

Training

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Swindon
Town



Apprentice of the Month

Congratulations go to Charlie Mann of Crystal Palace as February 2010 Apprentice of the Month.

As a first year Apprentice, goalkeeper Charlie has been an instrumental part of the Youth team in between the sticks, featuring in all Academy matches as well as Reserves games. The young keeper has also made appearances for the first team,

more recently against Wolverhampton Wanderers in the FA Cup 4th round replay live on ITV.

Charlie has maintained progress with the educational elements of the Apprenticeship, undertaking additional units to complete the National Diploma and working ahead of schedule on the NVQ log book. He has been an excellent Apprentice all round, operating in such a high pressure position as a young goalkeeper.



Previous Apprentice of the month winners for the 2009-10 season are:



January
Callum Wilson
Coventry City



December
Danny Taberner
Rochdale



November
Lee Hodson
Watford



October
Edward Adjei
Peterborough United



September
Ashley Palmer
Scunthorpe United



Got a story? Want to share news with other LFE partners?
email: ssutcliffe@lfe.org.uk

Several teams made an excellent start to the season battling it out for first place in the Youth Alliance and Academy Leagues.

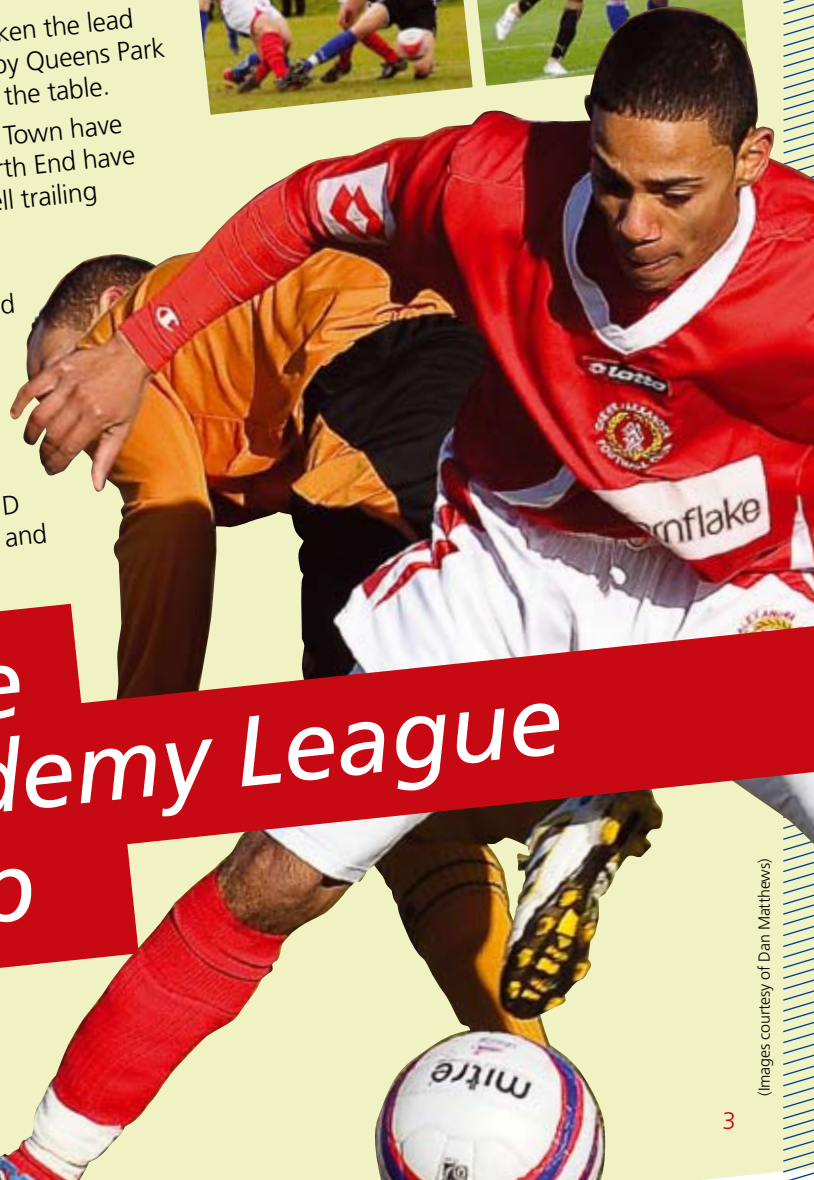


At the time of writing Southend United had taken the lead in the South East conference closely followed by Queens Park Rangers after Colchester United slipped down the table.

