

npower League 1 Play-Off Final Brentford v Yeovil Town

Sunday 19th May 2013
Wembley Stadium, Kick-Off 1.30pm
Official Matchday Programme £6.00



WEMBLEY

THE FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Edward VII Quay, Navigation Way, Preston, PR2 2YF

DIRECTORS

Greg Clarke - **CHAIRMAN**
Richard Bowker - **INDEPENDENT**
Phil Alexander - **CRYSTAL PALACE**
Shaun Harvey - **LEEDS UNITED**
Keith Lamb - **MIDDLESBROUGH**
Jeff Mostyn - **AFC BOURNEMOUTH**
John Nixon - **CARLISLE UNITED**
Tony Kleanthous - **BARNET**

THIS PROGRAMME WAS PRODUCED FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE BY PROGRAMMEMASTER LTD
WWW.PROGRAMMEMASTER.COM

MANAGING EDITOR - John Nagle
EDITOR - Garry Hayes
COMMISSIONING EDITOR - Trevor Haylett
ART EDITOR - Ogo Ikeogu
DESIGN - Erika Small, Ed Wilkinson
STAFF WRITER - Stuart Newman
HEAD OF PRODUCTION - Liam Curry

GROUP EDITOR - Lee Berry (020 7121 5024)
ADVERTISING SALES - Grant Levy, Rob Williams

THANKS TO - Peter Gilham (BFC), Richard Godden, Adrian Hopper (YTFC), Thomas Roland

PHOTOSHOOTS - Barry Coombes, Will Wilkinson
PHOTOGRAPHY - PA Photos, Action Images
PRINT AND REPRODUCTION - Wyndham Grange

FOR MORE COPIES CONTACT PROGRAMMEMASTER:
ORDER HOTLINE 08700 20 20 20

© The Football League Ltd
www.football-league.co.uk

EVENT360

PROGRAMME MASTER

Today's pre and post-match entertainment is produced by event360 on behalf of npower and The Football League. For further information visit www.event360.co.uk

ORDER OF EVENTS

11.00am TURNSTILES OPEN

12.10pm npower KIDS CUP FINAL

Brentford (Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School)

v

Coventry City (Chetwynd Junior School)

12.40pm PLAYERS WARM UP

1.25pm TEAMS ENTER THE STADIUM

Presentation of teams and match officials to Chief Guests:

Wayne Mitchell, Head of I&C Sales & Marketing, npower

Greg Clarke, Chairman, The Football League

JC, Movember co-founder, Guest of Prostate Cancer UK

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Led by Bella Fiori



1.30pm KICK-OFF

2.15pm HALF-TIME

2.30pm SECOND HALF

3.15pm END OF MATCH*

Presentation of the npower League 1 Play-Off Trophy and medals to the winning team by: Wayne Mitchell, Head of I&C Sales & Marketing, npower

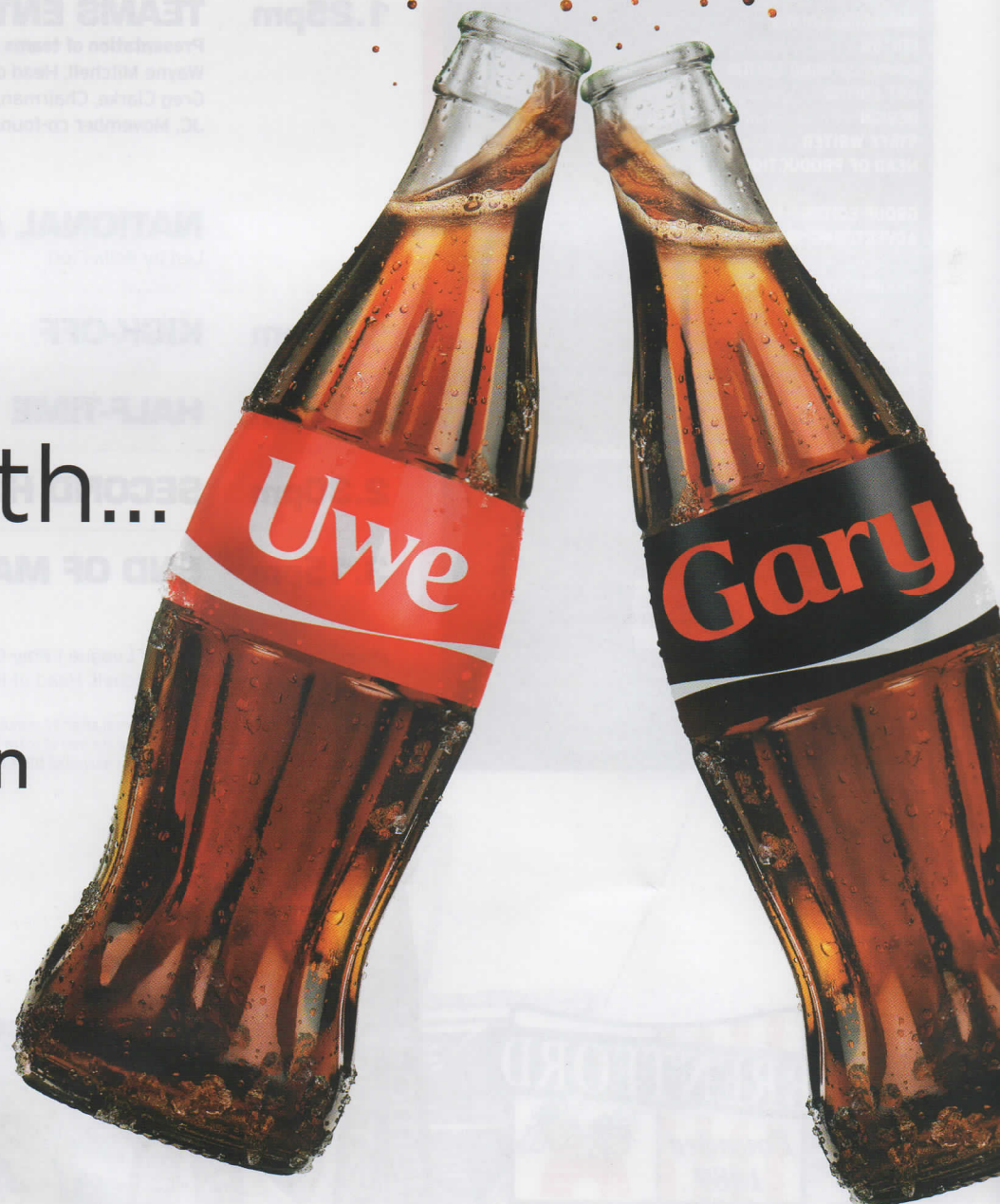
*In the event of the scores remaining level after 90 minutes, half an hour of extra time will be played. Should the score remain level at the end of extra time, the winners will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark at an end of the stadium to be determined by the referee.





Share a
Coke® with...

and cheer
your team on
to victory!



open happiness™

©2013 The Coca-Cola Company. 'Coca-Cola', 'Coke', 'Open happiness', the 'Contour Bottle', the 'Contour Bottle Symbol' and the 'Dynamic Ribbon Device' are registered trademarks of the Coca-Cola Company.



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE, the world's original league football competition, was first set up in 1888 for regular fixtures. The world's first in the 125 years since, it has defined seasons of glory and delivered some of the most memorable moments in football history.

32

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BUZZING FOR THE BEES

By Harry Forrester

68

BUZZING FOR THE BEES Brentford's Harry Forrester

A FINE DAY FOR AYLING

By Luke Ayling

94

A FINE DAY FOR AYLING Yeovil Town defender Luke Ayling

INSIDE...

- 07 WELCOME TO WEMBLEY** From The Football League and npower
- 08 ARCH RIVALS** Who will win promotion at Wembley Stadium this afternoon?
- 14 THE HUNGER GAMES** Interview with Brentford boss Uwe Rosler
- 19 MAGIC JOHNSON** We speak with Yeovil Town manager Gary Johnson
- 23 IT'LL BE ALL WIGHT** Simon Moore
- 27 MATCH MADDEN HEAVEN** Paddy Madden
- 39 SEVENTH HEAVEN?** Kevin O'Connor
- 41 KING JAMES** James Hayter
- 45 BRENTFORD** Bees legend Andy McCulloch introduces the squad
- 51 TALKING TACTICS** With Dean Smith and Richie Barker
- 54 TEAM OF THE SEASON** This year's cream of the crop from npower League 1
- 59 YEOVIL TOWN** Assistant manager Terry Skiverton's view on the Glovers
- 63 PLAY-OFF DIARY** With SkySports' Andy Hinchcliffe and Don Goodman
- 70 WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN** Kevin Dawson
- 72 TOP 10 PLAY-OFF FINAL GOALS** Counting down to number one
- 77 HULL'S ANGEL** Clayton Donaldson
- 83 BACKGROUND CZECH** Marek Stech
- 93 IN IT TO WIN IT** Jonathan Douglas
- 98 npower LEAGUE 1 PLAY-OFF FINAL SQUADS**



**Thank you to all
our partners for
your support**



JOHNSTONE'S

CapitalOne™

Coca-Cola®

BetButler
We're on your side

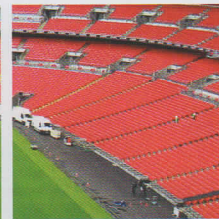
sky SPORTS

EA SPORTS
Phones 4u
ProgrammeMaster
Sega
Sporting ID
Topps Europe

Kia Motors
Mitre

BBC Sport
BBC Radio Five Live
BBC Local Radio
Independent Radio News
Pitch International
talkSPORT

Real Football, Real Fans
www.football-league.co.uk



WELCOME TO WEMBLEY

The Football League and npower wish to extend a warm welcome to the directors, management, players and supporters of Brentford and Yeovil Town



GREG CLARKE
CHAIRMAN, THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On behalf of The Football League, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2013 npower Football League Play-Off Finals.

It's been a memorable end to the season across the npower Football League and anticipation is high that the drama will continue here at Wembley today. These winner-takes-all occasions rarely fail to deliver and have quite rightly become some of the most eagerly anticipated events in the sporting calendar.

The Football League, the world's original league football competition, celebrates its 125th anniversary during 2013 and the Play-Offs remain one of our most successful innovations. By keeping

the playing season alive longer for more clubs, they have transformed the end-of-season run-in and helped League crowds more than double in the period since their introduction in 1986/87.

Our welcome is also extended to the directors, management and players of today's finalists. Congratulations on your achievements this season and we very much hope you enjoy being centre stage in this wonderful sporting arena.

I would like to thank our sponsor npower for playing their part in another fantastic season of league football. Across the last three seasons they have provided great support to our clubs and

competition and we wish them well for the future.

Thanks also go to our primary broadcasting partner, Sky Sports. Once again, they have made an outstanding commitment to our three divisions, including screening all 15 play-off matches live. This has enabled millions of fans to share our end-of-season football festival, regardless of whether or not their club is involved.

Of course, it is fitting that my final welcome goes to the two sets of supporters joining us at Wembley this afternoon. Enjoy the match and enjoy next season, in whichever division you are watching your football.



WAYNE MITCHELL
HEAD OF I&C SALES & MARKETING, npower

A very warm welcome to the 2013 npower League 1 Play-Off Final. It's an enormous achievement for both teams to get to Wembley and I'm sure we're in for a fantastic game today.

This is sadly the final year of npower's sponsorship of football following a review of our business and our commitment to totally focus on our customers' needs. During the last three years, we have enjoyed a hugely successful relationship with The Football League and all its 72 clubs. We would like to thank all of them for their support and wish them the very best for the future.

The passion of League football fans up and down the country constitutes the lifeblood of the sport and, as this season closes, we wish all of them luck for next season, also.

We are particularly proud of the work we've done in the communities around each of the 72 clubs during our sponsorship. We've worked with

well over 300,000 young people - that's 100,000 each year during our three-year sponsorship - involving them in a range of activities from Respect workshops through to What's Your Goal? work experience opportunities, truly demonstrating the power of football.

One great example - which you'll be able to see for yourself before kick-off today - is our Kids Cup competition: a national knock-out tournament with teams from right across the UK representing their local club. We welcome Chetwynd Junior School, representing Coventry City, and Corpus Christi CE Primary School, representing Brentford.

This event, along with the Girls Cup competition, has seen over 7,400 schools and over 58,600 children taking part, showing youngsters the importance of teamwork, the fun of playing football and the rewards of achievement.

Our support has also extended beyond that of games played on a pitch. Working in

partnership with The Football League Trust, npower's innovative What's Your Goal? mentoring and work experience programme is a national scheme giving teenagers the chance to shadow and be mentored by high-profile professionals from within the football industry, including Kevin Keegan, Neil Warnock, Robbie Savage, Karren Brady and Sir John Madejski.

Our Respect workshops, run by each of the 72 Football League community trusts, highlight the importance of considerate behaviour in sport and our daily lives. To date, 212,846 primary school children have received the Respect message through lessons in local schools.

It's been a busy three years, and we're proud of the support we've given to both the games played on the pitch as well as the wider surrounding communities. It just leaves me to wish all the best to the two teams playing today and hope all you supporters enjoy a wonderful match.

ARCH RIVALS

Brentford and Yeovil Town go head-to-head at Wembley today with the prize of npower Championship football next season awaiting the victor. Let battle commence...



WORDS: JON COLMAN

Twenty-seven years old and as fresh as ever, the npower League 1 play-offs march back into Wembley today with a simple promise: that history will be both honoured and made, whether the ribbons on the trophy end up being green or red.

England's most neurotic division – managers have a shorter lifespan in the third tier than any other – offers a great crescendo for either Yeovil Town or Brentford, but also for followers of the genius scheme devised back in 1986.

Students of fate will like to know that the play-offs have stronger ties with the Bees than most other clubs. They were the concept of the former Griffin Park chairman, Martin Lange, who first proposed this crazy end of season shoot-out as a way of injecting new excitement into the end of season.

One nice script today, more than a quarter of a century later, has Uwe Rosler's team reaping the best possible benefit from Lange's idea, which he borrowed from American sport at a time when the England's top-flight was eyeing a breakaway future of riches and opportunity.

But those from Somerset should not travel to Wembley in despair. The bittersweet twist to Brentford's deep association with the play-offs is that they have reached them six times and failed to win a single final. "A monkey on

my back," Lange once reflected. Whichever side prevails this afternoon will be flying over a giant hurdle. Brentford want to deal with the heartache Lange referred to and also deliver on Rosler's bright management and Matthew Benham's financial input.

Yeovil's story offers the additional charm of a "little old club", to borrow from their boss Gary Johnson, climbing from non-league and then, just 10 years later, standing on the brink of the npower Championship.

Neither of today's foes are the biggest that League 1 has dispatched to face-off under the big arch. There is a case for saying the third tier remains the highest at which a genuine underdog, without pots of cash to spray around, can still gatecrash the party.

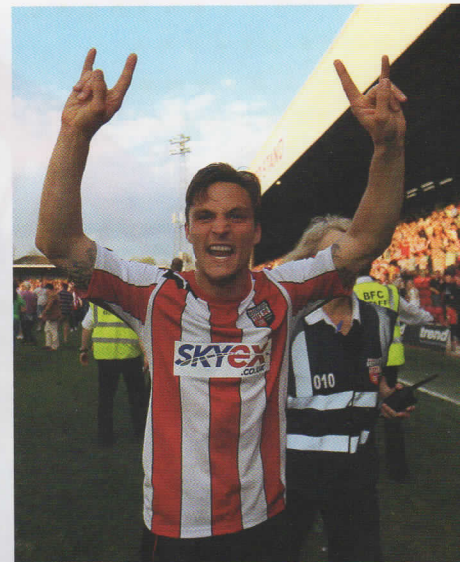
The best possible example of this in the 2012/13 season was of Yeovil overturning Yorkshire giant Sheffield United's lead in their semi-final, continuing a campaign of against-the-odds success for a club who have relied on smart recruitment and ambitious coaching rather than spending.

While Brentford were killing their penalty demons with a shoot-out win against Swindon, nine days after an injury-time spot-kick miss had handed promotion to Doncaster, Yeovil were outpassing and outscoring their guests





Yeovil Town players and Brentford's Sam Saunders (right) celebrate booking a dream trip to Wembley



The division's average longevity rate of 1.39 seasons makes the Premier League (3.80) a place of comfort and calm, not the frenzied environment it often appears. So today's rivals deserve praise simply for seeing it through, let alone applying their skills through an arduous campaign which changed course many times before the end.

For much of it, Tranmere Rovers looked like the team most likely to enjoy a day like today. Leaders until game 31, the Wirral club then hit the wall, losing 12 of their last 17 matches to finish 11th. Bournemouth, by contrast, won seven in eight to snatch second place.

There was a financial gulf between the sides, but budgets aren't everything, as Johnson has showed in steering Yeovil to fourth. Their season is still alive while others eventually perished, such as Swindon, who were at the centre of their own soap opera during Paolo Di Canio's reign and then fell at the last under his more placid successor, Kevin MacDonald.

Johnson has also enjoyed the unlikely pleasure of managing against his son (Oldham's Lee) during an eventful term, while Rosler's

from Bramall Lane through match winner, Ed Upson, a typical Johnson player in that he has put unpromising beginnings elsewhere firmly in the past by flourishing under the manager's shrewd tutelage.

Upson, who started at Ipswich Town, is one of several men lining up today who could be an hour and a half from heroism or villainy, in the context of the play-offs' history of intense drama.

Anyone trying to identify the major players today would be advised to remember that promotion last year went down to whether a goalkeeper could score a goal. Steve Simonsen's penalty miss for Sheffield United against Huddersfield Town, in an 8-7 shoot-out, was the decisive final act in a nine-month season.

If it comes down to the goalies again today, all bets will be off. If it ends sooner, candidates are everywhere. Paddy Madden, surely the signing of the season (a five-figure snip from Carlisle United), brings 23 goals to the table for Yeovil, while Brentford's Clayton Donaldson has 24, including two in their Swindon melodrama.

Alternatives include James Hayter,

the Yeovil marksman whose goal won this very Final for Doncaster Rovers against Leeds United in 2008, and Trotta, the loan striker who claimed he didn't sleep for two days after his crossbar incident against Donny, who went up as very late, and dramatic, champions.

Separating Bees and Glovers today, however you view it, is a demanding task. Brentford (third) ended with two points more than fourth-placed Yeovil and have an obviously shorter trip to today's grand venue. But Johnson's men won both contests in the league; 3-0 at Huish Park, 3-1 at Griffin Park, and have won nine of their 16 meetings to Brentford's five.

Even the job of calling how and when it might finish isn't simple. No team in League 1 drew fewer games than Yeovil, which suggests it's a 90-minute contest. But Brentford ended 16 games level, exactly double their opponents' figure. Going the distance is a theme enjoyed by both managers. Rosler, who has overcome serious illness, and Johnson, thriving in his second spell at Yeovil, are two of only 10 who have ended the League 1 season in the same post they started in.

"THE AVERAGE LONGEVITY RATE OF 1.39 SEASONS FOR LEAGUE 1 MANAGERS MAKES THE PREMIER LEAGUE (3.80) A PLACE OF COMFORT AND CALM"



@ NPOWER_LEAGUE1
PLAYOFFFINAL



Doncaster Rovers went up as champions in the most dramatic fashion

calm exterior has been tested numerous times recently. All sense of control was abandoned when Adam Forshaw's winning penalty went in against Swindon and some will be betting on one more German party at English football's home today.

For Yeovil, who were beaten by Blackpool here in 2007, it is a second go at destiny. This Final, meanwhile, is Brentford's second Wembley date in three seasons after they were beaten by Carlisle United in the 2011 Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final.

That day a legend of the lower

leagues, Peter Murphy, volleyed the only goal. Kevin O'Connor, a long-serving Bees icon, would be an appropriate winner this time.

But try telling that to Yeovil's unheralded players, who will fancy shredding a few more reputations on their way to the recognition that comes with glory here this afternoon at the national stadium.

Either way, success will come instantly this afternoon, not in a drawn-out fashion like 1986/87, when the play-offs also involved teams from the league above,

and came down to a two-legged Final between Gillingham and Swindon and then a replay, eventually decided by two Steve White goals.

White was the first hero of many, and someone else gets to wear history's medal today, thanks to an old idea which still, 27 years on, behaves like a magic formula.

“YEOVIL'S PLAYERS WILL FANCY SHREDDING A FEW MORE REPUTATIONS THAT COMES WITH WEMBLEY GLORY”

nPower LEAGUE 1 TABLE

	P	Pts
Doncaster Rovers	46	84
Bournemouth	46	83
Brentford	46	79
Yeovil Town	46	77
Sheffield United	46	75
Swindon Town	46	74
Leyton Orient	46	71
MK Dons	46	70
Walsall	46	68
Crawley Town	46	68
Tranmere Rovers	46	67
Notts County	46	65
Crewe Alexandra	46	64
Preston North End	46	59
Coventry City	46	55
Shrewsbury Town	46	55
Carlisle United	46	55
Stevenage	46	54
Oldham Athletic	46	51
Colchester United	46	51
Scunthorpe United	46	48
Bury	46	41
Hartlepool United	46	41
Portsmouth	46	32



THE HUNGER GAMES

Brentford manager **UWE ROSLER** stands on the brink of a new era at Griffin Park, but as he tells us, he wants a whole lot more than just promotion today with the Bees

INTERVIEW: BY CHRIS HATHERALL

Obviously there is the target of promotion at Wembley Stadium today but it looks like there is also a long-term project at the club with a new stadium in the pipeline and a lot of changes under owner Matthew Benham. How do you see the future of the club?

