





WESTON-SUPER-MARE AFC **EXETER CITY XI & CARDIFF CITY XI**



TUE 6 JULY | KO 19:45

TUE 13 JULY | KO 19:45





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SCOTT BARTLETT MANAGER

As I write this prior to our first two home pre-season games, I'll start by welcoming everyone from Exeter City and Cardiff City to The Optima.

We have enjoyed a good relationship with both clubs and we hope that continues. It's been well documented that we have benefitted from some excellent loan signings over the years and we are pleased to have been able to provide a good environment for their young players to gain some experience of senior football.

It's been a really good start to Pre-season, the players have worked incredibly hard so far and it's fantastic to get back to the wonderful playing surface at The Optima for these two games.

We are working with a smaller squad this season but it's a squad with competition for places throughout. We may still look

to add more players and use the loan market as pre pre-season progresses but we are happy with what we have

We think the additions of Jason Pope, Jordan Bastin and Lucas Vowles have freshened things up and added extra pace, hunger and athleticism to the group. Ben Whitehead is now in full contact. training and will be available for selection soon, most likely after these two games.

Enjoy the games!

Cott



RICHARD SLOANE DIRECTOR & FOOTBALL SECRETARY

"We have all missed the beautiful game"- Richard Sloane previews our opening game of pre season, as we welcome fans back to The Optima.

Good evening everyone,

What a great pleasure and privilege to be able to welcome all our supporters back to competitive football. We also welcome Exeter City FC, Matt Taylor Manager, directors and players. It's always an enjoyable experience to host them at The Optima Stadium, All of you will remember Ollie Watkins who is now playing at the top of his game and profession who was on loan to us a few seasons ago. We have two of their previous players in our squad who will probably be featuring tonight and need no introduction -Jason Pope and Jacob Jagger Cane.

We have all so missed the beautiful game. You will have noticed all the social distancing marks have been repainted on the floor in the ground. Please try to keep to the 30 people in a group rule. We know it's difficult but unfortunately we have to abide by it.

As will have been seen at the Charity match on Sunday we have tried to ensure everyone remains safe, supporters: staff; players and coaches. We apologise for the slight inconvenience this causes you all at the present time. Hopefully after the 19th July we will be able to mix freely outside and indoors.

More details of the development will be given as we go through the preseason matches

Our Southern League fixtures should be announced on 16 July. Merthyr Town FC are returning after a season totally void because of Welsh Gov't Covid restrictions and, Kings Langley FC, a London based Club have been moved sideways from Southern League Central. That gives us 21 home and away matches. The Board have agreed we should enter both the Southern League Cup and Somerset FA Premier Cup this season in addition to the FA Cup and FA trophy. Our Ladies Team have also entered the FA Women's Cup.

The next match is also at home to Cardiff City on Tuesday 13th July at 7.45pm. Tickets can still be purchased for this match on line from the Club Website.

What a great win for England against Germany last Tuesday evening, it certainly lifted morale for the whole country. I'm sure our team will emulate this many many times this coming season.

The Board hopes you thoroughly enjoy the match this evening.

Come on you Seagulls!

Richard





ON THE SPOT



Lloyd Humphries

Most enjoyable moment in foot-

Being a scholar at Cardiff. Playing football every day with your mates after leaving school was a dream.

What would you be if you weren't a footballer?

My brother's a plumber so I'd have probably gone down that route too.

Messi or Ronaldo?

Messi

Who's your best mate at Weston?

Probably Grubby or Caney. They're the players that I've known the longest from my first spell here.

Who's got the best dress sense at Weston?

Canev.

Who's got the worst dress sense at Weston?

Grubby.

Favourite food?

Sphagetti bolagnese.

What music are you into?

Indie music. Courtneerers are a favourite of mine.

How important are fans for the players?

Massive. Fans last season gave us the boost that we needed inside the ground.

Describe the way you play in three words?

Aggressive, passionate and skillful.

Who was your footballing idol grow ing up?

Joe Allen and Leon Britton.

How would you describe your personality?

Outgoing.

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PRE-SEASON FIXTURES





13 JULY- 19:45 HOME



16 JULY- 19:30 AWAY



20 JULY- 19:30 **AWAY**



HOME



HOME



3 AUG- 19:45 **AWAY**



7 AUG- 15:00 **HOME**



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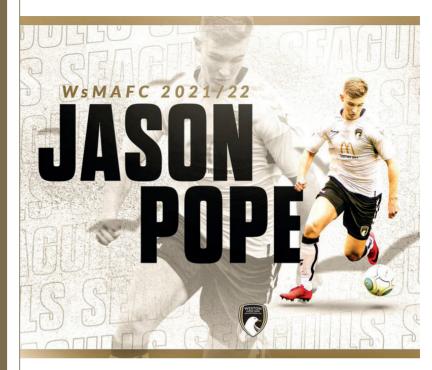
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JASON POPE MIDFIELDER

Liam Drury spoke with summer signing Jason Pope to discuss his return to the club.

Hi Jason. How happy are you to be back at the club?

I'm buzzing. Got a good feeling about the club. It's a great club, great people, great gaffer. I know a lot of the boys from when I was last here and the lads like Symo, Keiran Thomas who I played with when I went to Hereford for a bit. We've got a good group of players and I think we can do something this year.

You left the club for Hereford a couple of seasons ago. What was it like playing in front of a crowd as big as that there?

It was a bit different. It's a big club, the fans can be a bit fickle to be fair but

it was obviously a good experience playing in front of 2,500 and 3,000 fans at the start of the season but it was a strange time because we had about four managers throughout the season, chopping and changing so it was a bit different.

You then went to Bath last season. How did you find that?

Different again. Covid disrupted a lot of it, I was doing a lot of travelling as well. I started working down in Exeter, we were training up in Bristol so I was getting home on Tuesday and Thursday nights at Midnight. I was getting into bed at 1, getting up again at 6am so it wasn't great



for me physically or mentally to be honest. It's a good fit for me being here, closer to home, I can enjoy my football again.

