



What we feature:
 The latest Apprentice News
 Apprentice Success Stories
 Apprentice Well Being
 Exit and Progression Information
 The LFE shop (with the latest Puma Equipment)
 Feedback Reports
 Information about the ASE programme
 Online Questionnaires

LFE's website is regularly updated with the latest news and continues to expand with new sections added. The conception of the Virtual Learning Environment will enhance the online experience for all Apprentices.



FEEDBACK IS ESSENTIAL TO LFE'S COMMITMENT TO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND APPRENTICES' VIEWS ARE ESSENTIAL TO HELP LFE IMPROVE THE OVERALL APPRENTICE EXPERIENCE.

log on today at

www.lfe.org.uk



Coming Soon:
Apprentice Diaries
The Treatment Table
 The Virtual Learning Environment
Club Staff Download page
College Staff Download page
 The introduction of Online questionnaires allows all Apprentices to log on and complete questionnaires along with the chance to win Puma Equipment.



touchline

News from League Football Education



Countdown to Kick Off!
 Get kitted out for the new campaign
 See page 11

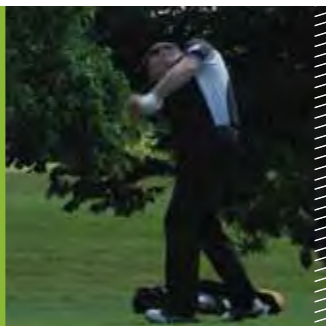


LFE is a partnership between The Football League and The Professional Footballers' Association.

LFE technical partner **PUMA**



news



It's your newsletter

**Got a story?
Want to share
news with other
LFE partners?**

This is your newsletter and we welcome any contributions from all Apprentices, coaches, clubs, parents and partners. If you have a story, email ssutcliffe@lfe.org.uk



First Framework

Congratulations must go out to Cheltenham Town's Willem Puddy who recently became the first apprentice of the 2005 cohort to complete the full ASE Framework. Willem established himself as a first team squad member last season and LFE would like to extend its best wishes to him for the forthcoming campaign.



Fore!

LFE recently supported the PFA Centenary Charity appeal by entering a team in the golf day at the Belfry.

The team containing Alan Sykes, Pat Lally, Rob Hezel and Ex Watford Star Alec Chamberlain finished in a creditable third position. Despite some good performances around the Ryder Cup venue none of the team are likely to figure in Nick Faldo's plans for 2008!

Meanwhile Rob Hezel triumphed in the annual LFE staff golf competition with a gross 72 score, accumulating 40 stableford points. Alan Sykes begrudgingly gave up the trophy he won in the inaugural competition of 2006 and Rob was only too keen to remind him of the old adage "form is temporary but class is permanent".

Dan hits the Airwaves

LFE sources have confirmed that it was a nerve racking Dan Jolley (LFE's Project Manager) that called in to Mark Clemmits' Radio Five Live show to contribute to the build up for the Champions League final.



How Dan could look as Smashie with Nicey! Not arf!

footballing careers by attending the LFE Assessment Trials in association with The PFA and footballcv.com

To listen to the full radio feature visit www.lfe.org.uk
A full report on the Assessment Trials can be found on pages 7&8.



Your Views

LFE is committed to quality improvement and the collection of feedback from stake holders is an essential element of this. LFE aims to improve the Apprentice experience and Apprentice achievement rates and believes that continuing to seek feedback from stakeholders and acting on it assists in this aim. LFE appreciates all responses received to its questionnaires.

Please look out for our latest questionnaires at www.lfe.org.uk for your chance to WIN a whole host of goodies in one of our prize draws.



Farewell Dave

LFE bade farewell to Dave Roe in June. Dave has worked for LFE since its inception and has been fundamental in organising sub-contracted provision, co-ordinating communication activity and in creating the IT strategy. Dave's contribution has been invaluable in developing LFE and we were all sad to see him move on to pastures new. Good luck Dave (we feel sure you will be reading touchline somewhere).



BEFORE



AFTER

"Today's Apprentices, tomorrow's Coaches"

Jim Hicks Head of The PFA Coaching Department.



