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The Official Matchday Programme of Aldershot Town Football Club // Issue 14
vs Wrexham // Saturday 20 February 2021 // Kick-Off 3pm // Vanarama National League

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Print:

Bishops Printers Ltd

023 9233 4900

The following people have a significant shareholding in Aldershot Town Football Club:

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Company Reg no: 8362929

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vs **Wrexham**

Saturday 20 February 2021

Kick-Off: 3pm

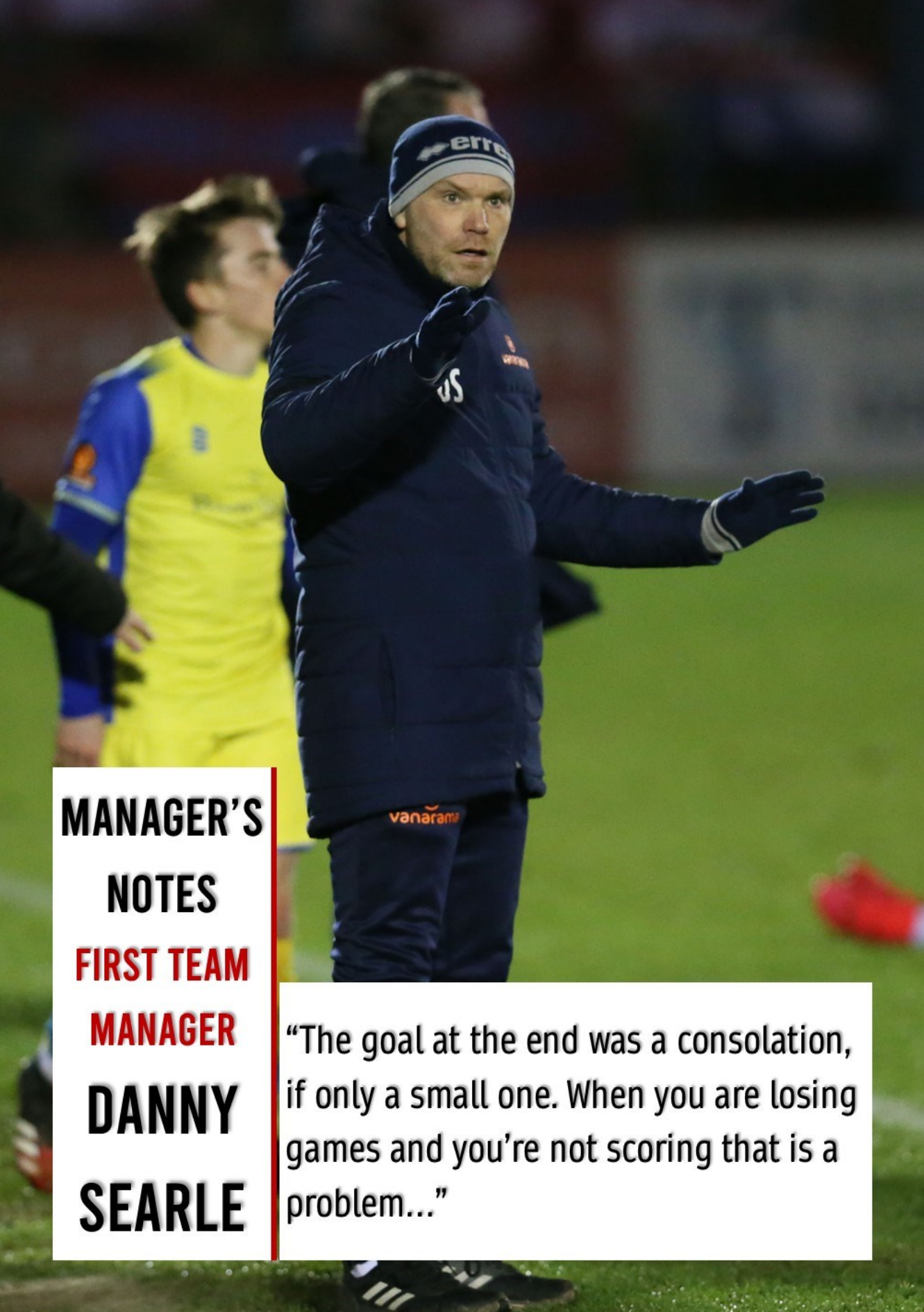
Vanarama National League



12



19



MANAGER'S NOTES

FIRST TEAM

MANAGER

DANNY

SEARLE

“The goal at the end was a consolation, if only a small one. When you are losing games and you’re not scoring that is a problem...”



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to you all, wherever you might be watching or listening to this game. Our visitors today are Wrexham and I'd like to also welcome their manager, Dean Keates, his players and staff to the EBB Stadium. Wrexham are in fine form at the moment, up in the play-offs and coming to us on the back of a win on Tuesday evening against Woking and we will need to be at our very best today.

Tuesday night's defeat to Solihull Moors here was very disappointing. As good as they were was as poor as we were. They also hadn't had a game on Saturday and we did, which of course is the kind of thing that happens at this time of the year with the weather the way it is. Our game at Stockport was a tough one and I genuinely think that we looked tired on Tuesday evening, probably for the first time this season, and I thought wow, we look off it physically. We had a go in the second half when we got a second wind but it was too late by then.

The goal at the end was a consolation, if only a small one. When you are losing games and you're not scoring that is a problem. We should

have scored in the first half, both Ricky and Josh had chances. As bad as we were in the first 20 minutes, with Ricky's one on one, if it had gone in it would have deflated Solihull and given us something to build on. Indeed, if you had freeze-framed Ricky's chance and showed it to every Aldershot fan and said this is where Ricky is, the ball on his left foot, what do you think the outcome would be, most people would have put their house on him scoring. I certainly would have!

Wrexham have just had a well-publicised change of ownership and it must be nice as a manager to have the new owners pledge two-million pounds towards the budget! Wrexham are a massive club and are buoyed up by the fact that they've got new owners and there's large investments going on - but those are all things that are out of our control and what we've got to do is do our research on what they've done so far, our analysis on them, and just put out the best team that we possibly can.

We are going to be up against it today, Alex Finney is injured and we've got a couple of suspensions as well and at the minute (Danny was speaking on Thursday) we haven't got any real cover; we are working on that now. It's going to be tough but these things are sent to test us and one thing the lads have done in the past when they've been up against it is that they've pulled out results, so we are hoping for the same today.

Enjoy the game,

Danny

JAMES SCARLETT

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DIRECTOR

LEWIS SCARD

A warm welcome to the visiting players and their support team who have travelled down from Wales for today's game. Wrexham FC has been in the headlines for some time now and have just consummated a takeover by two Hollywood A-listers, Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds. Their Twitter accounts now reflect their links with Wrexham with new names – Wrob and Wryan! With these two came a capital injection of £2m to boost their fortunes both on and off the pitch. According to Wales' national newspaper, The Leader, the takeover has caught the imagination of people all over the world, so maybe today's match will make headlines on all six continents! It is nice to see a historic football club with a rich history and tradition now able to look forward with such hope and optimism and we at Aldershot wish them all the good luck in the world.

On a lesser scale we played Stockport County last weekend, also under new ownership and investment. Property developer Mark Stott is seen by many to be Stockport's most successful ever businessman and he has quickly made his presence felt. The club is now debt free, the football management team has been replaced, a strong budget is in place to recruit good players and the plan has been agreed to get the club into the Championship in seven years.

Just last Tuesday we hosted Solihull Moors, a club transformed after new investors arrived in 2018. The ground has been rebuilt to a very high specification and the football management have been able to seek out players of a standard commensurate with the Club's stated ambition of promotion into Division 1.

There are other clubs that could be mentioned. Eastleigh benefited from the £11m Stuart Donald put into the Club before he moved to Sunderland. This money transformed both the ground and the playing squad. It has left a mixed heritage for Eastleigh which they are dealing with and we wish them well too as our Hampshire neighbours.

So the topic of who might do the same with Aldershot arose during Tuesday's half-time break. Don't you know Justin Rose? Was not Martin Freeman brought up in Aldershot? I hear there is a very rich YouTuber here? Why not us? Well it should be made clear that over many years numerous individuals have put five- and sometimes six-figure sums into



our club, some of those from our current Board. There is also a danger that the "investor" does not last the course either because their interest goes elsewhere or their own fortune subsides.

All we can do is look for sensible investors whilst running our business as efficiently as possible. We cannot compete with other clubs at our level, tempting players on very long-term contracts at many thousands of pounds per week. What we can do is look for those younger hungry players, maybe with a raw footballing talent that we can work on over time, maybe even a couple of seasons, so that we truly are able to compete. There is more than one way of achieving competitive advantage than just throwing money at the business.

Hopefully we will know shortly whether we will be playing on to compete the season (everyone in football would play on if they could). Hopefully the sensible outcome of a further grant will prevail but that does look unlikely. Loans are a means to a short-term end but have to be repaid which is never easy. Some teams may have no option but to stop and Dover appear to be one of those. Will they be punished, what happens to them next season, will their results be expunged (our 5:0 win could go), will there be any relegation?

