



HOPCUTT AIMS FOR EURO SUCCESS

P18

Player Placements

Thirteen players are coming towards the end of their time in Sweden on LFE's player placement programme.

While former apprentices [Jamie Hopcutt & Doug Bergqvist] have helped Ostersund FK into the group stages of the Europa League, the current crop have been gaining experience with clubs lower down the food chain after leaving EFL clubs.



NAME	CLUB	SWEDISH CLUB
TYLER RUFUS	BLACKPOOL	BODENS BK
YOHAN RUTTY-SMITH	NOTTS COUNTY	GOTTNE IF
DECLAN LEEN	YORK CITY	GOTTNE IF
JACK TAYLOR	MORECAMBE	IFK OSTERSUND
MATTHEW GAINS	DONCASTER ROVERS	IFK HOLMSUND
CALLUM SCULLION	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	IFK HOLMSUND
RHYS GROVES	CARLISLE UNITED	OREBRO SYRIANSKA IF
PRINCE IWYEH	YEOVIL TOWN	IFK OSTERSUND
JOSH RICHARDS	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	IFK OSTERSUND
PAUL AKINULI	YEOVIL TOWN	IFK OSTERSUND
JOSHUA LUKWATA	FULHAM	BODENS BK
TAMAR CLAYTON-NAUTE	NOTTS COUNTY	BODENS BK
MATTHEW WILSON	MIDDLESBROUGH	BODENS BK

Welcome to Touchline, brought to you by League Football Education



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



LFE is supported by:



Accredited since 2019



Education Support Fund



LFE's Education Support Fund will continue to operate during the 2017-18 season, helping clubs to improve their apprenticeship programmes and the support they offer to young players.

Clubs have traditionally utilised the fund to pay for IT equipment like Apple MacBooks, filming towers, video cameras, outward bound days, nutrition and cooking classes, and heart-rate monitors.

Full details outlining how the fund will operate and the deadline for making claims will be communicated to clubs in October and LFE chief executive Alan Sykes is hopeful that clubs will use the fund to develop their existing infrastructures particularly around IT.

"There have been huge developments to increase e-learning resources and qualifications and we would encourage clubs to maximise the benefits of this within the apprenticeship programme," Sykes said.

"E-learning and supported learning provide numerous advantages and flexibility around the delivery of academic programmes and we want clubs to capitalise on that fully.

"This fund can strengthen what clubs deliver and since it was set-up over ten years ago it has been used to innovate and improve the apprenticeship experience across EFL clubs. We will support clubs if we can but ultimately our key criteria remains how any proposal benefits the education provision and apprentices."

For further information about the fund, please contact LFE on 01772 326 870 or email: asykes@lfe.org.uk

JOE GOMEZ



England Under-21 manager Aidy Boothroyd has handed the captain's armband to Liverpool defender Joe Gomez for their UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying campaign.

The former Charlton Athletic apprentice, who was nominated for LFE Championship Apprentice of the Year in 2015, has recovered well from the knee injury he suffered in October 2015 while playing for the Young Lions and has been a regular in Jurgen Klopp's first-team to start the new season.

Boothroyd said: "I've decided it'll be Joe Gomez because he's a senior player, he's won the Euro title at Under-17 level and he's a little bit more worldly-wise than the other boys.

"He's just one of those blokes who you think 'I could be in the trenches with you' and he's well respected in the group so he would be the one."

Academy Leagues Round-Up

BY JACK WYLIE

North East Division

Having been the team to beat for the past two years, Mansfield Town are once again setting the pace, with Lincoln City and last season's closest challengers Rotherham United in hot pursuit.

The Stags have secured 10 points from their opening four fixtures to maintain their record of only losing once in 2017, while Rotherham dropped two points against Notts County to fall two points behind.

Second-placed Lincoln claimed just four wins during the entire 2016-17 campaign. They are already just one short of that total following victories against Notts County (4-0), Bradford City (2-0) and Grimsby Town (1-0).

North West Division

Tranmere Rovers are the early frontrunners in the North West thanks to a formidable defence that has conceded one goal in their opening four games.

Rovers took eight games to produce a victory last term but have already picked up two this season, as well as holding last season's league and cup double winners Blackpool to a goalless draw, with the Seasiders beginning the campaign with two successive stalemates.

However, John Murphy's team refound their winning touch with a 3-1 triumph over Preston North End, who had claimed top spot with seven points out of nine prior to the match.

Meanwhile, Accrington Stanley are a point off the lead with a game in hand despite losing their 100 per cent record with a 1-1 draw against Fleetwood. They had previously produced narrow victories over 2014-15 champions Bury and Carlisle United, who won an epic 6-5 encounter with Port Vale having overturned a 5-2 deficit in the final 10 minutes thanks to Sam Adewusi's stoppage-time winner.

South East Division

After struggling last term, MK Dons have raced out the blocks in the South East section by maintaining an unblemished start after five games.

The Dons have been in the goals so far, sticking four past Southend United and last year's Merit League 2 runners-up Peterborough United, who in contrast have started the campaign with a quartet of defeats before earning an away point against 2015-16 champions Luton Town.

Dagenham & Redbridge have also enjoyed an upturn in fortunes, with Under-18s manager Micah Hyde formulating a more conservative approach for success

as his side did not concede a single goal during their August win streak, although that run ended with a 1-1 stalemate against Leyton Orient.

In contrast, Orient – runaway champions in 2016/17 – have struggled for consistency with two wins, two losses and a draw from their opening set of fixtures.

South West Division

There have been plenty of goals in the South West section in August with a tally of 108 in just 24 games.

