that, to allow the youngsters who had played so far to face such illustrious opposition, and also out of fairness to the youthful Juventus side, that Wrexham's youth side should take the field.

And so a side of young hopefuls stepped out onto their home turf to take on a side which featured two Brazilians, Swiss Under-19 international Gerardo Clemente, who currently plays in the top division in Switzerland, Alex Pederzoli, who had cost £3million from Bologna, and a Dutch Under-21 international in Sergio de Windt, who was very highly rated and featured in both legs of Juve's Coppa Italia exit to Bologna that season.

The Wrexham side, meanwhile, featured five players who would go on to make appearances for the first team: Mark Evans and Gareth Williams' opportunities would be limited, but David Walsh would have a decent run between the sticks, appearing in a Welsh Premier Cup Final, while Shaun

Pejic and Mark Jones need no introduction!

The game itself, played on a Sunday afternoon, took place in front of a rather poor crowd of just 322, which was a shame as it was a gripping game which saw Wrexham's youngsters excel themselves.

Williams, a recent acquisition from Gresford, ran the Juve defence ragged with a superb display; in the first couple of minutes he put a header over the bar and whipped in a cross which Luke Campbell couldn't put on target. At the other end, Walsh was beginning to earn his corn with a fine save from Pederzoli although he was helpless when a header from a corner hit the post.

Still, Wrexham dominated the first-half, and went off leaving their fans with a familiar feeling that The Dragons might pay the price for not converting their superiority into goals. On this occasion, those fears were unfounded.

It took a moment of brilliance which would not have looked out of place in Serie A to break the deadlock. Moments after Luca Folegani beat the offside trap but chipped the ball wide, Williams picked the ball up in the box, flicked it over a defender like Gazza in Euro 96, then clipped it over the advancing keeper.

The floodgates threatened to open now, with Wrexham again displaying superior skill. A brilliant run by Jones was halted only by a cynical foul on the edge of the box, and a similar burst from Osian Jones took him clear on goal, but he tripped over his own feet!

The second goal just had to come, and it was Matthew Dabbs, a full back who had been pushed up into midfield, who got it, slamming a long range shot home!

By now the Juve youngsters looked like they felt they were a long way from home, and their heads dropped. Their keeper, Andrea Marino, made an excellent double save from Dabbs and Williams missed an easy chance from a corner, but he made no mistake when the referee pointed to the spot just after the hour, sending Marino the wrong way.

Juve attempted to earn the consolation of scoring the best goal of the match when Luca Folegani nearly scored from the half way line, but the game was already well beyond their

reach and Weaver's young side had secured a magnificent result, much to the coach's delight.

"I thought we were bright today, but it was like for like out there. City and Villa had their reserve teams out against us, but we were restricted by having a small first team squad and this being the start of the new Football League season.

"Today we were the same age as the Juventus players and able to compete with. It was a good workout and good performance.

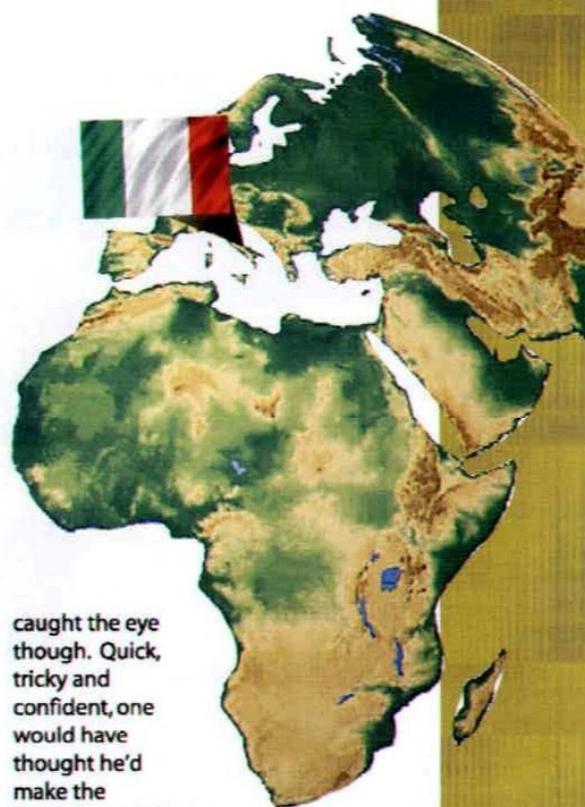
"The first goal was an absolute peach. Gareth has only been with us 12 and it took Dave Warren 18 months to adjust from non-league football, hopefully Gaz can do the same thing and push on to the first team in time.

"We haven't done as well up front as we would have liked, so we moved Gareth in from the wing, because he naturally drifts into areas which hurt teams and he was terrific.

"It was a great day for the youngsters to be able to play against such a high class team and we certainly didn't do our reputation any harm."

It was certainly a memorable afternoon, even if the Italian giants could have put out a stronger side. Indeed, it's something of a surprise looking back at that game that so few of that youth team went on to make an impact at The Racecourse. They certainly looked full of promise that afternoon, and the likes of Osian Jones, Mark Evans and Matthew Dabbs really looked to have something,

It was Gareth Williams who really



caught the eye though. Quick, tricky and confident, one would have thought he'd make the breakthrough, but he managed just two substitute appearances in the Welsh Premier Cup for Wrexham before moving on.

He played one game for Rhyl, scored with his first touch on his debut for Bangor, and is currently on the books of Welshpool, having signed at the start of this season following a four-year stint coaching in the USA.

He must think back to that Sunday afternoon when he tormented the Juventus defence though, and anyone who can claim that at least has something to tell the grandchildren.





Karl Connolly — Wrexham's
Second Round top scorer

THE SECOND ROUND 'PROPER'

This afternoon's meeting with Swindon Town marks the 48th season Wrexham have appeared in the second round 'proper' of the FA Cup. Including replays, we have played 57 matches at this stage of the competition, winning 25, drawing 10 and losing 22.

Unusually, the first match Wrexham ever played in the FA Cup was actually at the second round stage, way back in 1883-84 against Oswestry. Paired at home to Liverpool Ramblers in the first round, we progressed without having to take the field when Ramblers scratched from the competition, unable to raise a team.

At that time, Wrexham and Oswestry provided more players for the Welsh international side than any other clubs so, although the match was in the 'English Cup', it was also for the unofficial title of top team in Welsh football.

As expected, it was a fierce contest. With the score level at 3-3, trouble flared in the closing stages when young Wrexham keeper James Trainer was sure he had been fouled in a goalmouth 'scrimmage' from which Oswestry scored the decider.

The goal was as hotly disputed by the crowd as it was by Trainer and his team-mates. The Wrexham Advertiser newspaper reported that, after he had blown the final whistle, the referee had to be escorted from the field by two policemen with "the Wrexham mob hooting him in a violent and disgraceful manner".

The repercussions saw Trainer banned by the Welsh FA and Wrexham evicted from The Racecourse for the rest of the season. Banned from representing his home-town club, James Trainer moved to Bolton and on to a glittering

career which included two League Champions medals with Preston and 20 Welsh caps.

It took us 44 years from our first appearance in the FA Cup second round to win a match at this stage of the competition. Having needed a replay to see off Durham City in the first round, Wrexham entertained Carlisle in December 1927, Cec Smith's goal proving enough to secure a 1-0 win on route to an eventual fourth round exit at home to Birmingham.

Before World War II, Wrexham made it through to the third round on three further occasions – in 1929-30 we won 1-0 at Manchester Central on route to a fourth round exit in a replay at Bradford City whilst in 1930-31, Tommy Bamford's hat-trick helped us win 4-2 at Wellington and Bamford scored again in the next round at Molineux but Wolves won 9-1.

As for season 1936-37, we won 2-0 at home to Gillingham (goals from Bob Jones and Harold Lapham) before losing 3-1 to Man City in a third round glamour tie also at The Racecourse Ground.

Although Wrexham lost 1-2 at Crewe in the first round in 1945-46, we still made it through! In this first season after the War, every round up to and including the quarter-finals was played over two legs, so a thumping 3-0 win in the return leg saw the Alex ousted 4-2 on aggregate.

In the second round, first leg Len Hewitt's strike saw Wrexham win 1-0 at Shrewsbury; the return ending in a 1-1 draw before Wrexham came a cropper in the next round against mighty Blackpool, losing 8-2 on aggregate.

From 1949 to 1955, Wrexham always reached the second round; a period that saw us play our only match at this stage at a neutral venue – a respectable crowd of 4,889 turning out at Crystal Palace four days before Christmas 1953 to watch Wrexham beat Brighton 3-2 in a second replay.

The FA
CUP



Wrexham's full record in the FA Cup
Second Round Proper:

Home

P	W	D	L	F	A
26	11	7	8	51	38

Away

P	W	D	L	F	A
30	13	3	14	42	46

Neutral

P	W	D	L	F	A
1	1	0	0	3	1

Total

P	W	D	L	F	A
57	25	10	22	96	85

Biggest Home Win

6-2 v Scunthorpe (1956/57)
4-0 v Wigan (1971/72)

Biggest Away Win

4-1 v Rochdale (1986/87)

Worst Home Defeat

0-3 v Notts County (1985/86)

Worst Away Defeat

1-5 v Shrewsbury (1966/67)

Four Highest Home Attendances

17,980 v Brighton & Hove Albion (1953/54)
16,047 v Walsall (1954/55)
14,765 v Leyton Orient (1951/52)
12,895 v Wigan Athletic (1971/72)

Four Highest Away Attendances

18,666 v Reading (1934/35)
18,514 v Bristol City (1950/51)
15,681 v Brighton & Hove Albion (1953/54)
12,430 v Shrewsbury Town (1966/67)

Four Lowest Home Attendances

1,500 v Davenham (1887/88)
2,000 v Oswestry (1883/84)
2,645 v Notts County (1985/86)
2,836 v York City (1998/99)

Four Lowest Away Attendances

2,822 v Rochdale (1986/87)
2,989 v Hartlepool (1969/70)
3,976 v Scunthorpe United (1996/97)
4,200 v Goole Town (1976/77)

Attendance At A Neutral Venue

4,882 v Brighton & Hove Albion
@ Selhurst Park (1953/54)

Hat-Trick Heroes

Tommy Bamford v Wellington Town 1930/31
Brian Whitehouse v Barrow 1962/63

Top Second Round Scorer

Karl Connolly – Six goals

A 2-1 win at Rochdale in 1961 and a 5-2 demolition of Barrow a year later saw the 1960s off to a flying start, but Wrexham then lost five second round clashes in a row, before winning 1-0 at Hartlepool in December 1969 thanks to Mickey Evans' strike.

If that was a low-key tie (less than 3,000 watching the game at the Victoria Ground), the fourth round was anything but low-key as Wrexham faced a daunting trip to Liverpool. The red army that descended on Anfield from north Wales was in dreamland when Ray Smith put us a goal up; unfortunately, Shankly's men hit back to win 3-1 but the attendance of 54,096 remains the biggest crowd Wrexham have ever played in front of.

The 1970s saw Wrexham equal their biggest ever FA Cup second round winning margin (when goals from Albert Kinsey, Graham Whittle, Ian Moir and Eddie May saw off the challenge of Wigan 4-0 in 1971/72) whilst the 1980s were notable for disappointments at this stage.

In particular, a 1-2 defeat at non-League Worcester in December 1982 after Simon Hunt had given us the lead, and a record home defeat, 0-3 against Notts County in a 1985 replay, after we had done so well to hold the Magpies to a 2-2 draw, thanks to Barry Horne's last minute leveller.

An injury sustained by Jim Steel at Meadow Lane prompted manager Dixie McNeil out of retirement for his first game in three years – a prolonged wave to the Kop at the end signified that the match was undoubtedly Dixie's last!

The 1990s second round highlights include Steve Watkin's predatory strike to break the deadlock against Telford in 1991 (to set up the epic match against Arsenal) and Karl Connolly's tremendous brace at the Deva Stadium in 1997 when Wrexham knocked Chester out in a Friday night spectacular shown live on Sky TV.