I think over the last few years progress has been made. Last season we finished in the top 10 for the first time in seven years and we even had an outside chance of the play-offs. This season we have been in the play-offs more or less all year. We had a chance of automatic promotion but now we have a second chance and it's an extraordinary thing for Brentford Football Club. The players, the staff and the board - we have lifted the club to new levels. I was given a task by the owner to make sure that in 2016, when hopefully the new stadium opens, he will be watching Championship football there. I think that's the task ahead of us. To achieve that we are not only looking at first team level; we are also putting a lot of emphasis on our academy. Brentford has to find its own way in the future; we have to start producing our own players because financially we may never be in a position to compete with the top teams around us.

Was being involved in that kind of project part of what attracted you to managing at Brentford Football Club? A chance to help build a club as well as a team?

It's been a great experience. It's a different kind of project but we are all together - the owner, the staff, the players, sporting director Mark Warburton and the fans - and we think we can achieve all our goals. It's a very exciting road. This season a lot of obstacles were put in our way but the team has overcome them all and put themselves in a position with one more game to go to reach promotion. Every day work is enjoyable, every day work is a step in the right direction. And I'm absolutely delighted

that the fans have a chance to be at Wembley too, because this club hasn't had a lot of success in the play-offs. We want to create history and we have a chance to do that. Of course in one game at Wembley anything can happen, but we have to be ready physically and mentally and I think we will be. When you talk about mental strength, we have shown it. Overcoming the last day of the season and then going into the play-offs. I can't praise my players highly enough for their mental strength and their desire to make the incredible happen.

Looking back on your own career, it's obvious that you have shown that same mental strength and desire that Brentford have this season, particularly when your playing career was ended prematurely by cancer and you returned to become a manager.

I always thought I would be a manager but obviously I would have played on longer. I had been a professional since 1987, when I was 18, and I wanted to play as long as I could because I realised playing football is the greatest thing in the world. I was in very good shape and I was very

“WE WANT TO
CREATE HISTORY
AND WE HAVE A
CHANCE TO DO THAT”

“THE NATURE OF OUR GROUP IS THAT WE ARE FIGHTERS. WE DON'T ACCEPT DEFEAT”

successful in Norway scoring goals. I was planning to play for another three or four years at least but the illness decided it in a different way and I used my recovery time from the treatment to do my coaching badges. It wasn't an easy time of course but I'm a strong believer in destiny and I also believe that bad things are always the start of better things to happen. You have to overcome them, you have to be strong and you have to be a survivor. I have tried to bring that in my daily life; I appreciate every day I have with my family and my job. I love my job and I love Brentford and the people I work with. It has given me so much pleasure and I'm a very happy man. It's obviously not easy to travel back and forward to my family who still live up in the north, we all have to make sacrifices. But it's worth it when you work in an environment like Brentford's.

As a boy you grew up in East Germany - before the wall came down - so you have come a long way in your career. How exciting is it to be making your first appearance at Wembley Stadium?

We couldn't really see footage from other countries when I was a boy, not even the FA Cup Final. But I remember my former manager Joachim Streich, who I have a lot to thank for, famously winning his 100th cap in an international match at Wembley and the game was broadcast over in East Germany. You saw the stadium, a full house, against England and you realised Wembley is a place every footballer wants to be. For me it's the home of football, a mythical place. And for all of us to be at Wembley is fantastic. But we are not going there for the occasion,

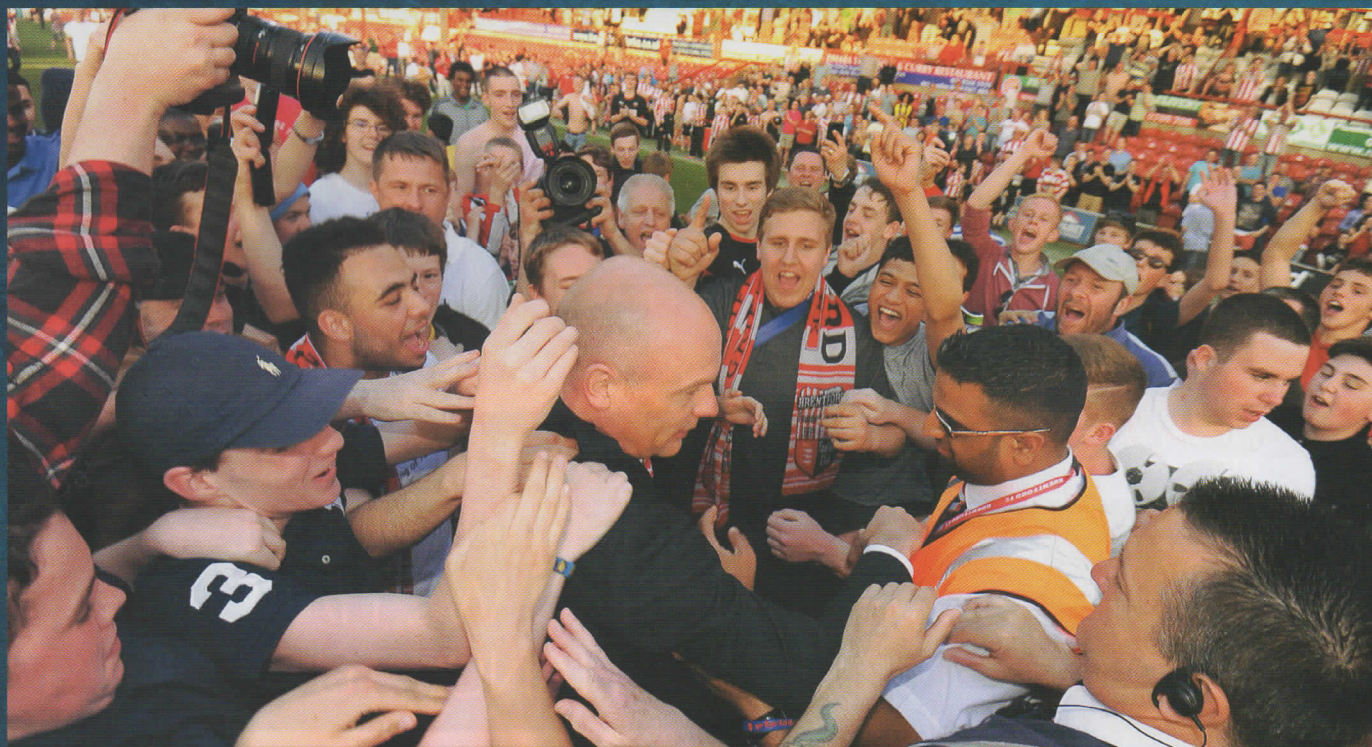
we are going there to win. It's very important to focus on the performance not the occasion.

As you mentioned earlier, it's a real achievement for Brentford to have overcome the deep disappointment of the Doncaster Rovers defeat to reach Wembley.

That's the nature of our group; we are fighters. We don't accept defeat. The odds were against us and a lot of people had written us off but I know the character of my players and my staff. The hunger we as a club showed meant for me it was not a surprise that we bounced back in the way we did. Now we have one more challenge against a very good Yeovil Town side. Gary Johnson and his group of players have had a very good season. They have beaten us twice but we finished above them in the league. I think that makes this game very interesting and very equal; the chances are 50/50 for both teams. It will depend on which team holds their nerve, which team makes fewer mistakes and which team performs best under pressure. And I believe we can cope with the pressure on the day.

It was a massive test for such a young team to miss out with the last shot on the last day of the season. We were 10 seconds and a few centimetres away from automatic promotion. So to bounce back in the way we did was special. Even some experienced teams who have played at the top for much longer wouldn't come back from that. It's an extraordinary story my players have written so far. But we want to finish the story with a fairytale. There is 90 minutes of football ahead of us, maybe extra time, maybe penalties, and there is a big prize to give out.

Rosler is mobbed by fans after steering the Bees to Wembley



YOUR TOWN, YOUR CLUB YOUR TICKET!

SEASON TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT DISCOUNTED RATE UNTIL 31ST MAY
CALL 01935 847888 OR VISIT WWW.YTFC.NET



THANK YOU!

YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THEIR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR BACKING THIS SEASON.

MAGIC JOHNSON

It's always a risk returning to a former club where success was once achieved, but when **GARY JOHNSON** returned to Yeovil Town after seven years it was as if he never left. Revitalised under his stewardship, promotion to the Championship today would top the lot

INTERVIEW: GRAHAM NICKLESS

They say "never go back" Gary, so why did you return to take charge of Yeovil Town?

A lot of people said that to me at the time but one of the reasons I went back was because the place hadn't changed much from the last time I was there. It was the same chairman, near enough a similar board and the supporters were pretty much the same apart from being a bit older, so it was like being in the film Cocoon. With my old players Terry [Skiverton] and Darren [Way] being there as well, and we are good mates anyway, they were the sort of people I was really looking forward to working with because I knew their passion and commitment. I also felt going back I could provide the sort of spark the club needed at that time to help everybody there.

How much do you admire Terry's decision to be your assistant after losing the manager's job?

In football you have to make really important decisions for yourself and your family and Terry must have had a real difficult predicament in his head. I sat down with him for four or five hours in a hotel and convinced him that I would still make him feel like he was a co-manager. Because he trusted me from his playing days he knew he had to let it go. It has been a great partnership but it has been a great relationship as well with Darren because he is also a committed person. They work all the hours God sends, they are workaholics and they will only have success out of the game. With us there are no good cop, bad cop situations. If something goes wrong we are all angry and if something pleases us we are all happy. So the players know that all they've got to do is make us all happy.

How good is your relationship with chairman John Fry?

You have got to have 100 per cent trust in each other and believe that you are both doing what is best for the football club and that's the relationship we've got. The chairman has worked so hard over the years, maintaining



what was a non-league club in The Football League on a low budget and small crowds. When we had the original call about me going back the chairman put it in a way that made me think: "Well it might not be such a bad idea." We are both emotional people and there were tears when I left for Bristol City. The decision the chairman and I made to work together again has been vindicated. I think he is a happy man now and I am a happy man right now.

If you are triumphant today would Yeovil be able to survive in the Championship?

It would be great to have the opportunity, that's the thing. We can all say we can if we get there but there's a lot of talking to be done yet. There is a game still to be played against Brentford of course but I know the Championship inside out and it's not a Mickey Mouse league. There are teams that have had double-figure million pound budgets that compete in the Championship and have been relegated. Yeovil, if we got there, would have a single-figure million pound budget. We have got to work hard and try very hard to get there and if we do we will need to be very clever or very lucky!

Is the reputed £20,000 January signing and Golden Boot winner Paddy Madden the signing of the season?

He's the signing of the century! You never quite know how a signing is going to come off and Paddy, with all due respect, hadn't done much before coming here but we had to go with our gut feelings. We loved his enthusiasm and we loved his infectious and effective running. I have worked with a couple of similar players like the late Adam Stansfield, God bless him, and Craig Mackail-Smith. Every team needs a willing runner up top and he came into that category. To score 23 goals is a wonderful achievement for him and to get the Golden Boot for the division is beyond everybody's dreams. He's earned his fame if you like because he's a constant threat to the opposition's goal.

What do you have to do to make this Yeovil side a team of Wembley winners this afternoon?

Preparation is always massive. We worked very hard as a management team to prepare for the play-off semi-finals against a big club like Sheffield United. We really did take the details to the nth degree. There wasn't anything we didn't brainstorm between us or anything we didn't discuss for hours about what would be the best preparation for the team. We have also prepared well for this Play-Off Final, but there again we have to make sure the players are geared up to winning the game. You have to get them to play with no fear on the day so that their best game comes out individually as well as a team.

How much did you learn from Bristol City's 2008 Championship Play-Off Final defeat to Hull City?

It's all about experience and I have been able to tap into that experience leading up to this Final. When people said to me that there's no substitute for experience when I was younger, I didn't really believe them, but now I'm a lot older I certainly believe in it. I showed my team the highlights of our semi-final games against Crystal Palace and I turned the sound up because I wanted them to sample the atmosphere and feel the importance of the game. When I showed them highlights of the final it was for different reasons. I wanted to make the point that if you get to a final the only way you can really, really enjoy it is to win. The Hull defeat hurt and I learned a lot from it

and we will be putting into practice what's in my head now about what went well and what didn't go well on the day.

You have taken Yeovil from Conference football to the brink of the Championship in two spells in 10 years. What's your secret?


The secret is to get a management and playing staff that has the same ambition and drive as yourself. Anything is possible with a group energy. Call it luck, call it judgement but there's a lot of hard work in there as well. To be part of a successful club's football history will stay with you for the rest of your life. And maybe one day I will get that statue outside the ground the chairman promised me!

**"THE DECISION
THE CHAIRMAN
AND I MADE
TO WORK
TOGETHER
ONCE AGAIN
HAS BEEN
VINDICATED"**



Darren Way, Terry Skiverton and Gary Johnson toast sealing a Wembley berth

You for your tremendous support
FC would like to thank

 @NPOWER_LEAGUE1
#PLAYOFFFINAL



**Brentford FC would like to thank
you for your tremendous support
throughout the season and TODAY!**

You Are Brentford



pic courtesy Mark Fuller www.officialbfcpics.co.uk

2013/14 Season Tickets

ON SALE THIS WEEK!



visit www.brentfordfc.co.uk
call the Ticket Office: 0845 3456 442

REAL FANS REAL FOOTBALL

IT'LL BE ALL WIGHT

That's what Brentford fans will be thinking when they see Isle of Wight native **SIMON MOORE** line up in goal for the Bees at Wembley today

INTERVIEW: RUSSELL KEMPSON

Academy coaches have probably heard the lot when it comes to excuses for a youngster missing training. "I don't feel well" and "my dad's car has broken down" are regulars. At Southampton, the renowned centre of excellence, the staff had to get used to a rather stranger reason - "Sorry, my boat has been cancelled".

Boat to training? For Simon Moore, the Brentford goalkeeper, it was the only way. He was born and bred in Sandown, on the Isle of Wight, and the ferry - or hovercraft - had to be his main port of call on the transport route. Yet if the elements were rough on the Solent, that was it. No go.

Much the same when Brading Town, Moore's first club, attempted to set off to the mainland for an away Wessex League fixture. If it was "blowing a hoolie" and the skipper - of the ferry, not Brading - felt it was too dangerous to set sail, that was it, too. Game off.

"I did miss a few training sessions with Southampton because of the bad weather," Moore said. "And when I was playing for Brading, we also had a couple of games postponed because of that. We couldn't get there. Getting the last boat back, at 11.45pm, could be tricky also. I missed it a couple of times when I was playing for Farnborough, and had to stay overnight with a mate.

"But I loved living on the island. It might be isolated and has a slower pace of life, but it's a very safe environment in which to grow up. Once you get into your late teens, though, many people decide to move away because the opportunities are so limited. But I still go back as much as I can."

Moore's affinity to his birthplace led to him playing for the "national team" in the 2009 Island Games on Åland, Finland. After finishing third in their group, against Rhodes (Greece), Saaremaa (Estonia) and Jersey, they lost 3-0 to Gibraltar in the 9th/10th place play-off.

"The standard of the football was quite high," Moore added, "the pitches were fantastic and the tournament set me up nicely for my trial with Brentford when I got back. No, I don't really consider that I've got four 'international' caps, but I was very proud to represent the Isle of Wight."

At Southampton, when the ferry wasn't cancelled, a young Moore took his first steps on the professional ladder. "I was the year below Theo





Simon Moore cannot hide his delight at reaching Wembley after Brentford's penalty shoot-out win over Swindon Town



“I’VE HEARD A FEW WHISPERS ABOUT LINKS TO OTHER TEAMS AND THAT’S FLATTERING”

[Walcott] and Gareth [Bale] but people were already talking about Theo,” he said. At Brading - managed by his father, Phil - Moore looked up to Steve Lawton, the first-team goalkeeper. “As a kid, I’d warm him up before games and now and again, he’d give me a pair of his gloves. Big gloves on my small hands looked very funny. ”

On Simon’s release from Farnborough after one season, and after his Island Games experience, Griffin Park and a three-week trial beckoned. It went well. “On the day of the team photograph, I didn’t quite know what to do with myself but the manager [Andy Scott] told me to get a shirt and get in the photo. I thought that was quite promising. He then called me into his office and offered me a one-year contract. Naturally, I was delighted.”

For the former bank cashier and school learning support assistant, it was his big break. At 22, with a contract until 2016 and a Wembley appearance today, the future appears rosy. Moore has settled on the mainland - near Windsor with his fiancée, Catherine - and still keeps an eye on 18-year-old brother, Stuart, an academy player with Reading. Curiously, like father - dad played semi-professionally for the now defunct Road-Sea Southampton club - like sons. All three are goalkeepers.

And 6ft 3in, Simon is already attracting attention elsewhere, especially after his dominant display

in the 1-1 draw with Swindon Town in the first leg of Bees’ play-off semi-final. “I’ve heard a few whispers about links to other teams and that’s flattering but I don’t let the speculation affect me. If an opportunity to go to a top club came along, of course I’d consider it but I’m just keeping my head down.”

Working hard with Richard Lee, his fellow custodian at Brentford, and Simon Royce, the goalkeeping coach, Moore uses the art of psychology to conquer his nerves before matches. “Richard introduced me to it and it’s had a huge influence on me. If you can get an extra one or two per cent out of it, which I do, it’s brilliant.”

The Bees spent last week on a two-day training break in South Wales followed by a “bonding” trip to Ascot races. “I had two winners, just about broke even and that was great.” He then caught the 8.45pm ferry from Southampton to East Cowes to make a fleeting visit to his 86-year-old grandmother, Barbara, in Sandown.

Moore will have been safely tucked away in the Brentford team hotel last night, not on the Isle of Wight. To have phoned Uwe Rosler this morning and told him that there was a hoolie blowing across the Solent and that he couldn’t make Wembley - it just wouldn’t bear thinking about.





Cheers
or tears...
raise a glass to the
heroes of Yeovil

Pure Gold from Somerset



MATCH MADDEN HEAVEN

From enduring a barren spell in front of goal for previous club Carlisle United, **PADDY MADDEN** just can't stop scoring for Yeovil Town

INTERVIEW: CLIVE WHITE

As pleased as Yeovil Town manager Gary Johnson was the night his loan striker Paddy Madden scored two goals at Shrewsbury Town, bringing his total to five in four starts for the West Country club, he was arguably even more delighted that Joe Garner - the player who had kept Madden out of the Carlisle United team - had also scored a brace, against Oldham Athletic.

Johnson knew from Madden's very first training sessions at Huish Park what sort of player he had and he desperately wanted to turn the loan deal into a more permanent arrangement. "Joe Garner is much better than Paddy," he said, tongue firmly in cheek, to the media after the Shrewsbury victory. "There is no way I would change Garner for Paddy Madden."

Then after uncrossing fingers and toes, he confided: "We are going to have to tie him down or hide him somewhere. This is business and this is football. We knew he would prove good for us. Now we have got to keep quiet about him and hope nobody notices."

Fat chance. Nevertheless, Johnson smartly did his "business" with Carlisle just as soon as he could and in the January transfer window the 23-year-old Dubliner put pen to paper, celebrating his move to the Glovers in the best way possible: he scored in the next eight consecutive matches to break a club record that had stood for 50 years. It was also no coincidence that his first goals for the club, at home to Colchester United on 6 October, halted a run of six consecutive defeats.

The fact that Madden went on to finish the season as League 1's leading goalscorer with 23 goals - 22 of them for Yeovil - firing them into the play-offs in the process, was no doubt to Carlisle's bitter chagrin, given that they themselves finished a disappointing 17th. Nor will the Cumbrians' angst have been soothed any by the knowledge that they had released him for a giveaway £20,000 fee.

"The bargain of the season, or more like the bargain of the century," Johnson calls him. To outsiders it may seem inexplicable that Carlisle could let him go, but Johnson has been around long enough to understand that some players



“PADDY IS THE BARGAIN OF THE SEASON, OR MORE LIKE THE BARGAIN OF THE CENTURY”

“like everything, it obviously happens for a reason.”

His meagre tally of two goals in 36 games for Greg Abbott's team - the first of them strangely enough against Yeovil - was misleading since he started in only seven of those games and when he did come on as a substitute it was invariably for just a few minutes and more often than not out of position on the wing.

Madden is obviously very much a confidence player as he freely admitted himself. “When a striker gets goals his confidence goes up, and you're trying lots of difficult things that just seem to come off,” he said. “If they're not going in for you and confidence is low, you end up looking to keep everything simple but not even that stuff will work for you.”

