

# Careers advice that delivers for the whole season

Whether you're an apprentice, tutor or part of a football club then U-Explore has the right move for you. Using rich, interactive media, U-Explore takes you behind the scenes of industry, helping to guide you down your career path.

For log on details please visit [www.lfe.org.uk/progression/careers/u-explore](http://www.lfe.org.uk/progression/careers/u-explore)

[www.u-explore.com](http://www.u-explore.com)

Issue 15 - September 2011  
News from  
League Football Education

# Transfer Watch

Inside: Transfer Watch | Pre-season Tours

League  
Football  
Education



## Big moves for former Apprentices



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IN PEOPLE

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# You Said, We Did

LFE would like to remind all Apprentices and Clubs that your feedback is valuable to us.

We are committed to continuous improvement for the benefit of Apprentices and Clubs and listening to the views of Apprentices, Clubs and Education Providers is a critical part of this.

You Said, We Did, which is available in the Apprentice Info section of our website, hosts a summary of results gathered in stakeholder feedback questionnaires.

These results will be updated throughout the season and LFE would like to thank all that take the time to respond. Without this assistance it would be difficult to know how satisfied you are and know what needs further improvement.

[www.lfe.org.uk/apprentice-info/you-said-we-did](http://www.lfe.org.uk/apprentice-info/you-said-we-did)

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

# Apprentice of the Month

The Apprentice of the Month award will kick off later this month for the 2011-12 season.

Working in tandem with LFE's Regional Officers, Club's will be asked to nominate their chosen players in the last week of each calendar month.

An LFE panel will then decide on the winner based on the merits of each individual's progress on the ASE programme.

The winner will be presented with a trophy and feature on [www.lfe.org.uk](http://www.lfe.org.uk) at the start of the following month (e.g. The winner of September's prize will receive their award at the start of October).

# Opportunities Board

LFE is continuing to provide current and former Apprentices with relevant and more importantly realistic opportunities via our Opportunities Board.

Found in the Progression area of our website this one stop shop for ex Apprentices planning their next move hosts the very latest opportunities in sport, education, employment and training.

It has been visited over 2000 times since its creation last year.

[www.lfe.org.uk/progression/recruitment](http://www.lfe.org.uk/progression/recruitment)

# GOAL OF THE MONTH/SEASON

Goal of the Month will continue to operate throughout the 2011-12 season. All Clubs should submit their nominations for August to LFE in the usual fashion. These should be received by 7 September.

Last season's Goal of the Season winner was Charlie Taylor (Leeds United). His fantastic strike against Newcastle Utd in April saw off the challenge of five fellow Apprentice players who were all respective Goal of the Month winners.

To watch any of last season's goals please visit [www.lfe.org.uk/goal-of-the-month](http://www.lfe.org.uk/goal-of-the-month) or watch LFE TV on our homepage.

[www.lfe.org.uk/goal-of-the-month](http://www.lfe.org.uk/goal-of-the-month)

The roll call of honour for the 2010-11 season is as follows:

- September Adam Thompson, Watford
- October Dale Jennings, Tranmere Rovers
- November Haydn Hollins, Notts County
- December Mauro Vilhete, Barnet
- January Connor Goldson, Shrewsbury Town
- February Gerald Mulholland, West Brom
- March Teddy Nesbitt, Southend Utd
- April Curtis Nelson, Plymouth Argyle







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# Youth Alliance & Academy League Round Up

**Burnley started the season in confident fashion in the North West Conference. They kicked off the campaign with a 5-0 win at Morecambe before edging an East Lancashire derby with Accrington in Week 2.**

Meanwhile last season's NW champions Rochdale have endured a mixed start. A 5-0 defeat at Carlisle after an opening day draw will leave Chris Beech with plenty to work on at Spotland.

In the North East Conference Hull City and Lincoln City both took maximum points from their opening two fixtures.