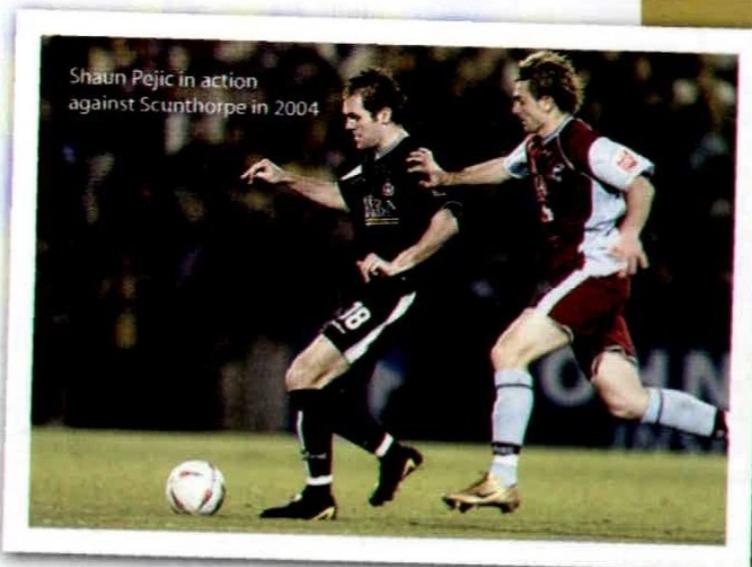
This century, we have only ever played away at Scunthorpe in the second round – losing 2-0 on the day we were deducted 10 points in December 2004, then winning by the same score two years later, Mark Jones and Kevin Smith scoring the goals that took us on to an unlucky 1-3 defeat Pride Park, Derby, in the third round; Dennis Smith's last match as manager and Darren Ferguson's last as a player.

ALL WREXHAM'S FA CUP SECOND ROUND RESULTS

Date	V	Opponents	Res	WFC scorers (where known)
01/12/1883	H	Oswestry	L3-4	-
29/11/1884	A	Chirk	L1-4	-
05/11/1887	H	Davenham	L1-2	-
11/12/1926	A	Rhyl Athletic	L1-3	Graham
10/12/1927	H	Carlisle United	W1-0	C. Smith
14/12/1929	A	Manchester Central	W1-0	Mays
13/12/1930	A	Wellington Town	W4-2	Bamford 3, Lewis
10/12/1932	H	Brighton & H.A.	D0-0	-
14/12/1932	A	Brighton & H.A.	L2-3	Bamford, Frewin
08/12/1934	A	Reading	L0-3	-
12/12/1936	H	Gillingham	W2-0	R. Jones, Lapham
11/12/1937	H	Bradford City	L1-2	Burditt
08/12/1945	A	Shrewsbury (1st leg)	W1-0	Hewitt
15/12/1945	H	Shrewsbury (2nd leg)	D1-1	Hayward
13/12/1947	A	Colchester United	L0-1	-
10/12/1949	H	Southend United	D2-2	Tunncliffe 2
14/12/1949	A	Southend United	L0-2	-
09/12/1950	A	Bristol City	L1-2	Lawrence
15/12/1951	H	Leyton Orient	D1-1	Tunncliffe (pen)
19/12/1951	A	Leyton Orient	**L2-3	Lawrence, Bannan
06/12/1952	A	Great Yarmouth	W2-1	Bannan 2
12/12/1953	H	Brighton & H.A.	D1-1	Bannan
16/12/1953	A	Brighton & H.A.	D1-1	Richards
21/12/1953	N*	Brighton & H.A.	W3-1	Bannan, Richards, Hewitt

11/12/1954	H	Walsall	L1-2	DJackson
08/12/1956	A	Scunthorpe United	D0-0	-
12/12/1956	H	Scunthorpe United	W6-2	Thompson 2, Hewitt, Anderson, G. Jones, D. Jones
02/12/1959	A	Grimsby Town	W3-2	Weston 2, Bennion
25/11/1961	A	Rochdale	W2-1	Metcalf, Bennion
24/11/1962	H	Barrow	W5-2	Whitehouse 3, Griffiths, R. Barnes
07/12/1963	H	Hull City	L0-2	-
05/12/1964	H	Southport	L2-3	King, K. Barnes (pen)
04/12/1965	A	Hartlepool United	L0-2	-
07/01/1967	A	Shrewsbury Town	L1-5	McMillan
07/12/1968	A	Chesterfield	L1-2	Charnley
06/12/1969	A	Hartlepool	W1-0	Evans
11/12/1971	H	Wigan Athletic	W4-0	Kinsey, Whittle, Moir, May
09/12/1972	A	Port Vale	L0-1	-
15/12/1973	H	Rotherham United	W3-0	G.P. Davies 2, Smallman
11/12/1976	H	Goole Town	D1-1	Whittle
14/12/1976	A	Goole Town	W1-0	Shinton
17/12/1977	A	Preston North End	W2-0	McNeil, Davis
11/12/1982	A	Worcester City	L1-2	Hunt
07/12/1985	A	Notts County	D2-2	Gregory, Horne
10/12/1985	H	Notts County	L0-3	-
06/12/1986	A	Rochdale	W4-1	Massey 2, Horne, Steel
05/12/1987	H	Bolton Wanderers	L1-2	Hinnigan
07/12/1991	H	Telford United	W1-0	Watkin
03/12/1994	H	Rotherham United	W5-2	Connolly 2, Bennett, Hughes, Watkin
02/12/1995	H	Chesterfield	W3-2	Watkin, Hunter, Connolly (pen)
07/12/1996	H	Scunthorpe United	D2-2	Morris, Watkin
17/12/1996	A	Scunthorpe United**	W3-2	Hughes, Morris, Watkin
05/12/1997	A	Chester City	W2-0	Connolly 2
05/12/1998	H	York City	W2-1	N. Roberts, Connolly
20/11/1999	H	Rochdale	W2-1	N. Roberts, Faulconbridge
03/12/2004	A	Scunthorpe United	L0-2	-
02/12/2006	A	Scunthorpe United	W2-0	Jones, Smith

* = played at Selhurst Park (Crystal Palace FC)



PLANETS APART

Deborah Ross, 2000

The award-winning journalist, Deborah Ross, is one of the most high-profile female columnists in Britain. Probably best known for her acerbic pieces in *The Independent*, her copy – which regularly deals with the reality of life as a less-than-perfect parent and partner – can now be found in *The Daily Mail*.

Previously a long-time restaurant critic, she reviews films for *The Spectator* and, described as “a heroine to slackers,” she’s also authored two books, ‘Are You There, Father Christmas’ and ‘How Not To Be A Domestic Goddess [And Always Go to Bed On An Argument]’.

‘Are You There’ is a collection of funny e-mails between children and Santa that touch on a variety of topics, while ‘Domestic Goddess’ is an antidote to much of the puff, fluff and lies presented regularly to women all over the country.

At odds with the warm and eternally blissful worlds occupied by the likes of Nigella Lawson and Gillian McKeith, Ross makes the case for the majority of women who fall short of perfection.

Or, if you like, non-domestic goddesses, who she describes as follows: “Anyone who makes Nescafe by running the mug under the hot tap, both when pressed for time and when not, and who prepares bedding between guests by turning the pillow over to its ‘fresh side’.”

The kind of women who, with children, careers and partners to consider, look at Jane Fonda advertising face-cream on television and conclude: “Come on, love. Get a grip. You looked one hell of a lot better as Barbarella.”

Getting the picture? Ross currently resides in North London with her son and her partner who, for his troubles, is a Wrexham supporter and, if he resembles any of the rest of us, is a long-suffering one at that.

He features regularly in her columns, usually as a foil to some of her barbed but and perfectly valid observations on

the priorities and unfashionable truths dealt with on a daily basis by most working – and non-working – mums.

Back in March 2000, while still working at *The Independent*, she filed a column that, ostensibly, challenged the practice of internet shopping but which, as invariably tends to be the case, cascaded off in several different directions over the course of 650 words.

“I must say,” Ross writes, “I am only getting into this online shopping business even though, apparently, two thirds of people have bought something over the Net in the last year.

“I am always rather late when it comes to technological revolutions. I think it may have something to do with my father never letting us have a telly.

“I’m not sure why this way so. Perhaps he thought we were better off singing around the piano, which was odd, as we didn’t have a piano.”

She then admits to having purchased one item – and one item only – on-line. But what an item!

“This was a Christmas present for my partner. My partner is a Wrexham F.C. supporter [don’t ask!] and, after a four-hour search, I did manage to find a book site offering ‘Wrexham Football Club: An A-Z. In my excitement, I ordered it straight off.”

The book in question was originally published in 1998, written by Dean Hayes and the late David Lovett and boasted a foreword by the one-time Royal footman, Paul Burrell.

Plotting the club’s 120-year history with a series of anecdotes, yarns, trivia, statistics, profiles and figures, the book is one of only a handful of published works to have documented Wrexham FC and, as such, is a rarity.

It was published as part of a series on clubs from all over the football league and, although an essential read for anoraks and statistic buffs, proved to be a degree too hardcore for Deborah Ross, who was

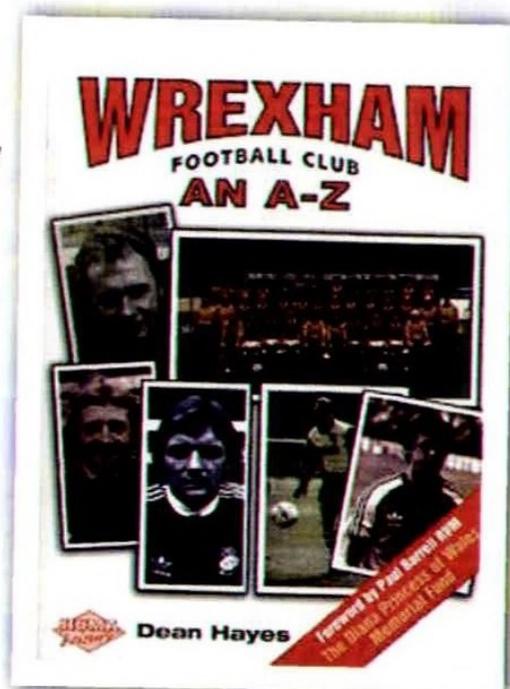
appalled by what she found within its covers.

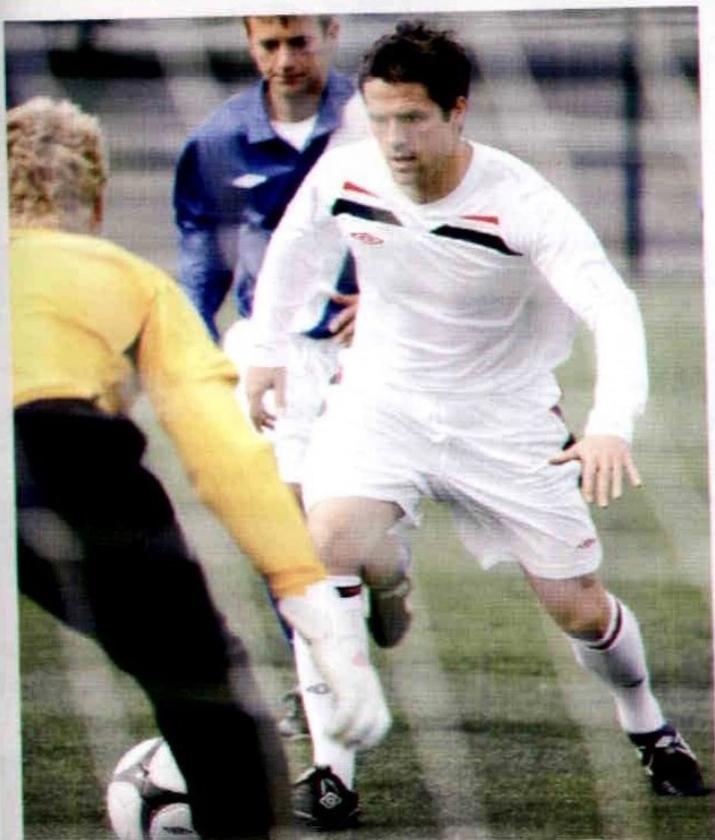
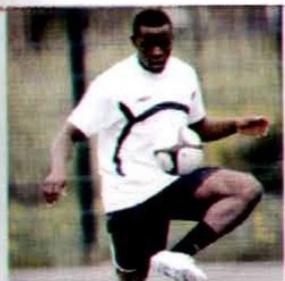
“The book arrived a couple of days later. This is marvellous, I thought, until I looked inside it and realised that, with ‘A For Abandoned Matches’ and ‘M For Methylated Spirits’ [defender Wayne Cegielski discovered in 1979 that, rubbed into the soles of boots, it stops snow clogging] an A-Z of Wrexham F.C. might be rather over-ambitious.”