The Professional Footballers Associations' Coaching Department service Coach Education for the professional game. This includes the integral role of administering,

delivering and monitoring the 1st 4Sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football to Apprentices undertaking the ASE Programme.

In partnership with LFE, The PFA are committed to driving the ASE programme onwards and upwards making it more successful than ever before. In Season 2005/2006 we achieved a 58% success rate for all Apprentices who undertook the Level 2 Coaching qualification. Although the statistics have not yet been finalised we are confident we have exceeded this achievement rate during the 2006/2007 season.

Everyone working at the PFA is aware of the pressure and demands placed on young Apprentices to become professional footballers. Consequently, we strive to provide a support structure that gives direction and assistance to the Apprentices in their efforts to gain their Certificate in Coaching Football qualification.

The Coaching Certificate gives Apprentices the opportunity to achieve a recognised qualification that can allow them another route into football should they not be

offered a professional contract or when their playing career comes to an end.

Today's Apprentices are potentially tomorrow's Coaches and Managers. The provision of the Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football Award is, in many cases, an Apprentices first introduction to becoming a coach in their own right. It is heartening to see the quality and potential we frequently observe from Apprentices. With the continued support and cooperation we receive from the Clubs, together with the positive response from the Apprentices we are confident that the future of coaching in this country will continue to evolve and blossom.

The Professional Footballers Association is committed in its quest to drive coaching forward in this country by providing the means and the knowledge to Apprentices, and to current and ex-Professionals to grasp the opportunities available.



"The coaching qualification had a number of major plus points. The sessions were varied and fun, the PFA coach was excellent taking us through the course and on achieving the qualification I have now got the option to use it to as a secondary career pathway in football." Ian Nimmo, ex-Ipswich Town



Jamie Chandler, Sunderland and England Youth International

"I thoroughly enjoyed the course. Not only did it enable me to achieve a meaningful qualification, I felt it increased my knowledge and understanding of the game. It gave me a greater appreciation of the coach's role and it certainly made me analyse my own game more thoughtfully"



Check out www.lfe.org.uk and keep updated on the latest news, great offers, the new blog feature and soon you'll be able to give us your feedback

Provider of the Future!

LFE intend to employ technology to improve the learner experience and operate more effectively in the future.

A recently published strategy and action plan will see a wide range of advances implemented over the coming months. LFE are leading the way in adopting technology and fast becoming a benchmark for other work based learning providers in this area.

Developments will include:

- Collection of Review information on-line
- Online ILP's
- Qualification Tracking and Monitoring
- On-line learning and support materials
- On-line staff development activity
- In-house IT infrastructure development

Whilst the VLE is being developed we haven't forgotten the web site. Why not check out the changes at www.lfe.org.uk and keep updated on the latest news, look out for great offers on Puma boots through the on-line shop, read how other apprentices are progressing with the new blog feature and soon you'll be able to give us feedback on news items on line and see your comments published (assuming they are printable!).

As always if you would like to give us feedback or have any ideas on further developments then please get in touch.

Assessment Trials prove resounding success

A scorching evening at Bisham Abbey ushered in the inaugural LFE Assessment Trials in association with The PFA and footballcv.com. The event proved the perfect opening to three highly professional and successful regional trials that moved onto Rushden and Diamonds FC and finally to Northwich Victoria FC over the following days.

Across the three events a total of 189 players were given the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of more than 90 representatives from Clubs and elite level sporting Universities. LFE specifically set out to attract a wide range of representatives to ensure as many players as possible continued their football careers in some form. This intention was realised with representation from Premier League Clubs in England and Scotland right the way through to Southern Football League Division 1 South and West.

The trials also attracted an international presence in the form of representation from Germany's Bundesliga and the USA's United Soccer League (USL).

Of the 189 players that attended over 80 had official interest in them registered by the representatives that watched them. Through LFE's tracking and monitoring programme, which will be conducted in late July, the true value of these trials in securing released Apprentices professional or semi-professional football either in the UK or abroad will be revealed.

The statistics of attendance illustrate the success of the events but the response from all those involved also pay overwhelming testimony to the professional organisation and value of the events.



