

Saturday 24 July, 2010
Darren Way Benefit Match



YEOVIL TOWN

versus

MANCHESTER UNITED XI



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Welcome

GOOD afternoon and welcome to Huish Park for Darren's big day.

Darren first signed for Yeovil Town back in August 2000 and soon became the fans' favourite earning the nickname of 'Weasel' for his hard working attitude and tough tackling.

During the next five and a half years Darren became one of the key players in Gary Johnson's Conference winning side and saw promotion through to League 1.

Darren's football career was tragically cut short on December 17, 2008, following a serious road accident from which Darren was airlifted to Dorchester Hospital by the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

In true Darren style he worked hard to overcome his injuries although sadly it was soon apparent that he would never be able to play for his beloved Yeovil again.

The rest as you know is why we are all here today to celebrate the career of Darren Way.

I know I will never forget seeing Darren's wheelchair-bound 'lap of honour' during half time at the Oldham game in February 2009, proof that the hard working fighter was ready for the next stage of his recovery.

That recovery was assisted by his good friend Terry Skiverton and that friendship was no better displayed when we last saw Darren grace the Huish Park pitch for the dying seconds of Terry's testimonial on July 4, 2009. I am sure that they must have signed an autograph for every person in the crowd that day.

So in a career that started with six appearances for England schoolboys playing with Michael Owen and Steven Gerrard, 290 senior appearances, three England semi-pro games and 36 goals,

Darren must now say farewell to playing the game he loves.

I know he will work as hard in the next stage of his career and we all thank the club for keeping this great Glover on the playing staff.

May I therefore take this opportunity on behalf of Darren, Kelly, Mason and Ava to thank you all for coming to make this a special day for Darren's family.

Our thanks go out to John Fry, Martyn Starnes and their fellow board members for allowing the use of Huish Park. Thanks to Terry and the Yeovil team, to Sir Alex Ferguson and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and all the team at Old Trafford. Thanks also to Jean Cotton, Dave Linney and Sue Parsons' ticket office staff for their support.

To the YFC staff who have donated their time to support Darren today, to Jonathan Hopper for producing today's matchday programme, to the testimonial committee (Mike, Rob, Tom, Davey, Rusty, Paul and Clive) who have supported Darren to make today happen and to all our sponsors, especially Wincanton Print Co Ltd, Bookers Cash & Carry and the Hollies, who have helped us manage our costs.

Finally, it may not surprise you that Darren also wants to thank the service staff and Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance for what they did that day.

Our friends at Cary Glovers have therefore offered to undertake the bucket collection at this game to raise funds for this great charity.

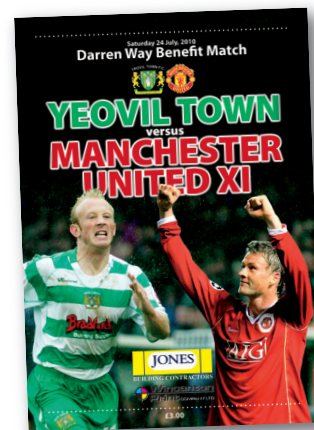
Thank you once again and enjoy your day.



Mark Porter,
Chairman of the Testimonial Committee

Contents

- A Tribute To Darren Way - p5
- Darren Way - p6-11
- Darren Way In Pictures: The Midfield Maestro - p13
- Terry Skiverton - p14-17
- Darren Way In Pictures: The Family Man - p19
- Manchester United - p21-25
- Ole Gunnar Solskjaer - p26-27
- Today's Mascots - p28
- Autographs - p30-31
- Darren Way In Pictures: Mixing It With The Stars - p33
- Gary Johnson - p34-37
- Darren Way In Pictures: The Winner - p39
- Testimonials - p41
- Testimonials - p43
- Roberto Martinez - p44-45
- Testimonials - p47
- Testimonials - p49
- Craig Bellamy - p50&51
- Darren Way In Pictures: The Fighter - p53
- Fans Feature - p54-55
- Messages From The Fans - p57-58
- Today's Squads - p60



Programme Credits

Design/Production: J LH Design, London

Photography: A.Hopper, N.Andrews, Pinnacle, Action Images, Manchester United FC

Editorial: M.McConachie, C.Spittles, A.Hopper, C.Dunlavy, S.Cotton, C.Sweet

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A tribute to Darren

I WOULD like to welcome you all to Huish Park for Darren Way's benefit game against the world's most famous football club, Manchester United.

The interest we have received in the game is a great testament to the popularity and the respect our fans have, for one of our greatest ever players, and on behalf of everyone at the club, I would like to thank Sir Alex Ferguson and the Manchester United management for making today's game possible.

Darren's benefit committee, along with our own management team, have worked hard to ensure the day is well supported and enjoyed by our fans.

I would like to acknowledge these efforts and of those involved personally, for making Darren's fund raising events over the past year, such a success.

My thanks go also to all the players, volunteer-helpers and unpaid staff, for their unselfish contribution towards making this historic match a memorable and worthwhile day for our fans and for Darren's benefit fund. Your generosity is much appreciated.

No achievement in football would be possible without the commitment, discipline, professional expertise and loyalty of individuals.

As a player, Darren possessed these

DARREN WAY is a remarkable individual. Whilst small in physical stature he exudes immense spirit and determination.

He overcame the disadvantages associated with his size in the modern professional game with his ability, tenacity and outstanding competitiveness to play 274 league and cup games for the Glovers scoring 36 goals in the process.

He was an integral and vital part of the success achieved under Gary Johnson's management. His ability to produce a consistently high level of

qualities in abundance, and was without doubt, one of the big stars of our double promotion team, which, under the management of Gary Johnson, achieved Football League status for Yeovil Town FC, for the first time in our 105 year history.

Darren began his promising football career at Norwich, where due to injuries he struggled to make an impact.

However, his determination to succeed saw him push for his release from Norwich to gain some meaningful senior experience at a lower league club.

On joining Yeovil at the start of the 2000/2001 season, he quickly established himself a reputation, as a strong, tough tackling, tenacious, all round midfield player with an eye for goals.

The man nicknamed 'the weasel' by his fellow players, soon became the star performer in Gary Johnson's promotion team, whose never say die competitive spirit made him a firm favourite with our fans, which won him all the club's Player of the Year awards.

On December 17, 2008, Darren was involved in a serious car accident on the Cartgate link road, and tragically, not even his legendary fighting spirit, which epitomised his strong mental approach towards winning every battle on the pitch, could save his professional playing career.

performance later earned him a great move to Swansea City.

Darren as a player never knew when to give up and that characteristic served him exceptionally well after his horrific car crash.

Seeing him in hospital just hours after the crash was crushing emotionally but his recovery has been extraordinary. He has applied the mental strength he possessed as a player to his own well being and it has produced great results.

Just seeing Darren walk again after months in a wheelchair was an extremely moving experience and he has since gone from strength to strength.

Sadly, at the age of 30, one of our greatest ever servants was forced to retire from the game he loved.

Darren's record, of course, speaks for itself and his contribution as a player to the success and progress of Yeovil Town has been invaluable.

He has Yeovil written through his heart and when recently asked to sum up in one sentence the impact on the team, Darren made as a player, I said: "Every football team needs a Darren Way to win competitions."

There are a lot of players within the football community who command a great deal of respect, but Darren Way is a person who will always be regarded by our fans as one of the most respected and truly great players in Yeovil Town's history, but above all a natural winner.

I hope his new football coaching career at Huish Park is just as rewarding and successful.

I know that everybody associated with Yeovil Town, both past and present, will join me in wishing Darren and his family a great day today.

Finally, I thank you the fans for your generosity and support for Darren.

Enjoy the game.



John Fry, Chairman

Although his physical injuries have proved to be too serious to enable Darren to play at a professional level again he is now doing a great job as a member of the coaching staff.

The club is proud of Darren Way and the contribution he has made at Huish Park over many years and I am proud to regard him as a friend. Best wishes for today Darren and for success in your future career in the game.



Martyn Starnes, Chief Executive



Darren Way – Yeovil Town legend

Since arriving at Yeovil Town in 2000 midfield maestro Darren Way has gone on to become one of the club's all-time top players. **CHRIS SPITTLES** met up with the fans favourite to look back at his memorable career as a professional footballer

FOR anyone who watched Darren Way in action over his three spells with Yeovil Town, it will come as no surprise that he once rubbed shoulders with players at the very highest level.

Before he established himself as a Huish Park legend, Darren represented England, playing for his country at youth level. And he was part of a star-studded Three Lions line-up that included superstars Steven Gerrard and Michael Owen.

Whisper it quietly, but Darren even kept Stevie G out of the team on occasions, and that's despite originally being regarded as an outsider.

"I was fortunate enough to get picked for England Under-15s and that team was unbelievable," said Darren.

"We had Steven Gerrard, Michael Owen and Wes Brown, they're the three most famous names.

"But there were other good players as well like Michael Ball, Kenny Lunt and Phil Jevons.

Outsiders

"It was difficult for me at first because I was coming up from Plymouth and they had been training together every day and living together at Lilleshall.

"I was coming in for the games only and it was the same for a couple of other lads. We were a bit like outsiders and it was like going to live at someone else's house really.

"I had to fight hard to break into the group and there were a few times when me and my personality got me involved in a little flare-up and had to be calmed down.

"I was just eager to do well and whoever and whatever got in my way I wasn't going to step down or pull out of a tackle on the pitch.

"I think England saw that hunger in me though and that's why I got my chance and got selected.

"I fought hard in the trials and again in training as we built up towards the UEFA Under-16 championships.

"It was another level, playing international football, and you could tell that players like Gerrard and Owen were going to go on to make it at the very top level.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >

FIRST MEMORY:
A young Darren
kicks the ball around
a caravan park



WINNER: Darren
shows off his
football trophies
with his dad Bill



"I played in midfield for England, but I was usually on the left, with Kenny Lunt and Jamie Day from Arsenal in the middle and Steven Gerrard sometimes on the right and sometimes, believe it or not, on the bench."

Darren's elevation to international honours is even more remarkable given his early footballing career.

He didn't start playing in organised matches until the age of ten, very late by today's standards, and even then it was only in sporadic boys' brigade matches.

And being based in the footballing outpost of Devon didn't help his ambitions to play at the very top level.

As a youngster, Darren would often spend the majority of his weekends travelling the country chasing his dream. And from modest beginnings, the Plymouthian carved out a reputation as one of the country's top young talents.

He recalled: "I've got a picture from when I was eight and I was smashing a ball around a caravan park, that's my first memory of football."

Unfashionable

"I started playing organised football relatively late really. I was about 10 and it only happened because my cousin was going to boys' brigade and they had a team.

"He was a year older than me but I joined in and enjoyed it so I went back to my dad and told him I wanted to start playing regularly. The boys' brigade didn't play all the time though so I moved on to a junior club called Elburton Villa to get regular football.

"At that time they were quite an unfashionable club and it wasn't long before I moved on to Kitto Falcons, who were the big club in junior football in the area.

"There was a guy there called John Williams who was really into his football. He was really passionate and had played at a good level himself.

"He knew my dad and approached us to get me to play for him. It was a good move because we were very successful and won a lot of trophies.

"I wasn't always a midfielder. When I first started off I played up front and scored loads of goals, as you do at that age. As time progressed though I got a hunger to be able to look after myself

YOUNG TALENT: The England Under-15s side that Darren played in which included the likes of Steven Gerrard and Michael Owen



and I was still playing with lads a year older than me.

"It seemed natural to move into midfield and playing against bigger, stronger kids I had no option but to toughen up."

Darren's impressive showings in junior football alerted professional clubs and he initially linked up with his local club, Plymouth Argyle.

But after a spell in the Pilgrims' centre of excellence, he then had a big decision to make when he turned 15.

A host of top clubs were chasing the teenager's signature and Darren chose Norwich City as the best place to progress his burgeoning career.

