

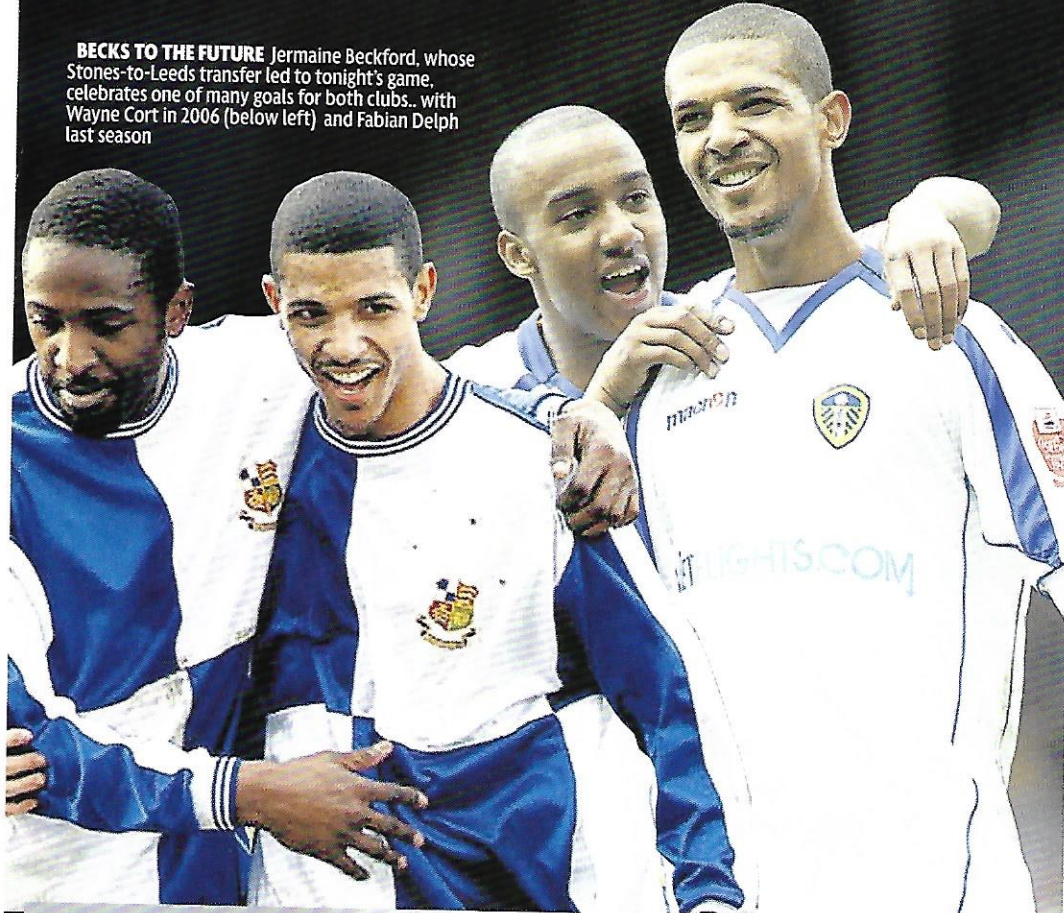
wealdstone football club

2009-2010 season

www.wealdstone-fc.com

first winners of the non-league double

BECKS TO THE FUTURE Jermaine Beckford, whose Stones-to-Leeds transfer led to tonight's game, celebrates one of many goals for both clubs... with Wayne Cort in 2006 (below left) and Fabian Delph last season



WEALDSTONE v LEEDS UNITED



TUESDAY JULY 21, 2009, KICK-OFF 7.45PM
PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

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STONES

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Sean **THOMAS**

Marvin **McCOY**

Lee **CHAPPELL**

(C) James **GRAY**

Alan **MASSEY**

Ryan **ASHE**

Keiron **FORBES**

Chris **O'LEARY**

Stephen **HUGHES**

Greg **NGOYI**

Danny **SPENDLOVE**

Jamie **OSBOURNE**

Ross **LAFETTE**



Darren **LOCKE**

Gary **JONES**

Terrell **LEWIS**

UNITED

all white

Casper **ANKERGREN**

Ben **PARKER**

Paul **HUNTINGDON**

David **PRUTTON**

Rui **MARQUES**

Lubomir **MICHALIK**

Fabian **DELPH**

Neil **KILKENNY**

Jermaine **BECKFORD**

Luciano **BECCHIO**

Alan **SHEEHAN**

Mike **GRELLA**

Bradley **JOHNSON**

Fabian **DELPH**

Enoch **SHOWUNMI**

Alan **MARTIN**



Referee: Stuart Burt

Assistants: Rob Allum & Richard Jaye

4th Official: Brendan Doherty

MATCH SPONSOR Tim Vernon

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The Club

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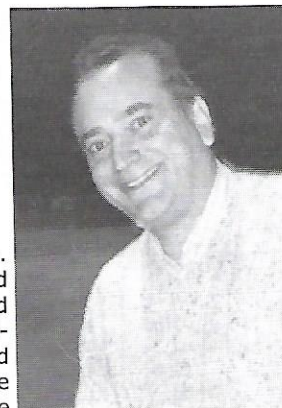
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Divided loyalties



Welcome to everyone for tonight's prestigious pre-season friendly against Leeds United. We are delighted to welcome Leeds, their supporters and in particular Jermaine Beckford to the Vale. Jermaine was hugely successful when he played for the Stones. Jermaine played for us for four years from 2002-2006. He made 122 appearances and scored 74 goals including nine penalties, a phenomenal record. We are glad to see that he is having a hugely successful career at Leeds and we hope that he enjoys much success in the future.

I must admit to the fact that in my younger days, I supported Leeds. I actually began to support Leeds as a result of them losing to Chelsea in the 1970 FA Cup Final. I must have felt sorry for them!. I supported them through the Don Revie era and my favourite player was hotshot, Peter Lorimer. I even used to wear their kit including the trendy tags which Leeds players wore in their socks. My support waned after I started to regularly watch the Stones in 1974 but I do remember crying the night Leeds lost the European Cup Final to Bayern Munich in 1975!

Stones supporter, Toby Jackson and owner of the specialist badge company, Lapels has produced a special badge for

tonight's match. Toby has ordered 100 badges and Leeds have already pre-booked 30 of them. The badge is on sale

tonight for £3 each from Toby but if you do not get a chance to see Toby tonight, they also can be ordered directly from Toby by e-mail on LapelsToby@aol.com as long as there are still some available.