Do you think you're better off for those experiences?

You obviously get experience throughout your career year-on-year. Meeting different managers, styles and leagues. It all helps to give you that experience to make you a better player and if I can bring that experience to the side this season, that'll be great.

What are your targets for the season?

If you look at our squad on paper, it's silly really. We should be getting promoted, I don't think anybody

in the dressing room thinks any different. That's our first target. Personally, same as every year, I just want to play as often as possible, play consistently well and bring a bit more experience to the side, play the good football that Weston want to play.

You going to try and score a few this season?

You never know. It was all the cup games when I used to score. I used to be back from corners because I'm one of the quickest players so I get left furthest back. I might have a word with Scott (Bartlett) to put me up for the corners to give me a chance.

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WESTON TO WEMBLEY



WEST COUNTRY BORN OLLIE WATKINS MAY HAVE PROGRESSED TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE, AND SCORED ON HIS ENGLAND DEBUT, ALL IN THE SPACE OF A YEAR . BUT HE CERTAINLY HASN'T FORGOTTEN HIS ROOTS.

In just over 4 years, Ollie Watkins' rise to stardom has seen him go from non league youngster to established Premier League footballer.

Many would argue that his loan move to Weston-super-Mare back in 2014 kick started it all for the Aston Villa striker, his first taste of regular, first-team football, in which he scored 10 in 24 games at The Optima Stadium. Watkins himself has since said joining Weston is 'The best thing I did, it was a huge part of my development. I realised how much three points meant to people'. His confidence began to grow and he soon went back to his parent club, Exeter City, shining in his first two full seasons in the football league.



Exeter's most successful prodigy of recent times, Watkins scored 21 goals over two seasons in League Two, leading his club to the play off final but unfortunately they couldn't get over the line, losing to Blackpool at Wembley Stadium. Speculation was building that Championship clubs were in for the youngster and he soon made his move to London with Brentford, earning The Grecians a seven figure fee at the time.

After a long summer of speculation in 2020, he joined up with his former boss Dean Smith at Aston Villa for an incredible

£28m, which saw further profit for Exeter, who had a hefty sell on percentage included in the deal that saw him join Brentford in 2017.

The forward struck up a fruitful relationship with Villa Captain Jack Grealish and 14 goals later, he got a phone call from England manager Gareth Southgate: he was in the squad. After starting on the bench, he came on for his first, and undoubtedly not his last, England cap, and soon made an impact. He hit a shot from outside the box, and it nestled into the bottom corner, a dream come true for the man who had been playing non league football just 5 years ago. "It's what I've dreamt about, I'm over the moon", Watkins said after his Wembley goal against San Marino.



Weston-super-Mare legend Dayle Grubb, talking after Watkin's England debut, described the impact he'd had during his spell at the Optima. "His attitude was spot on. He got involved in the group, got on really well with the lads and worked his socks off", Grubb told the Non League Football paper. "Sometimes loan signings are a bit hit and miss. Sometimes they think they're too good for the level, or they shouldn't be there, but there was nothing like that with him."

WESTON WOMEN

Weston- super-Mare Womens manager Sarah Adams has a look back at the last year, and reviews last season, before the pandemic brought it to a halt.

A look back at a challenging year.

My first preseason at the club with our new squad went without a hitch, we recruited well and we had produced some impressive performances in friendly fixtures which gave us great confidence ahead of the season starting. Then covid hit...

Although still able to compete, we found ourselves with a depleted squad due to many having to isolate and the regional restrictions stopping players travelling.

We also faced arguably the toughest first 3 fixtures, with our neighbours Mendip scheduled in twice, a very young team who didn't feel the impact of the covid restrictions quite as much as the rest of the league. Along with Oldland who consistently finish in the top 3.

We didn't ever show in those first fixtures what we were capable of and only managed to steal a single point from the first 4 games. This is where our season ended, with all football stopped as the second wave hit and eventually, despite efforts to restart, the league was curtailed and declared null and void, concluding a disappointing first season for our new squad.

Applications were then opened for teams to apply for upward movement through the leagues which we didn't apply for.

Our goal this season is to produce performances that put us in a comfortable league position, which then allows us more opportunities toexperiment, practice and build for the future as our covid stricken transition season last year didn't allow us that platform.

Garah



Photos taken during a game in September of last year.



NEXT WOMEN'S MATCH





18 JULY | KO 14:00



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Bowman, Randall, Sparkes

Maher

Trialist

Parsons Dean A.Byrne Warren Madden A.Martin Conk **Sparkes** Tindle Kite Llewellyn Tillson Laird Law **Howe** I.Martin Malshansky Bowman **Pearce** Seymour

Substitutes: Hendy, J.Byrne, Jones, Welch, Goodall, Briscoe, Kingston **Substitutes:** Dyer, Randall, Smerdon, Simpson, Lawrence, Ward

Tuesday 16th July 2019 The Optima Stadium

A FIRST HALF GOAL FROM RYAN BOWMAN ADDED TO TWO LATE FINISHES FROM JOEL RANDALL AND JACK SPARKES WAS ENOUGH TO GIVE EXETER CITY THE WIN IN AN ENTERTAINING MATCH.

With three games in a week, manager Matt Taylor named a side with a blend of youth and experience as Ryan Bowman, Lee Martin and Nicky Law all started alongside the likes of Jack Sparkes, Harry Kite and Ben Seymour.

Exeter managed to push themselves in front on 26 minutes when some good play in the centre of the field from Lee Martin saw him turn well and thread the ball through to Bowman, who continued his pre-season goal scoring form with a calm finish into the bottom corner.

Nicky Law was next to have a chance for the Grecians after he burst in behind to latch onto a long ball, but at a tight angle, his chipped effort was blocked well by Maher.

The home side's best chance fell on 56 minutes when they managed to work it well on the edge of the Exeter box before the ball found its way to Owen Howe who's effort came off the onrushing trialist keeper and almost deflected into the net, but for Jack Sparkes to get back and clear.

