

# “I’ll be *there*”

THE CARDIFF CITY SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2005

£1.00

Delivered free to members



## Inside this issue:

The season so far

Life in the Academy

Police and stewarding -  
are we winning the war?

Hello and goodbye

Fixtures and results



*Praying for success.*

# SUPPORTERS CLUB DIRECTORY



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## ROLL OF HONOUR

### CCSC Player of the Year

2004/2005	Chris Barker
2003/2004	Tony Vidmar
2002/2003	Robert Earnshaw
2001/2002	Graham Kavanagh
2000/2001	Andy Legg
1999/2000	Andy Legg
1998/1999	Kevin Nugent
1997/1998	Jon Hallworth

### CCSC Most Improved Player of the Year

2004/2005	Chris Barker
2003/2004	James Collins
2002/2003	Rhys Weston
2001/2002	Rhys Weston
2000/2001	Josh Low
1999/2000	Mark Bonner
1998/1999	Graham Mitchell
1997/1998	Craig Middleton

### CCSC Young Player of the Year

2004/2005	Joe Ledley
2003/2004	James Collins
2002/2003	James Collins
2001/2002	Daniel Gabbidon
2000/2001	Robert Earnshaw
1999/2000	Robert Earnshaw
1998/1999	Robert Earnshaw
1997/1998	Christian Roberts

### CCSC Hall of Fame

2004/2005	Ronnie Bird
2003/2004	Dave Bennett
2002/2003	Phil Suarez
2001/2002	Jason Perry
2000/2001	Fred Keenor
1999/2000	Carl Dale
1998/1999	Brian Clark
1997/1998	Phil Dwyer

**CARDIFF CITY 1927 CLUB**  
LONDON & S. EAST SUPPORTERS CLUB



# THE SEASON SO FAR BY GWILYM REES



**Its been a topsy turvy start to this Championship season. On the pitch we have witnessed a mixed bag of results and, indeed, performances.**

I thought we were a bit unlucky to come away from **Ipswich** without a point, undone by a set piece from a silly free kick. It was then a deserved three points in an entertaining match against Leeds but a few days later we hit the lows, against **Watford**, for Sky TV, I wonder if that performance on the television has contributed to our poor gates so far, Watford comprehensively beat us at home for the second season on the trot.

Although I didn't make it to **Derby**, equally depressing reports came back as we suffered a further defeat.

This was followed by the long trip to **Colchester**, for a Coca Cola Cup first round tie, and 250 City fans saw an improved team performance with our first clean sheet of the season and progress into Round 2.

Next up were **Wolves**, at the end of that match I stood 'shell shocked' with hundreds of other fans at the events that had just unfolded in front of me, I wasn't sure if it was two points lost or a point gained, if we are all honest with ourselves, we were 'stuffed' on the field of play, but got ourselves into a position where we were two up with fifteen minutes to go. From that perspective it was disappointing.

That said, a few days after the game, and with the benefit of hindsight, I marked it down as a point gained.

Then we witnessed an away performance at **Burnley** which served up some brilliant attacking play but with equal measures of woeful defensive work, result 3 - 3. Definitely two points lost in my book.

**Leicester** at home, and we got just what the doctor (or most of the GTFM listeners) ordered, a scrappy 1 - 0 win, and how we needed it, the relief at the final whistle, after ninety six minutes, was tangible. How did Leicester's top scorer, De Vries, miss that chance with the last kick of the match?

The **Palace** game was better to watch than the Leicester match, but as equally nerve racking at the end, as the 'Eagles' piled on the pressure, but with the City defence holding firm, just, it was another great 1 - 0 win.

Progression was made in the Carling Cup against

**Macclesfield** and it is now **Leicester** at home in the third round. Back in the league, a point was, deservedly, gained at **Millwall** in a 0-0 draw. Another clean sheet in the league!!

So there you have it, I reckon we should be three points better off than we are.

Elsewhere on the pitch, credit must go to the reserves for

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winning the play-off, held over from last season, against **Luton**.

I haven't managed to watch the academy yet this season, I sacrificed the trip to Derby with the intention of watching the **Liverpool** game down at Treforest, the wife then got wind of it - lets just say it would have been cheaper going to Derby. Seriously though, a scan down the results sheet in the match programme would indicate the Academy teams are heading in the right direction.

Concerning matters off the pitch, pre-season and early season, until the transfer deadline, has been a roller-coaster. Although transfers are covered elsewhere in this magazine, I'm assuming you all expected **Gabbidon** to go, but the loss of **James Collins** was a savage blow. Having said that, manager **Dave Jones** certainly pulled a rabbit out the hat when he got **Jason Koumas** from WBA.



I thought Koumas was the outstanding player on the park when he came on for his 20 minutes against England – he looked good for 45 minutes in the Polish match as well. In City matches, some of his defence splitting balls have been sublime.

Dave Jones has come to us with a reputation of been able to reinstate top players to their former glories. He will certainly become a hero in these parts if he gets Koumas and **Michael Ricketts** playing to the levels they achieved a few seasons ago.

The same could possibly be said of **Phil Mulryne**



Indeed, Mulryne along with **Jeff Whitley** hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons when the Irish management returned them both to Cardiff for disciplinary reasons in the build to the double-header World Cup fixtures in Belfast. They suffered their biggest punishment when, a week later, they were not involved in Northern Irelands historic victory over England. From Cities prospective, lets hope that this incident has a positive effect as they try and force their way back into the national squad.



Congratulations to, 18 year old, **Joe Ledley** for winning his first Welsh cap in Poland, speaking to his parents, who travel a lot with the supporters club, they are obviously very proud of him, and so are we, well done Joe.

Finally, **John Heyda**, a statistician who posts on one of

the message boards has highlighted the drastic fall in our home attendances over the last couple of seasons. The figures are indeed worrying. After the recent Leicester game, we have seen a drop of 10% when compared with the first four home games of last season. This is after the 04/05 saw a drop of 16% on the previous season, which was our first back in this division for 20 odd years.



