



touchline

News from League Football Education

News p2 PFA Coaching p4 Progression 2009 p6 & 7 Apprentice Focus p8 & 9 LFE Blogs p11



BENTLEY WEARS THE VI.178 SPEED LEGS

UNTIL THEN



VI.08. THE SPEED BOOT



pumafootball.com



Progression 2009

Bigger and better than ever



GRADE 2



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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



LFE Technical Partner



Europe & Wales Investing in your Future

Funded by:



Leading learning and skills

news

Tracking and Monitoring Winner

Each year LFE carry out a tracking and monitoring programme and this year the questionnaires that were completed online were automatically entered into a free prize draw to win a Marc Ecko watch.

Congratulations go to Matthew Paterson from Southampton as the Prize Draw winner! The young striker was awarded a professional contract at the end of his Apprenticeship in the summer of 2008 and has featured in the Saints senior squad numerous times this season.



The 2009 Football League Awards

The annual Football League Awards will once again be taking place on Sunday 29th March 2009 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane.

Nominations for the Apprentice of the Year categories have now been shortlisted for consideration by a panel of judges and the winners will be announced at the gala dinner in London.

The Apprentice of the Year Awards celebrate the achievements of Apprentices and provide an opportunity to showcase young talent. The Awards recognise the nominee's commitment, hard work and dedication to their Apprenticeship both on and off the field.

The 2009 nominees are:

Wickes Young Apprentice Award - Championship
Aaron Morris – Cardiff City
Curtis Wynter – Coventry City
Sean Scannell – Crystal Palace
Oscar Gobern – Southampton
Ross Jenkins – Watford
John Dunleavy – Wolverhampton Wanderers

Nivea for Men Apprentice Award – League One

Tom Aldred – Carlisle United
Andrew Milne – Leeds United
Luke O'Neill – Leicester City
Harry Baker – Leyton Orient
Daniel Powell – MK Dons
Stuart O'Keefe – Southend United
Sean Morrison – Swindon Town

Nivea for Men Apprentice Award – League Two

Robin Nicholls – Brentford
George Bowyer – Rochdale
Matthew Phillips – Wycombe Wanderers



Puma Youth Alliance Update



As we cross the halfway point in the season the battle is well underway for the regional Conference League titles in the Puma Youth Alliance.

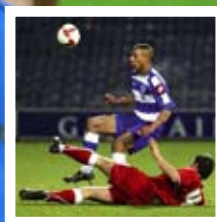
In the South West Conference Swindon Town remain 6 points clear of second placed Plymouth, but with two games in hand Argyle will be hoping to catch and pass the current League leaders and retain their title for the second season running.

Rushden & Diamonds are currently sitting pretty at the top of the South East Conference, but

former League champions Queens Park Rangers closing in the Diamonds face a tough battle for the top spot.

Last years League and Cup double winners Hull City currently sit in third position but with games in hand the Tigers are in control of their own destiny.

In the North West Conference the Clarets have been left chasing Carlisle Utd and Wrexham as they battle for the title. With a goal scoring average that is better than 3 goals a game the Clarets will be hoping that their firepower will see them triumph come the end of the season.



LFE in Europe

LFE is offering a unique and exciting opportunity for 3 Clubs this summer. Having successfully applied for funding from the Leonardo Da Vinci Mobility Programme LFE can now finance three youth teams to visit Sweden on a Pre-Season Tour. The opportunities available are:

- Two youth teams to participate in a tournament in Ostersund with top level teams from across Sweden and the rest of Europe for a total of two working weeks.

- One youth team to spend two weeks with GIF Sundsvall, participating in the daily life of the club, training and playing competitive games.

These football activities will be complimented with a series of social and cultural activities to enhance the experience. For further information on the programme, application requirements and club selection criteria please visit : www.lfe.org.uk/leonardo.

National Apprenticeship Week

On February 23rd-27th England's second annual National Apprenticeship Week will be held. Co-ordinated by the Learning and Skills Council the week provides the opportunity to celebrate achievements, raise the profile of apprentices and also remind employers of the vital role apprentices play in industry. LFE fully intend to support The LSC in this initiative by showcasing the successes of our Apprentices at Football League Clubs and underlining the benefits of the Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence.

