



1	ROGER FREESTONE	
2	GARETH PHILLIPS	
3	MICHAEL HOWARD	
4	NICK CUSACK	
5	CHRISTOPHER TODD	
6	MATHEW BOUND	
7	JASON PRICE	
8	NICOLAS FABIANO	
9	GIOVANNI SAVARESE	
10	MATTHIAS VERSCHAVE	
11	JONATHAN COATES	
12	LEIGH DE-VULGT	
13	JASON JONES	
14	MICHAEL KEEGAN	
15	WALTER BOYD	
16	ANDREW MUMFORD	
	STEVE JONES	
	JASON SMITH	
	RICHARD APPLEBY	
	STEVE WATKIN	
	KRISTIAN O'LEARY	
	DAMIAN LACEY	
	STUART ROBERTS	
	RYAN CASEY	
	LEE JENKINS	
	KRISTIAN JAMES	
	BARI MORGAN	
	CARL MOUNTY	
	LYNDON GREGSON	
	DAVID ROMO	
	ALEX DAVIES	

	KEVIN DEARDEN 1	
	MARK MCGREGOR 2	
	PHIL HARDY 3	
	GARETH OWEN 4	
	BRIAN CAREY 5	
	DAVE RIDLER 6	
	MARTYN CHALK 7	
	KEVIN RUSSELL 8	
	CRAIG FAULCONBRIDGE 9	
	DARREN FERGUSON 10	
	WAYNNE PHILLIPS 11	
	PAUL BARRETT	13
	ROBIN GIBSON	
	STEVE ROBERTS	
	DANNY WILLIAMS	
	ANDY MORRELL	
	HECTOR SAM	
	CARLOS EDWARDS	
	MICHAEL BLACKWOOD	
	LEE ROCHE	
	STEVE THOMAS	
	KEVIN HANNON	
	DAVE WARREN	
	KRISTIAN ROGERS	
	DAVID WALSH	
	PAUL WHITFIELD	
	LEE TRUNDLE	
	DENNIS LAWRENCE	
	SHAUN PEJIC	
	ADRIAN MOODY	
	EMAD BOUANANE	

Team Line-up page sponsored by
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MATCH OFFICIALS

Brian Lawlor
(Holyhead, Ynysmon)

E.J. King
(Lower Cwmtwrch)

W.P. Flavell
(Neath)

H. Griffiths
(Merthyr)



BBC SPORT Wales



TONIGHT'S MASCOTS

Ashley
Fairweather



Ceri
James



Jessica
Jay
(Plus Matthew Pryce
- no picture)

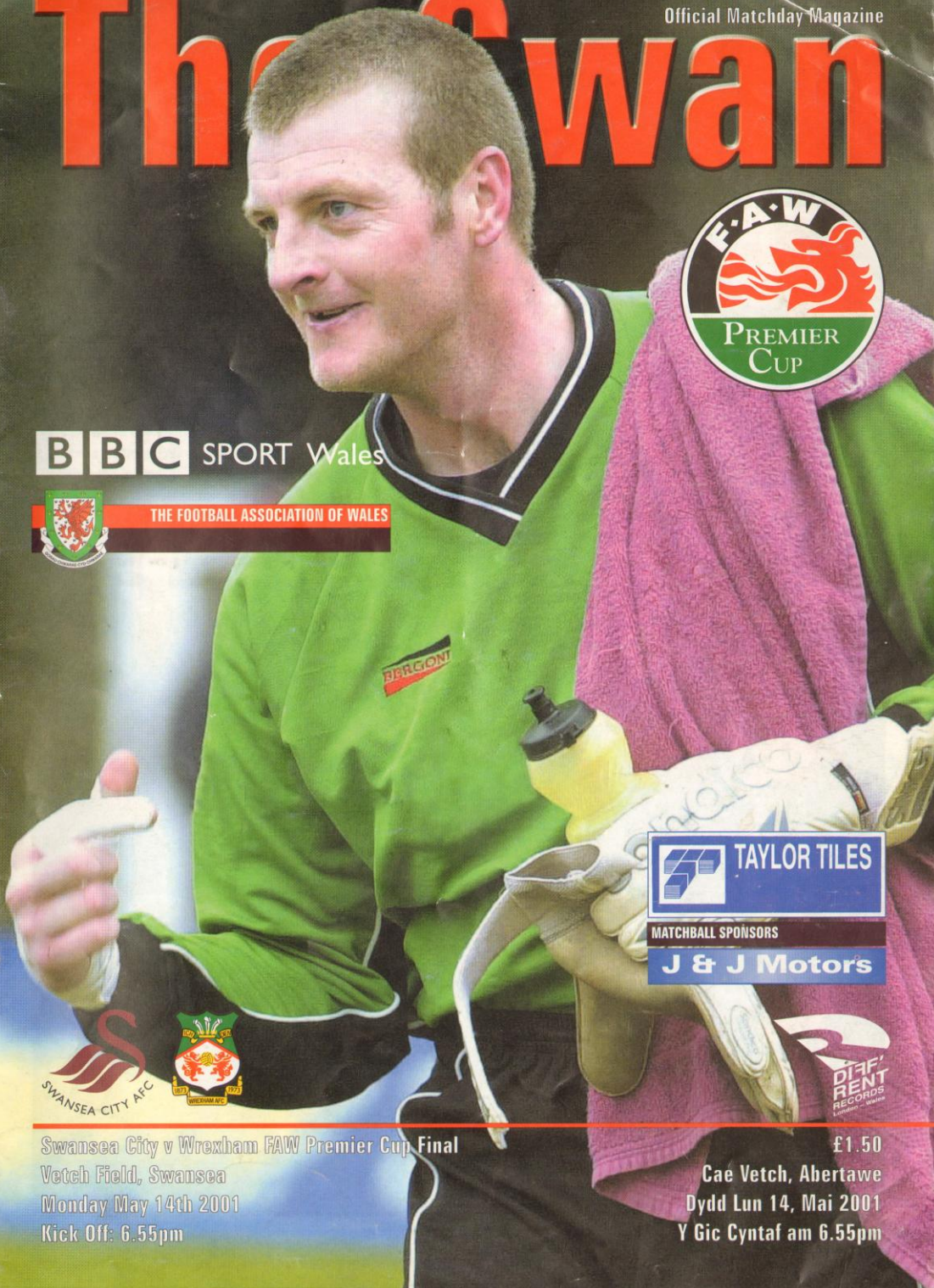


The Swan

Creoso i'r Vetch
Official Matchday Magazine



BBC SPORT Wales



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Vetch Field, Swansea
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A Very Special Cup