Last week, the Ryman Football League announced the full fixture list for the coming season. Stones have a tough league opener on Saturday 15 August with an away trip to Billericay Town, rapidly followed by a visit from Tooting & Mitchum United to The Vale on Tuesday 18 August. New boys Aveley are visited on 5 September with promoted Waltham Abbey coming to The Vale on Tuesday 22 September. Cray Wanderers come calling on Tuesday 17 November. The traditional Boxing day clash is unusual in that this year it will be an away encounter at Ashford Town (Middx) - Harrow Borough will however visit The Vale on Tuesday 29 December so all is not lost for the eagerly awaited festive period derby match.

We are planning to issue a Supporters

Stones warm up with a win

Wealdstone played Chalfont St Peter in a behind closed doors warm up match on Tuesday evening at the Metropolitan Police Peel Centre in Hendon. In a very useful work out, the Stones scored three goals without reply with young striker Jamie Osborne scoring a brace and Darren Locke also finding the net.

Club membership card for the coming season which will include the full fixture list for the 2009-10 season. Supporters Club membership can be purchased for £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. Alternatively you can purchase life membership for £25. Annual and life membership of the Supporters Club entitles you to reduced prices for souvenirs which are on sale in our club shop located behind the ground at the turnstile end.

The shop is open before and after the game and also during the half-time interval. The club shop, run by Adam Edwards and Mark Randall, ably supported by Mark Barton, opened for business last December and since then has gone from strength to strength raising valuable income for the Supporters Club. In the space of four months over £ 3,000 was raised and at the last home game of last season, over £1,000 worth of stock was sold. A monumental effort.

Golden Goal Tickets will be on sale tonight and will be available from Miriam who will

be standing inside the ground as you pass through the turnstiles and cost £1 each. Supporters have the opportunity to win £50 if their ticket matches the time of the first goal scored and £10 if their ticket matches the time of the last goal scored. The times of the first and last goals of each match are announced on the public address system by Bappo but if supporters do not hear these announcements, the times are published on the Supporters Club website www.wfcsc.co.uk. Therefore if supporters do not check their ticket during the match, they have the opportunity to check the website and see if they have the winning ticket. Miriam stands by the turnstile at full time to check tickets and distribute prize-money to Golden Goal ticket winners.

For more information on the Supporters Club, please check out our website (www.wfcsc.co.uk) which is regularly updated.

UP THE STONES!

David Albert, Chairman

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**Wealdstone FC Manager Gordon Bartlett speaks
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TIM VERNON

A passionate Leeds United fan who is proud to sponsor this match.

Tim would like to wish both teams the very best of luck for the forthcoming season and hopes everybody will enjoy this special evening.



A trip down from God's Own County will be worth the wait

A warm welcome to tonight's much anticipated pre-season fixture between Wealdstone FC and Leeds United FC.

This game has been a long time in the preparation with so many people involved in making tonight happen. Firstly we need to thank Shaun Harvey, Alison Royston and everyone from Leeds who have been tremendously helpful and supportive over the past couple of years, to the point where the two clubs meet tonight, here at Grosvenor Vale.

Also we need to mention Jermaine Beckford—of whom I am sure there is much in tonight's programme. Jermaine has taken the pro game and the step up from non league to league one in his stride and whatever his immediate future I know he has thrilled the Leeds fans just as he did us a few short years ago.

The last year has allowed us to establish a solid relationship with Leeds United, starting at Chairman Ken Bates down. We hope this will continue and grow after tonight's encounter. Gordon Bartlett's relationship with Leeds' technical director should certainly help.

I must pay tribute to the fans of Leeds as well. Hopefully they are here in their hundreds and enjoying the slightly more relaxed surroundings of non league football. We have had plenty of enquiries from Leeds fans asking for tickets in the Leeds end. Well as you will see tonight I imagine all four sides of the ground will be Leeds' ends to some extent.

You are all welcome tonight, and if you enjoy your evening perhaps you will

consider returning to a future Wealdstone fixture when Leeds are not playing. You will be surprised how much excitement you can get from 500+ people watching competitive Ryman League football, and we'd love to see you again.

We have a number of guests here tonight that I would like to welcome, including local councillor Michael Markham, Peter Clayton the Middlesex FA Chairman and also Alan Turvey and Lord Richard Rosser from the Ryman League.

On a slightly sadder note, many will have read or heard about the illness that Staines chairman Alan Boon has been struggling against this summer, following a heart attack. We all wish Alan well and hope he will make a full and speedy recovery.

When the excitement of tonight (and Saturday's fixture against Watford) cools off we can begin to concentrate on the build up to the new season, which for us starts in less than 4 weeks time. Plenty to do of course on and off the pitch, including a return to the 100:400 fundraising targets that we have set ourselves—more about this elsewhere in the programme—but the message is, if you haven't helped already please consider doing so.

This is a special occasion tonight, with much excitement locally. I hope we will be able to remember this night for a long time to come—but for that to happen enjoy the evening—and please come again.

Howard Kraiss, Chairman

100:400 update

Through the summer our 100:400 fund has been creeping up to the point where we are in touching distance of our goal, of raising £40,000 - money which will go directly to the playing budget.

At the time of writing we have had just a fraction under 95% of the total pledged, which equates to just under £38,000. So we are very close.

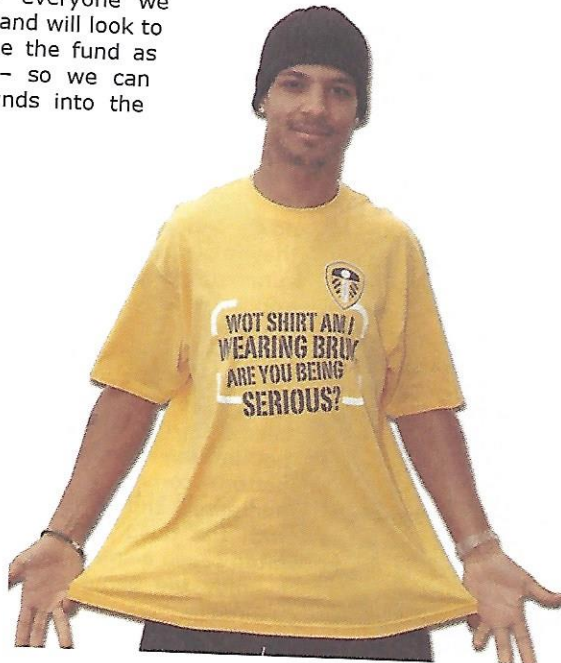
This means two things. First we now need to start turning the pledges into money. Already about £15,000 has been collected but please it will help enormously if people can come forward to make their donations. Secondly, whilst achieving the £40,000 mark will be a great result and a wonderful boost for everyone we won't stop there and will look to carry on to make the fund as big as we can - so we can channel more funds into the playing budget.

