Issue 22 - January 2014
News from
League Football Education





Inside: The Debutants | 2013 in pictures | Added Extras | Charlie I'Anson





















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## Goal of the month

Alan Hansen and Alan Shearer would be at loggerheads picking the best of the LFE bunch from September and October but it was Giorgio Rasulo (MK Dons) and Kane Farrell (Southend United) whose strikes topped the voting polls respectively.

The same talent which saw forward Rasulo called up to the England U17 side last season was caught on camera and plumped for by 40 per cent of online voters after his neat turn and snap shot from 25-yards-out left the Dagenham & Redbridge keeper floundering.

October's accolade was picked up by left-back Farrell, with his marauding run and cool finish polling over 1000 votes.



To check out the goals visit: www.lfe.org.uk/goal-of-the-month



The 11 kicked-off in October with eleven talented teenagers receiving the seal of approval from LFE's team of regional officers to make up the inaugural XI.

Here's the line-up:

Connor Mahoney Accrington Stanley
Harry Williams Cheltenham Town
Sam Szmodics Colchester United
James Jones Crewe Alexandra
Jake Charles Huddersfield Town
Bryn Morris Middlesbrough
Tyler Guy Notts County
Ben Close Portsmouth
Ioan Evans Sheffield United
Fejiri Okenabirhie Stevenage FC
Robert Evans Wrexham







## Academy League Round-up

Blackpool look set to top the table at Christmas with only Walsall and Rochdale in with a realistic chance of knocking the Seasiders off their perch in the North West Youth Alliance. Further down the standings just six points separates no less than nine teams in the closely contested division.

Unbeaten **Bradford City** are the standout side and runaway leaders in the North East. The Bantams boast an unrivalled plus thirty goal difference, with Oliver McBurnie's seventeen goal haul proving more than useful.

A three-way battle for the South West top spot is set to take place in December

with Exeter City, Oxford United and Bournemouth tied on seventeen points as the region's top performers.

In the South East, **Colchester United** have leapfrogged **Watford** and **Portsmouth** to hit the summit of the table but fourth place Luton will have plenty of opportunities to apply some pressure if they can win a couple of their four games in hand.

The North Under-18 Professional Development League is being dominated by **Huddersfield Town** who are 11 points clear of **Sheffield United.** While the Southern equivalent looks promising for London neighbours **Queens**  Park Rangers, Charlton Athletic and Millwall who hold the top three places.

In the Under 18 Premier League

Wolverhampton Wanderers will be hopeful of edging closer to the Manchester clubs,
United and City by winning their game in hand though the 11 point gap to Everton may take some bridging.

Buoyed by their victory over **Chelsea**, **Leicester City** will be keen to string a run of wins together in the Southern division to lift them up the table.



## Fantasy Football update



Pos		Team Name	Manager Name	GLS	ASS	PTS
1	-	Pep Rowe's U16's	George O'Neill	31	27	576
2	-	Jacks Team	Jack Tuite	43	13	536
3	-	The Weavedog Wanderes 2k13/14	Jacob Weaver	37	18	525
4	-	Pete Barrys Barmy Army	Anthony Harris	41	16	517
5	-	A'sss	Manny Adeyeye	40	14	507

Leading the way in LFE's Fantasy Football competition and in line for the top prize of £250 is Birmingham City's first year apprentice George O'Neill.

Forty points adrift in second is Derby County and Republic of Ireland youth international Jack Tuite but the defender is closely followed by The Weavedog Wanderers managed by O'Neill's Blues team-mate Jacob Weaver

Remember the competition isn't just about cash prizes, managing selections from the Football League Championship provides important evidence contributing to the NVQ portfolio required to complete the qualification.

If you've not registered yet visit fantasy.football-league.co.uk, pick your team and join LFE's private league by using code:

7409857

rerified by LFE. Please note that any inappropriate team names will be rejected.

£250 £150 £100

www.fantasy.football-league.co.uk | League code: 7409857

### Education **Support Fund**

LFE chief executive Alan Sykes has urged clubs to make applications for the Education Support Fund sooner rather than later.

The fund which ploughs over £250,000 back into Football League clubs to support the education of apprentices has been used historically to pay for equipment such as, heart-rate monitors, outward bound days and importantly laptops and other IT equipment - which is key to the delivery of a blended learning programme according to Sykes.