Ever since he started his career, in the League of Ireland, he has made something of a habit of upsetting, or more like confounding, his regular employers, once scoring against his own club Bohemians while on loan to Shelbourne in a cup tie. That particular loan deal was brought swiftly to a close by the parent club.

Shrewsbury Town defender David McAllister knew Madden well from their time together at Shelbourne and is not the least bit surprised by his success.

“Back then, perhaps his biggest strength was his persistence,” he said. “He worked so hard on his game and kept on doing the right things in matches even if he didn't always get his rewards straight away. If Paddy thinks a run is going to cause a defence a problem then he'll keep on making it, over and over again.”

Madden did enjoy one memorable occasion with Carlisle when he played in the 2011 Johnstone's Paint Trophy

Final at Wembley - needless to say as a substitute and coincidentally against today's opponents Brentford. The Cumbrians won that game 1-0.

“So it's my second trip there in a couple of years - most people don't get to go to Wembley once in an entire career, so I'm fortunate,” he said. “The Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final was a big game, but to be playing in a play-off final is even bigger.”

Madden has represented the Republic of Ireland at every level from Under-17s to U-23s - scoring against England at the latter level (obviously as a substitute). He has yet to play at full level but former Irish international Kevin Kilbane is just one of those who believe that is likely to be corrected very soon and that he will follow in the footsteps of compatriots Kevin Doyle and Shane Long in becoming a success at the highest level of the English game.

- and some managers - just never hit it off at a club. “He just needed to be loved and wanted,” said the Glovers boss. Two serious injuries - a broken metatarsal and an ankle ligament injury - also had something to do with it, wrecking two pre-seasons at Brunton Park. The player himself could afford to be quite philosophical about it. “Some managers take a liking to you and some don't,” explained Madden,

Pardoes
Solicitors

Proud sponsors and supporters of Yeovil Town Football Club

Good Luck Yeovil Town.
We're rooting for you!



www.pardoes.co.uk

Pardoes Solicitors. Yeovil Solicitors proud of our strong roots within the Yeovil and Wessex Community.

SIX OF THE BEST

★ ★ ★ We asked six personalities to name the top performers of 2012/13, the only rule being they couldn't vote for their club ★ ★ ★
 INTERVIEWS: GRAHAME LLOYD AND NICK JUDD

JOHN RYAN DONCASTER ROVERS CHAIRMAN



1 Who has been the best player in League 1?
 Paddy Madden at Yeovil Town has been incredible. He was transferred for a small fee from Carlisle United and he's their leading scorer with 22 goals - including one against us in the 1-1 draw at the Keepmoat Stadium in February. Along with James Hayter, he's underpinned Yeovil's success this season.

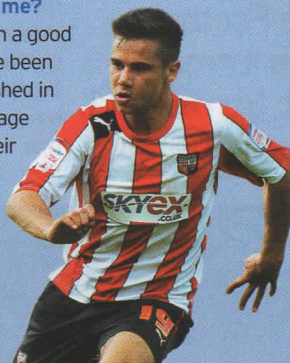
2 Who is the manager of the season?
 It's between Gary Johnson at Yeovil Town and Tranmere Rovers' Ronnie Moore and because Tranmere ran out of steam towards the end, whereas Yeovil kept going, I've gone for Gary. He's had a very limited budget to work with and it's amazing for a club of that size to be in the Play-Off Final. He's done absolutely brilliantly.

3 Which was the best team performance against your side?
 It was MK Dons when they beat us 3-0 at Stadium MK in early March. We were top of the table, it was our first defeat in six games and it was the only time we lost badly - all our other defeats were by the odd goal. They were at their best and were simply better than us.

4 Who gave the best individual performance against your team?
 Matt Ritchie, playing for Swindon at the time, scored in our 1-1 draw at their place in December. He put them ahead in the eighth minute and his all-round play that day was very impressive. He was sold to Bournemouth in January and scored three times to help them win automatic promotion as runners-up behind us.

5 Who was the best young player in the division?
 Harry Forrester (below) is 22, he's in his second full season with Brentford and he was a dangerous player in both games against us. He gets in a lot of good balls and chipped in with eight league goals as the Bees made it to the Play-Off Final. He's going to be a top player.

6 Who has underachieved this season and will be contenders next time?
 MK Dons. They're a good side with a good squad and they should really have been going for automatic promotion or at least finished in the top six. I was amazed they could only manage eighth - four points off the play-offs. I think their run to the fifth round of the FA Cup didn't help and I'm sure they'll get it right next year.



HARRY ARTER BOURNEMOUTH MIDFIELDER



1 Who has been the best player in League 1?
 Coventry City striker Leon Clarke was a real handful against us and every time I saw the highlights he seemed to be popping up scoring goals. Starting the season with Scunthorpe United, his goals-to-games ratio is very impressive. He took a big drop down the divisions when he left QPR, but he's scored wherever he's been since and always produces the goods.

2 Who is the manager of the season?
 Gary Johnson has done a brilliant job with Yeovil Town. Budget-wise they've always been known as a club that perhaps don't spend much but, rather than being happy to simply stay in the division, he put them strongly in contention for promotion.

3 Which was the best team performance against your side?
 Walsall. Home and away they outclassed us. They have a good group of young players and they're all good on the ball. They try and play the right way. They had a slow start to the season and the fact that they narrowly missed out on the play-offs speaks volumes for the job Dean Smith has done. They could challenge next season.

4 Who gave the best individual performance against your team?
 Will Grigg (right) gave us a tough time for Walsall at their place in January, scoring twice in a 3-1 win. Our back four have been brilliant all season, particularly the central defenders, and I would say they definitely had their most difficult afternoon against him.



5 Who was the best young player in the division?
 Brentford's Adam Forshaw was definitely the best young player I played against, particularly from a technical point of view. He stood out in both games against us. League 1 is becoming less physical and the technical side is becoming more prominent, with players like Adam showing plenty of ability on the ball.

6 Who has underachieved this season and will be contenders next time?
 MK Dons. They seem to be challenging year after year but for whatever reason they then drop off towards the end. I don't know what it is. When you play against them, the way they set up makes you feel like you're playing a team from a higher division. They play the right way, they just need more consistency.

CELEBRATING

125

YEARS OF
THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE, the world's original league football competition, was formed in 1888 and set the template for league football the world over. In the 125 years since, it has thrilled millions of fans and delivered some of the most memorable moments in football history

WORDS: TIM RICH & IAN WESTBROOK

It all began with a letter, written on 2 March, 1888, by the secretary of Aston Villa - and Father of the League - William McGregor. His idea was simple in its inception yet it would transform not only the English game, but football across the globe.

McGregor and his contemporaries had tired of the game's development being stifled by the lack of a coherent and organised fixture list. The predominance of cup football meant that clubs could easily lose fixtures at relatively short notice and it was even common for clubs to cancel matches, or field scratch teams, because they had been offered more lucrative fixtures elsewhere. Villa themselves once having to endure five consecutive blank Saturdays.

So the Perthshire-born draper wrote to his own club, as well as Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Preston North End and West Bromwich Albion. "I beg to tender the following suggestion," he wrote, "that ten or twelve of the most prominent clubs in England combine to arrange home-and-away fixtures each season."

Following meetings in Fleet Street and Manchester, The Football League was formed with Accrington, Burnley,

Derby County, Everton, Notts County, Stoke and Wolverhampton Wanderers making up the rest of the 12 Founder Members. Saturday afternoon at 3pm would never be the same again.

It was a creation of industrial Lancashire and the Midlands, where the freshly-introduced concept of professionalism was strongest. It would be another five years before the first London team, Woolwich Arsenal, joined. So, at the same time, did Liverpool - who replaced Bootle - and Newcastle United.

It was football, but not quite as we came to know it. The matches were officiated by umpires, one provided by each club. The referee stood on the touchline, much as the fourth official does today, and would only become involved if the umpires could not agree.

There were no shirt numbers and goal-line technology did not stretch

to the provision of nets. Incredibly, the first season also kicked off without agreement on how many points should be awarded for a win. Two points for victory and one for a draw was only agreed on by the time the season was two months old.

By then there was little doubt as to who would win the title. The Preston North End side of 1888/89 is still known today as The Invincibles and it would be more than a century before its feats would be repeated by Arsenal's 2003/04 title winners. Preston won 18 and drew four of their 22 fixtures and have given their name to The Invincibles Lounge at Deepdale, one of three of the original grounds that have survived to the modern age - the others being Turf Moor and Anfield, then the home of Everton.

By 1892 there were penalty kicks and a Second Division. There was even crowd trouble with The League's Management Committee discussing the issue of stones and mud being thrown at referees. When the man putting up the scoreboard at the 'reserve derby' between Newcastle and Sunderland indicated that the home team were losing 7-1 at St James' Park in the real thing,

"When The Football League was formed, Saturday at 3pm would never be the same again"



@ FOOTBALL_LEAGUE
FL125



Action from Aston Villa
versus Sunderland at
Villa Park in October 1904

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- 1888 The World's original League was formed
- 1891 Goal nets and penalty kicks were introduced
- 1892 2nd Division introduced
- 1898 Automatic promotion & relegation introduced
- 1901 Maximum wage introduced
- 1914 Footballers' Battalion formed
- 1920 Football League expands to 66 clubs and introduces a Third division
- 1921 Expanded to 88 clubs with 3rd Division North & South
- 1925 New offside law introduced
- 1927 BBC broadcast first live football league match on the radio
- 1939 League suspended due to World War II
- 1949 Record attendances of 41 million spectators in first time
- 1951 White ball used for the first time
- 1956 First floodlight game Portsmouth v. Newcastle United
- 1958 Division 3 & 4 formed to replace regional 3rd Division
- 1960 First ever live Football league match shown on television
- 1961 Maximum wage abolished
- 1965 Keith Peacock becomes first Football League substitute
- 1966 Substitutions for any reason permitted
- 1974 The first ever football league match played on a Sunday
- 1976 Goal difference replaces goal average
- 1981 3 points introduced for a win
- 1983 Canon become first sponsor of The Football League
- 1986 Football League Play-Offs introduced
- 1987 2 substitutes per team introduced
- 1996 Peter Shilton become first player to make 1000 league appearances
- 2004 Divisions renamed - Championship, League 1 and League 2
- 2009 Social media presence launched
- 2012 Financial Fair Play introduced



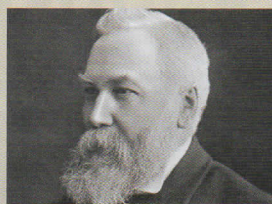
Find out more at:

FOOTBALL-LEAGUE.CO.UK

FOUNDING FATHER: WILLIAM MCGREGOR

Born in the Perthshire Village of Braco in 1846, William McGregor - the 'Father of the League' - was a devout Congregationalist, member of the Liberal Party and teetotaler whose interest in football had been sparked by reading about the exploits of Scotland's oldest club, Queen's Park.

After uprooting to the Birmingham area in 1870 he ran a linen draper's store in Aston - "Football jerseys always in stock" - and by the time of his famous letter to clubs in March 1888, was club secretary



at Villa, where he enjoyed a 34-year association.

McGregor would become The Football League's first Chairman, and its Honorary President four years later in 1892, a period in which he also chaired the Football Association.

In later years he became a football journalist and in

looking back on his creation in 1905, he wrote: "I wonder what would happen if you could blot out the league system from sport from this day onward? I wonder who would be better for it? Ninety-nine players out of every 100 and 99 clubs out of every hundred, would be infinitely worse off, because no principle ever formulated in connection with sport has caused so much really genuine, bona-fide competition as the league system."

With The Football League going strong more than 100 years later, McGregor's words still ring true.

following season. Hughie Gallacher, who became known as The King of Tyneside, took Newcastle to their last top-flight title in 1927.

Gallacher earned £500 a year, the equivalent of £25,000 now. Decent money in the North East, although the maximum wage would remain until it was abolished in 1961 when it stood at £20 per week - £388 these days. In 1927, the game between Arsenal and Sheffield United became the first to be broadcast on the radio. The Radio Times published a picture of a pitch, divided into eight grids so the audience could follow the commentary.

There was increasing money in the game. The first football pools coupons were sold outside Old Trafford. Arsenal paid Bolton £10,000 for David Jack, their brilliant inside forward.

The negotiations were conducted by Herbert Chapman, who got the Bolton directors drunk while he haggled the price down. Jack was worth £500,000 in today's terms.

Chapman was the first star manager, a template for Bill Shankly and Sir Matt Busby. A biography of him entitled *Football Emperor* neatly encapsulates his style. He managed Huddersfield Town to the title and then left for Arsenal. He was the first man to employ a tactics board to explain his ideas to his footballers. "The day of haphazard football has gone," Chapman announced. He brought a gramophone into the home dressing room at Highbury to provide motivational music.

The music was, however, becoming darker. When war broke out, this time The Football League did not try to carry on regardless. It knew what was coming. Old Trafford was flattened during the Manchester Blitz of 1941. Harry Goslin, the captain of Bolton, took his entire side to the local drill hall to enlist. They fought at Dunkirk,

he was attacked. It did no good, Sunderland scored twice more.

Football has always reflected its society. When the First World War broke out, the League carried on as men fell on the banks of the Marne defending Paris. One phrase of the Kaiser's that everybody in England seemed to believe was that the war would be over "before the leaves fall".

Following public criticism of football's war effort, or lack of it, the 'Footballers' Battalion was formed in late 1914. Players, club officials, referees and fans would go on to fight side by side in the Middlesex 17th and 23rd regiments including stars of the day like Frank Buckley, Walter Tull and Vivian Woodward. More than 1,000 of its members would lose their lives, including many in the Battalion's heroic action at Delville Wood on the Somme, where The Football League's memorial to their sacrifice now stands.

The decade that followed transformed football into the game we would recognise today. By 1928, Arsenal and Chelsea had become the first teams to play in numbered shirts.



The Invincibles of Preston North End were the first Football League champions in 1888/89, remaining undefeated all season

There were four divisions, although the bottom two were regional and would remain so until 1958.

The professional game had come to the far reaches of the nation, to Exeter, Durham and Wales. In 1922, there were five Welsh clubs, including Newport, Aberdare, Merthyr and Swansea. Two years later, Cardiff were denied winning the league on goal average. It was an age of the first star footballers. George Camsell scored 59 goals for Middlesbrough in 1926/27. Dixie Dean bettered it by one the

THE NUMBERS GAME

177,625

Number of matches played in The Football League since 1888

515,412

The total number of goals scored in the 125 years since league football began

136

Clubs in total have played in The Football League

154

The number of times Aston Villa and Everton have met in Football League matches - the most played fixture in the competition's history. The most played fixture between current members is between Hartlepool United and Rochdale who have met 136 times

2.2 billion

The number of fans that have watched Football League matches

221

The number of different grounds on which Football League matches have been played - including Wembley Stadium, which hosted two Clapton Orient matches in 1930

2,342

The total amount of Football League matches staged at Preston North End's Deepdale ground - the most at any stadium

508

The total number of men called Smith who have played in Football League matches - the most for any surname

3

The number of stadia still being used today that hosted matches in the first Football League season. They are Deepdale (Preston North End), Turf Moor (Burnley) and Anfield (then the home of Everton rather than Liverpool)



at El Alamein and Monte Cassino. All but one returned to Burnden Park.

The years afterwards saw The Football League at its zenith. Britain was still subject to rationing and post-war shortages and football was, for many, the great escape. A crowd of 83,360 at Old Trafford watched Manchester United play Arsenal in 1948 and in the following season 41 million went through the turnstiles, an all-time record.

These were very different times. Denis Compton, who played in the 1950 FA Cup final for Arsenal and the Oval Test for England against the West Indies, advertised Brylcreem. Stanley Matthews endorsed Craven A cigarettes, though he did not go so far as to actually smoke them.

The photograph that encapsulates the era is called *The Splash*. It shows Tom Finney, perhaps the greatest footballer of the age, turning amid a cascade of water on the pitch at Stamford Bridge. It was turned into a life-sized statue at the National Football Museum.

There were casualties. The pride of having a Football League club ran deep and when Accrington Stanley resigned from the league in 1961, the whole town felt the shame. The return of league football to Accrington in 2006 made national headlines.

Gateshead were refused re-election despite never having finished bottom of what was now the Fourth Division. When Sunderland's proud boast of never having been relegated from the

First Division evaporated in 1958, the city's 'football pink' sportspaper was printed on white paper to signify it had gone white with shock.

There has been a long debate as to whether the Premier League is the best in the world, but in an era of Football Special trains, the introduction of three points for a win, hooliganism and falling attendances, it was a claim The Football League could make with some confidence. Between 1977 and 1984, only once did an English team fail to win club football's greatest prize, the European Cup. The rival to the FA Cup, the League Cup had transformed itself from a sideshow to a showpiece. It was a time of giants - of Clough and

"In 1948/49, 41 million fans went through the turnstiles of Football League clubs - an all-time record"

Paisley, Dalglish and Keegan.

What followed would be The League's greatest ever challenge. In 1992 the top division broke away to form the Premier League. The beautiful championship trophy 'The Lady' that was first presented to Everton 101 years before would never again be presented to the top club in the land.

It was not the end but a new beginning. Fears of the death of league football below the top flight were greatly exaggerated. The start of the

ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

The Football League and the National Football Museum are to mark the 125th Anniversary of the world's original league football competition with a major new exhibition featuring some of professional football's most iconic and historic items.

The exhibition, which will be free to all visitors, will run from September 2013 to April 2014, the same duration as The Football League's inaugural season (1888/89) and fill a dedicated exhibition space in the museum's stunning new Manchester home.

The Museum's deputy director David Pearson said: "The Football League is at the heart of the game's history and this is a wonderful opportunity to display some of the objects that have touched the lives of millions of football supporters."

Having begun sourcing items of historical interest from clubs, its own archives and those of the National Football Museum, The Football League is also asking supporters to play their part in telling the story of 125 years of football history.

If you have an item of historical significance you would like to put forward for inclusion in the exhibition please email details to 125@football-league.co.uk

Tom Finney splashes through a puddle at Stamford Bridge in 1956 (above). The image was later made into a life-sized statue at the National Football Museum

new Millennium would see crowds at their highest levels for 50 years. The newly re-branded Football League Championship became the fourth highest attended league in Europe after overtaking Italy's Serie A.

The play-offs have played their part in reinvigorating the game beneath the top-flight. The 1998 Championship Play-Off Final between Charlton Athletic and Sunderland that finished in a 4-4 draw is considered one of the most feverishly dramatic encounters ever to have been staged at Wembley. With the prize of promotion at stake, it is now the richest single match in the football world.

The Football League has come very far since William McGregor sat down to write his letter and he would doubtless take great pride from its continued role at the heart of our national sport.

Its 72 clubs form the largest body of professional clubs in European football and no other country has a system below its top tier to match its breadth, popularity and economic pulling power. League clubs employ more than 2,000 professional players and have 8,000 schoolboy and apprentice players on their books. Each year they generate more than £650 million of income and engage with one and a half million people through their community programmes.

It is an epic story, with epic characters. Happy birthday.

SEVENTH HEAVEN?

Brentford have featured in six play-off campaigns, losing every time. Is this the year they break their duck? Loyal servant **KEVIN O'CONNOR** hopes so

INTERVIEW: BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

Kevin O'Connor, unlike many players, has no interest in the transfer window. Never has done and, at 31 years old, probably never will do. For him, the summer scramble for signatures and the January jostling for last-minute bargains is just an amusing sideshow. No one, it would seem, has ever wanted to buy him.

It is a situation, though, that suits the Irishman perfectly. A one-club man since joining Brentford as a schoolboy 16 years ago, he is more than happy to remain at Griffin Park and edge closer to the club appearance record of Ken Coote, which stands at 559 matches. O'Connor, the Brentford captain, is fourth on the all-time list on 488.

"On transfer deadline day, I just turn my phone off," he said, laughing. "I mean, what's the point? There might have been a few rumours flying around but, as far as I know, nobody has ever made an offer for me. Well, not one that anyone has ever told me about anyway."

"I always spin that into a positive. It means that Brentford have never wanted to let me go. Maybe I've been lucky in that the managers have liked me and wanted to keep me. I'm very happy to stay here and I'll keep going as long as the body lets me. Yes, I'd be delighted to break Ken's appearance record. I'd love to do it."

O'Connor has played under 11 managers at Griffin Park - from Ron Noades, his first boss, to Uwe Rosler - with his versatility a likely key to his endurance at the west London club. "I started off as a striker in the youth team," he added, "but found it hard going when I stepped up as a young pro and was suddenly playing against grown men. That was tough."

"I was first converted to right-midfield, then to right-back, now I'm in midfield again. I was even dropped in at centre-half for a while this season; basically, I just fill in the holes anywhere on the pitch. I quite enjoy the challenge of playing in different positions, I suppose I'm a sort of 'Jack of all trades, master of none'. And I wouldn't mind playing as goalkeeper, either - just so I could get the full set."