Please don't wait to be asked - come forward and contribute - it does directly influence what you will see on the park this season.

We are doing all we can through our commercial operation and through all other means to bring new funds into the Club but your individual contributions help no matter how big or small. Remember 100:400 was set up to encourage 100 people to donate £400. But we will accept donations of whatever level, whether £400, more or less. It all helps and we are very grateful to everyone who has contributed.

Thanks for your continued support

Howard Kraiss
Chairman



Ship shape and ready for action

Good evening and welcome to this pre-season friendly match with Leeds United. I am sure this has been mentioned a number of times but this game comes about via the sale of Jermaine Beckford to our opponents in 2006.

I would personally like to welcome Jermaine back this evening and congratulate him on his success since his move. 'J' was a very key player for us before he left and a pleasure to work with and I am pleased he has gone on to play at a higher level and score bundles of goals, most of which are normally screamers, no change there then!

Obviously Jermaine played for us when we were at Edgware and Northwood so hopefully he will be impressed by the work we have done on our own home over the past 18 months or so and welcome him back with a good ovation.

Due to moving home I was unable to meet the deadline for the Watford game but I would like to add my own tribute to Gordon. I don't believe there are many managers in the game who have stayed loyal to one team like Gordon has especially with the restraints we have had in the 14 or so years he has been with us. I can only congratulate him on such an achievement and thank him for his service to the club and support he has given me over the past few years.

I can also say the same for Leo who has been with us the same period of time and much of his work goes unnoticed. Leo is the type of person who gets things done and is well respected by everyone. His involvement in the club off the field over the last few months has been tremendous and can only help us move forward positively.

Pre-season started a few weeks ago with most of the players from last season coming back with the exception of Davis and Hicksy. Carl is currently training with Alder shot, while Kieron has returned from his trial with Northampton. Alan Masse returned to training last week after his hamstring injury at the end of last season and a holiday and seems to be ok. Hughes started pre-season but suffered a set back and is currently doing his own gym work to enable him to make progress.

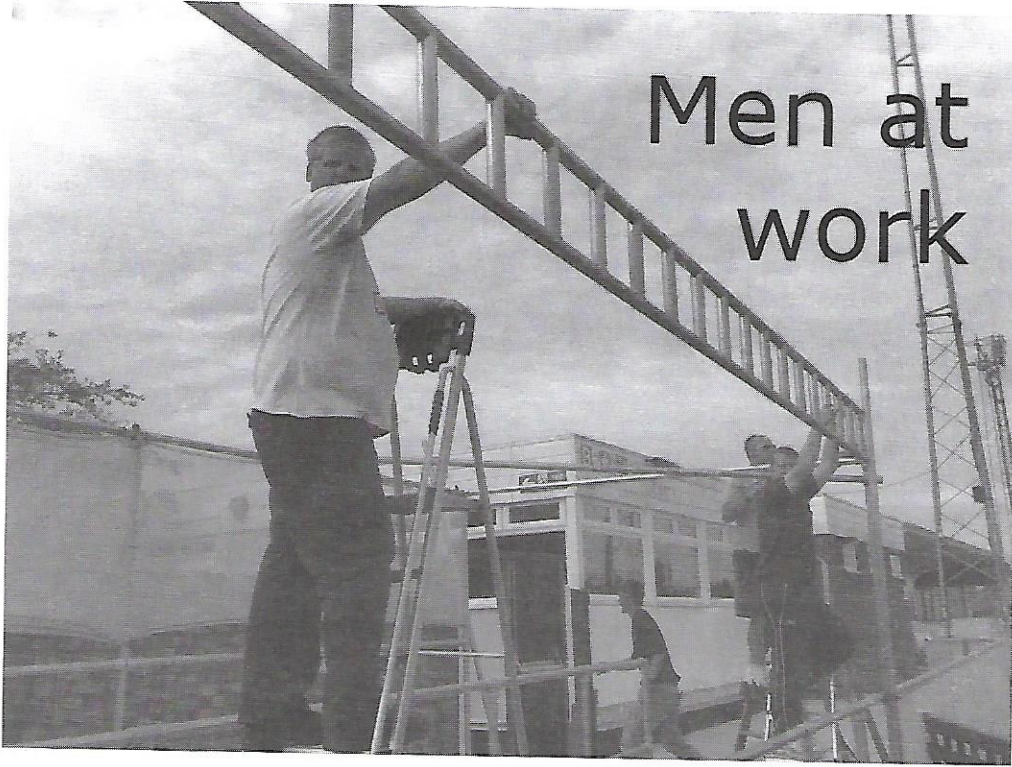
I have to say the players look quite sharp despite the break with Spenny and Chris leading the way, I'm sure others will disagree!

Many of you will have seen some improvements to the stadium over the summer with a new stand by the clubhouse entrance area, the board room and changing room external areas being painted as well as the back of the main stand (facing the pitch) and the fence tops being stripped down and painted properly. Well done to the those people who turned up over the summer week after week to lend a hand. You know who you are so I will not name names!

The pitch has been well looked after by Fingers and despite some early scares with a number of bare patches on it, it now seems the grass has come through and is not looking too bad. The drainage in the bottom corner of the ground has been addressed and we hope that this will help with the build up of rain water that can often cause a small lake!

Enjoy the game and welcome back Jermaine.