Swindon Town will be hoping to retain their title in the South West but may face pressure from Yeovil Town after they made an extraordinary start to the season. The Glovers hit Hereford for nine on the opening day.

In the South East, Southend Utd chalked up a 5-1 win at Wimbledon and they will be keen to close the gap on last year's Champions QPR.

In the Academy League Group A Southampton will be eager to start well after losing out to Fulham last season by a single point.

Leicester City will also be keen to make amends in Group B after Aston Villa stopped their bid for a third title in four years last time out.

In the North West Crewe Alexandra will once again go toe to toe with Premier League giants Man Utd, Man City, Liverpool and Everton.

In the eastern Group D, Nottingham Forest will be looking to bridge the gap between themselves and last season's group winners Sunderland while Sheffield Utd will also be eager to build on their FA Youth Cup exploits of last season.

(Please note: At the time of going to print the Academy fixtures had not commenced)



[www.lfe.org.uk](http://www.lfe.org.uk)

## Safeguarding

If any Apprentice feels at threat, or unsafe and wants to speak to someone in confidence you should contact your club Designated Safeguarding Officer. Alternatively you can always call your LFE Regional Officer, their number can be found in the contacts section of the LFE website.

[www.lfe.org.uk/contact/regional-officers](http://www.lfe.org.uk/contact/regional-officers)



# River Rafting for Wrexham's Adrenalin Junkies

Eighteen players took part in team building exercises before braving the rapids on the 2km course that is notoriously difficult to navigate.

Fully kitted out in safety gear and wetsuits the players had four runs down the steep and rocky mountain river which was a stark contrast to the gruelling pre-season work they have been carrying out at their Colliers Park training HQ.

"It was a really good experience and one that most of the lads were happy to throw themselves into literally," said current second year Apprentice Stephen Tomassen who has already made his first-team debut.

After appearing in the club's first-team last April, Tomassen, who is keen to push on this term, admitted the day threw up a different

kind of examination to the ones that are regularly faced on the pitch:

"I think for a few of the lads it was respite from what is a tough time of year physically – especially on the legs.

"Players are a lot fitter these days when they come back for pre-season but running is a necessary evil if you want to be right come the first day of the season.

"The rafting just broke up the work we've been doing and gave us a different type of challenge that I think everyone responded to really well," he continued.

Wrexham's youth-team have taken part in an adrenalin fuelled white-water rafting day. Held at Llangollen Nr Clywd in North Wales, the outward bound trip was fully subsidised by League Football Education's Development Fund which is provided to help Clubs enhance their individual Apprenticeship programmes.

Head of Youth, Andy Davies, noted: "It was a worthwhile day to take the lads out of their comfort zone and try something new.

"At this time of year a lot of the new lads who have joined us from school are still getting used to full-time training so a day like this is perfect for camaraderie and team bonding."

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# FOOTBALL LEAGUE CLUBS GO DUTCH



LFE'S pre-season tour programme took place again this year with Apprentices from Scunthorpe United, Walsall, Watford and Wycombe Wanderers hosted by top Dutch sides Feyenoord, FC Utrecht, ADO Den Haag and NEC Nijmegen respectively.

The two week tour provided plenty of opportunities for the players to sample a different football culture, and to broaden their horizons both personally and professionally.

As well as competing in a youth team tournament, the teams were taken for training sessions by some of Holland's top

Coaches at state-of the-art facilities. Their schedule's also included visits to the Arnhem War Memorial and day trips to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht and Arnhem.

The 74 Apprentices were also keen spectators at the Amsterdam Arena as they watched FC Twente beat Ajax 2-1 in an entertaining Dutch Super Cup Final.

LFE Project Manager Dan Jolley said: "On a professional basis it's a great opportunity for them as players to experience different styles of play, coaching and tactics while on a cultural level it should help them all to develop as individuals."

Scunthorpe Utd youngster Charlie Megson, added: "I enjoyed the trip. I have learnt a lot of things on and off the pitch and different aspects to team play. It has also improved the partnerships within our side and will give us a good platform to build on from the start of the season."