The FAW Premier Cup is a special competition, which has a very special relationship with television and radio. Its patron, BBC Wales Sport invests heavily in the tournament, and the Premier Cup Board, along with the competing clubs have always co-operated in full with their needs. It appreciates the problems faced by BBC Wales in securing slots in the schedule for both "live" and "highlight" coverage, slots during which Wales can opt out of national schedules. This season has been especially difficult for clubs and broadcasters, with weather causing havoc and cancelled games. In consequence, coverage has been less than in previous years, causing a lack of continuity for viewers, but television audiences have held up well, with a recent highlights programme screened at midnight beating the highlights of Real Madrid v Bayern Munich on another channel "hands down".

There is no doubt that a place in the Premier Cup is sought after by every League of Wales club, and this has added an extra dimension to the competitiveness of the league. Participants all value the tournament, but the Board is going to be asking them all to re-double their efforts to make each game a spectacle worthy of extensive television coverage.

A bonus from the Premier Cup has been the improvements made to stadiums. The Board is determined that, after the immediate need to provide television gantries, studio's and "in-camera" seating, the clubs should continue to develop their facilities, using the initial payment they receive each year for that purpose.

The Premier Cup is not a simple competition to run. Finding dates for fixtures in a crowded schedule, especially for our Nationwide clubs, is not easy and they must meet BBC Wales' requirements. Board meetings always have a heavy agenda and I am grateful to David Rhodes, Ray Smiles and Phil Pritchard who have contributed forcefully and professionally to it functioning so well. During the year Paula O'Halloran resigned and I appreciated greatly her contribution during the Cup's formative years. Her replacement, Jeff Thomas has already shown his judgement and wisdom. Needless to say the bulk of the work is done by Competition Secretary, Malcolm Stammers who deals with "the unreasonable" in a most reasonable way which never ceases to amaze. Finally, the guidance and counsel of Company Secretary, David Collins is enjoyed by us all. My task is to act as an independent Chairman and to do everything possible to ensure the competition has a healthy future. Welsh football needs it.



Action from Thursdays semi v Merthyr at the Vetch

My thanks to all the clubs, players and officials who have been involved in the Premier Cup in a difficult year. Congratulations to tonight's finalists and to the officials selected to take charge of our Final. We are most grateful to all the staff here at the Vetch for making many of the arrangements for tonight's game at what has been short notice. One of the honours given to the Chairman is to present the Cup and medals but, because of the late schedule change, I cannot be at the game tonight and my Board colleague, Phillip Pritchard will take on that pleasant task.

Dr. Iain Skewis

Roll Call

INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN:

Dr. Iain Skewis

DIRECTORS:

Paula O'Halloran

(till Nov. 2000)

Jeff Thomas

(since Jan. 2001)

Ray Smiles

Phil Pritchard

David Rhodes

COMPANY SECRETARY:

David Collins

COMPETITION SECRETARY:

Malcolm Stammers

PROGRAMME PRODUCTION:

Editor: Colin Jones

Contributors: Dr. Iain Skewis

Malcolm Stammers

Ian Gwyn Hughes

Photography: Richard Velardo

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Design: Simon 'PROF' Deeley.

(Probably the best designer in the world!)

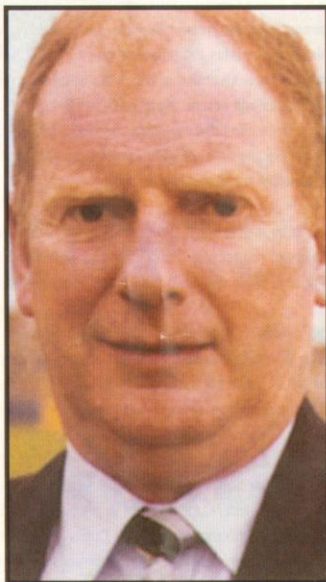
Mike Lewis

MESSAGE FROM MIKE LEWIS

MANAGING DIRECTOR SWANSEA CITY F.C.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Swansea City Football Club can I extend a very warm welcome to the Directors, Officials, players and management of Wrexham Football Club for tonight's F.A.W. Premier Cup Final.

Any Cup Final is an important occasion and tonight's game is no exception.



Terfynol Prif Gwpan yr FAW.

Courtesy of the BBC we have a competition that has grown in importance and offers the three Nationwide League competing clubs the opportunity to not only sample the delights of being drawn against opposition that are not normally found on their fixture list, but also the real possibility of earning cash rewards as they progress through the qualifying stages.

The sponsorship of the competition by the BBC is much appreciated. Additionally the TV coverage of games that would not normally command the attendance of TV cameras at their ground, takes Welsh football into many homes and can only enhance the game in the Principality.

Thanks also to the F.A.W. This has not been an easy season in terms of fixture arrangements and competition secretary Malcolm Stammers deserves praise at the highest level for managing to complete the programme in spite of severe restriction caused by fixture congestion.

We recently entertained Wrexham at the Vetch in a Nationwide League fixture. Obviously, we hope that tonight the tables will be turned and we can be victorious. However, of equal importance is the need for the game to be a great advert for Welsh Football.

We believe in Welsh Football and will do all we can to promote its interest.

Finally, a word of thanks to the match officials. We sincerely hope that they have a relatively peaceful night!

Mike Lewis

Ar ran Bwrdd Cyfarwyddol Clwb Pel Droed Dinas Abertwae, hoffwn estyn croeso cynnes iawn i'r Cyfarwyddwr, Swyddogion, Chwaraewyr a Rheolwr Clwb Pel Droed Wrecsam i gem heno sef Gem

Yn ddiweddar, rhoddwyd croeso i dim Wrecsam ar Gae'r Fetch mewn Gem y Gynghrair Genedlaethol. Gobeithiwn dalu'r pwyth heno ac y gallwn fod yn fuddugol! Er hynny, yr un mor bwysig yw'r angen i'r gem fod yn hysbyseb da dros bel droed Cymru.