James

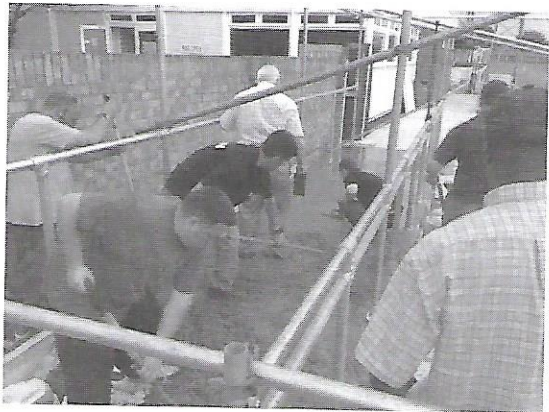


Men at work



Above: Fantastic effort and pride in their work as the ground improvements show some fruit

Above: Precision engineering
Below: The hard core fans cover the hard core



Jermaine knows where he's headed, even without the sat nav

Tim Parks interviews Jermaine Beckford in early 2006, just a few months before Leeds won the auction to sign our then-22-year-old hotshot.

Jermaine Beckford is a happy man. He's riding high in the Ryman Premier goal scoring lists with 16 in competitive games already this season, been watched by Football League scouts at every one of the last dozen games and even AFC Wimbledon players rate his partnership with Richard Jolly as the most potent in the division. So what's the only cloud on his horizon?

"Rob Ursell... He's got as many tricks as me!" laughs Jermaine. "Seriously man, Rob's the white Ronaldinho. His feet are so quick I'm not sure they're even attached to him! He's seriously talented and it's great to have him in the team."

So Jermaine may have to temporarily share his crown as the Stones' King of Tricks, but where did he learn that mind-boggling ball juggling? "Wow, that goes back to being a kid of eight or nine. My dad Craig is a football nut like me, he's doing his FA badge now and is a bit of a Francis Joseph character... he used to ferry me and my mates around a lot and I started off at Greenford Town in the youth league. Not that we were bothered about winning games, it was more who could do the best tricks and be the most outrageous during games.

"My brother Marcel used to play then too, but he's more into music now. I've got an older brother, Jonathan, who's not sporty at

all but my kid brother, Travis, just loves football! He's only 12 but he's playing for Hanwell Town Youth and he's quick, really quick. He likes to try his flicks and tricks out on me and he nutmegged me once... but never again!"

Jermaine stayed at Greenford for about four years until his teens, when he moved to Walpole Wanderers and a goal scoring partnership with....Chelsea's Carlton Cole.

"Yeah, we were great together" says Jermaine. "We scored a bucketload of goals for Walpole over a season or two but he was a different type of player then... he had more tricks in his bag, Maybe that's been coached out of him a bit, but he was a very clever player then while now he's probably a bit more direct. He's always been lethal in the air while I need to score a few more headers... that one on Saturday against Leyton was a rarity for me.

"But me and Carlton taught each other a few things. That step-over he got from me!"

The two eventually parted when Chelsea scouts came to watch Walpole. They took four players on trial, including Jermaine and Carlton Cole, but after nine months training at the Blues' Harlington base only Carlton was kept on.

"That was disappointing, but Carlton and I were so similar it probably counted against me" said Jermaine, "But he's done so well

JB INTERVIEW

since then. Every footballer dreams of making the big time and I'm no different, but I'd be happy just to play pro football in League One or Two, you know?

"My chance may still come, so I'll keep myself in the shop window and keep playing as well as I can for the Stones. I love playing for this club and if it happens, it happens." After that spell at Chelsea, Jermaine moved on to Northolt Villa Youth before, happily for us, he was introduced to the Wealdstone Youth set-up.

"That was great for me... properly organised, good training and I could see a way to progress within the club. I went from the Youth side, to the Reserves and then the first team.

"I couldn't get in the 1st XI regularly, though, not until this season when Marvin moved on to Yeading. In fact, yeah, it was a bit of a tricky time for me a season or two ago and I told Gordon I was considering leaving. I couldn't see how I was going to get a regular game and I was always on the bench.

"But Gordon suggested I went to Uxbridge on loan, and that was a great move. I played up front with Mickey Swaysland, who had played for the Stones before, and we worked really well together. I think I got a dozen goals in a couple of months!

"It helped my confidence too. When I came back I wanted to push hard for a place in the side, and I got my chance when Marvin left. Now I think I'm a better player all round."

I told Jermaine that he seemed to be a "proper" footballer now: Strong, consistent, an integrated team player and very, very dangerous to the opposition. "Thanks! Yeah, I'm much happier now as a player. I know that I'm going to be in the team (unless I'm late or have got lost!) and my manager and team mates have got faith in me.

"And the fans! The fans have been great to me and I want to repay that faith with lots of goals and maybe some success for the club. "Personally, this season has been much better for me because I'm a first choice. Results have been up and down but that's because we seem to have a different

line-up every week.. now things have settled down I'm sure the wins will keep coming."

JERMAINE ON... HIS FAVOURITE GAME

"It has to be AFC Wimbledon this season. There were 2,500 in the ground and it brought a whole different aspect to things. I love playing up to that sort of crowd, and really enjoyed my goal there... Coxy flicked the ball on and I just buried it. A great night."

JERMAINE ON... HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH JOLLS

"We were talking in the car on the way to Leyton last week about why it works so well between us, and we reckon it's just anticipation. Jolls goes up for the flick-on and I know where it's going to go and he knows where I'm going to be, and the other way around. "After that game at Wimbledon their players were very complimentary about Jolls and me. And they've got some tasty players themselves!"