In November, O'Connor broke his right leg in the 1-0 win against Portsmouth at Fratton Park. "I fouled the guy and just fell awkwardly," he recalled. It looked as if his season had finished - "I thought that was it," - but with the aid of the club's medical team and the wonders of an anti-gravity treadmill, he was able to return in mid-March.

Recovering in time to perhaps end Brentford's run of frustrating play-off experiences. They have failed in six out of six post-season campaigns, with O'Connor losing in 2002, 2005 and 2006. "We've got to break it some time, it can't go on for ever. Why not this time?"



NATIONAL

W+S
RECYCLING SERVICES

We only have one world and recycling is the best way to reduce the impact on landfills and makes the environment a cleaner place for all of us to live in!

Established in 1988 W&S has developed truly innovative service for the collection, bulking up, transportation and processing of domestic and commercial products from televisions and computer monitors to fridges and freezers.

W&S currently handle a high percentage of all such waste products in the UK. All our recycling complies with EU legislation with full audit trails.

Sponsoring Yeovil Town Football Club.

*Geoff Thompson,
Proprietor of
W&S, wishes all
supporters and players
every success at
Wembley*

Our client base is impressive and lists major companies in all market sectors throughout the UK mainland. This includes multi-outlet Retailers, Breweries, Housing Associations, NHS Hospitals, Holiday Parks and Universities. W&S also provide recycling collections, civic amenity site services, transfer stations and waste management centres with local authorities.

Check out the benefits of our W.E.E.E. products collection and recycling service.

Local Authority Contracts Management and specialised WEEE collection logistical and processing services available throughout UK mainland

Metal Textiles Paper/cardboard Aluminium/steel Plastics Skip hire Glass ELV collections



Visit our website: wsrecycling.co.uk

National Logistic Services

W&S Recycling Services 14-16 Nuffield Road, Nuffield Industrial Estate, Poole, Dorset BH17 0RB

KING JAMES

Scorer of the world's fastest hat-trick, victory for Yeovil Town today will see **JAMES HAYTER** claim another trio to be proud of - his third play-off final success

WORDS: TREVOR HAYLETT

James Hayter likes to think that if another landmark goal comes his way this afternoon then circumstances will allow his family and friends to be able to enjoy the moment both in the here and now as well as again in the future.

Having been reminded that the Yeovil Town forward scored the only goal of the game when Doncaster Rovers took the play-off route to promotion from this division in 2008 against Leeds United at Wembley, the natural step these days is to head to the internet and seek out re-runs of the strike over and over again.

Except that the footage of that particular header is very clear on the rearview of the linesman as Brian Stock's corner is swung in - and a bit light on the stooping header with which Hayter sent Rovers followers into ecstasy and their team into the Championship. The goalscorer, and several other players, are obscured as the man with the flag fills the frame.

Technology failed to do justice to the big moment on that occasion while, four years previously, it was the Isle of Wight ferry that took the blame for his family being unable to celebrate as the-then Bournemouth striker wrote his name into the record books - almost certainly for all-time

Appearing as a substitute in the home match against Wrexham, Hayter proceeded to score a hat-trick in 140 seconds, the fastest in professional football. It was great





@NPOWER_LEAGUE1
#PLAYOFFFINAL



for him and something to celebrate with his family long into the night. Except that his parents, Richard and Mary, and his brother Ben missed it all - having left Dean Court early to catch the 10.30pm ferry back to their home on the island.

"It got to the 80th minute and they didn't think I was going to get on and as the next ferry didn't leave until midnight they decided to go before the finish and catch the earlier boat," Hayter explained. "I came on about the same time as they left and they listened to the commentary on the car radio. I think they were delighted when my first goal went in but by the time I had scored the third they were disappointed they weren't there to see it. I don't think they've ever left a game early after that!"

Nine years on from Hayter's hat-trick it is still difficult to believe that in less time than it takes to boil an egg, a player could rattle in three goals. Subtract the time taken up in celebrations and the opposition kicking-off again and it seems almost to be an impossibility.

"I didn't think too much about it at the time but after the game one of the lads said it must have created some sort of record and then it became a bit of a story. It's a Football League record and I think it will be hard to beat it."

It was with Bournemouth that the 34-year-old first tasted play-off success when the south coast club got the better of Lincoln 5-2 at the Millennium Stadium in 2003. Add to that his day of celebration with Doncaster and Hayter is looking at a hat-trick of play-off successes this afternoon. Not only that but with his two former clubs having celebrated automatic promotion in the last few weeks, he is desperate to help Yeovil make the step up as well.

So what's the secret to winning a play-off final? "You just need the majority of your players to perform well on the day," he said. "I remember in that Lincoln City game for Bournemouth we were always quite comfortable, we got an early goal and that settled us down.

"The Leeds game was similar in that we were on top and should have been two or three goals ahead at half-time. You begin to wonder whether it's going to be your day but luckily enough I got the goal almost immediately at the start of the second half and it was enough to see us through."

Surprisingly for one who stands only 5ft 9in tall, goals struck with his forehead have been a regular feature of

Hayter's career and has led to him being labelled the best header of a ball outside the Premier League. Mind you, his missed header from a decent opportunity late on in the second leg of their semi-final against Sheffield United seemed likely to send that cliffhanger of a tie into extra time.

"WE JUST NEED ONE LAST WIN TO CAP OFF A BRILLIANT SEASON"

"Paddy had missed a header just before that as well but it all turned out OK as Ed Upson scored with a header. If we can match that performance at Wembley we'll give ourselves a great chance of promotion."


Boosting his confidence will be the thought that he scored twice against Brentford in the game at Griffin Park in August, a 3-1 win that was then followed by a 3-0 Yeovil victory when the sides met in the Huish Park return in February.

They were the first of his season's tally of 16 goals for the Somerset club after signing last summer when his Doncaster contract was not renewed. "Having played against Gary Johnson's teams in the past I knew he liked to play attacking football and that chances would come for me as a striker. It's been a brilliant season and now we just need one last win to cap it off."



THE PARK SCHOOL

01935 423514

A photograph showing two children, a girl with glasses and a younger child, peeking through the opening of a green tent. The girl is smiling and looking towards the camera.

*Any day is an Open Day.
Come to see what makes us the right choice.*



www.parkschool.com

admin@parkschool.com

The Park School, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1DH



BRENTFORD

ANDY McCULLOCH MADE OVER 100 APPEARANCES DURING HIS BEES' CAREER. STILL A REGULAR VISITOR TO GRIFFIN PARK, HE INTRODUCES UWE ROSLER'S TEAM FOR TODAY'S npower LEAGUE 1 PLAY-OFF FINAL

CLUB INFORMATION

FOUNDED 1889
NICKNAME THE BEES
CHAIRMAN GREG DYKE
GROUND GRIFFIN PARK
(CAPACITY 12,300)
WEB WWW.BRENTFORDFC.CO.UK

HONOURS

LEAGUE TITLES SIX (CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE 1 & LEAGUE 2)
FA CUP QUARTER-FINALISTS
PLAY-OFFS RUNNERS-UP
LEAGUE CUP FOURTH ROUND

THIS SEASON

LEAGUE 1 THIRD
FA CUP FOURTH ROUND
CAPITAL ONE CUP FIRST ROUND
JPT QUARTER-FINAL

UWE ROSLER



I was at the Player of the Year dinner just a couple of days before the play-offs started and I couldn't believe how upbeat the players were after what happened against Doncaster Rovers. You've got to give Uwe credit for how he's lifted them back up - they are all pulling for each other and there's a good spirit there.

DOB: 15/11/1968
NATIONALITY: GERMAN

MANAGER

APPOINTED:
JUNE 2011

ANTOINE GOUNET



With Richard Lee injured, Antoine has been the back-up goalkeeper but Simon Moore has just been so good that he hasn't had a look in. Apparently he turned up at the training ground and impressed enough on a trial to get himself a contract, so well done to him for that.

DOB: 16/10/1988
NATIONALITY: FRENCH

GOALKEEPER

16

SIMON MOORE



A few top clubs will have their eye on Simon because he's been absolutely outstanding for Brentford, showing such a safe pair of hands for someone so young. He seems a really nice lad and I'm glad he was one of the heroes of the semi-final win over Swindon Town because he's been superb this year.

DOB: 19/05/1990
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

GOALKEEPER

21

TONY CRAIG



Tony has brought so much experience to the back-line this season and he knows what this type of game is all about from his time at Millwall. Nothing beats experience! He's an excellent defender and his know-how will certainly be important. I've heard he might wear the captain's armband today.

DOB: 20/04/1985
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

5

SHALEUM LOGAN



Former Manchester City youngster who was tipped for the top when he was coming through the ranks, but he's had to drop down the divisions to show what he can do. He's a typical modern full-back in that he really impresses when he goes forward, showing plenty of pace, and he's a useful attacking outlet.

DOB: 29/01/1988
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

14

LEE HODSON



Lee is on loan at the club from Watford and he's a steady defender who mainly plays at right-back. He's played internationally for Northern Ireland and it's the presence of players like this which highlights the strength in depth Uwe Rosler has to choose from.

DOB: 02/10/1991
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

18

ROUTE TO THE FINAL

PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL (FIRST LEG)

Swindon Town 1-1 Brentford

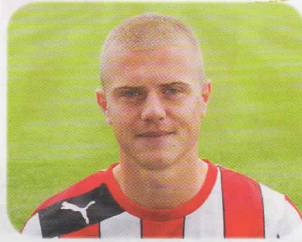
Brentford were determined to make amends for their final day heartbreak at the hands of eventual npower League 1 champions Doncaster Rovers when they arrived at the County Ground for the semi-final first leg, but weren't at the races for much of the tie against a Swindon Town side looking for back-to-back promotions. The Bees endured wave after wave of Swindon pressure, but their resistance was eventually broken on 70 minutes when Massimo Luongo put the hosts in front with a curling effort. Luongo picked the ball up 20 yards out from goal and delicately placed it beyond the outstretched Simon Moore in the Brentford goal. Luongo then went from hero to villain in the last piece of action of the game, with the midfielder fouling Harry Forrester in the area to give Brentford a potential lifeline from the spot. Bees' veteran Kevin O'Connor took responsibility, and coolly placed the ball home to square the tie up at 1-1. Late penalty drama cost Brentford a place in the Championship on the last day of the League 1 calendar, but on this occasion it kept them in the hunt for promotion, with O'Connor's experience shining through at the decisive moment. The semi-final was perfectly poised ahead of the second leg at Griffin Park, with both sides still very much in the hunt for a Final berth at Wembley.

PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

Brentford 3-3 Swindon Town (4-4 on aggregate, Brentford win 5-4 on penalties)

Spurred on by their late equaliser in the first leg, Brentford exploded into this match, taking a 2-0 lead thanks to an Adam Rooney own goal on 20 minutes and a Clayton Donaldson strike after 40. The Bees were certainly buzzing, but were quickly brought back down to earth when Rooney redeemed himself for his earlier error with a well-taken goal right on half time to make it 2-1. Brentford restored their two goal advantage just two minutes after the break, with Donaldson delicately chipping over Swindon Town keeper Wes Foderingham. The Bees looked home and dry, but a rather untidy Joe Devera goal made it 3-2 just before the hour and set up a nervy climax. Brentford can't seem to escape late drama at the moment, and they were dealt another cruel dose when Robins' defender Aden Flint rose highest from a corner to nod home an injury-time equaliser and force extra-time. After a stalemate in the additional period and the tie level at 4-4 on aggregate, the players took to the penalty spot for the tense lottery of a shoot-out. Bees' keeper Simon Moore saved Miles Storey's effort, and handed Adam Forshaw the chance to fire Brentford to the final as the fifth penalty taker, which he did in emphatic style. After one of the clashes of the play-offs, Brentford prevailed 5-4 on penalties to hand them a chance of promotion redemption.

JAKE BIDWELL



Jake has a great understanding with Harry Forrester, which makes the pair of them a real threat. He's great in the offensive third and his form has picked up just at the right time of the season. On loan from Everton, whose academy is currently producing some excellent players.

DOB: 21/03/1993
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

24

ROB KIERNAN



A young lad who joined the club on loan from Wigan Athletic and has also played youth football for Republic of Ireland. He's not been in the side too often but, at the start of the season, I don't suppose he'd have expected a trip to Wembley with both Wigan and Brentford!

DOB: 13/01/1991
NATIONALITY: IRISH

DEFENDER

33

KEVIN O'CONNOR



Kevin has been at the club for a long time and he is such a great captain because he brings a sense of calmness to the team. He doesn't always start games nowadays after suffering a terrible injury, but if there's a late penalty, like there was against Swindon Town, I know who I'd want taking it!

DOB: 24/02/1982
NATIONALITY: IRISH

MIDFIELDER

2

ADAM FORSHAW



On the subject of penalties, I've not seen too many better than the one Adam smashed in to book Brentford's place at Wembley - I can't believe he's only 21 because that was the work of a seasoned pro. He was at Everton as a youngster and they did a good job with his upbringing as he's an excellent, tidy midfielder.

DOB: 08/10/1991
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MIDFIELDER

4

SAM SAUNDERS



Sam's a decent midfielder going forward, really impressive on the ball. He might lack a bit of pace, but the former Dagenham & Redbridge man has got a good head on him. Tends to be used from the bench and, if he does come on, Yeovil Town will have to watch out for his set-pieces.

DOB: 29/08/1983
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MIDFIELDER

7

JONATHAN DOUGLAS



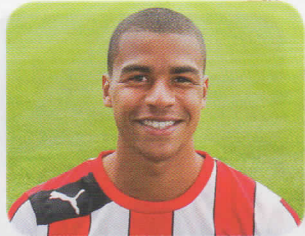
An all-round midfielder, Jonathan doesn't mind getting stuck in and he's good in possession - and watch out for that shot of his. He's from Ireland but he's spent his career in this country, playing for Blackburn Rovers and Leeds United but never getting much of a chance at Premier League level.

DOB: 22/11/1981
NATIONALITY: IRISH

MIDFIELDER

8

TOM ADEYEMI



A real powerhouse in midfield, Tom will drive from box to box, which could be so crucial on today's big occasion at Wembley - anyone who has got the legs will stand out. He's come from Norwich City on loan and he's only 21 so it could be a bright future if he keeps up this form.

DOB: 24/10/1991
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MIDFIELDER

12

STUART DALLAS



Stuart hasn't had too many opportunities to impress since his signing from Crusaders, but he came with a big reputation in Northern Irish football and he won plenty of awards a few years ago. He's another of the young lads around 21 or 22, as half of the squad seem to be!

DOB: 19/04/1991
NATIONALITY: NORTHERN IRISH

MIDFIELDER

15

TOUMANI DIAGOURAGA



There are few better passers at the club; the biggest compliment I can pay Toumani is that when he gets the ball, he rarely gives it away. He impressed on loan from Peterborough United to earn himself a permanent move and, with those long legs of his, there is a touch of Patrick Vieira about him!

DOB: 09/06/1987
NATIONALITY: FRENCH

MIDFIELDER

20



HARLEE DEAN

MR NICE GUY

This fella has impressed me the most this season - as a person, having had a chance to speak with him at the Player of the Year dinner, and as a footballer. I just love the way he plays the game. For want of a better expression, he's a bit of a monster! But off the pitch he's nothing like that, you will struggle to meet a nicer guy. For a young lad of his age to play just about every game this season is incredible and I'm absolutely certain he will end up playing at a higher level. Hopefully that will be with Brentford.

DOB: 26/07/1991
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

6

JAKE REEVES



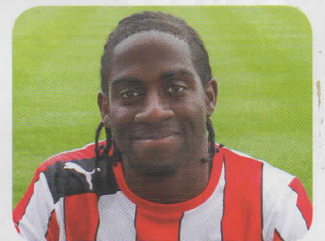
Jake is certainly one for the future and, at 19 years old, his chance is going to come soon. He's a decent little central-midfielder who came on as a substitute against Chelsea in the FA Cup; it was a bit of a baptism of fire, but getting a taste of that will make him hungrier for more.

DOB: 30/05/1993
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MIDFIELDER

22

CLAYTON DONALDSON



Clayton's not just a good goalscorer, he works ever so hard for the team and you can tell the fans really appreciate that as he recently won the Player of the Season award. He's another who's been about, even having a spell with Hibs in Scotland, and he looks like he's really found his feet at Brentford.

DOB: 07/02/1984
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

STRIKER

9



IT'S CRUNCH TIME!

Stay up to date with the
fight for promotion
www.player.bwfc.co.uk
www.player.ytfc.net

BEES
Player 



GLOVERS
Player 



TALKING TACTICS

Where will this afternoon's showpiece game be won and lost? Walsall manager **DEAN SMITH** and his Crawley Town counterpart **RICHIE BARKER** look at the key areas that could determine which team step up to the npower Championship

INTERVIEWS: MEL HENDERSON

AN OVERVIEW OF THE TEAMS' SEASONS, HOW THEIR PROMOTION CHALLENGE TOOK SHAPE

DS: We played Brentford three times, beating them in the Capital One Cup and drawing twice in the league. I have to admit, though, that we were fortunate to return from Griffin Park in February with a point. We defended well but they also missed a few chances. Uwe Rosler has mixed it around a bit in terms of team shape. Horses for courses, you could say, and he has done it well. He has played an orthodox 4-4-2 at times, often with a diamond formation in midfield, but has also opted for 4-2-3-1, as he did in the second leg of the semi-final against Swindon. It's not unique in League 1 that a team is this adaptable but nor could you say it's the norm.

RB: Yeovil are reaping the benefit of being able to field a settled side for much of the season. It's a point I can't emphasize enough, the advantage it gives you not having to keep chopping and changing because of injuries and suspensions. I experienced it for myself at Crawley when we did well in the first and final thirds of the season but in the middle, when we got rid of 12 players and brought in 11, we were far less consistent. But there are other factors behind Yeovil's success: Gary Johnson has assembled an extremely hard-working and very well organised side that features plenty of excellent double acts.

THE THREAT BOTH TEAMS POSE IN ATTACKING AREAS

DS: Brentford are one of the most streetwise teams at this level in that they do the so-called ugly side of the game really well, which allows their more luxurious players to get more time on the ball. Clayton Donaldson, far and away their leading scorer, is one of those. He has a laid-back style and never looks flustered but is clinical when required. Donaldson is ideal for the out ball because he gives his teammates



THE MAIN EVENT

DOUGLAS V UPSON

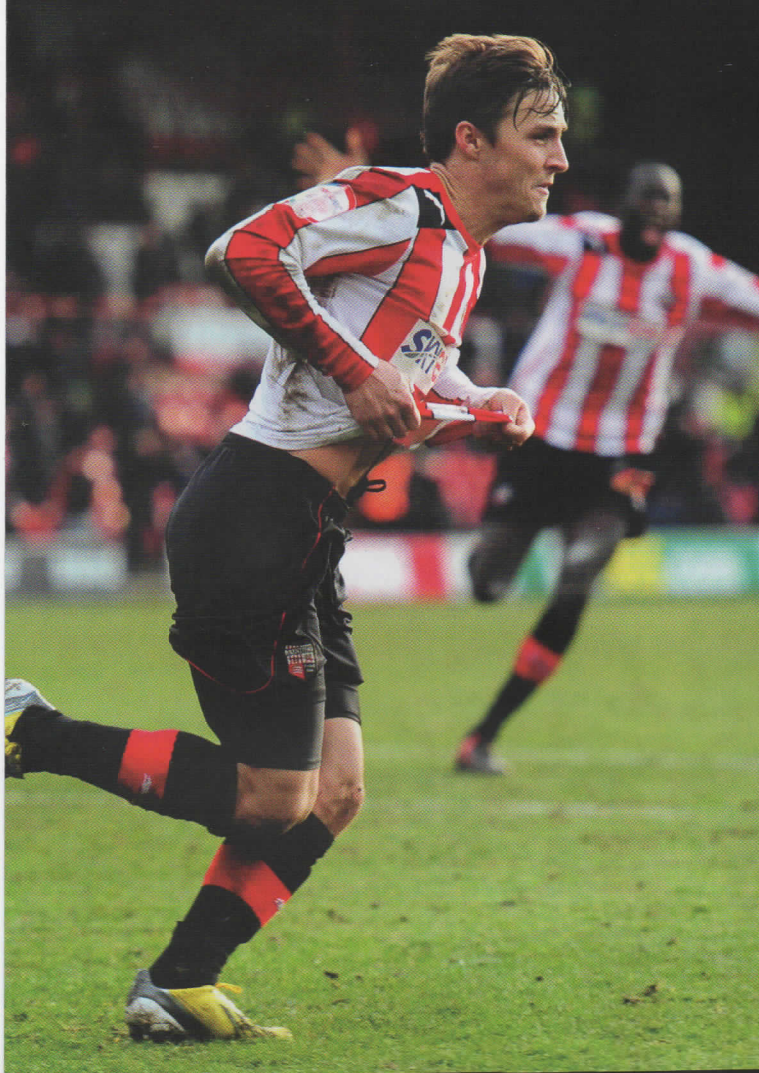
JONATHAN DOUGLAS
MIDFIELDER
29
42
3

NAME
POSITION
AGE
2012/13 APPEARANCES
2012/13 GOALS

ED UPSON
MIDFIELDER
23
50
6

DS: Jonathan Douglas is one of Brentford's most important players and he has featured both in a sitting role at the base of the diamond and at the top of the diamond, operating behind the front men. He has a football brain that enables him to read the game well and anticipate where the ball is going; he seems to have a sixth sense when it comes to goal kicks, free kicks and corners. If the ball is cleared he's usually the best bet to be there and gain possession. He retains it and passes it well, and he isn't shy when it comes to trying to win it back.