While in the South West conference Swindon Town have surged in to a six point lead over Bristol Rovers. Preston North End have regained top spot in the North West conference after a spell trailing Shrewsbury Town.

Hull City still remain in pole position with York City hot on their heels along with last year's champions Chesterfield still in contention for the top spot in the in the North East conference.

In the Academy League Leicester City still remain unbeaten at the top of the Group B table with a seven point lead over second placed Tottenham. Nottingham Forest trail Sunderland by six points at the top of Group D and Crystal Palace and Newcastle United chase Chelsea and Arsenal for the leadership of Group A.



Youth Alliance & Academy League Round-Up



Leonardo Pre-Season Tours 2010

A big thank you to all Clubs who applied for this year's Leonardo Pre Season Tours opportunity, we were very pleased with the positive response we had from Clubs.

In total we received 23 applications for the three available spaces giving our panel judges a tough decision, however, after careful consideration the successful Clubs chosen to take part in this year's European Pre-Season tours are:

- Crystal Palace
- Huddersfield Town
- Aldershot Town

LFE appreciate that this decision will be disappointing to many Clubs. However we are continually looking to increase opportunities to Clubs in the future and strengthen our links throughout Europe.

A further application has been made to Leonardo for funding in 2011/12. Should this be successful we expect to be in a position to provide opportunities for a further three Clubs (minimum) to experience a tour in 2011. LFE have also secured funding for individual player placements with European Clubs for March and June 2010.

Once again we'd like to thank you for your continued support of LFE and our initiatives.





Stakeholder Feedback

LFE would like to thank all stakeholders for their continued feedback through our online questionnaires.

The feedback we receive remains very positive and the results from the most recent feedback report on Apprentice Reviews, VLE & Support were very pleasing.

Scores for each theme covered in the questionnaire for Apprentices was 'good' or better for all questions, as were the responses from Club Staff and Education Providers.

All sample targets of 35% were exceeded, which further enhances the reliability of outcomes and continues to demonstrate excellent levels of stakeholder and LFE responsiveness.



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FA Youth Cup Round-Up

Aston Villa and Newcastle United will battle it out to face Chelsea in The FA Youth Cup Final after the London club disposed of Blackburn Rovers 5 - 0 on aggregate in their semi final encounter.

Chelsea had taken a one goal advantage back to Stamford Bridge after a tight first-leg at Ewood - courtesy of own-goal from Tom Hitchcock, son of former Chelsea keeper, Kevin. And back at the Bridge it was a lead they never looked like relinquishing, with goals from Marko Mitrovic, Gokhan Tore and a Jacopo Sala double providing them with a comfortable passage to the final.



Villa and Newcastle are scheduled to meet on 8th April at Villa Park with the return leg at St James' on 16th April. Villa reached the last four after coming through a penalty shoot-out at Fulham in their Quarter Final tie while Newcastle secured their spot after a 4-2 win over Crystal Palace at St James'.



tinyurl.com/yzdu4ur

Watford Evolution Watford Watford

During a period of transition at Vicarage Road, the emergence of right full-back Lee Hodson has proved to be a major plus point in a see-saw campaign for Watford.



A regular in Malky McKay's Reserve side last season, Hodson made his debut for the Hornets in their final fixture of the 2008 - 09 season when replacing Arsenal loanee Gavin Hoyte in a 3-1 victory over Derby County.

Having hoped to come into contention this season, his cause was not harmed by the promotion of McKay to replace outgoing boss Brendan Rogers last June, with the new Manager fully aware of the youngster's capabilities. The sale of Mike Williamson and subsequent injury to captain Jay DeMerit boosted his opportunities to stake a claim for a regular first team slot but as he readily admits even he has been surprised by his progress this term, he said:

"When I came back for pre-season my first focus was just to work hard and try to impress the gaffer as though

I was starting afresh and it was someone who didn't know me. I honestly didn't expect to get a run of games in the first-team, I thought I'd maybe get a chance in the League Cup or maybe get on the bench a few times. Luckily for me players left the club and with us having a few injuries the Manager decided to give me a chance."