Mae gennym ffydd ym mhel droed Cymru a gwnawn bopeth a fedrwn i'w hyrwyddo.

Yn olaf, gair o ddiolch i swyddogion y gem. Gobeithiwn yn ddiffuant y byddant yn mwynhau'r noson mewn gymharol heddwch.

Mae unrhyw Gem Derfynol Cwpan yn achlysur pwysig ac nid yw gem heno'n eithriad.

Gyda chwarteisi'r BBC mae gennym gwpan sydd wedi tyfu mewn pwysigrwydd ac sy'n cynnig i'r tri tim o'r Gynghrair Cenedlaethol gyfle nid yn unig i brofi pleser cystadlu yn erbyn gwrthwynebwyr nad ydyn yn cwrdd fel arfer, ond hefyd posibilrwydd real o wobriannol fel y maent yn symud ymlaen drwy'r gystadleuaeth.

Gwerthfawrogu'n ym fawr iawn bod y BBC yn noddor gystadleuaeth hon. Wefyd mae'r sylw anarferol a roddir i'r gemau yma pan fydd camerau teledu yn eu ffilio yn trosglwyddo pel droed Cymru i nifer fawr o gartrefi er lles y gem yn y dywysogaeth.

Diolch hefyd i'r FAW. Ni fu'r tymor hwn yn rhwydd o rhan pennu amseriad gemau. Dylid talu diolch uchel iawn i Michael Stammers a lwyddo i gwblhau y rhaglen er waethair cyfyngiadau llym a achoswyd gan orlenwad y rhaglen.

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GOALKEEPER/GOLWR

For the first time since the 1979/80 season, the Swans this season have been forced to play four different goalkeepers in league and cup matches.

Second year trainee **Alex Davies** was given a second half outing at Bury in early March following the sending off of **Jason Jones** for two bookable offences, while three weeks earlier, first year professional **Carl Mounty** had been thrust into the spotlight at the Vetch Field in the LDV Cup clash against Brentford after **Roger Freestone** had received a red card.

During the season Mounty has made numerous appearances for Waterford (Irish league) and Bangor City on loan transfers. Welsh International **Roger Freestone** has just completed his tenth season at the Vetch Field since transferring from Chelsea in September 1991 for a £45,000 transfer fee.

One of the most consistent 'keepers outside the top flight of football, Roger has amassed a total of 439 league appearances for the Swans, since arriving on a permanent transfer in 1991. Two years earlier he had given a good account of himself during



Steve Watkin

a three month loan spell at the Vetch Field, making 14 league appearances. Roger is one of the few goalkeepers in the game who have successfully scored from the penalty spot for their club.

Jason Jones has just completed his third season as understudy to Freestone at the Vetch Field, and joined the Swans in December 1997 after being released by Liverpool. Since making his league debut at Mansfield in the last match of the 1997/98 season, Jason has made just 7 league appearances for the Swans, three this season.

DEFENDERS/AMDDIFFYNWYR

With the Swans possessing the meaneast defence in the Third Division during their Championship season, long term injuries this season has seen the defensive formation shuffled around in an attempt to find a combination good enough for the higher standard of football in the Second Division.

From a depressing relegation finale, young **Chris Todd** has emerged as a defender to watch out for, showing poise, and his composure, despite his lack of experience. Thrust into the spotlight for his debut at the Vetch Field against Northampton in early March, his confidence and consistency increased as he adapted to the higher skill levels of his opponents. **Leigh DeVulght** also emerged at the end of the season as a defender with something to offer, displaying composed performances in either full back position, or at central defence.

Steve Jones has probably been the most unlucky player at the Vetch Field over the last decade with his history of injuries. A never say die competitor, he underwent a groin and stomach operation in mid-October, only to sustain an ankle ligament injury in the first minute of this comeback match at the Vetch against TNS in the Premier Cup.

Likewise, **Jason Smith** suffered a twist-



Giovanni Savarese

ed ankle in early February against Brentford, and in his return game at Stoke, suffered another injury to his ankle which has kept him out of contention for the rest of the season.

Smith and Jones epitomise the type of player required when a backs to the wall situation confronts a team especially away from home. **Kristian O'Leary** has had his longest run in the Swans first team this season since making his league debut at Bradford City in March 1996.

Starting this season in a midfield role, his value to the club is evident when he adapts to either a central defensive, or full back position. Unfortunately, he has missed most of the last third of the season through injuries.

Michael Howard made his league debut for the Swans shortly after impressing in a trial period at the Vetch after being released by Tranmere Rovers in 1998. Over the last three seasons he has been a regular inclusion in the Swans squad at left full back, or in a left sided midfield role when the side reverts to a three man defensive formation.

Matthew Bound was placed on the standby list for the Welsh International

squad earlier this season, by virtue of his grandparent's nationality. A strong, left sided competitor at the heart of the Swans rearguard, Matthew was a £55,000 signing from Stockport County in November 1997, and at the end of this season has made 155 league appearances for the Swans.

Jason Price has covered for the absence of Steve Jones at right full back for a major part of this season. Not a natural defender, Jason's defensive duties has meant that the Swans have missed his presence on the right side of midfield to exploit the opposition in their third of the field. Signed by former manager Frank Burrows in July 1995, Jason made his first team debut against Doncaster Rovers in January 1996.

MIDFIELD/MAESWYR CANOL

Diminutive midfielder Gareth Phillips has made a strong impression in the Swans engine room this season with his energetic displays.

Formerly a trainee at the Vetch Field, **Gareth Phillips** made his league debut for the Swans in November 1996 at Cambridge United. Scored his first senior goal for the Swans in the first leg of the semi-final at Pen-y-darren Park recently.

Lee Jenkins and **Damian Lacey** also made their league debuts during the 1996/97 season, and both players have featured regularly in the Swans line-up.

Lee Jenkins this season has seen him have his longest run in the first team, playing 39 league appearances. He burst onto the scene in September 1996 whilst still a trainee, scoring on his debut at the Vetch Field against Hereford United.

Damian Lacey missed the start of the season through a stress fracture, but, after forcing his way back into the squad in late November, another ankle injury in March saw him sidelined for the relegation run in

any club, at any level of football. Since starting his career at Filbert Street, Nick also played for Peterborough, Motherwell, Darlington, Oxford United, Wycombe (loan) and Fulham.