Typically, Deborah Ross’s piece isn’t about the internet or shopping, of course, but rather its yet another take on how women and men are still pulling from opposite directions, taking their cues from different planets.

And while Ross lays on her faux-indignation with a trowel, her column, curiously, makes no mention of how ‘Wrexham FC: An A-Z’ was received by her partner on Christmas morning?

One suspects that, as any self-respecting supporter would, he devoured it from top to tail in a single sitting. And still they wonder why we don’t understand them back in equal measure?





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COMMERCIAL NEWS

As we are sure you all know we launched our fantastic on-line store – www.dragons-store.com – at the beginning of the month. It has been a brilliant hit, so a big thank-you to everyone who has purchased on-line!

With December just around the corner, we thought that we would treat you all to a 10% discount on the run up to Christmas. Enter XMAS into the promo code field on the pay page to get the discount on clothing, vouchers, gifts and even wine!

This Tuesday's home game with Forest

Green Rovers sees The Bamford Suite offering an executive box ticket, programme, and a Hot Pot supper all for just £25. Or just hot pot and coffee is available at a very reasonable £7.95.

Remember, if you are a season ticket holder and book a meal for two in advance then you will also be entitled to a complimentary drink (a glass of beer, wine or soft drink).

Wrexham FC is running a ticketing initiative in conjunction with the WFC Football and Education Foundation where all children in School/College under the age of 16 get the opportunity to watch all home games for FREE. All

children will be accommodated in the ground in the Nando's family end, and will have the added benefit of watching the pre-match warm up in front of them.

Any accompanying adult will pay a reduced entrance fee of £12, of which £2 will be paid back to your School/College. In addition we are offering a half price away shirt for all children and adults who take up the offer and a FREE Nandino's meal as well.

For further information on Wrexham FC and offers currently available please contact the commercial department on 01978 296398 www.wrexhamfc.tv or www.dragons-store.com

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PLAYER SPONSORSHIP Home or Away Kit	£250	-
MASCOT SPONSORSHIP Four match tickets, meet the Manager and photos	-	£150
SCOREBOARD ADVERTISING		£50

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

PRESENTATION TIME

Our last home BSP match saw Wrexham and Kidderminster Harriers fight out a thrilling 2-2 draw. Match Sponsor's ADG-Alpine chose the Dragons' Frank Sinclair as their Man of the Match and our first picture shows Frank presenting a signed shirt to Gino Derosa of ADG-Alpine.

The Dragons' defender was also centre stage when pictured presenting a signed ball to Louise and David Williams of the Hen-Dy Hotel 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 today.



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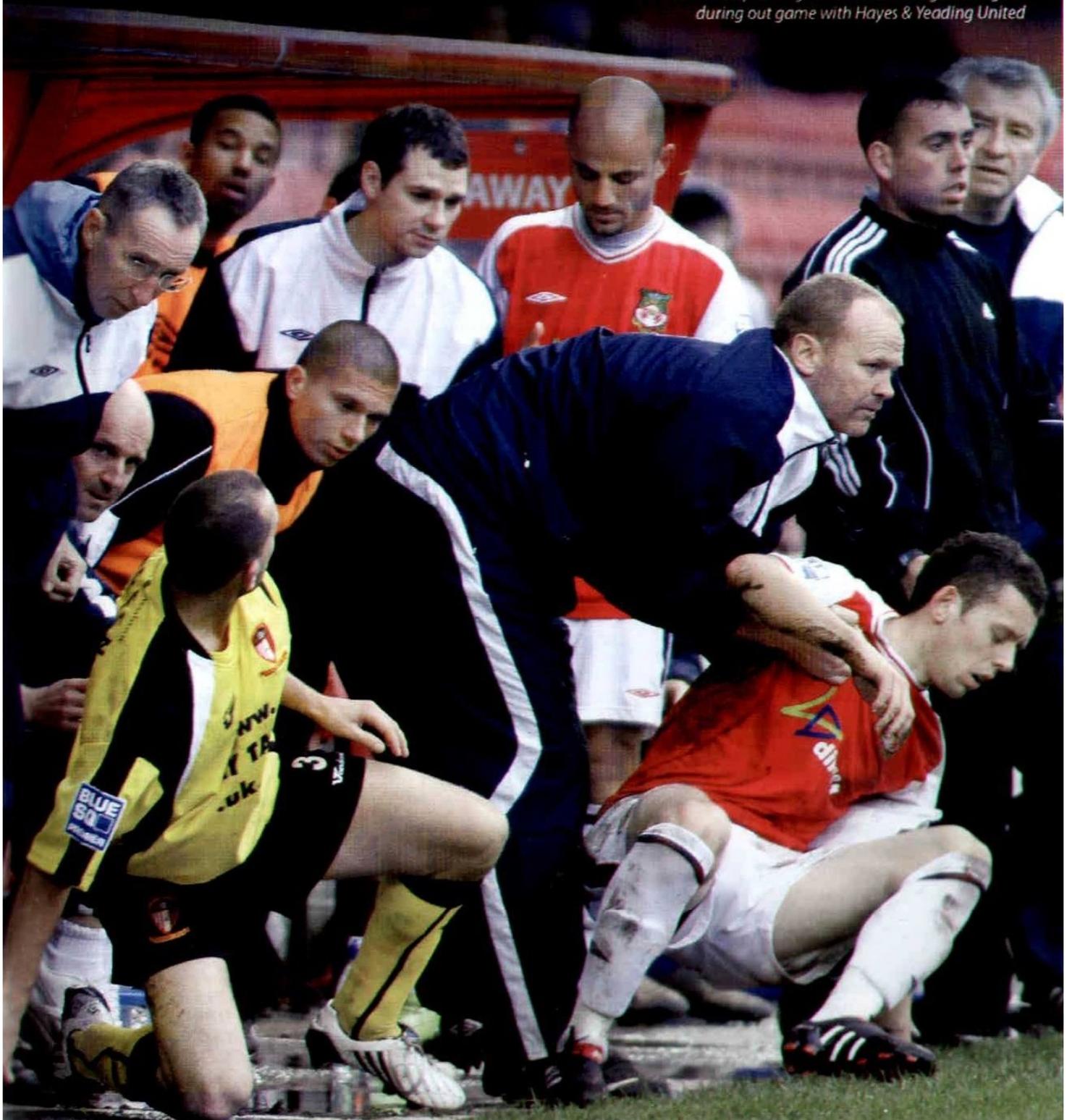
Inside
Racecourse Diary
Hayes & Yeading United Report
Silver Serviced
Box Office
Reserves & Youth



PLAY

ACTION & REACTION >>>

Two unexpected guests visit the Dragon's dugout during our game with Hayes & Yeading United





Dragons' trawl in Lowestoft's cup challenge

Wrexham leave it late to get past Ryman League side Lowestoft Town and earn a place in the second round FA Cup draw

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

Wrexham's preparations for the FA Cup first round meeting with Lowestoft Town are hampered by a hamstring injury picked up by Silvio Spann which rules him out of contention, and with Christian Smith suspended after collecting five bookings, Dean Saunders will be forced to reshuffle his pack.

The experienced Frank Sinclair, a former winner of the Cup in his Chelsea days, will also miss out with a calf strain that has already seen him miss the trips to Ebbsfleet and Kettering in the past seven days.

However, having been sidelined since the August home defeat to Kettering, goalkeeper

Sam Russell is expected to be named among the seven permitted subs.

Speaking to The Leader's Richard Williams, Dean Saunders reveals he is demanding a professional attitude from his players as we seek to avoid the banana skin from the visit of the Suffolk side.

"Lowestoft are a good team who don't concede many goals and we won't be taking them lightly. We have got to get back to what we have been doing.

"We have been aggressive, solid and strong, and this team will be big and physical so they will try and match us. It will be the same kind of game as Halifax Town and we have just got to be professional in what we do.

"It is a home tie and a good chance for us to go through, but it is a cup final for them. We have got to make sure that the attitude is right and leave nothing to chance."

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

The Dragons progress to the second round of the FA Cup in dramatic fashion as Gareth Taylor strikes with two minutes left to end the stubborn resistance of battling Ryman League North side Lowestoft Town at The Racecourse.

With a replay in deepest Suffolk looking on the cards, sub Adrian Cieslewicz draws a foul and from Wes Baynes' set-piece, Lamine Sakho flicks the ball and this allowed the former Welsh international to divert it past Andy Reynolds, who was between the sticks for The Trawler Boys.

The relief was tangible amongst the vast majority of the crowd of 2,402, with the 353 from Lowestoft holding their heads in disbelief at being 'so near yet so far' from a place in the draw.

The Reds had dominated much of the game without really displaying the cutting edge necessary to prise open the visitors, especially as their negative 4-1-4-1 formation was set-up to frustrate us.

Baynes had a couple of efforts in the first-half, including one right on half-time which drifted just wide of the empty net, while Adam Smith's audacious long-range chip was just a little bit too high for the visitors' liking.

When Taylor's tame header was easily saved by Reynolds with 15 minutes left a replay was looking a certainty, but the same player made amends and put us into the hat for round two. The victory also means that we have now gone an impressive six games in all competitions since suffering a defeat.

"The main thing is that we are through and that's all that really matters," Dean Saunders confirmed afterwards. "Full credit to Lowestoft though because that made it a very difficult match for us, we knew that it wasn't going to be easy because they are a side that don't concede many goals.

"It was never going to be one of those games that we won by three or four goals. They put everyone behind the ball and left



CURTIS OBENG GETS TO THE BALL FIRST AGAINST LOWESTOFT

the number nine up front on his own, and they just hung on and hung on.

"Fortunately for us though, Wes came to our rescue with a well placed free-kick that finally got headed home by Gareth Taylor."

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

The draw for the second round of the FA Cup is made at Wembley Stadium, and broadcast live on ITV, and thankfully we are once again spared an away tie. Following on from the late show against Lowestoft, we are handed a second successive game at The Racecourse with Swindon Town the visitors with a potential money-spinning tie in the third round at stake.

"We are at home and it is a good draw for us," confirms Dean Saunders. "They are a good team who are well organised, and we will be underdogs but it is not really the draw that Swindon would have wanted either."

The pick of the other ties sees Mark Cooper's Kettering Town side pitted against fallen giants Leeds United, where his father Terry was a legendary figure, while Millwall will face a trip to giantkillers Staines Town.

TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Central defender Kai Edwards is named in the Welsh Under-23 squad for their meeting with Northern Ireland in the International Challenge Trophy tie at Shamrock Park in Portadown on 24th November.

He joins Kyle Critchell as the only two players in the squad not to play in the Welsh Premiership but also called up are former Racecourse youngsters Sion Edwards and Jamie Reed as well as ex-Reds trialist Drew Fahiyah, who is with Port Talbot Town.

Meanwhile, in a gesture of unity, Wrexham will be sending a side to face Southern League side Merthyr Tydfil at Penydarren Park on 17th November in a bid to help The Martyrs, who are currently hampered by the constraints of administration, in their battle for survival.