After impressing in the League Cup in August against both Barnet and Leeds Utd, McKay promoted the youngster into his first team squad and watched him go. Establishing himself as a first-team regular, Hodson has now made over 25



first team appearances for the club and penned a new three year deal only last November. International recognition has also come in the form of a call-up to the Northern Ireland U21 squad and McKay for one is delighted by the progress of his protégé.

"Young Lee has been exceptional since he stepped up into the first team," said Mackay.

"He's been immaculate as a professional footballer, he was a 17-year-old coming into the group who because of circumstances has probably pushed in quicker than he



would have thought, but he's stood up to every game and he's been exceptional," he added.

Nominated for The Football League Championship Apprentice of the Year Award it seems Hodson can do little wrong at present and the defender is keen to acknowledge the club's role in his development, he said:

"To have Malky McKay as the Gaffer has been great because he knew how I operated but more importantly he believed in me, which gave me the confidence to go out there and play at this level. The step up from the youth and reserves sides is huge and when you get to first team level it's simply a results orientated business but the coaches here have been brilliant in preparing me for that step, now I just hope I can repay their faith by putting in good performances."



tinyurl.com/ya52bl9



www.lfe.org.uk/news/hornets-progress-for-hodson



"It's important that whatever stage you're at in your career, you think about the future, it would be naïve not to!

"It's probably not at the forefront of your mind while you're still playing but the earlier you start preparing the easier it will be to move into a new career once those days are over.

"I can't stress enough how important this is, which is why I am such a big supporter of the Progression work that LFE is doing to promote this ethos."

Chris Powell (Chairman, The PFA)



Developed to support released or retiring players, 'Progression' is now in its third full year and has gone from strength to strength since its launch at the City of Manchester stadium in spring 2008.

While careers events and assessment trials remain at the core of this programme it has evolved over the years to include European player placements, Olympic testing and a plethora of re-training and alternative career options that are available via associated Progression partners.

With 2010's events now underway we take a look back at what's happened since January and gaze in to the future events and opportunities that still lie ahead in 2010:

The Careers Events - 'Competitive Edge Live' in Association with JobServe

Kicking off at the Bolton Arena on the 10th and 11th of March and followed up at Newbury Racecourse on the 25th March, Competitive Edge Live saw approximately one thousand players mingle with some of the UK's leading employers and education and training institutions.

These hugely successful events were backed by some familiar faces from the world of football including, PFA Chairman Chris Powell, Bolton Wanderers Skipper Kevin Davies, his Burnley counterpart Clarke Carlisle, Ben Burgess (Blackpool) and Scott McGleish (Leyton Orient), while former Great Britain Olympic 400m medallist turned BBC pundit Katharine Merry, was also on hand to share her sporting experiences and present lively forums.

The Assessment Trials

Held in May, the trials are run across venues in the South, Midlands and North of the country and are designed to offer released apprentices & first year professionals the chance to display their talents in front of representatives from Premier League, Football League and Non League Clubs in the UK as well as European

Clubs and Further/Higher Education institutions in the UK and abroad.

This year's trials will take place on:

11th May – South, Wycombe Wanderers, Adams Park

12th May – Midlands, Walsall, Banks' Stadium

13th May – North, Bradford City, Valley Parade

14th May – Manchester Metropolitan University (Crewe & Alsager Campus)

For more information about the trials please visit www.lfe.org.uk/progression

The Progression Programmes

Progression partnerships with a number of leading employers, educators and training providers mean that Apprentices are given every chance to succeed should they ever need start afresh after football.

“The Progression initiative has the full backing of The PFA and it is extremely pleasing to see senior players now recognising the importance of this programme”.

The PFA's Director of Education, Pat Lally



Progression partners include:

- Armed Forces
- Central Sports
- Challenger Sports
- E-Scout
- Fitness First
- Frank Haslam Milan
- Hartpury College
- Leeds Metropolitan University
- Lifetime
- Loughborough College/university
- NASC/MLS Camps
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Northumbria University
- Sports Leaders UK
- Staffordshire University
- TUI (First Choice/Thomson)
- YMCAfit

For further information on Progression please visit: www.lfe.org.uk/progression

Pitch2Podium

Pitch2Podium, the brainchild of UK Sport and the English Institute of Sport (EIS), seeks to develop released footballers into the next generation of Olympians.