"Clubs are welcome to send in applications now and I'd encourage them to do that and ensure they fully utilise the fund," Sykes said.

"Club's will be expected to demonstrate clearly that they are enhancing their programme and that whatever is spent links back to the players overall education and learning experience and the qualifications they are undertaking,"

Club's wishing to use the fund should let LFE know their intentions by 28 February 2014 for further details please visit: www. Ife.org.uk/about/education-support-fund



## THE **AMERICAN** DREAM

players gain soccer scholarships in the USA this year...

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

LFE's Simon Williams has offered a glowing assessment of LFE's progress in helping over 40

THIS NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER
3 ALL DEBTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

The figure represents a significant increase from previous years and Williams believes it bodes well for the future:

"It's a positive step for them and those thinking about making the move," Williams said.

"We watched 43 players fly over to the States during the summer and our partnership with PASS4Soccer allows clubs and apprentices to understand and make the most of this fantastic opportunity."

At a busy time of year when players take on more games than turkey and stuffing, planning for the future can easily be forgotten; with that in mind LFE has announced that its annual careers event, 'Create Your Legacy' will take place on Thursday 27 March 2013 at the University of Warwick.



On the football front, the 2014 Assessment Trials will kick-off on Thursday 1 May in the **North** and be followed by trials in the **South** (6 May) and Midlands (7-8 May).



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FORTY THREE SCHOLARSHIPS

PASS4Soccer is hosting showcase events at the London Soccer Dome on 15-16 December 2013 and 4 May 2014 to enable apprentices (with club permission) to play in front of USA Head Coaches.

To find out more read:

'A Guide to American **Scholarships** 2014'

at: www.lfe.org.uk/ downloads and call Simon Williams on 0845 074 0561.



#### **Assessment Trials 2014**

North Thursday 1st May Midlands Thursday 8th May **South** Tuesday 6th May

Thursday 8th May



LFE's Create Your Legacy 2014 Event will be held at Warwick University on



The Exeter playmaker made his full league debut in November, playing almost an hour of their 2-0 defeat against Phil Brown's much fancied Southend side.

## **Demarai Gray & Reece Brown**Birmingham City

Winger Gray, aged 17, played the last minute of Birmingham City's 4-0 win over Millwall in October and has since added five more appearance for the Blues, including a start against Charlton in November. He was the second of Birmingham's second year apprentices to make their debut this term, following Brown, who played in the Championship defeat at Burnley in September.



#### Connor Mahoney Accrington Stanley

Amidst the gloom of the opening weeks of season the emergence of Mahoney was a rare bright spot for Accrington Stanley, though with James Beattie's men on the move up League Two, the 16-year-old may have to wait a little longer to add to his 6 first-team appearances.



## Jack Whatmough Portsmouth

Pompey's Whatmough will be hoping for happier times at Fratton Park after penning a new deal at the club earlier this year.

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# Debutants

Several LFE apprentices have made their first team debuts already this season. We take a look at a selection of those who've tasted the real thing...

## **Josh Brownhill**Preston North End

Midfielder Brownhill grasped his chance during an underwhelming Preston team performance in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy (JPT) defeat against Oldham in October. The 17-year-old from Warrington has been a fixture in Simon Grayson's match-day squad ever since and scored the winner at Gillingham.



#### **Dan Rowe** Rotherham United

Second year apprentice Rowe made his first team bow for Rotherham United in the JPT at York, a fortnight before his 18th birthday. He moved down from Teesside to try and make it with the Millers.



#### Zack Kotwica, Bobby Dale and Harry Williams Cheltenham Town

Kotwica pictured here against West Ham in the Capital One Cup is one of a trio of youngsters, (alongside Dale and Williams) to have been given an opportunity at Whaddon Road.





#### Macaulay Bonne & Sammie Szmodics Colchester United

Under 18 colleagues last term, second year apprentices Bonne and Szmodics graduated into Joe Dunne's first-team plan's after impressing during pre-season. Striker Bonne has already shown his goal-scoring instincts hitting the winner at Peterborough on his 18th birthday.



## **Added Extra's**

Each season LFE offers clubs the chance to engage with a variety of initiatives to enrich their apprenticeship programme – here's some stats of how that's played out over the last 3 years.