Dalton Harris (Scunthorpe United), Jon Haynes (Walsall), Michael Kalu (Watford) and Max Kretzschmar (Wycombe Wanderers) told their own stories about the trip via LFE's Blog.

 [blog.lfe.org.uk](http://blog.lfe.org.uk)



“

ADO Den Haag hosted us in week one so it was good for our players to get the chance to work with their coaches and vice-versa. We were able to learn about them and they learned about us.

”

**Nick Cox**  
Watford, Academy Manager



“

The two weeks gave us the chance to work on things that might take two or three months to develop back in England, particularly the social and cultural aspects. You're with your players for 24-hours a day over a fortnight so you can take much more out of it than just football.

”

**Richard Dobson**  
Wycombe Wanderers, Head of Youth



“

The tour provided our youth team players with a unique opportunity to sample a different type of football and experience playing and training on mainland Europe. The lads were under no illusions; it was a tough two weeks as we needed that to build on our other pre-season work, but at the same time it was nice for them to get a taste of a different culture.

”

**Neil Woods**  
Walsall, Head of Youth



“

It was a fantastic two weeks that many of the players here will remember for the rest of their lives.

Feyenoord were brilliant with us. Their first-team players and the Manager Ronald Koeman all made time to chat to our lads after they'd trained so it was a great experience for our boys.

Overall the trip was great for building the camaraderie in the group ahead of the new season.

”

**Tony Daws**  
Scunthorpe Utd, Head of Youth



# TRANSFER WATCH

**This summer has seen a number of former Apprentices on the move. From those making their way to the very highest echelons of the game to those in more modest surroundings. Touchline runs the rule over this summer's activity to date.**



**Connor Wickham**  
(Ipswich Town to Sunderland)

Another player to graduate from the Apprenticeship at the end of last term Wickham was identified as a star in the making in 2009 when he became the youngest ever player to appear in Ipswich's first XI. After much speculation Sunderland won the race for his signature in a deal that could top £12m after add-ons.



**Jordan Henderson**  
(Sunderland to Liverpool)

Henderson made huge strides after coming through his Apprenticeship at Sunderland in 2008. He made his England debut in November 2010 but his club couldn't resist the overtures of Liverpool when Kenny Dalglish came calling – the fee a cool £20m.



**Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain**  
(Southampton to Arsenal)

The son of former England winger Mark tore it up in League One last year while still a second year Apprentice. Named in the PFA Team of the Year the youngster hit 9 league goals as the Saints marched to promotion. He signed for Arsenal in a deal reportedly worth £15m in August.



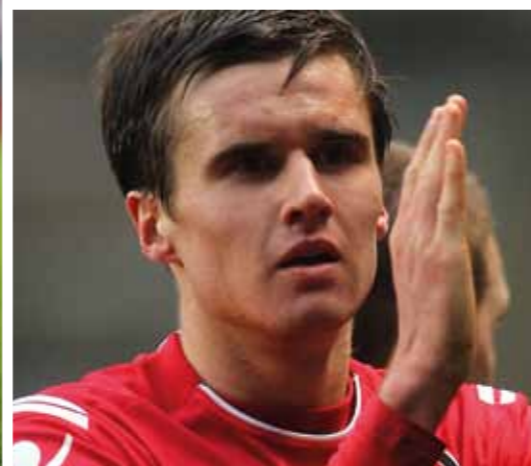
**Joe Mason**  
(Plymouth Argyle to Cardiff City)

Republic of Ireland U21 International Mason joined Malky Mackay's new look Bluebirds in July for an undisclosed fee. He will now hope to be part of a Cardiff team eager to return the club to the top flight of English football for the first time in nearly 50 years.