RB: Ed Upson is a key player for Yeovil and weighs in with vital goals, like the late header that beat Sheffield United in the semi-finals. That was all about timing his run and he ticks a lot of boxes. He doesn't lack stamina and covers a lot of ground, and regardless of today's outcome I'm sure he is one of several players Gary Johnson will be looking to keep for next season.



plenty of options. He can operate wide or through the middle, he uses his pace to go in behind and is also useful in the air. Marcello Trotta's penalty miss against Doncaster shouldn't detract from his overall contribution of nine league and cup goals while Sam Saunders can change things when he comes on with his delivery from set pieces and the way he cuts inside to shoot.

RB: Yeovil have benefited greatly from Gary Johnson's decision to take a punt on Paddy Madden. I would go as far as to say the Irishman is the find of the season, certainly in our division. I was at Bramall Lane for the first leg of the semi-final and he was a real pain to the Sheffield United defence with his work rate. He's a lethal finisher and grafts away to make things happen but is only half of an impressive partnership. James Hayter is a good foil for him, he is intelligent and very tidy technically. You could almost

"I WOULD SAY THE IRISHMAN PADDY MADDEN IS THE FIND OF THE SEASON"

say he has been a learning tool for Madden and is due a lot of the credit for what his team-mate has achieved.

HOW GOOD ARE THE TEAMS DEFENSIVELY?

DS: The Brentford defence is one of the most solid in League 1. Goalkeeper Simon Moore makes the game look easy the way he plucks crosses out of the air and takes the pressure off his team and there's pedigree in the full-back positions. Shaleum Logan keeps it simple and is strong in one-on-one situations and Tony Craig has plenty of experience and know-how. He doesn't complicate things and he's one of those guys who clearly loves to defend. He and Harlee Dean form a sound pair and pose a real threat in the opposition box because they tend to dominate in the air.

RB: I mentioned that Yeovil have a lot of successful double acts and no more so than in central defence. Byron Webster and Dan Burn have been virtually ever-present and take a lot of the credit for their team's lack of goals conceded during the second half of the season. Their sheer size ensures that most balls played down the middle are cleared and they are also dangerous when they venture into the other box to attack set pieces and I remember Webster scoring against us in a 2-2 draw at Huish Park in March. Webster and Burn are two solid building blocks but the other members of a settled defensive line-up also deserve a great deal of credit. Goalkeeper Marek Stech hasn't missed a single game while Luke Ayling has plenty to offer going forward, where he combines particularly well down the right with Kevin Dawson. At 35, Jamie McAllister has bundles of experience and even if he doesn't make as many of the lung-bursting runs as he did in the past he has a sweet left foot when it comes to putting in quality crosses.

Dan Burn is a major reason why Yeovil have conceded so few goals, while Sam Saunders (far left) can be a threat from open play and set-pieces for Brentford

THE PANEL



MANISH BHASIN



LEROY ROSENIOR



MARK CLEMMIT

BBC SPORT

TEAM OF THE

As the season reaches its climax at Wembley today, The Football League Show's **MANISH BHASIN, LEROY ROSENIOR** and **MARK CLEMMIT** name their League 1 XI for the 2012/13 campaign

Two young Irish strikers - Paddy Madden and Will Grigg - get the vote to lead the line in League 1's Team of the Season as selected by the team behind BBC Sport's The Football League Show.

Both have had explosive seasons and the Yeovil Town man hopes it will all come to a successful climax at Wembley this afternoon. Madden's 23 goals show the danger that faces Brentford today, while Grigg has also won plaudits for the way his goals - 20, with half of those coming in his last 11 appearances - inspired Walsall's challenge for a play-off place.

Leroy Rosenior says of Grigg: "He's had a tremendous season at an unfashionable club but the scouts will

be flocking to the Bescot next season to keep an eye on him and his teammates."

And reporter Mark Clemmit commented of Madden: "What a signing by Gary Johnson! He looks a natural in front of goal and will only get better."

Wes Foderingham wins the vote over Sheffield United's George Long for the goalkeeper's jersey - with presenter Manish Bhasin highlighting his role in Swindon Town's 20 clean sheets during the campaign.

Shaleum Logan is named at right back with Brentford supporters hoping that he can produce another high-calibre performance today to help push his side into the Championship.

Rob Jones and Harry Maguire form an

imposing defensive partnership with Rosenior pointing out: "Taking on the responsibility of assistant manager has only added to his [Jones'] game and he's been key to Doncaster's success."

In midfield David Cotterill boosts the number of representatives from League 1's champion club to two, Bhasin noting that he made 20 assists, more than any other player in the Football League. Luke Murphy, who scored one of Crewe Alexandra's two goals at Wembley to lift the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, wins a place in central midfield alongside Notts County's Alan Judge.

Matt Ritchie sits in front of his Bournemouth teammate Charlie Daniels on the left.

**"WHAT A SIGNING BY GARY JOHNSON!
PADDY MADDEN LOOKS A NATURAL
IN FRONT OF GOAL AND WILL ONLY
GET BETTER"**

MARK CLEMMIT



SEASON



WES FODERINGHAM
(SWINDON TOWN)



SHALEUM LOGAN
(BRENTFORD)



ROB JONES
(DONCASTER ROVERS)



HARRY MAGUIRE
(SHEFFIELD UNITED)



CHARLIE DANIELS
(BOURNEMOUTH)



DAVID COTTERILL
(DONCASTER ROVERS)



ALAN JUDGE
(NOTTS COUNTY)



LUKE MURPHY
(CREWE ALEXANDRA)



MATT RITCHIE
(BOURNEMOUTH)



WILL GRIGG
(WALSALL)



PADDY MADDEN
(YEOVIL TOWN)

Subs: George Long (Sheffield United), Simon Francis (Bournemouth),
Darren Potter (MK Dons), Leon Clarke (Coventry City), Clayton Donaldson (Brentford).



YEOVIL TOWN

FORMER GLOVERS CENTRE-BACK TURNED ASSISTANT MANAGER, **TERRY SKIVERTON** HAS PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE CLUB'S SUCCESS THIS SEASON. HE INTRODUCES HIS TEAM AHEAD OF THEIR WEMBLEY SHOWDOWN

CLUB INFORMATION

FOUNDED 1895
NICKNAME THE GLOVERS
CHAIRMAN JOHN FRY
GROUND HUISH PARK
 (CAPACITY 9,565)
WEB WWW.YTFC.NET

HONOURS

LEAGUE TITLES ONE (LEAGUE 2)
FA CUP FIFTH ROUND
PLAY-OFFS RUNNERS UP
LEAGUE CUP SECOND ROUND

THIS SEASON

LEAGUE 1 FOURTH
FA CUP FIRST ROUND
CAPITAL ONE CUP SECOND ROUND
JPT SOUTHERN SECTION SEMI-FINAL

GARY JOHNSON



Since he has come back to the club, Gary has been magnificent in building a team from scratch. The way that he has got the boys playing has really got the club moving forward again. To get this group of players into a play-off final is a wonderful achievement and the lads have really bought into him and his work ethic.

DOB: 28/09/1955
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MANAGER

APPOINTED:
 JANUARY
 2012

MAREK STECH



Strong, commanding goalkeeper who has been excellent for us this year. He is good at taking crosses, a great shot-stopper and somebody that can get the team attacking on the break through his quick throws and kicks. An ever-present this season, he is one of the reasons why we have done so well defensively.

DOB: 28/01/1990
NATIONALITY: CZECH

GOALKEEPER

1

GARETH STEWART



Our sub goalkeeper and also goalkeeping coach who has done an excellent job with Marek Stech this year. He has also been the back-up keeper in the squad and has a great attitude. His distribution with both feet is excellent and he plays a very important role at the football club.

DOB: 03/02/1980
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

GOALKEEPER

12

LUKE AYLING



A good attacking full-back who is very comfortable with the ball on either foot, Luke loves to maraud up and down the right-wing. He is somebody who has become a mainstay in the team during his third season at the football club and he continues to go from strength to strength for us.

DOB: 25/08/1991
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

2

JAMES MCALLISTER



Club captain and an all-action full-back for us, Jamie is great in possession and also strong defensively, as well as being a good communicator. He is somebody who the club really relies upon, he has been involved in play-offs and big games before and is someone who can come up with the odd goal.

DOB: 26/04/1978
NATIONALITY: SCOTTISH

DEFENDER

3

RICHARD HINDS



A stalwart at the back, who was actually our top scorer for the first couple of months of the season, Richard is a really good, reliable character to have around the camp. He hasn't been playing so much lately but he has come in for cameo roles and is a true "steady Eddie" defender you know you can rely on.

DOB: 22/08/1980
NATIONALITY: IRISH

DEFENDER

4

JOE EDWARDS

YEOVIL'S MR VERSATILE

We got Joe from Bristol City and he has proved to be a utility player, having played absolutely everywhere outfield for us. Throughout midfield and across the back, he has always put in a good shift for us. It's not just his work rate, but his quality on the ball that has driven the team.

DOB: 31/10/1990
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

20



BYRON WEBSTER

Tall, commanding centre-half who is good in possession, Byron is very good at attacking set plays as well as defending them. He is a man mountain at the back for us, vice-captain and someone who has taken big steps forward in his career lately and could yet go on to bigger and better things.

DOB: 31/03/1987
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

5



DOMINIC BLIZZARD

Tall, rangy midfielder who is very athletic and great at breaking up play when doing his defensive duties, Dom also gets forward well for us and pops up with the occasional goal. He is a really good character off the pitch as well and the boys love him in and around the changing room here.

DOB: 02/09/1984
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

6



VITALIJS MAKSIMENKO

Vitalijs came in for the latter stages of the season on a loan deal from Brighton and has had a couple of excellent games for us in the centre of defence. He is good in possession, very good at stepping into midfield with the ball and distributing well. He has a bright future in the game.

DOB: 08/12/1990
NATIONALITY: LATVIAN

DEFENDER

13



Up the Glovers!

Good luck in the npower League 1 Play-Off Final



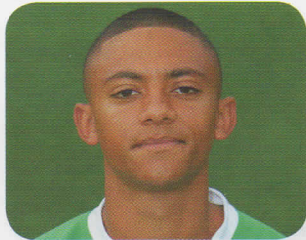
LEADING THE FUTURE

agustawestland.com



AgustaWestland
A Finmeccanica Company

NATHAN RALPH



Nathan has been unlucky this year with injury during what is his first full season in League 1. He made a real impact early on in the season with his quality on the left side, where he can play left-back, left-wing or even up front. His versatility has really helped us out this season and his career has kick-started at Yeovil Town.

DOB: 14/02/1993
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

16

DAN BURN



Dan Burn - the man mountain, part two - along with Byron Webster. He is great in possession and somebody who, for a loan signing, has been absolutely outstanding for us. He is a commanding presence, a great first-ball winner and a centre-back who plays with intelligence when reading the game.

DOB: 09/05/1992
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

DEFENDER

18

ED UPSON



Mainstay in midfield this season, he has a great engine and goes from box to box for us. Ed has that little bit extra to his game and has shown himself to get regular assists - not to mention goals! As we saw in the second leg of the play-off semi-final, he times his runs into the box brilliantly.

DOB: 21/11/1989
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MIDFIELDER

8

GAVIN WILLIAMS



Gavin has been through all the leagues during his career, having been promoted from the Conference and also played in the Premier League. He has had a good career, is great on the ball and is comfortable playing up front or on either of the wings. His all-round ability and his final ball are excellent.

DOB: 20/07/1980
NATIONALITY: WELSH

MIDFIELDER

10

SAM FOLEY



The find of the season, we got Sam from Newport County. He is a great, attacking wideman who is excellent on either foot when it comes to deliveries into the box. He is very elusive and he has popped up with some very important assists for us this season at important times, as well as some magnificent goals.

DOB: 17/10/1986
NATIONALITY: IRISH

MIDFIELDER

14

LEWIS YOUNG



Lewis is a marauding wide player or full-back who is another excellent crosser of the ball. He has pace and power, which also makes him good defensively in one-v-one situations. Injuries have curtailed this season for him but he is back fully fit now and pushing for a place in the squad.

DOB: 27/09/1989
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MIDFIELDER

15

ROUTE TO THE FINAL

PLAY-OFF SEMI FINAL (FIRST LEG)

Sheffield United 1-0 Yeovil Town

Yeovil Town entered their semi-final clash with Sheffield United full of confidence after a convincing 2-0 victory at Brammall Lane earlier in the season, but they found themselves on the back foot against a Blades side looking for League 1 play-off redemption after their penalty shoot-out loss to Huddersfield Town in last season's Final. Sheffield United took the game to Yeovil in the first half, and felt that they should have been awarded a penalty when Barry Robson seemed to be upended by Jamie McAllister in the box. But nothing was given, and the sides went in level at the break after a half defined by high energy and character, but lacking in clear-cut chances. Callum McFadzean had replaced the injured Robson after 30 minutes, making just his 11th appearance of the season. It proved one to remember as he put the Blades 1-0 up within the first minute of the restart. McFadzean's deflected effort from 12 yards found its way in via the post after neat footwork and a precise cut-back from Jamie Murphy carved out the chance. The Blades pushed for a second but Yeovil held firm, and could easily have found an equaliser late in the day but for George Long's instinctive save from Byron Webster's acrobatic effort. United took their slender 1-0 lead to Huish Park hoping to lay to rest their record of six Football League play-off campaigns and no promotions.

PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL (SECOND LEG)

Yeovil Town 2-0 Sheffield United (Yeovil Town win 2-1 on aggregate)

Gary Johnson's Yeovil Town were still very much in this semi-final despite taking a 1-0 deficit into the second leg at Huish Park. With a packed stadium and the form book in their favour, a turnaround was always possible. The Glovers flew out of the traps and dictated the opening exchanges, and it wasn't long before their dominance began to tell on the scoresheet, as they took the lead after just six minutes. Kevin Dawson slotted the ball home after an incisive through-ball from Ed Upson to give the hosts a dream start. Sheffield United kicked into gear after going a goal behind, and started to look like Wembley candidates in an open match at Huish Park. Jamie Murphy, who caused numerous problems for the Yeovil defence in the first leg, came within a whisker of restoring the Blades' aggregate lead after his curling effort cannoned back off of the crossbar. That was a let-off for Yeovil, who rode their luck at times, but in the dying embers of the match, they inflicted a killer blow. Glovers' top scorer Paddy Madden turned provider in the 85th minute, clipping an inch-perfect cross to Ed Upson 10 yards from goal. The 23-year-old made no mistake with a powerful headed finish to send Yeovil to the Play-Off Final in dramatic fashion.

GLOVERS' LEGEND

WARREN PATMORE

STRIKER // APPS: 376 // GOALS: 162

Hailed one of Yeovil Town's greatest ever players, Warren Patmore signed in 1995 and spent six years plying his trade in South Somerset after failing to find regular first-team football at various clubs across Britain. Patmore scored 162 goals in 376 appearances in a Yeovil shirt, and was the club's top scorer in five of his six seasons as a Glovers' player. Standing at 6ft 2in, Patmore's physical ability was key behind Yeovil's success at the demanding non-league level, and he played a major part in firing his side up to the Conference in 1997. Patmore has since turned to management, but recently left his last post at Crediton United.



GLOVERS' LEGEND

ALEC STOCK

PLAYER/MANAGER // STRIKER

Yeovil Town cult hero Alec Stock spent three years as player/manager of the Glovers, and was instrumental in their famous giant-killing FA Cup run of 1949. Stock scored the first goal in a 2-1 victory over Sunderland in the fourth round during that run - an enormous scalp for non-league Yeovil. As a manager, Stock was often credited with inventing the 4-4-2 formation, and led Yeovil to three top-10 finishes in the



KEVIN DAWSON

Kevin initially came to us on trial and has proved to be another of the gaffer's finds. He has been excellent for us with his energy and work rate; and since he arrived at the club his quality has risen with each week. He is a handful for any full-back but he can play central-midfield as well.

DOB: 30/06/1990
NATIONALITY: IRISH

MIDFIELDER

22



MATTHEW DOLAN

Matty has had it quite tough with injuries since coming to us on loan, but he has played in some fantastic victories for us. A good lad and a midfield spotter, who can put that final ball through or play little diagonals to cause problems for opponents. He also pops up with the odd goal with his wand of a left foot.

DOB: 11/02/1993
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

MIDFIELDER

26



JAMES HAYTER

James has been here, seen it and done it before. A very clever forward with great movement and someone who can unlock defences with that final pass. Very elusive for his marker when he gets into positions in and around the box, his experience could be really important for the team on this occasion.

DOB: 09/04/1979
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

STRIKER

9



REUBEN REID

Reuben won't be with the squad today, having been out on loan to Plymouth Argyle for the end part of the season. A striker who was a major part of the team at the beginning of the season, he is a natural goalscorer with great ability, who can conjure up very good goals in and around the box.

DOB: 26/07/1988
NATIONALITY: ENGLISH

STRIKER

11



PADDY MADDEN

Paddy has come in and scored all sorts of goals for us this year - headed efforts, volleys, and even a few tap-ins. He is a tireless worker and a good lad off the pitch as well. His work ethic and competitive spirit keeps us going and he is always dangerous for any defence.

DOB: 04/03/1990
NATIONALITY: IRISH

STRIKER

17




ANGELO BALANTA

Angelo is a tricky wideman, who can also play up front as a number 10. His great quality is reflected in the deliveries he provides and he has a good shot on him as well. Someone who unlocks defences, is very powerful in his movement and sees that extra pass. He gives us something a little different.

DOB: 01/07/1990
NATIONALITY: COLOMBIAN

STRIKER

29



QUEDAM

YEOVIL SHOPPING



The Quedam Shopping Centre
is proud to support the Glovers
and be the main sponsor of
Yeovil Town Ladies FC

Check out our



feed and our



page for news on the latest deals.

FINAL DESTINATION

Sky Sports broadcast every twist in the npower League 1 play-off semi-finals. Pundits **DON GOODMAN** and **ANDY HINCHCLIFFE** tell their stories behind this year's games

INTERVIEWS: RUSSELL KEMPSON

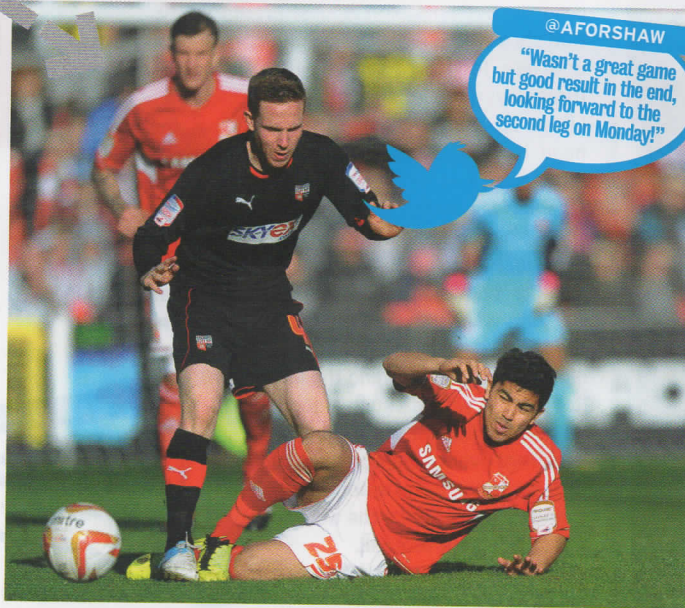
Sheffield United 1 Yeovil Town 0

FRIDAY 3 MAY, BRAMALL LANE

DG: Played tennis for two hours and lost. I don't really want to talk about it. But I got a sweat on, which was the object of the exercise. Did a bit of prep work before Dave, my driver, picked me up for the trip to Sheffield. Saw Gary Johnson, the Yeovil Town manager, and he was in a chirpy mood; also spoke with Chris Morgan, the Sheffield United caretaker manager, who I know from my brief spell at Barnsley in the Nineties. He was in good spirits, too. I have fond memories of Bramall Lane; it's where I scored probably my most powerfully struck goal, for Bradford City. I just smashed it from 35 yards into the top corner. Magic. No spectacular piledrivers in this match, just a deflected effort from Callum McFadzean one minute after the interval. A first-half substitute, he brought a spark to United's play. He gave them more impetus, more of a threat - he was brave and showed no fear. Others had been a bit "safety first". I had a beer afterwards with Alan Wiley, the former Premier League referee and now a referees' coach. We had a fascinating chat about what could make the game better.



@KEVINDAWSON10
"Half time - not the worst result. Can't wait for Monday and the full house at Huish Park!"