# APPRENTICES: 2000

The number of apprentices who have engaged in sessions on Diversity, Driver Awareness, Drugs, Alcohol and Gambling, Emotional Well-being, Financial Management, Sexual Health, Social Media and Sports Psychology.

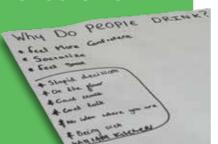






## PREVENTATIVE EDUCATION SESSIONS

The number of preventative education sessions that will have taken place with Sporting Chance by the end of this season



#### Sessions have been given by:

Sporting Chance Clinic



If U Care Share



Kick It Out



Sexual Health - 'Playing Safely'

#### Pennine Care NHS

NHS Foundation Trust

Social Media Training – Cathy Wood



Barclays Financial Management



Trained brain

#### trainedbrain<sup>†</sup>

BSM – Driver Awareness



#### SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING FOR

## 25 San Jo

25 clubs will have been 'tagged' to LFE's Social Media training this term – a core principle for the 400 or so apprentices taking part has been learning to 'tweet' others with respect.



Derby County's Tom Rigby talks about being a risk or role model online





If U C WORK

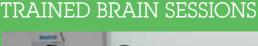
If U Care Sorganisation the messa

#### If U Care Share workshops

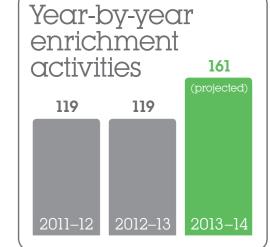
If U Care Share the name of an organisation that also encapsulates the message of their workshops.



Jamie Edwards has helped players 'think differently' about the challenge of making the grade on close to forty occasions.







#### Fabrice Muamba's career effectively ended in March 2012 in front of 36,000 football fans and millions of television viewers.

He remembers little from the moments prior to going into cardiac arrest bar the shouts of team-mate Zat Knight to 'come back' and now refers to the 78 minutes when his heart stopped, as 'my incident'.

Since then of course his story has been told all over the world but Muamba is keen to get away from that image. Readjustments have needed to be made of course. Simple things once taken for granted like driving his son to school is no longer permissible (until he passes a medical examination) but the former Bolton Wanderers midfielder is keen to focus on the future and taking the next steps into a new career.

LFE's Steve Sutcliffe caught up with Muamba at Media City recently to hear first-hand what he's been up to:

## SS: Firstly, what does a 25 year-old footballer do when he is forced to retire from the game?

FM: I've been doing a lot of things to keep busy, I really enjoy spending time with my family (he has two young children) and I came to terms with not being able to play a long time ago. I've been doing some work with The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) to gain some experience in an office and doing other aspects of work that still relate to football. I've enrolled on a Sports Journalism degree at Staffordshire University, I've done some co-commentary with BT Sport and I'm at The BBC at the moment.

#### SS: Tell me about your work with the PFA and what that's involved?

FM: I've been going out talking to young players (mainly Under 18s and first-year professionals) about their education. Really it's been about spelling out that they need to make sure they've got a Plan B in case football

doesn't turn out as planned. On that day they can rely on their education and use The PFA who are just one phone call away and will always be ready to help.

The other part of the message that's important is reminding them of the opportunity they've got and how fortunate they are to be at a club at this stage in their careers.

#### SS: So what did you know about The PFA when you were playing?

FM: I knew a little bit but I didn't know that much until I came to retire and then got involved. Having been in and seen first-hand what goes on behind the scenes it's surprising that you hear stories from players saying The PFA hasn't been there for them because when you actually look at everything the Union does for the players it's amazing. It's just about players being able to be responsible on their side and being able to put ego's or preconceptions aside and pick up the phone to ask for help when they need it.

#### SS: How has your message resonated with the players you've spoken to?

FM: I think the players understand where I'm coming from. You're one injury away from retiring and I tell them that; 'All you have to do is look at what happened to me'. I didn't expect anything to happen so all I say to the guys 'it's great to play football but just remember that education is just as important because you're going to retire at some point in your career so make sure you're equipped for that day'.