And despite the obvious travel problems and distance from home, moving to Carrow Road proved to be a good decision.

Darren said: "I signed for Norwich when I was 15 but you aren't allowed to travel that far at that age, so I was playing at their

FRESH FACED: Darren as a Norwich City player



regional centre in the south west.

"There were other clubs interested in me at the time, but it was Norwich who impressed me the most so I decided to sign for them.

"Everton and Bristol City spoke to me as well and I spent a week training with Southampton but Norwich was the best option for me.

High

"I think you instinctively know which club is right for you and Norwich were doing well in the Premier League at the time.

"They'd just beaten Bayern Munich in Europe, I'm sure a lot of people remember Jeremy Goss' goal in that game, and the club was on a real high.

"They had some other good young players from the south west coming through their ranks as well, people like Darren Eadie and Andy Johnson and the Welsh lads like Craig Bellamy and Chris Llewellyn.

"Gordon Bennett was the man who took me to Norwich and I owe him a lot as do quite a few players

from this area. He was a top man, really good. Looking back, he set the rules on what I had to do to become a footballer and told me what it would take.

"He worked hard and was totally dedicated and would pick me up, take me to London and make sure I got to all Norwich's games.

"There were so many hours he put in driving me around because I was still only 15 or 16 and it was a whole new world for me. He'd drive down from Norwich to Plymouth, pick me up, drive all the way back and then do it again for the return trip.

"It meant my weekends were quite hectic because I'd leave Plymouth on the Saturday morning and not get back until Sunday night.

"It took up a lot of time and it probably won't surprise you that I didn't go to school much on Mondays!"

But despite impressing for the Canaries' youth and reserve sides, Darren failed to make a first team breakthrough in Norfolk.

His all-action style made him a favourite with the supporters who'd seen him play, but with Norwich battling to maintain their top flight status it was the wrong time to blood promising youngsters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >

Darren said: "I was a professional there for two years and was with the club for five years in total. I enjoyed it but sometimes you get a break and sometimes you don't.

"I felt a lot of things went against me there and if I'm honest my height probably counted against me in the end, especially with the level they were playing at.

"When you are young you have to prove yourself and the only way you can do that is if you are given a chance.

"I didn't get that chance but I understand that. Sometimes if you are a manager, you're in the hot seat, you can't take a gamble. The Norwich manager could have stuck a little blond whippet in his midfield, but he didn't know what he was going to get.

"It's not easy and they were playing at the top level at the time. It never happened for me and didn't quite work out."

So at the age of 20, Darren left the sanctuary of Norwich and searched for another club, returning to the south west. Of course he eventually linked up with Yeovil and went on to enjoy amazing success with the Glovers. But first he had to cope with another knock-back.

Darren said: "I went on trial to Bristol Rovers and did pre-season for six weeks with Ian Holloway.

"That went well but they didn't have the money at the time to sign me. He's admitted since that he regrets not signing me.

"He wanted me but like at any football club, it's the chairman who calls the shots and the money wasn't there.

"I could have waited a bit longer but I was impatient and wanted to get a club so I took a gamble and moved on.

"That's when I came to Yeovil. A friend of my uncle knew Steve Thompson and he set me up a trial.

"I played in a game against

Melksham and we won seven or eight-nil so it went quite well!

"David Webb was the manager who took the decision to sign me and he took a number of players who'd been released by pro clubs.

"Really that's what this club has done ever since; given young players a chance to prove themselves and perhaps prove other clubs wrong for letting them go.

"Yeovil Town is a great club for developing these players and helping them progress in the game. I found that and a lot of others have had the same experience.

Professional

"Colin Addison replaced David Webb and I've got great memories of the time Colin was here, especially the FA Cup run we had. Then Gary came in and took everything to another level. He just made everything so professional and took the club forward.

"We were so fit and he brought in so many good players. His enthusiasm on and off the pitch stood out as well.

"I think as a character I'm a little bit like Gary because he's got that enthusiasm and he's so determined to succeed. He never stops thinking about the game either and that all rubbed off on the players here."

The Glovers' current manager, Terry Skiverton, has also had a huge influence on Darren's life, both as a friend and a colleague. Darren and Skivo were both fearsome competitors on the pitch throughout Town's most successful period.

They have always been great mates off the pitch as well, helped by a bizarre link between them dating back to Darren's schooldays.

He said: "Of course the gaffer was the main man when we were having so much success and he still is.

"We're great friends and it's strange how it's worked out because one of my best mates in Plymouth was Skivo's cousin.

"I went to school with a lad called Steve Brown and he always used to tell me that his cousin played for Chelsea.

"He had a big team poster

HAPPY FAMILY:
Darren with wife Kelly
and his two children
Mason and Ava



CHAMPION: Darren celebrates with the Conference trophy

on his wall at home and when I asked him which one was his cousin he used to point at Terry and say 'the big ginger one.'

"When I first joined Yeovil I knew Skivo was here so I asked him if Steve actually was his cousin, and he was.

"We hit it off immediately and he took me under his wing at the start and let me stay at his house.

"We've remained good friends to this day and have enjoyed the high points over the years and obviously some lows as well.

"He's always been there for me and I remember a game down at Dorchester when the other team's goalkeeper got sent off. As he trudged off I told him he could use my shower gel when he



got to the dressing room and he didn't see the funny side of things and went for me. But then Skivo appeared from nowhere and threw him to the floor. Skivo got sent off himself for that, but that was typical of him because he'll always defend his mates.

"He and his family were there for me after the crash as well and his missus was at my house with my wife Kelly when the police knocked at the door to tell her the news.

"He's been there for me but never felt sorry for me and helped me get back to where I am today."

And of course wife Kelly has been at Darren's side throughout his career, providing strength and support when he's needed it most.

He said: "I've been with Kelly since I was 15 so she's been there with me throughout my career, she's been there for all of it. I don't think I've ever really thanked her but she's been so strong and we've come through a lot, especially since the crash.

Home

"When I first joined Norwich we had to live apart for two years and had to make do with speaking on the phone.

"But she moved up to Norwich when she was 18 and we lived together up there before moving to Yeovil.

"Yeovil is our home and we love living here. When I was at Swansea I missed Yeovil if I'm honest and I'm delighted to be back living in the town again. Everything I do now is for my

kids, Mason and Ava and I'd give up anything for them I really would."

Since his career-ending crash in December 2008, Darren Way has shown why he reached the very top of his profession, showing his trademark grit and determination to battle back from horrific injuries.

But while he has displayed incredible courage and willpower to rebuild his life, Darren also acknowledges the amazing help he's had from all quarters.

And ahead of today's game he said: "It's impossible to name everyone but I want to thank everyone who has supported me. It's important that they know exactly how much it means to me."

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NEVER SAY DIE:
An image that pretty
much sums up Darren
Way the footballer



SPRING: He may be small, but Darren out jumped many a player in his time



CAPTAIN MARVEL: Darren enjoyed a stint as the Yeovil Town skipper



GET IN: Darren also enjoyed his fair share of goals

DARREN WAY is more than a valued colleague to Yeovil Town manager Terry Skiverton – he is as close as family and someone the boss would trust his life with.

After captaining Darren during the extent of his two spells with the Glovers, Terry will now lead Yeovil from the sidelines as they lock horns with Manchester United.

The duo have had their fair share of ups and downs, enjoying promotions and cup glory on the pitch, but also having to deal with Darren's life-changing injuries sustained in a two-vehicle collision in December 2008.

However, Terry said he and Darren have dealt with whatever has been thrown at them as he would expect the same support from Darren if the roles were reversed.

"If Darren is someone you do know he is very loyal, he tells you the truth, he is a good friend and no matter what happens in life he will back you up.

"In life you do not get too many friends like that and you have to hold on to them. Darren is definitely up there as someone I trust with my life.

"I have been told a few times that we are two completely different people, but we just clicked. We speak all the time on the phone and when he was down I always used to pep him up with a call, and he would do the same for me.

"He is nearly as close as family and I like to think of him as nearly an ugly little brother!"

The pair first met when Darren was invited to a pre-season friendly by then Glovers' manager Dave Webb after his release by Norwich City.

Despite his size, the midfielder made an immediate impression on his team-mates, with his combative style earning plaudits.

Terry and Darren had an immediate link, with Plymouth-born Darren growing up with his future manager's cousin in Devon.

Terry said: "As soon as I heard that we got on and two weeks later he came down and lived with me for a bit. Ben Smith and I put him up, he slept on the sofa for two weeks while he was

Friends for life

They say true friends are hard to come by, but since meeting back in 2000 Terry Skiverton and Darren Way have become the best of mates.

CHRIS SWEET sat down with the Glovers manager to hear how he has gone from playing to working side-by-side with Darren in the dugout as well as how he helped him fight back from his traumatic car crash

training with the club and he signed a contract soon after.

"That showed what sort of an impact he had and the sort of calibre of person he was. Dave Webb was very shrewd at that time and Darren went on to be a fantastic player for us.

"I don't think he really got enough credit for how good he was. Darren was very good on the ball, he kept possession well and he scored quite a few goals for us.

Spring

"The combination of him and Lee Johnson worked well. Every time we played teams they would say they were really small and they could get over them, but I do not think that there was any team that got the better of them.

"I have seen Darren out-jump six feet-plus people so he has got quite a spring on him. He was a little bit under-estimated as a player because he could pass with both feet and every time he seemed to get into opposition boxes he always scored goals.

After helping to guide the Glovers to FA Trophy glory and the unheralded success of promotion to the Football League, Darren moved to Swansea City.

His time with the Swans was dogged by injury and he spent just two years in South Wales before returning to Yeovil, initially on loan and then on a permanent basis in 2008.

Terry said: "Darren enjoyed his time at Swansea but it was also a real tough time. I got the same injury when I also fractured my ankle and I was playing for a year like that.

"It is not nice because every time you put your foot down you are aching. You are training and trying to get through it.

"Darren is a real, dedicated professional and that injury got him down a bit because he never got to show the Swansea fans what he could do.

"They always remember him going to Swansea and overpowering their defenders, but they never got to see him do the same for Swansea because of his injuries.

"He is a strong character, he dug in and came out the other end of it. We were starting to see signs of him coming back just before that fateful day."

The fateful day Terry talks of is, of course, Wednesday 17 December, 2008 when Darren's world was turned



CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 >



upside down. He was the passenger in a white van driven by Huish Park stadium technician Bruce James that was in collision with a blue 4x4 on the A3088 between Yeovil and the A303.

Darren suffered multiple broken bones and lacerations that would eventually require more than eight operations to help rectify.

Terry said: "We were all out on our Christmas night the night before. Darren had to get back to move stuff to his new house and Bruce said that was the only time he could do it.

"Darren was supposed to be in a room with me and Nathan (Jones) that night, but he got a lift back with a lad that was not drinking. All those things go through your mind that we should have kept him with us.

"As I was driving back from Bourne-mouth I got a call from Russell Slade saying that reporter Chris Sweet had been in touch to say Darren had been in an accident.

"Anna (Terry's wife) called as well and said that Kelly (Darren's wife) was in a police car on her way to Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester, where Darren was going to be airlifted.

"Just as soon as she said it to me on the phone, the police car past me. I turned around and followed the car to Dorchester and I was straight there on the scene just while Darren was brought in.

"I turned up at the hospital and then me and Kelly went straight into the room where Darren was and he was in quite a state.

"It looked awful, he was on gas and his eyes were large. The thing I can remember was the smell of drugs. You could smell it on his breath and it was not him.

"They were trying to put his arm back in and the medics asked us to

leave, but Darren asked Kelly to leave and for me to stay.

"I went pure white and can remember starting to cry because I had never seen anyone in that state before. I nearly passed out and had to sit on the floor.

"The medics wanted me to leave but Darren was going 'he can handle it, he is strong, he is my best mate', but I could not.