**Sam Hamman** also touched on the 'crowd support' issue at the Football Clubs recent AGM, reiterating that to enable the club to grow it would have to attract people who don't currently come to matches.

This subject has attracted quite a few column inches in the local press, and in fairness, they are doing all they can to drum up support. However, to get more people down to Sloper Road, we need to take the hassle out of coming, the club are discussing a number of initiatives to address this as we went to press. A winning team would, in my opinion, be the biggest factor for an increase in gates.

**Up The City!!!**

# CITY QUIZ - DADS v. LADS

BY GWILYM REES



## First 10 questions – Oldies

### Second 10 questions – Up to date

- 1 Phil Dwyer holds the record for the most number of appearances in a Cardiff City shirt, who holds the second highest number of appearances?
- 2 In October 1974 John Farrington left the club in a player swap deal who was the player who came to City in that deal?
- 3 Who captained City to Division 1 promotion in the 1959/60 season?
- 4 Which former Cardiff City Player helped Rangers to a Scottish League title in 1997?
- 5 Cardiff City first entered the European Cup Winners Cup in 1964/65 what was the last season they played in the competition and who against?
- 6 The record victory for City came in a Welsh FA Cup 3rd tie against Knighton Town at Ninian Park on 28/1/1961 – What was the score?
- 7 Jason Perry won one full Welsh cap in what year and who against?
- 8 How many league goals did Chris Pike score for City? 47, 57, or 67.
- 9 What was significant about City's FA Cup 3rd tie against Arsenal at Ninian Park in 1969?
- 10 Who was the first ever player to make an appearance as a substitute for Cardiff City?
- 11 What squad number did Gary O'Neil wear while on loan at City in season 2004/05?
- 12 Who scored City's first league goal in the promotion season 1998/99?
- 13 City played in first league match under the ownership of Sam Hammam at Exeter City at the start of the 2000/1 season – which player scored the first City goal in that match.
- 14 Robert Earnshaw holds the record for the most number of league goals in a season in 2002/3 – How many goals did he score?
- 15 Who did Joe Ledley make his first team debut against?
- 16 Who scored City final league goal of the 2003/4 season?
- 17 Who were the Cardiff City sponsors (as appeared on their shirts) the day City beat Leeds Utd in the FA Cup 3rd round in January 2002.
- 18 How many appearances did Scott Young make for City? 321, 331 or 341.
- 19 Where (Town or City) was Rhys Weston born?
- 20 Against which team did Alan Lee score his first goal for City?

Answers on back cover.

# LIFE IN THE ACADEMY BY GARRY LEE

**It was early in 2004 that the Football Association granted the Club Academy Status for the first time, a step up from the 'Centre of Excellence' scheme which had previously operated.**

This now enabled the young players of Cardiff City to pit their skills against the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea, Aston Villa, Tottenham and several other top line names who had held Academy status for a number of years.

The preparation carried out by the club preceding the application had been vital to ensure that everything was in place. Now, the main concern was how would we compare on the pitch to the big name clubs?

This was a big step up in standard and just looking at the fixture list must have been very daunting. The Club had not long returned to the top tier of the football league, then called Division 1, themselves, so everything was moving at a pace.

Any fears however were to prove groundless in that first year as the club acquitted itself in great fashion recording notable victories over most, if not all, of its supposed more illustrious opponents.

The role of the academy is of course to provide first team players and it has without doubt been very successful in doing this. **Byron Anthony** and **Nicky Fish** both having experienced first team involvement and last season **Joe Ledley** and **Cameron Jerome** became established first team players.

**Danny Parslow** made an appearance in the first team in the recent pre-season tour to Scotland and of this year's batch of players there are great hopes for **Curtis McDonald** and **Jamal Easter** who along with **Joe Jacobson** were called up to the Wales under 21 squad or the game against Malta recently.

The Club is also well represented in the Wales under 17's and under 19's teams, so the policy on youth has already been a big success.

The emphases on developing young talent and more importantly retaining that talent at the club can only be a good thing as over the years we have lost far too many players to other clubs and seen others drift from the game after what looked to be a promising future. Older supporters have seen it all too often.

The Academy however now gives all these boys a level and standard of football not previously available to young players at Cardiff City and a real hope that they can make it to the first team if they if they are good enough.

They can achieve the Dream of all of the supporters of Cardiff City. Which is the chance to run out in the blue shirt at Ninian Park.

So that's how the Academy came to be and briefly what it has achieved so far, but what goes on behind the scenes? What is it like to be an Academy player? What happens Monday - Friday, pre-season and on match days?

On our first away trip of the season I had the chance to find out. Traveling with us that day were two of the latest crop of players, **Chris Gunter** and **James Simpson** not only are the boys Cardiff City players, being local boys they are also Cardiff City Fans, who on days like this support the team just as vocally and passionately as we all do.

So on the coach journey to Portman Road I had a chat to find out more - here's what the boys told me about life in the Academy.

Both Chris and James became involved with Cardiff City for the first time as 10 year olds. Chris who is from Newport had been playing with his local side Albion Rovers and James from Cardiff was playing for Marlborough Sports. Via the scouting network they had been recommended to the club and came initially of a four week trial. Luckily for them both, they came through that and progressed to play in the various age groups up to where they are now, with the Academy.

During that time numerous boys have come and gone.



Each year they come in on trials some are released at the end of that year or are simply not asked back. They told me that as far as they can remember they are the only two of the intake of boys who came to the club with them six years ago who still remain. As many as one hundred have come and gone in that time!

This goes to show how difficult it is to make it in the game to the level of Academy Player, so to make it to the first team is a massive achievement.

It is strange to think that although the boys are still only 16 they have already been involved with the club for six years and have seen Frank Burrows in his very latter days, the late Billy Ayre, Bobby Gould, Alan Cork and Lenny Lawrence all come and go.

Now the boys have progressed to the Academy Level (under 16's and under 18's) they both have a two year contract at the club with an option for a third after that, obviously dependant on their progress.

