

Touchline



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ON THE MOVE P14

THE DEBUTANTS P6 PRE-SEASON TRIP P10 BACK IN THE SYSTEM P12 LUKE GREAVES P18 KLER HEH P20

Academy Leagues Round-Up

BY JACK WYLIE

North West Alliance

Tranmere Rovers are the convincing early pacesetters with a tally of nine goals in the 'Goals For' column and the concession of just one goal at the other end. With the goals shared out between Tolani Omatola (3), Jack Hulley (2), Scott Medlen (2) and Udoyen Akpan (2), Andy Parkinson's side hold a one-hundred per cent record and two point advantage at the top of the table.

Fleetwood were amongst the goals in a 5-2 away win at Carlisle to put them second, whilst Walsall's more resolute approach has helped them to third, on goal difference.

North East Alliance

Four teams have flown out the blocks in the North East including last season's top two. Reigning champions Bradford City are in fourth after emerging the right side of consecutive goal fests (4-2 v York and 4-3 at Chesterfield) to open their campaign.

Burton Albion and Scunthorpe have also made one-hundred per cent starts though Doncaster, runners up last term, lead the way on goal difference and are yet to concede.

South East Alliance

Southend top the pile in the South East after a flawless August of five wins from their first five games. Elsewhere, the goals have been flowing for Luton Town as they started with four wins out of four before being held to a 1-1 draw by Gillingham.

The Hatters opened the season by crushing last year's winners Barnet 4-0 and continued that goal scoring momentum with victories over Peterborough United (3-1) and AFC Wimbledon (5-0) before dismantling MK Dons (8-2). Paul Driver's team were 3-0 up after 11 minutes and 6-1 up at the break against last term's runners-up.

South West Alliance

Portsmouth are a point clear at the top after completing the month unbeaten, including impressive 6-1 and 4-1 wins over Newport County and Exeter, respectively. Last season's winners AFC Bournemouth resumed where they left off by continuing their dominance of the South West with three wins from three, but a 2-1 defeat at Bristol Rovers, who remain unbeaten, knocked them off their perch.

U18 Professional Development League North

The battle of the Steel City was won by United but the Blades were defeated by Crewe to drop to fifth. Birmingham remain unbeaten with 11 points from a possible 15 and sit a point ahead of Sheffield Wednesday. At the time of writing, Leeds are the only side to maintain a one hundred per cent start, winning their first three games, though reigning champions Huddersfield have toiled, losing three of their opening four games.

U18 Professional Development League South

After finishing the 2014-15 season as runners-up Brentford are looking to go one better this time around and have started with ten points out of twelve to move three points ahead of the pack. Last season's winners, Charlton Athletic, follow closely behind despite claiming their first victory of the season at the third attempt with a 3-1 win at Millwall. The Addicks appeared to hit top gear in a 9-0 triumph over Queens Park Rangers, who are yet to gain a point.

U18 Premier League North

Over at the Etihad Campus Manchester City are the early pace setters with four wins from four games. Everton who have won their two fixtures so far will hope to make ground up on Jason Wilcox's team in the coming weeks though Middlesbrough, top last year, currently prop up the table after a winless start.

U18 Premier League South

Leicester City won 6-1 against Brighton & Hove Albion to put themselves in pole position after three games. Reading have also made a winning start, including the 4-1 defeat of Arsenal, who held champions and FA Youth Cup holders Chelsea 1-1, to end the Blues one hundred per cent start.

*Opposite page: Fulham celebrate against West Ham
Below, clockwise from left to right: Blackburn v Middlesbrough;
Wolves' Joe Delacoe; Sheffield Wednesday v Cardiff City;
Fulham v Swansea; Mansfield Town v Lincoln City;
QPR v Brentford.*



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LFE was established by The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association



Player Placements

BY SIMON WILLIAMS



The number of released players who have joined up with a Swedish club through Erasmus+

While Sweden celebrated winning the U21 European Championships in July, the Scandinavian Peninsula has been playing temporary home for a select group of LFE starlets.

Fourteen from this summer's crop of released players have joined up with a Swedish club in the hope of reigniting their careers through LFE's Erasmus+ player placement programme which featured last month on BBC1's North West Tonight in a two-part LFE special.

Moses Duckrell (Barnet) who returned from BK Sport in June after a thirteen week spell has used his time in Sweden as the springboard for his recent move to Livingston FC, where he signed a two-year deal.

With the expedition coming to a close in October as the season finishes, all will take home valuable life experience with some hopeful of repeating Moses' triumph (see page 17).