Leaders Swindon Town extended their stretch of victories to eight in a row dating back to April, but were finally foiled by Yeovil after a 2-0 defeat to start September. Robins captain Sol Pryce has led the way with four goals, including two in a 5-1 rout against Newport County.

Last season, County claimed the Merit League 1 title following nine wins and a draw, but they have suffered a tough start this time with just one point from a possible 12.

Portsmouth have been the main entertainers so far, scoring 19 and conceding 12, with second-year striker Matt Mayes netting seven times already as Pompey struck five in three consecutive games to end August, although they were on the wrong end of a 4-3 scoreline with Swindon on the opening day to put them three points adrift of the leaders.

2016/17 regular season winners Exeter City recovered from defeat in their first game to the table-toppers by thrashing bottom-club Cheltenham Town 12-0 before becoming the first team to hold AFC Bournemouth (1-1) this campaign after they had recorded three successive wins.



Image courtesy of MK Dons FC



Image courtesy of Derby County FC



Image courtesy of Rob Samblar



Image courtesy of Rob Samblar



Image courtesy of Mick Davis FC

U18 Professional Development League North

Sheffield Wednesday are in a familiar position having been runners-up in the 2016-17 regular season. They sit two points adrift of leaders Nottingham Forest after four games.

Sixteen-year-old Liam Shaw has begun his apprenticeship in a rich vein of form, registering four goals already, including a hat-trick in a 6-0 win against Colchester United, while midfielder Alex Hunt levelled his tally with a brace during a 5-5 draw with Charlton Athletic.

However, there are opposing fortunes for local rivals Sheffield United, who have lost their opening two games after previously being unbeaten in 15 matches since December 2016 to begin the defence of their regular season and National play-off crowns in poor fashion.

And it's 2015-16 champions Forest who are back at the top of the pile with 10 different scorers in four games, with Will Swan leading the way on five as Forest have taken 10 points from a possible 12 following comprehensive victories over Ipswich Town (6-1), Bristol City (4-0) and Colchester (6-0).

U18 Professional Development League South

Usual suspects Charlton are at the sharp end once again but slipped up in the extraordinary draw with Sheffield Wednesday to lose ground on Watford, who are the early pacesetters after convincing victories against Northern section teams Burnley (4-1), Barnsley (3-1) and Huddersfield (5-1).

The Addicks are three points behind and relinquished second place to Millwall, with both sides beating reigning National Champions Sheffield United by two-goal margins.

Meanwhile, Coventry City lost twice in 19 games to end the 2016-17 campaign, but the Southern section holders have already slipped to three defeats from their opening three matches this term.

U18 Premier League North

Derby County have made an astonishing start that has seen them rise to second in the table behind Manchester City, who have topped the division for the past two seasons.

The young Rams came from behind to produce a 1-1 opening day draw with Liverpool before recording back-to-back victories against Everton (3-1) and Sunderland (0-3).

Wolves climbed into the top half after overcoming Blackburn Rovers as Austin Samuels' 80th minute strike was enough to split the teams, ensuring a second loss in a row for Rovers since their 2-0 success against Middlesbrough.

U18 Premier League South

Fulham striker Cameron Thompson has enjoyed a strong start to the season having notched four times in three outings. The 17-year-old opened with a second-half hat-trick in a 4-1 win against Arsenal before salvaging a point in stoppage-time against Swansea City to guide the Cottagers to second in the table.

Chelsea, Leicester City and Brighton & Hove Albion remain faultless, while at the other end Reading and Norwich City are awaiting their first points of the new campaign, with the Canaries particularly struggling having shipped four goals twice in three games.

THE DEBUTANTS

BY JACK WYLIE

1 Joe Hancott Portsmouth



Left-back Joe has just started his apprenticeship but he has already made a name for himself after playing the full 90 minutes of Pompey's 3-3 EFL Trophy draw with Fulham. In the process, he became the club's youngest ever player at 16 years and 161 days, beating the record held by Gary O'Neil.

2 Victor Maffeo Wigan Athletic



Sixteen-year-old Victor described his senior debut as a 'dream come true' having arrived off the bench as a 68th-minute substitute in the 1-1 EFL Trophy draw against Blackpool.

Wigan had previously handed debuts to first-year professionals Callum Lang, Sam Stubbs, Luke Burgess and Chris Merrie in the Carabao Cup clash against the Seasiders, with Callum and Luke featuring in the following round against Aston Villa.

3 Jay Foulston Newport County



Defender Jay is drawing comparisons to former County apprentice Regan Poole having followed in the Manchester United player's footsteps in forcing his way into the first-team reckoning as a 16-year-old. The centre-back registered his first appearance off the bench in a 2-0 win at Southend United in the EFL Cup.

4 Hugo Logan MK Dons



It has been a whirlwind few months for Hugo since being handed a professional deal in May. The midfielder was given a spot on the bench for the final game of last season before being named in LFE's June edition of 'The 11'. He then got on the pitch during the Dons' 2-0 win against Brighton & Hove Albion Under-21s in the EFL Trophy in August.

5 Ryan Cooney and Tsun Dai Bury



Seventeen-year-old Ryan made the step up from youth team captain to the first-team squad and was awarded his first appearance in the final few minutes of a 0-0 draw with arch rivals Rochdale in League One.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong-born Tsun has emerged as a regular in the senior set-up since making his League One debut on the opening day against Walsall.

6 Jack Sparkes Exeter City



Jack is another first-year apprentice who has been fast-tracked into the first-team after featuring twice in League Two against Swindon Town and Lincoln City. The 16-year-old was then handed his full debut in the EFL Trophy against Yeovil Town and celebrated with a headed goal and was awarded the team's man of the match.