The next two years are vital for both Chris and James in achieving their dreams of a Pro Career.

The season began for them on 27th June when all the academy players reported back for the dreaded pre-season training. Hated by most players but absolutely essential, the slog of fitness and conditioning had begun. **Charlie Cooke** was in charge of fitness pre season at Treforest where all the lads were expected back in decent shape. Tests were done to ensure they were ready for the work ahead.

After the rigors of pre-season are over the typical week begins for them on a Monday morning at Ninian Park they must all report by 9am, anyone who is late incurs a fine. On a Monday Morning they all do study and education in the Canton suite using the clubs facilities and computers. In the afternoon it is training as normal.

Tuesday after reporting they go to Treforest where most, if not all, their outdoor work is done.

The morning session is fitness and ball work, at about 1130 each day they break for food and then they will train again in the afternoon.

Wednesday is their hardest day of the week in terms of effort and workload. This then gives them plenty of time to recover properly before Saturday if there is a match.

Gym sessions and weights done at a local health club are also incorporated into the training schedules along with use of machinery such as static bikes, with programmes such as Tour De France, which includes lots of hill climbs and sprints.

Stretching routines and drills also form an accepted part of all players programmes these days and the academy are no exception.

Thursday for all the boys is a whole day of education and study back at Ninian Park with no training involved. I had the distinct impression from Chris and James this was the worst day of the week as far as they were concerned.



Chris Gunter - second from right.

And in comparison with this, Wednesday is a doddle, – but there again that's a footballer for you, never happy unless he is kicking a football around – only joking boys!

When the Academy season gets under way games kick off at 11am on Saturday Mornings, although some are occasionally at 12 noon, all at Treforest. The boys will all have a pre-match meal which can be beans on toast, scrambled eggs on toast cereals and fruit. Fluids are taken on board such as sports drinks and water prior to kick off.

At half time in matches, in the era of sports science and nutrition, its more fluids and water plus believe it or not Jelly babies and Jaffa cakes all for quick energy replacement. Gone are the days of a quick suck on an orange or if you were a Sunday morning player, a quick shot of Strongbow was not out of the question.

The Academy not only provides a good standard of football and back up it also must provide a good quality of playing surface. Both the boys rated Arsenal as probably the best pitches they have played on. I remember Joe Ledley's father telling us last year when he went there last year to watch Joe play that he had been ushered away from the edge of the pitch by security guard who wouldn't even allow him to step on it.

The lads were also impressed by the set up at Leeds while Chelsea have apparently recently

had their facilities re-decorated with Louis Vuitton wallpaper costing £200 a roll – ah well I'm sure Mr Abramovich can afford it!

So that's the playing side of things but away from all that the academy boys are still expected to do the less glamorous jobs that young apprentice footballers of old always did. Cleaning dressing rooms and looking after first team squad boots are still on the work list.

All the Academy players are expected to report to Ninian Park for all first team games (unless they have an away game themselves). They will all turn up in club tracksuits and can be seen around the ground prior to, and after, the match.

At the start of the year, each Academy player is allocated a first team squad player who's boots he is responsible for cleaning. Chris has Chris Barker and Stuart Fleetwood. James has Alan Lee and the next loan signing who arrives at the club. He thought he might be getting Jason Koumas but it hasn't happened yet.

So that is what goes on at the academy. Don't forget if you can get along to Treforest on Saturday mornings at 11am, why not go along and have a look.

At the time of going to press with this issue the next games coming up will probably be:

**Sat October 8th v. MK Dons**  
**Sat October 22nd v. Watford.**

I'm sure we will all now be looking out for Chris and James over the next two years and following their progress. We wish them all the very best for the future and who knows in a few years time they might be playing for the Bluebirds in a bright shiny New Stadium over the road in Leckwith against the team owned by that Russian bloke with the Flashy Wallpaper.

Friday is a half day if there's a match on a Saturday. It's a light day doing drills and practicing set pieces for the following day. They might also watch a video of the opposition from the last time they played them to pick up certain points and highlight any aspects to work on. Nothing is left to chance and video's are made of academy games just like at first team level.

Both Chris and James have been involved in pre-season friendlies prior to the academy season kick off on the 20th August. Where City have fielded virtually an entire team of academy players against local and Welsh league opposition.

Chris is playing full back this year while James will be playing central midfield. This allows the boys to play against physically bigger and more experienced players and gives them a good grounding in a different aspect of the game. Results pre season have been good and the boys have shown great attitude, promise and ability to all those who have turned out and watched them.

# PROGRAMMES BY CLIVE FRANCIS



## PROGRAMMES

The Supporters Club shop has a large selection of Cardiff City home and away programmes from last season back to the early sixties.

Need to find those missing programmes?

Either send your wants list to:

CCSC, P.O Box 1927,  
Cardiff CF11 8YH.

Or alternatively e-mail  
Clive Francis at:

[clive.f@ccsc.co.uk](mailto:clive.f@ccsc.co.uk)

## PIN BADGES

Very limited number of high quality Welsh badges available, commemorating competitive and friendly matches.

All badges are finished to a high standard and display national emblems, date of fixture and, if a competitive match, the competition.

### **Qatar v Wales**

23/02/00

Red

### **Croatia v Wales**

21/08/02

Purple or red

### **Finland v Wales**

07/09/02

White

### **Wales v Bosnia Herzegovina**

12/02/03

White

### **Norway v Wales**

27/05/04

Red

### **Wales v Canada**

30/05/04

Red or white

### **Latvia v Wales**

18/08/04

Black

### **England v Wales**

09/10/04

White

### **Wales v Hungary**

09/02/05

White

### **Wales v Austria**

26/03/05

White or red

### **Austria v Wales**

30/03/05

White or red

### **Wales v Slovenia**

17/08/05

White or red

### **Wales v England**

03/09/05

White or red

### **Poland v Wales**

07/09/05

Red

All badges are priced at £2.50 each. Please add 30p for the first badge and then 20p per badge or send S.A.E to cover postage costs.