This has not been the "finest hour" for many of those in the decision-making process. The BBC will have decided who to shame and blame. But for all of us at Aldershot Town FC we have just got to get on with it.

Keep safe and well,

Lewis Scard

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JAMIE SENDLES-WHITE

CAPTAIN

After a disappointing result in midweek, Jamie reflects on the loss and how the team can move on from this position

I think that it comes back to the same problem that we've been having this season where we just can't seem to find any consistency, albeit that I thought Solihull were one of the top teams we've played this season. They were very dominant and they've got a lot of experience in their team. We found it very hard and at the same time, we didn't perform ourselves and we really need to try to find some form of consistency and put a run of games together where we are playing well and put together a run of results.



And with the visit of a team today who are up in the play-offs what does Jamie think needs to be done to compete with them to achieve the right result

Another team that have got a huge budget and experienced players, it's going to be another tough game but hopefully we can get into a little bit of a groove now with all the games coming up. And again, it's all about finding that consistency because that's the thing that's probably letting us down at the minute.

And how does a team go about creating that consistency?

I think we've got a level of naivety in the team to a certain extent, we are a young team so that is to be expected. I think that as a group of players we need to find out what works for us and how we are going to get that consistency because if we don't change something as a group of players then unfortunately it will be the same for the rest of the season, it just won't bring any consistency. So it's down to us now to realise what needs to change and put it into place.



SHOTS NEWS & VIEWS

WORDS BY VICTORIA ROGERS

As the matches continue to come on a now regular three and four day basis, today we welcome Wrexham to the EBB Stadium for our second home game in a week. The Red Dragons had a 2:0 win over our near neighbours, Woking on Tuesday night while we had one of those nights everyone, management, players and supporters like to forget, a 3:1 loss. But the advantage of the frequent matches means that there's always another game coming along to rectify what went before and today is a fresh opportunity to look once again for the high levels of performance that everyone desires from their team and those all-important three points.

We've already met Wrexham this season- and lost 1-0 at the Racecourse Ground. It's probably fair to say that matters behind the scenes have changed considerably there since then, as the Supporters Trust which saved the Club from oblivion in December 2011 has given way to new owners from the world of film, exciting times for the club and its fans and something that reached the national press. The deal was only signed a few days ago and the win over Woking on Tuesday will have been a good way of celebrating.

Our visitors have also been in the press recently because of their statement over the current vote in the National League whether to keep the season going or to null and void. Not being eligible for loans/grants from Sport England led them

to abstain from the vote which as I write, is nearing its conclusion although still not fully decided.

What an awful time it's been too as clubs struggle to make the right decision for their individual set up - there's never going to be a solution that fits all and there have been a few comments made via both written and social media that frustration and maybe even fear have led people to utter when usually they would have said no such thing. Let's hope for some kind of resolution soon for the players, management directors, staff and supporters - living in this state of flux is not good for any of us.

If we didn't know before, and of course we did, it's that supporters are the absolute bedrock of football, both in the generation of funds to run a club (and of course there is still plenty of that going on with the purchase of live streams, club merchandise, competitions and sponsorship), and as the suppliers of match day atmosphere. The players all acknowledge that matches are not the same without supporters and supporters certainly know that it's not! When reporters all over the country during the recent big freeze were detailing the amount of layers they were having to wear to deal with the level of cold while attending a match, there were understandably many comments about how supporters would love to be freezing cold stood on the terraces of (insert your team here), just to be able to watch a game live and in the flesh once again. If nothing else, when we do all finally get back to watching football nobody will be taking it for granted that we are back in grounds or that the attendance of supporters should be taken as read.

Until that time though it is very much status as usual, watching the live streams and following the Shots from our laptops and TVs. It's not the same, everyone acknowledges that it's not the same but as a famous man once said (JE Lawrence in The Nebraska State Journal apparently, in 1949 although it may have been said once or twice since then!), it is what it is. Aldershot Town supporters have been dealing with adversity in their football for years so this is a just another blip on that well known bumpy path that is being a Shots supporter. We hang on in hope and to the fact that we will see each other on the terraces once again.



KICK-OFF TIME REARRANGED

Our Vanarama National League match away to Maidenhead United that was due to be played on Tuesday 23rd February has been moved from the original 7:45pm kick-off to the slightly earlier start of 7pm.



GOALKEEPER KIT

We've listened to your requests and we're delighted to say our fully bespoke home purple goalkeeper shirt is available to pre-order until Monday 22nd February at 10am!

The shirt will be fully sublimated with our 3 sponsors Bridges, EBB and Natta's logos, just like the real playing shirt with the option of both long and short sleeves.

As the shirts are being made to order, there will be a maximum 10 week lead however we don't anticipate it will take this long.

They will unfortunately, be non-refundable or exchangeable, due to them being made to order.

Please note, we are required to meet a certain minimum order quantity, if this is not met then you will be fully refunded.

If supporters would like the full kit, please email admin@theshots.co.uk and we will be able to arrange shorts and socks.

MATCH ACTION

Tuesday 16 February
Vanarama National League
Kick-Off 7pm

The Shots 1

Rees 87'

Solihull Moors 3

Ward 18', Gudger 45', Rooney 62'

The EBB Stadium



The Shots: Walker, Finney (Ogie 38') (Booked), Sendles-White, Lyons-Foster (Booked), Rees, Miller (Rowe 66'), Anderson, Bettamer, Edser (Booked) (Kandi 54'), Nouble, Gillela **Subs:** Rowe, Kandi, Panayiotou, Whittingham, Ogie



Solihull Moors: Boot, Cox, Gudger (Piggott 79'), Storer (Sbarra 70'), Williams, Howkins, Cranston, Gleeson, Maycock, Ward (Hudlin 35'), Rooney **Subs:** Sbarra, Clayton, Piggott, Donawa, Hudlin



“ POST-MATCH THOUGHTS ”

DANNY SEARLE

‘You can’t perform the way we did the first half ... you can’t fault the effort but you also can’t give a team like Solihull a 2:0 lead – and to be honest I thought it could have been more. We had two good chances (in the first half) and we didn’t take them... We looked tired and lethargic and in the end we have to take that on the chin, we were below par and it was nowhere near good enough.’

JIMMY SHAN

‘Our first half performance set the tone in terms of our intensity... you have to do what they (the opposition) give you but I think the balance of recognising when to do that this evening was apparent, knowing when to spin them, when we could play in and off our fronts depending on what their line was and when we could have some spells of retaining possession.’



PLAYER KIT S



HOME:
Andy Wilde
AWAY:
Shots Away Travel

Mitch Walker



HOME:
Muhammed Ali
AWAY:
Andy Wilde

Mo Bettamer



HOME:
AWAY:

Dinesh Gillela



HOME & AWAY:
Roger Niblett

George Fowler



HOME:
Andrew King
AWAY:
Hussayn Awais-Ali

Chike Kandi



HOME & AWAY:
Sunnyside
Removals

Reece Wylie



HOME:
Martin & Adam Jessop
AWAY:
For Gillobean

Alex Finney



HOME:
Heather Nicklinson
AWAY:
SCSJ Consulting

Harrison Panayiotou



HOME & AWAY:
Richard, Julie &
Bradley Layton

Toby Edser



HOME & AWAY:
The Three Grumpy Gits

Jamie Sendles-White



HOME:
The Blair Family
AWAY:
Bobby Proudlock

Alfie Whittingham



HOME & AWAY:
O'Neill & Brennan

Ben Shroll



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SCSJ Consulting
AWAY:
Adrian Butt

Kodi Lyons-Foster



HOME & AWAY:
Richard, Julie &
Bradley Layton

Ryan Hall



HOME & AWAY:
Andy Pusey

Killian Colombie



HOME & AWAY:
Ian White

James Rowe



HOME:
Bobby Proudlock
AWAY:
Marc Bowerman

Joel Nouble



HOME:
Adrian Butt
AWAY:
Jim Speight

Shadrach Ogie



HOME:
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AWAY:
Marshels Roofing

Josh Rees



HOME:
AWAY:

Jermaine Anderson



HOME:
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One of the most enticing ways to be linked with Aldershot Town Football Club is by sponsoring a player's home or away kit. It is an ideal opportunity for fans to show their support for their favourite player, as well as the club.

For more information on the player and staff kit sponsorship package, please contact Mark Butler, Commercial Manager on 01252 320211 or you can email him on Mark.Butler@theshots.co.uk



MIDWEEK EXTRA SHOW

Have you seen the Aldershot Town Midweek Extra show yet? If not, you've been missing out on so much! Going out on the Shots YouTube channel on a Thursday evening, kick-off 7pm and ably hosted by Aldershot Town Commercial Manager, Mark Butler, it's 90 minutes of interviews and features on your favourite club. So far we've had in-depth chats with manager Danny Searle and former Shots favourite, Steve Stairs, Club Ticket Office Manager Matt Wigman demonstrating his School of Coaching and week by week, the players facing off in the Aldershot Town version of Mastermind. The last two episodes have included an interview with former Aldershot Town striker and captain, Scott Rendell in which he spoke openly and honestly with Mark Butler and this Thursday just gone Mark interviewed his old Shots boss, Steve Wignall

This week's edition will be at the same time, 7pm on Thursday evening and to watch it live, click on the link on the Club website news article or, if you want, you can watch it later at any time, again on YouTube – in fact, why not subscribe to the Club's official YouTube channel and never miss a news update from the Red and Blue ever again? And once subscribed, you can watch the editions you may have missed.