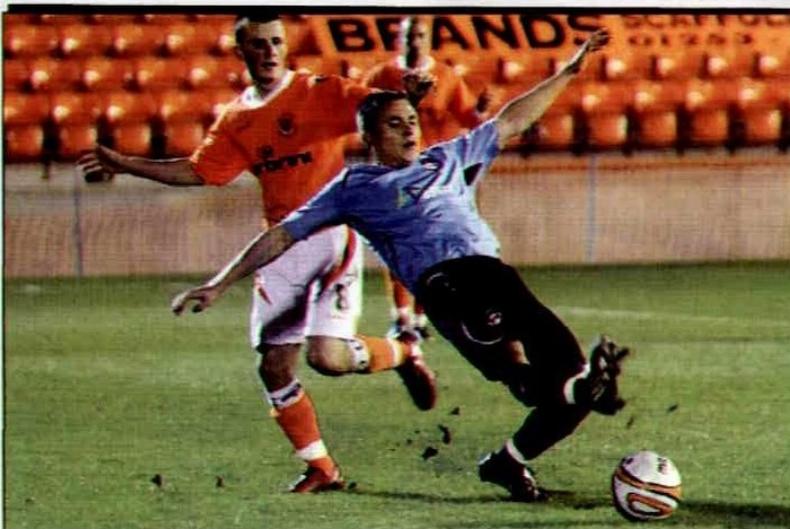
Due to the progress that we have made in the FA Cup our BSP fixture at Rushden & Diamonds is a casualty and this has been moved back to the next available midweek date which is Tuesday, 26 January, 2010. Kick off will be at 7.45pm.

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

The reserves head up to the Fylde Coast to face Blackpool in a Totesport.com League fixture and return home with all three points on offer as Wrexham win by the odd goal in five at Bloomfield Road.

Skipper Johnny Hunt opens the scoring at the end of the first half and The Tangerines are reduced to ten men shortly after the break as Ashley Eastham sees red for pulling back Matty Wolfenden when the striker has a run at Paul Rachubka's goal.

When sub Rob Pearson doubles our lead



MATTY WOLFENDEN IN ACTION AGAINST BLACKPOOL RESERVES

with 20 minutes left, after Nick Rushton had done well in the build up, the game looked over as a contest.

In fact it was only just starting as, within three minutes, former Welsh international Rob Edwards' deft near-post header reduced the arrears only for Matty Wolfenden to do likewise at the other end to restore our two-goal advantage with just nine minutes left.

The home side's spirit shone through as Louis Almond blasted a fine drive beyond Sam Russell's outstretched hand within three minutes but despite their numerical deficiency, Blackpool could not force the draw.

This latest success sees us retain our second place in the table, but we are now just a solitary point behind leaders Rochdale. Following his three-month lay-off with a dislocated elbow, keeper Sam Russell plays sees his first competitive action as he completes the full 90 minutes.

Meanwhile, midfielder Angelos Tsiaklis missed the trip north as he received a late call up for the Cypriot Under-21 squad for their game against Croatia.

THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

Former Mansfield striker Simon Brown leaves The Racecourse for a period as he joins fellow BSP side Tamworth on loan for a month. Despite impressing in the reserves, he has failed to force his way into first team contention and the Birmingham-based forward has therefore agreed a move to one of his local sides in the interim.

Meanwhile, speaking to the official club website, young left-back Johnny Hunt reveals

his surprise when opening the scoring at Bloomfield Road the previous evening, honestly admitting that he wasn't trying for goal: "I am going to claim it, but I never meant it!"

"I was just trying to cross the ball into the box, we were well on top at the time and I was just adding to the pressure with another goal into our forwards.

"The coaches were made up with us at half time and told us to keep our standards up. Strangely, them going down to ten men made it difficult for us but we've got a good record in the league so far and it's up to us to keep winning."

Also, it has been announced that ITV will show highlights of our FA Cup second round tie against Swindon at The Racecourse, netting both clubs a £6,750 jackpot.

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

Apart from boss Dean Saunders missing on international duty, it is business as usual in the build-up to the BSP clash with Hayes & Yeading at The Racecourse.

Following his return to action against Blackpool reserves a couple of days' previous, Reds number one Sam Russell admitting in an interview with The Daily Post that he was pleased to be back.

"I was quite happy to be honest. With another week of so under my belt, I think that I'd have stopped their second goal but everything else that I did I was happy with. I had no reaction to the injury, I'd been training for a week and a half before the game so I was definitely ready for a comeback."



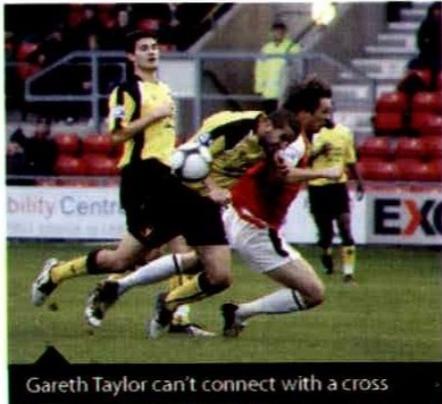
BRIAN CAREYS' VIEW

"We started sloppy and didn't recover; the shameful thing is that the fans who have turned up here haven't seen the best of us again today. We've been on a good run over the last few games, but we never got going today. We never got out of the traps. If you start slow you get punished."



"The players are as gutted as everyone else, but you've got to take it on the chin and go again. They need to take a long hard look at themselves and go again. It looked like we could have got back into it, but the sending-off has finished it off for us, that made life difficult."

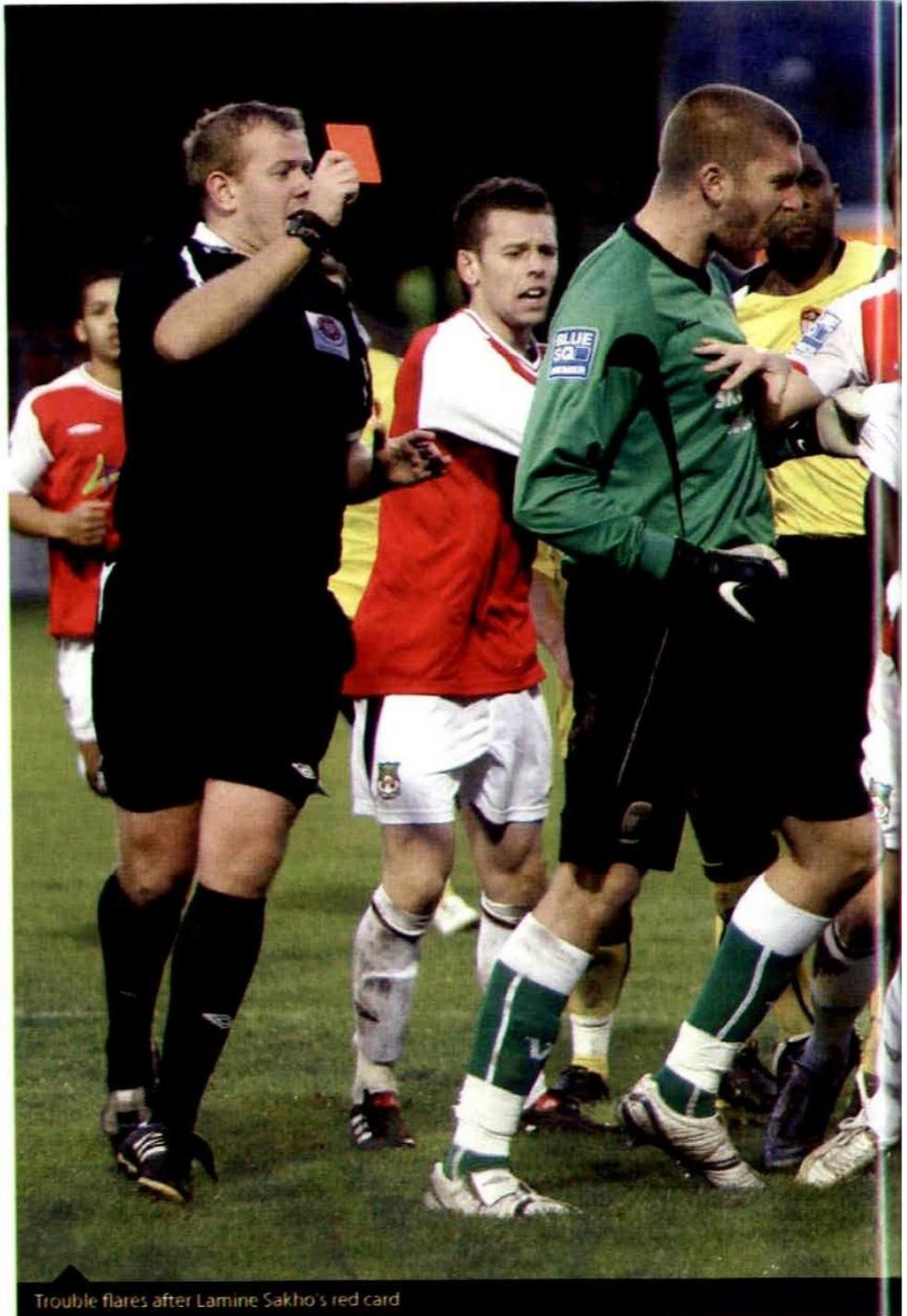
"You could say lack of discipline was a problem today but you can't say it's a general problem. I've not spoken to Lamine Sakho yet, but it looks reckless from where I am. It's inexcusable. He's adamant that it's a penalty, but I'm not sure."



Gareth Taylor can't connect with a cross



Wes Baynes attempts to block a clearance



Trouble flares after Lamine Sakho's red card

PRE-MATCH

With Dean Saunders away with the Welsh team and assistant Brian Carey in charge, Wrexham made two changes for the first ever visit of Hayes & Yeading; Christian Smith returned from suspension whilst Silvio Spann had recovered from a hamstring problem. The Middlesex outfit made one enforced change as, with Scott Fitzgerald suspended, ex-Crewe player Justin Cochrane started as they looked to continue their recent good form.

1-15 MINUTES

The visitors made a dream start with two goals in the opening 11 minutes both from winger Toby Little. Wrexham failed to heed an early warning when Sean Canham headed wide on four minutes before in the 8th minute Little followed up another Canham header to net from close range. Three minutes later Little reacted quickest after a Sean Canham cross and netted from close range to leave The Dragons' game plan in tatters.

16-30 MINUTES

Brian Carey changed the formation to 4-3-3 and slowly Wrexham played their way back in to the match. Wes Baynes put an effort narrowly wide, whilst Lamine Sakho looked lively with a couple of good runs. Silvio Spann, pushed in to midfield in the new formation, had to be replaced by Hedi Taboubi with what looked like a recurrence of his previous hamstring problem.

31-45 MINUTES

With the terrible weather conditions playing their part, it was a scrappy and poor first-half. Wrexham kept pressing and the visitors survived a penalty shout on 35 minutes but, despite all their huffing and puffing, the home side produced little in the way of inspiration and quality in the final third of the field. They left the field to a chorus of boos at the end of the half.



WREXHAM

0

Chris MAXWELL
 Silvio SPANN (Hedi TABOUBI 32) ■
 Mansour ASSOUMANI
 Ashley WESTWOOD
 Mike WILLIAMS (Neil TAYLOR 46)
 Curtis OBENG ■ (Marc WILLIAMS 74)
 Christian SMITH
 Andy FLEMING
 Lamine SAKHO ■
 Wes BAYNES ■
 Gareth TAYLOR
Unused Subs:
 Sam RUSSELL
 Adrian CIESLEWICZ



HAYES & YEADING UNITED

2

Simon OVERLAND
 Danny ALLEN-PAGE
 Tom CADMORE
 Matt RUBY (Sami EL-ABD)
 Adam GREEN
 Esmond JAMES (Staforde PALMER 71)
 James MULLEY ■
 Justin COCHRANE ■
 Toby LITTLE
 Marc CANHAM
 Sean CANHAM (Craig WATKINS 85)
Unused Subs:
 Chris BAKER
 Ram MARWA

Referee: P.Davison
Attendance: 2,427 *Away support:* 52

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION		
Wrexham	41%	Hayes & Yeading 59%
SHOTS ON TARGET		
Wrexham	3	Hayes & Yeading 2
SHOTS OFF TARGET		
Wrexham	4	Hayes & Yeading 2
CORNERS		
Wrexham	3	Hayes & Yeading 1
FOULS		
Wrexham	11	Hayes & Yeading 12

46-60 MINUTES

Wrexham started the second period well and Baynes fired in to the side netting. On 52 minutes Sakho went down in the area after a good run and was booked for diving by referee Davison. As play progressed, the Senegalese international got involved with Esmond James which prompted a 22-man brawl. Sakho was deservedly dismissed and both Obeng and Cochrane saw yellow as it took all three officials several minutes to regain control.