Throughout his career, injuries at vital stages have prevented him from establishing himself as a regular member of the Swans midfield. The balance of the Swans midfield was certainly upset earlier in the season following the knee ligament injury to **Jonathan Coates**.

An exciting left sided midfielder, capable of playing at left full back, he is one of the players in the game rated more highly by the opposition than by his own supporters. After **Roger Freestone**, **Jonathan** is the longest serving player at the Vetch Field, making his league debut at Fulham in November 1993.

Ryan Casey had shown enough promise on his return to first team duty this season to suggest that he could compensate for the loss of Coates. Unfortunately, just as he was making his presence felt on the Swans left side of midfield he was carried off with a ruptured medial ligament, and a depressed fracture of the tibia following a clash with Reading's Graeme Murty at the Vetch Field in an LDV Cup game in mid-February, sidelining him until next season.

Nick Cosack started the season as a striker alongside Steve Watkin, a position he started his professional career with at Leicester City. Widely respected for the manner in which he gets on with the game, Nick eventually reverted to his midfield holding role as the season progressed.

An experienced campaigner, vital for



Jason Price

A strong competitor in midfield, he is also capable of playing as a striker, or in defence. Second year professional **Michael Keegan** is a wide, right sided midfielder, capable of delivering accurate crosses from wide positions. Two seasons ago he had been included in the England U-18 for squad training at Lilleshall, whilst still a trainee.

French midfielder **David Rome** joined the Swans on a free transfer from French First Division side Guingamp, after impressing during an earlier trial period at the Vetch Field. Took some time to get to grips with the physical side of the British game, but has since shown he is a clever passer in midfield, and a strong presence at dead ball situations with his accurate ball distribution.

He missed the first leg at Merthyr because of his involvement with the French Olympic squad.

On his day **Richie Appleby** is probably one of the most talented players at the Vetch Field, capable of beating the opposition with ease, and having the versatility to play in a variety of positions. He has unfortunately been injured for most of this season, and his appearances have been limited to just 5 appearances from the substitute bench.

French U-18 and U-20 International **Nicolas Fabiano** has recently gained recognition from his national U-21 squad, and is due to play in a Tournament in Argentina at the end of May.

Andrew Mumford made his full Swans debut against Wrexham at the Vetch Field a few weeks ago, creating a huge impression during the forty five minutes he played. He was unable to come out for the second half because of a calf strain, but gave enough indication of the talent that is available on the League of Wales circuit.

Signed from Llanelli at the start of the season, Andrew had previously had trials with Newcastle United and Grimsby Town before deciding to sign a professional contract at the Vetch Field.



Jonathan Coates

A tricky, right sided midfielder, he joined the Swans from Paris St. Germain at the beginning of February, and scored his first goal for the Swans in his first full appearance for the Swans at Northampton.

STRIKERS/SAETHWYR

Former Wrexham favourite **Steve Watkin** has missed the end of season run in for the second successive time with a wrist injury. He sustained a wrist fracture at the end of the 1999/2000 season, and recently has undergone surgery to have a pin inserted in an attempt to strengthen the wrist.

Possessing good control, Steve has always worked hard at his game, and despite not being a prolific goalscorer, he still nets his quota of goals. With the Swans struggling to score goals this season, he still returned seven goals in the league, the same as the previous term.

Matthias Verschave joined the Swans along with Fabiano on a loan transfer from Paris St. Germain. Top goalscorer for the French club's reserve team, Matthias scored three league goals for the Swans in the last two league games of the season, all with headers.

An extremely quick front runner, Matthias also struggled initially to cope with the physical side of the game in this country, but possesses a good first touch, and ability to link up well with his midfield-

ers. In April he played a representative game for the French National Universities side in Libya.

Stuart Roberts picked up his tenth cap at U-21 level for Wales this season. A regular inclusion throughout the season for the Swans, his pace and ability to beat his opponent was always evident, either on the flank, or in a central striker role. Having just completed his third season as a professional, Stuart is undoubtedly a name for the future where pace is a vital ingredient.

His ability also to deliver telling crosses from the flanks has also been a feature of his game.

Giovanni Savarese made an immediate impact following his signing in mid-October by scoring both goals in the 2-1 home win over Stoke City. Signed from MSL side San Jose Earthquakes, Giovanni has regularly featured in the Venezuelan national side over the last couple of seasons, and this term has seen him make appearances against Brazil and Ecuador.

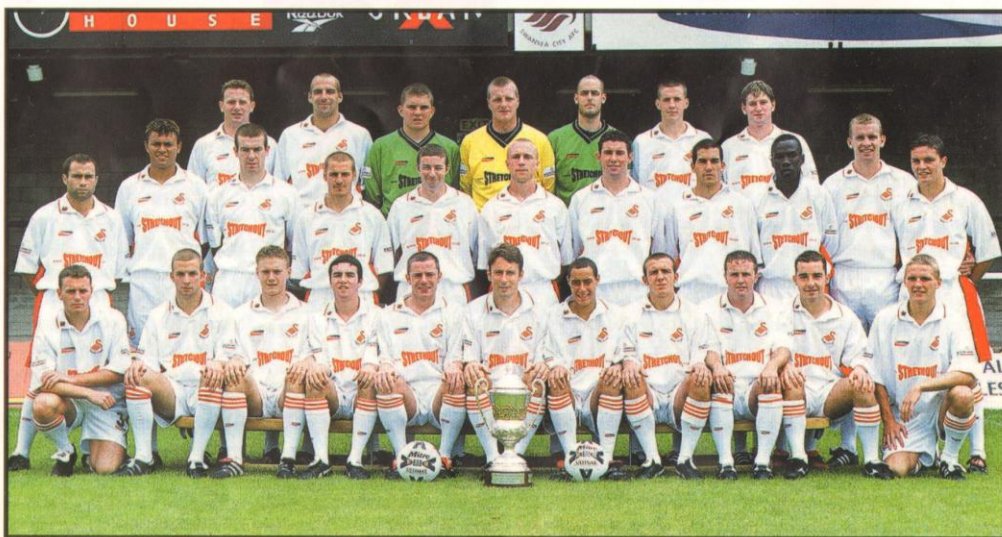
Top goalscorer for the Swans in the league with 12 goals this season, including a hat-trick in a 5-3 defeat at Luton, Giovanni has provided supporters with a lot of pleasure this season, with his awareness, and goalscoring ability in the penalty area.