#### SS: What about your career aspirations?

**FM:** When I look at the media I see a lot of ex players who've become pundits which is good, really good actually but I want to go down the Sports Journalism route and learn what it's like doing various aspects of the job. That's where my interest lies and I'm taking it step by step at the moment and trying to learn.



Toe-to-toe with Chelsea's Ramires



Muamba's 'incident' at Tottenham



Working at The BBC



Visiting Burnley with The PFA

#### SS: How different have you found it?

FM: Sometimes as a player you don't appreciate all a journalist does. There is a lot of hard work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that you get a good interview, that a press conference goes well, you get the material you want and need etc. You have to think about what needs to be filmed, how it's going to be edited and then how your footage will be used and that's just the tip of the iceberg - so there's a lot to consider.

I've been given a wonderful opportunity to come in to The BBC working behind the scenes, which is counting towards my degree (Journalism students have to undertake placements) while giving me the chance to see how news works. I'm just enjoying every single moment of it.

## SS: So is that what you see yourself doing and did you think about it while you were playing?

FM: I didn't really know what I was going to do to be honest – which is something that's part of my talk to young players.

Once I'd retired I started to consider a couple of things but I had to get my head around what I wanted to do. I definitely want to pursue this and see what happens. You can't limit yourself to just being a journalist I'm sure if you asked people who have been in this industry a long time they'd tell you that you have to be multi-skilled - so who knows what the future holds.

## Fabrice Muamba



10 11

### January

Crystal Palace and England winger Wilf Zaha completes his medical ahead of a £15 million move to Manchester United.

After a Jason Gilchrist hat-trick had helped to see off Manchester United, Burnley were unable to repeat their FA Youth Cup heroics at Manchester City.



Sam Byram was celebrating his second new contract of the seaso after starring in the Leeds first XI iust months after emerging from the Under 18's. Pictured here Byram was on his way to being named the club's Player of the Season for 2012-13.

### **February**





#### The Football League Awards 2013



George Sykes (Barnet).



Apprentice of the Year The Championship: Dimitar Evtimov Nottingham Forest).











## year in pictures 2013

### **April**

## May



Jack Blake (pictured) was a driving force in Nottingham Forest's FA Youth Cup run that was only ended after a semi-final penalty shoot out at Norwich.



Double winners Bristol Rovers, Hull City, Portsr nd Wrexham all had campaigns to celebrat





Sullay Kaikai's mazy run and finish for Crystal Palace at Liverpool earns him the Goal of the Season Award. The competition received over 20,000 views on the LFE YouTube Channel.



#### Estyn hails LFE as an 'Excellent' education provider after a one week inspection.

Rochdale's Jamie Allen and team-mate

Kevin Masirika went back to school to

show inequality in sport the red card!

Dale along with Derby and Sheffield

United were amongst a number of

throughout the year.

club's to support community projects

March



Some images courtesy of P.A.

LFE's Assessment Trials welcome players and scouts alike. Over 90% of players received some form of interest after the events

Apprentice of the Year - League Luke James (Hartlepool United).









June



Another player on the nove was former Tranmere apprentice Dale Jennings who returned to England to join Barnsley from Bayern Munich,

12

## July

## August

## September







LFE Pre-season Tour 2013













### October

# Southend's Ted Smith received an England call-up.



## November



## December







## Charlie I'Anson

"It's a dream to think I could face the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi."

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He was born in Luton, plays as a central defender and is virtually unknown outside Grimsby but as far as career decisions go Charlie l'Anson isn't doing badly.

The 20-year-old's story is all the more fascinating, as two years ago, unbeknown to him, I'Anson was about to play his final game for Grimsby Town, a Boxing Day derby at Lincoln in the Conference.

Now he holds the honour of being the only Englishman to be playing in La Liga – a journey that has taken him from Bedfordshire to Malaga to Nottingham to Grimsby and finally to Elche, his current employers.

I'Anson had left England as a 7-year-old to live in Malaga but moved back at 16 when he was spotted playing in a Spanish youth tournament by Nottingham Forest scouts. "Suso from Liverpool scored the winner for Cadiz against us (Malaga select XI)," I'Anson wistfully explains.

"I trialled at Forest who offered to sign me as an apprentice but they were concerned about my height (I'Anson is 5'11).

"They said they'd try and convert me into a right-back, the other option was a trial at Grimsby, which I took and which Nick Marshall (Forest's academy manager) arranged – it went from there."