ANGE IF

Sev Bokciu (Charlton Athletic)
Omar Carey (Wigan Athletic)
Kieran Duncan (Notts County)
Tevin Shakespeare (Walsall)

BK SPORT

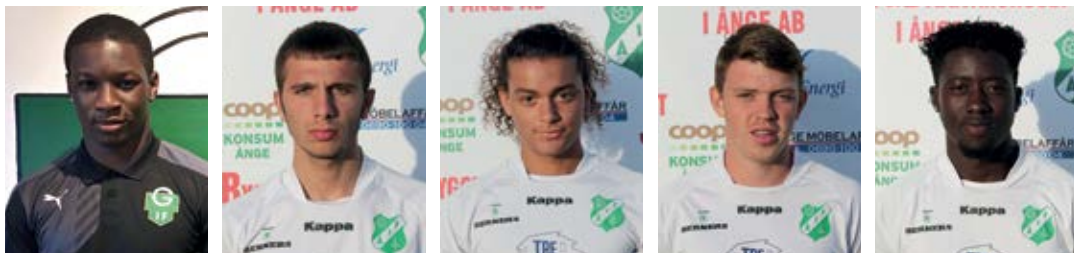
Josh Barr-Rostron (Lincoln City)
Lewis Clark (Dagenham & Redbridge)
Harry Hagon (Preston North End)
Jordan Harper (Lincoln City)

GOTTNE IF

Shola Oladipo (Leyton Orient)

YTTERHOGDALS IK

Muctaru Conte (Oxford United)
Liam Hardey (York City)
Joe Massey (Chesterfield)
Nathan Plews (Middlesbrough)
Jake Richards (Coventry City)



Clockwise from left to right: Shola Oladipo joins Gottne IF; Sev Bokciu, Omar Carey, Kieran Duncan and Tevin Shakespeare join Ange IF; Ytterhogdals IK team featuring five of LFE's released players; The home of Ytterhogdals IK.

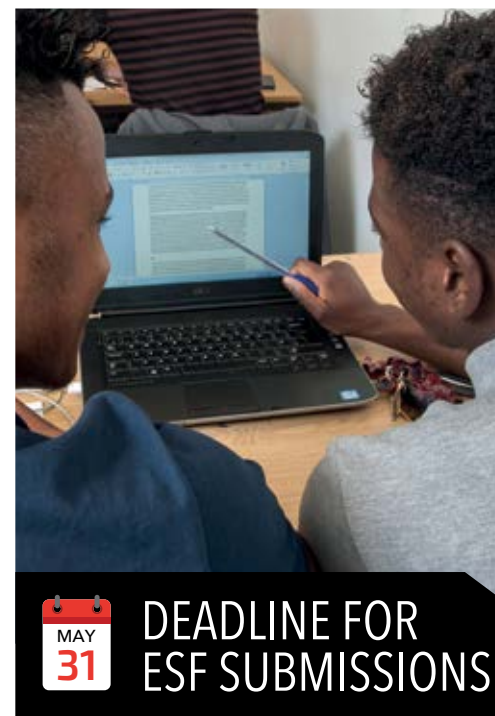
Education Support Fund

Apple MacBook's, iPads, filming towers, video cameras, microphones, mobile whiteboards, outward bound days, nutrition and cooking classes, lab sessions, speed testing, plyometric jump systems and heart-rate monitors were just some of the many items paid for by the Education Support Fund last term.

While full details of this year's fund will be communicated to clubs next month (October), LFE chief executive Alan Sykes has been delighted by its impact as it moves towards its tenth year of operation.

"This fund has helped to strengthen and enhance what clubs can deliver on the apprenticeship programme," Sykes said.

"Since it was set-up in 2006, this support has taken many forms, some of it is fairly traditional if we look at IT or sports science equipment, however, if a club finds a new innovative way to improve their programme we will support it, if we can. Ultimately our key criteria remains how any proposal benefits the education provision and apprentices."



Any queries should be directed to Alan Sykes on 01772 326 870 or email: asykes@lfe.org.uk

New Season New Look



As the new season arrived so too did LFE's new website. The first thing you'll notice about our new site is that it complements our digital and print publications to provide a fresh, modern and visual platform.

Its responsive design is a winner on desktop, tablet and mobile devices while you should also notice that News, Academy League tables and Goal of the Month feature prominently.

Talking of **Goal of the Month**, congratulations go to Brighton's Connor Tighe who capped a fine 2014-15 campaign by triumphing in LFE's Goal of the Season competition.

His stunning strike against Arsenal last December attracted 2482 votes to emerge as a clear winner.

The question is, who can follow his lead when Goal of the Month returns? The competition which, like our website has enjoyed a little bit of a revamp will be available via our website and YouTube channel.

Voting as ever remains online but we'll also be announcing details of how to vote via social media.





Regan Charles-Cook
Charlton Athletic

1 First year pro Regan made his first team debut at right-back in Charlton's 4-1 League Cup win over neighbours Dagenham & Redbridge in August, a game in which team-mate Karlan Ahearne-Grant - still a second year apprentice - scored his first goal for the Addicks. Regan, originally a central midfielder, then made his league debut off the bench against Hull and started in the second round against Peterborough - winning all three games! Mikael Kennedy scored in his debut in the 4-1 win at Posh, making it ten academy products to have played for Charlton's first team already this season: Charles-Cook, Ahearne-Grant, Kennedy, Chris Solly, Jordan Cousins, Harry Lennon, Morgan Fox, Callum Harriott, Ollie Muldoon, Tareiq Holmes-Dennis.