Sam Hendy then had another opportunity for the Seagulls when good work from Isaac Pearce saw the ball fall to the substitute, who hit a fierce shot, but for the trialist keeper to stand tall and block excellently.

The Grecians got their second after good work from Sparkes on the left saw him cross dangerously before the ball deflected into the path of substitute Randall who fired home with a powerful effort.

Then, just moments before full-time, Sparkes got his reward for a positive display when he fired an effort towards goal from out wide on the right and it evaded everyone in the area before ending up in the bottom corner, as Exeter picked up another pre-season win.



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RICHARD SLOANE DIRECTOR & FOOTBALL SECRETARY

Welcome to this our second home pre-season game of five. and a big welcome to Cardiff City FC, their management, directors and supporters.

At the time of writing, it is not known if Mick McCarthy will be travelling with the Cardiff City team. We have very strong links with the club having negotiated loan players from the U23 squad. Lloyd Humphries is still with us and vou will have seen from his interview on our Facebook page recently that he is really raring to go, as are all of our players. Last season we had James Waite from Cardiff. and in previous seasons - Dan Martin and Connor Davies. All of those players enjoyed their stay with us.

Our squad is largely the same as last year, whilst welcoming back Jason Pope and bringing in Jordan Bastin from Tiverton Town. My responsibility is to get players signed once the management team have agreed terms with them and ensure new contracts are given to those whose contracts have expired. This can sometimes mean meeting in gymnasiums, motorway service stations or in their full time occupation areas.

International Clearance for these and other players coming from Wales and Scotland can be very problematic in registering them with the English FA in a timely manner. In recent seasons we have also signed players from Malta, France. USA and Poland which have also taken time



The U19s squad are playing in the National League and U18s in Weston Counties Floodlight Youth Cup.

The pitch is looking in superb condition and we must congratulate our groundsman Bob Flaskett for providing such quality. Many of our preseason Football League opponents come here because of the quality of play we provide and the great pitch.

The first away match is at Frome Town on Friday 16th July 7.30pm

We welcome a Bristol City XI on Saturday 24th July KO 3pm. Tickets can still be purchased for this match online from the Club Website.







SCOTT LAIRD MIDFIELDER/ASSISTANT MANAGER

Liam Drury spoke with player-assistant manager Scott Laird about how pre-season has changed during his playing career.

HI Scott. Pre-season again. Are you looking forward to it?

Yeah, it's lovely. I don't think anybody looks forward to pre-season but they also do look forward to it, if that makes sense. Everyone is nervous, fearful of what's happening, what running you're going to be doing, but you have to put in the hard yards to start with as there's always going to be a football involved with me and the gaffer. It's going to be a slog, but you have to be fit at whatever level of football you play. Football's a hard game, it's amazing to watch and play but the total aspect is being fit. If you ask any football player when you break it down, that feeling of being knackered

after the first couple pre-season sessions is a wonderful feeling in a weird way. Calves screaming, quads screaming because you know you've worked hard.

In the last 17 years, how has pre-season changed?

It hasn't really changed, details have. When I first started at 16 years-old, 17 years ago, there were no pods, no GPS to track you, it was more or less just pounding the roads, getting in the forests at Plymouth, running around. It's more technical now, the runs have changed, it's not run until you drop, it's how you run now, distances, speeds, scientifically it's all changed in that regard.



I've been lucky to go through that transition from the end of the old school era if you want to call it that and into the new scientific era. I think each to their own, there's no right or wrong, it's how you feel comfortable and as long as we're fighting fit, ready to run on 14th August, that's the main thing.

How important is pre-season now in getting ready for 14th August?

It's been a horrible two years, we've not completed a season. That first season, we started slow, ended really well. Last season, we played six league games so you can't judge a season off that. Yes, we started slow, but it was six league games so it's hard to judge. Everybody's going to be doing the same this year.

Be as fit as you can. This is the most honest league I've played in through my career, people run for 95-96 minutes and there's some technically gifted footballers at this level who haven't progressed up the leagues for a number of reasons. It's a tough league and what we've found is that you have to be fit. You've got to be fit for 100 minutes at this level.



Weston 50s Whites finished the Somerset FA league in second place. This was a disappointing conclusion in not winning the competition.

However, they were the only team to beat Keynsham - the eventual winners. Player/coach Keith Seabourne paid tribute to Keynsham: "They were the most consistent team this season and deserved their success. They didn't beat us and we did beat them. We had some off days and drew too many games when we should have won. It has hit us hard and we are more determined than ever to win the title back next season."

Weston 50s Reds had a new Management team this season in John Budd and Dave Shilton. John summed up the season: "It was a difficult season for us as we had a lot of injuries. We have learnt a lot not only about our team but also about ourselves. Joint Managers will only work if we trust each other and are able to have frank conversations. When we put out a strong team, we hold our own with every other team. We are already planning for next season. We have retained the players we wanted to and already have a couple of new players who will strengthen the squad.

The Gloucester FA league has just restarted with things going well for both the 50s and 60s. The 50s Manager Lach Geddes said: "We have got a couple of new players this season who have strengthened the squad. We have played a couple of rounds and sit at the top of our league."

The 60s Manager Arie Van Vliet commented: "We also have played two rounds and sit top of our league. Some of the 50s squad now qualify for my 60s team and bring a lot of strength and experience. We remain unbeaten and have yet to concede a goal."

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EXETER CITY

SCOTT BROWN

GOALKEEPER

With well over 500 senior appearences, shot-stopper Scott Brown brings a wealth of expirience to Exeter City upon his arrival as playercoach this summer.

JACK ARTHUR

GOALKEEPER

After impressing in the FA Youth Cup last season for the young Grecians, Jack Arthur is another 'one of our own' who looks set to breakthrough in the next couple of years.



GOALKEEPER

Tipped to play at the very top by Matt Taylor, 15 year old Harry Lee has been around the senior squad for much of the 2020/21 season.