"Good organisation, good set up, an excellent chance for the boys to shine"

Mr Forsyth, Parent
Rushden and Diamonds FC Trials

"Very professional approach today, players given every opportunity to show ability"

Leeds Metropolitan University,
Northwich Victoria FC Trials



"I enjoyed the trials they were well organised"

Tom Blackler, Burnley FC,
Rushden and Diamonds FC Trials



A Shared Vision

LFE and The PFA are determined to continue the good work and further expand Club representative attendance from all levels of football throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. LFE are also in talks to pave the way for professional Clubs from Asia to attend.

It should not be forgotten that these trials showcase the very best young talent nurtured in England and Wales not to have been offered Professional contracts. Through the growth of the Assessment Trials LFE and The PFA are committed to ensuring that this talent has the best opportunity to be realised.

Finally, LFE would like to thank our technical partner PUMA for supplying the kits, Mitre for supplying the footballs and Powerade for supplying the player refreshments as well as Radio Five Live and BBC Radio London for recognising the importance of the trials and running features on them.



"All three events were very well organised and there was no shortage of skill on show"

Brian Prandle,
Wrexham AFC Chief Scout,
Northwich Victoria FC Trials



Five star Brighton lead the way!

Brighton & Hove Albion have every reason to rejoice; the five Apprentices who started the ASE programme in the summer of 2005 are all awaiting certification to mark full ASE framework achievement.

In addition the club have signed quartet Chris Winterton, Lloyd Skinner, Sam Gargan and Sonny Cobbs on Professional contracts with only James Martin missing out.

Youth Team skipper Sonny Cobbs believes that ASE has allowed him and his peers to meet all their football and educational aspirations. "Being at the club on an Apprenticeship has helped me and the other lads so much. I think a big thanks must go to all the coaching staff at the club for their help over the last two years. I've certainly improved as a player and the experiences I've had at the club have been brilliant allowing myself and all the other lads to develop on and off the park"

While the objective of any Apprentice is to develop into a top class Professional Footballer - ASE also provides Apprentices with the opportunity of obtaining valuable educational qualifications that can be used in the future. Cobbs fully believes that this has its merits and states: "Alan Sanders (Principle of

Education) and the coaching staff have continuously motivated us to ensure we continued with our education. The education side of the programme is crucial because it gives you something to fall back on if you don't make it as a professional. Additionally of course it carries through so even if you retire from the game at 35 you still have some sort of educational grounding to put on your CV for later in life."

Sanders is fully committed to all aspects of ASE and identifies with LFE's philosophy of "Education Creates Winners" when he states: "Our stance as a club is that the football and education aspects of ASE are as important as each other. We try to impress this viewpoint to all our Apprentices to ensure that they develop as people and

that we as a club produce well-balanced individuals who are skilled in their football but also academically. In that way we can ensure that our Apprentices are prepared for the future.

This view is further reinforced by Youth Team Manager and Centre of Excellence Manager Vic Bragg who states: "It is a great achievement to get all of our Apprentices through a challenging framework and at the same time produce four players who have impressed the gaffer sufficiently enough to be offered professional contracts. I can't praise the lads enough for their hard work and dedication throughout the season in all aspects of their programme. The Football and Education programme at this club work in tandem and I am delighted with the results from last season."



Chris Winterton



Lloyd Skinner



Sam Gargan



Sonny Cobbs

Meet John Barton Regional Officer

As a Regional Officer for LFE John has responsibility for ten clubs covering the East and West Midlands and the Potteries.



Born in Great Barr, Birmingham on October 24th 1953, John grew up an avid Aston Villa fan. Like many youngsters living in the West Midlands John had early ambitions to become a footballer and his early hero was none other than the 'Genius' George Best.

His childhood dreams were fulfilled when in the winter of 1978 Everton paid a then Non League Record fee of £30,000 to take John to Goodison from Worcester City. Right full back John made 79 appearances for the Toffee Men between 1978 - 1982 before eventually losing his place to future England International Gary Stevens.

Career highlights
John pinpoints his debut for Everton against Bolton and the experience of playing European football as career highlights. (pictured right - John in action vs Feyenoord in the 1979/80 UEFA Cup). John's rise to prominence from Non League Worcester although commonplace in the 80's is certainly a feat that is unlikely to be repeated in the modern era.