James Tilley
Brighton & Hove Albion

2 He may not have touched the ball, but Brighton striker James Tilley can say he made his league debut at 16. As he ended his first year as an apprentice at Albion, Tilley was called-up for the last game of the season and was sent on by manager Chris Hughton with a few seconds left of their goalless draw at Middlesbrough. James followed fellow Seagulls Academy graduate Chris Walton into the first team squad - England U20 keeper Walton has now gone on loan to Bury - and just beat former apprentice Glen Rea to his debut, Rea playing in the League Cup at Southend and Walsall in August.



Dael Fry
Middlesbrough

3 England youth international Dael not only made his first team debut for Boro in the opening game of the season but he did it on live TV! Dael was at the heart of the Boro defence as the beaten Championship Play-Off Finalists held League One Play-Off winners, Preston North End, to a goalless draw at Deepdale and impressed everyone. "He was the best," said manager Aitor Karanka. "In a difficult game, away from home in front of a big crowd, he showed great personality and at 17 years of age he showed that he will have a very good future. I had no doubts about him. I know how mature he is and what a good player he is."



Myles George-Kenlock
Ipswich Town

4 It's exciting times for 18-year-old local lad Myles as he steps up into Mick McCarthy's first team squad setting the pace at the top of the Championship following last season's play-off defeat. Kenlock was handed a start for his hometown club in the Capital One Cup against Stevenage and lasted 77 minutes, coming off just after the Tractor Boys had scored what turned out to be the winner. Kenlock then played the whole game in the 4-1 second round win at Doncaster.

The Debutants

BY GAVIN WILLACY



Kieran Parselle and Dafydd Jones
Newport County

5 There are worse places to play your first couple of minutes of senior football than Molyneux and that is where second year apprentice Dafydd Jones made his Newport debut, coming on at the end of County's narrow Cup defeat at Wolves. The midfielder joined left-back Kieran Parselle on the pitch, a few weeks after he completed his apprenticeship, the 18-year-old also played in the next two league games.



Ryan Broom
Bristol Rovers

6 Welsh midfielder Broom made his professional debut off the bench for the Gas in their 2-1 League Cup defeat to Birmingham City less than a month before his 19th birthday. The boy from Blackwood has secured a pro contract with the Pirates as they aim to keep up momentum following their victory in the Conference play-off final at Wembley.



Jack Storer and Dale Gorman
Stevenage

7 Jack became the latest in an impressive bunch of Stevenage apprentices to make their first team debuts in the last year or two. Boro boss Teddy Sheringham threw the attacking midfielder from Wolverhampton on to try to get an equaliser as they trailed by a goal at Orient in August. Unfortunately the O's scored twice more but Storer has remained

in the squad alongside first year pro's Dale Gorman and George Casey and second year apprentice Nathan Kerr as Sheringham shows his faith in youth. Northern Irish midfielder Gorman worked his way into Boro's starting XI during August.

The Netherlands 2015

Bury, Crewe Alexandra, Millwall and Wolverhampton Wanderers took advantage of LFE's pre-season jaunt to The Netherlands where they were joined by fellow Football League clubs, Derby County, Carlisle United, Middlesbrough and Rochdale. Over 130 apprentice players took part in the 13 day trip. Here we look back at some of the best moments caught on camera.



Wolves Under-18 squad enjoy a bike ride to the training ground



Millwall touch down in Amsterdam



Louis Coyne aims to serve up an ace to teammate Kieran Price as the Dale starlets play head tennis



Shakers players enjoy a session in the pool



Fuelling up: The Shakers youngsters tuck into some breakfast before training



Relaxing: The Lions have some fun at a quiz night



Rochdale head out to take on FC Dordrecht



The officials lead Derby and Feyenoord out



Connor Johnson gets to grips with paddle boarding



Kyrone Stabana goes wild after his stoppage time winner against Feyenoord



Rochdale coaches get the tactics whiteboard out



Out and about: Middlesbrough step out in Amsterdam



◀ Kieran Hall was victorious in Carlisle's footgolf competition



The Cumbrians experienced the Dutch philosophy with NAC Breda coaches



Crewe coach Kenny Lunt issues instructions ahead of training

▶ A Brabant United coach addresses the Wolves players



How did our clubs fare?

| Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals For | Goals Against |
|--------|-----|-------|------|-----------|---------------|
| 23 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 51 | 40 |




Wolverhampton Wanderers

- W 4-2 FC Dordrecht (U19s)
- W 2-1 FC Twente (U19s)
- L 1-6 Sparta Rotterdam




Rochdale

- W 4-1 FC Dordrecht (U17s)
- L 0-1 FC Twente (U17s)
- L 1-4 Brabant United




Millwall

- W 4-2 KSC Lokeren
- W 2-0 Waasland Beveren
- L 1-2 PSV Eindhoven




Carlisle United

- W 3-2 RKSVC Leonidas
- W 3-0 Waasland Beveren (U17s)
- L 2-4 NAC Breda




Middlesbrough

- W 2-0 FC Twente
- W 2-0 VFL Bochum (U19s)
- L 2-3 FC Utrecht




Derby County

- W 3-2 Feyenoord
- W 5-0 Guangzhou Evergrande
- D 0-0 AZ Alkmaar




Bury

- L 1-2 Vitesse Arnhem
- D 3-3 VFL Bochum (U17s)
- W 3-0 Willem II




Crewe Alexandra

- L 2-3 Ado Den Haag
- L 1-2 Sparta Rotterdam

Back in the system

BY GAVIN WILLACY

LFE's Gavin Willacy reports on the growing trend of former apprentice players who have made the transition in to coaching.