Funded by:



Leading learning and skills

SkillsActive

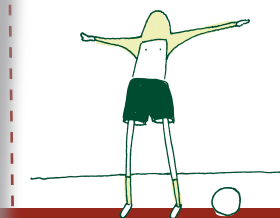
Shaping Skills for the Future

LFE Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Gathering Pace

The continued roll out of the LFE VLE is gathering pace with over 50% of clubs, education providers and apprentices accessing the system to complete apprentice progress reviews. The next phase of the implementation plan will see a further 20 – 30 clubs adopting the system with the goal of all clubs using the system by the end of the academic a year still the main target.

Further enhancements to the system will see the piloting of e-learning materials supporting the Psychology Unit of the NVQ taking place from early in the New Year.



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

Never too young to learn says The PFA's Geoff Lomax

As The PFA's Regional Coach in the North West, I travel across the region to deliver the Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football to a range of individuals from ex pro's to Apprentices & Professionals of clubs in all divisions.

It would be fair to say that all the clubs and players I deal with are both supportive and switched on to the benefits of the qualification, however one Club and Apprentice has to be applauded for their efforts over the last two years.

A 92% success rate on the L2 qualification during the last two seasons is testament to the hard work of all the Apprentices and Coaching staff at Tranmere Rovers. Yet one particular Apprentice, now turned professional, stood out from the crowd and really impressed me, namely Craig Curran.

Craig was really keen on the Level 2 course, always asking questions about coaching and the game in general. Needless to say he passed with flying colours in spite of having to cope with the demands of making his first team debut while taking the qualification.

All the emotions and expectations which surrounded him during that time could have weighed heavily on his shoulders and the coaching course could easily have been neglected, but no, he still attended the course, and was still as enthusiastic as ever when it came to his Final Assessment.

As Craig states; "It was a learning curve and if it could help me succeed and progress further in my career then I needed to ask questions to better understand it. I also found that the course helped me appreciate what the coach was trying to do or get me to do on the training pitch".

Craig's interest went further. On hearing that a number of senior Professionals at the club were going to attend a UEFA B course with The PFA he was soon asking if he could join in.

Most young player's would have enough to contend with trying to establish themselves in the first team squad but as Craig says; "I saw this as the next step, I wanted to know what the manager would be asking of me when I was training with the 1st team and this gave me a great vision of what's expected".

The course is still on going, Craig is still playing and asking questions and the next generation of Apprentices have just passed their Level 2 coaching badge.

At Tranmere Rovers it really does seem that it's 'never too young to learn'.



Supporting our Charity Partners



During the 2008 – 09 season LFE has been pleased to highlight the work of charity partners Boots for Africa, CLIC Sargent, Kick it Out and The Sporting Chance Clinic.

Phase one was the production of the ASE Activity pack which celebrated the activities of these organisations and was launched to coincide with Kick it Out's 'Weeks of Action'.

The pack has been utilised by a number of clubs which has seen Apprentices involving in themselves in equality presentations, coaching sessions, school visits and the donation of used football boots.

Keen to ensure that we practice what we preach LFE Staff have also been eager participants in engaging with

Boots for Africa, CLIC Sargent, Kick it Out and The Sporting Chance Clinic.

From Santa Dashes to 24 Hour challenges and boot donations, LFE will continue to support the ethos of all our charity partners and hope that all clubs participating in ASE will be able to integrate these worthwhile activities into their schedules.

**PRO
GRES
SION
2009**

Progression 2009

Progression is back for 2009 and it's bigger and better than ever!



The Two Events



Progression 2009

The Northern Event

25th/26th March 2009

The Sheffield Arena

Sheffield

The Northern event is also being held in conjunction with Careers in Sport and Leisure (CSL) which also means double the exhibitors for you to meet. If that's not enough The Royal Marines have got an even more spectacular show planned and there will also be a few surprise visits from personalities across the whole of the sporting world.

LFE will be working with you and your Club to make sure you can register and attend the event but make sure you make the most of it by visiting www.progression09.com to see what it's all about.



Progression 2009

The Southern Event

9th April 2009

The Madejski Stadium

Reading



It only seems like yesterday when a spring Mancunian day last March greeted the inaugural Progression08 careers event held at the City of Manchester Stadium.