**Dale Jennings**  
(Tranmere to Bayern Munich)

The Wirral Wonderkid had much to shout about last term, named League One Apprentice of the Year he also scored some memorable goals including a fine sole effort against Plymouth Argyle. Thought to be on the radar of several Premier League and Championship Clubs, German giants Bayern Munich took him to Bavaria this summer in an initial £600,000 deal that could rise to £1.7m.



**Carl Jenkinson**  
(Charlton Athletic to Arsenal)

"If he grows into the right-back we all feel he could be, we could be talking about a player playing at the highest level for a long time," said Charlton Manager Chris Powell after the young defender completed his move to the Emirates for a fee believed to be in excess of £1m.

## Transfer Watch

Patrick Lacey – Sheff Wed to Bradford City

Kayne Mclaggan – Salisbury City to Bristol Rovers

Danny Batth – Wolverhampton Wanderers to Sheff Wed (season-long-loan)

Aaron Cresswell – Tranmere Rovers to Ipswich town

Jack Werndly – Norwich City to Glasgow Rangers

Josh Egan – Cheltenham Town to Blackpool

Tommy Spurr – Sheff Wed to Doncaster Rovers

Liam Bellamy – unattached to Brentford

Gareth Evans – Bradford City to Rotherham Utd

Oscar Gobern - Southampton to Huddersfield Town

Chris Atkinson – Huddersfield Town to Darlington (loan)

Danny Holmes – TNS to Tranmere Rovers

Sam Belcher – Wycombe Wanderers to Nuneaton Town

Miles Addison - Derby County to Barnsley (loan)

Matt Done – Rochdale to Barnsley

Ryan Taylor – Rotherham Utd to Bristol City

Luke O'Neill – Leicester City to Mansfield Town



Image courtesy of P.A.



# Blades youngsters provide hope for future

The 2010-11 season was not a vintage year for Sheffield Utd. In fact it was anything but. Financial difficulties, four different Managers, an ever evolving first-team squad that saw over 40 players used and relegation to League One just about sum up a chaotic campaign.

However out of the turbulence came hope in the form of the club's successful youth programme.

Under Academy Boss John Pemberton the Club's youth players showed fine form in the League but it was in the FA Youth Cup that they really flourished.

Cheltenham Town, Millwall, Blackpool, Leicester City and Aston Villa were all dispatched en-route to their first ever Final.

Manchester United proved a step too far in that two legged encounter but the Blades ran them close.

A 2-2 draw in the first leg in front of 29,977 set up a compelling second game at Old Trafford. And although the Blades were defeated 4-1 on the night and 6-3 on aggregate the score-line flattered the hosts.

Pemberton's men more than held their own for an hour but an untimely injury to Harry Maguire robbed them of one of their key players at a vital time in the game.

However, while the boys from Bramall Lane were unable to land that trophy, the composition of their squad bodes well for the long-term future of the football club with Chairman Kevin McCabe tipping many of them to reach the top:



**"We have a fantastic set of youth players. With good coaching and management." "I expect to see many being first-team players for Sheffield United," he added.**

Last season's youth squad relied predominantly on first year Apprentices, including Captain Elliot Whitehouse, keeper George Long and goal-scoring midfielder Callum McFadzean.

All will have an extra year's experience this time out. And while Pemberton will no longer be able to call upon the likes of Jordan Slew and Maguire,

both now established first-teamers, he will hope that the club's newest Apprentices hit the ground running.

"We worked a lot last year with our first year players and many were involved in the Youth Cup run," said Pemberton.

"That'll serve the lads well this season but the main thing we are trying to drill into them all is to be comfortable with the ball.

"It's their friend and not a hot potato. If we treat the ball with care and put the hard work and application in then we won't go far wrong," he added.





MUFC Images courtesy of P.A.



# Max makes his mark

Former Macclesfield Town Apprentice Max Lonsdale is hoping to earn a deal with another professional club after producing a fifteen minute video of his best moments from last season.

Released by the Silkmen in May, Lonsdale's video has already attracted the attention of Premier League Champions Manchester Utd with Sir Alex Ferguson handing the player a trial during pre-season after being impressed by what he saw.