JAKE CAPRICE DEFENDER

Jake was Exeter City's first signing in the summer of 2020, joining from Tranmere Rovers. His best career moment came at Wembley for the Bikenhead club in 2019, having provided an extra-time assist to seal promotion to League One.



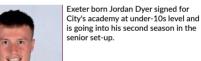
HARRY LEE

DEFENDER

Defender Sam Stubbs, son of former defender Alan, joined the Grecians in January 2021 on a two-and-a-halfyear contract.



DEFENDER





DEFENDER

27-year-old Ray spent last season with Tranmere Rovers but has spent most of his career at Crewe Alexandra, where he came through their productive youth set up. George was Matt Taylor's third summer signing ahead of the 2021/22 campaign and the defender feels that the way Exeter play will really suit his style in the coming months.



DEFENDER



Ever present in the squad for the 20/21 season, Torquay-born Alex Hartridge was an unsung star throughout last term. Another academy graduate given his chance in by Matt Taylor, Alex has cemented his place at the heart of defence, impressing with his ball-played acumen

'THE GRECIANS'



CHEICK DIABATE DEFENDER

Cheick signed as a scholar at Exeter City and moved to Devon following his release from Stevenage as an under-16. Since signing for the club, he has become an aggressive ball winning centre half who really values defending and protecting the box.

DEFENDER



Summer signing Callum Rowe joins the Grecians from Premier League side Aston Villa. The ball-playing defender made one senior appearance for the Villains as the youngsters took on a star-studded Liverpool side in the FA Cup.

JOSH KEY

DEFENDER

Josh, who signed professional terms at Exeter City in February 2018, made his first-team debut for City in a 2-0 Checkatrade Trophy win over Bristol Rovers that year. Key's breakthrough season came last term scoring in just his second league appearance against Mansfield. Josh went on to make 48 appearences in total as he became a 'Key' member of Matt Taylor's team in his first full season.

ALFIE POND

DEFENDER



On the news of the 2021 retained list, Alfie Pond signed his first professional contract with Exeter City, continuing the club's commitment to promoting the bright young academy talents.

ELLIS JOHNSON

DEFENDER

Ellis signed his first senior contract in May 2021 with the Grecians after impressing through the Exeter City Academy, Johnson caught the eye in last year's FA Youth Cup when he scored a brilliant solo goal against Cheltenham to send City to the third round.

JACK SPARKES

MIDFIELDER



Jack is one of the many talented players to come through the Exeter City Academy. From Exmouth, he made the step up to the first team in the 2017/18 season despite only being 16 vears old at the time.

NIGEL ATANGANA MIDFIELDER

EXETER CITY FC

French-born Nigel started his career playing for Avranches in the French third division, before going onto play for Dives and Gravelines and Spanish side Riudellots. Last season Nigel made 33 appearances for the Grecians, netting twice.



ARCHIE COLLINS

MIDFIELDER

At the heart of the Exeter City midfield sits Archie Collins, a versatile and tricky playmaker developed in the Exeter City Academy. From Bridgwater, Archie signed his first professional contract at City in April 2017 and has been a mainstay in the side ever since.





EXETER CITY

JOEL RANDALI

MIDFIELDER

Exeter City Academy graduate, Joel Randall made his first-team debut as a second-half substitute in the club's Checkatrade.com match against Chelsea under-21s in the 2018/19 campaign and scored his first goal for the club in the same competition against Bristol Rovers.

MIDFIELDER

The standout player for the 2020/21 season. Matt Jav is a firm fan favourite at St James Park. A twentygoal haul for the centre-attacking midfielder capped off a wonderful individual season where he picked up a plethora of post-season awards and was included in the PFA's and the FFI's Teams of the Year



HARRY KITE

MIDFIELDER

Mid-Devon's Harry Kite signed professional terms at Exeter Citv in February 2018. He made his first-team debut for the Grecians when he came on as a first-half substitute during City's 3-1 defeat to Yeovil Town in a Checkatrade Trophy match in August 2017

MIDFIFLDER

Josh Coley signed terms with Exeter City in June 2020, joining from nonleague Maidenhead United for an Undisclosed Fee. The right-footed, left-winger began his career with York City and progressed through the youth side, before moving back down south, featuring for the likes of Hitchin Town, Histon, Arlesey and Baldock Town before joining Norwich City in 2018.

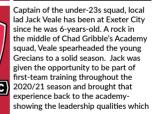


JAMES DODD

MIDFIELDER

JACK VEALE

MIDFIELDER





NELSON ISEGUAN FORWARD

Electric forward Nelson Iseguan signed his first pro contract in May 2021. Nelson made his full debut in November 2020, when he played 90 minutes in the Grecians' 4-0 victory over West Brom under-23s in the Papa John's Trophy. Nelson regularly played two years over his age group throughout his time in the Academy, prior to signing senior terms in the

FORWARD



The 26-year-old joined Exeter from Colchester United in June, where he scored 11 goals in his first 16 matches of the 2020/21 season, including two hat tricks

'THE GRECIANS'



BEN SEYMOUR

FORWARD



Exeter City Academy graduate Ben Seymour made his debut for Grecians against Coventry City in the Carabao Cup in August 2019, and then his league debut, shortly after, coming on as a substitute he won a penalty in a 2-2 draw against Leyton Orient. The 2020/21 season gave Ben his best run of games in the first team, capped off with his first League goal for the club, with a superb header against Colchester United.

SONNY COX



FORWARD

Sonny is a two footed, goalscoring striker who was regularly involved with the under-18 squad during the 2019/20 season and has progressed into the First Team training squad since returning for the 2002/21 season.

CLUB HISTORY EST.1901

The club was founded in 1901 as St Sidwell's United, taking on the name of Exeter City just a few years later in 1904. The coming seasons saw a number of key milestones in the early history of the club, as they turned professional in 1908, before changing to the now familiar red and white striped shirts in 1910.