The Midweek Extra Show – you know it makes sense!

ALAN WOAN



Aldershot Town Football Club has been deeply shocked and saddened at the passing of former player Alan Woan at the age of 90.

Alan played for Aldershot from 1960-1964 and became a fans' favourite during his time here, scoring 47 goals in over 100 games.

We remember him as one of our fantastic Centurions we've had at the Club with his name permanently remembered on our Centurions' Board in the Elm Centurions' Lounge.

His time at Aldershot was mentioned by his family members as one of the most enjoyable of his whole career as a player and always spoke fondly of his time with the Club, having had family members born just down the road at Farnham.

Alan joined the Shots after a previous spell within the Football League, playing for the likes of Norwich City, Northampton Town and Crystal Palace also.

His family legacy continues within football as his son Ian, (who everyone at the football club wishes their most sincere condolences at this difficult time), is also currently working within professional football as Assistant Manager at Premier League side Burnley FC, alongside manager Sean Dyche.

We offer our deepest condolences to all of Alan's family and friends at this extremely difficult moment in time.

He will be greatly missed by all and everyone involved at Aldershot Town is truly heartbroken.



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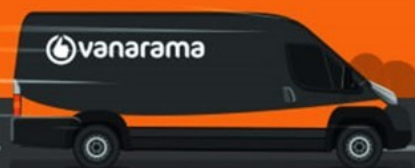
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SHOTS IN FOCUS KODI LYONS-FOSTER



Full Name: Kodi Lyons-Foster

Date and place of birth: 19/10/96

Height: 6'1"

Married: No

Nickname: KLF

Car: Audi A3

Previous clubs: Spurs, Aston Villa, Bristol City, Aldershot Town, Braintree Town

Team you supported as a boy: Spurs

Favourite current player: Lionel Messi

Most difficult opponent: Charlie Musonda of Chelsea

Most memorable match: Shots v Boreham Wood, I scored twice

Biggest disappointment: Crashing my car

Football honours: England C call up

Favourite other sports: Tennis, gym

Favourite other sportsmen/women: Roger Federer

Hobbies: Going to the gym, watching TV

Favourite TV show: Power

Favourite musicians: Drake

Miscellaneous likes: Chilling!

Miscellaneous dislikes: Driving in traffic

Best country visited: Jamaica

Favourite food: Caribbean food

Favourite restaurant: Nando's

Favourite drink: Orange juice

Biggest drag in football: Far away games

If you weren't a footballer what do you think you'd be: A postman

Which person in the world would you most like to meet: Eric Thomas who is an American motivational speaker

If given £1million what would be the first thing you would buy: Properties



Steven Goddard

Will Writer, Estate Planning Consultant and life-long SHOTS supporter.

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ALDERSHOT TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Croesco I glwb pel- droed Wrecsam ar gyfer gêm heddiw

(Welcome to Wrexham FC for today's game)

Both teams were in action on Tuesday night with different results, Wrexham beat our neighbours 2-0 at The Racecourse Ground. We on the other hand need to bounce back to winning ways.

We will be doing the next members draw winner on 1 March so if you'd like to be included in this join the Supporters Club by emailing us or join on the website at just £15 for over 18s and £10 18 and under for new members which includes an Official Supporters Club scarf. There are many benefits including early tickets once we are able to attend matches again. Even if you don't personally have your card/scarf you are included in draws.

Our Supporters Club badges are available to purchase at the Club Shop or our website at just £4 (+ post & packing) if required. Also hoodies will be able from the website soon (there will be a few weeks wait as they are made to order).

Another way to help the Club is by joining In with a Shot which is a weekly draw, either a £2 game or £5 game. So far the money raised for the Club is over £8,000 and we have given out over £10,000 to us the fans, pretty good for something which has only been going just over a year. To do this just email the Supporters Club at atfc.supclub@yahoo.com or contact Mark Butler at the Club mark.butler@theshots.co.uk

The new Midweek YouTube Show that the Club have now started is such a laugh, and a good mix of interviews and fun. We must suggest guests and ideas to keep it interesting as it is for us fans. Get more questions in!!

Remember we are also on Instagram [atfc_supporters_club](https://www.instagram.com/atfc_supporters_club)

Hope you enjoy the game.

Sian Blair - Membership Secretary

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ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN



Wrexham! Always the club I tip to win the National League every season and gain promotion back to the Football League. It's incredible that since they ended their 87-year spell in the '92' in 2008 they have become the longest-serving club at this level. Indeed as they were exiting out, we were gaining promotion into the Football League.

They have had highs and lows since then. Four play-off appearances, FA Trophy success and disappointment, winding up petitions, change of ownerships. They've had it all really. Mind you, except the 2018/19 play-off campaign, they haven't troubled the business end of the table too much since 2013. They have, of course, just completed a well-documented change of ownership that has reached the international media. I'd say, for a Wrexham fan, these are exciting times. I

hope so. I'm a bit of an old traditionalist and like to see former established clubs back in the Football League.

Aldershot is, of course, one of those "traditional names" but in a totally different situation at the moment. Even in those distant times when fans were permitted, Wrexham have been one of those clubs which has kept a solid fan base, averaging 4,000-plus since 2015. As much as we pride ourselves on our loyal support, it is evident the loyalty has diminished in numbers over the years. Even in our play-off campaigns of 16/17 and 17/18 we had fewer than 2,000 home fans for 45% of our matches and, in total, during that period we were on average 800 fans up per match for the two seasons; in 2015/16 we attracted less than 1,500 home fans on 20 of 23 occasions.

Whilst attendances are not relevant at the moment, interest and income streams still is. We have to work with what we have and, quite frankly, at the moment it is purely survival during the Covid-19 situation. However, whilst we still remain playing football then it is not unrealistic to have expectations. Every time we see our team beat Woking and Solihull Moors in the Trophy then we want to see them follow it up with a result at home to Weymouth. When we beat Barnet and get a decent point at Stockport County then we want to follow it up with a win at home to Solihull in the league. It is that frustration that emanates disappointment within the fan base and, I am sure, within the playing and management squad too. To still have a football club at the end of the season remains priority to me. However, within our squad, we have players who have proved their capabilities during the course of this season. More belief and a mental solidity is the requirement to try to reach a level of consistency between now and the end of May just to

Words by Graham Brookland





*MITCH
WALKER*

THE BIG INTERVIEW

In the midst of all the difficulties we were all experiencing last summer, it was a good day for Aldershot Town supporters when goalkeeper Mitch Walker was announced as having signed a new contract with the Club. Mitch had been an ever-present in the truncated 2019-20 season and amongst his reasons for wanting to stay with the Shots was a desire to deal with as he describes it, some unfinished business due to the ending of that campaign.

'I had thoroughly enjoyed my first season here. I've always enjoyed playing at Aldershot, whether for opposition teams or now for the Shots and last year was one of the more enjoyable seasons that I have had in football. The Gaffer, Danny, is a very, very knowledgeable coach and I learned a lot from him last year, the set-up of the Club is excellent and I also felt, with the way last season finished that I had a bit of unfinished business with the Club.'

He was also encouraged to stay by the positive attitude shown by management and the Club itself.

'In the off season I spoke to the manager and the Club, about their mission going forward. It was a bit of a difficult time for clubs when the pandemic came in but Aldershot had a clear vision about what they wanted to do. I know there were other teams in and around Aldershot whose budgets are bigger but I am all for doing things correctly and I am very happy with the squad we've got now that the Club have managed to assemble.'

Along with the Club and team manager, there's another group of people that Mitch feels makes Aldershot Town special.

'It's just the charisma of the fans, the way they support their team, the liveliness of them – it's just fantastic. You

go away to teams in the league who get a bigger crowd, teams I've played against previously like Tranmere and Leyton Orient and playing here with the fans and the atmosphere here was up there with places where you are playing in front of 5,000 every week, it's excellent.'

But with the absence of supporters this season Mitch says that initially it was not easy playing in empty stadiums.

'I must admit, it took me a little while to adjust to it this season. That has been very frustrating because even when you are a youngster playing, at seven or eight, you've still got fans/families stood there supporting, watching or geeing you on and it's something I think footballers have had to become very accustomed to. Not having them in the stadium, it certainly lacks the atmosphere that we have had previously and it has been difficult adjusting. We very much hope to have them back in the very near future.'

Unlike last season, Mitch has been in and out of the starting line-up after a difficult start to the season for himself, something he is open and honest about.