Attention all apprentices: if you love your club and get released at the end of your two-year apprenticeship it doesn't mean your time at your club is over. Remarkably, there are now around 50 former apprentices coaching at professional clubs, with half of them working at the club they played at.

Most are coaching on community schemes, some are working their way up through the academy, a few are even coaching the Under-18's or Under-21's.

As a specialist goalkeeping coach, **Yilmaz Aksoy** (1) is working with the keepers at Leyton Orient three years after being released by the East London club. Yilmaz went to play professionally in Bulgaria and Turkey, where his family are from, but returned home to pursue a coaching career alongside completing an Economics degree at university, having gained A levels in Maths and Economics during his apprenticeship.

Aksoy's youth team-mate **Michael Richardson** saw his hopes of a pro career dashed by a major knee injury that wrecked his apprenticeship but the club

did not want to lose his skill set and now employ him as coach of their Under-11s. Richardson's team-mate **Harry Beautyman** was released by Orient after a year as a pro and went into non-league, supplementing his income by coaching at Arsenal's Community Foundation until getting another chance in the League with Peterborough United last season. A third former apprentice now coaching at Orient is **Jamal Willer** (2), who went immediately from being released by Charlton to working for Orient's award-winning Community Trust.

So what do academy manager's see in these young men? "Once we realised they were not going to get contracts, we saw them as good role models, responsible, reliable and decent people who we wanted to give a chance to so they could stay involved," says Orient's Academy Director Andy Edwards.

"It's not a coincidence they are coaching here: we like to give opportunities and will do with other lads who we don't sign. They are two very different types of coaches and both have a good future in coaching. I'm proud of what they've achieved already but it's a testament to their character that they've taken this opportunity."

Likewise, on the south coast, Brighton & Hove Albion are also keeping good people within the club. New Under-18 assistant coach **Adam Hinshelwood** (3) was a player with the Seagulls, while **Ryan Cooper** was not offered a pro contract when his apprenticeship ended in 2012 but Albion rated him so highly as a person that they encouraged him to remain a part of the club community in a coaching capacity. Ryan's team-mate **George Cousins** and former Millwall apprentice **Jimmy Rogers** (4) are both coaching young children at Chelsea.

It can take years to progress up the coaching ladder but some make quick progress. **Chris Brown** never left his club. A star centre-back in their youth team - he was nominated for League Two Apprentice of the Year in 2010 - Chris signed a two year pro contract. When that ended he went straight into coaching in Dale's academy and worked his way up through the age group. This season he is the Lead YDP Coach overseeing the Under-9s to 16s and is Assistant Coach for the Under-18s, escorting them to Holland this summer on LFE's Erasmus+ tour!

Goalkeeping coaches, like Aksoy, can move rapidly through the ranks. **Callum Tongue** (5) was Bradford City youth team keeper three seasons ago - now he is coaching the second team keepers at Manchester

City. Likewise, **Ross Atkins** (6) has gone from playing in goal for Derby youth team to passing on his knowledge to those wanting to do the same.

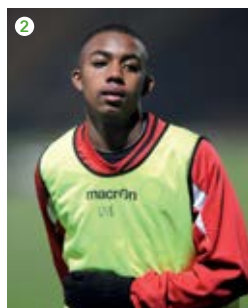
There are examples everywhere: in Lancashire, **Sam Staunton-Turner** was released by Blackpool two years ago and is now coaching their Under-10s, while **Phil McGrath** bounced back from a career-ending injury at Oldham to coach their academy.

Jack Cudworth played non-league football after leaving Preston but has now been added to Simon Grayson's staff coaching the club's goalkeepers - while fellow North Ender **Jordan Bent** (7) is also back at Deepdale in a coaching capacity.

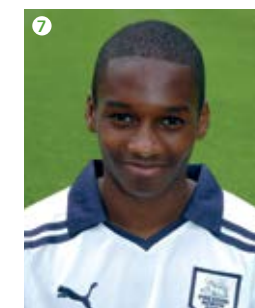
"I didn't start coaching until my career was ending in my 30s but I think I would've been a better player if I'd started earlier," admits Edwards, an apprentice at Southend United.

"When you coach you get a better understanding of the game, you see things from other positions not just your own, a bigger picture. All young players should start coaching while they are still playing."

So if you are told your club don't want to retain you as a player, you could stay and put your coaching skills to use instead.



"When you coach you get a better understanding of the game, you see things from other positions not just your own, a bigger picture. All young players should start coaching while they are still playing."



"Once we realised they were not going to get contracts, we saw them as good role models, responsible, reliable and decent people who we wanted to give a chance to so they could stay involved."