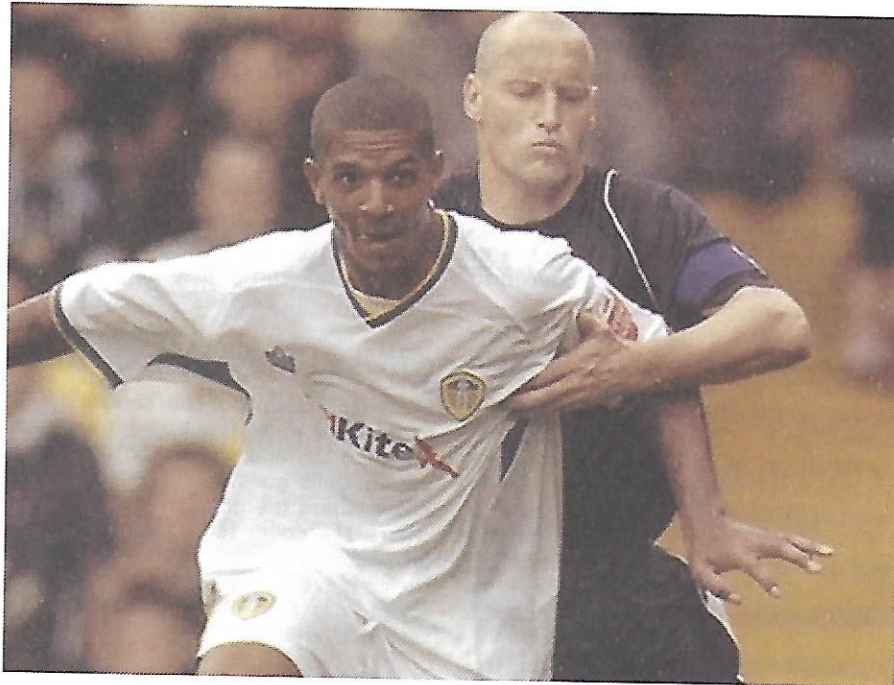
JERMAINE ON... THAT TRIAL AT READING

"It was a bit of a let-down, you know. They seemed keen, asking me and Dave Godfrey (the Stones excellent young keeper, who has recently re-joined the club) along for a few weeks. But I picked up an Achilles tendon injury and it sort of fizzled out. They didn't ask me back." That was Reading's loss...

JERMAINE ON... THE BEST GOAL HE'S EVER SCORED

"It would have to be the volley against Slough a few weeks ago. Jolls challenged for a long ball downfield, it came off their defender and just sat up in front of me. It was funny, I could hear everyone saying 'Just get the ball down, get the ball down' but there was only one thing on my mind... and it just flew in." But what about the volley at Dover? "Remind me... Oh yes, hey yes that was a good one too. Right in the far top corner. Probably the goal of the game, but don't tell Tucks!" I asked if he'd seen the video of the Dover game. "No, but

JB INTERVIEW



I'd love to. I saw the AFC Wimbledon highlights, though, and that was a bit special."

JERMAINE ON... THE BEST PLAYERS HE'S PLAYED WITH


"Well, we've got some really good young players at Wealdstone coming through, really talented, but Gary McKeown for me was different class. Absolutely awesome. He was such a great pro, and great technically, you felt he could deliver the ball anywhere. He's really been missed since he retired" But isn't Ross White in the same mould? "He could be, but he's got to get his fitness levels up!" Jermaine laughed. "Actually, me and Jolls have been trying to get him to cut out some of his long crossfield passes and just to cut little balls in to feet, so we can turn and attack players. Make the most of our pace. It might happen soon!"

JERMAINE ON... DRIVING TO BARTON (TWICE)

"No, don't ask me about Barton! Okay, what happened was that I drove to Barton for our game one week, and the next week I threw away the map for our next away game by mistake. I still had the map for Barton in the car, and sort of switched off a bit on the drive up there. I was a bit late too, and when Gordon phoned up to ask where I was I said 'It's okay boss, I'm almost at Barton.' He said: 'What! What are you doing at Barton?' and that's when I realised. I felt a right doughnut!" I asked Jermaine if he'd seen Attic's website, with its brilliant spoof Jay-Jay-Go Satellite Navigation advert and a perplexed-looking Jermaine behind the wheel. "No, I haven't got internet access at the moment, but I'll check it out as soon as I can. "Mind you, here's the really great thing... my girlfriend actually bought me a Sat-Nav system a couple of months ago for my car so I've no excuse to ever get lost again! Though lateness could be another thing..."



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White army comes down 't' south

SIMON GRAYSON

Simon Grayson, who was appointed manager of Leeds United on December 23, 2008 following the departure of Gary McAllister, made quite an impact at Elland Road gelling the side and taking it to the plays offs, following an impressive winning home run of 11 League games.

Unfortunately, a place in the Play-Off final eluded Leeds, following defeat over the two legs of the semi final by Millwall.

The 39-year-old had joined Leeds after a six-year stint at Blackpool, first as a player then as manager, during which he guided the Seaside to their highest league

placing for over 40 years.

Grayson presided over the Blackpool side which won the League One Play-Off final in 2007 to secure Championship status.

The Yorkshireman enjoyed a 17-year playing career that saw him make over 500 career appearances.

Simon started his career at Elland Road as an apprentice and made a handful of senior appearances for the club, including one at Wembley in the Mercantile Credit Centenary Tournament, before joining Leicester City in 1992.

From Leicester he enjoyed successful stints with Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers before loan spells with Shef-

field Wednesday, Stockport County, Notts County, and Bradford City.

His playing career ended after a century of appearances for Blackpool when, after a successful spell as player-caretaker manager he was handed the managerial job on a permanent basis in the summer of 2006.

GLYNN SNODIN First team coach

The former Elland Road favourite, who was part of both the promotion winning squad in 1990 and the title winning squad two years later, returns to the club after a 17-year absence.

Glynn, a highly-rated coach, made 113 appearances during a five-year stay as a player, and he was a popular figure among fans and players alike. After departing Leeds, he had spells with Hearts and Barnsley, before moving into coaching when he was placed in charge of the youth team at Scarborough. Glynn also worked alongside brother Ian, a former Leeds skipper, at Doncaster Rovers, before moving to Charlton where he became reserve team manager.

After six seasons at the Valley, he joined George



OPPOSITION

Burley at Southampton as first team coach, but 15 months later he was reunited with former Charlton manager Alan Curbishley and his ex-Leeds team-mate Mervyn Day, when he joined the coaching staff at West Ham United. The 48-year-old was also appointed assistant manager to Northern Ireland boss Nigel Worthington in the summer of 2007.

The Yorkshireman parted company with West Ham earlier last season when Gianfranco Zola took over from Curbishley, and he joined Leeds in February. He also relinquished his role with Northern Ireland at the end of the season to concentrate on his role at Leeds.

IAN MILLER **First team coach**

Ian was the first appointment to Simon Grayson's coaching staff on December 25 2008.

Known as 'Dusty', he brings a wealth of experience as a player and a coach. Playing-wise the softly-spoken Scot enjoyed a good career at Blackburn, where he regularly came up against Leeds during the 1980s. He was a member of the Blackburn side which reached the Play-Offs three successive times.

After retirement as a player, Ian was on the coaching staff at Blackburn Rovers, Wolves, and Leicester City where he joined when Rob Kelly was the manager. He has also worked with Graham Taylor and Roy Hodgson.

Ian also worked alongside Colin Hendry at Blackpool

when Grayson was reserve team manager, but he parted company with the Seaside before Grayson took up the number one post. He moved on to Manchester City under the rein of Sven Goran Eriksson where he worked in a scouting role prior to joining Leeds.