Highlights included Royal Marines demonstrations of abseiling and one to one combat, Olympic Silver medallist Darren Campbell lecturing on the move from aspiring footballer to Olympian and England star David Bentley dropping in to lend his support and getting more than a passing interest from the girls on the First Choice holiday stand!

In the midst of this activity though, Apprentice footballers and Professional Rugby players alike made important links with employers and education & training providers gaining a valuable insight into future career opportunities.

Many are reaping the rewards of the Progression Partnerships LFE and its support partners formed through this first event. Over ten ex-apprentices

are well on their way to becoming qualified gym instructors employed by Fitness First having undertaken a Gym Instructor qualification with YMCAfit.

Former Apprentices James Hoad ex-Watford and Alex Jennings ex-Leyton Orient have found themselves hurtling down the ice, racing around the cycling velodrome or diving to save Hockey balls rather than footballs having been identified as potential Olympic medallists by the English Institute of Sport as part of the Pitch2Podium initiative.

Others like Rhys Darg, previously of West Brom and Toby Davis, ex-Plymouth Argyle have been playing in Sweden as a result of attending LFE's Assessment trials and joining the European Mobility Programme.

That's not to mention the large contingent of Apprentices that have moved into Higher and Further Education in the UK and the USA, most continuing their football at

Many are reaping the rewards of the Progression Partnerships LFE and its support partners

a good standard while gaining an academic education at the same time.

With many of last years Apprentices inspired by what they saw and heard at Progression08, this year's events promise to be bigger and better as we continue to enhance our support programme for all Apprentices in professional football looking at alternative or secondary careers following their Apprenticeship programme.

For information on how you could be part of these programmes and much more, please visit www.progression09.com





Trio make waves on south coast



Five of the six 2nd Year Apprentices last term earned professional deals at St Mary's and they will be keen to emulate a long list of former Saints youth team graduates that include Alan Shearer, Jeff Kenna, Matt Le Tissier, Wayne Bridge and more recently Theo Walcott and Gareth Bale.

Of the current crop, the Saints management has already blooded three of the five in the Championship this season with Matthew Paterson, Joseph Mills and Jaime White all making their debuts within a month of each other.

All three have made great strides in their development as players this term with White enjoying a loan spell at Shrewsbury Town prior to Christmas, while his peers were often on first team duty.

Full-back Mills is an England youth international and was regularly involved with the first team during the early months of the season after making his league debut against Barnsley, while Scottish striker Paterson has made a number of appearances since making his league debut against Norwich City

While Southampton might not be enjoying the most successful of campaigns in the Championship no one could accuse them of not giving youth a chance.

"The only way to succeed as a footballer or for that matter any profession is to work hard"

and made a name for himself when he was unfortunately sent off for an over enthusiastic challenge on Nemanja Vidic in last months FA Cup tie against Manchester Utd.

Both Mills and Paterson are keen for their progression to continue and believe that their Apprenticeship has served them well as they look to embed themselves in the Saints starting eleven.

Mills states: "My Apprenticeship provided me with a chance to establish myself at the club and develop both on and off the pitch. The football has gone brilliantly but other things I learnt both

academically and from a personal development perspective means that I feel in a good position to be mature enough to make the most of the opportunity I've got here."

Paterson reiterates his team-mates comments saying:

"My time at the club has been great from day one but it has been a steep learning curve coupled with hard work. The only way to succeed as a footballer, or for that matter any profession, is to work hard. As an Apprentice that ethos is instilled and it is something I know I must carry forward if I want to continue to catch the Manager's eye."

Academy Manager, Matt Crocker believes that the club's ethos will mean that young players will always be given an opportunity;

"At Southampton our success is based on hard work both on and off the field. Players are instantly rewarded if they are achieving a high level of performance and the philosophy of 'if you are good enough you are old enough' is very true at our club. The blend of football and education is vital and all players are told from day one that maximum effort is required in both disciplines to achieve success at our club."



"My Apprenticeship provided me with a chance to establish myself at the club"



LFE Blogger Tom Aldred



Carlisle United's Tom Aldred is the newest recruit to LFE's Blog Online. Now in his second year with the club, the promising central defender was handed the youth team captaincy this season and has been a sound performer in both Youth and Reserve teams.