John's stint on Merseyside came to an end in 1982 when he joined John Newman's Derby County on Transfer deadline day. Now 29 Barton realised that the time was right to starting planning for a life away from

the game. He quickly identified teaching as his next vocation and while at the Baseball ground he began retraining for a secondary career. Two years and sixty games later, John left Derby County to take up a teaching position at Burton-on-Trent College.

He continued his involvement in the game by taking the role of Assistant Player Manager at conference side Kidderminster Harriers



"Make sure you give your Apprenticeship 100% commitment if you don't get offered a pro contract. Then at least you know you gave everything."

(starring in the 1987 trophy final ironically vs Burton) before latterly Managing both Burton Albion and Worcester City.

Return to Football
Eager to rejoin the football ranks John joined LFE last October after working in Further Education for 23 years. In his role as a Regional Officer, John mentors and supports Apprentices towards successful framework completion and believes that education has a key part to play in ensuring that the Professionals of tomorrow are well rounded individuals.

"Education is vitally important in today's society; it not only offers training and employment opportunities but it also helps foster the personal development of individuals and introduces them to new ideas and concepts"

Away from Football John is happily married to Sue and has two children. He enjoys watching the best of any sport and has a penchant for spending his time in sunny travel locations around the globe.

John's advice to all current and future Apprentice Footballers is to, "Always give your all, and make the most of the opportunities you have been given, whether on or off the park."

Happy to be a Hatter

Ed Asafu-Adjaye joined Luton Town as a 16 year old Apprentice in the summer of 2005. A Reserve team regular last season, he is determined to set his sights high for the forthcoming campaign. Touchline caught up with Ed for his insight into his time as an Apprentice and to look at the challenges ahead.

"My time as Apprentice has served me well. From a Football point of view the days are quite long, you go out training but then beyond that there's plenty of time to put other sessions in and work on different things that you want to improve. When you train with the first team you can see the extra quality that the players around you possess so to try and reach that level I thought it was important to do the extra gym work and extra ball work. You get one chance at this so it's important you make the most of the time while you've got it."

Each Apprentice undertaking ASE completes a framework of educational qualifications that sits alongside the football development programme. "Educationally I've worked hard. I must have met with LFE's Regional Officer Ian Smithson every six weeks or so last season. We'd discuss my progress on the NVQ, the BTEC and on the Coaching Certificate and he'd make sure I was up to



Picture courtesy of The Luton News

date in each element and help me with any problems if I had any. The BTEC was hard in terms of the volume of work to get through but thankfully I passed that. I actually enjoyed some aspects of the NVQ. Things like goal setting and establishing new goals really helped me drive myself forward in both my football and education."

As well as developing educationally Ed has found that his time on ASE has prepared him for the personal and lifestyle changes needed to progress in the professional game. "My time as an Apprentice was good because it allowed me to be in and around

senior professionals and from a personal point that's helped me to mature. I realised quickly that I had to be disciplined and well organised if I wanted to become a professional and do well educationally."

On the fringes of the first team last season and an unused sub on a number of occasions Ed is keen to make his mark and show what he can do in League One. Now fully recovered from an end of season tournament held in Stuttgart (Luton lost narrowly to Dutch outfit Den Haag in the Quarter Finals) Ed can't wait to get going: "I can't wait for next season. I'm determined to try and show the gaffer I'm good enough to be in his plans this season whether that's at Full Back or at Centre Half. I was an unused sub a few times last season and it's frustrating because as a player you're itching to be out on the pitch. I'm just hoping that I can do well in the pre-season games and the gaffer likes what he sees."

"My time as an Apprentice was good - it allowed me to be around senior professionals and that's helped me to mature."

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get kitted out

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Replace worn out boots with a new pair or simply stock up on your leisure wear and get a 30% discount by shopping through LFE.

Also you can now show the world (or maybe just impress the girls!) that you're an apprentice footballer with the limited edition PUMA Apprentice 07 fashion t-shirt. Only 200 will ever be made so order now to avoid disappointment.

Why not combine your order and save on postage and packing? All orders over £100 feature free p&p.

Log on, choose your items and when you get to the checkout enter the discount code that your regional officer will provide you with to receive your 30% discount.

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