A lot of hope was placed in **Walter Boyd** this season as the Swans ventured into a higher level of football, but through one reason or another he has failed make the impact supporters felt he was capable of.

Injuries on return from International duty have not helped his cause, but after scoring his first goal of the season in September against, Luton, his next goals were scored in April against Wycombe at the Vetch Field. An exciting talent on his day, he has the ability to take on the opposition from any part of the field.

Second year professional **Bari Morgan** made 5 substitute appearances through the season, but a groin injury in April sidelined him for the rest of the season. His only first team goal this season came at Barry in the group match of the Premier Cup competition.

The Finalists



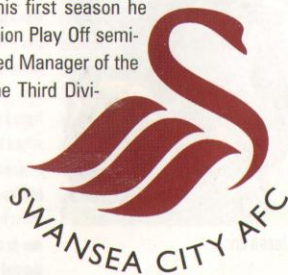
BACK ROW (l-r): Kristian O'Leary, Mathew Bound, Carl Mounty, Roger Freestone, Jason Jones, Chris Todd, Andrew Mumford
MIDDLE ROW (l-r): Martin Thomas (left), Jason Price, Ryan Casey, Jonathan Coates, Damian Lacey, Steve Watkin, Steve Jones, Lee Jenkins, Walter Boyd, Jason Smith, Kristian James
FRONT ROW (l-r): Michael Howard, Michael Keegan, Lee DeVulght, Stuart Roberts, Richard Appleby, Nick Cusack, Tommy Mutton (left), Gareth Phillips, Danny Barwood (left), Bari Morgan, Lyndon Gregson

JOHN HOLLINS MBE

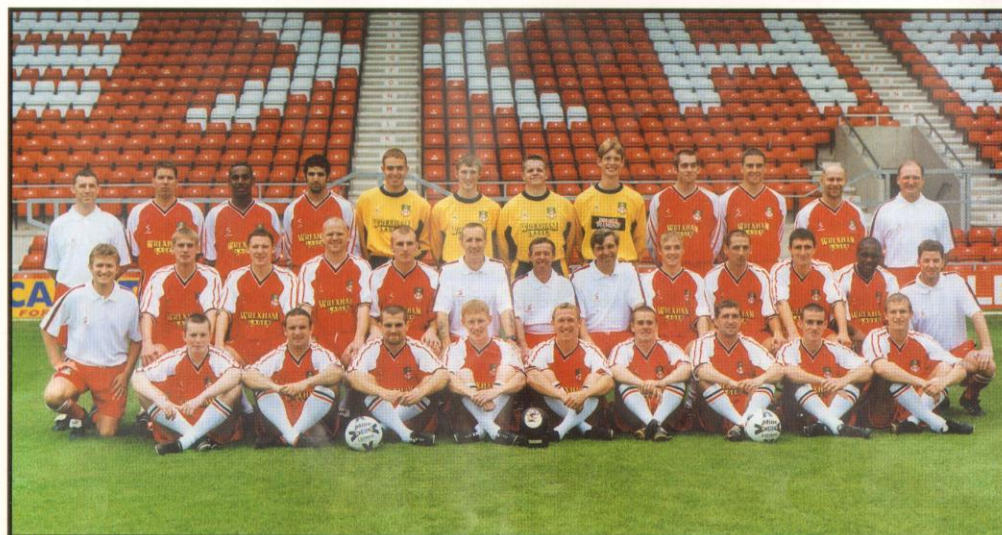
Manager, Appointed 1 July 1998

John had a distinguished playing career with Chelsea, Arsenal and QPR, making over 900 league appearances. Between 1985 and 1988 he was manager of Chelsea, and prior to his appointment at the Vetch Field was assistant manager at QPR. He made his league debut at 16 years of age with Chelsea, and prior to joining Arsenal made 592 appearances, scoring 69 goals for the club.

Between 1968 and 1970 he made a record 167 consecutive first team appearances for Chelsea. During his first season he piloted the club to the Third Division Play Off semi-finals, and a year later was voted Manager of the Year when the Swans won the Third Division Championship.



Swansea City & Wrexham Measure Up



BACK ROW (l-r): Mel Pejic (Physio), Darren Ferguson, Michael Blackwood, Emad Bouanane, David Walsh, Paul Whitfield, Kevin Deadren, Kristian Rogers, David Sweet, George Horan, Kevin Russell, George McGowan (Coach)
MIDDLE ROW (l-r): Jamie Digwood (Fitness Coach), Craig Faulconbridge, David Ridler, Brian Carey, Danny Williams, Joey Jones (Coach), Brian Flynn (Manager), Kevin Reeves (Assistant Manager), Robin Gibson, Wayne Phillips, Paul Barrett, Hector Sam, Mike Williams (Assistant Physio)
FRONT ROW (l-r): Kevin Hannon, Gareth Owen, Mark McGregor, Lee Roche, Andy Morrell, Martyn Chalk, Phil Hardy, Ian Cocks, Steve Roberts

BRIAN FLYNN

Manager

Former Welsh International midfielder Brian Flynn took over from Dixie McNeill as manager at the Racecourse in November 1989. Along with his assistant, former England striker Kevin Reeves, and the legendary Joey Jones he has created a good reputation in the game for signing and grooming young players at the club. Since his appointment he has worked well on a small budget, developing a structure at the club the envy of many clubs outside the Premiership. For a short period of time, along with Joey Jones he was manager of the Welsh U-21 side.

Official Info

Brian Lawlor hails from Holyhead, Ynysmon and is one of the three UEFA Officials with the Football Association of Wales. Last season saw him referee the Welsh Cup Final.





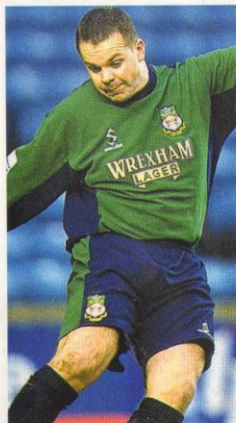
GOALKEEPER/GOLWR

Welsh U-21 International goalkeeper **David Walsh** was Brian Flynn's first choice for the recent league encounter with the Swans at the Vetch Field. Now in his third season as a professional, David made International appearances for Wales against Armenia and the Ukraine this season.