3

Credit: Paul Hazlewood

ON THE MOVE



REGAN POOLE
NEWPORT COUNTY TO MANCHESTER UNITED

This time last year Poole was featuring in 'The 11', now he's officially a Manchester United player. Poole who is officially still classed as a second-year apprentice, became Newport's youngest ever player when he started against Shrewsbury last September at the age of 16 years and 94 days.

The young Welsh defender had featured in all the Exiles fixtures this term and moved to Old Trafford on deadline day for an initial fee of £100,000 that could, with add-ons, rise to £400,000

MASON HOLGATE
BARNSELY TO EVERTON

Holgate followed in the footsteps of fellow Barnsley youth product John Stones, when he left Oakwell for Goodison Park this summer.

"With Mason, an opportunity came up and we didn't want to lose out. He is a young man with a very impressive future," Everton manager Roberto Martinez said, after the young right full-back had completed his £2million switch to Merseyside.

ANDRE GRAY
BRENTFORD TO BURNLEY

Andre Gray became Burnley's club-record signing after finalising his move from Brentford in August. The deal, worth a reported £6million up front and a further £3million in add-ons represents one of the biggest in The Championship.

Not bad for a player who left Shrewsbury in 2010, a year after signing his first professional deal. His renaissance via Telford, Hinckley, Luton and the Bees has been remarkable.

"He has worked very, very hard to get to the level he's at," Burnley manager Sean Dyche said.

"He has risen up the ladder and, in many ways, had a similar pathway to two former strikers here - Danny Ings and Charlie Austin."

FABIAN DELPH
ASTON VILLA TO MANCHESTER CITY

A case of will he, won't he, finally ended with the former Leeds United youngster wearing Sky Blue in July.

Delph initially rejected overtures from Manchester City and was greeted as a hero at Villa Park, however a U-turn took place and the England midfielder made an £8million move to the Etihad.

ADAM MATTHEWS
CELTIC TO SUNDERLAND

Adam Matthews, has come a long way since collecting the Championship Apprentice of the Year Award while at Cardiff in 2010. Since then the Welsh full-back, who is still only 23-years-old, has taken on and beaten Lionel Messi and Barcelona, won four League titles, a Scottish Cup and a Scottish League Cup.

Yet his time in Scotland came to an end this summer when Dick Advocaat and Sunderland came calling with a £2million bid.

MOSES ODUBAJO
BRENTFORD TO HULL CITY

Now 22, Odubajo completed the second seven figure move of his career last month when joining Steve Bruce's Hull team in a deal worth around £3.5million.

With the versatility to play right-back or on the right side of midfield, life as an apprentice began at Leyton Orient in 2009. His breakthrough year though, his first as a professional, came in 2012-13 before he moved on to Griffin Park 116 appearances later.

JOE GOMEZ
CHARLTON ATHLETIC TO LIVERPOOL

Gomez is another to enjoy international success with England Under-17's and described his £3.5million move to Anfield as a "dream come true".

The young central defender was reared at Charlton's Sparrows Lane training complex and made 24 appearances for The Addicks last year. He has started this campaign at left-back for the Reds, though his long-term future looks set to be in the middle.

CONNOR WICKHAM
SUNDERLAND TO CRYSTAL PALACE

Wickham seems to have been around an eternity but is actually still only 22 and was recruited by Alan Pardew for £7million in August to lead the line for Crystal Palace.

The centre-forward shot to prominence by becoming Ipswich's youngest ever player (aged 16 years and 11 days) and scored the winner for England in the 2010 Under-17 European Championships final victory over Spain. His promise induced Sunderland to secure his services in 2011 but after 4 years in the North East he moved to the capital.

Moses Duckrell



BY STEVEN SUTCLIFFE

Moses Duckrell has described signing for Scottish Championship side Livingston as “a dream come true”.

His move north of the border comes almost exactly 12 months after being released by Barnet at the conclusion of his apprenticeship. The pacey winger did not give up hope of a career in the game and has just returned from Sweden, where he has been on LFE’s player placement programme at BK Sport.

He impressed manager Mark Burchill while on trial and caught the eye in a 1-0 friendly defeat by Real Sociedad.

“Moses is a very quick player who has bags of potential and we will work closely with him to get him ready to play in the first team,” said Burchill.

Burchill’s eagerness to develop the Londoner’s potential was recognised by the offer of a two-year contract and Duckrell is now keen to repay his new managers faith.

“It’s a dream come true to sign a professional contract,” Duckrell said.

“I was totally over the moon when the gaffer phoned me up and said that he was going to offer me a two-year deal.

“When I got released from Barnet, I was offered the chance to play in Sweden for three months.

“I played in the Third Division there and got about a dozen games in the first team and it was hugely beneficial for me.

“I learned a lot and dealt with the physical side of the game.

“The standard wasn’t as high as it is here but it was good to get a decent run of games for a first-team and it helped my game.”

Duckrell added: “I really believe this is a great place for me to learn and hopefully improve and take steps forward in my game.

“It’s just such an incredible feeling. The game against Real Sociedad was the largest crowd I’d played in front of and in the largest stadium I’d played at.