At the end of November he was thrilled to receive the news that he had been selected to join the Scotland U19 squad at Hampden Park for a two-day training camp in mid-December.

After receiving the call-up Tom thought things couldn't get much better, but the week before he left for Scotland, Carlisle's newly appointed Manager Greg Abbott handed Tom and fellow team-mate Jonny Blake professional contracts that will see them with United until the summer of 2010.

Tom will be writing for LFE's online blogs for the remainder of this season, and following the training camp at Hampden, we can now look forward to hearing about his experiences with the Youth and Reserve teams as well as his full debut for the First team squad....



THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Set up in 2006 to provide clubs with an opportunity to invest in the delivery and support of the ASE programme the fund has once again been in operation this season.

With the fund totalling £250,000 this season, 18 clubs have been quick to draw down funding. Expenditure has included outward bound days, equipment such as laptops, software to enhance training and learning, and one club using their allocation towards the purchase of a new club minibus.

The deadline for the Development Fund for the 2008 – 09 season will be 31st May 2009 so please ensure that you submit your applications before this date to maximise the funding available.

If you need any further help or advice in relation to the Development Fund or have any ideas on how the scheme could be developed in future years please do not hesitate to contact Alan Sykes on 0870 458 9250 or e-mail : asykes@lfe.org.uk



EXTRACT FROM THE BLOG

By Tom Aldred

"We played Crewe in the third round of the FA Youth Cup and we were all up for it. It was reminiscent of last year and we all wanted to get through to the fourth round and get a big tie. Unfortunately we were 1 - 0 down within 20 minutes and it became very difficult.

We conceded another couple of goals and I suppose you can say that they scored their second when we were pressing on. We were all disappointed but there is still plenty to play for with us going well in the League and

Alliance Cup. We've just got to put the Crewe game behind us and move on.

The weekend game was against Rochdale at Gillford Park. The pitch was very spongy and by the end of the game it was just a mud bath! We did alright though, scoring eight goals, and some of them were real beauties. With Burnley missing a game the result meant that we will keep top position throughout the Christmas period, so that's something very positive to go away with".



Jack of all trades



After two years as an Apprentice at Lincoln City, midfielder Jack McGovern was given the news that all players dread when he was told that he was to be released by the club at the end of the 2007 – 08 season.

Despite the obvious disappointment, the news of his release put things into sharp focus and he soon started planning for a secondary career away from football.

Thinking about his options Jack recalled the exposure he'd had to the plumbing and heating industry via a friend of the family and soon decided that this would be his route away from football.

Three weeks after the expiry of his contract with the Red Imps, Jack was heading in a new direction via an Apprenticeship with Aaron Services, a company that has offices across the East of England and specialises in the installation of new heating systems and the servicing and maintenance of systems in around 50,000 homes throughout the East Midlands, Lincolnshire and East Anglia.

Now well into a programme that will see him become a fully qualified Gas Heating Engineer, Jack combines his work placement with Aaron Services with day release attendance at Lincoln

College where he undertakes further theoretical and workshop learning in topics such as Key plumbing principles, Common plumbing processes, cold water systems and Electrical Supply and Earth Continuity.

Jack states; "While I love football it became apparent that I needed to make some decisions about a future away from the game. I've always been a hands on type of person so this opportunity was one I jumped at. I'll now hopefully come away with new qualifications that will set me up as a Gas Heating Engineer.

It feels like I've landed on my feet with this opportunity but I would urge all Apprentices at Football Clubs to start thinking about the 'what to do next' question just in case".



"It feels like I've landed on my feet with this opportunity"

Bury College in Partnership

with Bury, Oldham Athletic and Rochdale Football Clubs



Staff at Bury College have been kept busy this year by the arrival of Oldham Athletic and Rochdale's Apprentices who have joined Bury's Apprentices at the college for the delivery of their Technical Certificate.

With players undertaking BTEC National Certificate, Award and First Diploma qualifications the college have ensured that delivery and timetabling is flexible to the needs of Clubs and Apprentices.