Formerly a trainee at the Racecourse, he has made 5 league appearances this season for Wrexham.

For most of the season **Kristian Rogers** has competed with David Walsh for a place in the Wrexham reserve team. A former England Schoolboy International, Kristian was born in Chester, and has also played cricket for Cheshire Second XI, turning down the offer of a contract with Durham and the MCC in favour of the Racecourse. This season he has also made 5 league appearances.

Experienced goalkeeper **Kevin Dearden** joined Wrexham from Brentford in June 1999. During his first season at the Racecourse, the former Tottenham Hotspur trainee missed just the one league game, while this season he has made 36 league appearances.



Kevin Dearden



Michael Blackwood

With just the one substitute appearance for Spurs, Kevin had loan outings with Cambridge Utd, Hartlepool, Swindon, Peterborough, Hull, Rochdale and Birmingham City, before signing for the 'Bees' in September 1993. During his six years at Griffin Park, Kevin made over 200 league appearances for Brentford.

DEFENDERS/AMDDIFFYNYWYR

Former Manchester United and Leicester City central defender **Brian Carey** is the inspirational leader at the heart of the Wrexham defence. Strong in aerial challenges, he is an effective organiser in the 'Reds' defence, and dangerous for his side at set pieces. Failing to make an appearance for United, Brian had two separate loan spells with Wrexham in 1991 prior to joining Leicester City in a £250,000 transfer deal.

He made just 58 league appearances during his three years at Filbert Street, before joining Wrexham in a permanent transfer in July 1996 for £100,000.

Mark McGregor was voted 'Player of the Year' this season for his consistent form in either a full back or central defensive role. A composed defender, he is rated highly at the Racecourse, and one of the younger players who will be moving on to a higher grade of football in the near future.

Giant central defender **Dennis Lawrence**

made just three league appearances following his late season transfer from club football in Trinidad. He had earlier in the season had trial spells with Newcastle United and Bolton Wanderers, but after failing to agree a contract, joined Wrexham, joining up with the club's two other Trinidad and Tobago players.

Central Defender **Dave Ridler** joined the club on the recommendation of former 'Reds' star Karl Connolly from local football in Liverpool. This season, suspensions have limited him to just 22 league appearances in the 'Reds' defence.

A chef by trade, he had earlier in his career made a few attempts at making a career in football, but after impressing in Wrexham's FAW Invitation Cup games two years ago, made his debut for the club in the Cup against Rochdale.

Lee Roche is a highly rated right full back who has been on a one year loan transfer from Manchester United, and was voted 'Young Player of the Season' by the supporters at the Racecourse. Capped at U-21 level by England against Finland, Lee has just completed his second season as a professional, and this season made 41 league appearances for Wrexham.

Last season saw **Phil Hardy** score his first ever league goal after almost 350



Brian Carey

appearances for Wrexham. Predominantly a defensive left full back, Phil has been capped on nine occasions for the Republic of Ireland U-21 side, and also at 'B' level for the Republic against Northern Ireland.

He has been the club's regular left full back for the last eight seasons, but this season has been restricted to making just 13 league appearances.

Young **Steve Thomas** has recently been included in the 'Reds' line-up, after missing most of the season through injury. Following in the path of his elder brother Neil, Steve has also been a regular in the Welsh U-21 squad with his consistent displays.

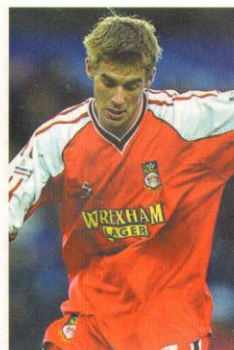
French defender **Emad Bouanane** made a good impression against Manchester United for Wrexham in an early season testimonial match. A regular in the first half of the season, his progress has been hampered by injuries, after showing up well as a defender who likes to move forward with the ball.

MIDFIELD/MAESWYR CANOL

Darren Ferguson has been the club's most consistent performer in midfield this season, missing just three league games. The son of Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, Darren joined the 'Reds' on an initial non contract basis, signing from Dutch side Sparta Rotterdam in September 1999.

The former Scottish U-21 cap was soon persuaded to sign a long term contract after impressing the club's management with his vision, subtle touch and passing skills. A midfielder who likes to go forward and score goals, his tally this season stand at 9 league goals, plus 3 in the Premier Cup competition.

Formerly a trainee at Old Trafford, Darren made 27 Premier League appearances before signing for Wolverhampton Wanderers for £250,000 in January 1994.



Craig Faulconbridge

Wayne Phillips returned to Wrexham at the start of the 1999/2000 season, but has struggled with injuries, making just 3 league appearances during his first season, and 4 league starts this term.

Formerly a trainee at the Racecourse, Wayne had joined Stockport County 18 months earlier in a £200,000 transfer deal. He was offered a professional contract at the Racecourse in 1989, and is one of only two current players who were at the club prior to Brian Flynn taking over as manager in November 1989.

A permanent fixture in the 'Reds' engine room for the last eleven seasons, **Gareth Owen** has made a name for himself as being a powerful forager, with a fine long pass and a cracking shot.

Regularly capped at U-21 level by Wales, Gareth was also capped at 'B' level prior to being called up for the Full Welsh International squad two seasons ago. The end of this season has seen him make 350 league appearances for the 'Reds'.

Danny Williams is another of the club's promising youngsters who have established themselves in the first team this season. Formerly with Liverpool, the Wrexham born midfielder joined his hometown club after being released by Liverpool in March 1999.

A strong, hard tackling anchor man in

the midfield, Danny has also made the occasional appearance in the club's defence, and is another player at the Racecourse who has regularly been capped at U-21 level for Wales over the last two seasons.

Kevin Russell was a prolific goalscorer at the Racecourse during his first spell at the club, scoring 43 goals from 84 league appearances.

Signed from Portsmouth in July 1987 for £10,000, he was transferred to Leicester City after two seasons for a fee in the region of £175,000.