In 1914, having come to prominence by beating Portsmouth 4-0 in the FA Cup, the club embarked on a tour of South America, and whilst it was only intended for the expedition side to play a series of games in Argentina, a chance encounter by the docks in Rio led to Exeter City becoming the first ever opponents of the five-times World Cup winners, Brazil. Back in Devon at St James Park, the club joined the Football League in 1920, and whilst notable success was limited in the pre-war era, in 1931 City reached the quarter finals of the FA Cup, and lifted the Division Three South Cup in 1934.

In the post-war-era, the club had its fair share of highs and lows, with promotions to the third tier in 1964 and 1977 - and another run to the FA Cup quarter finals in 1981 – being paired with relegations to match and off-field financial struggles.

However, amidst all of this came, perhaps, the club's most successful on-field season to date, as, in 1990, Terry Coopers side cruised to the Division Four title without losing a single game at St James Park in both league and cup competitions.

Despite this success, more turbulence followed, and although the Park saw its first major renovations in more than 70 years at the turn of the century, the cautious optimism was nearly extinguished in 2003 by relegation from the football league and serious financial troubles.

It was at this point that the Supporters' Trust, which had been formed in 2000, stepped in to become the majority shareholders of the club and began the committed work of reshaping the ethos, structure, and destiny of The Grecians.

This marked the beginning of one of the most stable and successful periods in the club's history. Back-to-back promotions in 2008 and 2009 saw City bounce back to the third tier of the EFL, and whilst a handful of dramatic and exciting seasons were followed by a return to the fourth tier, a secure place in the Football League has remained ever since. In all, during the Trust era, St James Park has had further renovations (including two new stands), whilst a hugely respected academy system has produced a series of first-class players, including Ollie Watkins, Matt Grimes, Ethan Ampadu, and several of today's match day squad.

The past 15 years have also seen City visit Wembley on five occasions, and whilst recent trips have not produced the results needed to return to League One, former ECFC Player of the Year and now manager, Matt Taylor, will be looking to put that right in 2021/22.



CARDIFF CITY CLUB HISTORY

Cardiff City Football Club is a professional association football club based in Cardiff, Wales. It competes in the Championship, the second tier of the English football league system.

Founded in 1899 as Riverside A.F.C.. the club changed its name to Cardiff City in 1908 and entered the Southern Football League in 1910 before joining the English Football League in 1920. The team have spent 17 seasons in the top tier of English football, the longest period being between 1921 and 1929. Their most recent season in the top flight was the 2018-19 Premier League Davies with 179 goals. season.

Cardiff is the only team from outside England to have won the FA Cup. doing so in 1927. They have also reached three other cup finals in English competitions, the 1925 FA Cup Final against Sheffield United, the 2008 FA Cup Final against Portsmouth and the 2012 Football League Cup Final against was a 9-2 win over Thames on 6th Liverpool, suffering defeat on each occasion.

They have won the Welsh Cup on 22 occasions, making them the second-most successful team in the competition's history behind Wrexham.

With the exception of a short period this century, the team have played in home colours of blue and white since 1908, from which their nickname "The Bluebirds" derives.

Cardiff's first permanent ground was Ninian Park, opened in 1910; it remained in use for 99 years until the club moved into the Cardiff City Stadium in 2009. Cardiff have longstanding rivalries with nearby clubs Swansea City, with whom they contest the South Wales derby, and Bristol City, with whom they contest the Severnside derby.

The club's record appearance holder is Billy Hardy, who made 590 appearances in a 20-year playing spell with Cardiff, and their record goalscorer is Len

However, Don Murray still holds the record for the most consecutive appearances. The Scottish defender was an ever-present for three seasons at Ninian Park, playing in 146 games in a row from May 1968 to November 1971.

The Bluebirds biggest League victory February 1932, while we recorded our most convincing FA Cup victory in the same campaign, defeating Enfield 8-0 on 28th November 1931.

Derek Tapscott's staggering six goals against Knighton Town in 1961 are the most scored in one match by a City player though. They came in a Welsh Cup Fifth Round tie against the nonleague outfit, as City won with a 16-0 score-line, which is also a Club record.

'EST 1899'



Notable Honours:

F.A. Cup Semi Finalists: 1921 F.A. Cup Finalists: 1925, 2008

F.A. Cup Winners: 1927

F.A. Charity Shield Winners: 1927 European Cup-Winners Cup Semi-

Finalists: 1968

F.A. Youth Cup Finalists: 1971 FAW Premier Cup Winners: 2002 League Cup Finalists: 2012

Championship Winners: 2013







CARDIFF CITY XI

GEORGE RATCLIFFE



GOALKEEPER

George is a commanding, reliable and composed young goalkeeper, who has been with Cardiff City's Academy since a young age. He has had a spell out on loan with Barry Town United since turning professional and continues to be a key player for the Bluebirds U23 squad and Wales U21.

NATIV YANKO



GOALKEEPER

Joining the Club from Fulham, Nativ Yanko has previous experience with the Whites' U18 side and is a hardworking shot-stopper. This season, he competes for the starting spot between the posts with teammates Ben Coley and Bradley Stewart, and has made two appearances for the side so far this campaigs.

ROHAN LUTHRA



GOALKEEPER

Rohan joined the club not long ago, after 11 years in at Crystal Palace, where he made his U18 debut at just 15 years old. Luthra says he could not pass up the opportunity to sign for "huge club" Cardiff City.

IBRAHIM BAKARE



CENTRE BACK

18-year-old Ibrahim joins City on a deal until the summer of 2022, having previously been with League Two side Morecambe. "I'm really happy to be here," Ibrahim said this week. "I came over and spent ten days on trial and played in two matches, and after the last of those I was told they'd like me to sign. This is a step up for me. It's a historic Club. My aim is to get my head down, get into the best shape possible, and show my quality."

OLIVER DENHAM



CENTRE BACK

18-year-old Oliver Denham joined Cardiff City's U23 side in September 2020, and is a product of Manchester United's academy. The Wales youth international offers defensive versatility to the Bluebirds' squad, being comfortable at centre-half and right-back.