“When I came on I thought ‘wow this is amazing.’ I can’t even get my head around the idea of playing in front of crowds like 50,000 at Rangers.

“I’ve been knocked down a lot before so it’s great to know the hard work has all been worth it.”

LFE typically sends 25-30 players out to Sweden each season via its player placement programme in a bid to provide further football and life opportunities.

“This is a perfect example of how our placements in Sweden can prepare players for their next move in football,” said LFE’s Simon Williams.

“Moses had the platform to continue his development while at the same time acquire some experience of men’s football abroad and this has clearly been recognised by Livingston.”

“Moses is fortunate enough to apply the skills he learned from moving to Sweden for his new venture and relocation to Scotland and we wish him every success both on and off the field.”

Duckrell has joined fellow Londoner, Myles Hippolyte, a former Brentford apprentice at Livi and Gavin Willacy who acted as Duckrell’s regional point of contact with LFE when the player was at Barnet believes he deserves this chance.

“Moses was dedicated, enthusiastic and mature,” Willacy said.

“Although he was not offered a contract by Barnet, he had impressed the staff and gained strong qualifications at Stanmore College, which helped him secure a placement in Sweden earlier this year. His athletic ability and fine attitude has given him this exciting opportunity at Livingston.”



NEWBOULD

BY JACK WYLIE

In May 2012, York City celebrated double glory after winning the FA Trophy and Conference play-off final.

The latter ended an eight-year absence from The Football League but for young defender Ben Newbould it was a life changing period for very different reasons as he was released by the club just a month later.

“At that age it’s your living dream. You’re doing exactly what you want to do - you’re playing football every day of your life and getting paid for it as well,” he told Touchline.

“But at some point, when you’re not training with the first team, you get an idea that things aren’t going as you would like.”

Newbould’s departure from Bootham Crescent marked the end of his seven-year affiliation with the club.

“At that point you don’t really know what to do or think. Everything is suddenly up in the air,” he recalled.

However, he was quickly back on his feet and decided against trying to force his way back into football. Instead an apprenticeship with his former sponsor, Eden Training Solutions, beckoned.

“I booked onto a six-week intensive course to get my PT (personal training) qualification,” he said.

“I went to Eden Training for an apprenticeship, doing roles such as admin and data administration.

“I then got a teaching qualification with Eden to become an assessor so that I could deliver PT sessions of my own.”

Once he had learned his trade, Newbould was ready to set-up on his own.

“At Eden, I gained a good grasp of what things work or don’t and how to make a company successful,” he explained.

“I saw an opportunity in a booming market and just went for it.”

Three years on, Newbould is flourishing in his new career as Managing Director of Velocity PT Academy.

“Day-to-day, I work 9:30 to 4:30 delivering PT qualifications. As an ex-footballer, I wanted to stay in a practical job and 50 per cent of my time is spent delivering sessions in the gym”.

Newbould has stayed in touch with football though, he attended LFE’s 2014 careers event in Warwick and is keen to provide opportunities for those following in his footsteps.

He said: “Through Create Your Legacy, I was asked to partner with The International Academy for Football and Education, set up by Brian Deane (the former Leeds United striker).”

“The academy offers players courses and opportunities to keep them in football whilst getting an education as well.

“They got in contact with me to offer players qualification opportunities in PT. It’s great to help them out and I can relate to their situation as I was once in that position myself.”

“The company has come a long way in a short space of time and now I just want to grow on a national level with more offices across the country to cater to a wider spectrum of people,” he added.

“I think the ultimate goal is to become one of the biggest PT companies in the UK.”

MY NEW LIFE

BY JACK WYLIE

While most visit for the holiday of a lifetime, the city that never sleeps has lured former Accrington Stanley defender **Luke Greaves** down a new career path.



The 19-year-old swapped Accrington for the Big Apple and now studies and plays for Manhattan College.

The powerful centre-back turned down the offer of a professional deal at Stanley just over a year ago.

"I chose to leave Accrington because I was thinking of my long-term future. Taking the pro deal would have been great for a year or two, but the future wouldn't have been solid. I don't know what I would've done if I hadn't got another contract," he told Touchline.

Instead of staying at the Crown Ground, Greaves looked to the U.S. for opportunities to complement his football and academic ambitions.

"I contacted LFE and they got my information out to American coaches, who then contacted me," he continued.

"I had my dream of being a professional in my hands but I turned it down because I wanted a future that I know I can rely on."

The six-foot defender initially struggled to adjust to his new surroundings and found the early stages tough.

"The transition was difficult. The hardest thing is adapting to the American culture and the changes in academic standards. I really struggled during my first semester at college," he said.

"I had my dream of being a professional in my hands but I turned it down because I wanted a future that I know I can rely on."

IN NEW YORK

"It is a lot different from being at an English club in regards to the balance of being focused on football and academics at the same time, which can be very challenging when there is a lot of work."

However, now into his second year, Greaves is thriving in his adopted home.

"Once I became accustomed to the differences, I realised it was the best decision I've ever made.

"I've been playing well here. You come up against a lot more athletic players compared to England. The American players work hard and are all really athletic.