Former Watford goalkeeper James Hoad, is one example of success in this area having made the transition to bob skeleton and while Vancouver 2010 may have come to soon, the former Hornets Apprentice looks set to become a key member of the British squad for the 2014 Winter Olympics.



www.lfe.org.uk/progression/



twitter.com/LFEonline



www.lfe.org.uk/progression/leonardo

European Player Placement Programme (Leonardo Da Vinci)

Fancy a trip to the land of the midnight sun? Extended trial periods with clubs in Europe will once again be available to released apprentices or first year professional players via LFE's European player placement programme. In 2010, thirty placements will be available for players with the majority of these occurring from June onwards.

For more information please visit: www.lfe.org.uk/progression/leonardo

“This type of event wasn't available when I was on my YTS at Chesterfield so you can see the progress that has been made thanks to people like LFE and The PFA.”

“The events at the Bolton Arena and down at Newbury are extremely important to young players because it gives them all a chance to think about what they might do if football doesn't work out. It's great to see so many clubs and young players attend and it opens your eyes to the good work that LFE and The PFA do, which in the main, goes un-reported.”

“It's been a real eye-opener for me personally because I probably wasn't aware of the breadth of support that is available to players if they are released.”

“My brother was released by Chesterfield a few years ago and I've seen numerous others leave the game in the past without having much of a plan of their next step forward.”

“I can only praise the work that LFE and The PFA do because it seems to me like they are tackling this issue extremely well I just hope that players engage with this and maximise their own opportunities”.

Kevin Davies (Bolton Wanderers)
Speaking at the Bolton Arena
(10th March)



Swindon Town

aim for perfection

Swindon Town will be aiming to hit the magical 100% figure this season for Framework achievement according to Head of Youth Paul Bodin.

Town have fallen short of that mark in recent years with retention figures hampering the club's attempts to hit that target, however this time out, Bodin is confident that the men from the County Ground will be there or thereabouts thanks to the club's excellent partnership with New College, he said:

"I think that we've always done pretty well with the lads who have stayed at the club for the full two years but sometimes we've not always been able to control circumstances around players being sold on or leaving towards the end of the programme which obviously has a knock on effect when you're talking about frameworks.

"This year I think we'll be a lot closer to that figure with all of the lads well placed to achieve everything as things stand. A major factor in this success

has been the close working relationship we have with our College. The likes of Paul Smith and the tutors have been first class and really flexible with us. If we need to move a day here and there it doesn't present a problem and importantly the Apprentices have been fully integrated in to the College which is crucial.

"It's good for them to mix with the other students from a social aspect and it helps them stay in the real world, the last thing I'd want would be for them to be cocooned away from interaction which benefits their personal development."

Bodin, is also pleased by the way things have been going out on the park, Champions of the Youth Alliance South West Division last season, Town once

again top the table this time out and Bodin once himself a fans favourite as a player at the club believes his current crop could go on to be home-grown stars of the future, he added:

"We've got good results in terms of the ratio of lads that go on to earn pro deals and since I've been here we've consistently churned out players who have featured in the first team. This year the likes of Matt Barnes, Billy Bodin and Will Evans have all done extremely well to be on the cusp of the first team but we've got a number of other youngsters here who can play which is shown by how we're doing in the league. While my job is focussed on player development I think it is helped by the fact that we're at the top of the league because it adds to the confidence of players that I'm working with."



Will Evans
Swindon Town FC



Billy Bodin
Swindon Town FC



Matt Barnes
Swindon Town FC

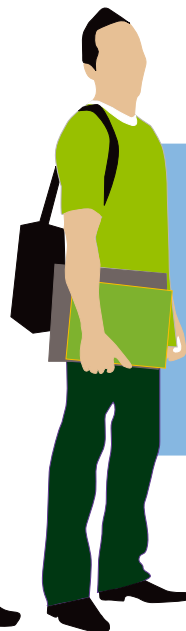


www.swindontownfc.co.uk/



"I thought the way the information was delivered was very powerful. It was a real eye opener to see how quickly things can escalate..."

"Very useful and truthful, helped me realise there's people out there that aren't scared to admit..."



"I thought the session was successful in revising my awareness and I shall now be thoughtful when I pick up a drink or gamble..."