7 Anthony Hartigan AFC Wimbledon



Midfielder Anthony has enjoyed a memorable start to the campaign making three starts in three competitions, as well as signing his second professional contract. The 17-year-old was handed a debut in the EFL Cup against Brentford, earned his League One bow at Fleetwood Town and then completed a full house with an EFL Trophy appearance against Barnet, in which he netted his first senior goal.

Wombles academy graduates Paul Kalambayi and Neset Bellikli also featured for the first time in the 4-3 win at The Hive.

8 Dru Yearwood and Elvis Bwomono Southend United



Midfielder Dru had made four senior appearances by early September after making his first start in the EFL Cup against Newport.

Youth team player of the year Elvis has also been called into the first-team and following his debut in the EFL Trophy against Gillingham, the 18-year-old produced a man-of-the-match display in a 0-0 League One stalemate with Rochdale.

9 Finlay Sinclair-Smith and Caleb Richards Blackpool



Winger Finlay was handed his first-team bow after an impressive start to the season in the Under-18s, coming off the bench in an EFL Trophy clash with Wigan Athletic. The 17-year-old took full advantage of his opportunity by scoring a late equaliser during his 20-minute cameo.

Elsewhere, left-back Caleb, who signed his first professional contract at the end of last season, was an 87th-minute substitute against the Latics in the EFL Cup first round.

10 Matt O'Riley and Steven Sessegnon Fulham



First-year apprentice Matt and 17-year-old Steven had both started three games by early September after being introduced to senior football in the Cottagers' 2-0 win at Wycombe in the EFL Cup.

Steven joined twin brother Ryan (the subject of a £25m bid from Tottenham in August), in signing his first professional contract during the summer.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Matt has been promoted to the Under-23 squad despite just starting his apprenticeship and he earned his first cap for England Under-18s in a 2-1 defeat to South Africa in August.

11 Tristan Nydam and Flynn Downes Ipswich Town



Second-year apprentice Tristan has become a regular member of the first-team squad since his debut in an EFL Cup victory over Luton Town. The 17-year-old has appeared in three Championship matches and gained his first England Under-19 cap in a 7-1 win against Poland.

Tristan was joined in the Under-19 squad by midfielder Flynn Downes who completed his apprenticeship earlier this year. Downes made six appearances in August after coming off the bench for his debut on the opening day against Birmingham City.

Former apprentices Luke Woolfenden, George Fowler, Ben Folami, Patrick Webber and Chris Smith have all tasted senior football in the EFL Cup for the first time this season.



NETHERLANDS 2017

PRE-SEASON
AT-A-GLANCE



Airborne Barnsley head to the Netherlands.

 Erasmus+



Hartlepool's Niall Short continues his rehab with academy physio James Ross.



The Fleetwood Town Under 18 squad take a trip around Delden.



The Iron squad follow Dutch tradition by riding bikes to training.



Divin Banigime (left) holds off an SC Preuben Munster defender during their 2-2 draw in Germany.



DAN GREEN
EXETER CITY
UNDER-18S HEAD COACH

We all enjoyed our time in Holland. The trip was fantastically organised and provided the players and staff with the type of experience that we would not have usually had during pre-season.

We applied for the trip because we were hoping to sample Dutch football and what has made the Netherlands one of the most productive nations in terms of producing home-grown players.

We also wanted to benefit from time together as a new group. On both of these aims, it exceeded our expectations and we learned lots from the coaching sessions with Dutch coaches. The facilities that are available at all levels provided an insight into why the Dutch have been so successful producing players.

The players benefited from working with the Dutch coaches because in some ways it opened their eyes to different approaches. In another and

potentially more powerful way, it reinforced the messages that we as a club provide to the players already.

The performances during the games were positive, which was the most important aspect of the matches we played. The clean sheets and goals were the result of lots of hard work and professionalism from the players during the trip. As a group we really tried to commit to the cultural activities and we felt they were very rewarding. We used our time in Amsterdam to complete a challenge created by Tim Legg (Academy Coach and Head of Education) to visit as many places within the city as possible. This worked really well and provided the players with some great cultural experiences.

The trip was far and away beyond our normal pre-season. The time we spent together, the facilities we were able to use and the general professionalism of the trip provided us with a broad experience. The players are very close as a group as a result, which we hope will be a positive influence for the rest of the season.

Eight clubs jetted off with their apprentices to the Netherlands, while four others spent a fortnight in Spain (overleaf) for a pre-season trip promoting development and the exchange of ideas between coaches and players in various settings.



Scunthorpe take to the field for their game against Feyenoord.

Results

BARNSLY

- 3-3 **D** EXCELSIOR ROTTERDAM U19
 5-0 **W** STROMSGODSET IF U17
 1-1 **D** NAC BREDA U19

BURTON ALBION

- 2-11 **L** ADO DEN HAAG U19
 0-3 **L** NAC BREDA U19
 VOLENDAM TOURNAMENT
 1-2 **L** FC VOLENDAM
 2-1 **W** FC GRONINGEN

COVENTRY CITY

- 1-3 **L** FEYENOORD U18
 3-1 **W** EXCELSIOR ROTTERDAM U19
 2-0 **L** SPARTA ROTTERDAM U19

EXETER CITY

- 2-0 **W** FC DORDRECHT U19
 7-2 **W** NAC BREDA U17
 4-0 **W** SPARTA ROTTERDAM U17

FLEETWOOD TOWN

- 1-0 **W** MSV DUISBURG U17
 1-3 **L** SC PREUBEN MUNSTER U17
 3-2 **W** FC TWENTE U17

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

- 2-4 **L** ADO DEN HAAG U17
 4-2 **W** EXCELSIOR ROTTERDAM U17
 VOLENDAM TOURNAMENT
 0-3 **L** FC VOLENDAM

SCUNTHORPE UNITED

- 1-1 **D** EXCELSIOR ROTTERDAM U17
(9-9 PENS)
 1-1 **D** ROT WEISS ESSEN U19
 1-1 **D** FEYENOORD U18

WIGAN ATHLETIC

- 1-1 **D** OSNABRUCK U19
 2-2 **D** SC PREUBEN MUNSTER U19
 2-2 **D** FC TWENTE U19



Barnsley youngsters enjoy a tour of the Amsterdam Arena.