JAMES CONNOLLY



CENTRE BACK

James Connolly is another academy signing, this time a central defender, who signs from Blackburn Rovers.

OWEN PRITCHARD



DEFENDER

Owen Pritchard made the step up to play for City's U18 side in the 2019/20 season. The defender made several key appearances during his first campaign with the young Bluebirds, racking up 15 outings for City.

JAI SEMENYO



RIGHT BACK

Ghanaian teenage sensation Jai Semenyo has recently completed a move to Welsh side Cardiff City from Mangotsfield United. The 17-year old will begin with the U-23 side headed by Steve Morison before progressing to the senior team. The enterprising full-back is eligible to feature for Ghana, England and Togo at international level.

'THE BLUEBIRDS'



TAYLOR JONES

DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER

Taylor joined the Academy at the age of seven. Originating from the Cynon Valley, Taylor is a combative, hard-working and committed young player who applies himself and can play in several positions effectively for the team. Taylor represented the U18 side regularly last season and has international honours. representing Wales at U16 level. So far during this campaign, he has made five appearances for the young Bluebirds, with a further appearance for the U23 side.

SAM BOWEN

DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER



Son of former Cardiff City midfielder. Jason, Sam has been at Cardiff City's Academy since the age of six. A composed, confident and creative young midfield player. Sam added a defensive element to his game during recent seasons whilst continuing his run of scoring impressive goals.

TAVIO D'ALMEIDA

DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER

Tavio ioined the Bluebirds in late August 2019 - and was named on the substitutes bench for City's League Cup clash with Luton Town, as well as Northampton Town the following season. He is a forward thinking midfielder, captaining the U23 side at the beginning of the 2020/21 campaign.

CALEB HUGHES

MIDFIELDER



Caleb became a Cardiff City Academy player at the age of 11, and made an early appearance for the U18 side during the 2019/20 season. Caleb's strong athletic capabilities matched with a robust technical armoury and ambitious nature makes him a valued asset for the team as we head into our current campaign. Hughes has made five appearances so far in the young Bluebirds' current campaign, scoring three times

RYAN KAVANAGH

MIDFIELDER

"Kavs" is a dynamic and athletic boxto-box midfielder, who has consistently displayed great technical quality and a huge enthusiasm for the game. Ryan has been at the academy since the age of seven, and during his U16 year, successfully represented the U18 side consistently alongside making four U23 annearances

KEENAN PATTEN

MIDFIELDER



Keenan has been with the Academy since he was nine. He is a dynamic, ball playing midfielder who works tirelessly for the team. Patten returned to play for the Club's U23 side following a loan spell with Cymru Premier side Penybont during the 2019/20 season.

ELI KING

MIDFIELDER

Eli joined the academy as an Under-8. He is an elegant, athletic and dynamic midfield player who enjoys getting on the ball and dictating play. Eli has been a consistent member of the U18 squad across the past two seasons and has played for the Club's U23 side alongside representing Wales at U16

KIERON EVANS

ATTACKING MIDFIELDER



and U17 level



Kieron is a creative, athletic and tricky midfielder, capable of playing in several different roles effectively. He initially joined the Academy at the U8 age group and can open up defences with his pace, power and trickery. Kieron signed his two-year apprenticeship deal in July 2018, and scored nine goals in 18 appearances for the side during the 2019/20 season, joining the U23 side in time for the 2020/21 campaign.



CARDIFF CITY XI

NTAZANA MAYEMBE

RIGHT WINGER

A lightning quick, explosive and robust attacking player, "Taz" joined the academy at U10 level and represented both the U18 and U23 sides last season. Ntazana has made international appearances for both England and Wales at schoolboy level, and has made four appearances for the U18 side so far this season, scoring once.

SIYABONGA LIGENDZA

CENTRE FORWARD



"Siya" is an athletic, direct and powerful forward who joined the Academy at U13 level. Originating from Swansea, Siyabonga has also had international honours with both England and Wales, registering as the top scorer for our U16 when playing at that age group. So far this season, the forward has scored twice from four appearances for the young Bluebirds.

CHANKA ZIMBA

CENTRE FORWARD

18-year-old Chanka Zimba joined the Bluebirds' U23 side ahead of the current U23 PDL campaign. Having joined from Blackburn Rovers, the striker scored on his debut for the Club against Swansea City in U23 action, in September 2020.

ISAAK DAVIES

FORWARD



Isaak has been a longstanding member of the Academy, having joined at the age of seven. The explosive forward has enjoyed a number of seasons within the U18 side, notably netting twelve goals in all competitions for City when he was 17. This season, Davies has made the transition to playing for the U23 side, having signed as a professional in July.



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WESTON-SUPER-MARE AFC

LUKE PURNELL

GNALKFFPFR

Weston's No.1 is another product of the Seagulls academy, having come up through the ranks. Has played for Biddestone, Odd Down, Weston St Johns, Dawlish Town, Barnstaple Town and Bridgwater Town before returning to his hometown side in 2013. Ever since returning, Luke has established himself as one of the finest Non-League keepers in the south-west, and has even been recognised with an England C call-up in 2014.

Sponsored by: Ray Hancock

JASON POPE



CENTRE BACK

Jason began his footballing career at Exeter City Academy, whom he joined when he was just eight years old. Jason first joined Weston on loan in 2015, before then signing permanently for three seasons. After leaving the club and having spells at both Hererford and Bath, Jason Pope has now returned to Weston ahead of the 2021/22 season.

CENTRAL MIDFIELDER



LLOYD HUMPHRIES

Lloyd has risen up through the ranks at Cardiff and spent a season on loan with Weston during 2016-2017. The midfielder struggled with injury before rejoining Weston on loan from the Bluebirds in December 2019, and is set to stay until the end of the season.

Sponsored by: Ray Cox

CHRIS KNOWLES



CENTRAL MIDFIELDER

Knowles is one of the more experienced midfielder around, having represented Bashley, Salisbury, Cirencester and Gloucester before joining Weston in December 2019. The midfielder is tough tackling and can leap like a salmon to win headers against more physical opponents.