'I'm one of these players, I don't enjoy not playing. I understand football, I understand the industry, I've been in it long enough and you need to be at your best every single week and if you're not you're going to be taken out of the team and I would be the first one to put their hand up and say that there were games at the beginning of the season where I was very disappointed with my performances. As I said, I think it had been a bit of a difficult time for everyone in regards to things going on off the pitch so I must admit, maybe I lost a little bit of focus.'



The Club brought in a young goalkeeper on loan, Brad James from Middlesbrough and it was here that Mitch showed how respectful he is of all other players, whatever their age.

'I said to him on his first day, I've been in your position before, I can see as a young goalkeeper it's quite daunting to go from a Championship club to here. And I said to him, anything I can do to help you I am going to do because it was a very important time in Brad's career. I thought he did very well in the vast majority of games, it was a platform for his shot either this season or next in the League. I was only with him for roughly two months or so and he played 12 or so games and as I said to him, I wanted to be his coach as well and help him. I'd like to think that certain aspects he's gained over the years I could help him with.'

Brad's final match for the Shots was in the away fixture with Bromley. Since then Mitch has moved back between the sticks for the Shots and also continues to keep in touch with his fellow keeper.

'I think I'm big enough to hold up my hands when needed and say I could have done better, that there were certain times this season when I lost a bit of focus with a few other bits and bobs going on outside of football. Brad did very well when he came in and I will continue to keep

in contact with him. I spoke to him last week, he was the first one to message me after the Barnet game and congratulate me on the win. There is certainly a goalkeeping union, it's certainly a thing! I think we stick together because we all realise how hard the position can be, if you've not played that position it's quite difficult to grasp the kinds of things you can go through.'

Working with Brad came naturally to Mitch as he has had his own goalkeeping academy in Kent for a few years now, somewhere he supports younger goalkeepers. Is he involved with this for Aldershot Town too or is there a need to focus on his own continuing development?

'Dave Blackmore comes to every home game, he supports us but due to work commitments he is unable to come in throughout the week. I understood the situation when I signed for the Club and I had spoken to the Club and mentioned that I ran a goalkeeping academy in Kent, coaching keepers and putting on sessions and that is something I am quite accustomed to doing. Luckily there's a GK coach who I managed to source who comes in once or twice a week (to the Shots) called Dease Kerrison who runs a GK academy round Basingstoke way and he's been coming in and helping out, sharing the load which has been a great help which has allowed me to focus on myself rather than the other goalkeepers.'

'There's been a few difficult conversations with regards to budgets and bringing in staff which I completely understand, but it's something we've had to manage and I feel that it's something we are in a very good place with at the moment.'

Tuesday night's result aside, the Shots have been on a reasonable run of form over the last month or so which is pleasing for Mitch who made a key save in the Barnet match when the Shots were 1:0 down and saved a penalty in the dying minutes at Stockport to preserve a point.

'It's a difficult position sometimes, goalkeeping, and I feel as though in the last month or so we've been working much better as a team, supporting one another when things haven't been going well on the pitch. We have been working together a lot more as a unit and I think that has been a great help. It's not about how many times you get knocked down, it's about how you get back up again.'

And it was in that recent win over Barnet that Mitch hit a huge milestone in his career – his 350th appearance. How did that make him feel?

'It's something that maybe when I was younger, 350 appearances was probably something I never would have thought I would hit but as I have got older, I thoroughly enjoy playing and try to do everything within my power during the week to work hard in training and manage myself and make sure that come game day I'm in the best possible shape to give my all for the team. I am very proud to have reached 350 games but it's something I don't pay too much attention to. Saying that, I'd like to

hope that if I keep myself injury-free and in tip-top shape, I will be able to add to that tally.'

Of course it's not all work on the pitch and training ground, we all need some downtime and Mitch is no exception.

'I'm fairly lucky where me and my partner live, we live in a nice part of Kent and as I'm quite an outdoorsy, active guy I enjoy kayaking and fishing on the river and taking the dog out - we are lucky we've got all that within a stone's throw of where I live. I go fishing most Wednesdays on my day off and I also play quite a lot with my friends on PlayStation. We don't usually do it because we're all so busy, but they are working from home and have a bit more spare time so it's a good opportunity and it's great because it keeps that social side activity between us.'

And what about his hopes for the rest of the season?

'I think as a whole I've been very happy with the season, I feel as though we've done everything we can so far, there's been a few games where we look back as a team and say we could have done better. I think it's just a case of carrying on, improve little by little, keep pushing forward, keep learning. We've all got a target we want to reach by the end of the season and if we keep working hard and keep our fingers crossed that the league continues which I am hopeful it will, we reach those targets – and I'm very much looking forward to the day the fans can come back in!'

Words by Victoria Rogers







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MITCH 1 WALKER



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BALL SPONSOR

Sian Blair

My favourite fixture of the season, home and away. Over the years I've got to know a few Wrexham fans who I meet up with when we go there, before and after the game. For my 50th birthday in 2018 I did hospitality for the home game and had my picture taken with Ethan Chislett and my father. Last year I did ball sponsor like I am today. It's just a shame we can't be in the stands watching. Here's to an entertaining game.



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THE ACADEMY

PROFILE



Name: Luke

Age Group: U-14

Playing Position: Central Midfielder/Centre Back

When did you join the Aldershot Town Academy? March 2019

When did you first start playing football? Age four

What team do you support? Aberdeen FC

What type of player are you? I am a hard-working player who likes to build from the back and break the lines using my range of passing and my reading of the game. I am strong defensively and physically, allowing me to dominate in 1v1 situations.

Who is your favourite footballer? Cristiano Ronaldo

Describe the best goal you have scored? The best goal I have scored was one against Pompey in the Community where I knocked the ball past the defender and sprinted down the line. Then I cut back on my right foot in the box and bent it into the far corner. This is my favourite goal because I am left-footed and I have been working on improving my ball striking with my right foot.

What do you want to achieve this season with the Academy? This season I want to keep my place in the team and perform and develop to the highest level. As a team I hope to win the league (the JPL 1), and I want to win the Hampshire Cup.

What are your hopes for your footballing-future? I aspire to make my debut for Aldershot Town before the age of 18 and represent Scotland at a World Cup.

What advice would you give yourself, if you were starting in the Academy all over again? I would say to be confident in my ability and to be more vocal on the pitch and more of a leader from the beginning.

VIRTUAL MASCOT



Be an Aldershot Town Virtual Mascot

Young Aldershot Town fans can be a virtual mascot from the comfort of their own homes with the launch of our new package!

While we cannot be together in person, we are delighted to launch our virtual mascot packages, which allows you to have an experience like never before.

This is designed to be a truly unique experience for our Junior Shots. Whether it be a birthday present, a congratulatory gift or just because you think they deserve it; we have the perfect experience for you.

VIRTUAL MASCOT

The package includes:

An Aldershot Town 2020/21 home or away shirt (depending on which one the mascot prefers).

A pre-match zoom call from the mascot's favourite player or the manager.

An appearance on Aldershot Town's official social media channels on matchday.

A copy of our The Shots match day programme (a hard copy will be sent out after the match).

A signed picture of our first-team photo

An Aldershot Town certificate of authenticity signed by Commercial Manager Mark Butler

* We also ask our virtual mascots to have a 'second choice' for the player they would like to partner with and pass on these details to the emails detailed below.

Price: £75 per mascot (which is a bargain given the package would individually total up to £100!)

Booking is online only and we ask that those interested to email either our Commercial Manager Mark Butler at mark.butler@theshots.co.uk or our Ticket and Merchandise Officer Matt Wigman at matt.wigman@theshots.co.uk

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SALE EXTENDED!

We have plenty of extended January offers available for Aldershot Town fans, with the opportunity for FREE UK postage as well!

This offer of free UK Postage is only available as long as you buy a 2020/21 Home or Away shirt from our online shop!

In order to get your option of free UK shipping, just use the code 'SHOTS' in the coupon box.

This offer is only available for a limited time only, so make sure to make the most of the offer!

The offer of free UK postage is also available if you purchase this season's home or away shirt **NOW**.

We also have lots of other great discounts during this extended January sale which are only for a limited time:

Football Manager 2021 – (was £25) – now £20

White Errea Luis Polos – (was £35) – now – £30 (*ONLY LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE!*)

Errea Praga Polos – (was £40) – now £35

Errea Markus Bomber Jackets – (was £54.99) – now £50

ATFC Errea Lucas Training Shirt – White/Red/Navy – (was £30) – now £25

2019/20 Home and Away Shirts now only £10!

Children's Dressing Gowns – (was £25) – now £10!

Children's PJS – (was £18) – now £7.50!

Make sure you make the most of these offers as they are only for a limited time only!