61-75 MINUTES

The game went through an untidy and niggly phase which did not help Wrexham in their quest to get back into the match. With Hayes & Yeading looking to run down the clock at every opportunity, the frustration was clear both on the pitch and in the stands. Wes Baynes and Gareth Taylor had a couple of efforts wide whilst Fleming fired over as Wrexham started to get on top territorially.

76-90 MINUTES

In a rare attack for the visitors, Adam Green put a good effort just wide of the target. The home side chopped and changed both personnel and formations but could not get back in to the game and ran out of ideas and inspiration. The home fans were clearly unhappy with what they were seeing and those who were still in the ground at the final whistle showed their frustration by booing the players off.

POST MATCH

Tensions were still high after the game and although delighted with the result visiting boss Garry Haylock was fuming with the attitude of Wrexham's players: "I think they showed a lack of respect to us, teams don't like getting beaten by us, especially the bigger ones. I don't think they approached the game in the same way they would against Oxford. It was shocking, as was some of the behaviour of their players."



SILVERS SERVICED

When winning FA Cup teams mount the steps at Wembley and take receipt of the famous trophy from The Royal Family, they take home a nine-pound pot that's been around the houses, literally.

Given that the competition is almost 140 years old, the cup itself is steeped – or should that be stained? – in history and, before its presentation on final day, is routinely made-over and often panel beaten in advance of the end-of-match ceremonials.

In design terms, the FA Cup trophy is as iconic and familiar as, say, the World Cup or European Cup, but the pot and plinth that'll be handed to the competition's winning captain next May aren't originals.

The very first trophy – and there have been four in all – was presented at the end of the original competition in 1871-72 and was used every year until it was stolen from a shoe shop in Birmingham in 1895 while in the possession of the then holders, Aston Villa.

The Midlands club was fined £25 by The Football Association so it could fund a replacement cup; popular legend has it that the trophy was melted down and sold on as counterfeit half-crowns.

The second FA Cup was an exact replica of the first and was played for until 1910, when it was presented as a farewell gift to an officer of the game's governing association, Lord Kinnaird.

A brand new trophy was unveiled the following year, built and manufactured by Fattorini's of Bradford and, to this day, the design has stayed exactly the same. Fattorini & Sons was originally a jewellery business established by a family of Italian immigrants who arrived in Leeds during the early part of the 19th century.

A Bradford outlet has been in existence since the 1850s and, over time, has developed a niche for itself in the provision of sports trophies and medals and, as well as the FA Cup, they've also designed and made the Rugby League Challenge Cup, among others.

The body of the current trophy is an exact replica of the third version and has been in use since 1992; made of silver and weighing 150 ounces, it was made by Toye,

Kenning & Spencer, a company based in Bedworth, Warwickshire.

Anoraks and alicadoos will be aware that there is one small but important difference, but not to the cup itself: although the original trophy featured a miniature footballer on its top, a mini version of the cup has adorned the pot's lid since 1911.

As well as the primary silverware, Toye, Kenning & Spencer also produces the medals that are presented to the winning and losing sides.

The company, which tailors the caps presented to English international players, also provides the silverware on FA Trophy Final day and, two years ago, this bore a special resonance for two of the firm's workers.

In May, 2007, Kidderminster played Tamworth in that season's Trophy decider; this was the first ever final to be played at the new Wembley. But while the day was clearly a memorable one for both teams and their supporters, it was even more special for two Kidderminster residents, Pete Harris and Brian Lawley.

The men, both employees at Toye, Kenning & Spencer and boasting almost ninety years of service to the company between them, had cut and stamped the medals for both competing sides.

Harris, a West Bromwich Albion fan, admitted to *The Birmingham Post* before the game that: "It has occurred to me that these will be the first medals to be handed out at Wembley, and I suppose this is something that is quite historic."

Lawley, an Aggborough regular, attended the big game at Wembley with some Aston Villa-supporting friends and his colleague, Harris. Sadly, Kidderminster couldn't deliver for them on the day, and went down on a 0-2 scoreline.

Once the FA Cup is handed over to the winning club, it becomes their property for the guts of a year and, more often than not, does a prolonged tour of duty, invariably acquiring dints, cuts and bruises along the way.

And so, before every FA Cup final weekend, the trophy is taken to a back-street silversmith's workshop in Essex – to the home of the Thomas Lyte Company – where it's soldered, polished and, on occasion, beaten back into shape ahead of

its re-presentation.

In an interview with Sky Sports' Gary Cotterill before last year's final, Kevin Williams, a silversmith at Thomas Lyte with almost forty years service, suggested it was time for another replica to be commissioned.

"Each time it gets repaired it becomes thinner, more brittle. I think it's really coming up to the time for it to be put in the trophy cabinet."

According to Tony Cimmering, who works with Williams at Thomas Lyte, the most damage he can remember inflicted on the cup in one year was during 2008, while Portsmouth were in possession.

"This is the worst I can recall," he told *The Sunday Times Spectrum* magazine last year in advance of May's final. "Year after year it gets damaged, but nothing like this."

As the game approaches full-time, the trophy's plinth is engraved in the stadium before its presentation and this aspect of final day has become popular with television match directors over the last number of years, who routinely cut-away to the process as it's happening.

The man responsible for carving the winners' name onto the trophy is Emmet Smith from R.H. Wilkins, an engraving company that also titles The Grand National, Wimbledon and Ryder Cup silverware.

Smith is a lifelong Arsenal fan and the procedure, which would take him twenty minutes to complete in his company workshop, takes five nervous minutes on the day.

He explained to *The Observer* before the 2007 final how: "When the final moved to Cardiff, we had to do it on the spot. It's very nerve-racking with the cameras on you – you need really steady hands. The tools are hand-held chisels: we sketch on the lettering and then pare away the metal."

Asked if he'd ever attempted to guess the winner in order to save time, he replied: "The first year I counted my chickens and predicted the winner, but in the last seven minutes two goals went in and everything changed."

"That was Liverpool v Arsenal when Michael Owen scored the winner. I was gutted. It was painful rubbing Arsenal off and writing Liverpool instead."



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	Senior/Young Persons Matchday	Juniors Under-16 Matchday
Executive Box	N/A	N/A	N/A	£25	N/A	N/A
Mold Road Stand	£16	£10	£10	£18	£12	£12
Yale Stand Upper	£14	£10	£5	£17	£12	£5
Yale Stand Lower	£14	£10	£5	£17	£12	£5
Eric Roberts Stand Upper (Unreserved)	£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 Adult 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

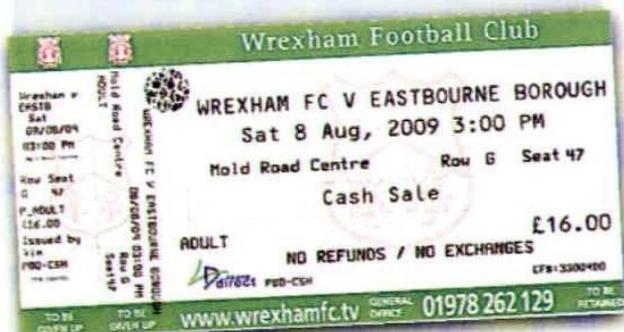
Telephone requests should be made by phoning 01978 262129 (ext 1) during the above hours.

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 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 York City

Saturday 5 December 2009, 3.00pm

Admission is by cash at the turnstile.

Prices Wrexham fans will be situated at the Grosvenor End of the ground for this match.

This is an uncovered terrace which costs £14 for adults and £9 for concessions. From there you can transfer to the covered seating on the Popular Stand for an additional £1.

Programme £3.00

Coach Travel Subject to demand, the Away Travel Club will be running coaches to York. 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 M56, M6, M62, M1, A1(M) to A64. Exit A64 at signpost York North A1237 (Outer Ring Road), Harrogate A59. At the first roundabout go straight on (signposted York North, Harrogate) onto the A1237. Stay on A1237 for approximately 5 miles, over 3 roundabouts and over the River Ouse. At the fourth roundabout, turn right (signposted York Centre A19) onto Shipton Road, follow for approximately 1.5 miles and at the lights by the village green go straight on (signposted City Centre). After half a mile turn left by the Burton Stone Pub onto Burton Stone Lane, take the 1st right onto Grosvenor Road and follow to the ground.

Public Transport There is an hourly train service from Wrexham General to York with the 10.02 requiring changes at Chester and Manchester Piccadilly to arrive at York at 13.35.

The best train back after the game departs York station at 17.58 and goes via Manchester Piccadilly and Chester to arrive at Wrexham

General at 21.38. Prices start from £48.60 return.

The ground is approximately a 15-20 minute walk from the railway station. The quickest route is to turn left outside the station walking along Station Road to the Traffic lights turn left and walk along Leeman Road for about 100 yards until you reach the Railway Bridge. Cross over the road keeping the Royal Mail Sorting office to your right and walk down the small alleyway which brings you to the River. Cross the river via the footbridge and then keeping the river to your right turn immediately left following the footpath along the side of Marygate car park.

Follow this footpath for about 300 yards - it takes you underneath the railway line - Immediately after passing under the railway turn right into Bootham Terrace walk up the road the railway will be on your right.

At the main road Junction (Bootham) turn immediately left and walk for approximately 50 yards. Bootham Crescent is the next turning on your right walk down Bootham Crescent and the Football ground is immediately in front of you with the away terracing to the left and the main stand / club shop etc situated in the car park in front.

FA CUP SECOND ROUND REPLAY (PROVISIONAL)

Swindon Town

Tuesday 8 December 2009, 7.45pm

Admission is by cash at the turnstile.

Prices Wrexham fans have been allocated the West Corner of the Arkell's Stand for this match. This holds 1,200 seats with the prices being £12 for adults, £8 for Seniors/Young Persons and £4 for Juniors Under-16.



Programme £3.00

Coach Travel Subject to demand, the Away Travel Club will be running coaches to Swindon. 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 M54, M6, M5. Leave M5 at Junction 11A to join A417 (signposted Cirencester). Continue on A417 to join A419 (signposted Swindon). Exit the A419 at the Turnpike Roundabout (signposted Swindon A4311). Follow Swindon Centre signs to the Chapel Roundabout (2.4 miles) from where you will pick up signs for the ground which is 0.8 miles away.

Public Transport There is a train service from Wrexham General to Swindon which departs at 14.38, changing at Newport to arrive Swindon at 17.57. On the return journey, the train departs Swindon on Wednesday morning at 08.40 changing at Newport to arrive Wrexham General at 12.01. Prices start from £56.30 return. Please confirm all details with your local train station in advance of travelling.

From the front of the station turn left onto Station Road. Facing the White Horse pub, head right onto Corporation Street. At the traffic lights turn left onto Manchester Road and continue until junction with County Road when you should turn right. The entrance to the stadium is the second turn on the left hand side and the walk should take 10-15 minutes.

BOXOFFICE**HOME GAME TICKET INFORMATION****BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE****Forest Green Rovers**

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2009, 7.45PM

Tickets for this game are now on general sale.

CARLSBERG FA TROPHY FIRST ROUND**Altrincham**

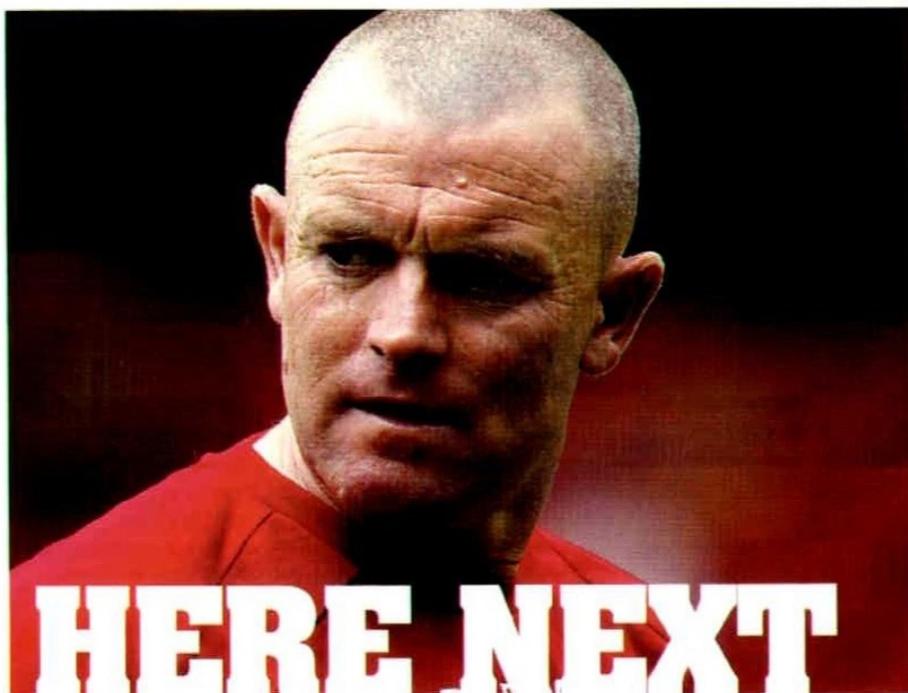
SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2009, 3.00PM

Tickets for this game are now on general sale.