Sponsored by: Mark Graham

SAM AVERY



CENTRE BACK

The experienced defender signed for Weston in January 2020, after a long career in non-league. After progressing through the ranks with Gloucester City, he left to get first-team football elsewhere with Bishop's Cleeve. He spent a season with Shortwood United before rejoining Gloucester in 2014, eventually becoming their captain before being released in January 2020.

Sponsored by: Mick Fellows

KEIRAN THOMAS



RIGHT BACK

The defender began his career with Cheltenham Town, spending a few months on loan with Cinderford Town as a second-year scholar. After leaving Cheltenham, he spent the next few years with his previous loan club, included captaining them during his last season. His next years came in the National League North, spending two years each with Gloucester and Hereford. He signed for the Seagulls in the summer of 2020.

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JACOB JAGGER-CANE



CENTRAL MIDFIELDER

Cane began his career with Exeter City's academy and spent time on loan with Poole Town and Weymouth before joining Weston permanently in 2014. He spent the next five years at the club, including captaining them from January 2018. He left in the summer of 2019 and signed for Hereford FC in the National League North. He spent two seasons back on loan with Weston during the 2019-2020 season, before rejoining permanently in 2020.

Sponsored by: Dave and Amy Callow

SCOTT LAIRD



CENTRAL MIDFIELDER

The new player/assistant manager has a glittering career, having started out with Plymouth Argyle and spending time on loan with Tiverton, Torquay and Stevenage. He joined Stevenage permanently in February 2008 and went on to play for Preston North End, Scunthorpe, Walsall and Forest Green Rovers in the Football League.

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'SEAGULLS'



JORDIN BASTIN

LEFT WINGER

DAYLE GRUBB



Jordan Bastin began his career in the Exeter and Plymouth acadamies, before moving to Tiverton Town. He helped their Reserves win the Devon & Exeter Premier Division in 2015 and the South West Peninsula League Division One Fast in 2016

Grubb started out at Bristol City, leaving at the age of 16. He moved to Weston in 2008, and immediately became the star of the U18s side. Grubb went on to play for the first team, winning player of the year in both 2013 and 2016, and captained the side during the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons. His incredible form during the first half of the 2017-2018 season saw him challenge the records of Christian Doidge and Harry

Sponsored by: Maurice Phillips

BAILEY KEMPSTER

LEFT WINGER

TRAVIS YULE-TURNER

RIGHT WINGER



Kempster began his football career with the North Somerset Regional Talent Centre from the age of 11 through to the age of 16. He joined Weston U19s. and form for the youth team saw him rewarded with a first-team debut in the Southern League as a late substitute. Kempster was involved in the 2020 pre-season with the firstteam squad, putting in some promising performances on the pitch which saw him promoted to the first-team.



Travis began his football journey with South Somerset Regional Talent Centre in the Junior Premier League, before moving on to Bristol Rovers in May 2016. He spent a few years with Bristol Rovers U12 before linking up with his hometown club Weston and joining their academy. He was later included within the under-18 squad, before progressing onto the under-18 and under-19 squads during 2020-2021.

BEN GRIFFITH

STRIKER

NICK MCCOOTIE

STRIKER



Ben Griffith joined the academy as an U13. After appearing for the Seagulls five times during 2019-2020, he was included in Scott Bartlett's squad heading into the 2020-2021 season.

Symons joined the Seagulls on New

Year's Eve 2019 as he departed Her-

eford having made 182 appearances

and being an unused substitute seven

times. He netted 65 goals and assisted

winner against Truro City on his debut

a day after signing and his committed

performances will continue into the

47 during his four years at Edgar

Street. He made himself an instant

fan's favourite with a 94th-minute



The experienced frontman started out with Bristol City, before linking up with Yate Town in the Southern League. He went on to feature for Taunton. Bridgwater and Cinderford before joining Paulton in 2012. He helped Paulton to promotion into the Southern League Premier Division in 2014, before joining Bath City where he was an impressive performer. He then joined up with Chippenham in January 2018, and joined the Seagulls in June 2019.

Sponsored by: Bob Flasket

STRIKER

MIKE SYMONS

STRIKER

LUCAS VOWLES



Lucas began his career at the North Somerset Regional Talent Centre, before moving onto the Cardiff City Academy as a youngster. He managed to net 27 goals in 19 games for Clevedon during his second season at under-18 level, moving into their senior squad ahead of the 2017-2018 season. Over his three seasons for the Seasiders, he finished as top scorer in the 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 seasons.



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. 2020-2021 season.



WESTON-SUPER-MARE AFC

BEN WHITEHEAD

STRIKER



A prolific goalscorer, Whitehead was released by Oxford then Swindon and went on to find the net consistently for Abingdon, Swindon Supermarine, Didcot, Banbury, Wantage and Chippenham. However, his best two seasons came most recently with Cirencester, netting 86 goals in 87 games and claiming two league golden boots before signing for Weston.

Sponsored by: Paul Bliss



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WSM MANAGEMENT

SCOTT BARTLETT

MANAGER



A playing career with Salisbury, Weston, Bath and Forest Green Rovers ended through injury in August 2011 with the latter, and Bartlett took up a role as Head of Academy with FGR. He first dipped his toes into management with FGR across two caretaker spells, before a spell as first-team manager at Weston from October 2016 to June 2017. Scott left his role at FGR to join the Seagulls in May 2019.

Sponsored by: Lewis Batchelor

SCOTT LAIRD

PLAYER/ASSISTANT MANAGER



The new player/assistant manager has a glittering career, having started out with Plymouth Argyle and spending time on loan with Tiverton, Torquay and Stevenage. He joined Stevenage permanently in February 2008 and went on to play for Preston North End, Scunthorpe, Walsall and Forest Green Rovers in the Football League.