"They went to put his arm back in, but it was like a snakes body as if there were no bones in it. As soon as I saw that I was on the floor and all the nurses were laughing at me. They were trying to take his mind off of it.

"Within half an hour the chairman John Fry and chief executive Martyn Starnes were at the hospital and they were in there waiting to see Darren as well.

Emotional

"That was a really nice touch that has taken Darren to this point now, knowing that the chairman and Martyn were right behind him.

"Every day that first week I can remember I could not leave the house as I would keep crying when people asked how he was. Even now, it makes me emotional.

"We had to play Swindon that weekend and I can remember the fans were unbelievable chanting his name.

"I do not know how I got through, but I can remember playing the game, getting into the changing rooms and having to walk in the showers as I was emotionally gone. I had to put a towel over my head and was in tears again.

"Every day I was up at the hospital and went up with his family. I think that made our relationship stronger as we all mucked in but I always knew that I did it not just because he was a great mate, but that if the shoe was on the other foot he would have done the same for me."

Terry said his recuperation proved not only a challenge

GOOD TIMES: Darren and his son Mason are joined by Terry on Darren's honeymoon in Mallorca



for Darren, but also for those closest to him. However, he has no doubts that only Darren could have battled back to become a full-time coach with the Glovers.

It took months for the 30-year-old to regain the strength in his legs, but he is now walking and even running – even if it hurts.

Terry said: "I do not think anyone else would have got back to where he is now. He will do a run with us and his hip is aching for two days, his ankles are killing him and he can hardly walk. But he will try and do it again.

"He has come into a new phase with his life and at the start he did not know what he wanted to do. He was coach-



EMOTIONAL: Darren gets a big hug from Terry after his emotional appearance during Terry's testimonial match last year



ing the Under-14s so it started going down that route.

"He did analysis for me when he was in the wheelchair and he got into the tactical and technical side of it.

"Now, the progression he has made is vital for us. In a team it is vital that you have people that are team players, have opinions that you trust and are willing to fight until the end. I know that my team will definitely do that.

"We are lucky to have Darren and I think the club are lucky to have him as well and have someone that is willing to work hard.

Recent years may contain more sad than happy memories for Darren, but the pair are still able to look back and

laugh at times together. Terry recalled a long away trip and job-seeking, as well as a lads' holiday.

"We used to read the adverts in the local paper and ring up to try and get jobs," said Terry.

Relative

"We were all in the back of the coach and Darren rang Ilchester Cheese trying to get a job as a cheese packer and he said his name was 'Billy Pickle'.

"It was actually a relative of Lee Johnson at the factory, we had him on loud speaker and all the lads were trying not to laugh.

"Darren had him going for 15 minutes and I think he probably would have got an interview until he said his

name was Billy Pickle and everybody burst out laughing. We used to do little things like that.

"Another time we went on holiday and all the boys went away together. My cousin came as well and we had our first night out. All of a sudden he has come back at 2am, drunk with Darren and started spraying this fire extinguisher.

"We did not realise that it was the powder one so the whole room was white and in the morning we had to talk our way out of it, but still got a £100 bill. Everyone was moaning, asking why Darren had brought his friend, but did not have a go at me as it was actually my cousin!"

**MARION, MICHAEL, MATTHEW,
GRAHAM BAKER AND STAFF
CONGRATULATE DARREN AND HIS
WIFE KELLY ON THEIR COURAGE AND
POSITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF DARREN'S
MAJOR CAR ACCIDENT**

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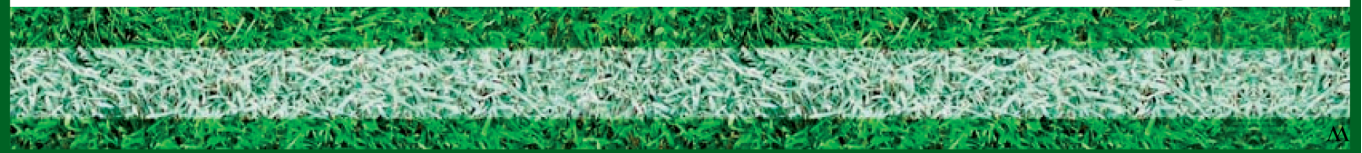
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STAR IN THE MAKING: Baby Darren



MAN'S BEST FRIEND: Darren with his dog Rocky during a photo shoot for Glovers News



THAT'S MY BOY: Darren with his son Mason



SOULMATES: Darren and his wife Kelly at the civic reception to celebrate Yeovil's Conference title success

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And Would Like To Thank Him
For All His Efforts At
Yeovil Town Football Club
Over The Years



THREE European Cups. Eighteen League titles. Eleven FA Cups. Four League Cups – and that's not to mention some of the finest players the world has ever seen.

From Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton to George Best and Bryan Robson, right through to the likes of Eric Cantona, Ryan Giggs and David Beckham, the name Manchester United has always been synonymous with the best in the business.

And while much of their talent is bought for millions, more than a few star names have come through the club's famous academy.

Remember Alan Hansen saying 'You'll never win anything with kids?' Well, just ask Paul Scholes and Gary Neville, who have won more than 40 major honours between them since graduating in the early 90s. Now 36, the evergreen Giggs has even more.

Of course, those 'kids' are now in the twilight of their careers. Yet as one generation prepares to exit the stage, another bunch of raw recruits are waiting in the wings. And today, Grovers fans will be given the chance to see United's stars of the future.

Led by striking legend Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the Reds' reserves have enjoyed a tremendous couple of years, with established stars such as Brazilian playmaker Rodrigo Possebon and burgeoning talent like Sam Hewson helping to win a clutch of trophies.

The Lancashire Senior Cup was followed by the Manchester Senior Cup in 2009, and last year came the crowning glory as United clinched the northern Premier Reserve League.

That led to a dramatic play-off against Aston Villa for the overall Premier Reserve Trophy, with Solskjaer's boys fighting back from a goal down THREE times before nicking it on penalties.

While some of that side remain, much of Solskjaer's current crop have been culled from Paul McGuinness' successful Under-18 team.

Champions of the Academy League last season, they have been billed as the best generation of United youngsters for a decade, with pacy attackers



CHAMPIONS: The Manchester United players celebrate winning the Premier Reserve Trophy after beating Aston Villa in a dramatic play-off final

The stars of the future

They are famous for bringing through some of the best young talent around and today the latest batch of Manchester United stars will be on show hoping to prove their worth. CHRIS DUNLAVY takes a look at what Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's squad has to offer

such as Nicky Ajose and highly rated defenders like Craig Cathcart. Keep an eye out, too, for Conor Devlin, an athletic young keeper with a reputation for making spectacular saves.

Today's clash with Yeovil will be the reserves' third game of pre-season and they are in ominous form. A 4-0 win at Non-League Curzon Ashton was followed by last weekend's 5-1 demolition of Scottish side Dunfermline – a match that saw a goal after 20 seconds turn into a 3-0 lead with 15 minutes gone.

Both Ajose and Josh King have bagged a couple, with midfielders Possebon and Robbie Brady on the scoresheet.

Still, the Grovers should offer a sterner test to young players more used to the plush Carrington complex than rough and ready Huish Park.

Indeed, on the way into Carrington, a sign reads: 'A proving ground for tomorrow's heroes.' Maybe Huish Park will turn out to be just that for some of Solskjaer's young hopefuls today.

SQUAD OVERVIEW >

HIGHLY RATED:
Northern Irish
goalkeeper
Conor Devlin



Goalkeepers

THIS being pre-season, expect to see young duo **CONOR DEVLIN** and **SAM JOHNSTONE** get 45 minutes each between the sticks.

Devlin, 18, is highly regarded by United's coaching staff. A Northern Ireland youth international, he has been part of the Reds' Under-18 side since 2008 and barely missed a game as Paul McGuinness' side won the academy league last season.

He reads the game well for one so young and has already built a reputation as a fine shot stopper.

Devlin has regularly featured for the reserves but Johnstone, 17, is making the step up for the first time this year.

Taller than Devlin if less experienced, the Preston-born stopper is athletic and quick and has been part of the England youth side since 2008.

With several keepers – including Ben Foster and Ron-Robert Ziegler – leaving the club this summer, both Devlin and Johnstone will be desperate to stake a claim.

Defenders

SOLSKJAER has started with the same back four in both games so far, so expect **SCOTT WOOTTON**, **JAMES CHESTER**, **OLIVER GILL** and **JOE DUDGEON** to line up in defence.

Wootton, 18, is naturally a centre-half, and it was from the heart of defence that he captained the Under-18 side to the Academy League title last season.

However, he has since been converted to a right-back by Solskjaer and has looked thoroughly assured, playing in every minute of the two friendlies so far.

The reason he can't get a game in the centre is the relentless excellence of Gill and Chester, two players with seemingly bright futures at the club.

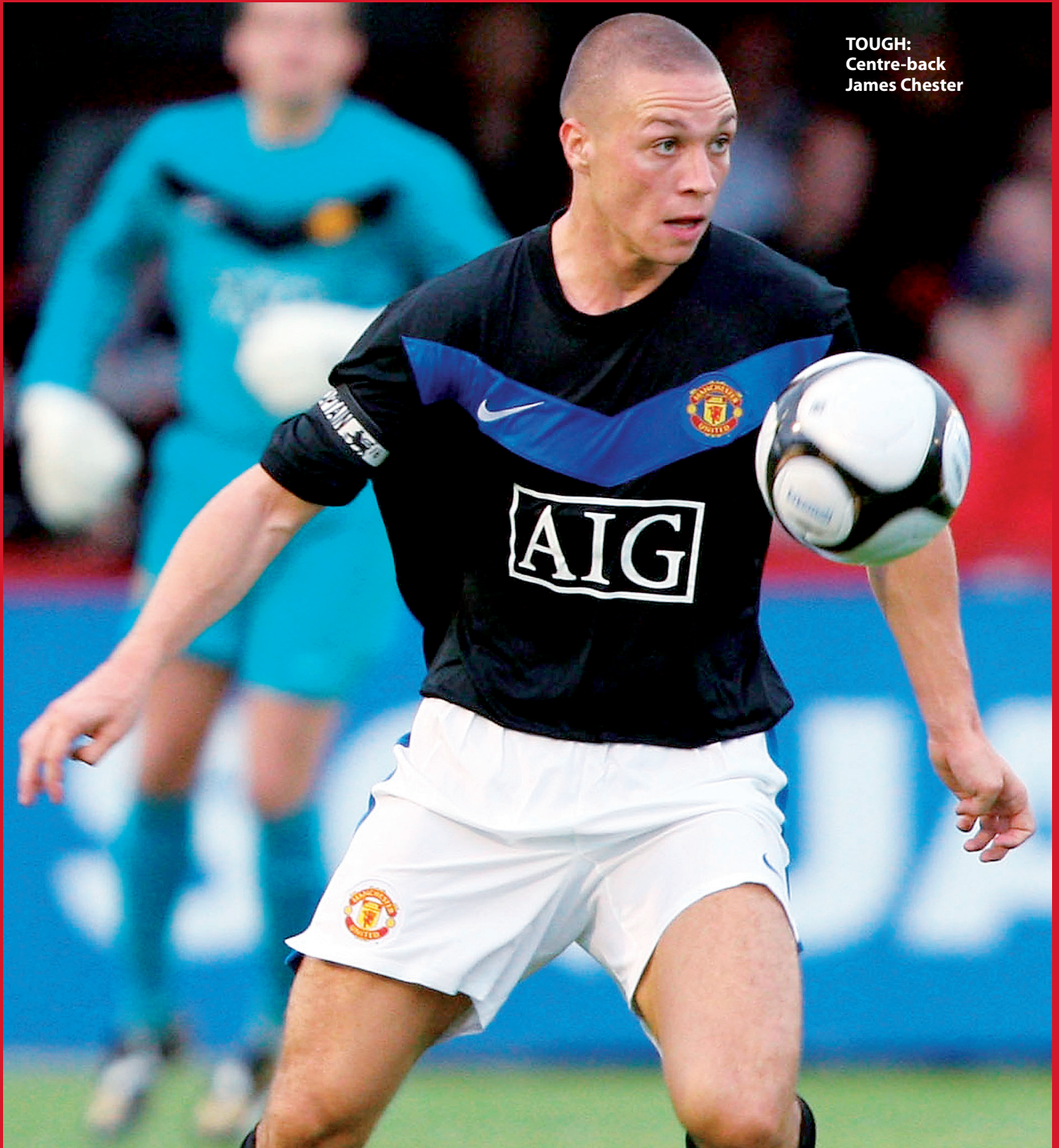
Gill, 19, formed a solid partnership with Belgian Ritchie De Laet (now with the first team) for the all-conquering reserve team last year, conceding just ten goals in the whole campaign. The son of United's towering chief exec David, Gill's height and aerial ability make him lethal at set pieces.