@AFORSHAW

"Wasn't a great game but good result in the end, looking forward to the second leg on Monday!"

Swindon Town 1 Brentford 1

SATURDAY 4 MAY, THE COUNTY GROUND

AH: A beautiful day. Drove from my home in Manchester and got to the County Ground so early that I did a bit of shopping at a nearby retail park. Rather an unusual pre-match build-up for me; I got some computer stuff and almost bought a TV. Met the managers in a little room by the players' tunnel. Kevin MacDonald was very helpful and Uwe Rosler, also. I'd left Manchester City long before Uwe joined the club. Even though it was sunny, it was very windy, which made the judging of passes very difficult. Not easy for the goalkeepers, either, which is why Brentford's Simon Moore impressed me so much. He looked very comfortable in the gusty conditions and his handling, especially from crosses, was excellent. The Bees got away with a draw thanks to a 94th-minute penalty, which set up the second match nicely. Spoke with Kevin and Uwe again after the game and both admitted that they had a few injury worries for the return leg at Griffin Park. Just niggles, though. Got back home at 11.30pm; and had an early start the next day to get to Burton Albion for their League 2 Play-Off semi-final second leg against Bradford City.



@NPOWER_LEAGUE1
#PLAYOFFFINAL

Yeovil Town 2 Sheffield United 0

(Yeovil Town win 2-1 on aggregate)

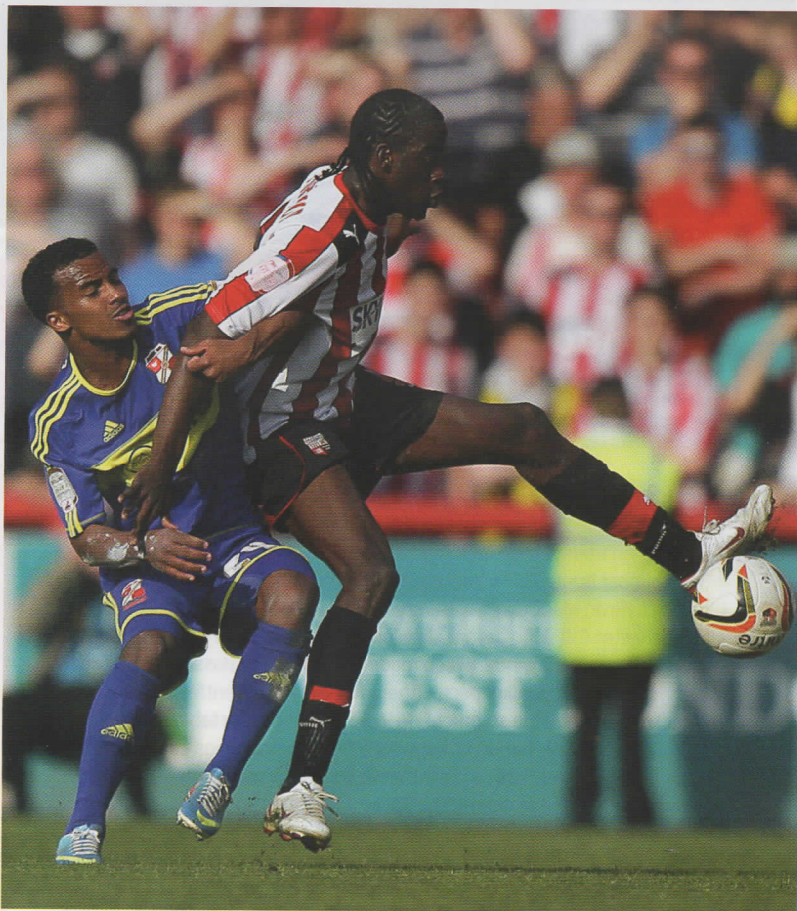
MONDAY 6 MAY, HUISSH PARK

DG: Alarm went off at 7am. On a Bank Holiday Monday? I didn't like that. Let Dave the driver take the strain for the three-hour trip to Yeovil but, after a miscalculation on my part, we missed the food truck at Huish Park. When we got there, it had gone. Not good. Had several live "crosses" to do for Sky Sports News, talking about the remarkable scenes at Hull City two days earlier, which saw them promoted to the Premier League, and the sad plight of my old club Wolverhampton Wanderers. Saw Gary Johnson, the Yeovil Town manager, before kick off and he agreed with my analysis of the first leg. Always nice to hear that. Up on the temporary and exposed TV gantry, I had to constantly stop my notes blowing away, sunlight blurred my monitor and the view of the pitch was restricted. Apart from all that, it was fine. Yeovil got off to a flyer with an early goal and sealed it near the end with a header from Ed Upson. He impressed me all game with his range of passing and probing runs from midfield - he's a very good player. Not a great trip home up the M5, with everyone returning from the coast. Nightmare.



@PADDYMADDEN

"An amazing day
I will remember for
the rest of my life!
Wembley - see ya soon!"



Brentford 3 Swindon Town 3

(after extra time; aggregate 4-4;
Brentford win 5-4 on penalties)

MONDAY 6 MAY, GRIFFIN PARK

AH: Had stayed overnight in an hotel not far from Griffin Park, having travelled down after covering Burton Albion against Bradford City. Had chewed the fat with Chris Kamara and Ian Rush until late. Too late, maybe, or just three matches in three days catching up with me. Felt rotten when I woke up at 6am. Cold, shaky, sore throat, thumping head. No way I'd miss the game, though. Got to the ground, took some tablets, had a couple of sausage rolls and felt better. Chatted with Uwe Rosler and, surprisingly, he had made four changes from the first leg. Had to climb a dodgy ladder to the gantry - I wouldn't have done that at home - but it was well worth it. What a game. Clayton Donaldson, the Brentford striker, caught my eye, not only for his two goals but also for leading the line so well. Robust and yet with such a good touch. He set the tone for his teammates. Brentford eventually won on penalties - joy for them, devastation for Swindon Town. That's the way it is in knockout football. I just love the play-offs!

@MASSLUONGO

"Gutted about the result,
the lads worked hard
and deserved more.
Fans were great!"



SIX OF THE BEST



Our review to find the cream of the crop in npower League 1 continues

INTERVIEWS: KEVIN PALMER AND JEREMY BUTLER

KARL ROBINSON
MK DONS MANAGER



1 Who has been the best player in League 1?
This is between Matt Ritchie at Bournemouth and Alan Judge at Notts County. If I had to pick one, I'd go for Ritchie because he is a top-drawer performer at this level. If you are looking for a primary reason why the Cherries achieved automatic promotion this season, then look no further than Ritchie.

2 Who is the manager of the season?
You have to look at the overall managerial environment, so I would pick Gary Johnson at Yeovil Town and Ronnie Moore at Tranmere Rovers. Both had limited resources behind them and, while Eddie Howe deserves a mention for the job he did at Bournemouth, Gary getting Yeovil into the play-offs earns him my nomination.

3 Which was the best team performance against your side?
Walsall beat us 4-2 at our place on Boxing Day and their front four were a real handful. Will Grigg, Febian Brandy, Jamie Paterson and James Baxendale (pictured) annihilated us. If they played like that every week they would have finished closer to the promotion places.

4 Who gave the best individual performance against your team?
Shrewsbury Town's Tom Eaves was different class against us at our ground in March, scoring two goals and proving he is a young man with great potential. He beat us up in that game with his physicality and his presence. Harry Forrester is another who springs to mind as he was a major threat when we played against Brentford at Griffin Park.

5 Who was the best young player in the division?
Sheffield United goalkeeper George Long is a fine prospect and it has been great to see a 19-year-old getting his chance every week. I would also mention Harry Forrester in this category as well - the subject of giving young players a chance is one I could talk about for hours.

6 Who has underachieved this season and will be contenders next time?
MK Dons! I'd also say Preston North End and Coventry City - two teams with fantastic traditions, who probably shouldn't be playing in League 1, but have failed to make the most of the advantages they have. I expect both clubs to challenge for promotion next season.



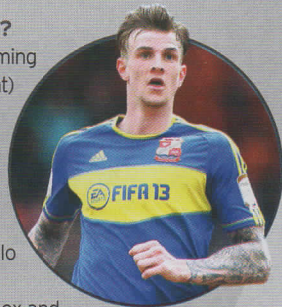
STUART BEAVON
PRESTON NORTH END STRIKER

1 Who has been the best player in League 1?
Yeovil Town striker Paddy Madden gets my vote because if you finish the division's top scorer then you deserve it. He scores different types of goals and his instincts in the box are second to none. Goalscoring is the most difficult part of the game and that's why someone like Paddy will be in great demand - particularly because he is still young.

2 Who is the manager of the season?
Eddie Howe turned Bournemouth's season around and won them promotion. It helped that he knew some of the players from his earlier stint in charge, but even so it was a remarkable achievement. I know his assistant Jason Tindall from our days together at Weymouth and he told me that Eddie has fantastic man-management skills.

3 Which was the best team performance against your side?
I was lucky enough to get on the scoresheet when we beat Swindon Town 4-1 at Deepdale in September. We played them off the park but Swindon were fantastic in the return fixture and I don't know how we escaped with a 1-1 draw, it was our toughest match.

4 Who gave the best individual performance against your team?
I still have a few nightmares from coming up against Swindon's Aden Flint (right) in the same game. He's big and strong and I had one or two bruises as souvenirs from that match.



5 Who was the best young player in the division?
I can't see beyond Brentford's Marcello Trotta, who is on loan from Fulham. He's a player who only needs a half yard in the box and he will score. He's still only 20 years old and I've no doubt that Fulham have got a player who will play in the Premier League before too long.

6 Who has underachieved this season and will be contenders next time?
Before the season started I had MK Dons to be in the automatic promotion places so it was surprising to see them finish no higher than eighth. They've got some cracking players, such as midfielders Stephen Gleeson and Darren Potter, and the club is certainly geared for a higher level, but they keep falling just short.

BUZZING FOR THE BEES

Tricky frontman **HARRY FORRESTER** chose a move to Uwe Rosler's Brentford over Dutch giants Ajax and he has no regrets ahead of his first visit to Wembley today

INTERVIEW: NICK TOWNSEND, THE SUNDAY TIMES

When, two summers ago, Frank de Boer, Ajax head coach and a learned judge of emerging talent, revealed that Harry Forrester was "close to a deal" that would bring him to the Dutch giants, many will have envied the young attacking midfielder. Who would possibly forego the opportunity to enhance their talents at a club that is a worldwide byword for excellence?

Forrester, that's who. He rejected the contract offered by the Eredivisie champions, opting instead for a future at Griffin Park rather than the Amsterdam Arena.

It was testimony to Forrester's faith in Bees' manager Uwe Rosler and the German's vision for Brentford. Though the 22-year-old from Milton Keynes concedes that many will find his decision difficult to comprehend, he believes that today's appearance at Wembley, with the Championship one game away, fully vindicates his judgement.

Since his teenage years playing at Watford - during which time Forrester was a member of the England Under-16 team who defeated their Spanish counterparts 1-0 in 2007 at Wembley Stadium - he has constantly come under the scrutiny of leading Premier League clubs' talent scouts.

In 2010, he joined Aston Villa and played in successful academy and reserves teams. His contemporaries included Marc Albrighton, Barry Bannan and Andreas Weimann. During a six-month loan period at Kilmarnock, Forrester made his full senior debut against Celtic.

He was released by Villa in May 2011, but De Boer invited him for a trial at Ajax where he was offered a contract. Forrester explains why he didn't sign it: "I'd done well in the youth and reserves at Aston Villa, but didn't make the first team. I didn't want to go over to Holland with Ajax and do the same.

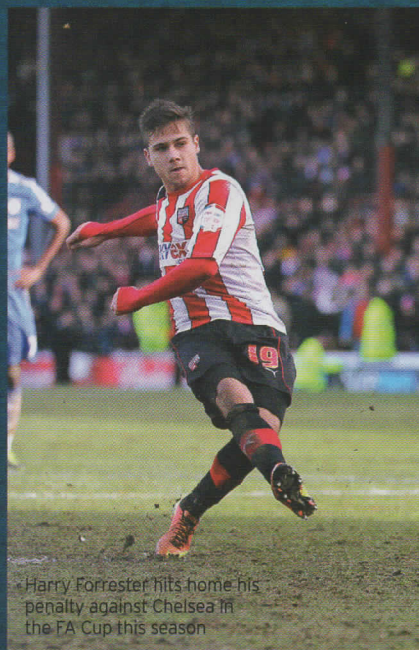
"It was a great experience for me and did give

me a bit more self-belief again. Obviously, my confidence wasn't sky-high having just been released by Villa. But I felt I needed to start playing first team football, and I knew I was going to get that opportunity at Brentford."

Forrester had already met up with Rosler before he went to Ajax. "I knew they were going in the right direction even then, two years ago," he explains. "Now we're starting to see the success I'd seen back then.

Maybe at first it was hard for people to understand my decision. They may finally be starting to realise now why I made it.

"I feel I'm still learning a lot. This has been a huge year for me. I'm maybe a bit of a late developer into the men's game, but I go out with a lot of belief that I can help my team win games."



Harry Forrester hits home his penalty against Chelsea in the FA Cup this season

This season he has made no fewer than 48 appearances and scored 11 goals, including one, from the spot against Chelsea in the FA Cup fourth round tie at Griffin Park, which ended 2-2.

"It was a bit surreal, looking over in the tunnel and seeing players like Frank Lampard, Oscar and Fernando Torres. But once we got out there it was a matter of doing what the gaffer had planned. I think we executed it superbly, especially in the first half at Griffin Park when I'd say we were the better team. Chelsea won the replay 4-0 at their place, but to take on the European champions and equal them for a game and a half was testimony to the boys and the coaching staff."

Few players, at any level, will experience the swing of emotions that he and his team-mates underwent in "a crazy week" which started with that final regular season fixture with Doncaster Rovers when Marcello Trotta's last minute penalty struck against the bar, followed immediately by James Coppinger's winner for the Yorkshire club, culminating with the Bees missing out on automatic promotion and Doncaster winning the npower League 1 title.

"Everyone was so deflated. It was kind of a surreal atmosphere. No-one was really speaking too much." Fortunately, as it turned out, the club's annual awards ceremony was held the following night. "At the time, immediately after the game, nobody probably wanted to go. But once we were there it galvanised us. We all got together and had a good laugh.

"The following day, the manager sat us down and we had a meeting. Anyone could speak, get things off their chest. His message was that we'd come a long way and we have a good enough squad to at least get to Wembley. We'd got a second chance. A lot of people wouldn't have."

Even then, Brentford came perilously close to self-destruction against Swindon Town, but prevailed in a penalty shoot-out after



“WHAT HAPPENED AGAINST DONCASTER – WE DON’T WANT TO BE FEELING THAT AGAIN”

a 3-3 draw. “I was on the bench by then,” added Forrester, whose contract expires this summer and will discuss his future with Rosler in the next few days. “There was a bit of déjà vu when they got a last-minute equaliser. I was thinking ‘not again’. It was a blow, but it just showed the strength we’ve got to get through.”

The task, though, has to be completed at Wembley today when he will be supported by his parents, partner Francesca and their 21-month-old daughter Mimi and younger brother Remy.

There will be no doubting the strength of the Bees’ desire.

“What happened against Doncaster Rovers – we don’t want to be feeling that again.”



@NPOWERLEAGUE1
#PLAYOFFFINAL

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

Irish ace **KEVIN DAWSON** is determined to realise a promotion dream today and make it a family affair in the npower Championship alongside his older brother, and Barnsley star, Stephen

INTERVIEW: TOM HAYLETT

For Yeovil Town's Irish midfielder Kevin Dawson, stepping out at Wembley today will be the culmination of a remarkable few months for him and his family. After joining the Somerset club permanently in January, Dawson hasn't looked back, making 23 league and cup appearances and finding the net three times.

Considering it's his first taste of English football - after spending his short career in the League of Ireland at Sporting Fingal and Shelbourne - the 22-year-old has done rather well.

And Dawson will be looking to today's npower League 1 Play-Off Final to provide the icing on a particularly delicious cake. After all, there is the prospect of playing against his brother at Barnsley in the npower Championship next season; more on that later.

"I was absolutely over the moon when we reached the Final," Dawson beamed. "From the moment we got through, it's all I've been able to think about and I just want to get the game on now. I came on loan towards the end of last year and then agreed to sign permanently at the end of December and it has been amazing, it really has. I just hope we can get the job done at Wembley."

Despite the short distance over the Irish Sea, some young players find the transition difficult when trying to make their way in the goldfish bowl of English football. But for Dawson, it's been relatively straightforward,

especially with close friend Paddy Madden also plying his trade at Huish Park.

"Luckily for me, I've come straight into the team and I'm playing regularly - that really helps when you move to a new country and a new environment. A lot of young lads come over from Ireland and get homesick if they are not involved on the pitch but I've had my football to concentrate on. There are a few Irish lads here and Paddy and I lived only streets away from each other in Coolock, north Dublin. We've known each other since we were five. Paddy played a big part in me coming over here and we've moved in together as well."

And as for the possibility of facing his older brother Stephen, another midfielder, next season, well now we're talking Roy of the Rovers stuff. Having clinched Championship survival for the Oakwell club on the final day of the season, the Dawson family now just have one more box to tick.

"Barnsley stayed up and Ste's over the moon at the minute. It took him a long time to get to the Championship and he wants to stay there as long as possible now. It would be unbelievable to play against him next season. I've looked up to him my whole life so it really would be a dream come true."





fjchalke.co.uk

The save of the season



Save UP TO £2000

on a brand new Kia at F.J.Chalke

F.J.Chalke wishes Yeovil Town FC the best of luck in the League One Play Off Final

Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Cars must be registered by 30/06/13



The Power to Surprise

F.J.Chalke

Established 1929

www.fjchalke.co.uk

217 Sherborne Road, Yeovil, BA21 5BB

Tel: 01935 471800



TOP ★ 10

PLAY-OFF FINAL GOALS

In search of the greatest Play-Off Final goal, **THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE** took to Twitter, asking fans to nominate their favourite. Here are the top 10 best strikes to grace the occasion

They are occasions in which the tension quotient is always predicted to be high; when the huge prize at stake is reckoned to be an obstacle to flowing football. Yet, paradoxically, the play-off finals regularly produce outstanding entertainment while delivering goals that live long in the memory.

With the focus back on the annual

Wembley showdown to decide the final promotion places for 2012/13, The Football League set out to discover (via Twitter) the goals the fans consider to be the best in the glorious 27-year history of the play-offs.

Fans nominated their favourite, with a top 10 produced on these pages and the winner declared overleaf.

It meant that many memorable goals missed out - like David Hopkin's eye-catching curler for Crystal Palace which left Sheffield United heartbroken in 1997, as well as a series of sublime free-kicks from the likes of John Sheridan, Charlie Adam and Grant McCann.

Moments to savour undoubtedly, but just edged out by the quality of these goals...

10 **Andy Campbell**

May 2003, Cardiff City 1-0 QPR
Division Two (now League 1)

Cardiff were hoping to seal promotion in their own city as the Millennium Stadium hosted the Finals while Wembley Stadium was being rebuilt. QPR proved dogged opposition and the massed ranks of Cardiff supporters had to wait until the 14th minute of extra time for the breakthrough. It came from substitute Andy Campbell and followed a forward pass from Gareth Whalley which caught Danny Shittu on his heels. It was a difficult ball for the flame-haired forward to deal with and he was forced to let it bounce twice on the turf before sending an immaculate left-foot volley up and over Chris Day in the Rangers goal.



Dave Carroll

May 1994, Wycombe Wanderers
4-2 Preston North End
Division Three (now League 2)

It was a game that had entertained from first to last with Preston opening the scoring and then going 2-1 ahead by half-time. Limbs were flagging by the 72nd minute, but from somewhere Dave Carroll (pictured, far left) found the inspiration to put the seal on Wycombe's 4-2 win. Picking up the ball just inside his own half, the winger cut infield from the right as the opposition defenders backed off. Arriving at the 18-yard line he shaped as if to shoot with his left foot before switching back onto his right foot to climax a 50-yard jinking run with a low shot in off the post.

09 **John Mousinho**

May 2011, Stevenage 1-0
Torquay United, League 2

Stevenage maintained the happy knack of newly-arrived Football League teams achieving promotion at the first attempt in the basement division courtesy of a magnificent strike from John Mousinho. The midfielder made a strong forward run in the 41st minute, receiving a pass and shrugging off one challenge. That took him to around 20 yards from goal where, just before another defender lunged in, Mousinho buried a thunderous drive into the far corner beyond the despairing fingers of goalkeeper Scott Bevan.

@GEORGEFELDMANO2

John Mousinho v
Torquay in 2011! Got us
back-to-back promotions!
#PlayOffGoals

08

Richard Walker

May 2007, Bristol Rovers 3-1 Shrewsbury Town, League 2

After Shrewsbury had taken an early lead, Richard Walker took charge for Bristol Rovers, equalising in the 21st minute before putting his team 2-1 ahead with ten minutes remaining of the first half. His second goal was the product of a true striker's instinct, timing his run to perfection as the ball was played forward down the left and a defender failed to intercept. One touch from Walker steadied him and even though he was at a difficult angle, he then applied a delicate finish to send the ball over the advancing Chris MacKenzie.