The college which is a stones throw from Bury's Gigg Lane ground is visited by Apprentices from the three clubs for a full days tuition and lecturing on Mondays' and Thursdays while college staff then visit all three clubs to deliver research workshops over three hour blocks on a separate designated day.

The research workshops have proved particularly popular with the three clubs. Rochdale's Head of Youth, Chris Beech states: "The delivery at the college and our study support centre works well and engages our Apprentices, they are able to research their assignments and engage in group discussions and workshops which enhances the learning process"

Course leader Rehan Hamid is keen to focus on the service the college provides:

"Bury College provides an excellent teaching and learning environment for the Apprentices of Oldham, Bury and Rochdale. The students benefit from a well equipped massage studio, sports hall, fitness studios and specialist sports staff who work hard with all the students.



The student's time at Bury College is important as it teaches the young footballers different elements and techniques. They benefit from a programme of delivery designed to match their interests with units including sports injuries, coaching, and nutrition.

We are proud to maintain an excellent relationship with the clubs and LFE and the support that we get from them is something that we value. We will continue to provide an excellent learning environment for all students and give them an experience that they will cherish for the rest of their lives."



Meet Paul Urwin



Born in Redcar near Middlesborough Paul began his early school life at Westfield School, and went on to successfully complete his O Levels (now GCSE's) and A Levels. Continuing his education Paul moved onto Hull University and gained a 2:1 classification on a degree in English and American Literature.

With a keen interest in sport and coming from a sporting background, Paul decided to extend his training and completed his Physical Education Teacher Training qualification at Leeds Carnegie. Moving back to his old comprehensive school in Redcar he then spent his next few years concentrating on his role as a PE teacher.

After a number of years at Westfield Paul moved into Further Education working at Longlands College. It was through this role that he began to develop his career, working alongside his headmaster they identified that there was a gap in the market for those interested in pursuing a career within the Leisure

Industry and as a result Paul became part of a team of people that included representatives from the exam board Edexcel that developed the first training course in Sport and Recreation - Leisure Management.

Paul then went on to work with Harold Shepherdson (former England Assistant manager) to provide the first course in the country developed specifically for young professional footballers which combined education with football development. Famous faces that participated on the very first course were Tony Mowbray, Mark Proctor and Craig Johnson.

This was beginnings of his involvement with the delivery of courses in the Professional game and he was soon engaging with Micky Burns (Then PFA Education Officer) and Pat Lally to deliver courses on Football's Youth Training Scheme.

Always ambitious Paul progressed through the ranks of the teaching profession and eventually became Vice Principle of Middlesborough College a position he held for over 15 years before joining LFE.

Paul now combines his role as LFE's Business Development Manager with that of a Regional Officer and is responsible for 4

clubs across the North of England. Alongside challenges undertaking a regional role Paul is tasked with the development of new educational programmes and work on key skills and additional learning support elements that compliment the ASE programme.

However the most rewarding part of his role remains his interaction with apprentices and club staff. Involved in the education of footballers for a number of years he is keen to remind players of the benefits of completing the ASE programme and believes that the key to success is "a positive attitude coupled with 110% effort".

Away from his job Paul is a devoted family man and a lifelong supporter of Middlesborough Football Club. A family orientated man Paul cites his proudest moment as seeing both his son and daughter graduate from University. He continues to participate in a variety of sports, in particular Swimming where he has represented Great Britain in European competition over the last 5 years in the Masters Swimming team. Currently ranked in the UK top ten for British Masters Swimmers in his favoured 1500m Freestyle event Paul will be competing in the Great North Swim, across Windermere in the Lake District later this year.



Coming to the end of your professional sports career?
Wondering how you might complement a professional sports career?

Sign for another winning team...



Find your new career at Progression09 - The Careers Events



The Northern Event:
The Sheffield Arena - March 25th/26th.



The Southern Event:
The Madejski Stadium, Reading - 9th April.

Progression09 - The Careers Events will put you in front of organisations who understand the skills you have acquired in your sporting life and who are actively seeking to bring those skills into their own winning teams, whether this is in education or employment.

Progression09 - The Careers Events are **the** events staged exclusively for elite sports people.

Designed by ICG www.icgonline.co.uk ©2008 League Football Education



Be part of it - visit
www.Progression09.com
for more information and to register