Hartlepool make the most of the hot weather with a training session on the beach.



Hartlepool organise a team bonding night as the players dress up for some karaoke.



NAC Breda coaches organise a small sided possession based drill for the young Tykes.



Burton's Under 18 players pose with a trophy for finishing as top English club in the Volendam Tournament.



Exeter make use of the gym facilities with a weight training session.



Sevilla Head of Coaching Antonio Solana speaks to the Huddersfield players.



Tour rep Jose is presented with a Colchester shirt.



The Young Dons take time out of their Bernabeu tour for a squad photo.



The Rangers squad pose after a training session with Spanish coach Carlos Calzada.

Results

AFC WIMBLEDON

- 0-2 **L** CD LEGANES
- 1-0 **W** AD ALCORCON
- 1-1 **D** ATLETICO MADRID

COLCHESTER UNITED

- 2-1 **W** AD NERVION
- 2-1 **W** CORDOBA CF
- 2-1 **W** REAL BETIS

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

- 2-3 **L** UD TOMARES
- 0-5 **L** CADIZ CF
- 0-3 **L** SEVILLA

QPR

- 4-1 **W** RAYO MAJADAHONDA
- 0-2 **L** RAYO VALLECANO
- 2-2 **D** REAL MADRID



Huddersfield youngsters head onto the pitch as they take on UD Tomares.

Wimbledon substitutes are ready to be introduced during their game against AD Alcorcon.





GAVIN WILLACY
LFE REGIONAL OFFICER

While we refer to Academies, meaning schools of football, the Spanish term 'cantera' tells you what they think of academies: they are quarries in which

they dig deep to find rough diamonds and other precious stones.

The 'cantera' at Real Betis is similar to many top Spanish academies like those we visited at Sevilla, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid.

The Betis academy approach, known as the 'metodologia', is player-focussed. Their first aim is to improve the technical ability of each player, then work on their understanding of the game, all while instilling respect on and off the pitch. They want to shape youngsters into 'Beticos', putting the stamp of Betis on them, so they "feel Betis in them" and remain ambassadors of Betis whenever they stop playing for the men in green, white and black.

The Betis 'filosofia' includes a competitive mind-set, an aim to be champions at every age group and creating professional players. Their list of core values includes: work, sacrifice, loyalty, humbleness, ambition, joy and maturity.

The aim is that players will apply what they know automatically and be able to operate in two different positions.

Up to the U13s, Betis players experience four or five different positions, before starting to specialise and adapt to two from the U14s to U18s. The Betis players - the 'jugadores' - are encouraged to play more matches than English academy players do, around 50 per year.

The structure is similar to all other La Liga clubs. There are six levels within the academy, each covering two year groups. From Under-7s to Under-12s they play 7-a-side,

and have four age group teams in the 'Benjamin' age group (U9 & U10s) and 'Alevin' (U11s & U12s). There are two teams each at 'Infantil' (U13s & U14s); 'Cadete' (U15s & U16s) and 'Juvenil' (U17, U18 & U19). With one or two teams for every age group there are more players in Spanish Academies than at EFL clubs. Betis have around 420 this season. But it is still possible to make it all the way through: current first-teamer Fabian started in the Under-7s.

Spanish boys at the same stage as apprentices play in either of the two Juvenil teams, which cover U17-19s. Basically an A and B team, with the majority of younger players in the B side at each level. It is a replica of the structure used in England throughout the 1990s.

The A team play in the national Honor division, the B team in the local Andalusia competition. Players can move up to the Honor team but not down during the season.

Just like in England, the division a club's first team is in does not dictate what level their youth team plays at. For example, on the Erasmus trip, Colchester United - a Category 2 Academy in our fourth division - faced a tough game against AD Nervion, a fifth-tier club from inner-city Seville, whose youth team play local giants Sevilla and Real Betis in the Honor division.

Real Betis attract players from beyond Seville. They have 38 young players living in digs, all in the wing of an old people's home! The youngest is 14, with a player that age moving over 300 miles from Madrid. Mind you, Villarreal have around 100 players in digs as they recruit from across the nation, Europe and North Africa.

One major difference is that Spanish academy players do not do college lessons during club time: instead they train every day in the early evening after the lads have been to school. Betis do not deal with education of the players - they consider that the schools' job!



CHRIS LLEWELLYN
COLCHESTER UNITED
UNDER-18S LEAD COACH

The trip as a whole was very worthwhile. The itinerary was very well thought out and was exactly what the players needed in terms of training, matches and cultural activities.

We were hoping to expose our players to training/playing in a completely different environment and seeing if they were able to cope with the extreme heat. We were also interested to see how the players responded from being away from home for the longest period to date and how they bonded as a squad on and off the pitch.

Obviously the trip allowed us to monitor the players 24/7 and see first-hand how they prepare for training and matches and how they conduct themselves off the pitch.

The players were looking forward to playing against what we thought would be typical Spanish teams, who would dominate possession and pose our players different tactical problems that they wouldn't necessarily face in our games programme back home. It was pleasing that

our players dealt with everything the opposition threw at them and were able to implement our style in and out of possession. It was a bonus that we won all three games - the focus on each match was completely on performance and working on the players' match fitness.