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MARK MCKEEVER

COACH



After his playing career ended early through injuries, McKeever took up a role within the Seagulls' community initiative and is a good link between the academy and the first team as Weston's Football Development Officer. McKeever served as assistant to Ryan Northmore and returned to the club in 2018 as FDO as well as first-team coach.

BOB FLASKETT

GROUNDSMAN



Bob has worked at The Optima Stadium for years, making sure that the pitch is in top condition for every game as well as making sure the ground looks spotless too.



Ground Regulations

The Club reserves the absolute right to grant admission. Where admission is granted, the right to remain within the Ground is upon the following conditions:

THE SPECTATORS SHALL:

- COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY A STEWARD OR CLUB OFFICIAL.
- 2. NOT TRESPASS ON THE PLAYING AREA OR ADJOINING AREAS.
- 3. NOT CLIMB ON ANY BUILDING. WALL OR FENCE.
- 4. NOT USE OBSCENE, RACIST OR INSULTING LANGUAGE OR MAKE OFFENSIVE OR INSULTING REMARKS, OR SPITTING ON ANY PERSON.
- ONLY CONSUME ALCOHOL IN THE STADIUM DURING A MATCH THAT HAS BEEN PURCHASED INSIDE THE GROUND.
- 6. NOT THROW OBJECTS WITHIN THE STADIUM, THIS IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND STRONG ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST ANYONE COMMITTING SUCH AN OFFENCE.
- 7. NO PERSONAL FOOTBALLS, HAND-HELD MEGAPHONES OR THE LIKE, SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE GROUND.

Weston-super-Mare AFC will not be responsible for any damage to any property; person or persons, by reach of installation of floodlighting and the erection of pylons on the Club Ground and request that all persons including children refrain from interfering with or climbing the pylons. Weston-super-Mare Football Club does not take any responsibility for the safe custody of any vehicles or articles thereon or therein for any damage to vehicles or articles however caused. All vehicles being left on the premises are in all respects entirely at the owner's risk. Weston-super-Mare Football Club is not responsible for loss or damage to articles left on the premises.

ABANDONED MATCHES

Where a match is abandoned before Half Time, Westonsuper-Mare AFC will issue a voucher for free admission to spectators valid for the date of the re-arranged match. Where a match is abandoned at/after Half Time for whatever reason (s) no refund voucher will be issued.

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Views expressed in this programme are not necessarily the opinion of Weston-super-Mare AFC.



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WESTON-SUPER-MARE AFC



MANAGER: SCOTT BARTLETT



EXETER CITY FC MANAGER: MATT TAYLOR



GK	LUKE PURNELL
DEF	SAM AVERY
DEF	JACK GOODALL
DEF	KEIRAN THOMAS
MID	JORDAN BASTIN
MID	BAILEY KEMPSTER
MID	LLOYD HUMPHRIES
MID	JACOB JAGGER-CANE
MID	CHRIS KNOWLES
MID	SCOTT LAIRD
MID	DAYLE GRUBB
MID	TRAVIS YULE-TURNER
MID	BEN GRIFFITH
FWD	NICK MCCOOTIE
FWD	MIKE SYMONS
FWD	BEN WHITEHEAD
FWD	LUCAS VOWLES

JACK ARTHUR	GK
HARRY LEE	GK
SCOTT BROWN	GK
JAKE CAPRICE	DEF
JOSH KEY	DEF
SAM STUBBS	DEF
JORDAN DYER	DEF
GEORGE RAY	DEF
ALEX HARTRIDGE	DEF
CHEICK DIABATE	DEF
ELLIS JOHNSON	DEF
CALLUM ROWE	DEF
ALFIE POND	DEF
JACK SPARKES	MID
NIGEL ATANGANA	MID
ARCHIE COLLINS	MID
JOEL RANDALL	MID
MATT JAY	MID
HARRY KITE	MID
JOSH COLEY	MID
JAMES DODD	MID
JACK VEALE	MID
NELSON ISEGUAN	FWD
JAVANI BROWN	FWD
BEN SEYMOUR	FWD
SONNY COX	FWD

ALL INFORMATION IN THIS PROGRAMME WAS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF WRITING.

NEXT HOME MATCH

WESTON-SUPER-MARE AFC
VS CARDIFF CITY XI
TUES 13 JULY | KO 19:45





WESTON-SUPER-MARE AFC MANAGER:





CARDIFF CITY XI MANAGER: JARRED HARVEY



GK	LUKE PURNELL
DEF	SAM AVERY
DEF	JACK GOODALL
DEF	KEIRAN THOMAS
MID	JORDAN BASTIN
MID	BAILEY KEMPSTER
MID	LLOYD HUMPHRIES
MID	JACOB JAGGER-CANE
MID	CHRIS KNOWLES
MID	SCOTT LAIRD
MID	DAYLE GRUBB
MID	TRAVIS YULE-TURNER
MID	BEN GRIFFITH
FWD	NICK MCCOOTIE
FWD	MIKE SYMONS
FWD	BEN WHITEHEAD
FWD	LUCAS VOWLES

GEORGE RATCLIFFE	GK
NATIV YANKO	GK
ROHAN LUTHRA	GK
IBRAHIM BAKARE	DEF
OLIVER DENHAM	DEF
OWEN PRITCHARD	DEF
JAI SEMENYO	DEF
JAMES CONNOLLY	DEF
TAYLOR JONES	MID
SAM BOWEN	MID
TAVIO D'ALMEIDA	MID
CALEB HUGHES	MID
RYAN KAVANAGH	MID
KEENAN PATTEN	MID
ELI KING	MID
KIERON EVANS	MID
NTAZANA MAYEMBE	FWD
SIYABONGA LIGENDZA	FWD
CHANKA ZIMBA	FWD
ISAAK DAVIES	FWD

ALL INFORMATION IN THIS PROGRAMME WAS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF WRITING.

NEXT HOME MATCH

WESTON-SUPER-MARE AFC
VS BRISTOL CITY XI
SAT 24 JULY | KO 15:00