@NPOWER_LEAGUE1
#PLAYOFFFINAL

@ANDYHAYHURST11

David Eyres' equaliser for Burnley v Stockport, took it past 3 and shot from the edge of the box! #playoffgoals

06

David Eyres

May 1994, Burnley 2-1 Stockport County, Division Two (now League 1)

David Eyres and the men from Turf Moor found themselves behind after just two minutes of this Final, but a wonder goal from the left-winger changed all that and put Burnley on the way to victory. Collecting a pass just outside the penalty area, Eyres (pictured) was quickly alive to the possibilities, transferring the ball from his left to his right foot to outwit the first defender. Evading another Stockport player, he was now inside the penalty area and moving at full speed. After sidestepping defender number three, Eyres had room to dispatch a low shot into the net.

@CAMMYWYCH

#PlayOffGoals 2009
Wade Elliott for Burnley, side-footed in the top right corner #beauty

05

Wade Elliott

May 2009, Burnley 1-0 Sheffield United, Championship

A fantastic piece of enterprise from Wade Elliott secured Burnley's return to the top flight after an absence of 33 years. The midfielder first made ground impressively in the Sheffield United half in the 13th minute, getting away from two striped shirts. Holding the ball up he played a short square pass to the advancing Chris McCann whose route was blocked. The ball came back to Elliott and without a moment's hesitation he swept the ball high towards the top left-hand corner of the net where it evaded Paddy Kenny's despairing dive.

04 Nick Powell

May 2012, Crewe Alexandra 2-0 Cheltenham Town, League 2

This was a moment of pure class from the latest star to emerge from the famous Crewe Alexandra academy. Throughout the 2011/12 campaign, Nick Powell had been winning plaudits and gaining admirers and the 15th minute of this Final he showed exactly why. Kelvin Mellor and Matthew Tootle worked a one-two from a throw-in and when the ball was played up to Powell he had his back to goal and markers in attendance. With one sublime touch he immediately took the ball out of his feet and into space whereupon he turned to smack an unstoppable left-footed shot into the far corner.

02 Dean Windass

May 2008, Hull City 1-0 Bristol City, Championship

"Quite simply, destined to be from Dean Windass" was how the Sky Sports commentator saluted the historic moment when the hometown boy unleashed the spectacular volley that sent Hull City into the top flight for the first time in their 104-year history. Nick Barmby began the move by releasing Fraizer Campbell down the left. He jinked his way beyond a couple of defenders before looking up and scooping the ball towards Windass who was loitering with intent on the 18-yard line. The execution was perfect as the striker swung back his right foot to give Adriano Basso no chance. The Tigers roared and the Premier League beckoned. "I must have watched the goal on Sky+ a thousand times," said Windass (pictured, right) two years later.


03 Nick Wright

May 1999, Watford 2-0 Bolton Wanderers, Division One (now Championship)

Bolton had started the brighter and Eidur Gudjohnsen had seen two good chances slip by. In the 39th minute Peter Kennedy delivered a corner from the right which was headed away by Andy Todd but only as far as Nick Wright, standing about 10 yards out and just to the left of goal. The Watford midfielder adjusted his feet and as the ball dropped he executed a brilliant overhead kick, the ball arcing over goalkeeper Steve Banks and two defenders to help secure Watford's return to the top flight.

@DARRENHAZ

Got to be Dean Windass for Hull against my beloved @bcftweets. Good goal #playoffgoals



**WHOEVER WINS
EVERY KICK AND EVERY CHEER
WE SUPPORT YOUR TEAM**

BBC
LONDON
94.9 FM | Digital

BBC
SOMERSET
95.5 FM | 1566 AM

BBC Local Radio brings you live coverage of every Brentford and Yeovil Town match, home and away.

Visit
po.st/PlayOffGoals
to view the top
10 Play-Off
Final goals

01

Voted number one,
Gary Alexander relives
his Wembley wonder goal

May 2009, Millwall 2-3 Scunthorpe United, League 1

Millwall were trying to get back into their League 1 Play-Off Final in 2009 after going behind in the sixth minute when Gary Alexander struck his superb equaliser.

Scunthorpe took a throw deep in their half and it was knocked forward by a Millwall player towards Alexander, who controlled it high on his chest. He spun and from 35 yards, and only a little way infield, exploded a crackerjack of a volley that arrowed over Joe Murphy and flew into the far corner of the net.

"We needed a goal," recalled our winner. "We were 1-0 down and while there was still a long way to go in the game, we wanted to get back on level terms as soon as possible.

"The ball sat up nicely, so I thought "why not try it?" I hit the ball so sweet, it was unbelievable. Luckily for me it ended up in the top corner.

"I've scored a few good goals in my career, but probably not as good as this one, that's for sure. Coming at Wembley makes it very special.

"I'll look back when my career is over and I'll remember the goal I scored. People still talk about it and it's something I'll always remember.

"It's amazing to be voted number one. There have been so many goals scored in the play-offs, so to come out number one is fantastic. I'm just proud of it."

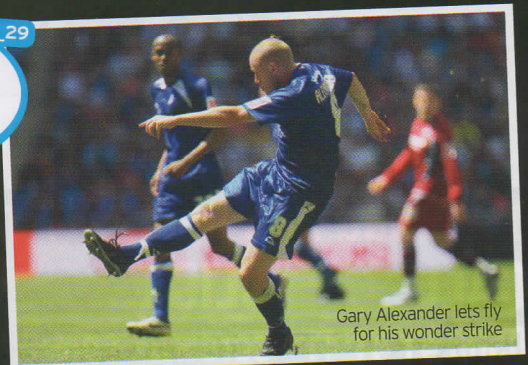
SCAN
HERE...

To view our
exclusive video
interview with
Gary Alexander
at Wembley as he
relives the greatest
Play-Off Final goal



@ALEXBLACKALL_29

Gary Alexander
for Millwall against
Scunthorpe at Wembley!
#bestgoalerver



Gary Alexander lets fly
for his wonder strike

SCREWFIX®

Screwfix is the UK's largest supplier of screws, fixings and tools. We've over 14,000 products from the brands you trust, all at low prices. Call in and pick up your free catalogue to check out the full range.

SHOPPING WITH US IS EASY

✓ **OVER 280 STORES NATIONWIDE**

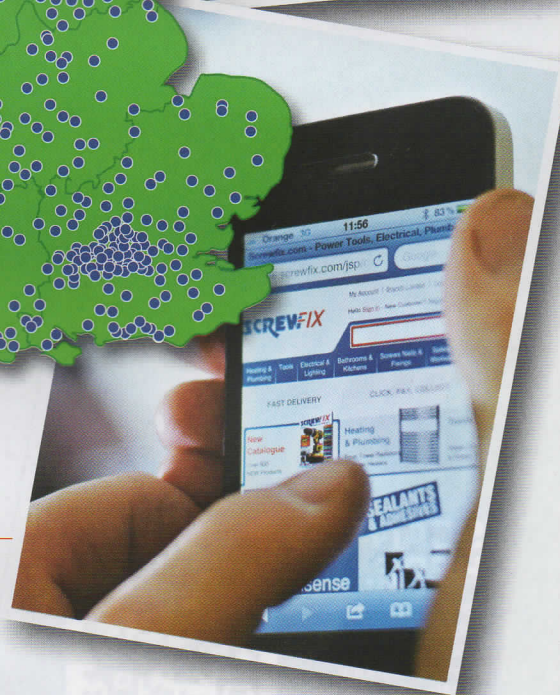
✓ **STORES OPEN 7AM-8PM MON to FRI**

8AM-6PM SAT | 10AM-4PM SUN[^]

To find your nearest visit screwfix.com or text 'FIND' to 78777

✓ **ORDER ONLINE AND COLLECT**

in store 5 minutes later with **CLICK & COLLECT**



ORDERING AND DELIVERY TO SUIT YOU

CALL

0500 41 41 41

CLICK

screwfix.com

VISIT

Your local store

SCREWFIX®

DOING IT FOR THE CUP



Thrilling comebacks, footballing naturals and Gareth Southgate all play their part in the story of this year's npower Football League Kids Cup Final at Wembley

While the Wembley ambition comes true for today's play-off finalists, they will share the famous turf - and the dream - with another group of young players today, as Coventry City take on Brentford in the npower U11 Kids Cup Final.

More than 1,800 schools and 14,000 children set out back in October to claim what will likely be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, with teams first battling for the right to represent their local Football League club before taking on the region's finest for a place at the home of football.

Eight months of hard graft later, today's finalists have the chance to make memories that will stay with them long into the future. Who knows, it may yet be the first of many visits for any potential stars among them.

With the support of sponsor npower, the competition seeks to develop teamwork skills, share the fun of football and demonstrate the rewards of hard work and achievements in sport. This year it has been well-supported by ambassador Gareth Southgate, who visited many of the teams before their big day.

Today could be a double success for Brentford if the senior players and the team from Corpus Christi both win their respective finals, and the younger of the two is certainly accustomed to success. Boasting several players from the Chelsea Academy, the finalists have already reached the semi-final of the London Youth Games and won the U11 Premier League Schools Tournament earlier this month, but teacher Bernard Cairns insists the results have not gone to their heads.

"I have to say that despite their success, the boys are still grounded and really well-behaved. They have got used to big occasions so that should be a big help and if today is anything like previous competitions

they've played in, they will have plenty of supporters cheering them on."

PE teacher and coach Tony Mesourouni added: "This is the first time we've played in this competition and we were attracted by the chance to play at Wembley. The boys are always really excited about playing at big venues but once they get out on the pitch, it's going to be down to business."

Aiming to end that recent run are opponents Chetwynd Junior School, who will represent Coventry City, and Sky Blues' Development Manager Shaun Pierce was full of praise: "The boys showed real character in the regional tournament, where three times they turned important games around after falling behind," he revealed, "I don't expect them to be fazed by the occasion and hopefully they can emulate the Coventry City 1987 squad and bring home the trophy!"

"We know them quite well as five of them have been part of the player development centres run by Sky Blues in the Community at Coventry City. We have worked closely with the school in the past and hopefully this experience will help us to build new relationships to work closer with the school in the future on other projects."

Andrea Brown, Customer Services Manager at The Football League, added: "The npower Football League Kids Cup encourages youngsters to be active, healthy and develop a keen sense of teamwork. Every season we see the positive difference the tournament can make on both schools and to the clubs and their community scheme and we hope it will continue to grow in the years to come."

To read a match report from today's game and to find out how your school can participate in the Football League Kids Cup tournament next season, please visit www.football-league.co.uk

MEET THE TEAMS



BRENTFORD

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

The team:

Gearard Hopkins
Benjamin Elliott
Jamal Musiala
Nolan Inema
Jordan Aina (C)
Ethan Etukudo
Tae Woo Kim
Tyler Yim

Teachers:

Bernard Cairns
Tony Mesourouni

Club Community

Coaches:
Luke Brooks-Smith
Graham Gooden

Kit: red and white shirts,
black shorts, black socks



COVENTRY CITY

CHETWYND JUNIOR SCHOOL

The team:

Jake Bull (GK)
Jack Edwards
George Tracey
Greigan French
Ethan Meadows
Jonathan Jesson
Luke Thompson (C)
Tom Stokes

Teachers:

Roy Garner
Dean Burt

Club Community

Coaches:
Shaun Pierce
David Busst

Kit: sky blue shirts,
sky blue shorts, sky blue socks

KIDS CUP FINAL WEMBLEY SUNDAY 19 MAY KICK-OFF 12.10PM

mitre

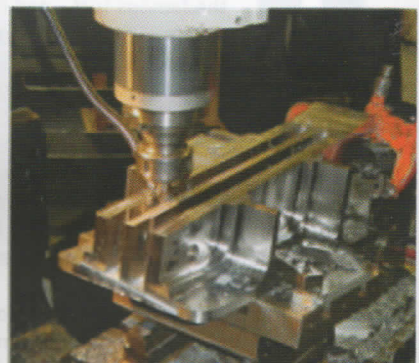
Supplier of replica kit for the
npower Football League Kids Cup

"WE ARE THE YEOVIL, THE MIGHTY MIGHTY YEOVIL"

SFM TECHNOLOGY

Providing Engineering Solutions

**SFM WISH THE YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL TEAM
"ALL THE VERY BEST IN THE PLAY OFF FINAL"**



Designers, Manufacturers and Consulting Engineers to the Aerospace, Automotive, Horticultural and Mechanical Engineering Industries.



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
BESPOKE MANUFACTURERS OF
HORTICULTURAL EQUIPMENT
SFM TECHNOLOGY LTD.
MARTOCK SOMERSET

www.sfmtechnology.co.uk
www.fruitharvesting.com

9 Bancombe Court
Yeovil, Somerset
TA12 6HB

01935 822285



BACKGROUND CZECH

Yeovil Town 'keeper **MAREK STECH** hopes his homework will make him a hero if it comes to the drama of spot kicks today

INTERVIEW: BY ANDREW WARSHAW

If today's Play-Off Final goes into a penalty shootout for the right to play npower Championship football, don't expect Yeovil Town goalkeeper Marek Stech to be fazed by the experience.

Brentford may have taken their spot-kicks impeccably in their dramatic semi-final win over Swindon but Stech has studied them all - and has a fine record himself in sudden-death situations.

One of those occasions was against the Bees at the start of the season when the Czech goalkeeper saved a penalty during Yeovil's 3-1 win at Griffin Park. "Every game, home or away, I look at the opposition in the build up and, again, just before the warm up to prepare the best I can in terms of knowing where the penalty takers have put their previous kicks," explains Stech. "We don't want it to go to penalties obviously but if it does, hopefully I can help do to Brentford what they did to Swindon. I'll have watched DVDs of all their semi-final spot-kicks - I'll have every one of them in my head."

It should come as little surprise that one of his heroes is his Czech Republic compatriot Petr Cech. As a youngster with Sparta Prague, Stech watched Cech in action and took as many tips as he could from a goalkeeper who, since joining Chelsea, has become an international household name.

"I didn't train with Petr because I was too young but I remember watching him from behind the goal as a ball boy," recalls Stech. "He was only at Sparta for two seasons but I immediately looked up to him. He's a very clever guy."

Having signed a two-year contract last July to become Yeovil's first goalkeeper of their own (as opposed to a succession of loanees) for four seasons, the 23-year-old is naturally proud to have played in every game of the current campaign and to have finally put down some roots after several loan spells when on West Ham United's books, one of which was with the Glovers a couple of seasons ago.

"When I joined West Ham, the first few months were really hard," added Stech who is hoping a Wembley appearance will act as a spur towards senior international recognition. "I was young and thought I had a great future there after Ludek Miklosko recommended me. It didn't happen and it was difficult because we had so many different managers.

"But it was still a great experience being able to train with the first team. I buckled down, improved my English and I'm delighted how things have worked out.

"I've never played at Wembley. We only have the one shot and although we beat Brentford twice in the league we know today is a completely different game. Ultimately I want to get back to the top flight. Even just sitting on the bench at West Ham, I experienced some of the flavour of what the atmosphere was like at that level."



HOME OF LIVE FOOTBALL

sky SPORTS



With unrivalled coverage of the UEFA Champions League and Barclays Premier League, plus action from the npower Football Leagues and much more, Sky Sports really is your home of football.

- Barclays Premier League • npower Football League • Capital One Cup
- La Liga • UEFA Champions League • World Cup Qualifiers



Find out more at skysports.com/football

SIX OF THE BEST



Our review of the 2012/13 campaign concludes with the thoughts of two more football personalities

INTERVIEWS: MATTHEW JONES AND TOM HAYLETT



DEAN COX
LEYTON ORIENT MIDFIELDER



1 Who has been the best player in League 1 this season?
Matt Ritchie at Bournemouth has been superb, both with his crossing ability and his goals - justifying his transfee fee. He's been a big part of what Bournemouth have achieved this season and it was a clever signing to get him in during the January transfer window.

2 Who is the manager of the season?
Simon Grayson (pictured below) of Preston North End. I know he only arrived there in February but he steadied the ship after Graham Westley left and lost only three of his 14 games. He's a manager who should be working in the Championship - he has the pedigree.

3 Which was the best team performance against your side?
We drew 0-0 with Swindon Town at home in January but they passed us off the park that day. Their movement was outstanding and we were happy to get a point out of it in the end. Paulo Di Canio was manager at the time and they were very impressive.

4 Who gave the best individual performance against your team?
Brett Pittman came on as a substitute when Bournemouth played at our place in March and quickly got himself on the scoresheet. Even though we won 3-1 on the day, Pittman tore us apart and really caught the eye. He's a good player.

5 Who was the best young player in the division?
For his age Harry Maguire is such an imposing defender and I hear a lot of good things about him. He commands the back four and now Sheffield United haven't gone up, I'm sure the big clubs will come in for him. Maguire has got everything and it will be interesting to see how his career develops.

6 Who has underachieved this season and will be contenders next time?
Preston North End have a strong manager in Simon Grayson and the club has all the ingredients to push on next year. It was important that they got back to basics and now that they have stabilised, Preston will be one of the teams to beat. They are one of the biggest clubs in our division and will have their eyes on promotion.



RONNIE MOORE
TRANMERE ROVERS MANAGER



1 Who has been the best player in League 1?
I always like strikers and for that reason I'll say James Collins at Swindon. He's everything that I like in a forward. He never gives up, he's always running and putting you under pressure, whilst he's also got a little bit of pace, he can score goals and he's good in the air.

2 Who is the manager of the season?
It's between Russell Slade at Leyton Orient and Walsall's Dean Smith. Walsall and us have the two lowest budgets at this level so for them to finish where they did was fantastic. It's not easy when you haven't got any money. You've got to be lucky with your players, keeping them fit, because the depth of the squad isn't as strong.

3 Which was the best team performance against your side?
Swindon Town when they beat us 5-0 at the County Ground in December. Without a word of a lie, it could have been 10, it was one of those games where you're scratching your head to try and change it. We were 3-0 down after 20-odd minutes and they just kept coming.

4 Who gave the best individual performance against your team?
Gary Roberts at Swindon Town, when they beat us 3-1 at Prenton Park in February. He tore us to shreds that day and scored two goals; one was from 25 yards and the other has got to have been from about 70! It was fantastic!

5 Who was the best young player in the division?
I'd say Ben Gibson but as I can't vote for our own players I'll go for Paddy Madden who has done well at Yeovil Town. He couldn't get a goal at Carlisle United, but he's turned Yeovil's season around. Everybody needs a goalscorer.

6 Who has underachieved this season and will be contenders next time?
MK Dons would have expected to be at the top but they were missing three of their best players at a similar time to us, and it does affect you. It'll be a tough league next season. Wolves will be contenders because they're still getting the Premier League parachute payments, Rotherham United will be strong, Preston North End will be better for having Simon Grayson there and you can't ignore Coventry City.

IT'S GOING TO BE A BIG YEAR.
GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE.



With an unrivalled calendar of sport and entertainment at Wembley Stadium this year, maybe it's time to upgrade to Club Wembley sooner rather than later. A Club Wembley seat guarantees you a place at all the biggest events until 2018. It's not just about sport and entertainment either, Club Wembley offers its members many exclusive perks and privileges as well as a seat at every big game and gig*.

To find out more simply call 0844 980 0038 or text "2013" to 87474.



CLUB WEMBLEY

*Club Wembley membership entitles the member the option to purchase one ticket/hospitality package per licensed seat held (subject to terms and conditions specified by Club Wembley). Member events are usually offered on a ballot basis, are not guaranteed, and may be subject to change. Excludes: Rugby World Cup; Rugby League World Cup; any association football match staged at the Stadium where the event holder is not The FA or the Football League; and any bid event including the UEFA Champions League Final and the UEFA Cup Final. We will try to secure tickets from the event owner wherever possible.

GET READY FOR A KILLER YEAR!

Some of the world's biggest performers, including Bruce Springsteen and The Killers, will be playing at Wembley Stadium in 2013



The Killers will rock Wembley in June

Wembley Stadium celebrates its 90th birthday with a blockbuster calendar of events in 2013.

A mouth-watering line-up of spectacular music and sport performances will ensure the iconic venue marks its landmark year in style.

US music stars The Killers and Bruce Springsteen are both set to rock Wembley this summer, while British heroes Robbie Williams and Roger Waters will also play to capacity crowds.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. This year, The Football Association celebrates its 150th anniversary - and the England football team will be at the heart of the festivities.

The Three Lions have already faced Brazil beneath the Wembley arch this season, with matches against Scotland and Republic of Ireland also on the horizon.

Meanwhile, The FA Cup Final, UEFA Champions League Final, Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final and npower Football League Play-Off Finals are some of the other football events that will, or have wowed Wembley this year.

AND THERE'S MORE!