Lifestyle talks an outline

LFE's partnership with Sporting Chance has proved a resounding success with Apprentices and Club Staff grading the work that has been conducted as 'Outstanding'.



The work which took place between September and December saw LFE and Sporting Chance team up to offer Clubs and Apprentices access to a Lifestyle Awareness and Education programme which provided information on addiction, the effects of alcohol, drugs and gambling on mind, body and performance.



The format of the sessions saw Sporting Chance Education Officer Chris Mordue speak to Apprentices and Coaches alongside a current or ex professional player with experience of the Sporting Chance Clinic. 40 Clubs were visited during this phase of the programme with approximately 600 Apprentices being involved.

Apprentice Feedback from the visits ranked as 'outstanding' across the board; therefore it was little surprise to see a range of positive and informed comments from Apprentices that reflected significant learning and interest in the topics discussed.

Club Staff also paid tribute to the 'outstanding' nature of this work with a raft of excellent comments:

"Very good presentation, courageous accounts and with real life events with an ex pro makes the presentation even more relevant to the youth players..."



"..It will help me during my career and I feel I will be able to talk to people about problems now..."



Sporting Chance Clinic has created a specialised environment where men and women from all standards of sport can come and address various issues in their lives. We treat each person as an individual with unique problems and difficulties.

Outstanding

Success

"..I thought the delivery of the presentation from Chris was absolutely outstanding and had me and the group totally engrossed for an hour. It was a pleasure to be part of such an event..."

"..An outstanding presentation one of the most valuable 2 hours an Apprentice will spend..."

"..Use of ex-pro players to relate to was first class..."

100% of Club staff stated they would be interested in a visit from Sporting Chance every 2 years (with a number of suggestions for annual visits) and the delivery of the Sporting Chance presentation sessions was rated as 'outstanding' from both Club staff and Apprentices.

This work provides very positive evidence to support LFE's Safeguarding agenda and LFE hope to continue to offer this to 40 clubs per year to ensure all apprentices get the opportunity during their two-year programme.

 www.sportingchancecharity.com
 0870 220 0714
 info@sportingchanceclinic.com

the future's bright the future's



Martin Young

As the season draws to an exciting climax, so football clubs, have the difficult decision to make, on the future of their second year apprentices.



ight coaching

Micky Barron

The tantalising prospect of a professional playing contract looms large for some lucky apprentices. Sadly the majority will not be offered the chance to test their playing potential at the highest level.

However, the opportunity of a fulfilling and exciting career in football, remains for apprentices through the successful completion of the PFA delivered Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football.

The PFA Coaching Department delivers the L2 CCF as a mandatory part of the apprenticeship programme. Success rates from last season stand at 90% which is great news for the clubs and their apprentices.

The PFA are helping to provide a pool of future coaches and it's one that football clubs are increasingly dipping into. They can see at first hand the coaching talent that is out there amongst apprentices and that is why they are happy to offer some a pathway back into the game.

Micky Baron, the Youth Team Coach at Hartlepool United is a strong advocate of the qualification for his scholars as he says:

“The PFA have been a great support to me as I have worked towards attaining my coaching qualifications and I encourage all my Apprentices to take advantage of becoming qualified Level 2 Coaches.”

One such former apprentice who has benefited from this approach at Hartlepool United is Martin Young: *“I am thoroughly enjoying my new role as a coach with our schoolboys. Hartlepool have been really supportive of my personal development and I am now working towards my Level 3 UEFA B qualification”.*

Young isn't the only former apprentice who is thriving in their new coaching roles. Jack Cudworth and Ray Shearwood at Preston North End coach at the club's Centre of Excellence. James Beeston at Port Vale, Matt Goodwin from Leicester City and Lewis Webb at Peterborough United are all proving the L2 CCF Award can be a great stepping stone into a career, coaching in the professional game.

But it isn't hard to see why. Clubs want coaches who are familiar with the culture and heart beat of the club. The Youth Team Coaches know the qualities, reliability and ambitions of the boys and what they can offer their clubs coaching programme.

This provides the apprentices with greater opportunities to remain within the game and develop their coaching experience. With the PFA's help, the apprentices of today can become the coaches of tomorrow.



www.givemefootball.com



To date only 12 clubs have made full use of the fund this term to buy equipment for their club

What will your club utilise?