Moving from the Costa del Sol to Blundell Park, took some acclimatising to though.

"It was hard as it was my first time away from home and the weather was freezing but the digs were lovely and my team-mates were great," continued I'Anson.

"I captained the youth-team and scored on my first-team debut at Mansfield. I then played 17 games at the start of 2011-12 before picking up a bad injury at Lincoln which left me wearing a protective boot for about a month.

"When I was fit again I couldn't get past the likes of Shaun Pearson and Darran Kempson to get back in the team."

While I'Anson was presented with a new two-year deal the financial realities of the offer meant that he'd have precious little money after he'd paid for his lodgings (a cost that had previously been picked up by the club but which he was expected to meet as a professional).

"In the end we couldn't come to an agreement over that so I said I wanted to return home which in fairness they were ok with."

The decision to gamble on his future has ultimately worked although not without a touch of good fortune.

"Because I'd been with Grimsby no one in Spain really knew about me so I moved around a bit and luckily a friend got me a trial at Elche. I trialled for a week and then signed, going into the B team who were playing in the Tercera Division – think League Two," he says.

He noticed immediate differences from the rough and tumble of the Conference; "In England you've got to be big and strong to play at that level but over here it's less battling and more football." Promotion to the Segunda B was a good start made better by the first-team's elevation to La Liga in the same year and led to I'Anson making his full Elche debut in October during a 2-1 win over Espanyol.

"I've trained with the first-team all year and the gaffer (Fran Escriba) has shown me that he believes in me. He pulled me to one side and told me he was going to put me in and just to be brave and play simple - so I went out and tried to not complicate things. It was a big step-up in terms of quality, pace and the technical capacity of our opponents but I did get more space than I expected.

"The gaffer said he was pleased though obviously I'd have been even happier if we'd have kept a clean sheet but it was a win against a top team."

While many in the press have questioned the ability of young English players I'Anson feels that assessment is far from accurate.

"In England everyone says the quality of the players abroad is better but I don't think it is. There's a lot of talent it just needs to be nurtured and given the opportunity to develop more. Over here if the manager thinks you can add to his team you'll definitely play.

"In training we're told to play out from the keeper with the strikers and midfielders pressurising. If you make a mistake or give the ball away and it results in a goal it doesn't matter, you're still encouraged to do it so that you can learn to trust in your ability and know how to approach different situations."

So what's next for the youngster who simply has the number 26 and Charlie on the back of his shirt?

"I just want to keep learning. It's a dream to think I could face the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi because as a kid you watch those types of players and look up to them."

So should other English players follow his lead? "Not everyone will be as lucky as me," he says earnestly, "but if a player isn't getting a chance in England and fancies trying his luck why not?

"I'd encourage anyone to do it because you'll learn and improve yourself by playing abroad and experiencing different styles of football."

### Tom Wellham



Former Millwall keeper Tom Wellham is hoping to join his compatriot in La Liga. Released by The Lions last summer, Wellham has been rebuilding his confidence

on LFE's player placement programme in Spain and recently had a one week trial with Sevilla.

"It went really well, they seemed impressed and said I've got a lot of potential," Wellham said.

## Josh Dickens

Chile's recent 2- 0 win at Wembley may have come as a surprise to many but one Englishman who was not shocked by the outcome was Josh Dickens.

That's because Dickens, an apprentice at Aldershot until May, is now plying his trade at Chilean Primera B outfit Deportes Concepción and has first-hand experience of the talent that country has to offer.

"When people think of South America they immediately think of Brazil and Argentina," Dickens told Touchline.

"Not many of the Chilean players are household names back home even if Arturo Vidal is at Juventus and Alexis Sanchez is playing at Barcelona. The vast majority of the squad would've been unknown quantities but there are some fantastically gifted players in that group."

A tall defender who can player right-back or in the centre of defence, Dickens was deemed not 'aggressive' enough by the Shots coaching staff last term. So what prompted him to travel over 7000 miles to try and reignite his dream of becoming a professional footballer?

"After an Under 18 game in which I'd played well, an agent who also scouts for club's in South America spoke to me about my situation." he said.