Other world class sporting spectacles taking place at the stadium include the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final, the Rugby League World Cup semi-finals and two NFL games featuring Minnesota Vikings versus Pittsburgh Steelers and San Francisco 49ers versus Jacksonville Jaguars.

TAKE A LOOK BELOW AT THE FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT WEMBLEY STADIUM THIS YEAR:

18 MAY	npower League 2 Play-Off Final	2 & 5 JULY	Robbie Williams
19 MAY	npower League 1 Play-Off Final	14 AUGUST	England v Scotland
25 MAY	UEFA Champions League Final	24 AUGUST	Rugby League Challenge Cup Final
27 MAY	npower Championship Play-Off Final	6 SEPTEMBER	England v Moldova
29 MAY	England v Republic of Ireland	14 SEPTEMBER	Roger Waters: The Wall Live
31 MAY-6 JUNE	International Stadiums Poker Tour	29 SEPTEMBER	Minnesota Vikings v Pittsburgh Steelers
15 JUNE	Bruce Springsteen	11 OCTOBER	England v Montenegro
22 JUNE	The Killers	15 OCTOBER	England v Poland
29 & 30 JUNE	Robbie Williams	27 OCTOBER	San Francisco 49ers v Jacksonville Jaguars
		23 NOVEMBER	Rugby League World Cup semi-finals



BRENTFORD V YEOVIL TOWN 87

2,500 MILES, 92 CLUBS, ONE FAN

A season saving men's lives with Prostate Cancer UK

As the Official Charity Partner of The Football League we have been staggered by the generosity of supporters up and down the UK. Scott has definitely gone the extra mile for the 250,000 men living with prostate cancer.

"I honestly can't remember when I made the decision to walk to all 92 league clubs but I maintain I was sober at the time," says Scott McLachlan. "Well, probably." The 44-year-old Pompey fan committed to the remarkable feat of walking from club-to-club in one, very long, eight month trek raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK, the Official Charity Partner of The Football League.

Can you tell us your name and a little about your background?

Scott McLachlan, live in Portsmouth, currently looking to retrain as a Driving Examiner.

Tell us a little about why you decided to take on the challenge to help support men with prostate cancer and what was involved?

I wanted to change my life and help raise awareness of a disease that affects 1 in 8 men, and raise money for Prostate Cancer UK by walking to all 92 football clubs. I decided that I would take this opportunity in my life to do something I could be very proud of and my ambition was to catch people's imaginations, raise some significant money for Prostate Cancer UK, and promote fan unity along the way.

What were the key highlights of the challenge?

Meeting people who helped me with accommodation and also meeting many football fans up and down the country.

What was the most difficult part of the challenge?

The physical and mental challenge of walking 2,500 miles.

What motivated you to complete the challenge?

Sheer bloody-mindedness!

How much did you raise?

I am still bringing donations in to try and reach my target of £9,200, currently I'm closing in on £7,500.

Do you have plans to undertake any future challenges?

Like this one? Absolutely not!

But I am looking forward to meeting lots more people at the npower League 1 Play-Off Final!

Donate

Support Scott's Walkthe92 challenge today

Online

www.justgiving.com/Walkthe92

Twitter

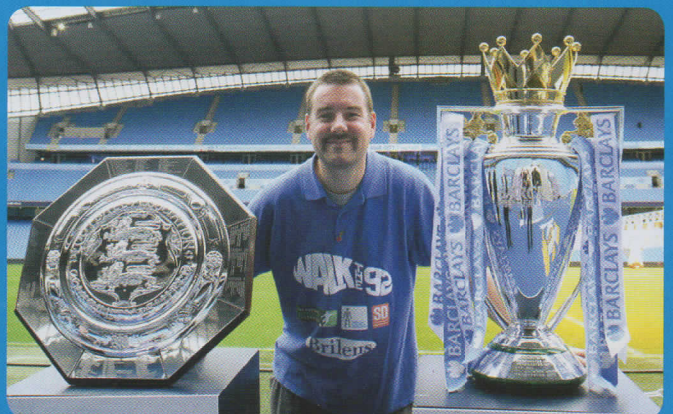
@walkthe9T2



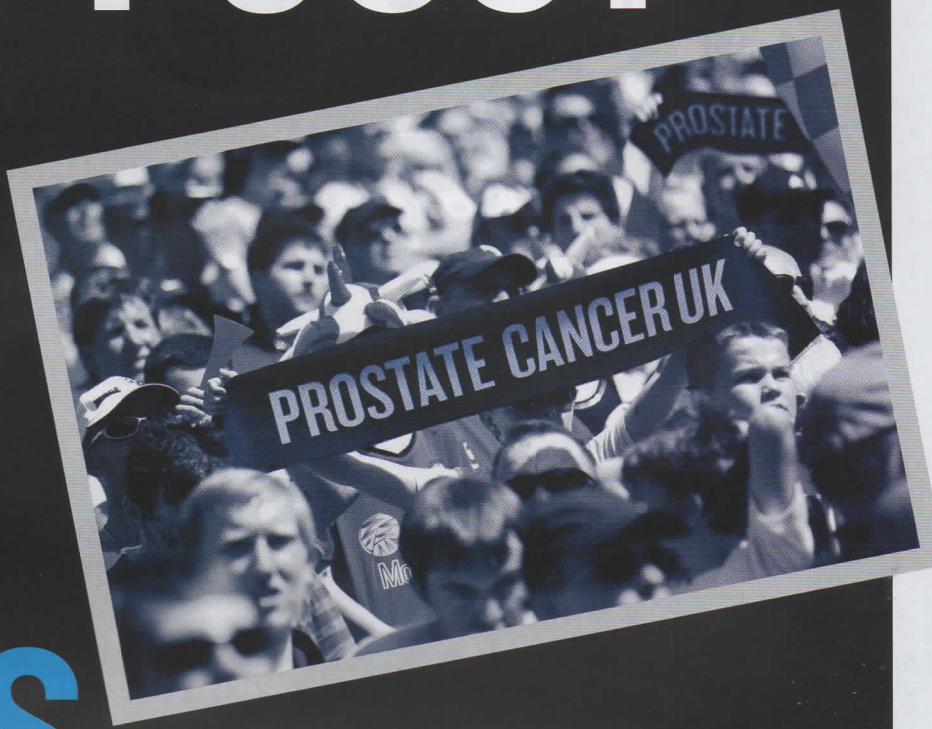
Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company number 2653887.

I WANTED TO CHANGE MY LIFE AND HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF A DISEASE THAT AFFECTS 1 IN 8 MEN, AND RAISE MONEY FOR PROSTATE CANCER UK BY WALKING TO ALL 92 FOOTBALL CLUBS

SCOTT McLACHLAN, PROSTATE CANCER UK SUPPORTER



IT ISN'T JUST YOUR TEAM THAT NEEDS SUPPORT.



There's a killer in the stadium.

It's called prostate cancer. And it claims almost as many men as breast cancer kills women.

And survival isn't always good news. Side effects include infertility, erectile problems and incontinence.

The odds of a man getting it are 8 to 1. It makes you think, doesn't it? But please do more than think. Give.


We urgently need funds to crack this dreadful disease.

Join our supporters club. Make a donation on your mobile phone right now, by sending the text you see below.



**PROSTATE
CANCER UK**

**THE SLEDGEHAMMER FUND. TEXT ODDS TO 70004 TO MAKE A £5 DONATION
or visit prostatecanceruk.org/football**

 give with confidence



Text costs £5 plus network charge. Prostate Cancer UK receives 100% of your donation. Obtain bill payer's permission. Customer care 0844 847 9800. Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company 2653887.



The Football League Trust Education & Futsal Programme is now recruiting for September 2013 at over 50 professional football clubs. Boys & Girls can gain a first class education during a 2 year course, whilst playing Futsal, the world's fastest growing football format.

16-18 YEAR OLD FOOTBALLER? CONSIDERING COLLEGE?

LEARN Study towards a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (worth up to 3 A Levels)

TRAIN Regular Futsal coaching to develop technical, tactical & physical ability
PLAY Represent your local professional club in The Football League Trust Futsal League
WORK Opens the door to University courses and careers in the Sport Industry

For further info & to apply visit www.tvseducation.com

LIMITED PLACES - UNLIMITED EXPERIENCE

FAST FORWARD YOUR FUTURE



3 AMAZING WEEKS;

- Outward Bound week
- Residential week
- Community Project

Boost Your CV, giving extra edge for Work & University (UCAS recognised)

LIFELONG SKILLS, LIFELONG MEMORIES



"IT ALLOWED ME TO OVERCOME MY FEAR OF HEIGHTS, DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS. NCS HAS LED TO ME GAINING AN APPRENTICESHIP IN THE CLUB'S COMMUNITY SCHEME" NCS Graduate 2012



For lessons they can't teach in class. NCS is a once in a lifetime chance for 16-17 year olds to unlock their potential.

Build skills for work & life at Football League clubs across the country, taking on new challenges & meeting new friends.

Loads of start dates after exams are finished during Summer & Autumn.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NCS, WHICH FOOTBALL CLUBS YOU CAN DO NCS WITH & TO REGISTER;

POWERED BY



visit: WWW.NCSFLT.CO.UK
 or email: NCS@FLTRUST.CO.UK
 like us on: /NCSFLT
 follow us on: @NCSFLT



MAKE YOUR MARK IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Trusts of Brentford and Yeovil (below) are making a positive impact on the lives of young football fans

@NPOWER_LEAGUE1
#PLAYOFFFINAL



TRUST IN COMMUNITIES

With the help of all 72 Football League clubs, The Football League Trust continues to make a positive impact across the country

WORDS: BRAD DOWLING

Since forming in 2007, The Football League Trust has continued to flourish, delivering life improving projects which engage with over one million people a year, focusing on sport, inclusion, health and education.

In 2013, The Trust will put over five thousand 16-17 year olds through the National Citizen Service (NCS). NCS is a once in a lifetime opportunity, bringing young people together from an array of backgrounds to make their mark in society, as they build skills for work and life at Football League clubs across the country.

During three life-changing weeks, NCS participants enhance their confidence and CVs as they take on fresh challenges ranging from outdoor adventure activities to delivering an inspiring project within their local community.

Meanwhile, The Trust continues to be a driving force in the development of futsal, the world's fastest growing football format. The Football League Trust Education & Futsal Programme has embraced the spirit of the game to provide sixth form students with an energised education, which will open the door to university and careers within the sport industry. Since its humble beginnings, the programme has grown rapidly and is set to double in size to over 1,500 students across 65 Football League and Premier League clubs for the 2013/14 season.

The two-year scholarship offers 16-18 year olds a chance to find passes on and off the pitch by gaining a BTEC Diploma in Sport and an NVQ in Coaching, while training regularly within a professional environment. Every Wednesday, clubs travel from

all corners of the country to compete in The Football League Trust Futsal League, producing classic derby clashes every bit as passionate as their 11-a-side counterparts.

Elsewhere, in partnership with npower, Tackling it Together has engaged with 125,000 young people through numerous initiatives addressing respect, education and career choices, while Every Player Counts is the largest disability sports programme in the country and has reached over 40,000 people of all abilities and ages.

The positive work of The Trust is epitomised by the Community Sports Trusts of today's finalists, with Yeovil Town CST and Brentford FC CST embracing numerous national projects. Brentford FC CST, now in their 25th year, celebrated the impressive milestone earlier in the season with a specially commissioned silver kit for a game against Oldham Athletic, and will be hoping that the silver lining continues this afternoon.

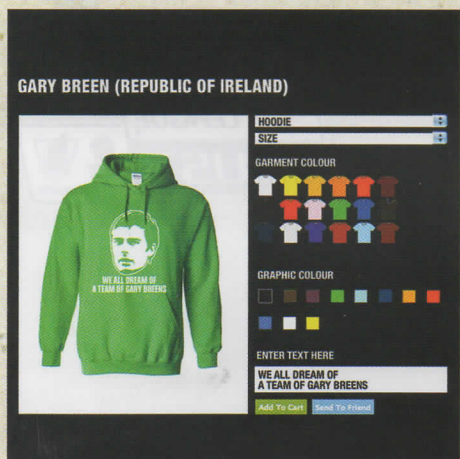
Long after the final whistle blows today, the race for promotion will carry on in communities across the country, as The Trust strives to promote positive change to lives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Find out more about NCS with The Trust at ncsflt.co.uk
- For further info about The Education & Futsal Programme, visit tvseducation.com

Wrap up this summer! (We sell hoodies now)

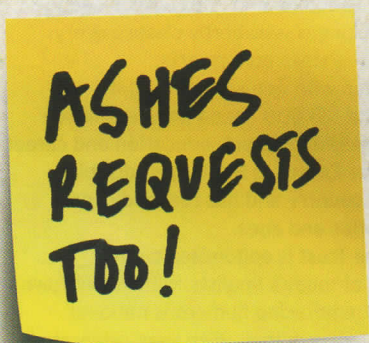
Mock up online!



- ★ 1000's of players in our gallery!
- ★ No team or player is too small!
- ★ Hoodies, Tees, Baby Grows!
- ★ You decide on the wording!



Stuck who to buy?
Why not give them a Gift Voucher?



Next time you boot-up your home computer, be sure to join us on facebook and twitter.



www.cultzeros.co.uk

A FINE DAY FOR AYLING

In his own words, Yeovil Town's **LUKE AYLING** "cleaned up trophy-wise" during a decade in Arsenal's famed academy, but can he do the same at Wembley in the npower League 1 Play-Off Final this afternoon?

INTERVIEW: CLIVE WHITE

If Luke Ayling fails to make it to the very top of the game it won't be for lack of pedigree. There aren't many players outside the Premier League who have spent as long as 10 years at a club as big as Arsenal and in so doing played alongside some of the finest burgeoning talent that the country has to offer.

What is more, England coach Ray Lewington will be at Wembley Stadium today for the purpose of watching the young Yeovil Town right-back. Lest anyone jumps to the unlikely conclusion that the League 1 player is on the verge of international honours, one should point out that Roy Hodgson's right-hand man is there merely to support the industrious Ayling on his big day.

After all, that's what families are for, aren't they? To rally round when needed. Hence the presence, too, of Ray's son, MK Dons defender Dean, not to mention the occupants of a 48-seater coach paid for by Ayling - and that doesn't even include his friends. The Lambeth-born player was at Wembley five years ago to cheer on uncle Dean when the Dons won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final against Grimsby Town and now the Lewington family is hoping to bring similar good fortune to him.

From watching Ayling perform in the semi-final against Sheffield United, it wasn't difficult to spot his pedigree. Nor was it for the former player and television pundit Steve Claridge when singling him out in the 2009 FA Youth Cup Final for special mention in a newspaper column, where he commended Ayling on his "reading of the game, communication skills, organisation skills, aerial prowess, two-footedness and use of the ball". Those qualities are still very much apparent in the defender's game today.

In thrashing Liverpool 6-2 on aggregate in that final, Ayling played alongside such bright young things as Kyle Bartley, Francis Coquelin, Henri Lansbury, Emmanuel Frimpong, Jay Emmanuel-Thomas and Jack Wilshere.

"I think everybody who played in that team is still playing professional League football today and that's very rare for a youth team," he said. "It was a great team - we cleaned up trophy-wise - which is why, perhaps, we still keep in contact with one another.

"I grew up with Wilshere from the age of nine so we're quite close. You could always tell that he was the one who would maybe break through earlier than the rest of us, but then there were boys like Coquelin who came late, from France - you could see he was a good player - and that Lansbury would make it, but Jack got his chance before the rest of us and took it and he hasn't looked back.

"He was talented and really, really hungry for it. He always wanted to be the best, always had that spiteful side to him, like he's only small but he's not scared to get stuck in. Now it's just a question of how far he can go in the game."

Ayling himself never made the breakthrough at the Emirates. The closest he came to playing in the first-team was when he was included in a Champions League squad for an away tie against Olympiakos in the 2009/10 season. "That was a really good experience to fly away with the first team and see how they do things.

"For a central-defender like myself, it was a great two years in the youth team playing under someone like Steve Bould," added the 21-year-old, who despite his long association with the Gunners is a Chelsea fan, like his father.



“YEOVIL LIKE TO GET THE BALL DOWN AND PASS IT AND THAT SUITS MY STYLE”

“I learned so much from him, he’s the best coach I’ve worked with and now, of course, he’s the first-team coach at Arsenal. I’m sure he will take over from the boss [Arsene Wenger] one day - I really do think that.”

Just as he was honest enough to admit that John Terry was more of an idol to him than Sol Campbell, so he was pragmatic enough, even at 18, to see the sense in accepting a three-month loan-cum-trial offer from Yeovil Town, even though it meant leaving those “beautiful, beautiful” state-of-the-art training facilities that he became accustomed to at Arsenal’s London Colney HQ.

“I knew I wasn’t going to play first-team football at Arsenal,” the defender added. “All I wanted to do was get out and play for a first team somewhere in the Football League and build myself back up.”

Some 150-odd first-team appearances later, it could be said he made the right choice. Not only that, he was successfully converted by the Glovers into a right-back, a position that seems to maximise all those good habits he picked up during his decade at Arsenal.

“Yeovil like to get the ball down and pass it and that suits my style. I got taught that way from the age of eight all the way up to 18 and now I’ve found a team in League 1 that likes to play the same way. I’m not going to say, ‘I want to play in the Premier League in a year’s time’, but I know if I keep playing the way I am something will happen for me. I’m in no rush.”



@NPOWER_LEAGUE1
#PLAYOFFFINAL



BRENTFORD

MANAGER: UWE ROSLER

- | 1 RICHARD LEE
- | 2 KEVIN O'CONNOR
- | 3 SCOTT BARRON
- | 4 ADAM FORSHAW
- | 5 TONY CRAIG
- | 6 HARLEE DEAN
- | 7 SAM SAUNDERS
- | 8 JONATHAN DOUGLAS
- | 9 CLAYTON DONALDSON
- | 10 FARID EL ALAGUI
- | 11 MARCELLO TROTTA
- | 12 TOM ADEYEMI
- | 14 SHALEUM LOGAN
- | 15 STUART DALLAS
- | 16 ANTOINE GUNET
- | 17 BRADLEY WRIGHT-PHILLIPS
- | 18 LEE HODSON
- | 19 HARRY FORRESTER
- | 20 TOUMANI DIAGOURAGA
- | 21 SIMON MOORE
- | 22 JAKE REEVES
- | 23 PAUL HAYES
- | 24 JAKE BIDWELL
- | 26 LEON REDWOOD
- | 27 EMMANUEL OYELEKE
- | 28 ALFIE MAWSON
- | 30 ANTONIO GERMAN
- | 31 AARON PIERRE
- | 33 ROB KIERNAN
- | 34 CHARLIE ADAMS



YEOVIL TOWN

MANAGER: GARY JOHNSON

- | 1 MAREK STECH
- | 2 LUKE AYLING
- | 3 JAMES McALLISTER
- | 4 RICHARD HINDS
- | 5 BYRON WEBSTER
- | 6 DOMINIC BLIZZARD
- | 8 EDWARD UPSON
- | 9 JAMES HAYTER
- | 10 GAVIN WILLIAMS
- | 11 REUBEN REID
- | 12 GARETH STEWART
- | 13 VITALIJS MAKSIMENKO
- | 14 SAM FOLEY
- | 15 LEWIS YOUNG
- | 16 NATHAN RALPH
- | 17 PATRICK MADDEN
- | 18 DAN BURN
- | 20 JOE EDWARDS
- | 22 KEVIN DAWSON
- | 26 MATT DOLAN

REFEREE
ANDY D'URSO (ESSEX)

ASSISTANTS
DEREK EATON (GLOUCESTERSHIRE)
ALAN YOUNG (CAMBRIDGESHIRE)

FOURTH OFFICIAL
GRAHAM SCOTT (OXFORDSHIRE)

RESERVE ASSISTANT REFEREE
JOHN HOPKINS (ESSEX)

**SCAN
HERE...**

Ahead of kick-off to access today's line-ups on your smartphone. Return after full-time for post-match reaction with both teams



WEMBLEY STADIUM EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Please respect your fellow spectators by refraining from persistent standing. Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere within Wembley Stadium. In the event of an emergency, you will hear a message over the public address system. Listen to the message carefully and follow the instructions of Wembley staff. Evacuation of the stadium is a last resort and we may ask you to move from your immediate area initially. Please remain vigilant at all times and report anything you consider suspicious to a member of Wembley staff. The use of threatening behaviour, foul or abusive language is strictly forbidden and will result in arrest and/or ejection from the ground. Wembley Stadium may impose a ban from the ground as a result. The following acts are offences under the Football (Offences) Act 1991, as amended: the throwing of any object within the ground without lawful authority or excuse; the chanting of anything indecent, racist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, homophobic or transphobic in nature; the entry onto the playing area or any adjacent area to which spectators are not generally admitted without lawful authority or excuse. Remember that drinking alcohol in view of the pitch is a criminal offence, as is being drunk anywhere on the premises. CCTV cameras are in use around the ground and WNSL may itself use, or pass to the police or any event organiser or other relevant authority, any recordings for use in proceedings. Please visit www.wembleystadium.com for full terms and conditions.