NEIL THOMPSON - **Academy Manger** **(Reserve Team Manager)**

Beverley-born Neil has been involved in professional football for 28 years, initially as a player and later in managerial roles.

A defender, his career began in 1980 when he joined Nottingham Forest, though he left there without having made a first team appearance to join Hull City. His next club was Scarborough where he made over 250 appearances before moving to Ipswich Town and making a further 225 first team outings.

Spells with Barnsley, Oldham Athletic, York City and a further period at Scarborough followed.

He was player-manager at York, Scarborough and Boston United before becoming Academy manager at Leeds. His role is one of overseeing the Academy operation at the club.

Since the departure of David Geddis in late 2006, Neil has doubled up as reserve team manager.

NEIL REDFEARN **Under 16/Under 18** **Manager**

The vastly experienced Redfearn joined the club in January 2009 after stepping

down from his post as assistant manager at York City.

Neil is the fifth highest appearance maker of all time in the Football League, having made 790 appearances during a career spanning 24 years.

He started out in 1982 at Bolton Wanderers and his professional career took in Lincoln, Doncaster, Crystal Palace, Watford, Oldham, Barnsley, Charlton, Bradford, Wigan, Halifax, Boston, Rochdale, and Scarborough. His coaching career started in 2001 when he was appointed caretaker manager of Halifax for the first time—he had another stint in 2002—and he also had coaching stints with Scarborough, Northwich Victoria, and York City.

Neil's love of football continued after his professional playing career ended and he after featuring for a number of non-league sides he was playing for Salford City as recently as 2008.

DARAL PUGH **Assistant Academy** **Manager**

Welshman Daral, a winger, made almost 400 first team appearances during a career spanning 13 years. It began in 1977 when he joined Doncaster Rovers as an apprentice. He signed professional forms a year later and was at the club for six years before moving on to Huddersfield Town.

After two years there he joined Rotherham United where he remained for three years before playing first for Cambridge United and then Torquay United. He finished



his playing career with Bridlington Town. He is a former Soccer Academy Director of Boston United.

CASPER ANKERGREN

The Danish international re-established himself as United's first choice keeper during the 2008/09 season, making 39 first team appearances, though this was 11 fewer than in the 2007-2008 campaign.

After starting the season as No 1 keeper injury kept him out of a number of games, when his place was taken by Dave Lucas, who clocked up 18 appearances.

But once Simon Grayson had taken over as manager, Ankergren became his first choice keeper and he played in the final 27 matches of the season, keeping 11 clean sheets as United battled their way to the Play-Offs.

The 6ft 3in keeper signed a three-year contract with the club at the beginning of August 2007, after initially coming from Brøndby on a loan deal at the start of the year. He was the first player to sign a contract after the club emerged from administration.

Now in his third full season with the club, Casper has clocked up over 100 appearances for Leeds United.



JASON CROWE

Former Arsenal youngster Jason Crowe was Leeds United's first signing of the summer. The 30-year-old right-back has spent the past four seasons at Northampton, making almost 200 appearances, but his contract at Sixfields expires in June.

Crowe started out at Arsenal, making three appearances for Arsene Wenger's side, and after a loan move to Crystal Palace, he commanded a £1m fee when he moved from Highbury to Portsmouth in the summer of 1999.

The Sidcup-born player, who can play at right-back, centre-back or central midfield, made almost 100 appearances for Pompey, had a short loan spell at Brentford, and enjoyed a period with Grimsby before linking up with Northampton.

LUCIANO BECCHIO

Luciano's hard working physical style of forward play made the striker a firm

favourite with United fans during the 2008-2009 season. And the Argentine was rewarded for his efforts with a 19 goal tally.

He joined the Elland Road club on trial during the 2008 summer tour of Ireland where he impressed sufficiently to be awarded a permanent deal.

He made his United debut against Shelbourne and also impressed against Barnet three days later.

Having proved himself a prolific scorer in Spain, Luciano was hoping to make an impact at Elland Road.

His previous experience included a stint with Barcelona reserves and an impressive spell with Merida.

The Argentine netted his first goal for the club at Yeovil Town in August after joining for an undisclosed fee and his physical, hard-working approach had earned him 10 goals before Christmas 2008.

By the end of the campaign, Luciano scored 19

OPPOSITION



goals, including an aggregate equaliser in the Play-Off semi-final against Millwall at Elland Road.

JERMAINE BECKFORD

Jermaine started the 2008/09 season in fine form, and had eight goals to his name by September 6, including a first ever professional hat-trick, scored against Chester City in the Carling Cup. The striker scored his second professional hat-trick at Northampton in the FA Cup in November and became the quickest United player to pass the 20-goal mark for over 40 years.

A first league hat-trick followed in March against Yeovil and two weeks later he became only the fifth Leeds player to pass 30 goals in a season when he netted twice against MK Dons at Elland Road. He took that total to 34 by the end of the season.

He had joined United in March 2006 when he was plucked from non-league Wealdstone—but it wasn't until the 2007/08 season that the striker was handed a chance to shine.

Unable to force his way past a raft of strikers during Kevin Blackwell's tenure, Jermaine was loaned to Carlisle for a month early in the 2006/07 season.

On his return to Elland



Road, and with Dennis Wise installed as the club's new manager, he made his first league start against Sunderland on Boxing Day 2006.

He was soon off on loan again and he spent the final months of the season at Scunthorpe United where his eight goals—including two stunning strikes—helped the Iron win promotion to the Championship.

But his big opportunity with United finally came at the start of 2007/08 when Wise handed Beckford and Tresor Kandol the chance to impress as a strike pairing.

The duo forged a good partnership as the club embarked on a terrific start to the season—Jermaine scored three 90th minute goals—and he went on to claim 20 goals in the league

as United reached the Play-Off finals.

FABIAN DELPH

Bradford-born Fabian's impressive form in season 2008-2009 was underlined by his inclusion in the PFA League One Team of the Year, and the winning of the FourFourTwo Young Player of the Year.

He was also named the PFA League One Player of the Month for November, and enjoyed a hat-trick at the club's Player of the Year Awards when he picked up Young Player of the Year, Players Player of the Year, and Goal of the Season.

A product of the club's Academy system, he made his debut as an 18-year-old when he came on as substitute against Derby County at

Pride Park on the last day of the 2006-2007 campaign.