Chester, meanwhile, is finding his way back after a serious knee injury wiped out much of last season. Formerly reserve team skipper, the tough-

ASSURED:
Scott Wootton



TOUGH:
Centre-back
James Chester



tackling 21-year-old has spent time on loan at Peterborough and Plymouth and played for the United first team in a League Cup semi-final against Derby in 2009.

At left-back is another converted centre-half in Joe Dudgeon. The Leeds-born 19-year-old was a cornerstone of the reserves' defence last year and is known as an immaculate reader of the game who loves a 50-50 and never stops running.

With **CRAIG CATHCART** only just returning from injury, the main option on the bench is Under-18 star **RYAN TUNNICLIFFE**.

Ostensibly a tough ball-winning midfielder, the 17-year-old has previously filled in at right-back. Now bigger and stronger, Solskjaer has twice brought him on in the centre of defence.

And completing the defensive line up is **EZEKIEL FRYERS**, another 17-year-old looking to make inroads into

the reserve team this year. Capped at England youth level, the left-back has serious pace and loves to get forward.

Midfielders

THE undoubted star of the show is Samba star **RODRIGO POSSEBON**, an attacking midfielder who can pass, dribble and shoot from anywhere.

The 21-year-old made his Premiership debut in the first game of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 >

2008-09 season, and may well have established himself as a regular were it not for a serious injury sustained against Middlesbrough in September 2008.

Subsequently sent out on loan to Portuguese outfit Braga last term, he fell out of favour and returned to United in January having made just one appearance for the club.

A return to the reserves is very much a backward step for Possebon, but the Brazilian will be looking to show he still has the ability to become a first teamer.

Alongside Possebon is rising star **MAGNUS EIKREM**, a 19-year-old Norwegian signed from Solskjaer's old club Molde.

Originally a right-winger, Eikrem moved inside last year and his form immediately won a call to the first-team squad.

Quick and cultured on the ball, he is also a free-kick expert, practicing the art non-stop in training.

The same is true of **OLIVER NORWOOD**, already branded a "genius" by Northern Ireland boss Nigel Worthington. "He is going to be a very good player," added Worthington. "What he can do with the ball from free-kicks is remarkable."

Nine goals in 28 academy appearances in 2008-09 proved Norwood's worth and he enjoyed an excellent season for the reserves last year. A central midfielder by trade, he is more than happy out wide.

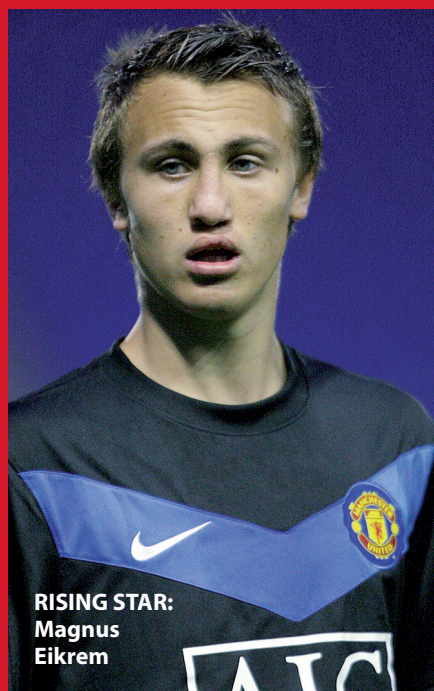
A more natural right-winger is **ROBBIE BRADY**, summoned from the bench in both games so far. Still only 19, the fast, tricky Brady also has a striker's eye for goal and is comfortable playing up front as part of a three.

Highly-rated in his native Northern Ireland, he is looking to put an injury-hit season behind him.

On the left, it's a choice between **CAMERON STEWART** and wonderkid **RAVEL MORRISON**.

Morrison only turned 17 in February but is already building a reputation as one of the brightest talents at Old Trafford.

A star of the schoolboy side, the technically gifted playmaker was fast-tracked through the academy ranks and starts this season in the reserves.



RISING STAR:
Magnus
Eikrem



PACE: Larnell Cole



Happiest behind the striker, he is fine on either wing, as is the case with 19-year-old Stewart. Blindingly quick and decent in front of goal, Stewart has been a reserve team regular since 2008 and was part of the first-team squad for a trip to Wolfsburg in 2009.

Often deployed as a lone striker, his experience and versatility make him a key part of Solskjaer's squad.

Forwards

SPOTTED playing for his local side at the age of 7, **NICKY AJOSE** is undoubtedly one of United's most exciting prospects.

Quick, skilful and prolific, he signed on as a scholar in 2008 and the following season hit ten goals to finish as the academy side's top scorer.

The Bury-born hitman also hit six goals in eight games for England Under-16s before stepping up to the reserves last season, scoring four times. Having started out as a striker, Ajose's skill and sensational pace (he has represented England at both the 100m and 200m, ranking in the top ten) means he is better suited to coming in from the wings.

Like Ajose, Norwegian **JOSHUA KING** has started both game so far.



EXCITING:
Striker
Nicky Ajose

Manager

PERHAPS the greatest-ever supersub, **OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER** is up there with the very best as a bona fide United legend.

A complete unknown when he arrived from Norwegian outfit Molde in 1996, Solskjaer scored in the sixth minute of his debut and never looked back.

In 11 years at Old Trafford, the striker scored 126 goals in 366 games, including the last-gasp winner against Bayern Munich in the 1999 Champions League final. He also played 67 times for Norway and also filled in on the right wing to tremendous effect.

However, it was his scoring feats after coming off the bench for which he will always be famous. Of those 366 games, 150 came as sub – yet Solskjaer never complained, even turning down big money offers to stay at Old Trafford.

And, when called upon, he delivered in style, once scoring four goals in 12 minutes to round off an 8-1 thrashing of Nottingham Forest.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson put this down to Solskjaer's knack for studying a match from the sidelines, noting opposition weaknesses to exploit when he took the field. "Nobody," said Ferguson. "watches a game like Ole does".

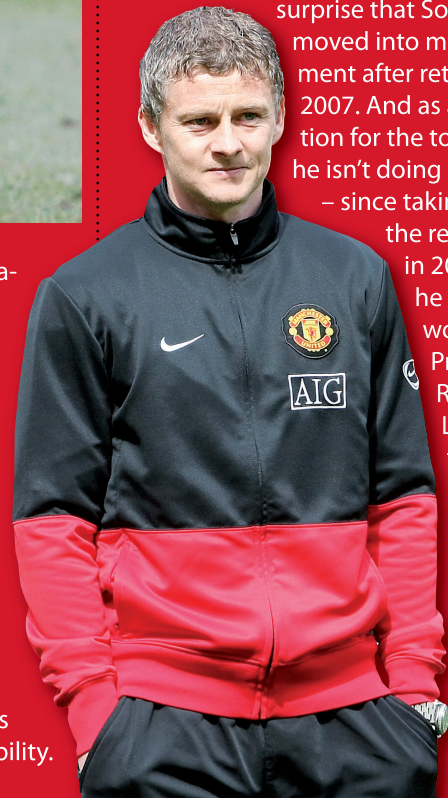
With that in mind, it should be no

surprise that Solskjaer moved into management after retiring in 2007. And as an audition for the top job, he isn't doing badly

– since taking over the reserves

in 2008,

he has won the Premier Reserve League, the Manchester Senior Cup and the Lancashire Senior Cup.



The 18-year-old is rapidly developing into a muscular targetman, with several stylish displays for the Under-18s last year. Having made his senior debut in a League Cup clash with Wolves, King is another looking to make the step up – and did his chances no harm with two goals against Dunfermline.

Another option is **WILL KEANE**, an England youth international who hit 13 goals in 23 games for the academy side last year.

A creative forward in the Teddy Sheringham mould, 17-year-old Keane can make them or score them.

Talking of Sheringham, we've also got

a Cole – **LARNELL COLE**, no relation. The 17-year-old's energy and pace mean he has often been used as an impact sub, but it is a role he has excelled in, coming off the bench to score several important goals for the Under-18 and reserve sides last year.

And last but not least, Warrington-born **JESSE LINGARD** offers a predatory option.

An out-and-out striker, the diminutive Lingard lacks height and physical strength but makes up for it in pace and shooting ability.

Ole the gaffer

IT'S a rare occurrence for any matchday programme to contain an opposition preview actually written by their manager.

However when that manager has won six Premier League titles, two FA Cups and a Champions League; has scored 126 times for the most famous club in the world, was his club's record appearance maker and has now won four trophies in two seasons as a manager, it would be rude not to.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer retired from his 11 year Manchester United playing career in 2007 at the age of 34 through injury.

The circumstances are nothing like the ones that bring all of us here today to celebrate Darren Way but there is a natural empathy from the Norwegian to the Yeovil star.

"I found it really hard to finish doing what I really loved but what helped was the fact that Sir Alex Ferguson offered me a job 20 seconds after I retired. To be able to stay in coaching was really important as it kept me involved so hopefully Darren can have a great career in coaching too."

The 37-year-old striker is justifiably proud of his young charges who have won four trophies in his two seasons as boss and here he takes us through them: "We've got the two goalkeepers who are exciting prospects, Conor Devlin and Sam Johnstone. Conor is in the Northern Ireland Under-21 squad and Sam was part of the England Under-17 squad that won the European Championships in the summer. They will be doing most of the duties for the reserves this year but I haven't decided who's going to start today.

"At the back, we have Scott Wootton who is very adaptable and can play at right back. He reads the game well, has a great attitude and good technique. In the middle we've got James Chester and Craig Cathcart. They've both played in the Championship and are

He was a legend as a player for Manchester United and now Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is proving his worth as a coach for the club. MARTIN McCONACHIE spoke to the likeable Norwegian to find out about the crop of youngsters he is currently in charge of

recovering from bad injuries.

"We also have Oliver Gill who is a tall, left footed defender who is great at set pieces. He had a fantastic season last year and I hope he'll continue his development this year and go out on loan possibly.

"On the left, I have Zeki Fryers who's in the England youth set-up and Joe Dudgeon who is English but has played for Northern Ireland Under-21's.

Solid

"He has great energy and a good defender going forward. I think we're quite solid at the back.

"In midfield, this is where we hope we have the creativity. Oliver Norwood is a Northern Ireland Under-21 international who is a great passer and excellent with set pieces.

"Magnus Eikrem is from the Norwegian set up. I first saw him at 12 years old when he came to one of my soccer schools. He came over each year and we signed him at 16 so I've known him for many years.

"Rodrigo Possebon is the oldest, most experienced of the group. He's played

for the first team and went out on loan to Braga last season but it didn't really work out and he came home. He's a Brazilian with an Italian passport.

"Ryan Tunnicliffe is an Under-17 England cap who is a high energy, combative midfielder and can play full back; Cameron Stewart is on standby for the Euro Championships for England Under-19's.