"I think a lot of people might think that the standard is not as professional compared to clubs back home but soccer is taken very seriously in Division 1 and standards are high."

Greaves was a key performer for the Manhattan Jaspers in his freshman year and used the summer to play in the Premier Development League (PDL) for Portland Phoenix.

"The PDL is a summer league for players who are trying to go pro, so it is a great stage for college players to impress United Soccer League (USL) or Major League Soccer (MLS) scouts," he added.

"As a result, you are playing against some of the best college players in the country. It also gives you the opportunity to do a lot of travelling and I've seen a lot of great places whilst I have been here."

Greaves was an ever-present in an obdurate backline that was ranked fifth out of the sixty-three teams involved, helping Portland to a play-off position after a 13-game unbeaten run.

While that journey ended in the Eastern Conference Championship final with a 4-0 defeat to the New York Red Bulls, Greaves is determined to use it as a learning curve.

"The PDL was a great experience. The most important thing for me is that I have continued to develop during my time here while also having a lot of fun."

Aside from football, Greaves the student, adores the New York City lifestyle.

"The best thing about this whole journey for me is living in New York City. I just get on the subway outside school and I'm in Times Square in 30 minutes," he said.

"You can never get bored of this city; there is always something happening. Now I never want to leave.

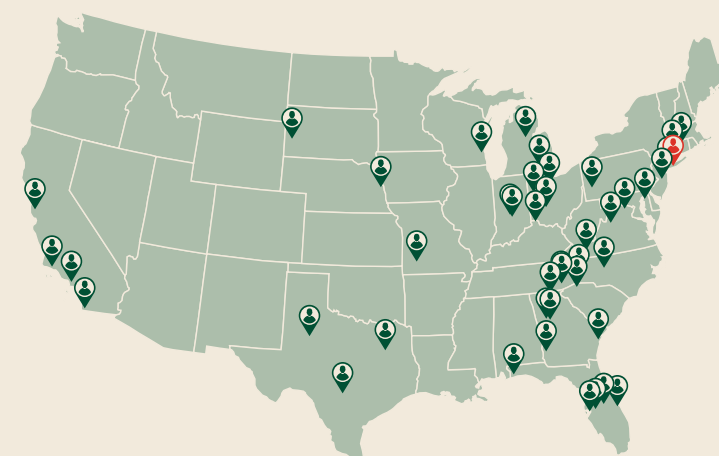
"I missed home a lot during my first three months but after going home for Christmas and then coming back it wasn't a problem anymore. You realise the potential that's here.

"My plan for the next few years is to keep working hard on and off the pitch and to see where it takes me whether in football or a career in business in New York - the opportunities are endless"

FORMER APPRENTICES NOW LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Greaves isn't the only former apprentice making a name for himself in the States.

Former Bristol City keeper **Dylan Castanheira** has enhanced his reputation at Ivy League institution Columbia University (New York) while around 100 former apprentices have settled on the other side of the Atlantic in the last three years to embark on a soccer scholarship.



After facing adversity head-on, Kler Heh has set his sights on continuing his incredible journey by reaching the Sheffield United first team.

Heh signed a professional deal at Bramall Lane over the summer to mark the successful conclusion of his two year apprenticeship with the club and is thought to have been approached to represent the Myanmar Football Federation on the international stage.

It is a far cry from very humble beginnings. Born in the Umpiem Mai Refugee Camp, which is home to almost 13,000 people, Kler was playing football in bare feet just 9 years ago in the depressing environs of the camp on the mountainous Thai/Myanmar border.

However, in 2006 Kler and five family members were resettled in Sheffield as part of the United Nations gateway protection programme.

Problem solved. Not really - more challenges presented themselves, not least adapting to a new culture, new climate and new language. Yet Kler impressed on a trial with the Blades and has gone from strength to strength ever since.

Sent out to Stocksbridge Park Steels to toughen up at the end of last term, United academy manager Nick Cox holds the skilful winger in high regard.

"He's a first-year professional playing with the Under 21s very much on a developmental route trying to progress and do the right things to earn another contract at the end of this season," Cox said.

"He's an attacking wide player, who likes to get the ball at his feet, take on opponents and impact on the game.

"We are always wary of building any young player up but I would say he's done fantastically well to get to the stage he's at and his next challenge is to continue that progression and try to catch the eye of the first team manager (Nigel Adkins) through his performances in training and with the Under-21's."

Kler, who now holds a British passport, as neither the Thai or Myanmar authorities would sanction one, also recognises that he has come a long way in a relatively short space of time and is hoping to continue to take the next steps forward in his career.

Speaking to Reuters, he said: "My goal is to impress Nigel Adkins and (under 21 coach) Chris Morgan, and repay Sheffield United for the faith that they have shown to me."

"I know that I am representing myself, my family, friends and everyone in Myanmar and Thailand,"

He added: "I want to be a positive role model and a symbol of hope that there is life outside the refugee camps."