The midfielder spent three weeks at Carrington with United's second string. During that time he featured in four matches and while impressing Reserve boss Warren Joyce with his attitude it was ultimately not enough to earn himself a dream move to Old Trafford.

"Max did well while he was here. While he was a player we were already aware

of it was well worth a second look. He's neat and tidy on the ball, passes it well and has a decent shot on him."

"It was always going to be tough for him with the competition we've got here. The likes of Ryan Tunnicliffe and Paul Pogba are coming through from last year's youth team and there are one or two others pushing to get themselves in the senior squad."

Doncaster Rovers have also shown an interest in the youngster and he is hoping for a further chance to show what he can do.

"I'm usually quiet and shy so I stepped out of my comfort zone quite a bit by knocking on Sir Alex's door," said Lonsdale.

"He was brilliant and gave me some time to explain my situation before promising to watch the video.

**"It's through my trial at United that the Doncaster link has arisen and I'm obviously just keen to do well and take any chance given to me," he added.**

A Goal of the Month contender in February, Lonsdale's progress since leaving Macclesfield is a timely reminder to Clubs and Apprentices of the benefits of using the E-Scout facility provided by LFE.

For more information on this please see the Gamebreaker+ Guide in the Downloads section of our website.



<http://tinyurl.com/3ol2uja>



[www.lfe.org.uk/downloads](http://www.lfe.org.uk/downloads)





# LFE'S FOREIGN LEGION

**David Beckham is in LA, Scott Carson recently made the move to Bursaspor and Marlon Harewood recently swapped the Premier League for the Far East when moving Shenzhen Phoenix.**

English football's foreign legion is growing; from America to Azerbaijan; Albania to Australia, some familiar names now ply their trade abroad. But while the likes of Robbie Fowler, Francis Jeffers, Michael Bridges and Terry Cooke approach the final countdown to high profile careers, more than a dozen former Apprentices are heading to Spain and Sweden, courtesy of LFE, in a bid to keep their football dreams alive.

Thirteen players have taken advantage of LFE's player placement programme this summer. Nine are currently spread across six Swedish clubs while the remaining four jetted out to Spanish side Racing Portuense in the hope of earning a permanent deal with the Tercera Division outfit.

Troy Pennycooke-Morgan formerly of Sheffield Utd is one of those in Scandinavia and he has relished the opportunity to work with former Premier League star and England U21 international Graham Potter who now coaches Ostersund.

"It's been great to get out here really and it's a new start for me at a relatively good standard," said Pennycooke-Morgan

"It's helped massively that Graham is coaching here as he's played at the highest level back home. He understands the English system and has helped me adapt to a new country.

"My Swedish is far from perfect at the moment but it's something I'm working on to make the most of my time here."

Craig Gladwin, Jason Woods, Tom Burgin and Toby Davis are four Englishmen for who the Swedish season is now in full swing. All tasted the success of the player placement initiative in seasons gone by. More recently Jack Sharples earned a professional deal after initially joining Sandvikens on a placement earlier this year.

England's exports continue to grow and it is one figure that LFE is extremely proud of:

Project Manager Dan Jolley said, "We started this programme 3 years ago and there are now nine young players who are making a living by playing football outside the UK.

"That might not sound a lot but we are talking about nine young players who maybe wouldn't have had this chance to try and rebuild their football careers.

"It's massive for them and for us because they could've dropped out of the football system altogether," added Jolley.







## PLAYERS SHOW THEIR CARING SIDE



Sixteen football clubs involved over 200 Apprentice players in community based initiatives last season. The young players all aged between 16-18 years-old made a positive contribution across various education, equality, health and social inclusion projects.

Clubs that encouraged their teen stars to get involved in this work included Port Vale, Sheffield Utd and Southampton.