Working with the Spanish coaches, the players had to really focus and concentrate as most of the coaches spoke little or no English. They were exposed to different ideas and different methods of coaching. Because the heat was so extreme, the training times were different to what we would usually train so it was interesting to see how the players adapted and managed their time between sessions.

Off the pitch, the players really enjoyed the cultural activities. It was a chance for them to see and experience things that they had not done previously and probably wouldn't do in the future. It was also a good opportunity for the players to bond away from the pressure of training and matches.

The players have come back confident and are a closer-knit group than they were before the trip.

MILLION DOLLAR KIDS

In the ever escalating transfer market a number of former apprentices moved for big money this summer. Touchline runs the rule over some of those deals.

1



1

ALEX OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN
ARSENAL TO LIVERPOOL
£35M

Chelsea or Liverpool are not bad options to have, with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's summer culminating in a big money move to Anfield from Arsenal.

The 24-year-old, rejected a move to Chelsea and the opportunity to sign a new £180,000 a week deal to stay at the Emirates, in favour of trying to establish himself as the fulcrum of Jurgen Klopp's midfield.

Amazingly, The Ox missed out on the League One Apprentice of the Year Crown in 2011, back in the days when he was starting out at Southampton.

2

OLIVER BURKE
RED BULL LEIPZIG TO WEST BROMWICH ALBION
£15M

Former Nottingham Forest apprentice Oliver Burke became the most expensive Scottish player ever, when he joined Bundesliga side Red Bull Leipzig for a fee in the region of £13million in August last year.

Fast forward 12 months, and the 20-year-old winger is back in the UK, and now in the Premier League, signing a five-year deal for Tony Pulis's high-flying West Bromwich Albion in a deal valued at £15m.

3

HARRY MAGUIRE
HULL CITY TO LEICESTER CITY
£12M RISING TO £17M

While a video of England squad newcomer Harry Maguire recently went viral when he arrived at St George's Park carrying some of his gear in a black bin-liner, the 24-year-old is far from bargain basement, earning the respect of Premier League greats past and present for his commanding performances.

The central defender, who came through at Sheffield United's academy, moved to Hull for £2.5m in 2014 and his impressive progress was rewarded with a switch to Leicester City in the summer. The Foxes landed their man after agreeing to pay an initial £12 million fee that could hit £17 million with add-ons.

4

CHARLIE TAYLOR
LEEDS UNITED TO BURNLEY
£5M

Promising left-back Charlie Taylor first came to our attention when he snaffled LFE's inaugural Goal of the Season gong back in 2011. After progressing through Leeds' academy, he went on to make over 100 first-team appearances at the club and made the switch to Turf Moor in July.

Technically proficient, the pacey full-back had been widely expected to join West Brom earlier this year but Burnley stepped in and agreed a £5m compensation package with Leeds in July.



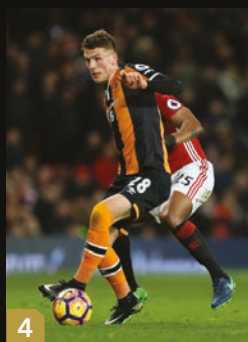
2



3



7



4



5



6

5

JOSH TYMON
HULL CITY TO STOKE CITY
TRIBUNAL

Left-back Josh Tymon turned 18 in May and earned a whopping increase in wages when he joined Stoke City in June. The Hull-born teenager earned an approximate 12,000 per cent increase in salary when he moved to the Bet 365 Stadium after being tracked by the Potters for some time.

Tymon who joined his hometown club as a 12-year-old, made 14 senior appearances for the Tigers and played in every game as England lifted the Toulon International Tournament over the summer.

6

DENNIS ADENIRAN
FULHAM TO EVERTON
£4M

Everton continued their policy of raiding the EFL for talent when they completed the signing of Fulham teenager Dennis Adeniran on deadline day for a fee reportedly in the region of £4million.

The 18-year-old featured five times for Fulham's senior side last term as a second-year apprentice, scoring on his debut in a 3-2 EFL Cup win against Leyton Orient.

The central midfielder is an England Under-18 international and played at the European Under-17 Championship in 2016, helping the Young Lions progress to the quarter-final.

7

JOSH BOWLER
OPR TO EVERTON
£1.5M RISING TO £4.25M

After having two bids rejected it was a case of third time lucky for Everton in their pursuit of Josh Bowler, who made the move North after the two clubs settled on an initial fee of £1.5m, that with add-ons could rise to £4.25m. Not bad for a player with 21 minutes of senior football under his belt.

The left-footer from Chertsey slots into David Unsworth's Under-23 side at Everton, joining a crop of youngsters at Goodison - including Ademola Lookman (Charlton Athletic), Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Sheffield United), Bassala Sambou (Coventry City), Mason Holgate (Barnsley), Matty Foulds (Bury) and Brendan Galloway (MK Dons) - that were originally nurtured at EFL clubs.

**SELECTED OTHER TRANSFERS
FEATURING FORMER APPRENTICES**

ANDRE GRAY
BURNLEY TO WATFORD
£18.5M

OLLIE WATKINS
EXETER CITY TO BRENTFORD
£1.8M

JAY RODRIGUEZ
SOUTHAMPTON TO
WEST BROMWICH ALBION
£12M

TENDAYI DARIKWA
BURNLEY TO
NOTTINGHAM FOREST
£1M

GEORGE BARMBY

BY STEVEN SUTCLIFFE



A few months ago George Barmby was an apprentice at Scunthorpe United hoping to keep up appearances in a football family.