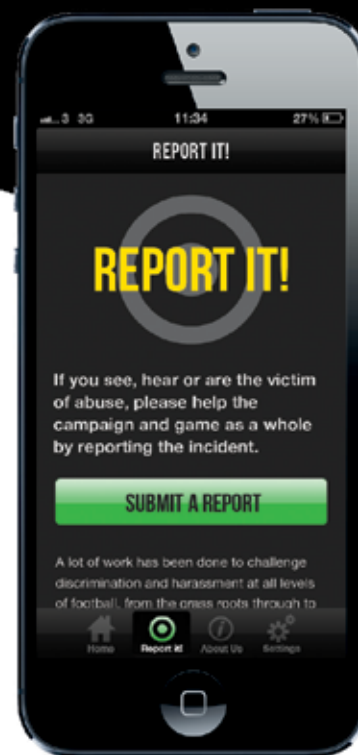
Kler Heh

BY STEVEN SUTCLIFFE

"I want to be a positive role model and a symbol of hope that there is life outside the refugee camps."




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Life Skills

BY STEVEN SUTCLIFFE



Around 80 Life Skills sessions have already been booked in at clubs for this season (2015-16) across seven distinct areas.

From the new 'Staying on the Pitch' programme, which offers legal awareness for young players, to more traditional topics covering diversity, emotional wellbeing, social media and preventative education (on lifestyle) - young players have a raft of additional resources to help them maximise their potential as footballers and more importantly in life.

Twenty-one such sessions had been delivered by the end of August and Touchline caught up with apprentices at Preston after Jamie Edwards (Trained Brain) had helped them mentally attune to the demands facing them, as aspirant professional players.

"The session was very good from start to finish," said Dubliner Sean Whelan, who has just entered the second year of his apprenticeship at Deepdale.

The 17-year-old defender was unsure what to expect when Edwards arrived but admitted that his candid approach challenged (the squads') preconceived ideas around training and match-day performance.

"You learn a lot and it gives you an open mind about how to set your targets in life and in football. I'd like to talk to him more about how you approach training every day."

Whelan's comments were echoed by fellow defender and North End's Under-18 captain Clive Smith

"I'm looking at things differently and have come out with a different perspective, I might prepare for a game or training differently as a result," Smith said.

"It would be good to do this again if I have a dip in the season because it might help bring me back up, lifting confidence and retraining my focus."

While North End's youngsters are seeking on-pitch benefits, Cathy Wood's social media seminar helped apprentices at Crewe realise the importance of their behaviour off it - specifically while using digital platforms.

"It's very important to get this right," Alex Under-18 right-back Matt Neal told Touchline.

"You could get yourself in a lot of trouble by posting all sorts of things and it's crucial you use it (social media) in the correct manner.

Midfielder Harry Pickering agreed, adding, "It was a good eye opener and it was interesting to see how it can have a positive and negative effect on your career as a footballer.

"It's important to remember that social media content is out in the public domain and can have a negative effect on your career and it's about knowing how to use it and making sure you act responsibly because it reflects on you and your club."

LFE chief executive Alan Sykes maintained that this congruent message translates across the entire Life Skills programme.

"Our Life Skills programme enhances the apprenticeship programme and we believe that it helps clubs holistically develop their players. Some may go on to be footballers, others may not but either way we want to ensure that all our apprentices are well prepared and have the skills to succeed in the future."



LFE's Life Skills programme is delivered in partnership with:

SPORTING CHANCE: Lifestyle and education

TRAINED BRAIN: Sports performance

IF U CARE SHARE: Emotional well-being

KICK IT OUT: Equality and diversity training

COLIN AVERY: Sexual health awareness

MILLS & REEVE LLP: 'Staying on the Pitch' - Legal awareness for young players

CATHY WOOD: Social media

WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TWEETING

WITH SO MANY CURRENT AND EX APPRENTICES ON TWITTER, WE'VE PICKED OUT SOME OF THE BEST TWEETS WE'VE SEEN RECENTLY

Portsmouth's Conor Chaplin says a special thank you.

Conor Chaplin @ConorChaplin10
"Grandad, forever grateful, forever my hero" ❤️ just a small token of my thanks to the most amazing man I know



Initially released by Oldham George Edmundson has made big strides this summer.

George Edmundson @Georgedmundson
Happy to of made my debut for @OfficialOAFCLast night, shame about the result, thanks for all the messages

Former Derby apprentice and LFE Blogger, Sam Dryden acclimatises to life in Scotland.

Sam Dryden @SamDryden_
Photos from our pre season games!



Fleetwood's new recruits conduct their initial assessments with LFE's Simon Williams.

Si Williams @DrSimonWilliams
New youth team apprentices @ftfc begin their first day at the club by taking their @LFEonline initial assessments



Follow us: @LFEonline

Joe Gomez thanks fans for their well wishes.

Joe Gomez @J_Gomez97
Honoured to get my first England U21 call up. Thanks for the messages!

George Cox & James Tilley tell Brighton's new boys what to expect.

Gavin Willacy @gavinwillacy
Good to see @georgecox101 & @jtiley_98 telling new @OfficialBHAFC scholars what life is really like here! @LFEonline



Newport's class of 2015 take a bow on BBC Wales.

BBC Wales Sport @BBCWalesSport
► Boy band or band of brothers? Sport Wales meets Newport County's Class of 2015





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