Kodi Lyons-Foster rises high in Tuesday night's match with Solihull Moors





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INTRODUCING WREXHAM



This afternoon we welcome Wrexham to The EBB Stadium for a National League clash. Wrexham are in sixth place in the league table and are just two points behind second-placed Sutton United. Wrexham won the first match between the sides at The Racecourse Ground in November, 1-0. Dean Keates' squad come into this afternoon's game having won their last two National League fixtures, with wins against Altrincham and most recently against Woking. Wrexham have seen a touch of Hollywood, having been recently taken over by Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds. Just this week, the owners have made the decision to cover player and staff wages which were lost due to the Club furloughing them. With the ambitions of the new owners extremely high, a push towards a return to the EFL could be intensified in the run-in to the season's conclusion.

In goal for the Woking game was Christian Dibble. Christian is the son of former Wrexham, Manchester City, Rangers and Wales goalkeeper, Andy Dibble. Christian has played in eight league games for Wrexham this season, keeping two clean sheets. Wrexham did not have a substitute goalkeeper on the bench for the Woking game. Rob Lainton has primarily been the starting goalkeeper for Wrexham this season, making 15 league appearances this campaign.

In defence, Reece Hall-Johnson has made 17 league appearances, scoring four goals. Hall-Johnson scored on his Wrexham debut against Boreham Wood, after signing from Northampton Town. Jamie Reckord signed from National League rivals Solihull Moors in the summer. Reckord has made 18 league appearances and has scored this season against King's Lynn and Dagenham & Redbridge. Mark Carrington has been with Wrexham since September of 2013 and has racked up 227 league appearances. This season has seen Carrington make five league appearances. Fiacre Kelleher joined Wrexham

from Macclesfield Town in the summer. Kelleher has been ever-present in the league with 22 appearances. He scored his first Wrexham goal in the 3-1 win against Dover in January. Tyler French was a signing this month from Bradford City. French has made 19 senior appearances for The Bantams this season. He was sent off on his Wrexham debut against Eastleigh and has made three league appearances for his new club.

In midfield, former Torquay and Plymouth midfielder Luke Young has made 22 league appearances for Wrexham, scoring five goals. It was Young's goal that was the difference between the sides at The Racecourse Ground. Young also has goals against Boreham Wood, Dover, Chesterfield and in the last game against Woking. Dan Jarvis started his career with Stoke City. This season Jarvis has made 10 league appearances. Jordan Davies has made 17 league appearances this season and has had four cautions thus far.

Up front, Dior Angus scored his first goal for Wrexham in the 2-0 win against Woking. Angus is a recent signing for Wrexham, having signed from Barrow. Angus had made 25 appearances this season for Barrow in all competitions, before signing for Wrexham in February. Angus had scored five goals for Barrow prior to his signing for Wrexham. Kwame Thomas has made 21 league appearances this season for Wrexham, scoring six goals. Thomas scored braces against Sutton United and Altrincham, alongside scoring goals against Yeovil and Eastleigh.

Following this afternoon's game, Wrexham end February with two home games. Hartlepool are the visitors on the 23rd, followed by the visit of Wealdstone on the 27th.

Words by Dan Blake

HISTORY

Wrexham have the historical advantage against The Shots. Wrexham have 22 wins, The Shots have 17 and there have been 10 draws. The earlier meeting this season on 21 November saw a 64th minute Luke Young goal secure all three points. The last game between the sides here at the EBB Stadium saw The Shots on the right end of a 1-0 win, with Harry Panayiotou scoring a 90th minute winner. Wrexham's

last win here was on the 1 September 2018, when the Welsh side took a 2-0 victory, Stuart Beavon and Jordan Maguire-Drew on the scoresheet.

Words by Dan Blake

THE BOSS DEAN KEATES

Dean re-joined Wrexham as manager for the second time in October 2019, having taken up the offer to switch to his home-town club Walsall in March 2018. He left a little over a year later in April 2019 – after 60 games in charge.

He was a junior at Walsall turning professional in 1995 and playing 160 games before transferring to Hull City in 2002 and helping them towards promotion, although he left in February 2004, joining his former manager Jan Molby at Kidderminster Harriers for 18 months.

Next he was onto Lincoln City in 2005, but this stay only lasted six months, as in January 2006 it was back to Walsall, although he couldn't help stop their fall to relegation. The following season under Richard Money they gained promotion, with Dean named in the PFA League Two Team of the Year.

This run of form saw Peterborough United sign him on a three-year deal in 2007 – gaining successive promotions to the Championship, as he played 78 games and scored 11 goals. He didn't play under new manager Mark Cooper and left in December 2009, landing with Wycombe Wanderers. The following summer he arrived at the Racecourse, being named captain and steering the Reds to the National League play-offs in the next two seasons – losing to Luton Town in

the semi-finals on both occasions.

In 2013, Dean led the side to their first ever Wembley appearance, beating Grimsby Town on penalties in the FA Trophy Final, but a second trip to Wembley, just six weeks later, ended in disappointment as Newport County won the Play-Off Final.

Dean left Wrexham for WPL side Rhyl in 2015, taking a degree at Glyndwr University in Wrexham and coaching the University's Academy side.

In October 2016, he replaced Gary Mills as Wrexham's manager, following a period as interim, lifting the club towards the promotion places a year later, which attracted Walsall to swoop.





21

CHRISTIAN DIBBLE

Son of former Wrexham goalkeeping favourite Andy Dibble, Christian landed at the Racecourse in June 2017.

He began life with Bury as a youth team player and signed professional terms with the Shakers in 2012, making his senior debut whilst out on loan with Warrington Town for a month before returning to Gigg Lane. In the summer of 2013, Dibble switched to Barnsley on a one-year deal with the option to extend.

Whilst with the Tykes, Dibble joined Nuneaton Town on loan before switching to Chelmsford City in the National League South. In the summer of 2016 Dibble signed for National League North side Boston United before joining Nuneaton Town after just two months with the Pilgrims.

In April 2017 Dibble joined Chorley on a seven-day emergency loan, making his debut in a league game against Gloucester City, the first of his two matches with the Magpies.

In 2017, he signed a one-year contract with Wrexham under then manager Dean Keates, which was extended for a further two-years in 2018.



8

LUKE YOUNG

Our first signing of summer 2019 with the midfielder agreeing a two-year contract, after he turned down the opportunity to stay with Torquay United.

Player of the Year at Plainmoor, Luke made over 130 appearances for Torquay, scoring 16 goals. He left following four years with the Gulls, after joining them from his hometown club Plymouth Argyle.

He took up the option to head north to Wales on a two-year contract and his arrival was well received by supporters in Wrexham, who well recall his performances for Torquay against us.



3

JAMIE RECKORD

Reckord began his career with Wolverhampton Wanderers where he stayed for nine years.

He had a loan spell with Northampton Town. He made his senior debut in March 2011 and made seven appearances during the run-in to the end of the campaign.

Jamie made his Wolves debut in the League Cup. Signing a 12-month extension in the summer of 2011, Reckord went out on loan, with Scunthorpe United and Coventry City. In 2013 he made his second Wolves appearances, again in the League Cup.

Following the expiration of his deal in summer 2014, Reckord signed for Ross County.

After 42 league appearances, Reckord was released and signed for Oldham Athletic. He made 16 appearances and departed the next summer.

Reckord signed for Solihull Moors in December 2017. The 2018/19 campaign saw Moors finishing in the play-offs for the first time, eventually losing to losing finalists AFC Fylde. Reckord was on his way to over a century of appearances for Solihull before the season was cut short, totalling 98 appearances.



39

KWAME THOMAS

A former England youth international with appearances at U-16, U-17 and U-20 levels.

Born in Nottingham in 1995, Kwame signed for Derby County and worked his way through the Academy to become a Scholar at Pride Park, playing four times in the Championship during 2014/15.

After loan spells with both Notts County and Blackpool, he was on the move to Coventry City for 15 games and then a switch to Solihull Moors for another two seasons.

Doncaster Rovers came in for the striker in October 2019, after trials with both Port Vale and Carlisle United, before joining Burton Albion in early February 2020 on a six-month deal, but the pandemic restricted his time with the Brewers to just two substitute appearances.

Recruited by Dean Keates in the summer of 2020, he scored his first goal in a Wrexham shirt away to Yeovil Town in early October.

2 – Reece Hall-Johnson | Defender

A youth product of Norwich City Academy. After two years as a pro with the Canaries, Hall-Johnson signed for Maidstone United, making seven appearances for the Stones.

In 2016 he signed for Braintree Town making 25 league appearances with his performances earning a move to Grimsby Town the following year.

He was loaned to Chester FC and featured in blue during the Cross-Border Derby in November 2017 as the Dragons ran out 1-0 winners at the Deva.

Hall-Johnson departed Grimsby in the summer of 2019 and signed for Northampton Town.

During a frustrating spell at Sixfields he made just seven appearances. In August 2020 he became the fourth summer recruit ahead of the 2020/21 campaign for Wrexham.

4 – Theo Vassell | Defender

Vassell began his career with Stoke City and spent almost a decade with the Potters.

In 2015 he signed for Oldham Athletic before continuing his development with a loan spell at Chorley.

On departure from Boundary Park in 2016 he was snapped up by Walsall and shortly after was sent out on loan to Chester FC. He spent two different spells with Chester totalling 31 appearances during the 2017/18 campaign, scoring his first career goal in a 3-2 loss to Barrow.