He is the son of Nick, an outstanding player who retired after 23 caps for England and a professional career that started at Tottenham and included successful spells at Middlesbrough, Everton, Liverpool and his hometown club, Hull City.

George's older brother Jack is also professional, at Portland Timbers in Major League Soccer.

Like Dad, Jack was a teenage prodigy, featuring at various age groups for his country while with Manchester United. However, after failing to make the breakthrough at Old Trafford and then at Leicester, he moved to the States and partly became the inspiration for his younger brother to relocate this summer.

Now on a four-year soccer scholarship at Lander University in South Carolina, George's future direction is not settled yet but he is keeping his options open. His interests include medicine and media. The freshman year in America offers the flexibility to try both and go down either route in the future.

"I absolutely loved my time at Scunthorpe and I wouldn't change it," he said.

"I had talked about playing in America with my team-mates and when I was told I wasn't getting a contract I thought, 'Why not?'"

"I went to visit him (Jack) and just loved it. I looked at a lot of different options and I knew it wouldn't be a professional career out here but at the same time it's a bonus because not only do you get to play football but you get an education behind that.

"I've got a big family back in Hull and a girlfriend I've been with for three-and-a-half-years. I'm very close to my family. I've never moved away from home before so it was a big decision to do it but the opportunity was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I knew I had to do it and they were fully supportive."

While George has started the football season in the team and on song - scoring three goals in three games - he admits that he had felt a little apprehensive about how things would go.

"It was either going to go really well or not well at all," he said. "I was thinking beforehand, 'Am I going to fit in?'; 'Am I going to play?'; 'Are the lads going to be ok?'; 'What's the work going to be like?' I was excited but nervous. We trained the night after I'd landed and the lads were really welcoming."

"The facilities are unbelievable, we've got our own complex, really good pitches, gyms and physio rooms. It's everything you could ask for and like being on a Premier League training ground. I'd researched it all online - the academic work, the soccer element, so I knew it was going to be good and I've come here and loved it."

George suffered a broken metatarsal in his first year as an apprentice which required a screw to be inserted and then reinserted in the bone. He got to know his surgeon that well he was invited into the operating theatre as an observer and his interest in medicine grew from there.

He was also pragmatic about the chances of developing a professional career and spoke to his coach at Scunthorpe to sound him out well ahead of a decision on his future being made. Now he is weighing-up his academic possibilities.

"In your first year you don't choose your major so I'm doing a bit of everything at the moment," he continued. "At the end of this year I will make a decision. I'm doing a bit of medical, media, English and criminal justice."

"I'm in two minds. I would really like to do medicine but I'm also really interested in media. There is a massive media department, with a focus on Sports Journalism and TV presenting, they have their own studio here. The best advice I can give to lads at English clubs is that it is a great experience. If you make it as a professional then, great. But in your second year always remember to keep an eye on things and have other options."



"In your second year
always remember to
keep an eye on things
and have other options."

COMEBACK KIDS

BY STEVEN SUTCLIFFE



Images courtesy of Cambridge United FC and Swansea City AFC



JEVANI BROWN

Jevani Brown is another player to return to the full-time game this summer, signing for Cambridge United in League Two.

Brown began his career as an apprentice at Peterborough United, before jumping on the non-league merry-go-round with Barton Rovers, Arlesley Town, Wingate & Finchley, Kettering Town and St Neots.

The 22-year-old came to the fore though with 19 goals in 20 games in the second half of last season at St Neots and was on trial at Birmingham City before impressing during the U's pre-season fixtures against Norwich City, Ebbsfleet, Tottenham U23s and Dartford.

Those performances were rewarded with a two-year deal at the Cambs Glass Stadium, an opportunity Brown is relishing:

"This Club is fantastic at giving young men opportunities in the game and personally Cambridge United have provided me with a chance to test myself in the Football League and I can't wait to get started," he said.

Brown has emerged as a key member of the first team after four League Two starts, plus appearances in both the EFL Cup and EFL Trophy. Head Coach Shaun Derry is pleased to have acquired the striker's services.

"Having joined us for the majority of pre-season and played against different types of opposition, he's made a real positive impression on all of our staff," Derry told the club's website.

"Technically he can more than hold his own within the group and he gives us further options in an attacking sense."



COURTNEY BAKER-RICHARDSON

Courtney Baker-Richardson had been close to quitting football for good, so when he joined Swansea City this summer it was a triumph for perseverance.

The young striker was handed a first team debut at Coventry under Steven Pressley almost 4 years ago but was then jettisoned the following summer.

He had been with the Sky Blues from the age of 12 and then found himself going from pillar to post trying to get a contract in the lower leagues and at non-league clubs.

Contracts did not materialise after trials at Torquay and Kidderminster and brief spells at Ilkeston and Romulus were equally frustrating. He then signed for Kettering but was released, played a couple of games for Nuneaton and wasn't offered a deal.

It was a transient existence with little enjoyment or promise. However, he then finally made the breakthrough at Leamington where he was top scorer for two years running, helping the non-league side gain promotion to the National League North last season.

This summer things moved on to a different level with Leicester City and Swansea City firming up their interest in the 21-year-old.

Instead of staying relatively close to his family home in Nuneaton and joining Leicester, the athletic striker elected to make the move to South Wales.

"Being at a Premier League club is something I have been striving towards for years," he told the club's website.

"Things have happened so fast, it has been like a massive avalanche!

"It was a tough period for me because I kept getting knock backs at every club I went to. I was a moody teenager with an ego back then and close to giving up a number of times.

"I've had people tell me I was not good enough, but I don't accept that. You dust yourself down and look to prove them wrong.