After league appearances for Peterborough (loan), Cardiff (loan), Hereford (loan), Stoke, Burnley, Bournemouth and Notts. County, he rejoined Wrexham in July 1995 for a £60,000 fee. He has since been switched to a left sided midfield role for the 'Reds', displaying a high workrate and enthusiasm for the cause, as well as providing his share of the goals from midfield.

Paul Barratt is an industrious midfielder who was signed prior to transfer deadline day in 1999 on a free transfer from Newcastle United. Capable of playing on either flank, he brings aggression and enthusiasm to the side.

A former trainee at St. James's Park, Paul failed to make any first team appearances for United, but has been a regular inclusion in the first team squad for Wrexham since arriving at the Racecourse.

Hartlepool born midfielder **Steve Thomas** has gained Youth International caps for Wales, and is currently in his third season as a professional at the Racecourse.

Another highly rated youngster off the



Andy Morrell

renowned production line at the Racecourse, the strong, and combative midfielder has been dogged by injuries over the last two seasons.

STRIKERS/SAETHWYR

Lee Trundle made his name during the early part of this season as one of the top goalscorers in the League of Wales with Rhyl.

Since his £50,000 transfer to the Racecourse in early February, he has continued to impress the supporters with his goalscoring prowess. Despite injury sidelining him for a number of matches towards the end of this season, his goal tally of 8 goals from 14 league appearances is still impressive.

Prior to joining Wrexham he had been Rhyl's record transfer from Conference side Southport, and had also made non-league appearances for Stalybridge Celtic, Chorley, Burscough and Bamber Bridge.

Having scored several times in reserve games, he marked his full debut with a goal in the 3-2 victory at Walsall, and then carried that over to score seven goals in his first six matches for the 'Reds'.

Craig Faulconbridge joined Wrexham prior to the start of the 1999/2000 season on a free transfer from Coventry City, and has shown keen awareness as a front line striker, with an appetite for hard work. Failing to make a first team appearance at Highfield Road, Craig had however made league appearances for both Dunfermline Athletic and Hull City prior to joining Wrexham.

With 8 league goals during his first season, Craig finished this term top goalscorer for the 'Reds' with 10 goals.

Carlos Edwards joined Wrexham shortly after the start of the season from Defence Force FC, Trinidad. A tricky winger, who can operate on either flank, he has added considerably to the manager's attacking options.

Carlos was involved in his country's epic World Cup victories over Canada, Panama and Mexico this season.

Hector Sam played for a local team in Port of Spain prior to joining the 'Reds' in the close season. Capped for his country at several levels, Hector has tremendous

pace, already proving to be a handful for defenders. His first season in British football has seen him score 6 goals from 20 league appearances.

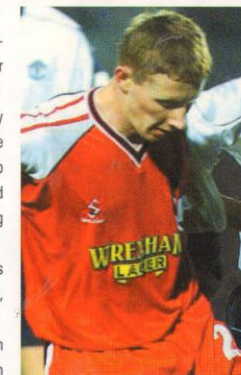
Martyn Chalk was included in the transfer deal that took Kieran Durkan to Stockport County in March 1996. Since then he has created a name for himself as a wide, right side midfielder who on his day can cause havoc to the opposition.

Robin Gibson is a former trainee, and is in his second season as a professional. Recovering from knee ligament damage, he has developed into a hardworking winger, full of trickery, and a problem for opposing defences.

Andy Morrell first came to prominence as a goalscorer with non-league side Newcastle Blue Star in the Northern League, before he was recommended for a trial at Wrexham.

He has since shown enough promise to be given an extended contract. Andy scored a record seven goals in an 8-0 Premier Cup victory over Merthyr Tydfil last season.

Left sided winger **Michael Blackwood**, gained league experience on loan at Chester City prior to joining Wrexham in the close season on a free transfer from Aston Villa. This term has seen him make most of his appearances from the substitute's bench.



Lee Roche

The FAW Premier Cup

by Ian Gwyn Hughes



Jamaica International Walter Boyd in action against The Martyns

Four years ago at the formation of the Invitation Cup as it was then the dream was of a competition whose final would be played at the magnificent Millenium Stadium and with the winners taking home the trophy and one hundred thousand pound cheque and a place in Europe. Well at the moment we have one out of three.

There is little doubt that the decision to prevent Cardiff City, Swansea City and Wrexham from playing in Europe was a blow to club football here in Wales. Each had a proud tradition in some cases reaching quarter finals and semi finals of the Cup Winners Cup competition respectively. Since then despite the exploits of Barry Town in winning a couple of rounds in the Uefa Cup and losing to Aberdeen successes have been few and far between. At its inception the formation of a new com-

petition was seen as a means to reach this end and address the issue.

As a format the competition has brought together all the different strands of Welsh club football. The fall out between the so called exiles and the Football Association of Wales following the formation of the League of Wales has been well documented. But in its first season Merthyr Tydfil were invited to play and after featuring over the past four years there place will be taken next time around by Newport County. County finished higher than both their rivals Merthyr in the Dr Marekens Premier Division and Colwyn Bay in the Unibond League. That sets up for next season the prospect of County facing either of the three Nationwide League clubs and their first competitive encounter since losing their league status, a game

which surely would attract the interest of the supporters both at the game and on television.

And talking of television the coverage has brought more publicity for the clubs and has brought all levels of Welsh club football onto our screens on a regular basis. The money provided to the clubs, especially those in the



Michael Howard furthers the Swans' cause

League of Wales has enabled them to improve their ground facilities and has given the likes of Barry Town, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, Newtown and TNS huge publicity and in some cases live matches, something they could only have dreamed of about ten years ago. This season for example when Aberystwyth hosted Wrexham in one of the group matches the game was televised live, attracted a good sized crowd to Park Avenue and the legendary John Charles was guest of honour. At half time he opened their new stand which all added to the sense of occasion. With the game being an entertaining one all draw it all made for excellent television.

RICH OWNER

From the perspective of the League of Wales clubs it has generated additional interest right through to the end of the season. During five of the past seven seasons the league has been over by Christmas, inevitably being won

by Barry Town. But with the race on for the top eight places in the league and therefore qualification for the Premier Cup interest and competition was maintained right until the very last day of the season in most cases. And its easy to see why with the financial rewards on offer in terms of initially qualifying and then progressing a few stages.