"Nicky Ajose is another England Under-18 international who has good technique and a great finisher while Robbie Brady is an Irish youth international who can play down the middle or on either flank.

"Up front we have Jesse Lingard, an Under-18 star who is small in frame but makes up for it in technique and movement.

"Ravel Morrison is an England Under-17 cap who can also play behind the striker or wide on either flank, an old number 10 type player. Will Keane is a real Teddy Sheringham type striker.

"He was in the England Under-17 squad last year and was top scorer for the Under-18 United side last year earning him a few games for my reserve team.

"Josh King is a Norwegian Under-19 cap who is recovering in the youth side after suffering a bad injury last season. In the same mould as Jon Carew, hopefully we can turn him into a top striker."

"We have a good team developing at Old Trafford and I hope the Yeovil fans will see the next generation of United's exciting youngsters and that they will come out and support Darren as he deserves it."



LEGEND: Ole's finest moment – celebrating the winning goal in the Champions League Final in 1999





Yeovil Town Mascots



Mason Way

Age: 4
Favourite Player: Daddy



Ava Way

Age: 2
Favourite Player: Daddy



Finley Skiverton

Age: 5
Favourite Player: Daddy



Aidan Skiverton

Age: 4
Favourite Player: Daddy



Charlotte Jane

Age: 9
School: Neroche Primary School
Favourite Player: Andy Welsh



Thomas Jane

Age: 11
School: Neroche Primary School
Favourite Player: Stefan Stam



Harrison Holmes

Age: 6
School: East Coker Primary School
Favourite Player: Alan Smith



Matthew White

Age: 12
School: The Grange School Sports College
Favourite Player: Darryl Duffy



Ellie Bentley

Age: 14
School: The Castle School, Taunton
Favourite Player: Samir Nasri/Lionel Messi



Ellie Banks

School: Thornbury Primary School
Favourite Player: Darren Way



Lewis Banks

School: Thornbury Primary School in September
Favourite Player: Darren Way



Mollie Thorpe

Age: 11
School: Preston School in September
Favourite Player: Wayne Rooney/Craig Alcock



Elliot Mabin

Age: 11
School: Elburton Primary School, Plymouth
Favourite Player: Darren Way



Manchester United Mascots



Josh Bentley

Age: 12
School: The Castle School, Taunton
Favourite Player: Wayne Rooney



Archie Merlich

Age: 8
School: Parkfield Primary School, Taunton
Favourite Player: Nani



George Slater

Age: 9
School: Huish Primary School
Favourite Player: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer



Regan Slater

Age: 9
School: Huish Primary School
Favourite Player: Wayne Rooney



James Birnie

Age: 9
School: Preston Primary School
Favourite Player: Wayne Rooney



Olivia Birnie

Age: 6
School: Preston Primary School
Favourite Player: Wayne Rooney



Jacob Hodges

Age: 8
School: Preston Primary School
Favourite Player: Lionel Messi



Scott Carpenter

Age: 8
School: Elmhurst Junior School, Street
Favourite Player: Darren Way/Wayne Rooney



Jai Kaniewski

Age: 11
School: Chilthorne Primary School
Favourite Player: Paul Scholes



Zachary White

Age: 7
School: Our Lady of Lourdes School, Bristol
Favourite Player: Wayne Rooney



George White

Age: 10
School: The Park Primary School
Favourite Player: Nani

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REUNITED: Darren meets up with former England Under-15 team mate and Manchester United striker Michael Owen



FORMER HERO: Darren and England World Cup winner Sir Bobby Charlton



LEGEND: Darren meets Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson



BIG NORM: Former United striker Norman Whiteside and Darren



OLE! United legend Ole Gunnar Solskjaer meets Darren at Carrington





Perfect match

Though Gary Johnson's golden era at Yeovil Town was largely down to a collective team effort, there is no doubting that the influence of Darren Way was always a major factor in his team's success. **MARTIN McCONACHIE** caught up with the former Glovers boss to find out how 'Weasel' became such a vital player for him

BACK in June 2001, a certain Gary Johnson arrived at Huish Park via a Caribbean cruise, a football journalist and Latvia.

His arrival in Somerset was to spark a wonderful period in the club's history with the FA Trophy, the Conference title and the League 2 Championship in the bag within just four seasons.

The success was achieved thanks to the players he brought in and the blend that was produced with the existing team, one of which was Darren Way. Gary still purrs when asked about his initial reaction of meeting the man fans know as 'Weasel'.

"My very first thought on meeting him and spending time in his company was that I could get somewhere with someone like him around. I felt that he was 100% committed to the cause, in fact to any cause you might want to put to him. He was that sort of lad."

In the first year, the club were to miss out on the holy grail of League football but at least had a decent consolation prize of the FA Trophy, a competition that the Glovers had a pretty average record in; with just two semi-finals in the previous 30 years.

The former Bristol City and Latvia manager was quick to praise the little midfielder for his influence in the dressing room.

"Darren's effect in the changing room was very positive," he confirmed. "He was one of those who wouldn't allow anyone to drop below the standard required."

"I had three or four of those in the team and they would police it – this made it a lot easier for me."

As time went on, Gary's relationship with all of his players developed and grew stronger the longer the team stayed together.

Winners

"We had three or four winners at Yeovil when I got there, Darren being one of them, but I needed to make sure we added more winners. Otherwise the 'old' winners would have let the new players know that they were 'losers' if you know what I mean."

"I got on very well with Darren. I loved his personality; loved the way he played, his commitment, his energy – how could you have anything against someone who played the game like that?"

"I can't remember a day when we had cross words with each other. I'm sure we must have but I don't remember

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37 >

"Cary Glovers"

Supporters of Yeovil Town Football Club

We are celebrating our 10th Anniversary, and are proud to have sponsored Darren throughout his playing career at the club.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Darren for his time and commitment to us as a group of supporters and wish him every success for his future.

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Rob Newport, Chairman, 01935 433815



HAPPY TIMES: Gary and Darren celebrate with the rest of the team after securing the Conference title at Doncaster

them," he said with a smile.

In the autumn of 2005, just a few games into Yeovil's first season in League 1, Johnson left to take up the reins at Bristol City and four months later, Darren left too to join Swansea City in a £150,000 deal.

"The move was a good one for Darren," recalls his former manager. "He had done his time at Yeovil and like Locky (Adam Lockwood) and a few others; he deserved his crack at the higher level. Sadly the injury problems couldn't be diagnosed immediately and he never got to fulfil his potential at Swansea."

After the injury-ravaged time in South Wales, the Plymouth-born midfielder returned to Huish Park for a loan spell in November 2007.

His re-arrival sparked the Glovers into a decent run of form but at the end of the deal, he made his way back to Swansea to see out the season.

Just six months later and the prodigal son returned for a third time, signed on a permanent deal by Russell Slade. His influence on the side was obvious from the start and he slipped back into his impressive form like he'd never been away.

Then came the events of December

17, 2008 and the terrible car crash that was to end the midfielder's career before he had even turned 30.

The accident left Darren lying in hospital with multiple limb fractures and other injuries and his previous boss took time to keep in very close contact over the next few weeks.

"First of all, you're just grateful that they're alive," he said, referring also to stadium maintenance man Bruce James who was also injured in the crash.

Impressed

"Both Darren and Bruce are fantastic people and I'm so pleased that they got through the aftermath of the accident."

As mentioned above, the injuries sustained in the smash forced Darren to quit his playing career at the age of just 29 but Johnson is impressed, and maybe even a little surprised, that he has come on as well as he has.

"We had Terry's testimonial last summer when he came on and could barely kick a ball – that definitely brought a tear to my eye as well as many others that day.

"What you did know was that he would have the courage to do whatever he had to do to get on with his life.

He's doing it now and credit to Terry for giving him the opportunity – they'll be good for each other."

"He's got to be brave now as he ever was in getting over it. It's great that he's setting out a career for himself in coaching; I'm sure he'll do it with the same enthusiasm he played with and that will only rub off on the players he's in charge of.

"Looking forward, the sky's the limit for Darren. He wants to be the best in everything he does and as both he and Terry start out on their coaching careers, they'll take something from all the bosses they played under and use the good stuff and throw out the bad. I just hope I've taught them both something."

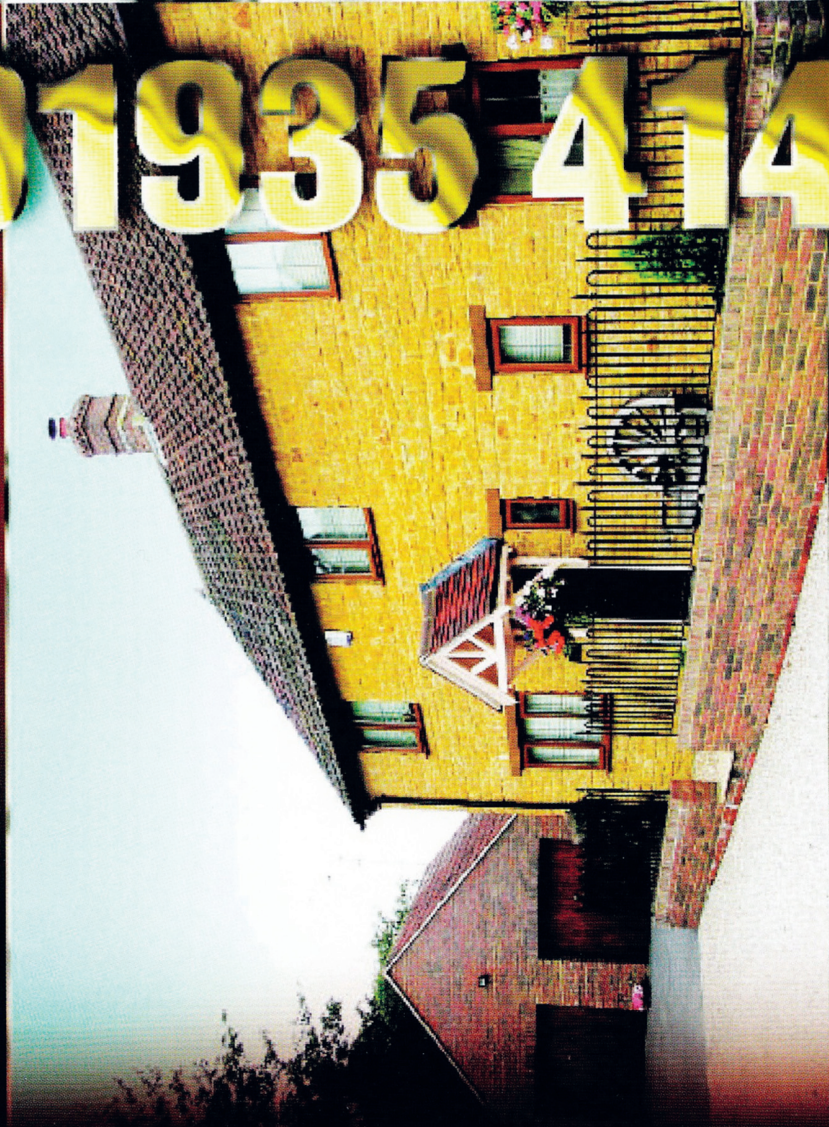
The Peterborough boss is in no doubt as to Darren's standing in the game. "Just the fact that the top English club has decided to come down shows their appreciation for a lad that deserves it. That shows you what people think of him within football. In football, word gets around about people worthy of respect and he's right up there with them."