"It is all about mentality, I don't give up. Anything can happen in life and if you don't believe in yourself, how can anyone else?"

Last season Baker-Richardson was lining up in the Evo-Stik South Premier Division and coaching part-time at a local primary school.

Fast forward to August and he was in more celebrated surroundings. Initially he found himself pitched into Checkatrade Trophy action - featuring in a Swans Under-21 side that defeated Cheltenham.

From there, an Under-23 outing against Manchester United followed, where he lined-up opposite England internationals Luke Shaw and Ashley Young.

He must have made an impression in that display because 24 hours later he was named on the substitute's bench for Paul Clement's first team in the Carabao Cup.

While he did not get a taste of senior action as the Swans swept past MK Dons it has been a promising start for a player that has demonstrated his bouncebackability several times over.

BY STEVEN SUTCLIFFE



JAMIE HOPCUTT GUNNING FOR EUROPA GLORY

Six years ago Jamie Hopcutt feared that his football career was over before it had even properly got started.

Now 25, he is starring for Ostersunds FK in Sweden's top division and playing European football. A far cry from warming the bench at Whitby, or patrolling the touchline for Tadcaster Albion in the North East Counties.

Hopcutt was among one of the first cohorts of players that went out to Scandinavia as part of LFE's player placement programme and initially found himself playing in front of a few hundred fans in the third tier of Swedish football.

This year he has helped his side to a 3-1 aggregate win over Turkish giants Galatasaray, scoring in the first leg. He then laid on an assist as OFK recovered a two goal deficit against PAOK, to march into the group stage of the Europa League, where Zorya Luhansk, Hertha Berlin and Athletic Bilbao lie in waiting.

And far from being daunted by the challenge that awaits, Hopcutt believes that defeating much vaunted opposition earlier in the competition has installed the confidence that they can progress through the group.

"I'm excited for the group stage and obviously because we've knocked two teams out that are normally in the group stages, we believe that we can get through the group as well.

"There is no pressure on us really because nobody expects us to be there, so we can go out and have fun and enjoy the experience.

"It's not an easy start but I'm happy to get that one out of the way first, away in the Ukraine is not a nice place to go but they were in Man United's group last year so we know that while out of the three they are the lesser team on paper it'll be a tough game. If we can get points away - at home we believe we can win most of our matches.

"We played at Galatasaray which is probably the most hostile stadium you can go to football wise and we handled that. That was a big game. Even in the PAOK game, we were down by two goals in that game so I think maybe that gives us more (belief) because it shows we can come back and fight against big teams."

Another factor that is in OFK's favour are the unique conditions. By the time Bilbao arrive at the Jämtkraft Arena in Northern Sweden, the league season will have ended, with plummeting temperatures likely to see the game played at well below freezing.

"When Bilbao come here it will be minus degrees and they won't like that," Hopcutt said. "Our season ends in early November and we have two Europa games after that. It will benefit us because we are used to freezing temperatures."

The club's meteoric rise has also been built on other foundations. Propelled forward by club chairman Daniel Kindberg, a former lieutenant in the Swedish army, the club is committed to its community and encourages players to participate in cultural activities aside from football. A recent example saw the OFK squad perform Tchaikovsky's ballet Swan Lake in front of 500 local residents at the city's theatre.

"The chairman is big on holistic development of players," said manager, Graham Potter.

"Running a culture academy alongside football training will help us be braver as footballers.

Hopcutt, now fully recovered from a broken leg which curtailed a whole season admits that he is "enjoying" every second of his time abroad - though his dance moves still require some work.

"I had to do a routine with a partner, which was very difficult. I'm still a shocking dancer but, just like when you're playing football, it's all about trying to perform on the day," he continued.

So what next for a player who has achieved virtually everything that he wanted to at the outset? A Swedish Championship perhaps? Or with Aston Villa, Wolves and Brighton all reportedly interested, would a return to England appeal?

"The only thing left to do here is to win the league," he added.

"If the chance came after the group stage to come back I'd have to look at that. I think we could have challenged [Malmo] this year if we hadn't had the Europa League because there was a time when we were a few points off them and we lost to them in the last minute.

**"THE ONLY THING
LEFT TO DO HERE IS
TO WIN THE LEAGUE"**

"They all have a lot better budgets but every time we play the so called bigger teams we look like winning. There's only Malmo that we have to look to and they got knocked out of Europe quite early so they could put everything into the league with no distractions.

"I was really lucky to get the opportunity because not everyone gets to start in division one in Sweden, I know some guys come out on the programme in a lot lower divisions. We got promotion the first year and when we got promoted to the top flight I was voted the best player in the league so it's been really good.

"One day I would like to play back in England and because of the Europa League my name is a lot more out there to English clubs than it was before."

Walsall Workers

BY STEVEN SUTCLIFFE

A week or two in a sunny holiday destination tends to be the norm for young footballers at the end of each season. A time to relax, unwind, have fun and see new places.

Yet when the League One season drew to its conclusion in May, Walsall's apprentices began their taste of the summer in a very different fashion.

The club, conscious of the perception that players can be "sheltered from the outside world" and "disconnected" from the public, ensured that holiday plans were temporarily put on hold as they arranged work placements at local businesses for their apprentices.

It was a different start to the summer and one designed to foster new skills, interests and develop an understanding of diverse working environments with players removed from their comfort zone.

Nine apprentices tackled different roles from the ones they are accustomed to as footballers, in a variety of locations including: The Co-operative Group (Travel & Retail), BCS Group/Barhale, The RAC, Walsall Housing Group and Accord Housing.

"We did this last year for the first time and noticed that it had a positive impact on the lads when they returned after the summer," explained the club's head of education, Sue Lane.