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE**Mansfield Town**

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2009, 3.00PM

Tickets for this game are now on general sale.



HERE NEXT

Forest Green Rovers

**BLUE SQUARE PREMIER**

Tuesday 1 December 2009, 7.45pm

There's no doubting the upheaval at Forest Green this season following the departure of their long standing and highly respected manager Jimmy Harvey. In his place has come David Hockaday (above) and the former Blackpool and Swindon player has overseen an upturn in the side's fortunes.

Having surprisingly won at Mansfield in a first round FA Cup replay and gained a battling draw at Altrincham, last Saturday's submission to a rampant Stevenage Borough side clearly left the 52-year-old fuming.

"I'm not saying that Stevenage were better technically than us," said Hockaday. "They are a better team than us because they want it more than we do, week in week out. We're getting there but we have to churn it out, week in week out.

"We've had another run of five, six undefeated but then come up against a big team that catch us cold early on and that can't keep on happening. We are not that relentless yet, we need to be more relentless and therefore tougher mentally and physically.

"In the first-half I am just so disappointed that there was a side that wanted it more than us. But that's the beauty of football, as there is always the next game to put things right. We have to learn from this and we are learning slowly."

A floodlight failure shortly before the interval briefly threatened to bring a premature end to their midweek home match with leaders Oxford United but James Constable's 23rd minute strike, coupled with the efforts of the local electricity board, ensured that the match ran its full course.

At least the previous week's last gasp 2-1 win at Field Mill, courtesy of Conal Platt's dramatic injury-time winner, had lifted spirits at The New Lawn and sealed a second round tie with neighbours Bath City this afternoon.

"We deserved to win the first tie, it was just that our finishing wasn't up to spec," continued the Rovers boss. "This time we dominated for even longer periods and got our reward, even though there was a blatant foul in the build-up to Mansfield's goal.

"That changed the game and spurred on a very good side, but the new Forest Green dug in and found a way to win the game. Conal will get the credit for the goals, and rightly so, but we produced some wonderful football all night and at times we ripped Mansfield apart.

"I keep telling my players and other people that we're getting better and better and maybe they will start to believe it now. I'm proud as punch."

"This club has a great Cup tradition and I'm really pleased that this team has a chance to write another chapter. Bath away will be a really tough game but it's one to savour when it comes around."



Reserves beat Saints as Youths are sinners

The Reserves managed a hard fought win over TNS in a week which saw the Dragons' youth team struggle

Saturday, 17 October, 2009

Youth Alliance

STOCKPORT COUNTY U18 2 WREXHAM U18 1

Despite dominating the opening first-half against the young Hatters, Wrexham were left to rue what might have been as they slipped to a 2-1 defeat.

"We played well in the first 45 minutes," reflected Head of Youth Andy Davies, "especially after we had the disruption of losing Nick Rushton through injury after about half-an-hour.

"Stockport have been going well this season and are second in the table, so to dominate them the way we did was very pleasing. But we didn't really take the game to them in the second-half and we paid the ultimate penalty for that.

"There equaliser was a superb goal and you knew it was going in as soon as the lad hit it - there was nothing Danny [Ward] could do about it. Their winner was down to poor marking but we never created enough after the interval."

Wrexham had taken the lead with four minutes of the opening stanza remaining; Declan Walker's surging run down the right flank took him into the opposition area and he pulled the ball back perfectly for substitute Aaron Malton to volley home.

The home side restored parity eight minutes after the break when Danny Whitehead unleashed a dipping 30-yard shot which gave Danny Ward no chance in the Wrexham goal.

Whitehead then turned provider just after the hour mark when his corner found Cameron Darkwah unmarked and the Stockport striker duly converted with a powerful header.

Wrexham: Danny Ward, Declan Walker, Max Penk, Josh Marsh, Jack Deaman, Rob Pearson, Ed Moss, James Colbeck, Nick Rushton (Aaron Malton 30), John Jones (Liam Shipton 70), Brian Summerskill (Anthony Stevens 75). Sub: Tom Bainbridge.

Wednesday, 21 October, 2009

Friendly

WREXHAM RES 2 THE NEW SAINTS 1

The Dragons came from a goal down to

defeat The New Saints thanks to second-half goals from Simon Brown and Nathan Fairhurst after Jamie Wood had fired the visitors in front in a friendly at Colliers Park.

More importantly, left-back Sam Williamson came through his second game in just over a week while Matty Wolfenden also continued his comeback, getting another 90 minutes under his belt.

Indeed it was 'Wolfy' who nearly opened the scoring on eight minutes but his shot clipped the outside of the post before the Welsh Premier Division side were deservedly ahead nine minutes later.

Craig Williams' flighted cross in front the left-wing found joint-top scorer Jamie Wood, who took a touch before calmly passing the ball into the far corner of Erwin Sak's net.

With The Saints creating some dangerous moments, and stretching the midfield by keeping their two wingers hugging the touchlines, Wood missed a chance to double their advantage within a minute of scoring after former Reds midfielder Conall Murtagh had used his power to initially win back the ball.

Wolfenden hit the side-netting with a shot from an angle later on and Hedi Taboubi curled a free-kick over the top, as The Saints' defence was well marshalled by another Racecourse 'old boy' Steve Evans, while Wood had another 'goal' ruled out by referee Mike Jones.

The alert Wood was unlucky not to double his tally when his well-struck shot thumped Sak's left-hand post and rolled virtually along the touchline, although Kai Edwards had done well to get back and get a tackle in which at least put the striker off.

Wes Baynes twice missed good chances to get Wrexham back on terms but in the end it was his well-struck free-kick from 25-yards which proved too hot for former Liverpool keeper Paul Harrison to hold, and Simon Brown showed his predatory instincts as he was on hand to follow up to net on 67 minutes.

The winner came 15 minutes later when Nathan Fairhurst had the time and space to shoot decisively into the corner of Harrison's net from just outside the area, and even after



YOUTH PROFILE

Name: Danny Ward

Date of birth: 22nd June 1993

Place of birth: Wrexham

Position: Goalkeeper

What age did you join the club? U14s

How did you end up getting spotted by Wrexham? I was originally spotted

playing for Manchester United and joined after being released by them

Had you played for any other professional clubs? Crewe Alexandra, Manchester United and Liverpool

Footballer you most admire: Shay Given

Club supported as a boy: Manchester United and Wrexham

Where would you like to see yourself in 10 years? Playing consistently at a higher level

Coach's Comments:

Danny is a first-year scholar who has broken into the Youth Alliance side recently and he's taken his chance well to be fair. He's a great character to have around the dressing room and his distribution for a keeper is excellent. He needs to be more aggressive inside his own box though and has to learn how to command his own penalty area, especially when deciding whether or not to come for a cross. If he can take those things on board then he's one we have high hopes for.

Andy Davies

this Adrian Cieslewicz hit the post but Wolfenden saw his attempt to turn the rebound home blocked.

Wrexham: Erwin Sak, Silvio Spann, Kai Edwards, Pablo (Paul Johanus 56), Sam Williamson, Simon Brown, Nathan Fairhurst, Hedi Taboubi (Angelos Tsiaklis 46), Lamine Sakho (Wes Baynes 46), Matty Wolfenden, Adrian Cieslewicz. Subs: Obi Anoruo, Johnny Hunt, Matty Hurdman.

Saturday, 24 October, 2009

Youth Alliance

WREXHAM U18 2 PORT VALE U18 7

This was a game that Wrexham's youngsters will not look back on with any affection after an abject performance handed Port Vale an easy win at Colliers Park.

"To be honest, 7-2 was a fair reflection of the game," admitted Head of Youth Andy Davies. "On the day, we just weren't up to it. We made far too many individual mistakes and individual performances simply weren't good enough.

"Not one player came out of the game with any credit, which is very disappointing because we just didn't see that result coming! We haven't conceded that many goals for a long, long time and when we have been beaten this season it's only been by the odd goal.

"Hopefully the lads can learn from their display and the important thing now is that we get a reaction out of them in the next few games."

Having thrashed Tranmere 6-0 the previous weekend, the visitors were obviously in fine form but there was no indication in the early stages of the goal fest that was to follow. Indeed, Wrexham should have taken an early lead but Vale keeper Watson did well to deny Nick Rushton.

The Potteries side finally broke the deadlock on 20 minutes when Malbon picked up the loose ball and dispatched a 20-yard shot past Tom Bainbridge. Morsy added a second soon afterwards following a sharp exchange of passes with Siribour.

Wrexham reduced the arrears ten minutes before the interval when Jordan Kane capitalised on a poor clearance from the Vale defence to convert Ed Moss' centre. Kane was then controversially brought down in the area but the striker missed the resultant spot kick.

Vale took control in the second period with Christianson converting a Morsy cross at the far post to make it 3-1. Beeston added a fourth from the edge of the box and Hughes was on hand to net from close range after Bainbridge could only parry Morsy's initial effort.

Malbon then registered a fine individual goal for number six before Declan Walker slotted the ball into the far corner of the Vale net to give Wrexham some semblance of hope. This was soon extinguished though when Siribour was left unmarked at the far post to restore the visitors' five goal margin of victory.

Wrexham: Tom Bainbridge, Declan Walker, Max Penk, Leon Clowes, Jack Deaman, Rob Pearson, Ed Moss, Aaron Malton (Liam Shipton 60), Jordan Kane (John Jones 60), Nick Rushton, James Colbeck. Subs: Danny Ward, Brian Summerskill (Louis Moss 50).