Please send payment to:

CCSC, PO BOX 1927,  
Cardiff CF11 8HY.

All cheques should be made payable to: CCSC.

The Supporters Club have an extensive selection of Cardiff badges available, these can be viewed and purchased either on match days at the club shop or by visiting the club website: [www.ccsc.co.uk](http://www.ccsc.co.uk).



**The latest venture for the Supporters Club was a brief visit to Warsaw for the recent World Cup qualifier. A small party of thirteen, most totally unstable individuals set off in the early hours on the Tuesday morning for an early flight from Heathrow.**

Travelling along North Road at 3.00am we get flashed by a speed camera - hope you don't get a ticket Mark - cracking start. After a fairly uneventful journey along the M4 we were soon parked up and by 5.30am everyone was settled in the airport bar downing Stella and the South Wales Constabulary were soon forgotten.

After a two hour and twenty minute flight courtesy of British Airways we were making our way through customs and heading for the hotel. A very decent 5 star hotel awaited our arrival. Even better, Jimmy Bradley's Irish Bar that the Welsh fans made their temporary home was just around the corner from the Holiday Inn and could be viewed from our hotel room. After a quick shower and change of clothes it was straight to the Irish Bar, well via the hotel bar, it would have been rude not to have stopped for a drink and we did not want our host thinking badly of the Welsh. A few pints of the local beer which was good stuff and it was off to the under 21's fixture for some of us, others somehow became rooted to their chair and decided they were going nowhere except up to the bar

for further refreshment. I am always weary of making a big effort to get to the under 21 fixture as I have witnessed some dreadful games at this level, with our lads usually on the end of a beating. However, with the game being played approximately 35 kilometers outside the city and as usual with Neil Dymock organising transport, it was relatively easy and gave you the opportunity to get lashed in a different town, um.. I mean see a little more of the country.

The journey was about an hour - a few drinks and some grub and it was off to the game. Thanks to my partner in crime (who shall remain nameless) and the cooperation of a very nice member of the press, we ended up with press passes. Hardly looking the part we tagged along with the press boys and took our seats next to the VIP section. Not much of a crowd but the Polish fans made loads of noise and provided their lads with decent support. Poland ran out 3 - 2 winners and looked stronger for much of the game particularly towards the latter part. Still the Welsh lads held their own for much of the game and the two City lads Byron Anthony and Stuart Fleetwood were both involved at various stages.

After the game it was back to the Irish Bar and then a few local bars before calling it a day in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Warsaw itself is undergoing major transformation with large building projects in progress and enormous financial investment coming into the city. Compared to many eastern block countries, Poland appears relatively wealthy and will become a major tourist destination in a few years and the hotels are obviously gearing towards this.

The old part of Warsaw was about a 20 minute walk from our hotel and worth the effort. Lots of bars and restaurants set in cobbled streets, extremely peaceful and relaxing - just what you need before you go into a stadium with 13,000 mad Poles. If you get the opportunity to visit Warsaw, then a walk through the old quarter is a must.

During the game in Cardiff, as there were some problems with the Polish fans (admittedly in their own section of the ground, but that sometimes makes it worse) it was difficult to gauge the reception our fans would receive from the home fans.

As it happens there were no problems before or after the game and the hospitality of the Polish people was excellent.



The game was played in Wojska Polskiego Stadium which is the home of Legia Warsaw, the same stadium where Wales managed a goalless draw in 2000. The ground, which only has a capacity of around 15,000, was built in 1930, and some parts of the ground were quite dilapidated and well past their sell-by date.

The stadium was comprised of one stand running the length of the pitch faced by a large uncovered seating area and two open seated ends set some way back from the pitch. The seating in all areas of the ground other than the covered section appeared to be seating placed on the old terracing. Both sets of fans made a tremendous amount of noise. The Polish fans had flags displaying their local sides and every Polish fan seemed to have a scarf – it was just like going back in time by 30 years!

The game itself was one of few chances for Wales and for most

of the first half Wales fought a rearguard action which stifled any attacking ambition the team may have had. As a result Wales had a solitary opportunity during the first 45 minutes. After the Poles scored from a penalty in the 54th minute, other than a late rally in the final five minutes of the game, Wales never really looked like scoring. The problem appeared to be the lack of chances created rather than opportunities missed and one can only hope that the goals will start to come. One highlight of the night for us City fans was Joe Ledley's first introduction to International football, although involved in the England game Tosh brought him on towards the end of this game. The first of many appearances in a Welsh shirt one hopes.

The biggest cheer of the night, from Welsh and Polish fans alike, came as it was announced that Northern Ireland had beaten England 1 – 0 in Belfast.

After the game it was back to the bar for a drink and the realisation that we were now bottom of the group with only the opportunity to climb above Azerbaijan. Still spirits were raised when we found out that the bar wasn't going to close. With an early flight we vacated the pub at 4.00am.

Three hours later and it was up for breakfast with some very unhealthy-looking individuals wandering around including one of our party who had somehow lost an eyebrow and some hair during the night. Moral of this story - don't share a room with Mathew Alm!. Mark you need to sort out you snoring!

Other than a bomb scare at Warsaw airport, which was resolved just before our arrival the return journey went smoothly. Another well organised trip, good beer, good company and a good laugh - we'll just forget about the football. Roll on Belfast!



# SCOTLAND TOUR BY GARRY LEE





# ARE WE WINNING THE WAR? BY VINCE ALM

**For those of you who have travelled regular to away matches during the past 30 years, you would have seen or been on the receiving end of over zealous policing or stewarding. Why do authorities behave like this to football fans? Is it because we are Welsh? Is it because of our past reputation? One thing we can be certain about is it will happen a couple of times during a season...why?**

During my time as Travel Officer I have been in a privileged position to gain an insight into why the police and stewards sometimes re-act as they do. The partnership formed with the South Wales Police after the Cardiff v. Leeds F.A. Cup encounter which I believe was a turning point on the war against hooliganism at Cardiff City, although on the day I didn't think it was as bad as the press made it out to be, this incident brought all parties together: supporters groups, football club, South Wales police and the council.