The following season he joined Gateshead, scoring twice in 35 appearances for the Heed, which earned the defender a move to Port Vale in 2018.

He made his EFL debut against Lincoln City in the EFL Cup and would make 22 appearances in all competitions for the Valiants before signing for Macclesfield Town the next summer.

Vassell followed manager Sol Campbell to Southend United later that season but was unable to sign due to a transfer embargo. He departed Roots Hall without the opportunity to appear for United and signed for Wrexham on a one-year deal ahead of 2020/21.

6 – Jay Harris | Midfielder

A former Wrexham player who returned to the club in the January 2020 window, when leaving Macclesfield Town. The Liverpool-born player signed professionally for Accrington Stanley in 2006, playing 70+ times in two seasons and then another 30+ times for Chester in 2008/09.

He signed for Wrexham in 2010, becoming a firm fans' favourite with 219 appearances through to the summer of 2015, when Tranmere Rovers took him to Merseyside for another 150+ games. Macclesfield signed him but the many off-field problems saw a number of players leave the club, with Jay returning to the Racecourse once again.

9 – Jordan Ponticelli | Forward

Attack-minded Ponticelli began his career with Coventry City. Following his football education at the Ricoh, he signed senior terms with the Sky Blues.

Ponticelli made his debut in August 2017 in the EFL Cup. His first goal came in October 2017 in a 2-2 draw with Walsall in the EFL Trophy.

Ponticelli made his league debut days later in a 0-0 draw against Barnet. In the FA Cup he'd go on to score a brace against Maidenhead before grabbing three goals in a week against Notts County and Crawley in April 2018.

Having won promotion via the play-offs with Coventry, Ponticelli went out on loan the next season joining Macclesfield on a short-term deal, making four appearances. After a handful of appearances in League One, Ponticelli joined Tranmere Rovers on loan in 2019, making nine appearances.

After a frustrating spell at Prenton Park he arrived at the Racecourse in January 2020. The season was ended prematurely with the forward having made five appearances, scoring twice.

He returned to Coventry but in August 2020 Wrexham successfully signed Ponticelli on a two-year deal.

10 – Devonte Redmond | Forward

The Manchester-born midfielder began his career in the youth set-up at Manchester United. Redmond impressed in the middle of the park at youth level and regularly partook in matches for the reserve side. He eventually sought first-team football, moving to Scunthorpe United on a season-long loan deal in 2017.

He made his senior league debut, a 4-0 away victory over Plymouth Argyle. This would be his only appearance in the league for Scunthorpe United, as he was restricted to EFL Trophy matches.

In January 2018, his parent club recalled him before he was eventually released in June of that year.

After a lengthy spell without a club, he joined Salford City in January 2019, making his debut against Eastleigh in February 2019. Redmond scored twice in his 15 appearances, both winning goals in 1-0 victories coming against Aldershot and Harrogate Town.

Redmond was also involved in the National League play-offs, appearing in the semi-final victory against Eastleigh and Wembley win over AFC Fylde to earn promotion.

Although promotion was sealed, Redmond rejected a new contract with the Ammies and opted to join Wrexham.

12 – Dan Jarvis | Midfielder

Jarvis, who can also play out wide, began his career with Stoke City, making his way up the youth team ranks, before signing professional terms in 2017.

Jarvis played his part in the summer of 2019 with the senior side in preparation for the PL2 campaign with the Club's Under-23s.

During the first half of the 2019/20 campaign, Jarvis made a number of appearances in the PL2 scoring twice. Jarvis landed in North Wales on a deal that would take him to 2021 and made his debut 24 hours after the signing was complete against Woking in the National League. Taking the number 28 shirt he scored moments into the second half following a fine break forward in a 3-0 victory.

13 – Mark Carrington | Midfielder

Mark Carrington is the Club's longest serving player having joined in September 2013. The versatile midfielder began his career with Crewe Alexandra before earning his first senior deal in 2006, having been with the Club since the age of seven.

He made 29 league appearances and had loan spells with Leigh RMI and Kidsgrove Athletic. In 2009 Carrington joined MK Dons, scoring six times in 32 league games over two seasons.

His next move came in 2011, joining Hamilton Academical. He made a handful of appearances before heading back south and signed on at Bury. In two seasons, he made over 50 appearances. He joined Wrexham on non-contract terms in September 2013. In his first season he earned the Player of the Season award. He won the Goal of the Season award in 2014/15 with his header against Premier League side Stoke City in the FA Cup.

In the 2016/17 season he was appointed vice-captain and extended his contract for the 2020/21 campaign this summer.

TEAMWEAR FOR THE ONES
CHANGING THE GAME,
NOT JUST PLAYING IT.



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14 – Paul Rutherford | Midfielder

Paul Rutherford joined Wrexham in the summer of 2016. Rutherford began his career with Liverpool before signing youth forms with the old Chester City in 2003. After two years he signed professional terms.

In 2009, he joined Barrow and went on to score nine times in over 160 league appearances. Following four years at Holker Street Rutherford signed for Southport.

With the Sandgrounders, he made over a century of appearances in the National League before departing in 2016 and joining Wrexham.

15 – James Horsfield | Defender

The Stockport-born defender began his career with Manchester City coming through the youth ranks before signing professional terms in 2015. He made his senior debut that season whilst on loan with Doncaster Rovers in League One.

Horsfield further progressed with City, signing a one-year extension in 2017 and heading out on loan to NAC Breda in the Dutch Eredivisie in January 2017.

After making 16 appearances on loan, Horsfield signed permanently for NAC that summer, making a further 10 appearances.

In the summer of 2018, he opted to return to England, signing a two-year deal with Scunthorpe United. However, in January 2019 he went out on loan to Dundee FC for the remainder of the season totalling 11 appearances.

After failing to make an appearance during the 2019/20 season for Scunthorpe, the Iron allowed Horsfield to head out on loan, joining Wrexham for a month. He made his Dragons debut in an FA Cup tie at Chesterfield. His league debut for the Dragons came at Dagenham & Redbridge.

During his fourth appearance for the Dragons, Horsfield suffered a season-ending injury in a league match against Bromley. He returned and recovered at his parent club before his release at the end of the campaign.

In August 2020, he joined Wrexham on trial to test his fitness and signed a one-year deal with the club a few weeks later.

20 – Dior Angus | Forward

Angus began his career with Solihull Moors. After a loan with Banbury United he made over 30 appearances for the Moors before a move to Kidderminster Harriers in 2013. Angus found playing time limited and spent time with Worcester City before heading back to Solihull in 2014.

After a frustrating time, he departed Damson Park for spells with Daventry and Stratford Town which paved the way for a third move to Redditch United.

It was with United that he made his mark scoring 17 goals in 23 matches in the first half of the season, earning a move to Port Vale in January 2018. His professional debut came as a substitute during a 1-0 defeat to Forest Green Rovers.

After picking up an injury he regained fitness with a loan to Tamworth in March 2018, scoring three goals in six games and returned to Port Vale to make a further two appearances, scoring his first goal for the club against Carlisle United in May.

He spent more time out on loan, at Nuneaton. He scored 13 goals in the first half of the campaign before heading back to Vale Park in January 2019.

He wouldn't remain at Vale for long, joining Barrow on loan that same month scoring twice in 11 games. In the summer of 2019, he signed for the Bluebirds permanently on a one-year deal.

It proved to be a superb move, as he and his side snatched the National League title on PPG and he struck up a partnership with ex-Wrexham forward Scott Quigley with Angus scoring 12 goals.

After making 19 appearances and scoring four goals for Barrow, he opted to join Wrexham on an 18-month deal in February 2021.

22 – Fiacre Kelleher | Defender

A signing from Macclesfield Town in 2020, following the Club's demotion into the National League, the Irishman switched after two seasons in the EFL.

Born in Cork, the tall central defender was spotted by scouts for Celtic and headed to Glasgow as a 16-year-old in 2012. Although not playing at Parkhead, he did enjoy a loan spell with Peterhead before signing for Oxford United in 2017.

He didn't feature for the U's and had season long loans with Solihull Moors and Macclesfield Town, before joining the Silkmen in 2019.

25 – Tyler French | Defender

The defender began his career with Long Melford, Hadleigh United and AFC Sudbury.

It was with the latter that he graduated to the first-team making just shy of 100 league appearances. He began his time in the first-team aged 16 and was named captain shortly afterwards. French had trials with a number of clubs including Barnsley, Charlton Athletic, Ipswich Town, Crystal Palace and Leicester City.

He trained with Bradford City in May 2019 and signed a two-year contract with the Bantams. Making his debut in the professional game in an EFL Cup match at home to Preston North End, he scored his first goal in an EFL Trophy tie with Rochdale.

After six Bradford City appearances, he spent time on loan with AFC Fylde, appearing five times during the 2019/20 season.

Upon his return to Valley Parade, he made 19 appearances in the first half of the campaign before departing the club by mutual consent in January 2020. 24 hours later he signed a short-term deal with Wrexham.