In 2007-2008, however, his first team experiences were limited to two substitute outings—at Portsmouth in the Carling Cup and at home to Gillingham in the final game of the League One campaign. He was an unused substitute for the cup game at Macclesfield.

A midfielder, Fabian has pace and good ball control and after representing England under-19s during the summer of 2008 he joined up with Gary McAllister's first team squad for the final weeks of pre-season.

He impressed against Barnet and was handed his first start of the season in the 5-2 Carling Cup win at Chester City. Fab quickly established himself as a member of McAllister's squad and, despite attracting enquiries from a number of Premiership clubs, the youngster signed a four-year contract with the club in September 2008.

He celebrated his new contract by scoring his first goal for the club the following day against Crewe at Elland Road, and he collected his third Man of the Match award in four games.

The youngster's development continued at a pace and he won his first England under-21 cap against the Czech Republic at Bramall Lane in November. His run of fine form continued with stunning goals against Stockport and Brighton, the latter proving to be the club's Goal of the Season.

The teenager made his 50th appearance of last sea-

son in the Play-Off semi-final first leg against Millwall.

JASON CROWE

Jason joined the club in July after spending four seasons at Northampton.

The 30-year-old defender started his career at Arsenal—he was dismissed after just 30 seconds on his debut against Birmingham in 1997—and after making three appearances for the Gunners, he joined Portsmouth in a £1m deal.

Jason made over 100 appearances for Pompey and was part of the squad which won promotion to the Premier League in 2003. From Portsmouth, Jason had a spell at Grimsby prior to joining Northampton.

Jason is primarily a right-back, but can play at centre-back and also in midfield. Jason scored twice against Leeds last season for Northampton.

MIKE GRELLA

American striker who joined the club in January after a successful trial period.

Mike scored a hat-trick on his first reserve outing against Barnsley and followed that with two in his next game, against Grimsby.

Mike has represented his country at under-20 level.

The American made his first team debut at Huddersfield in February and in all last season he appeared 11 times as substitute for the first team was an unused sub on five occasions.

SHANE HIGGS

The Oxford-born goalkeeper, a member of Wolves promo-

tion squad last season, joined on a one-year contract during the summer and will provide competition for Casper Ankergrén. The 32-year-old joined Leeds after spending 10 years at Cheltenham Town.

He made over 300 appearances for the Whaddon Road club, but joined Coca-Cola Championship winners Wolves on an extended loan deal last season where he provided additional goalkeeping cover for Mick McCarthy's squad.

JONNY HOWSON

United's Academy is well known for producing good young players and Jonny, who started the new season two short of his 100th appearance, is one of the latest to roll off the production line.

A keen Leeds fan as a schoolboy, he realised a dream when he made his senior team debut for Leeds in September 2006 in a cup game against Barnet.

He scored his first goal for the senior team the season before last, against Norwich, at Carrow Road, and he continued his progress last term and became a regular choice, particularly after Gary McAllister took over as manager.

A determined and skilful midfielder player, Jonny is well capable of scoring goals and bagged a brace in the vital League One second leg play-off semi final at Carlisle to put Leeds into the Wembley play-off final.

Jonny was the winner of the club's Young Player of the Year award for 2007/08,

OPPOSITION

and made 51 appearances last term, firmly establishing himself in the centre of the park following Simon Grayson's arrival as manager.

ANDREW HUGHES

A versatile player, Andrew is a right-sided midfielder player but can play anywhere across the midfield and has even played at full-back.

He began his professional career Oldham Athletic in the 1995-96 season and played for the Latics for three years before being transferred to Notts County and in four seasons for the Magpies he made well over a century of appearances.

In 2001-02 he moved again – this time to Reading where he was a consistent performer totting up more than 180 games for the Royals before joining Norwich City in July 2005.

It was Dennis Wise who signed him for Leeds for the start of the season before last and Andrew made 43 appearances, quite a number of them at left back, and scored his first goal for the club at Millwall in April 2008.

Popular with the fans, Andrew is a no-nonsense player capable of rallying those around him and he was rewarded with a year's contract extension this season.

BRADLEY JOHNSON

Bradley made just one start under Gary McAllister last season and joined Brighton on loan where he played 10 times, scoring five goals.

On returning to Leeds, he made his first start since August at Brighton on January 17 and was involved with

Simon Grayson's squad, usually among the substitutes.

Bradley began his playing career with Northampton Town when he signed a professional contract in June 2005 after having progressed through the Cambridge United youth team.

He made one appearance with Cambridge while a trainee at the club and also spent a period on loan at Gravesend in the latter half of the 2005-2006 season. He signed a new two-year deal with Northampton in April 2007 but left in January 2008 to join the Elland Road club for an undisclosed fee and he went straight into the side.

He was an ever-present from the time he arrived at the club to the end of that season, making 24 appearances either from the start of a game or as a substitute.

NEIL KILKENNY

Although born in England, Neil grew up in Brisbane and played at international level for Australia in June 2006 when he came on as a substitute in a 3-1 World Cup warm-up win.

He spent the summer at the Beijing Olympics but, like so many other Olympic footballers, it wasn't until later in the season that he came to the fore with a string of impressive displays after Simon Grayson gave him the opportunity to play in his favoured central midfield role.

Neil began his career as an apprentice player at Arsenal but left there in 2004 to join Birmingham City, though he was loaned out to Oldham in

November of that year to gain first team experience and he made his first senior team start.

He enjoyed a fair amount of success there and was rewarded by being voted the club's Players' Young Player of the Year. He rejoined Birmingham for the 2005-2006 and played 26 games for the Blues before having another spell at Oldham before moving to Elland Road where he signed a three-and-a-half-year contract.

The United manager rebuffed an approach from Doncaster Rovers for Kilkenny during the summer around the same time as the player underwent a minor operation to assist with his breathing.

RUI MARQUES

The Angolan international central defender was first choice centre-back for much of the 2008-2009 season when he forged a partnership with Richard Naylor.

Although injury caused him to miss a number of games during October and November of last year he still ended the season having made 37 appearances.

Rui, who signed a new two-year contract with United at the end of the 2007-2008, scored his first goal for the Elland Road club on August 18 2007 in a 4-1 victory over Southend United.

He was a first choice defender for United in the first half of the season before last but then missed a number of matches in January 2008 when he linked up with Angola for the African Cup of

Nations.