We need to go as far back as the sixties for the origins of football hooliganism, although some experts say this type of behaviour as always occurred throughout the history of man when tribes used to fight each other for any reason, it has evolved to its present state attaching itself to football although gang violence is a major part of society outside of the game today.

When football violence started to occur during the sixties, the police had no way of dealing

with it, totally against the reserved British stiff upper lip image portrayed after the second world war, it caught everyone by surprise as did the mod's and rockers.

A large part of the violence occurred in the stadiums, no segregation, run down terraces, very little policing and stewarding. At first it was brushed aside as a fad, and no real plan by the authorities to tackle it was put in place which turned out to be catastrophic for the game.

During the early seventies it got worst, although the police presence increased, a whole generation of youth were now hooked on football violence. The police dealt with this by either ejecting the hooligan out of the ground, locking them up and letting them go later, or if they were really unlucky they might find themselves in court with a small fine and that was that.

By the mid seventies, in my opinion, it was out of control, you had the red army (Manchester Utd) tearing up every town they went to.

I remember the running battles in Cardiff 1974, the police stood in the doorways powerless to stop the mass disorder due to sheer numbers involved. This type of violence continued right to the end of the decade, haphazard type of fighting, nothing pre-arranged, just vandalism and violence.

By this time crowds were dropping, every football club had its own hooligan group; the stadiums throughout the country were getting worse old and dilapidated, hardly an environment to bring the family to watch the national sport. During this period Cardiff City had come to the forefront with the reputation of one of the most violent hooligan groups in the country, (a reputation that still sticks today).

But none were as bad as the main London clubs. They managed to get themselves organised during the late seventies early eighties, organising trouble a couple of days before the game, remember there were no mobile phones in those days.

They had names such as: 'Inter City Firm' (ICF) and 'Chelsea Head Hunters' to name a couple, Cardiff also had a name first hatched by the group who travelled on the trains taking advantage of the cheap fares, it was the 'Cardiff City Soul Crew', occasionally chanted today.



It really only lasted about two seasons from 1982-1985. As soon as they stopped the cheap fares and people made their own way that was the end.

By the late eighties, football attendances were at an all low, grounds were literally falling apart, the tragic events at Heysel with all the Juventus fans dying when a wall gave way when Liverpool and Juve fans were fighting, had plunged it to an all time low.

By 1989, people were fearing for the game of football but another tragic event involving Liverpool would start a chain reaction that gave football a new lease of life. Liverpool were taking on Notts Forest in the Semi-Final of the F.A. Cup, and to avoid crushing at the turnstiles a gate was opened allowing all the fans to surge into one area causing crushing inside the ground. Many were children who got trapped against the perimeter fencing that was prevalent at all football grounds to stop people invading the pitch.

After this inquest came the Taylor report, new all seater stadiums, no standing; all ticket games, more stewards, no perimeter fencing, the list went on.... the police were given a host of new powers. At this time the government decided to get heavy and clamp down on hooliganism, problem was the police started beating people even if they were not involved,

if they were in the way they were hit. Supporters were detained for hours in coaches before entering city's under escort to the ground, drinking on coaches were outlawed, they were searched by police in full riot gear.

Football banning orders were put in place; they are a good idea but are abused by the authorities even today. I can accept somebody having a 3,5,10 year ban for violence but for being drunk trying to enter the ground is a safety issue and not an offence that should be penalised by the banning order, perhaps a fine would be sufficient.

The football hooligan appeared to go underground but this was a bit of a smoke screen, although not reported due to government ban on reporting hooliganism in the media.

Small groups of like-minded men arranging fights a couple of miles from the stadiums through the mobile telephones. They would travel in vans, cars, mini buses not to be detected, Cardiff being one of the worst even though we were in the dark reaches of the leagues.

With the government backing, this enabled police to be very harsh on us almost given us no rights at all at football matches and it was always the ones on organised travel who had the raw deals.

With the money from satellite television for screening of top football matches, the Premier League was formed, and the success of Euro 96 in England propelled football to the fore with families returning in their droves to watch football again. New stadiums sprung up and the police became more clued up in dealing with hooliganism, it almost disappeared at this level with disorder very rarely taking place.

This is why Cardiff was singled out in recent years, we have been one of the only clubs in the country in recent times still to have big numbers involved in disorder.

Stoke away April 2000 was an example of this but the perpetrators of the trouble in my opinion were the police who treated everyone atrociously creating the problem themselves. Our own police were just as bad, baton charges every home game, it was not improving; then came the turning point, Leeds January 2002 in the F.A. Cup. Top of the Premiership League, mini pitch invasion, baton charge, four arrests, objects thrown, nothing unusual there – normal occurrence we all thought (including myself) Mountain out of a mole hill!! But was it? That type of scene had not been witnessed at a football ground for 13 years let alone a live game.

Passion or aggression, or was it both? In the eyes of the English media we had crossed way to far passed the line, in part I believe, because a second division Welsh side had beaten the team at the top of the Premiership, but what followed was hysteria from the press. Undercover reporter's had also been following Sam and he was portrayed on a documentary as condoning the disorder at meetings when in fact he was instrumental in setting up regular meetings with all the parties to iron this out!

We were now rock bottom in most police forces eyes so radical changes had to be made. First was setting up the Valley Rams by Gwyn Davies from Aberdare, this took the masses out of transits, mini buses, cars and trains and put them on organised away travel which enabled the police to marshall our fans more easily.

Then came out I.D. cards, club membership, ticket only to away games and the dreaded bubble games for the high profile matches, i.e. Stoke, Millwall and Bristol City.

No police force trusted us to start with and we were given any privileges, at home things had changed for the better, a new Chief Super Intendant, Bob Evans was in charge and very sympathetic to the football clubs view of how to police.

The council tarmaced part of the car park, put lightening up and installed CCTV. Very little disorder ever occurs at Ninian Park these days and proof that the battle with our own police appears to be over, because we now enjoy great relationships with our Liaison Officers, Sergeant Richard Weber and P.C. Simon Insole who travel with us all over the world.