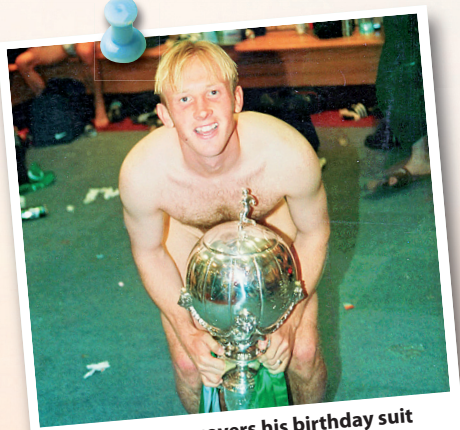
Fitting words there, I'm sure you'll agree, from one Yeovil legend about another.

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CHEEKY! Darren covers his birthday suit with the Conference trophy



AT LAST! Darren and the lads enjoy the success of winning the Conference title



TALK OF THE TOWN: Darren and Colin Pluck sign autographs during the open top bus tour to celebrate the Conference title



MORE SUCCESS: This time it's the League 2 title as the trophies continue to come for Darren and the team

CELEBRATION TIME: It's party time as Darren and the rest of the players celebrate securing the Conference title after a 4-0 win at Doncaster



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Jean Cotton **Yeovil Town Secretary**

DARREN you have been nothing but an inspiration in the way you have conducted yourself and faced every challenge thrown at you since your accident.

You have taken on every physical and mental challenge with the same kind of tenacity you used to show on the football pitch - and it is no understatement to say I have been amazed.

Your determination should have come as no surprise to those who know you, but even so, you have shown remarkable character and courage.

I have known Darren since he signed for Yeovil Town ten years ago and he is a proud family man who never gives anything less than 100 per cent, regardless of what he is trying to achieve. The way he has immersed himself in his new role on the coaching staff is a prime example.

So, while I will never forget the anxiety and worry I felt when you were injured that day, nor will I ever forget the way you fought back from your injuries and took them on.

Enjoy your day Darren. You thoroughly deserve it.



Paul Terry **Ex Yeovil Town**

THE very first day I met Darren down at Yeovil I knew immediately I had spoken to him what a competitive little 'rat' he was.

The first time we trained together we both went up for the ball and he somehow managed to plant his boot on my thigh leaving me with an inprint of six studs! But that was Daz, his will to win knew no bounds.

Naturally having played together for a few years now we have built up a very strong friendship and when I heard the news of his accident my heart sank to the pits of my stomach.

But I always knew that Daz would not let this sort of inconvenience get in the way of his life and it's a testament to him that he was up and about in the eight months it took him to be really mobile again.

Darren is a winner and a true Yeovil legend and I'm sure Terry and the rest of the back room staff at Yeovil will relish working with him.

So good luck to you Daz. You are my best friend and I hope that today turns out to be a really great day for you, Kelly, Mason and Eva.

It's a privilege to call you my friend.



Jeremy Goss **Ex Norwich City**

I WAS a professional at Norwich City Football Club when Darren was a young apprentice so I have known him for quite a while.

We've lost touch since then and have both moved on.

When I first heard of the news I was obviously shocked and the first thing that struck me was how such an energetic player would cope.

But I needn't have worried though because Darren is Darren and there would only be one winner in that contest!

I put it down to his honesty. He was

not going to cheat anybody or himself he was that sort of player.

He put everything in which you can put down as a winning mentality or a very honest attitude.

I think there is a bit of both in there and both are extremely good attributes to have.

Darren, I wish you all the best of luck. Have a great day and I hope you get everything you want out of it.

All the very best for the future, in whatever you may choose to do and I'll always be here as someone willing to help you out anytime you wish.



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Well done Darren



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Lee Trundle **Neath**

I USED to play against Darren when he was at Yeovil first time round. He was one we always spoke about and knew we had to watch.

He was a horrible player to play against. You wanted to kill him when you were on the pitch but from knowing him now that's just his character when you're playing against him.

When Darren moved to Swansea the lads made him settle in really well and when you got to know him he was a brilliant lad and a great person to have around the dressing room.

When I heard about the crash I was absolutely gutted for Darren but

relieved that at least he was still alive. But I knew he was a fighter and I just knew he'd make it through.

It was brilliant to see how strong he has come back and that he has got himself back into football with Yeovil which is so close to his heart.

We still speak regularly and along with Terry they are doing a brilliant job and I wish them all the luck in the world.

So I'd like to wish you all the best for the big game mate. You were a nightmare to play against and a pleasure to play with, all the best for the future and good luck.



Adam Stansfield **Exeter City**

I FIRST met Darren when I joined Yeovil in 2001.

Immediately you just knew he was a winner. Such an independent person who just wanted to get the best out of himself and one of the hardest trainers I've ever met.

If he is not making a winner out of himself it's the people around him. He used to help me loads and used to take it upon himself to help me out with my ball skills and control.

Life has been hard for me of late, being so active then having absolutely nothing to do for four or five months, so I can understand what Darren has

been through. To give up something you love so much and do nothing when it was not your fault leaves you so gutted and angry.

But he is such a strong person and he will battle on. When I spoke to him he is just happy that he got out of it alive and not looking at the negatives.

Darren, I hope you have a great day and a great career in your new role as a coach. You helped me such a lot and I hope the good times will return to you quickly.

Good luck to you mate. I'm sure you will be just as good a coach as you were a player. Have a great day.

Lee Johnson **Bristol City**

WHEN I walked in the changing rooms at Yeovil on my first day there I was thinking I'm pleased he is smaller than I am!

In life you sometimes get an immediate bond with people. Darren is that sort of person and hopefully so am I.

We just sort of bounced off each other and both had a point to prove football wise having been released from different clubs and as we were both small. We formed a good friendship and it blossomed on and off the pitch.

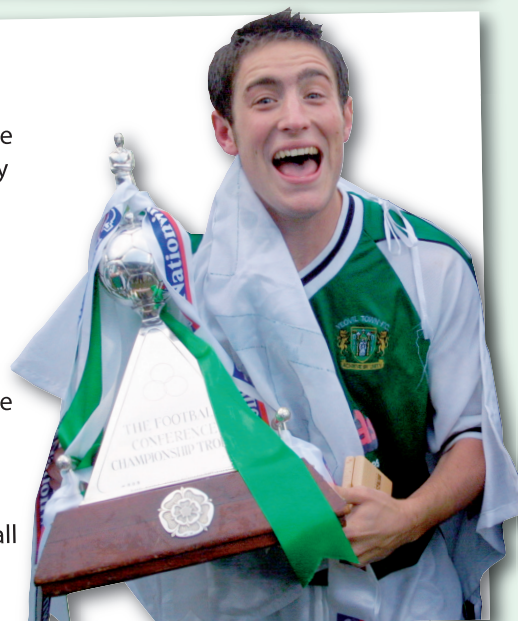
When I heard about his accident I

felt numb. We went straight down the hospital as soon as we found out. My wife is very good friends with Darren's wife Kelly and she needed the support.

But Darren battled back magnificently and is now an important part of Terry's back-room staff.

I just want to say Darren that I hope everyone turns out for you because you deserve it and you are a proper Yeovil Town legend.

You're a great man and I wish you all the success as a person and a family man.





Natural coach

ROBERTO Martinez experienced first-hand just how effective Darren Way was as a player for Yeovil Town – and he is tipping him to make an even bigger impact as a coach.

Martinez played against Way while with Swansea City and admitted the tough-tackling, energetic midfielder was “a real pest” as an opponent.

The pair then became team-mates at the Liberty Stadium following Way’s £150,000 move in January 2006 – before Martinez, after a brief spell at Chester City, was appointed Swansea manager in February 2007.

Way played under Martinez’s management on only four occasions due to the frustrating sequence of injuries that marred his time in south Wales – but the man who is currently in charge of Barclays Premier League club Wigan Athletic has seen more than enough to suggest his former charge is set for a bright future in the game.

“To me, it was never in doubt that he would go into coaching,” said Martinez. “He played like a coach – he played like someone who could read the game and could affect the players.

“He made players’ jobs very, very easy and I am sure many will tell you there was a big difference between playing with Darren and playing without him.

“When you have those attributes, it is clear you are going to go into coaching – and I always knew Darren would go in that direction, even if it has happened sooner than he would have liked.

“Since going into coaching, he has been as intense – if not more so – as when he was playing. It is something he does with 100 per cent – and that is why he is guaranteed to succeed in any walk of life. He has been a real inspiration.”

ALL-WHITE: Darren during his time as a Swansea City player



Having coached and played with Darren Way, former Swansea City manager Roberto Martinez is in a good position to offer his opinions on the energetic midfielder. STEVE COTTON caught up with the Wigan manager to find out how he sees Darren making a big impact as a coach

Way’s determination to succeed first caught Martinez’s eye when the pair were opponents during Yeovil’s many enthralling battles with Swansea between 2003 and 2006 – and his fighting spirit became even more apparent to the Spaniard when they worked together.

“He was a real pest to play against and we hated to play against Yeovil, because he was a really difficult opponent,” said Martinez.

“When I shared a dressing room with him at Swansea City, he came off a big transfer fee and he had a very difficult start through injury.

Fighter

“Then, when I came back as manager, he was in the middle of a tough period of rehab – but he was always a joy to work with. He was a fighter and a real inspiration in the dressing room, setting high standards on a daily basis. We loved to have a fit Darren Way in our team – but one of the biggest compliments I can pay him is that you didn’t need him to be playing on the pitch to get something out of him.

“He motivates people and was always a pleasure to work with. He has always been a real winner: someone who can find a way to be successful, regardless of what obstacles he comes across.”

And there have been plenty of obstacles along the way – from the injury setbacks at Norwich City and Swansea to the car accident in December 2008 that eventually took his playing career away from him.

“Darren is an impres-

sive person, full stop,” said Martinez. “Everything he does, he does with purpose, and he is a leader.

“He has such an incredible character. The accident was a very, very shocking experience but he has been an example to many people. In some ways, I don’t think the accident was anything different in terms of the way he had to approach his career. He has always had to fight – and has been a real fighter.

“That determination is unique. He has been very successful – and every time he has had a knock, he has reacted in the right manner. He always wins his personal battles. I played with him at Swansea and he had some injuries that would have forced many players to give up and take the easy option.

“He has gone through probably the hardest experience in football, but then to be involved in a car accident as a footballer, and to come out and fight the way he did – then go into coaching – is an amazing story. I couldn’t be any more proud of him.”

After his retirement in February of this year, Way joined Terry Skiverton’s coaching staff here at Huish Park. And after being arguably one of the finest players in Yeovil’s history, Glovers supporters will surely be thrilled to read Martinez’s predictions of what lies ahead for their former midfield star.

“Darren lives the way he used to play – he gets involved everywhere and you wouldn’t expect him to be any other way,” he said. “Darren is a leader, a winner and an inspiration – and he is going to be very successful.

“He was a huge, huge asset as a player for Yeovil Town – and I believe he can be an even bigger asset for them as a member of the coaching staff.”

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wishes Darren all the very best for today and the future and would like to say thank you for all the pleasure and excitement he has provided over the years for all Yeovil Town fans

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Andre Marriner Referee

I FIRST came across Darren when I refereed Yeovil in the Conference. We both got promoted into the Football League together when Yeovil won the Conference in 2003. I refereed him a few times and we always had a mutual respect for each other.

He was the type of player who was always busy in midfield and would often question a decision, but he would always be polite which earned my respect.

When I heard about his accident I was shocked, but I followed his progress online and it was great to see him come through the other side.

With something that horrid and with the injuries that he sustained, it's amazing he got back there and to even just walk.

I was absolutely delighted that he wanted me to referee today's match. I guess he has a number of refs he could have asked locally, but when he asked me I was delighted to accept. I'm really looking forward to doing it.

I really hope that the whole game is a huge success for Darren and leads him to more success as I know he is coaching now. I hope everyone will get behind today's match and support him as he is a tremendous lad.



Leon Britton Swansea City

I HAVEN'T played with Darren for a couple of years now since we were at Swansea together.