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.


To date only 12 clubs have made full use of the fund this term to enhance their Apprenticeship programmes.


With a significant number of clubs yet to submit a claim time is running out with the deadline day for claims looming large on 30th April 2010.

To ensure that your club does not miss out on the opportunity to invest in new technology including, laptops, video camera's performance analysis equipment, heart rate monitors, smart boards as well as more conventional offerings including minibuses

and team building events please ensure that you meet the application deadline.

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

 0870 458 9250

 asykes@lfe.org.uk

Gavin Willacy

Our most recently recruited Regional Officer is a Preston North End fan who lives further away from LFE's Preston HQ than any of his colleagues! Gavin Willacy is based in Hertford and covers eight clubs in the South, ranging from Oxford United and Wycombe in the west to Orient and Gillingham in the east and down to the south London trio of Millwall, Charlton and Crystal Palace.

He also covers Barnet, his nearest club, and one where he has ties going back to 2003, when he started teaching on the BTEC sports courses at Southgate College in north London. "Our football scheme at the college was linked to Barnet and our lads played for Barnet in the Conference Youth League on Wednesday afternoons. Then they joined the Football League Youth Alliance, playing against all the full-time apprentices, which was tough for them."

As well as teaching, Gavin acted as a liaison between the coaches, young players and college, similar to the role he does now with LFE.



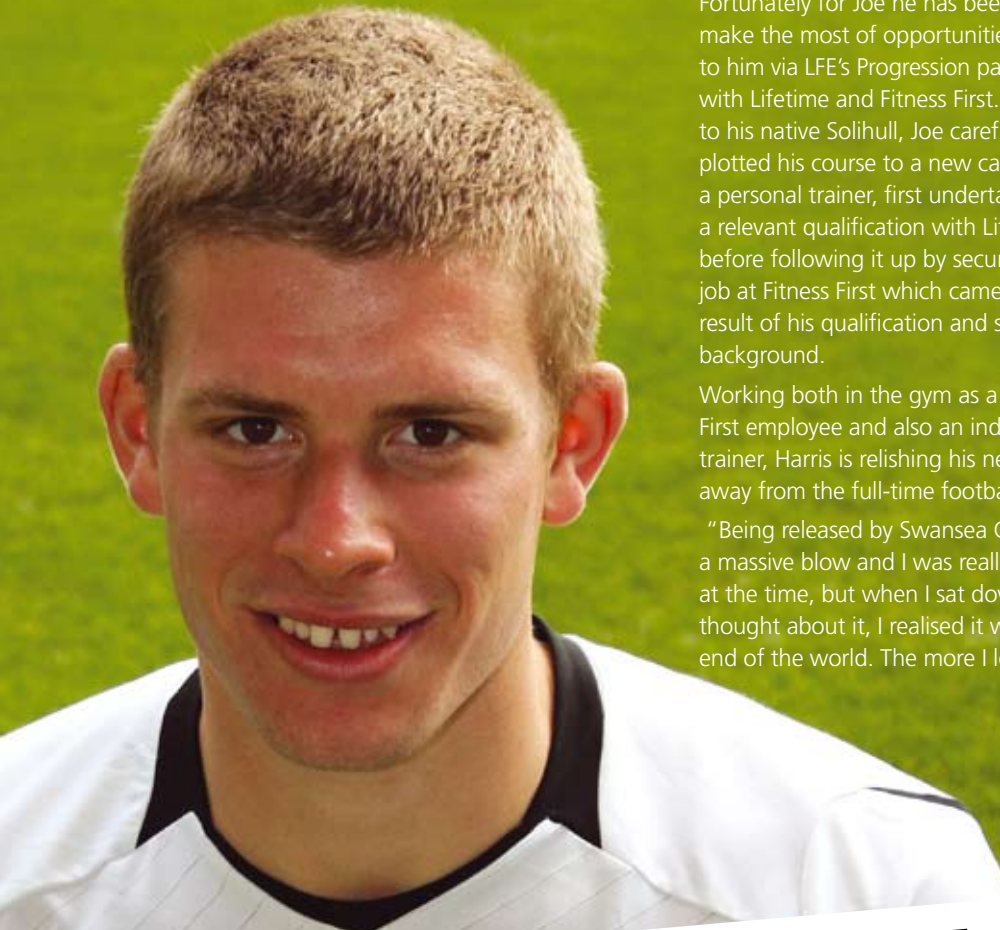
"I've got a lot of experience of working with 16-19 year old sportsmen, not only with the Barnet lads at Southgate but also with the Middlesex Schools Under-18s, who I managed, and England Schoolboys, who I did a lot of press work for in a previous life! I also set up the Centre of Rugby Excellence with London Skolars and Saracens for Under-19s at Southgate."