29 – Jordan Davies | Midfielder

Wrexham native Jordan Davies came through the youth ranks at Wrexham.

At the beginning of the 2016/17 campaign, Davies was loaned out to Bangor City.

He appeared on the bench for the Dragons before midway through January being snapped up by Brighton & Hove Albion.

Davies was integral to the Seagulls Under-23's promotion to the PL2, and was handed starts in the EFL Trophy.

In the summer of 2020 Davies departed the South Coast and opted to sign for his hometown club on a two-year deal ahead of the 2020/21 campaign.

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FANZONE



With Rob Worrall

Welcome to Fanzone for this afternoon's National League game with Wrexham.

Today, as our beloved Shots look to respond from a disappointing performance and result against Solihull Moors, we feature an Aldershot supporter that has witnessed many highs and lows over more than 40 years of watching them.

Sheila Brinkworth will be 60 years old on Wednesday and with this milestone within striking distance, Fanzone caught up with her, as she kindly shared a few words about her support of Aldershot Town (and Aldershot FC before them).

'I started following Shots as a youngster, when my dad took me to a game in the 1970s. As a teenager, I used to walk from Ash with my brother and stand in the East Bank, in the area now used for away supporters. (Or should we perhaps currently say for Mark Butler and his 'Shots TV Live' crew and guests – Ed!)

'I had a hospitality box for my 40th birthday (2001) which turned out to be a boring draw and a few years later, (2004), I introduced my nephew Tom to the club. We stood at the back of the North Stand to watch games.

'Over the last 50 years I've been an avid supporter, season ticket holder, bought merchandise, 'Golden Tickets', and now 'In With a Shot', to try and assist with the raising of funds. I love the Club and having to watch the team play via 'live streams' this season is just not the same as being on the terraces as part of our fabulous 'Shots Family'.

'Once it's safe and we are permitted to do so, I can't wait to get back to the EBB Stadium and cheer on the lads. However, for now, I'll be celebrating my 60th birthday in 'Lockdown' and watching the 'footy' on my tablet!

'Shots Forever! My football family!'

On behalf of everyone at Aldershot Town, a VERY Happy Birthday to you Sheila!

That's it for today. Please keep your photos, birthdays and anniversaries coming and your funny Shots-related stories.



Email your Selfies, Stories, First Matches, Anniversaries and Birthdays to robaworrall@gmail.com



THE BIG PICTURE

Drama in the Aldershot Town penalty box in Tuesday night's match with Solihull Moors





FUN WITH T

WORDSEARCH

Can you find the names of four former Aldershot Town goalkeepers in our wordsearch?

BULL
YOUNG
COLE
MORRIS

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

SPOT THE BALL



HAT-TRICK QUIZ

Can you score a hat-trick of answers in our quick-fire quiz?

- 1 How many dragons are on the Wrexham badge?
- 2 Oliver Bozanic scored for the Shots in the 1:1 draw at home with Notts County on this day in 2010. What nationality was he?
- 3 Who did Chelsea knock out of the FA Cup last week?

THE PHOENIX!



GUESS THE GROUND



WHO AM I?



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

Wordsearch solution

A
 Spot the Ball
 Michael Koopowitz
 Who am I?
 Wetherby Road, Harrogate Town
 Guess the Ground
 3 Barnsley
 2 Australian
 1 Two
 Hat-Trick Quiz

ANSWERS

GOLDEN GOALS



This season sees a new way of looking at Shots games gone past, this time through the medium of goals. But not the most exquisitely executed goals, although there's been plenty of those over the years – the mazy runs, the stunning free-kicks. No, this feature is going to focus on the vital goals, the significant goals, the ones that turned games and seasons, the well-timed goals in the context of the game, turning one point into three, defeat into a dramatic draw or victory over rivals, be that neighbourly or positionally. And a few goals that just announced that the Shots were back. Some were penalties, some were tap-ins, some were out of this world, but whatever they were, they were significant and sent the fans wild. And in all cases they were most definitely golden!

Joe Oastler v Grimsby Town

Saturday 10 August 2013

Grimsby Town 1 – 1 Aldershot Town

Goalscorer: Joe Oastler

Skrill Premier League

Attendance: 4,037 (Visitors 174)

After the most traumatic and disruptive close season in their 21-year history, Aldershot Town FC was looking to put the traumas of the past three months behind them and start to concentrate on the important and prominent business of a football club – playing

football. And the football that manager Andy Scott's newly-assembled squad needed to play was going to need to be of the highest quality. The Shots had been relegated back out of the Football League at the end of April, then promptly fell into administration, a situation that nearly ended in the Club being wound-up – unthinkable after the same thing had occurred only two decades previously and eventually and thankfully, avoided.

It had though been a very close-run affair and had attracted something which was going to make everyone's job that little bit harder. Entering into administration was very much frowned on in the top flight of non-league football and as a result, the Shots were starting this new season on -10 points, hence the need to play football that would bring in points – and quickly!

Any match was going to be difficult but this trip, away from home, Andy Scott's first ever game as a non-league manager with a brand-new squad, including Chris Barker who joined both the Club and the coach halfway through the journey, looked particularly challenging. Grimsby had been relegated out of the Football League in 2010 and were now facing their fourth season in the Skrill Premier so were seasoned hands at the non-league game. And as an added aside to the game, Andy Scott was facing a familiar face in the opposition dug-out, his brother Rob, joint manager of the Mariners with Paul Hurst



There had though been encouraging signs during pre-season that the group of players that Andy Scott had brought in to tackle this most difficult of campaigns for Aldershot Town would be up to the task. In the very first match played, a friendly with fellow Hampshire club, Eastleigh, the result had been a 1:1 draw with the Shots goal coming from a young full-back, Joe Oastler.

Oastler had started out life with his home team club, Portsmouth but had been released aged 18, in the March of 2008. Keen to keep his fitness Joe played a few matches for Bognor Regis Town and from there made a move in the summer to Queens Park Rangers. The Hoops loaned him first to Salisbury City, then Torquay United who were at that time in Division 2 of the Football League and it was for the Gulls that Joe was to sign permanently in 2011 when he was released by QPR. Over the three seasons that Joe was on the English Riviera he made over 100 appearances in the yellow of Torquay and was a part of the team that reached the League 2 play-off finals in 2011; he was a substitute, coming on in the 79th minute for another future Shot, Damon Lathrope; and the semi-finals of the 2012 play-offs where they were defeated by Cheltenham Town.

Joe left Torquay in the summer of 2013 and joined up with Andy Scott and Aldershot Town. And he was to make his Shots debut in this match, lining up in a back

four of Chris Barker, Adam Webster and Jake Goodman in front of Glenn Morris in goal.

To be fair, nobody really knew what to expect from this game and indeed the first half ended goalless, impressive from a defence of whom the left back (Barker) had only just met up with his new team mates! And it was just under a quarter of an hour into the second half when the right back, in the shape of Oastler, was to make his mark on the game – and how! On the 58th minute the 23-year-old hit an excellent high left-footed shot from around 12 yards out, beating James McKeown and sending the 174 travelling Shots supporters wild with joy!

Sadly the lead wasn't to last, The Mariners equalizing with a Ross Hannah penalty ten minutes from the end after Adam Webster was adjudged to have fouled the Grimsby forward. But the Shots and their supporters were not noticeably crushed, a point from a tricky away match to start the season off – the race was on to gain the remaining nine points to get Aldershot Town to zero! Those travelling supporters had also witnessed something of a rare event in Joe's goal, Oastler not hitting the back of the net again until Good Friday the following April when he scored in the key 3:2 victory over former club, Salisbury City, taking the Shots to within touching distance of safety. He ended the season on 42 appearances and two goals.

Joe remained with the Shots for the following season, making a further 39 appearances and scoring what was to be his third and final Aldershot Town goal in a 2-0 win at AFC Telford. He then signed up for a third season, now under new manager Barry Smith but it was to be a difficult time as he was troubled with injury and made only 13 appearances, his first in December in a 1:0 win over Guiseley and his final one, the unfortunate 8:2 loss at Chester. It was a sad end to his time at the EBB Stadium although his career has carried on, firstly at Gosport Borough and then to Oxford City where he currently wears the captain's armband and is approaching 100 appearances.

But for Aldershot Town supporters, it will be that first goal for the Club they will always think of when they see the name Oastler – new team, new division, away from home and up against it – that goal at Blundell Park was most definitely golden...