You immediately knew he was a good lad and we got on well straight away.

He had a great attitude towards football and life in general and on the pitch he is a player that plays exactly the same way.

He was always horrible to play against as you don't get a minutes' peace against him.

It was a massive shock to everyone when we heard about his accident. Something like that really puts life

into perspective and football comes secondary.

Everyone at Swansea had messages for Darren and we hoped he would come through alright. We are all just grateful that he is here today and that he can still do the things he could do before.

It should be a great day today with a Manchester United team down here in Somerset and I would like to say good luck to Darren.

He's a great lad and has had a fantastic career. I hope he and his wife Kelly and their kids really enjoy the day. They all deserve it.



Steve Foley Norwich City coach

I FIRST met Darren when I was a coach at Norwich City when he was a young new player looking to make his career in professional football.

The first thing that struck me was his appetite for the game. His attitude was first class. You always knew he was going to make some sort of career at some level.

When I think of that combative style and even though he was up against a very high standard his attitude shone out like a sore thumb.

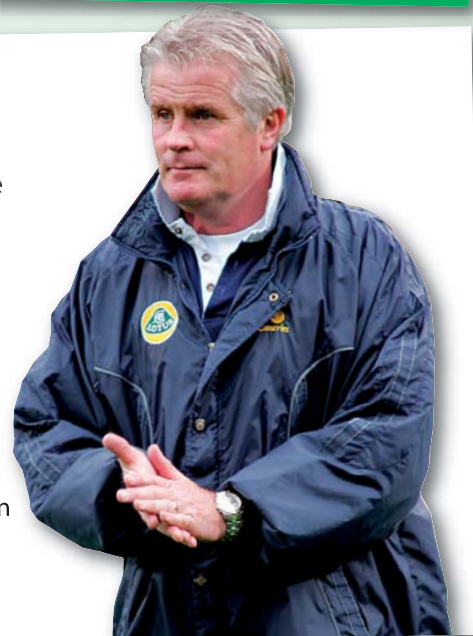
He is such a lovely and honest lad and you can't help but like him.

When I heard about the extent of his accident it was great that he came through it all so well.

If anybody was going to get over injuries like that it was going to be Darren, he never lets things get him down. He just gets on with life and you know his determination will always shine through.

Darren, I hope you have a tremendous day. You deserve it. My sincere best wishes to you and your family on your big day.

Get behind today's match and support him as he is a tremendous lad.



Michael Owen **Manchester United**

I FIRST met Darren back in 1996 when I was based at Lilleshall and he joined us and Stevie Gerrard to take part in an England Under-16 match.

We had all been together at the training camp and it was obviously difficult to get to know everyone, but Darren soon fitted in and we realised what a great player he was.

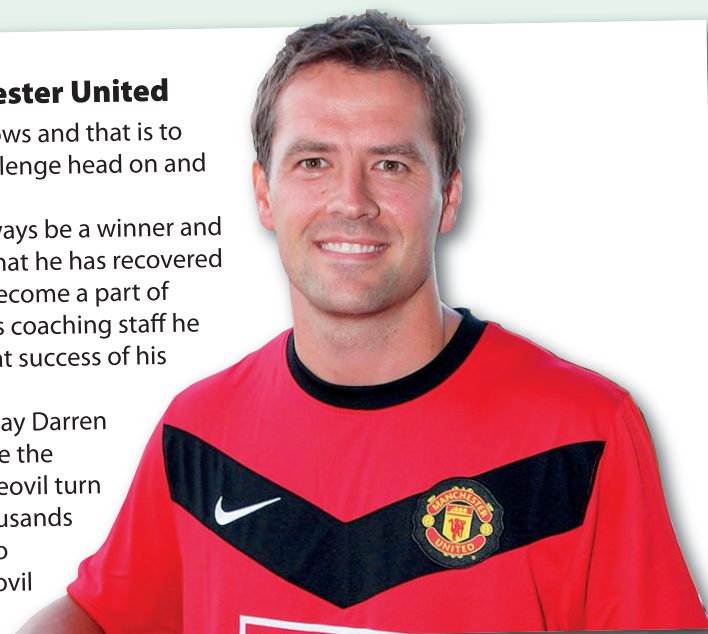
To have your career suddenly end so tragically must have been a terrible ordeal for Darren and I was very shocked when I heard the news.

But Darren has responded in the

only way he knows and that is to take on the challenge head on and fight.

Darren will always be a winner and I am sure now that he has recovered sufficiently to become a part of Terry Skiverton's coaching staff he will make a great success of his new job.

Have a great day Darren and I really hope the population of Yeovil turn out in their thousands to pay tribute to your time at Yeovil Town.



Steve Thompson **Ex Yeovil Town**

A CONVERSATION between Darren's father and my father led to his arrival at Huish Park.

I was informed that Bristol Rovers, where he had been on trial, were not going to offer him a contract, so I invited him to Yeovil Town to play in a reserve game at Melksham.

During that 90 minutes he displayed his ability, energy and winning mentality, and the following Saturday he was on the bench for the first team.

An injury to Roy O'Brien meant that Darren was on the pitch after 20 minutes.

From that point he was an auto-

matic choice in the Yeovil Town midfield for the next six years, and gave the fans so much enjoyment with his energy, enthusiasm and trademark massive leaps to outjump taller opponents.

Darren has the ability to not only perform consistently well himself, but inspire other players to raise their game to a higher level.

That quality is invaluable to a manager, as I am sure all who have managed him will agree.

Have a great day Darren, and my family and I wish you and your family all the very best in the future.

Bruce James **Yeovil Town stadium assistant**

DARREN, I hope you enjoy today as your fans support you on this your benefit match.

We will always remember how great a servant to this club you have been.

I am proud to have been here with you whilst Yeovil Town won the FA Trophy and then when they went on to win both the Nationwide Conference and League 2 titles, and contest memorable FA cup games against Liverpool and Charlton Athletic.

The fans will never forget the heroic

efforts of you and your team mates in securing the clubs' honours. You are one of our heroes.

Your battle back from terrible injuries has been inspirational to me in particular.

I hope your new career as a coach alongside manager Terry Skiverton is every bit as successful as what you achieved as a player.

Good luck for your future in football. I am convinced you will succeed.



My mate Darren

CRAIG BELLAMY has played alongside and worked under some of the biggest names in football during his 14 years at the top of the game, but in the Welsh striker's opinion, very few of them can match Darren Way for commitment, drive and determination to succeed.

Bellamy and Way got to know each other at Norwich City when both were in their mid-teens – two ambitious footballers who had a lot more in common than merely a desire to make the grade. Both were a long way from home – Bellamy from Cardiff; Way from Plymouth – and they forged an instant bond that has survived to this day.

Following the car accident in December 2008 that ultimately deprived Way of his footballing career, Bellamy was one of the first to visit him in his hospital bed, driving to see his long-time friend immediately after scoring twice for West Ham at Portsmouth. Not that that should surprise anyone, though, given the esteem in which Bellamy holds Way.

"I've known Darren since I was in the Under-14s or Under-15s at Norwich," said Bellamy. "He was in the year below me, but he stood out – not only because of his accent, but his character and his footballing talent!

"We were both away from home, and although he was a bit homesick at times, Darren had a great drive about him. He had a real single-mindedness and football definitely came first for him. He was educated about football and I always enjoyed spending time with him."

Bellamy and Way both left Norwich in the summer of 2000, but while the former headed to Coventry in the first of his six £5 million-plus moves, the latter joined Yeovil Town, via a trial at Bristol Rovers, after being released following a cruel series of injuries at Carrow Road.

Since meeting as youngsters at Norwich City, Craig Bellamy and Darren Way have become best of friends. **STEVE COTTON** caught up with the Welsh striker to learn more about his admiration for the Glovers legend



PALS: Craig, left, with Darren, right, and former coach Steve Foley, centre

"Darren will be the first to say that ifs and buts don't really exist in this game and he still went on to have a very good career after leaving Norwich," said Bellamy.

"He had a very good time at Yeovil, which has been a great club for a lot of young players. They play good football and it's a very nice part of the world. I would certainly recommend a lot of young players to go there.

Priorities

"Yeovil came at exactly the right time for Darren – and he came at exactly the right time for Yeovil. He had a fantastic time there, then moved to Swansea, where he had a lot of injuries.

"But these things happen in football and even though his career was ended at a young age, he gave his all and made the most out of it."

If football had previously come first for Way, Bellamy noticed a stark shift in his friend's priorities immediately after the accident.

"He was in a lot of pain in hospital, but he also took on board early doors that football comes second compared to some things," said Bellamy.

"To be able to wake up every morning and see his wife and two young children beats football every single

time. Football is a great sport, of course, and it can mean a lot to people, but your family and your well-being are more important.

"The simple fact is that he was involved in an accident so severe he could easily have died. We all want to play football and it is the best job in the world, but when you have been involved in a life-threatening accident, you will happily take being able to play with your kids over football."

While his playing career may unfortunately be over, Way has been able to remain involved in football and now works under manager Terry Skiverton as a first-team coach here at Huish Park. And based on Bellamy's experiences of the former midfielder, he has everything it takes to succeed in his new role.

"Coaching is Darren's next challenge and I know he is putting everything into it," said Bellamy. "He is probably more committed than most people you will see in football and that's even at my level. He has got a real appetite to succeed at everything he does – and this challenge is no different.

"And just like when he was a player, Yeovil is the right club for him now. It's a League 1 club, and, without being disrespectful, they are fighting above their weight. It is run properly and without taking the risk of getting into debts to achieve more.

"At a lot of clubs, Darren may have had to wait a few years to get into the coaching side, but he's got a chance at Yeovil now under a young manager who has done well. It's a fantastic opportunity. And knowing him the way I do, he will do everything he can to make the most of this opportunity."





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CLASSIC DARREN: Doing what he does best, Darren gets stuck in on Rushden's Gary Butterworth



THUMBS UP: Darren during his recovery from the car crash where he showed his true grit and determination to battle back



WARRIOR: Darren shows Leeds' Luciano Becchio who's boss

My decade with Darren

Yeovil Town employee and lifelong fan
MARTIN McCONACHIE remembers his favourite moments of Darren Way's memorable career

WHEN I was asked to write a piece about Darren Way for this souvenir programme, it really was a job to know what to write.

It had to be a piece from the fans point of view; a look back at a player who first arrived at Huish Park almost a decade ago but the player concerned had done so much, where should I start? I decided that I would concentrate on three special moments of 'My Decade With Darren.'

Darren came to the club in August 2000, brought here by former manager David Webb. He soon endeared himself to us Glovers fans by producing a series of all-action performances in the central midfield area and even started clocking up an impressive goal tally too, initially boosted by taking the penalties when they were awarded.

His debut goal for the club came on September 2, 2000 in a 2-0 away win at Nuneaton Borough and it sparked a decent run of goalscoring for a man who was clearly enjoying his first full season of first team football.

Eight goals were in the bag by Christmas and the diminutive Darren added another four after the festive period.

Season 2001-02 saw Darren team up with the man who was to provide us fans with arguably the best midfield combination the club has ever seen, Lee Johnson.

It was obvious that the pair clicked almost straightaway and complimented each other's games. The end of the season saw the first major silverware by way of the FA Trophy and Darren was integral to the success turning in

an impressive display on the biggest stage at Villa Park.

The following season was to bring me my first extra special memory of Darren. The season has so many memories attached to it as for me, it was my 13th season of following Yeovil and we finally made it into the Football League and we would not be called "Non-League Yeovil Town" on the Saturday sports results any more.

However, the day we won the Conference title, the little man proved once again to be the catalyst to the ensuing glory. Having won the Championship without kicking a ball, the Glovers turned on the style by thrashing Doncaster 4-0, Darren once again proving the catalyst.