Gavin's first career was as a football journalist, starting as a junior reporter on Shoot magazine – then the nation's top seller – before moving on to help start Football365.com. "I spent ten years interviewing footballers and the novelty wore off!" he admits. "But it was very exciting to start with. Most of my mates were working in boring offices, banks or bakeries. I was interviewing Ryan Giggs, David Beckham and Dennis Bergkamp! It opened up the world of football to me and, in some ways, helps me in my job today."

Although the dream of playing for his beloved PNE disappeared a couple of decades ago, Gavin has at least scored at Deepdale – "a chip into the top corner from 35 yards – I've got it on video to prove it" – and still turns out for Sandridge Rovers in the locals Vets league, injury-permitting. "I now know what I'm supposed to be doing. If only I had known when I could still run!"

“Most of my mates were working in boring offices, banks or bakeries. I was interviewing Ryan Giggs, David Beckham and Dennis Bergkamp!”





Fortunately for Joe he has been able to make the most of opportunities afforded to him via LFE's Progression partnerships with Lifetime and Fitness First. Returning to his native Solihull, Joe carefully plotted his course to a new career as a personal trainer, first undertaking a relevant qualification with Lifetime before following it up by securing a job at Fitness First which came as a result of his qualification and sporting background.

Working both in the gym as a Fitness First employee and also an independent trainer, Harris is relishing his new role away from the full-time football, he said;

"Being released by Swansea City was a massive blow and I was really upset at the time, but when I sat down and thought about it, I realised it wasn't the end of the world. The more I looked at

it the more I realised that there were some fantastic opportunities out there and I decided very quickly about what I wanted to do moving forward. That in itself meant that little over three months after leaving Swansea I had enhanced my CV and found myself in a new occupation that I'm really enjoying at present."

And Harris has one piece of advice for current Apprentices still waiting to hear if they will be offered professional deals this summer, adding;

"Speaking from experience I think it's imperative that you look at what you might do if you're not offered a contract as soon as possible. I'm not saying to take your eye off the ball football wise because ultimately being a professional is everyone's dream but by planning ahead you could save a huge amount of time later on and move on to a new career sooner rather than later."



www.lfe.org.uk/progression

Joe turns first class fitness instructor

Finding out that you won't be offered a professional football contract can be devastating when you've devoted your life in pursuit of this dream. And for 19-year-old Joe Harris it was no different when he discovered his career at Swansea City had come to an end.

check out the new www.lfe.org.uk

Find out what's going on with Progression 2010

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26/03/10: It was one way traffic in Woughton adapted better to the blustery conditions to beat...

2010 Assessment Trials Venues Confirmed
23/03/10: LFE is pleased to announce that regional venues have now been arranged for the 2010 Assessment Trials, ...

Port Vale 2-2 Accrington Stanley
23/03/10: Honours were shared in this bottom of the table clash which saw Accrington Stanley claw back from ...

LFE TV

More News

Haynes Focused On Future

22/03/10 Academy Results

22/03/10 Youth Alliance Results

Blog

Sir Alex Looks On
By Patrick Nzuzi - Newcastle Utd
Posted 23 March 2010

Semi Final Beckons
By Patrick Nzuzi - Newcastle Utd
Posted 9 March 2010

Use Your Head
By Dan Pringle - Crystal Palace
Posted 24 February 2010

Touchline

LFE Poll

Do Apprentices released by Football League and Premier League clubs make good non-league players?

Yes
 No

Vote **View Results**

Academy & Youth Alliance

	YA NW	YA NE	YA SW	YA SE	
	A	ACAD B	ACAD C	ACAD D	
					P W GD PTS
1					18 15 41 48
2					20 13 22 43
3					21 13 8 39
4					19 11 14 37
5					18 11 9 35
6					19 10 15 33
7					22 9 4 31
8					17 10 15 31

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