Words by Victoria Rogers

FIXTURES & RESULTS

FIXTURES & RESULTS

							Mitch WALKER	George FOWLER	Alex FINNEY	Jamie SENDLES-WHITE		Kodi LYONS-FOSTER	James ROWE	Josh REES	Mo BETTAMER	Chike KANDI	Harrison PANAYIOTOU	Alfy WHITTINGHAM
DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	RES	ATT	AWAY	POS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sat 3 Oct	Hartlepool United	VNL	L 1-2	N/A	N/A	17						>>>	<<<		>		<	
Tue 6 Oct	Sutton United	VNL	L 1-2	N/A	N/A	22						>	<		1			<<<
Tues 13 Oct	Dover Athletic	VNL	W 5-0	N/A	N/A	15			>			<	>>	2	2		1>>>	
Sat 17 Oct	Eastleigh	VNL	D 2-2	N/A	N/A	13							>				>>	1
Sat 24 Oct	Woking	FAC 4Q	L 1-2	N/A	N/A	N/A							>>>		1	<		>>
Tue 27 Oct	Torquay United	VNL	L 1-4	N/A	N/A	17			</>>>				>>	>				
Sat 7 Nov	Notts County	VNL	W 1-0	N/A	N/A	13											1>	
Sat 14 Nov	Altrincham	VNL	W 2-1	N/A	N/A	11						<				<<1		
Tue 17 Nov	Maidenhead United	VNL	D 0-0	N/A	N/A	10									<	>>	>	
Sat 21 Nov	Wrexham	VNL	L 0-1	N/A	N/A	15						<				<<		>
Tue 1 Dec	Chesterfield	VNL	D 0-0	N/A	N/A	15				<					>		>>	
Sat 5 Dec	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	W 2-1	920	N/A	13				<<<				>	1	>>	1	
Tue 8 Dec	FC Halifax Town	VNL	L 1-3	818	N/A	16							>>		1	>	>>>	
Sat 12 Dec	Boreham Wood	VNL	L 2-3 *og	650	N/A	17							>>				>	
Sat 19 Dec	Welwyn Garden City	FAT 3	W 5-1	N/A	N/A	N/A			1						<1	1		
Sat 26 Dec	Woking	VNL	W 3-0	N/A	N/A	16				>		<				>>>	1	<<
Mon 28 Dec	Yeovil Town	VNL	L 0-3	N/A	N/A	16										>		
Sat 2 Jan	Woking	VNL	W 1-0	N/A	N/A	12										<<		
Tue 19 Jan	Solihull Moors	FAT 4	W 3-2	N/A	N/A	N/A									2	>		<<
Sat 23 Jan	Wealdstone	VNL	W 4-2	N/A	N/A	9								1				<<
Tue 26 Jan	Weymouth	VNL	L 0-2	N/A	N/A	12						<<				<		<<<
Sat 30 Jan	Bromley	VNL	L 0-2	N/A	N/A	15						<			>>>	<<		
Tue 2 Feb	Barnet	VNL	W 2-1	N/A	N/A	12				1					<1	<<	>	
Sat 6 Feb	Cheserfield	FAT 5	H-W	N/A	N/A	N/A												
Sat 13 Feb	Stockport County	VNL	D 0-0	N/A	N/A	12										<	<<	
Tue 16 Feb	Solihull Moors	VNL	L 1-3	N/A	N/A	13			>>>				<	1		<<		
Sat 20 Feb	Wrexham	VNL																
Tue 23 Feb	Maidenhead United	VNL																
Sat 27 Feb	Hereford	FAT Q-F																
Sat 6 Mar	Notts County	VNL																
Tue 9 Mar	Torquay United	VNL																
Sat 13 Mar	Altrincham	VNL																
Tue 16 Mar	FC Halifax Town	VNL																
Sat 20 Mar	Boreham Wood	VNL																
Sat 27 Mar	Solihull Moors	VNL																
Fri 2 Apr	Stockport County	VNL																
Mon 5 Apr	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL																
Sat 10 Apr	Yeovil Town	VNL																
Tue 13 Apr	Weymouth	VNL																
Sat 17 Apr	Barnet	VNL																
Tue 20 Apr	King's Lynn Town	VNL																
Sat 24 Apr	Wealdstone	VNL																
Sat 1 May	Sutton United	VNL																
Mon 3 May	Dover Athletic	VNL																
Sat 15 May	Hartlepool United	VNL																
Sat 22 May	Bromley	VNL																
Sat 29 May	King's Lynn Town	VNL																
TBC	Chesterfield	VNL																
TBC	Eastleigh	VNL																

PLAYER STATS

[illegible]

	2020/21		ATFC Career
	APPS GLS		APPS GLS
1 Mitch WALKER	14	-	55 -
2 George FOWLER	18	-	81 2
3 Alex FINNEY	12+1	1	47+3 1
4 Jamie SINDLESWHITE	13+2	1	13+2 1
5	-	-	- -
6 Kodi LYONS-FOSTER	20+3	-	48+15 2
7 James ROWE	7+6	-	58+19 4
8 Josh REES	25	4	25 4
9 Mo BETTAMER	21+3	10	40+5 17
10 Chike KANDI	13+8	3	13+8 3
11 Harrison PANAYIOTOU	15+2	4	33+14 8
12 Alfie WHITTINGHAM	11+5	1	21+19 3
13 Ryan HALL	-	-	1 -
14 Joel NOUBLE	11+4	1	11+4 1
15 Jermaine ANDERSON	10+3	3	10+3 3
16 Dinesh GILLELA	3	-	3 -
17 Joseph HUNGBO	2+3	-	2+3 -
18 Reece WYLIE	-	-	- -
19	-	-	- -
20 Toby EDSE	20+5	2	20+5 2
21 Ben SHROLL	-	-	- -
22 Giles PHILLIPS	10	-	10 -
23 Killian COLOMBIE	3+4	-	3+4 -
24	-	-	- -
25 Shadrach OGIE	22+1	2	22+1 2
26 Lewis KINSELLA	-	-	91+1 -
27 Craig TANNER	7	3	20 7
29 Joe RABBETTS	-	-	1 -
30 Ricky MILLER	3+3	1	3+3 1
35 Brad JAMES	11+1	-	11+1 -
36 Mike FONDOP-TALOM	3+2	1	3+2 1
44 Ross MCCORMACK	1+2	-	1+2 -

Has left the club

Started Match

 Used Sub

Unused Sub

BOLD NUMBER Goal(s) Scored

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ALDERSHOT TOWN

Manager: Danny Searle

- 1 Mitch Walker
- 2 George Fowler
- 3 Alex Finney
- 4 Jamie Sendles-White
- 5
- 6 Kodi Lyons-Foster
- 7 James Rowe
- 8 Josh Rees
- 9 Mo Bettamer
- 10 Chike Kandi
- 11 Harrison Panayiotou
- 12 Alfie Whittingham
- 13 Ryan Hall
- 14 Joel Nouble
- 15 Jermaine Anderson
- 16 Dinesh Gillela
- 17
- 18 Reece Wylie
- 19
- 20 Toby Edser
- 21 Ben Shroll
- 23 Killian Colombie
- 25 Shadrach Ogie
- 26 Lewis Kinsella
- 27 Craig Tanner
- 29 Joe Rabbetts
- 30 Ricky Miller
- 36 Mike Fondop-Talom
- 44 Ross McCormack

NEXT UP AT THE EBB STADIUM

Hereford

Saturday 27 February 2021

Kick-Off 3pm

Buildbase FA Trophy Quarter-Final



WREXHAM

Manager: Dean Keates

- 1 Rob Lainton
- 2 Reece Hall-Johnson
- 3 Jamie Reckord
- 4 Theo Vassell
- 5 Shaun Pearson
- 6 Jay Harris
- 7 Elliott Durrell
- 8 Luke Young
- 9 Jordan Ponticelli
- 10 Devonte Redmond
- 11
- 12 Dan Jarvis
- 13 Mark Carrington
- 14 Paul Rutherford
- 15 James Horsfield
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 Dior Angus
- 21 Christian Dibble
- 22 Fiacre Kelleher
- 23
- 24
- 25 Ryan Austin
- 26 Tyler French
- 27
- 29 Jordan Davies
- 39 Kwame Thomas

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Elliott Swallow

Assistant: Eugene Robinson

Assistant: Stephen Parkinson

Fourth Official: Stuart Kyle



@OfficialShots



AldershotTownFC



AldershotTown1992

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Aldershot Town vs Wrexham
 Altrincham vs Boreham Wood
 Barnet vs Woking
 Bromley vs Maidenhead United
 Eastleigh vs Stockport County
 Hartlepool United vs Yeovil Town
 Notts County vs Chesterfield
 Sutton United vs Wealdstone
 Torquay United vs FC Halifax Town
 Weymouth vs Solihull Moors

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	GD	PTS
Torquay United	22	22	44
Sutton United	19	15	37
Notts County	19	12	36
Stockport County	21	10	36
Hartlepool United	21	8	36
Wrexham	22	7	35
Eastleigh	21	8	34
Altrincham	23	0	33
Maidenhead Utd	19	2	31
Boreham Wood	21	4	30
Bromley	20	7	29
Solihull Moors	18	5	29
Aldershot Town	22	-4	28
FC Halifax Town	21	6	27
Yeovil Town	21	-3	26
Dagenham & Red	21	-8	26
Chesterfield	18	7	24
Woking	20	-3	23
Wealdstone	19	-13	22
Weymouth	21	-12	18
King's Lynn Town	19	-18	18
Barnet	19	-29	12
Dover Athletic	15	-23	10