Impetus

His first goal of the season arrived in April and wouldn't win any 'Goal Of The Month' awards but his tumbling strike on 23 minutes provided the impetus to finish the job off. There were few worries among supporters as to whether the squad could make the step up into the Football League as the form shown in winning the Conference title allayed those fears.

Early season results were encouraging and two great results in the FA Cup brought the mighty Liverpool to Huish Park. Darren had been, as usual, an integral part of Gary Johnson's team and with his feisty, bristling character, he'd have been the last player in the dressing room to be overawed by the multi-million pound talent facing them.

My second memory of Darren comes from this match. It's not a goal, a tackle, a pass or anything like that but it would most represent to me what Johnson's tenure at HP meant to me.

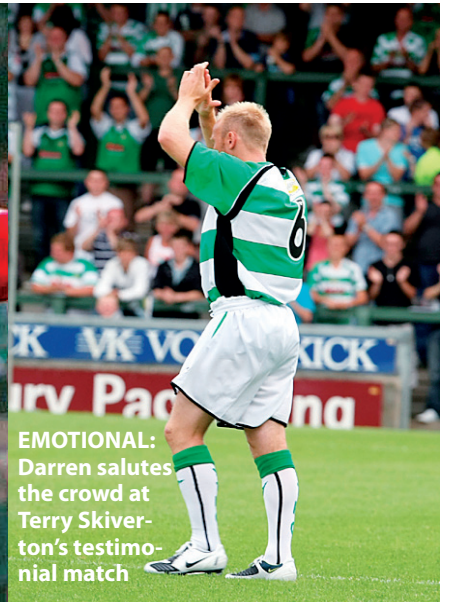


GETTING STUCK IN: Darren wins the ball ahead of Liverpool's Dietmar Hamann in what was a memorable performance from the battling midfielder

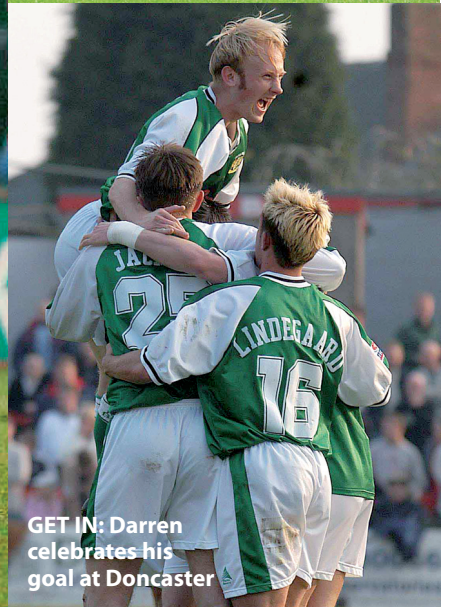
A move down the right hand side of the pitch on 18 minutes that wouldn't have looked out of place in the World Cup Final offered a shooting chance for Darren. Sadly the ball wouldn't quite sit down and he shot over but a capacity crowd plus millions more on telly marvelled at the fantastic free-flowing form of football that would, had it gone in, have created the best goal ever seen at Huish Park.

As sure as eggs is eggs, Darren's form and talent was going to generate him a move to a Championship club and so it proved as Swansea City came in with a big money offer for him.

I, like so many other supporters, was sad to see him go but as Gary Johnson rightly says elsewhere in this programme, he deserved his chance at the higher level. Luck didn't treat



EMOTIONAL: Darren salutes the crowd at Terry Skiverton's testimonial match



GET IN: Darren celebrates his goal at Doncaster

him very well in the valleys though and two injury ravaged seasons at the Liberty Stadium were ended when he returned to Huish Park. After the dreadful accident in December 2008, Darren's recovery was anticipated to be long and painful and so it has proved.

Suffering from the injuries sustained in the crash, he made an emotional re-appearance in a motorised wheelchair as quickly as the February when his good friend and former team mate Terry Skiverton took over as manager.

Darren's entrance onto the pitch could easily qualify as my third magic moment, certainly one I won't ever forget, but I'll reserve that honour for a few months later.

Skiverton's testimonial in July attracted around 3,000 fans for a match-up

between two sides of former Glovers interspersed with some famous faces.

However, the greatest cheer, and a fair few tears too, occurred on the 89 minute mark as the manager took himself off to be replaced by none other than Mr Darren Way.

Tears

I watched the game from the press box that day and found it difficult to hold back the tears as Darren made a slow path on to the field of play.

A goal had just been scored against his team so receiving the ball from the restart, Darren played a simple ball to a team-mate before the match official blew his whistle for the final time.

I looked around and there were several people in a similar state to me, sniffing furiously and dabbing hastily

produced tissues at their eyes. Darren was back.

And so we come to today. The Plymouth-born player has now officially retired from playing and holds the position of technical coach at Yeovil Town.

Such is his esteem within the game that one of the world's top teams, Manchester United, have agreed to come down to Somerset and play a benefit match for Darren.

I have split my duties now into an employee and a fan of YVFC but the candle I hold for Yeovil has not flickered one iota and my admiration for Darren remains equally solid.

He, by his actions over these years, has made writing this tribute easy and it has been a pleasure remembering 'my decade with Darren'.

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The Quedam Centre is proud
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A thank you to Darren

Good luck Darren. Wishing you all the best for the future.

***Yeovil and District Branch of
The Royal British Legion***

Darren Way = Living Legend. Never underestimate his footballing power, with his immense aggression and great ball skills. He will always be remembered along with the Yeovil legends.

Michael Gay

Darren, if we could find a squad of players with your heart and dedication we'd be pushing for a place in Europe in a few years! All the best.

Dave Poole

For never refusing an autograph for my daughter or friends; For being great with the kids at "training with the stars" days; For always being approachable when around the stadium; For giving 100% every time you pulled on the Yeovil shirt. All the very best wishes for you and your family wherever life takes you.

Ray Horsburgh

Darren, we hope your benefit match is a huge success - you truly deserve it. We will never forget that you gave up a FULL day to come along and support our football tournament as our guest of honour. You had time for everyone, having endless photographs taken, signing autographs for young fans and words of encouragement for all the players. Have a great day.

East Coker Cockerels Football Club

It was such a shock and shame for this to happen to such a brilliant and talented player, but we are glad you can stay at YTFC for a new career. My son Scott Carpenter is so proud that he is being a mascot today. All the best Darren.

The Carpenter family

Darren you are one of the best if not the best player Yeovil will ever have. Thank you for all you have done for the club. I followed you as a fan when you went to Swansea and you really deserve today. Enjoy it and once again thank you.

Emma Gray

Good luck for the future and thanks for all the goals you scored!

Ashley Drew

I hope that Darren has all the success in his future and that he will enjoy his time at Yeovil as a coach.

Callum Helmer

Darren Way = Yeovil Town legend! Darren, I hope you enjoyed playing for us because I sure enjoyed watching and supporting you. I hope today is a wonderful day for you and thanks for your efforts of 2005 when we won the League 2 title. Good times. Enjoy your day and the new season. Oh and stay with YTFC for many years to come!

Mark Jones

Dear Darren. Thanks for your terrific service to YTFC. It was fantastic when the dynamic duo of Lee Johnson and yourself patrolled the midfield of our most successful ever team from 2001-2005. I hope you got as much pleasure from playing as we got from watching you. Have a great day and best of luck in your coaching career.

Michael Faulkner

Darren, you're a true Yeovil legend. You always wore the Yeovil shirt with pride. Now it's time for you to shine as a coach. Best of luck in the future.

Sophie S

Good luck today Darren. Thanks for everything.

Mark Kelly

You were a player in a million, a supporter's dream. Always giving 110%, battling away for the team. Now it is great to see you working with the same dynamism in the management team. An inspiration to us all. Thank you Darren.

Pat and Tony Custard

Darren, you've been through so much in your career, but more so over the last few years. But you've come fighting through each and every hurdle that's been thrown your way. That's why you have been an inspiration to me. You may just think you're an everyday man, but to me, and I'm sure every single Yeovil fan, you're a hero, a fighter and a legend! I hope you have a truly amazing day and I will always remember the time that you put on the kit for Skivo's match and just the amount of noise that was in Huish Park! I wish you all the best for the future.

Megan Turner Cummins

Darren, you are a legend in every single Yeovil fan's hearts. I hope you remain at the club for many years to come as I think you can be the key into Yeovil becoming a better club. It's a real shame you are not able to continue your playing career as you were a little diamond in the heart of Yeovil's midfield and we could always rely on you. Thanks for what you have done for the club over the years. You will always be classed as a legend. I wish you good luck with your coaching career and hope it goes successfully. Have a great day.

Craig Leader

Darren, you are a true Yeovil legend and it was unlucky what happened to you in the car crash, meaning you had to retire. You deserve support from a benefit match and I hope you remain at Huish Park for the rest of your coaching career. Good luck Weasel.

Ben Tucker

Wishing you all the best for today Darren. I really enjoyed meeting you when I won YFC tickets, by you putting me on playerfactor tv. Good luck.

Luke Robins

My favourite memory of Darren is his goal against Brighton in his last game for Yeovil when we were a goal down. Darren shot from the edge of the penalty area and it went into the net in front of the home end. Also Darren coming on as a substitute in Terry Skiverton's Testimonial was very special. All the best Darren for the future. You are a true Yeovil legend.

Callum Helmer

Darren, you are an inspiration to anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting you. Your grit and sheer determination in everything you do is what will carry you forward in the next stage of your life. Thank you for all the memories on and off the pitch, especially your work with the YFC Centre of Excellence lads. If they have half your personality they will go far! Good luck in all you do.

The Rickard family

Thanks Darren for being a great Yeovil Town player and inspiration. Good Luck for the future.

Ben Dowell

Darren, I want to take this opportunity of wishing you and the family all the best for the future. You are nothing but a great guy. When Phil Jevons joined the Town you made a point of phoning me and telling me to bring my two young children, Shaney and Alfie up to your house to meet him and have their photo's taken with Phil and yourself. To this day those photo's are still in the childrens' bedrooms. The team misses you with your 100% commitment in every game and we have not as yet in my opinion replaced you with a like for like player. All the best Darren.

Martin, Shaney and Alfie Stevens-Neale

Good luck for today Darren you truly deserve it. You're one of the best players to have ever worn the green and white of Yeovil and it's fitting that a side of the calibre of Manchester United is coming down to honour you. I hope you have a fantastic day.

Jonathan Hopper

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YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

SHIRTS: Green and White Hoops with Black Trim

SHORTS: White with Green and Black Trim

SOCKS: White with Green and Black Trim

MANAGER

Terry **SKIVERTON**

Craig **ALCOCK**
Luke **AYLING**
Rhys **BAGGRIDGE**
Dean **BOWDITCH**
Rob **CLOWES**
Luke **FREEMAN**
Paul **HUNTINGTON**
Danny **HUTCHINS**
Nathan **JONES**
Jean-Paul **KALALA**
Richard **MARTIN**
Ben **ROBERTS**
Terry **SKIVERTON**
Nathan **SMITH**
Stefan **STAM**
Ed **UPSON**
Darren **WAY**
Andrew **WELSH**
Andrew **WILLIAMS**
Sam **WILLIAMS**



MANCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

SHIRTS: Red with White Trim

SHORTS: Black with White Trim

SOCKS: Black and Red with White Trim

MANAGER

Ole Gunnar **SOLSKJAER**

Nicholas **AJOSE**
Robert **BRADY**
James **CHESTER**
Larnell **COLE**
Conor **DEVLIN**
Joe **DUDGEON**
Magnus **EIKREM**
Ezekiel **FRYERS**
Oliver **GILL**
Sam **JOHNSTONE**
William **KEANE**
Joshua **KING**
Jesse **LINGARD**
Ravel **MORRISON**
Oliver **NORWOOD**
Rodrigo **POSSEBON**
Cameron **STEWART**
Ryan **TUNNICLIFFE**
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