Vale's youngsters worked in tandem with established first-team stars like Gareth Owen and Adam Yates to mentor local primary school children in the Tunstall area of Stoke on Trent in a project set up by the Club's former Chief Scout Ray Williams:

"We started this by going in to three to four primary schools and it just mushroomed.

"We ended up going in to about ten local schools and allocating two professionals to each.

"At St Mary's (C of E Primary School) this was supplemented by our Apprentices who worked with the senior lads to help the children in their lessons.

"Typically this support was with literacy and numeracy work," added Williams.

Over in Sheffield, a dozen of the Blades squad that reached last season's FA Youth Cup Final represented the Club at events like 'Go On Sheffield' and 'Learning the Language of Sport'.



That number included first-teamers Harry Maguire and Jordan Slew and Sheffield Utd's Head of Community, Sue Beeley was keen to thank all twelve of the Club's Academy players for their efforts.

"It's great to see our young players get involved in our various community projects and they are a credit to the Club every time they turn up," said Beeley.

"The likes of Harry and Jordan were in and around the first-team so for them to commit their time was really pleasing when

they could've been forgiven for wanting to concentrate on establishing themselves.

"The same applies to the other ten lads who came in and worked with us, they were in the process of doing something special by reaching the FA Youth Cup final for the first time in the Club's history so for them to devote time to the work we were doing was great."

Down on the south coast Southampton's young players have been making a difference by supporting a club initiative to help the Chernobyl Children.

"The Academy lads were magnificent in the way they played with the children and posed for photos," said Mike Young from the Charity that helps families in Belarus that have been affected by the disaster.

"All of the children have radiation related illnesses of one sort or the other. These will get worse as they grow up and many won't live much beyond 20 years-old.

"The day of wonderful memories that the lads gave the children is extra special and our host families say that the children were still bubbling with excitement at their time at Staplewood when they left to return to Belarus the next day."

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**Released by Plymouth Argyle in May, Matt Rickard has turned his back on English football to start a dream new life in America.**

The 18-year-old forward quit the south coast in August to take up a soccer scholarship at the University of Michigan.

The youngster, who excelled in Argyle's youth side, has headed to the States after being unable to force himself into Peter Reid's long term plans at Home Park. His first-team action limited to a seventeen-minute cameo appearance as a substitute in last January's 2-0 home defeat to Oldham Athletic.

Unwanted by the Pilgrims, Rickard's reputation as a promising youth player was enough to prompt the offer of a trial with an unnamed Championship Club during pre-season, however by then he had made up his mind to head to the States.

"I just feel it's too good an opportunity to turn down," said Rickard of his impending four year journey to earn a Sports Science Degree in Michigan.

"I could've stayed in England and gone on trial but I'd already given my word to Steve Burns (Mens Soccer Coach, University of Michigan) and his assistant Andy (Wagstaff) that I was going to join them.

"They were in regular contact and told me how excited they were about me coming across.

"They have helped me out in terms of guidance around the SAT, finding a place to live, sorting me out with a coaching job in the summer and really just doing things you'd expect a professional club to do for a new signing."

When at Plymouth, Rickard lived in digs provided by the club, returning to his Exeter home each weekend to see his Parents.

Now based in the Great Lakes territory he acknowledges trips home will no longer be a simple 45 minute drive up the A38.

"It's something I'll get used to. I've got a great new place in Ann Arbor which is a nice residential area close to the University and I met my house-mate on facebook and msn prior to coming which again has helped."

**Settling in to life on Campus remains the priority but the teen hit-man is equally aware that success on the pitch could offer a return to the professional game, with one MLS club already taking an interest.**

"Steve and Andy have told me that they have links with Toronto FC and that Paul Mariner (Ex Plymouth Player & Manager) has been in touch about me, continued Rickard.

"Apparently he's surprised that I've come out here and didn't expect Plymouth to release me so he'd like to be kept updated on how I'm progressing.

"For now I'm happy concentrating on my studies but football really is a funny game so you never know."

# Rickards

# American Dream