Back to the other police forces, to start with we had some horrendous experiences; Huddersfield Town, Sheffield Utd, Luton, Ipswich, Wigan, Notts Forest.....to name a few, but slowly things started to improve as they realised we weren't all Ghengis Khan Warriors.

Pre-match meetings with supporter groups, Safety Officers and police have also helped, such improvements have been as follows; Sheffield utd last season, although kick off was early, Derby County this year – 3.00pm kick off, Stoke no longer a bubble game, pubs organised before the games... all these small steps towards us being accepted back into the fold.

We still have some way to go yet as Plymouth and Reading proved last year, those ridiculous escorts back to Wales because some commander thinking we might want to stop off and cause trouble on the way home. Many of us wrote to complain to the forces involved

and we received apologies from all the police forces, except Devon and Cornwall who said they would take into account our comments when planning this season events. The fact police acknowledge us now is also a step forward and we have letters from some of the forces thanking us for our good behaviour. As far as the police are concerned we have turned a corner.

Problems with stewards at away grounds are usually because we do not sit. They come under major pressure from their safety groups to enforce sitting down but very often when they ask our supporters to sit, they are met with a torrent of abuse.

We are one of the worst clubs in the league for persistent standing, what we need to do in future is make an effort to sit down, and if you are like myself up and down in your seat the whole game, sit at the back allowing those who sit the whole game to sit at the front, thus reducing the numbers standing. This one item leads to over zealous stewarding; perhaps if we complied with it a bit more, this may improve also.

Keep up the good work, we still have some way to go but we have come a long way in a short space of time. I believe we are in a good position to win this war but not home and dry so do not become complacent.

# WORD SEARCH



K	N	A	F	L	P	C	V	S	W	B	A
W	O	C	J	E	R	O	M	E	H	A	L
B	T	S	U	D	U	X	P	D	I	R	E
J	S	N	K	L	F	B	Q	U	T	K	X
C	E	E	O	E	C	O	U	P	L	E	A
O	W	V	U	Y	L	L	E	E	E	R	N
O	B	O	M	S	P	A	R	R	Y	E	D
P	E	O	A	G	U	N	L	K	P	F	E
E	Z	L	S	Q	T	D	N	O	W	X	R
R	I	C	K	E	T	T	S	F	H	M	S

KOSKELA

BOLAND

ALEXANDER

BARKER

WHITLEY

PURSE

COX

KOUMAS

LEE

JEROME

PARRY

WESTON

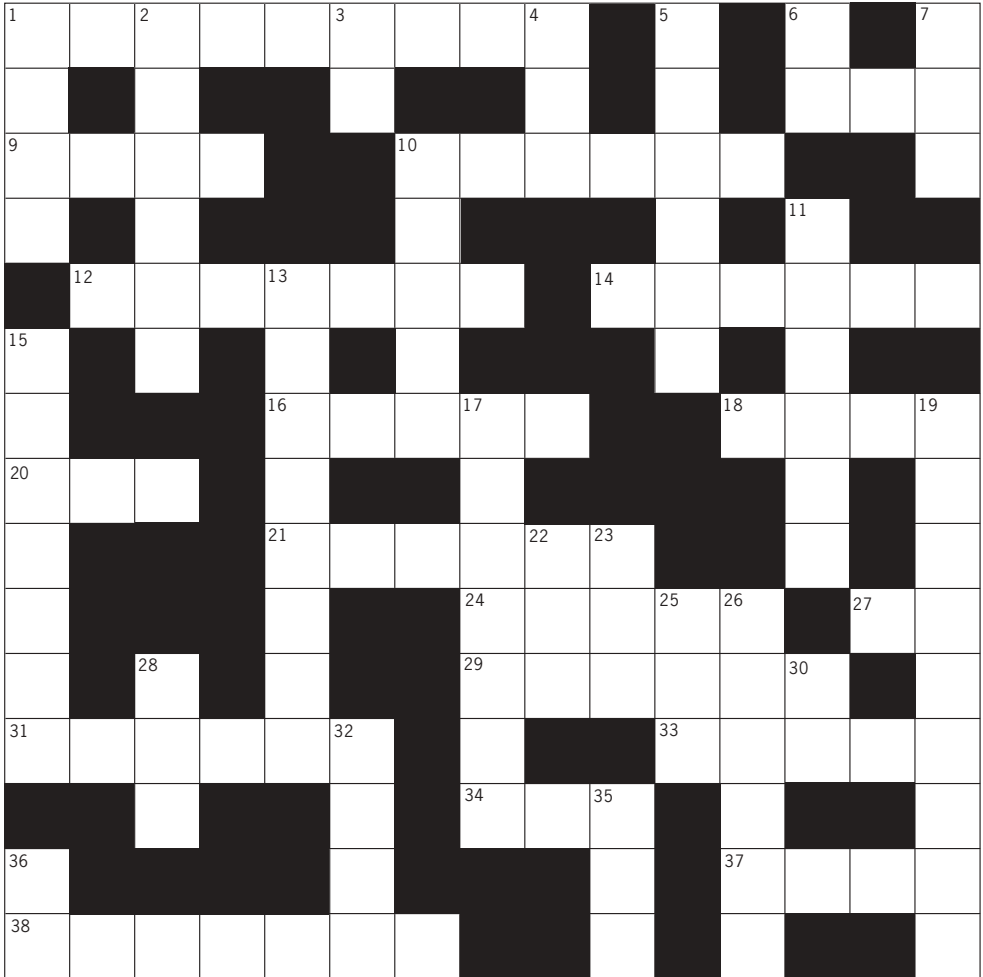
LOOVENS

RICKETTS

COOPER

LEDLEY

# CROSSWORD BY MARTIN, NIA AND LUCY STOCKWELL





### Across

1. Our original name (9)
8. Number of goals Cardiff scored in 1927 FA Cup Final (3)
9. (and 5 down) City keeper (4 and 6)
10. Jack forward (6)
12. Our half of 'smash and grab' (7)
14. ' \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Rovers' – Scottish minnows (6)
16. Cat with City connections (5)
18. Regal player (4)
20. (and 29 across) He's got no hair but we don't care (3 and 6)
21. Aussie midfield maestro (6)
24. 'Fly-boy' chairman (5)
27. Let's be positive! (2)
29. See 20 across
31. Could be pepper as well (6)
15. Our first ECWC opponents
33. Footy magazine (5)
34. Number of goals Arsenal scored in 1927 FA Cup Final (3)
37. Could be Campbell or Lee (4)
38. NFL team – nothing to do with the City but it fits! (7)