Reserves Fixtures

Date	Opponents	V	Res
<i>August</i>			
Wed 26	Rochdale	H	D2-2
<i>September</i>			
Tue 8	Oldham Athletic	A	W2-1
Wed 16	Morecambe	H	W3-0
<i>October</i>			
Wed 14	Accrington Stanley	H	W4-0
Wed 28	Tranmere Rovers	H	L1-2
<i>November</i>			
Wed 11	Blackpool	A	W3-2
<i>December</i>			
Wed 9	Carlisle United (2.00pm kick off)	H	
<i>January</i>			
Mon 18	Accrington Stanley	A	
<i>February</i>			
Wed 3	Tranmere Rovers (2.00pm kick off)	A	
Wed 10	Preston North End (2.00pm kick off)	A	
Wed 17	Blackpool	H	
<i>March</i>			
Mon 1	Carlisle United (2.00pm kick off)	A	
Wed 17	Preston North End	H	
Wed 31	Rochdale	A	
<i>April</i>			
Wed 7	Oldham Athletic	H	
Wed 21	Morecambe	A	

Totesport League West

Division Table (up to & including 27th November 2009)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Rochdale	5	4	1	0	16	8	+8	13
2 Wrexham	6	4	1	1	15	7	+8	13
3 Carlisle United	5	4	0	1	19	10	+8	12
4 Tranmere Rvrs	6	4	0	2	14	9	+5	12
5 Preston NE	6	1	2	3	13	16	-3	5
6 Oldham Ath	5	1	1	3	8	11	-3	4
7 Morecambe	5	1	1	3	5	13	-8	4
8 Blackpool	4	1	0	3	9	14	-5	3
9 Accrington S	4	0	0	4	4	15	-11	0



Youth Fixtures

Date	Opponents	V	Res
<i>August</i>			
Tue 11	Rochdale	A	W4-0
Sat 15	Shrewsbury Town	A	L0-1
Sat 22	Stockport County	H	L0-1
Sat 29	Oldham Athletic	A	W3-0
<i>September</i>			
Sat 5	Tranmere Rovers	H	D1-1
Mon 7	Fleetwood Town (FAYCPO)	A	W2-1
Sat 12	Wigan Athletic	H	D0-0
Wed 16	Elements Cefn Druids (WYC1)	A	W6-0
Sat 19	Macclesfield Town	A	L2-4
Thu 24	Leigh Genesis (FAYC)	H	W12-0
Sat 26	Walsall	H	L1-2
<i>October</i>			
Sat 3	Hull City (LC1)	H	L2-3
Wed 7	Stalybridge Celtic (FAYC)	H	L4-5
Sat 10	Chester City	H	D1-1
Tue 13	Bangor City (WYC)	H	W6-0
Sat 17	Stockport County	A	L1-2
Sat 24	Port Vale	H	L2-7
Sat 31	Macclesfield Town	H	W2-1
<i>November</i>			
Sat 14	Wigan Athletic	A	W3-1
Sat 21	Chester City	A	L0-1
<i>December</i>			
Sat 5	Walsall	A	
Sat 12	Tranmere Rovers	A	
<i>January</i>			
Sat 9	Blackpool	H	
Sat 23	Port Vale	A	
Sat 30	Shrewsbury Town	H	
<i>February</i>			
Sat 6	Blackpool	A	
Sat 13	Accrington Stanley	H	
Sat 20	Cup Semi-Final		
<i>March</i>			
Sat 6	Burnley	H	
Sat 13	Preston North End	A	
Sat 20	Oldham Athletic	H	
Sat 27	Morecambe	A	
<i>April</i>			
Sat 10	Carlisle United (12.30pm kick off)	H	
Sat 17	Bury	A	
TBA	Prestatyn Town (WYC)	H	

Youth Alliance North West

Conference Table (up to & inc. 27th November 2009)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Preston NE	12	10	1	1	42	10	+32	31
2 Walsall	13	9	1	3	27	19	+8	28
3 Wigan Ath	12	8	2	2	22	8	+14	26
4 Carlisle Utd	12	8	0	4	30	15	+15	24
5 Stockport City	11	7	2	2	21	12	+9	23
6 Bury	13	7	2	4	23	17	+6	23
7 Shrewsbury T	12	6	2	4	24	20	+4	20
8 Burnley	12	6	1	5	23	21	+2	19
9 Oldham Ath	13	5	3	5	30	23	+7	18
10 Rochdale	11	5	2	4	24	19	+5	17
11 Wrexham	14	4	3	7	20	22	-3	15
12 Chester City	13	4	3	6	11	21	-10	15
13 Macclesfield T	10	4	1	5	20	16	+4	13
14 Tranmere Rvrs	13	3	3	7	18	34	-16	12
15 Port Vale	13	3	1	9	25	31	-6	10
16 Morecambe	11	2	1	8	11	39	-28	7
17 Blackpool	12	1	2	9	17	39	-22	5
18 Accrington S	11	1	2	8	13	35	-22	5



STATISTICS 2009/10

Date	Opposition	Comp	Res	Att (away)	Pos	Goalkeepers	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders	Defenders
August																		
Sat 8	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	BSQP	W3-0	3,726 (39)	3	Russell	Spann	N.Taylor	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Cieslewicz*	Fleming***	Taboubi	G.Taylor ²	Jones	Woffenden ¹		
Sat 15	Crawley Town	BSQP	L0-1	1,014 (236)	16	Russell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Cieslewicz*	Fleming**	Taboubi	G.Taylor	Jones	Woffenden ¹		
Tue 18	YORK CITY	BSQP	W1-0	3,371 (208)	9	Russell	Spann***	Williamson	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Jones	Fleming**	Taboubi**	G.Taylor	N.Taylor	Woffenden ¹		
Sat 22	KETTERING TOWN	BSQP	L1-2	3,473 (93)	14	Russell	Spann**	Williamson	Mk Williams	Assoumani	Obeng	Smith****	Taboubi	G.Taylor	Jones	Woffenden ¹		
Tue 25	Tamworth	BSQP	L1-2	1,290 (581)	16	Maxwell	Obeng***	Mk Williams	Westwood	Assoumani	Spann	Fleming	Smith**	G.Taylor	Jones	Cieslewicz		
Sat 29	Forest Green Rovers	BSQP	W2-0	1,021 (285)	12	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Westwood	Assoumani	Sinclair	Fairhurst	Taboubi	Mc Williams	Jones	Baynes ²		
Mon 31	BARROW	BSQP	D0-0	3,760 (210)	12	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor**	Westwood	Assoumani	Sinclair	Fairhurst*	Taboubi***	G.Taylor	Jones	Baynes		
September																		
Sat 12	OXFORD UNITED	BSQP	L0-1	3,620 (484)	16	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Westwood*	Assoumani	Sinclair	Mc Williams	Taboubi**	G.Taylor	Jones	Baynes		
Sat 19	Cambridge United	BSQP	L0-2	2,823 (231)	16	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Westwood	Assoumani	Mk Williams*	Fairhurst	Tsiaklis**	G.Taylor	Jones	Cieslewicz***		
Tue 22	LUTON TOWN	BSQP	W3-0	3,488 (303)	16	Maxwell	Spann	N.Taylor	Sinclair	Assoumani	Obeng	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor*	Jones	Mc Williams**		
Sun 27	CHESTER CITY	BSQP	D0-0	5,913 (844)	16	Maxwell	Spann	N.Taylor	Sinclair	Assoumani	Obeng	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	Jones*	Mc Williams		
Tue 29	Kidderminster Harriers	BSQP	L0-2	1,585 (270)	16	Maxwell	Spann	N.Taylor	Sinclair	Assoumani	Obeng	Fleming**	Smith***	Sakho*	Jones	Mc Williams		
October																		
Sat 3	SALISBURY CITY	BSQP	L1-2	2,556 (53)	17	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Sinclair	Assoumani	Jones	Taboubi**	Smith*	G.Taylor	Sakho***	Mc Williams		
Sat 17	GRAYS ATHLETIC	BSQP	W2-1	2,495 (111)	16	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor	Sinclair	Assoumani	Jones	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	McCluskey**	Mc Williams*		
Tue 20	Stevenage Borough	BSQP	D0-0	1,763 (85)	16	Maxwell	Obeng	N.Taylor*	Sinclair	Assoumani	Jones	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	McCluskey**	Mc Williams		
Sat 24	FC Halifax Town	FAC4Q	W1-0	2,843 (394)	-	Maxwell	Obeng	Mk Williams	Sinclair	Assoumani	Jones*	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	McCluskey**	Mc Williams***		
Sat 31	Ebbsfleet United	BSQP	W1-0	969 (175)	15	Maxwell	Spann	Mk Williams	Westwood	Assoumani	Jones*	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	Sakho**	Baynes		
November																		
Tue 3	Kettering Town	BSQP	D2-2	1,187 (109)	14	Maxwell	Spann	Mk Williams	Westwood	Assoumani	Obeng	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	Sakho*	Baynes		
Sat 7	LOWESTOFT TOWN	FAC1	W1-0	2,402 (352)	-	Maxwell	Obeng	Mk Williams**	Westwood	Assoumani	McCluskey*	Fleming	Taboubi***	G.Taylor	Sakho	Baynes		
Sat 14	HAYES & YEADING UNITED	BSQP	L0-2	2,427 (52)	16	Maxwell	Spann	Mk Williams**	Westwood	Assoumani	Obeng	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	Sakho	Baynes		
Sat 21	Histon	BSQP	D0-0	946 (150)	15	Maxwell	Westwood	Mk Williams	Sinclair	Assoumani	Obeng*	Fleming	Smith	G.Taylor	Mc Williams	Baynes		
Tue 24	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	BSQP	D2-2	2,086 (128)	15	Maxwell	Obeng	Mk Williams*	Sinclair	Westwood	Cieslewicz	Fleming	Smith	N.Taylor*	Mc Williams	Baynes		
Sat 28	SWINDON TOWN	FAC2		15.00														
December																		
Tue 1	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	BSQP		19.45														
Sat 5	York City	BSQP		15.00														
Sat 12	ALTRINCHAM	FAT1		15.00														
Sat 19	MANSFIELD TOWN	BSQP		15.00														
Sat 26	ALTRINCHAM	BSQP		15.00														
Mon 28	Gateshead	BSQP		15.00														
January																		
Fri 1	Altrincham	BSQP		15.00														
Tue 5	AFC Wimbledon	BSQP		19.45														
Sat 9		FAT2		15.00														
Sat 16	STEVENAGE BOROUGH	BSQP		15.00														
Tue 19	Barrow	BSQP		19.45														
Sat 23	AFC WIMBLEDON	BSQP		15.00														
Tue 26	Rushden & Diamonds	BSQP		15.00														
Sat 30	Oxford United	BSQP		15.00														
February																		
Sat 6	Eastbourne Borough	BSQP		15.00														
Tue 9	TAMWORTH	BSQP		19.45														
Sun 14	Chester City	BSQP		12.00														
Sat 20	CRAWLEY TOWN	BSQP		15.00														
Sat 27	Salisbury City	BSQP		15.00														
March																		
Sat 6	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																		
Sat 3	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														

Goalscorers in **bold** First substitute *
 Second substitute ** Third substitute ***
 Booked Sent off ■



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* 25 points deducted
 ** 10 points deducted
 *** 1 point deducted

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LATEST LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts
1 Oxford United	21	9	1	0	24	3	6	3	2	15	11	25	49
2 Stevenage Borough	21	7	4	0	24	8	5	4	1	12	7	21	44
3 York City	22	8	4	0	21	9	3	3	4	10	12	10	40
4 Kettering Town	21	4	4	3	16	10	7	1	2	13	8	11	38
5 Mansfield Town	20	6	3	1	21	8	5	1	4	12	14	11	37
6 Rushden & Diamonds	21	6	1	3	18	15	4	5	2	17	9	11	36
7 Luton Town	20	5	3	2	15	9	5	3	2	12	11	7	36
8 Kidderminster H	21	7	0	3	17	9	3	4	4	13	13	8	34
9 Altrincham	21	2	5	3	10	11	6	2	3	15	9	5	31
10 AFC Wimbledon	20	3	3	4	14	7	5	3	2	20	15	12	30
11 Cambridge Utd	21	5	2	4	23	11	2	6	2	13	14	11	29
12 Tamworth	21	5	2	4	16	16	2	5	3	11	12	-1	28
13 Crawley Town	21	7	1	3	17	12	1	3	6	4	16	-7	28
14 Histon	21	4	4	2	15	10	3	2	6	13	18	0	27
15 Wrexham	20	4	3	4	13	10	2	3	4	6	9	0	24
16 Hayes & Yeading Utd	21	2	4	4	14	15	4	2	5	10	14	-5	24
17 Barrow	21	3	6	2	13	16	2	2	6	9	16	-10	23
18 Salisbury City**	21	4	3	3	11	8	5	0	6	13	20	-4	20
19 Eastbourne Borough	21	3	4	4	12	12	1	3	6	5	18	-13	19
20 Gateshead***	21	3	3	4	10	9	2	1	8	14	24	-9	18
21 Grays Athletic	21	2	3	5	11	19	0	4	7	11	25	-22	13
22 Forest Green Rovers	21	1	4	6	7	15	1	3	6	10	26	-24	13
23 Ebbsfleet United	21	0	4	6	5	13	1	2	8	3	22	-27	9
24 Chester City*	22	3	0	7	12	16	2	6	4	10	16	-10	-4

Subs Used

Mc Williams (69), Smith (77), Baynes (85)
 Spann (55), Mc Williams (55), Baynes (75)
 Cieslewicz (57), Smith (62), Obeng (79)
 Mc Williams (21), Cieslewicz (66), Baynes (78)
 N.Taylor (59), Mc Williams (75), Baynes (86)
 Cieslewicz (74), Smith (76)
 Mc Williams (64), Cieslewicz (78), Smith (86)