He regained his place in the United side after his return from international duty, even captaining the side.

LUBOMIR MICHALIK

Slovakian international defender Lubo was a regular choice at centre back during the first half of the 2008-2009 season but struggled to retain a place in the side once the experienced Richard Naylor joined United from Ipswich Town in January.

Lubo had established himself at the heart of United's defence following his return to Elland Road on a permanent contract at the end of the January 2008 transfer window. His solid performances in partnership with first Rui Marques and then Paul Huntington were such as to make him an ever present in United's final 20 games of the 2007-2008 season.

He had initially joined United in March 2007 when then manager Dennis Wise persuaded Bolton Wanderers to allow him to come on loan and he was on the point of coming to Leeds when Wise left. But new boss Gary McAllister still wanted the player to come.

Lubo had originally signed for Bolton in January 2007 from FC Senec on a three-and-a-half-year deal, but after impressing at Leeds later that season, he joined the club permanently the following year.

RICHARD NAYLOR

The former Ipswich Town defender brings a wealth of experience to the United back line.

Richard, a Leeds lad who followed the club as a youngster, made over 300 appearances for Ipswich and skippered the club during his long stay at Portman Road.

He finally joined his hometown club in January 2009 after spending 16 years at Ipswich. Initially, he joined Leeds on loan before signing a two-and-a-half year contract with the club.

Richard, who scored his first Leeds goal against Southend in January, took over the captain's armband in the absence of Frazer Richardson and was an ever-present in the side last season following his arrival in January, making 24 appearances.

BEN PARKER

A former England youth international, Ben was rewarded for some impressive displays last season by being offered an extension to his contract at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 campaign.

Ben made his United debut at Macclesfield Town in the Carling Cup in the 2007-2008 season.

His previous experience of senior football came during the 2006/07 season when he spent the campaign on loan at Bradford City. The highly-rated left-back also gained further experience at Darlington, where he helped the Quakers reach the League Two Play-Offs at the end of the 2007-2008 season.

Ben returned as a key member of the senior squad and scored his first goal at Northampton in the FA Cup last season.

DAVID PRUTTON

After enjoying a consistently good 2007-2008 season—his first with United—during which he made 41 appearances and scored four goals, David didn't manage to hold down a regular place in the first team last season.

Hull born David, a product of Nottingham Forest's youth system, is a versatile midfield player with plenty of experience. He made over 155 senior team appearances with Forest and also gained England Under 21 international honours, making 25 appearances between 2001 and 2004.

His form attracted interest from Southampton, who were then in the Premier League, and he moved to the South Coast club in a £2.5million transfer in 2003 before joining Leeds as a free agent during the troubled summer of 2007.

Prutton also established himself as something of a cult-figure among the Leeds fans during his first season at the club with his long locks and his humorous interview style.

Those locks were shorn at the back end of the 2008/09 season and, while not figuring in the first team, Prutton scored the goal which helped the reserve team claim the East League title.

ANDY ROBINSON

The likeable Liverpoolian joined United in the summer of 2008 after playing a key role in Swansea City's League One title winning campaign and has become a firm favourite with Elland Road supporters.

LEEDS UNITED

Andy marked his first season with United by making 41 appearances and scoring six goals.

Andy was named in the League One Team of the Season when Swansea won the League One Championship but he turned down the offer of a new contract with the Welsh club in favour of a move to Elland Road.

The winger had spent five years at Swansea, making over 250 appearances, and was a popular figure there too. A late arrival to the professional game, he joined his local club, Tranmere Rovers, at the age of 23 after impressing for Liverpool-based non-league outfit Cammell Laird.

ROBERT SNODGRASS

The highly-rated forward was brought to the club by Gary McAllister in the summer of 2008.

Having captured the attention of a number of English clubs while playing for Livingston and then on loan at Stirling Albion, Robert had no doubts when Leeds United came calling and he joined the club at the end of July 2008.

A Scottish youth international, he scored 10 goals in the Scottish First Division the season before he moved south and his pace and goal-scoring ability caught the eye. He was linked with a move to Barcelona at one stage, following suggestions that the Spanish giants wanted to take him on trial.

Robert is still a relative young player but he made a big impression during his first season with the Elland

Road club.

Rob made his United debut at Scunthorpe in August and scored in the Carling Cup win at Chester City four days later.

He has scored some stunning goals, including a scissor-kick against Northampton to bring up the century for the season, and he deservedly picked up the Regional Members Clubs' Player of the Season Award.

ALAN SHEEHAN

Republic of Ireland under-21 international Alan Sheehan turned down the offer of a new contract with Leicester City to join Leeds United during the summer of 2008.

Alan originally arrived at Elland Road in January 2008 on loan and made 10 appearances as the club reached the Play-Offs. Alan scored his first goal in the 1-0 win at Doncaster Rovers in April, but a red card at Yeovil in the penultimate league game led to a three-game suspension.

Alan's professional career started in 2003 when he was signed by Leicester City and he also had a loan spell at Mansfield Town. He made his Irish under-21 international debut in June 2005 after previously representing the under-19s.

The defender made 14 appearances last season, but ended the campaign on loan at Crewe Alexandra.

ENOCK SHOWUNMI

Enoch Showunmi joined the club from Bristol City during the summer of 2008. A late-starter in the game, Enoch was 21 when he signed for

Luton Town. He won promotion with the Hatters, making over 100 appearances for the club, before joining Bristol City on a Bosman in the summer of 2006.

The Nigerian international played a key role in firing Bristol City to promotion from League One, but moved on to Sheffield Wednesday on loan during the latter half of last season.

Enoch scored his Leeds United debut at Scunthorpe in August and went on to score five goals in 10 starts. Unfortunately, the striker suffered a blood clot on his lung in December 2008 and was unable to play for the remainder of the campaign.

AIDAN WHITE

Aidan became the latest 16-year-old to make his debut for the club, against Crystal Palace in the Carling Cup in August 2008.

A product of the club's Academy system, the teenage left-back also won the Man of the Match award after the JPT win against Bradford City in September. Aidan made his league debut at Carlisle in September, and turned 17 at the start of October 2008.

His promising displays in the early part of last season prompted the club to offer him a new deal designed to keep him at Elland Road until 2012 and which he signed in November.

He gained England Under 17 honours when he came on as a 73rd minute substitute in a friendly game against the Czech Republic at Walsall's Banks's Stadium in March 2009.

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