"They (the players) seemed more determined and focussed when they came back into the club, so we wanted this type of project to become part of what we do.

"We felt that in many ways they are sheltered as young footballers and we wanted them to step into the shoes of someone in an office environment or a workshop, dealing with customers and other people during the course of a normal 9-5 job.

"They were all apprehensive initially but I went out to see each player and was really pleased by the way they adjusted and interacted in those surroundings."

Instead of devoting his time to breaking down opposition defences, the Saddlers 17-year-old striker Joe Cairns spent a week at the BCS Group/Barhale alongside teammate Debert Massamba, organising the distribution and repair of traffic and road signs, and other safety and construction equipment.

"I worked across two departments, safety and distribution," Cairns said.

"So looking at different pieces of equipment - taking it off the shelf and arranging distribution through the fleet of delivery drivers.

"We were also cleaning equipment down that had been returned to us, looking for and establishing any faults so that things could be repaired. I don't really like sitting around. I like doing something active so from that respect it was ok, though obviously while football is physically tiring this was more mentally tiring.

"When I did work experience at school I went to a local primary school and was helping assist a teacher and that was a lot easier than this. It was hands-on and demanding."

Left-back Cody Fisher and midfielder Stefan Mason spent a week gaining experience at The RAC's iconic operations control centre, which runs alongside the M6 at Bescot. Since opening in June 1989, the centre has handled around 50 million phone calls and dispatched around 30 million patrols to breakdowns.

"It was a good experience," Mason said. "I was introduced to a lot of the different departments so it gave me an idea of what a number of jobs were like, what they involved and working in an office environment.

"I spent a lot of time working alongside and shadowing customer service representatives who were dealing with complaints and breakdown calls and also got an understanding of how the technical department works, advising engineers on the road about the problems they were encountering.

"It was the total opposite of being a footballer.

"I was nervous before I went in but I think meeting and communicating with a wide variety of different people each day has helped me to develop my social skills."

With positive feedback received from the employers involved, back at the Banks's, the club's academy manager Graham Biggs hailed a mutually beneficial project that he believes will influence the players over the coming months.

"It gives the boys an insight into a real working environment, other than a football career," he said.

"This is the second year we have done this and it certainly gave last year's apprentices the real desire to work harder and give all they had on the apprenticeship."



They (the players) seemed more determined and focussed when they came back into the club, so we wanted this type of project to become part of what we do.



It was a good experience, I was introduced to a lot of the different departments so it gave me an idea of what a number of jobs were like.

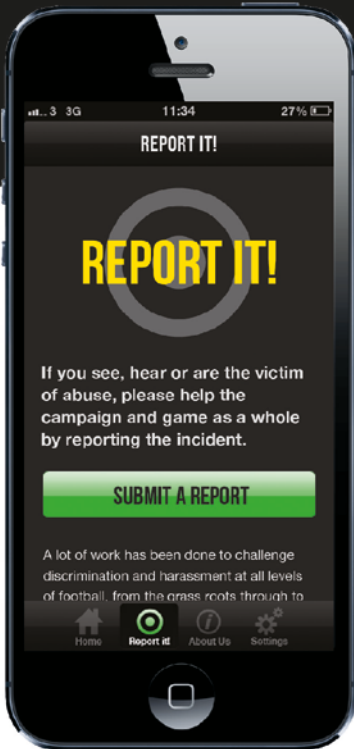


I was nervous before I went in but I think meeting and communicating with a wide variety of different people each day has helped me to develop my social skills.





REPORT IT!



FACEBOOK/KICKITOUTOFFICIAL



@KICKITOUT



INFO@KICKITOUT.ORG



0800 169 9414



You can report incidents of discrimination by using the Kick It Out app. Download it today.



KICKITOUT.ORG

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@LFEonline



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

@LFEonline



LFE @LFEonline
Nineteen-year-old @Rovers academy graduate @wharton_scott pens a new three-year deal to stay at Ewood Park <http://bit.ly/2wUUGUL> #Rovers



Luton Town FC @LutonTown
Town defender James Justin has been called up to the England U20s squad! Well done @jamesjustin98



Jorden Gibson @Jorden01
Excellent event with @jamieedwards for @StevenageYouth with the @LFEonline #trainthemind #potential #unlock

Marco Gabbiadini @marco_ten
Very proud dad today @julesy_boy starts graduate program at @RBS today @LFEonline @HullCity scholar @ucwv_athletics @cneagles MBA

Blackpool FC Academy @BFCAcademy1953
Our scholars taking part in @LFEonline Life Skills, Anything is Possible with @chazfog



LFE @LFEonline
Former @CAFCofficial apprentice @J_Gomez97 is named captain of @England Under-21s <http://bit.ly/2xAkENI> #LFC #YoungLions #U21EURO #CAFC



LFE @LFEonline
New roles added to LFE's opportunities board! Including positions at @Everton, @ManUtd and @UofGlasgow <http://bit.ly/2fjcWkk>

LFE @LFEonline
Well done to former @YorkCityFC apprentice @hoppy07. From the Swedish third tier in 2012 to the Europa League group stages with @ofk_1996



ROYAL AIR FORCE CAREERS RECRUITING NOW

More than 50 different careers to choose from

- An RAF apprentice earns £14,700+ pa from day one
- Other roles start at £14,783 with increases after initial training
- Free sports facilities and gym membership
- Opportunities to play your favourite sports (visit royalairforcefa.com for more details)
- 6 weeks' paid leave
- Free medical and dental care
- Opportunities for world wide travel

raf.mod.uk/careers

or ring 0845 605 5555 or 0333 202 7770

 /rafcareers  @rafcareers