Unused Subs

Maxwell, Fairhurst
 Williamson, Smith
 Mc Williams, Baynes
 Maxwell, Westwood
 Fairhurst, Sinclair
 Mk Williams, Spann, G.Taylor
 Mk Williams, Fleming

Cieslewicz (62), Fleming (62)
 Sakho (60), Marc Williams (65), Baynes (75)
 Sakho (75), Cieslewicz (87)
 Sakho (80)
 Baynes (52), Cieslewicz (73), Taboubi (78)

Mike Williams, Spann, Smith
 Taboubi, Smith
 Mike Williams, Taboubi, Fairhurst
 Mike Williams, Taboubi, Cieslewicz, Baynes
 Mike Williams, G.Taylor

Fleming (46), McCluskey (60), Cieslewicz (60)
 Baynes (65), Mike Williams (90)
 Mike Williams (34), Cieslewicz (75)
 Spann (51), Cieslewicz (60), Baynes (80)
 Fairhurst (64), McCluskey (80)

Mike Williams, Baynes
 Taboubi, Cieslewicz, Sakho
 Westwood, Baynes, Sakho
 Westwood, Taboubi, N.Taylor, Sakho
 Williamson, Marc Williams, Cieslewicz

Jones (70)
 Cieslewicz (57), N.Taylor (68), Jones (74)
 Taboubi (32), N.Taylor (46), Marc Williams (74)
 Cieslewicz (65)
 Jones (70)

Williamson, Marc Williams, Cieslewicz, McCluskey
 Russell, Marc Williams, Fairhurst, Wolfenden
 Russell, Cieslewicz
 Russell, N.Taylor, Jones, Wolfenden
 G.Taylor, Fairhurst, McCluskey, Wolfenden



WREXHAM FC PLAYER STATISTICS 2009/10

	APPEARANCES				GOALS					
	Lge	FAC	FAT	Other	Total	Lge	FAC	FAT	Other	Total
Anoruo, Obi*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assoumani, Mansour	19	2	-	-	21	1	-	-	-	1
Baynes, Wes	8+7	1+1	-	-	9+8	2	1	-	-	3
Brown, Simon**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cieslewicz, Adrian	5+9	0+2	-	-	5+11	-	-	-	-	-
Edwards, Kai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairhurst, Nathan	3+1	-	-	-	3+1	-	-	-	-	-
Fleming, Andy	14+2	2	-	-	16+2	-	-	-	-	-
Jones, Mark	16+1	1+1	-	-	17+2	1	-	-	-	1
Maxwell, Chris	16	2	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-
McCluskey, Jamie	2+2	2	-	-	4+2	-	-	-	-	-
Obeng, Curtis	17+1	2	-	-	19+1	-	-	-	-	-
Russell, Sam	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Sakho, Lamine	5+3	1	-	-	6+3	1	-	-	-	1
Sinclair, Frank	11	1	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Smith, Christian	13+4	1	-	-	14+4	1	-	-	-	1
Spann, Silvio	10+1	0+1	-	-	10+2	-	-	-	-	-
Taboubi, Hedl	8+2	1	-	-	9+2	1	-	-	-	1
Taylor, Gareth	16	2	-	-	18	8	1	-	-	9
Taylor, Neil	15+2	0+1	-	-	15+3	-	-	-	-	-
Tsiaklis, Angelos	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Westwood, Ashley	10	1	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	1
Williams, Marc	10+7	1	-	-	11+7	-	-	-	-	-
Williams, Mike	11+2	2	-	-	13+2	2	-	-	-	2
Williamson, Sam	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Wolfenden, Matty	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Own Goals	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

* on loan to Newtown ** on loan to Tamworth

GOAL SPONSORSHIP

Buckley Reds are kindly sponsoring Wrexham FC £10 for every goal they score in the BSP this season.
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Is it time for a Great Britain?

It is just 24 hours after the Republic of Ireland's controversial exit from the World Cup 2010 play-offs, thanks in no small part to Williams Gallas' controversial goal which came after a clear handball by Thierry Henry, and I'm sat at home in 'Sumo Towers' watching the news on television.

The furore rages on, the Irish have lodged an appeal with FIFA, asking that they are allowed to replay the game. However, with the governing body previously insisting that referees decisions 'are final' there appears to be little chance of them being granted their wish. The luck of the Irish indeed!!

My mind wanders to my own country, Wales, but, not, as you might think, to Joe Jordan and 'that handball incident' from Anfield in 1977, but to our equally controversial elimination against Russia at The Millennium Stadium when we were on the verge of qualification for EURO 2004.

Having secured a fantastic draw in the first leg in Moscow, we faced the decisive second game in good heart but, in truth, an uninspired performance from Mark Hughes' side ended in defeat and heartache.

However, soon after, it transpired that Igor Titov had failed a drugs test in the aftermath of the Moscow match, where he was an unused sub, but he was still allowed to play in Cardiff the following midweek, where a solitary headed goal from Vadim Evseev was enough to separate two well-matched sides.

Wales were understandably up in arms about this, but our claims for reinstatement were rejected by those in charge at UEFA, and we were therefore denied the holiday of a lifetime following Wales around Portugal the following summer.

Fast forward to 2009, and Wales once again have failed to secure qualification, this time for the World Cup, although on this occasion it was a

long shot from the time that Finland won at 'The Mill Stad'.

However, the home nations will have some form of representation in South Africa as England qualified comfortably, and no doubt the newspapers will soon be talking of '44 years of hurt', and it will be time to dig out 'The Three Lions' song once more.

Moi, envious? Oh no, no, no. Err, well actually yes. I am puce with envy in fact.

With both Scotland and Northern Ireland joining Wales in being stuck at home next June, this begs the question 'is it time for a Great Britain team to be put together?'

England boasts the best league in the world, Scotland has a fighting spirit, Wales the passion and Ireland that maverick touch. So why not blend them all together to form a super team?

There are complications, there always are of course. The other countries are sure to complain about this idea, added to this all the managers will consider that they have a case to manage the Great Britain side. Perhaps they could do it on a rota basis?

With the exception of Northern Ireland, all the countries have a decent stadium to play the home games in, so the same argument reigns here also with games being shared around like the Christmas Quality Street.

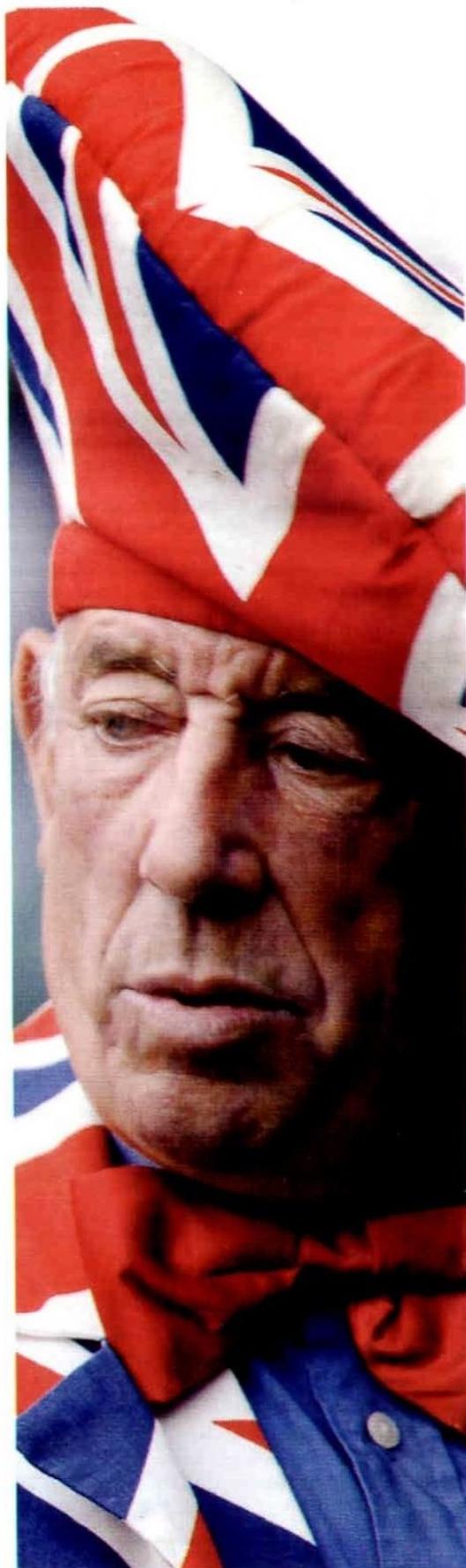
There are the plus points as I mentioned. Imagine the team we could put out; the cream of the talent, with every position having two or three players lining up to fill it. It seems to work for the rugby, with the British Lions touring the world to take on all-comers.

I know the purists amongst you will no doubt remind me that the Celts previously built walls, castles and dykes to keep the English out, but wouldn't it be nice to qualify for a big tournament, and join in the party as we pit our wits against the best of the rest that the world can offer?

On second thoughts I am a Welshman and proud of it, so its daft idea and I am an idiot to even mention it!!!

SUMO

(Made in Wales - like Bara Brith)





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THE SQUADS



WREXHAM

Manager: DEAN SAUNDERS

Colours: RED & WHITE

SAM RUSSELL	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
CURTIS OBENG	02	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAM WILLIAMSON	03	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASHLEY WESTWOOD	04	<input type="checkbox"/>
MANSOUR ASSOUMANI	05	<input type="checkbox"/>
MIKE WILLIAMS	06	<input type="checkbox"/>
MARK JONES	07	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEDI TABOUBI	08	<input type="checkbox"/>
GARETH TAYLOR	09	<input type="checkbox"/>
MARC WILLIAMS	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEIL TAYLOR	11	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANGELOS TSIAKLIS	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
NATHAN FAIRHURST	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRANK SINCLAIR	15	<input type="checkbox"/>
SILVIO SPANN	16	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADRIAN CIESLEWICZ	17	<input type="checkbox"/>
WES BAYNES	18	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANDY FLEMING	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAMIE McCLUSKEY	20	<input type="checkbox"/>
KAI EDWARDS	21	<input type="checkbox"/>
LAMINE SAKHO	22	<input type="checkbox"/>
MATTY WOLFENDEN	24	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHRISTIAN SMITH	25	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHRIS MAXWELL	27	<input type="checkbox"/>



SWINDON TOWN

Manager: DANNY WILSON

Colours: ALL BLUE

<input type="checkbox"/>	01	DAVID LUCAS
<input type="checkbox"/>	02	SCOTT CUTHBERT
<input type="checkbox"/>	04	JONATHAN DOUGLAS
<input type="checkbox"/>	06	GORDON GREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	07	JON-PAUL MCGOVERN
<input type="checkbox"/>	08	CRAIG EASTON
<input type="checkbox"/>	09	BEN HUTCHINSON
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	MICHAEL TIMLIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	ANTHONY MCNAMEE
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	PHIL SMITH
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	SEAN MORRISON
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	KEVIN AMANKWAH
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	HASNEY ALJOFREE
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	CALLUM KENNEDY
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	ALAN O'BRIEN
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	LECSINEL JEAN-FRANCOIS
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	BILLY PAYNTER
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	LEE PEACOCK
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	LLOYD MACKLIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	NATHAN THOMPSON
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	TOPE OBADEYI
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	MARK MARSHALL
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	JAKUB JESIONKOWSKI
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	YINKA CASAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	MARK SCOTT
<input type="checkbox"/>	29	KURT HAMMONDS
<input type="checkbox"/>	30	SIMON FERRY
<input type="checkbox"/>	31	ALEX REVELL
<input type="checkbox"/>	32	CHARLIE AUSTIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	33	ALEX HENSHALL
<input type="checkbox"/>	34	MATTY BARNES

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.

MATCH SPONSORS



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OFFICIALS

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Assistant Referee: A.R. PARKER
Assistant Referee: D. HANDLEY
Fourth Official: I. SIDDALL



WEEKEND FIXTURES

FA CUP SPONSORED BY EON SECOND ROUND
Bath City v Forest Green Rovers
Brighton & H.A. v Rushden & Diamonds
Cambridge United v York City
Oxford United v Barrow
Rotherham United v Luton Town
Kettering Town v Leeds United (Tomorrow)