"At that stage I knew things weren't quite going to work out for me at the Recreation Ground – so we spoke and he arranged for

me to go to Italy to play for Deportes in an Under 20's tournament.

"The idea was that I'd get to know the manager and some of the players and then go on to Chile afterwards. The more I thought about things I was convinced it was the right path to take. I've got a back-up of a place at Loughborough University if things don't work out but why not try.

"In the 8 months I've been here I've improved massively, technically, tactically and found an extra yard of pace. I wouldn't have been able to get this sort of experience in the UK and I wanted to learn how to play against a different type of attacking player."

While Dickens is hoping to use this experience as a stepping stone to better things and would guite like to try his luck in one of the other South American countries he admits that he has had to adjust to noticeable differences from life in his home county of Sussex.

"I've been lucky in the respect that I'm staying with the first-team manager and his family. He speaks English so he's helped me a lot with the language (as nobody else can speak it). It took me 3 months to get the basics of Spanish. I'm pretty fluent now but for the first few weeks it was like listening to Aliens!

"I've found training more technically focussed - we do short sharp work with the ball and everything is based on speed and power though of course we're working in 25 Degree's heat sometimes. In terms of lifestyle we'll head to the beach after training but being here has opened my eyes.

"You can take life for granted in Britain. People say times are tough but when you come here the top players don't earn anything like the sort of money that's available at home and there are many people that are worse off – I've seen people looking through rubbish for food and possessions."

With the Chilean season drawing to its conclusion Dickens and Deportes are in a title scrap which looks set to go down to the last game of the season, while excited by that prospect one thing the Englishman admits he won't miss is the travel arrangements to some of their matches and the hot temperatures an issue Rov Hodgson's England squad will have to overcome at the World Cup:

"We've done a few long trips - we had to take a 9 hour bus journey recently to get to one fixture. We stayed over the night before, played and then it was straight back on the bus, I'm sure England won't be bussing it around but when it's warm and you're travelling it does take it out of you," he added.



#### What they've been tweeting

#### Follow us: @LFEonline



With so many current and ex apprentices on Twitter – we've picked out some of the best tweets we've seen in recent times:

Gavin Willacy expresses his support for Regan Charles Cook



Gavin Willacy @gavinwillacy
Watch glorious goal for @CAFC\_TheAcademy finished by #ReganCharlesCook in @LFEonline #gotm competition bit.ly/17tfDjC @CAFCofficial

Cheltenham Town remark on a wonderful week for 2nd year Harry Williams



Cheltenham Town FC @CTFCofficial

Memorable week for Harry Williams so far after being honoured by @LFEonline & now named on the bench.

Posh duo Jermaine Anderson & Charlie Coulson revel in Youth Cup victory



Jermaine Anderson @JermaineA96

What a pic! @TomConlon7 @CharlieCoulson2 #FAYouthCup pic.twitter.com/VwQ9gue1pm





Charlie Coulson @CharlieCoulson2

@JermaineA96 @Tom Conlon7 look at the state of me. honkin!!!!!

Sam Dryden's LFE blog earns rave reviews



Jack Koczalski @JackSki123

@SamDryden mate, that's class... I guarantee every young footballer can relate to some of the things in there and learn from you



andy cope @beingbrilliant

@SamDryden\_Love it Sam. Great message and attitude... @dcfcofficial #2percenter

Blade Kyle Scarisbrick highlights a worthy cause



kyle scarisbrick @kyle\_scass6
About to start the 20k bike ride yesterday for the 2nd part of the triathalon, raising money for @ StLukes Sheff pic.twitter.com/9hhJbrrtf\



Jason Paling is overjoyed for his team-mate loan Evans



Jason Paling @Jason\_paling
Yes @IEvans 55 son! You've b Yes @IEvans 55 son! You've been named in the first @LFEonline Team 11!! bit.ly/1cO1jrD

Sually KaiKai's fame spreads – picking up LFE's goal of the season award



Mr NBT @JoeNBT

Proud that my cuz @SullyKaikai got presented with @LFEonline Goal of the Season Award today in front of 20,000+ pic.twitter.com/dCeBuPn2UX



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## Check out the LFE team online

Keep up to date with all the action from League Football Education. From the latest news and results on twitter and facebook, goal clips on YouTube to all the information you need at www.lfe.org.uk.