### Down

1. ' \_ \_ \_ \_ Zaragoza' – ECWC opponents (4)
2. Aussie Ranger (6)
3. ' \_ \_ Etienne' – French side (2)
4. PN? (3)
5. See 9 across
6. Hammer blow! (2)
7. Not Peter Throne, the other one, he could motor
10. Famous for 'Match of the Day' goal (8)
11. God's little acre (6)
13. Midfielder – same name as boxing champion (8)
17. Handy with a frying pan – could score as well! (7)
19. Old chairman as well as demolished ground (9)
22. Tosh may say this instead of hello (3)
23. Onion Bag (3)
25. A number of large hills (3)
26. 'Eric Cantona' (3 and 3)
28. ' \_ \_ \_ Healey' – keeper (3)
30. Opposite of yes – this is too easy!!! (2)
32. First name of Bluebird who used to be a canary (4)
35. ?FW (3)
36. ' \_ \_ Hamburg' (2)

Answers on back cover.

# HELLO AND GOODBYE BY GWILYM REES

**This an attempt by the author to keep you all up to date with the comings and goings, down at Sloper Road, over the last couple of months.**

To say this has been a busy transfer period in the clubs history would be an understatement, with the resulting turbulence, caused by the disappointing departures of **Danny Gabbidon** and in particular **James Collins**, testing the resolve of Cites most ardent fans. Nothing seems straightforward when you support the Bluebirds.



Since Mark Watkins wrote the introduction to the last issue of 'I'll be there', in the summer, **Jobi McAnuff** had just left and **David Jones** had just joined.

Forced by the circumstances he knew he was walking into, the phrase, a new brush sweeps clean, is definitely appropriate for Jones.

Out of contract players where dealt with, Ardley, Koskela and Boland were signed up but **Darren Williams** was not so lucky and the contract that Lennie offered him was withdrawn, fortunately for

Darren he got fixed up with Hartlepool, back in his native north-east, along with Lee Bullock, who I noted, scored a 25 yard rocket for them in his second league match. Out of contract, Full Back, Gary Croft, was told he could train with the club during pre season but took the security of a contract when Grimsby offered him one.

Fourth choice goalkeeper, **Lee-Barratt**, moved onto non-league football at Weymouth and we also lost backroom staff, physio's Steve Allen and Paul Hunter to West Ham.

The wage cutting controversially continued and we suffered some big hits when **Danny Gabbidon** and **James Collins** followed the physios to West Ham. Most observers would agree, and I read a quote from John Toshack, that Gabbidon was ready for Premiership football and another season in the Championship may have seen him take a step backwards. Subsequently, Gabbidon has done well in his early games for West Ham and indeed continues to do so for Wales, as we all knew he would.

The transfer of Collins was harder to swallow, where I believe the reverse applied. Another season in the Championship would have

benefited him. In our early season games I think we have missed him more than anyone.

For those that follow Wales' fortunes amongst us, at least we will get to see them for many years to come. Good luck both!!

The cull hadn't finished, and big earner **Peter Thorne** moved onto rivals Norwich, I hope that doesn't come back to haunt us! That said, I noticed he was out injured during late August early September. In the 4 seasons he was with us, it was only the 02/03 campaign that we got a full season out of him due to various injury problems.

Not many players remained and the pre season fixtures where looming,



David Jones's first signing was Northern Ireland's International, from Sunderland, **Jeff Whitley** (the man that out savaged Savage when he played Wales), he looks a decent addition. In the Udinese friendly, he was really getting stuck into the Italians, more of that in the league please Jeff.



**Glen Loovens**, a Dutchman, playing at Feyenoord joined on a season's loan, and my guess is he will establish himself in the side. He served some bench duty early on but looked good when he was given his chance.

**Andrea Ferretti** was signed from the Italian league, coming recommended by none other than Sir Alex Ferguson and looked useful in the pre-season games.

Experienced defenders **Neil Cox** and **Jermaine Darlington** joined from Watford; at the time of going to press both had lost their first team places, so the jury remains out of those two. Another Northern Irish international, midfielder Phil Mulryne, joined from Norwich after a trial period, although he has won a cap since he joined us, his role has been as a squad player.



The big signings were undoubtedly those of **Darren Purse** and **Jason Koumas** from West Brom, they along with **Kevin Cooper**, from Wolves, joined just before the season started, but without the benefit of training with and getting to know their new team mates.



Koumas is here on a seasons loan, lets hope West Brom do well, because if they don't, manager Bryan Robson will be out and as sure as 'eggs are eggs'the new manager would want the benefit of a fit Jason Koumas back in his premiership squad.



Along with signing Purse and Koumas, probably the best bit of business the club did was to re-negotiate the contracts of five players, last seasons player of

the year **Chris Barker**, **Rhys Weston**, goalkeepers **Neil Alexander** and **Tony Warner**, and Eire International **Alan Lee**, on significantly lower wages. Hats off to those five!

The position of goalkeeper was confusing for a while: it looked a straight fight between Warner and Alexander, with **Martin Margetson** apparently on his way out of the club. With City struggling to keep clean sheets, it was Alexander who started the season in goal.

But Premiership club Fulham came in for Warner, on loan initially, so from bench duty in the championship it was straight into a Premiership first team for Tony, keeping clean sheets in a couple of matches and having a brilliant game against Arsenal which included a penalty save.

Meanwhile, Margetson was thrown a lifeline at the City, quickly finds himself in the Welsh squad to play Solvenia, while Alexander holds down a first team spot but doesn't get a look in with the Scottish squad – it's a funny old game!!

Back from injury just before the transfer deadline, **Joe Ledley** notched a couple of goals as the reserves won the Combination Championship at Luton. I wonder if he would have been 'snapped up' if he had been fit throughout the pre season!

On transfer deadline day, **Michael Ricketts**, a forward capped by England, joined on loan from Leeds and will be with us until January. He had a very good spell at Premiership Bolton between 2000 and 2003, but subsequently did not enjoy the same success at either Middlesbrough or Leeds. Manager David Jones has a reputation for re-igniting players careers, lets hope he is successful in this instance.



**Richard Langley** joined his old club Q.P.R. on a permanent basis, after a trial period at Crystal Palace. A player of undoubted talent, he was obviously a victim of the clubs requirement to cut the wage bill. I'm sure he will do well back in London!



To complete the comings and goings at Ninian Park: **Andy Campbell** joined League 2 side Oxford, on a similar deal to that of Ricketts.

If either Andy or Tony Warner return to the City, let's hope it is with renewed confidence, Warner, in particular, has proved over the last few weeks that he can play at the highest level.



Finally, lets all hope that the club get stronger after this short period of major surgery, they obviously need time to settle, but you don't get much of that in football. The bottom line is, we have got to go with what we have got until the January transfer window re-opens.

#### GOODBYE TO:

Tony Vidmar	NAC Breda
Jobi McNuff	Crystal Palace
Danny Gabbidon	West Ham
James Collins	West Ham
Arran Lee-Barrett	Weymouth
Lee Bullock	Hartlepool
Darren Williams	Hartlepool
Gary Croft	Grimsby
Peter Thorne	Norwich
Richard Langley	Q.P.R.

#### SEE YOU SOON:

Tony Warner	Fulham
Andy Campbell	Oxford

**ENJOY YOUR STAY WITH US:**

Jason Koumas	West Brom
Glenn Loovens	Feyenoord
Michael Ricketts	Leeds

#### HELLO TO:

Jeff Whitley	Sunderland
Jermaine Darlington	Watford
Neil Cox	Watford
Phil Mulryne	Norwich
Darren Purse	West Brom
Kevin Cooper	Wolves
Andrea Ferretti	Parma

# CARDIFF CITY FIXTURES SEASON 2005/6



## JULY 2005

Sat 16	Accrington	A	F	W 3-1	
Mon 18	Hamilton	A	F	W 2-1	100
Wed 20	Kilmarnock	A	F	W 2-1	100
Sat 23	Falkirk	A	F	D 1-1	
Wed 27	Udinese	H	F	L 1-3	
Sun 31	West Brom	H	F	0-2	

## AUGUST

Sat 6	Ipswich Town	A	FLC	L 0-1	1,100
Tue 9	Leeds Utd	H	FLC	W 2-1	900
Fri 12	Watford	H	FLC	L 1-3	145
Sat 20	Derby County	A	FLC	L 1-2	1,115
Wed 24	Colchester Utd	A	CC1	W 2-0	250
Sat 27	Wolverhampton	H	FLC	D 2-2	1,500

## SEPTEMBER

Sat 10	Burnley	A	FLC	D 3-3	650
Tue 13	Leicester City	H	FLC	W 1-0	450
Sat 17	Crystal Palace	H	FLC	W 1-0	750
Tue 20	Macclesfield	H	CC2	W 2-1	24
Sat 24	Millwall	A	FLC	D 0-0	600
Tue 27	Stoke City	A	FLC		

## OCTOBER

Sat 1	Luton Town	H	FLC		
Sat 15	Brighton & HA	A	FLC		
Tue 18	Preston NE	H	FLC		
Sat 22	Crewe	H	FLC		
25/26	Leicester City	H	CC3		
Sat 29	Sheffield Utd	A	FLC		

## NOVEMBER

Tues 1	Norwich	A	FLC		
Sun 6	Coventry	H	FLC		
Sat 19	Preston	A	FLC		
Tue 22	Brighton & Hove	H	FLC		
Sun 27	Ipswich Town	H	FLC		
Tues 29			CC4		

## DECEMBER

Sat 3	Hull City	A	FLC		
Sat 10	Leeds Utd	A	FLC		
Sat 17	Derby County	H	FLC		
Tue 20			CC5		
Mon 26	Plymouth Argyle	H	FLC		
Wed 28	QPR	A	FLC		
Sat 31	Southampton	H	FLC		

## AS

## JANUARY 2005

Mon 2	Reading	A	FLC		
Sat 7			FAC3		
Sat 14	Burnley	H	FLC		
Sat 21	Leicester City	A	FLC		
Sat 28			FAC3		
Tue 31	Millwall	H	FLC		

## FEBRUARY

Sat 4	Crystal Palace	A	FLC		
Sat 11	Stoke City	H	FLC		
Tue 14	Luton Town	A	FLC		
Sat 18	Hull City	H	FLC		
Sat 18			FAC3		
Sat 25	Watford	A	FLC		

## MARCH

Sat 4	Sheffield W	H	FLC		
Sat 11	Wolverhampton	A	FLC		
Sat 18	Plymouth Argyle	A	FLC		
Sat 25	QPR	H	FLC		

## APRIL

Sat 1	Southampton	A	FLC		
Sat 8	Reading	H	FLC		
Sat 15	Sheffield United	H	FLC		
Mon 17	Crewe Alexandra	A	FLC		
Sat 22	Norwich City	H	FLC		
Sun 30	Coventry City	A	FLC		

## MAY

Sat 6	Play-Off Semi				
	Final 1st leg		FLC		
Wed 10	Play-off Semi				
	Final 2nd leg		FLC		
Sun 21	Play-off Final		FLC		
TBA	Sheffield W	A	FLC		

AS: Away support