For the finalists themselves there is a minimum of forty thousand pounds while the winners receive a cheque for one hundred thousand pounds, nearly seventy thousand more than Port Vale received recently for winning the LDV trophy at the Millenium Stadium. And in this day and age despite the huge monies on offer at the top end of the game life is e

financial struggle at the lower level unless of course a rich owner comes along.

Over the years the among the highlights would have to be the Barry Merthyr quarter final encounter, the Barry games against the Natiownide League clubs, they were winnersw two seasons ago, the Cardiff City Swansea City quarter final tie and there was plenty of incident during the twice played last eight match involving Barry Town and TNS this season.

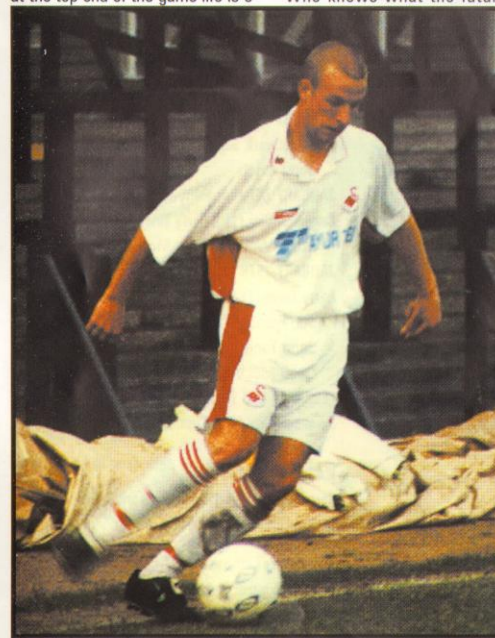
I suppose the most unexpected result was Caernarfon Town's win at the Vetch last season. I know the Swans were under strength but they still had more than enough to have won comfortably.

Who knows what the future

1 Out Of 3 Ain't Good Enough



holds. An amalgamation of the Premier Cup and Welsh Cup would be the ideal solution in the eyes of the supporters. A return to the traditional knock out with big financial incentives and of course the carrot of Europe. A final attracting around twenty five to thirty thousand fans, making it a fun day out involving all different levels and ages of the game in Wales, a way of bringing down the curtain on the domestic season. Over the years Welsh football has under-sold itself immensely but somewhere down the line there is an opportunity here if everybody pulls together of righting that wrong.



Keegan in control



Mattias Vershave — one of the Swan's more recent additions

F.A.W Premier Cup

Stats

2000/2001



Group Stages

GROUP A

SEPTEMBER 2ND

Bangor City (0) 0 Wrexham (1) 6
Robin Gibson, Darren Ferguson 2,
Hector Sam, David Warren, Mark McGregor

OCTOBER 3RD

Carmarthen Town (0) 0 Wrexham (1) 1
Craig Faulconbridge

OCTOBER 14TH

Carmarthen Town (0) 1 Bangor City (0) 0
Ryan Nicholls (pen)

NOVEMBER 7TH

Bangor City (0) 1 Aberystwyth Town (1) 3
Paul Roberts Gavin Allen, Jonathan
Williams,
Glyndwr Hughes

NOVEMBER 14TH

Aberystwyth Town (3) 3 Bangor City (0) 1
Gavin Allen, Glyndwr Carl Owen
Hughes 2

Wrexham (0) 3 Carmarthen Town (0) 0
Craig Faulconbridge, Chris
Killen 2

NOVEMBER 28TH

Aberystwyth Town (1) 1 Wrexham (1) 1
Gari Lewis, Robin Gibson

DECEMBER 5TH

Aberystwyth Town (1) 1 Carmarthen Town (1) 2
Gari Lewis, Neil O'Brien 2

DECEMBER 19TH

Wrexham (2) 4 Bangor City (0) 0
Jon Paul Roberts o.g., Hector Sam, Stephen
Thomas, Paul Barrett

JANUARY 9TH

Carmarthen Town (0) 0 Aberystwyth Town (0) 1
Shaun Chapple o.g.

JANUARY 23RD

Wrexham (1) 4 Aberystwyth Town (0) 0
Craig Faulconbridge 3, Carlos Edwards

JANUARY 30TH

Bangor City (0) 1 Carmarthen Town (1) 1
Karl Roberts Ryan Nicholls

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Wrexham	6	5	1	0	19	1	16	+18
Aberystwyth Town	6	3	1	2	9	9	10	0
Carmarthen Town	6	2	1	3	4	7	7	-3
Bangor City	6	0	1	5	3	18	1	-15

GROUP B

SEPTEMBER 19TH

Merthyr Tydfil (2) 3 Cwmbran Town (0) 1
Chris Summers 2, Ian Mitchell,
Richard Carter

OCTOBER 3RD

Cardiff City (1) 1 Cwmbran Town (0) 0
Kurt Nogan

OCTOBER 10TH

Cardiff City (1) 2 Merthyr Tydfil (0) 1
Andy Legg, Danny Hill Chris Summers

OCTOBER 12TH

Llanelli (0) 1 Cwmbran Town (3) 5
Mark Dickerson Eston Chiverton,
Lee Brown 3, Adam Moore

OCTOBER 31ST

Llanelli (2) 2 Cardiff City (2) 3
Mark Dickerson 2 Scott McCulloch (pen),
Kurt Nogan, Leo Fortune-West

NOVEMBER 28TH

Cardiff City (1) 2 Llanelli (0) 1
Kurt Nogan, Gary Davies (o.g) Nicky Palmer

NOVEMBER 29TH (at Pen-y-darren PK)

Cwmbran Town (0) 1 Merthyr Tydfil (0) 2
Mattie Davies Danny Carter, Dean Clarke

DECEMBER 6TH

Llanelli (2) 4 Merthyr Tydfil (1) 2
Chris Watkins 4 Craig Lima, Justin Perry

DECEMBER 19TH

Merthyr Tydfil (0) 2 Llanelli (0) 1
Danny Carter, Darren Ryan (pen)
Mark Dickeson

JANUARY 9TH

Merthyr Tydfil (0) 0 Cardiff City (1) 2
Kurt Nogan 2

JANUARY 17TH (WED) (at Stebonheath Park)

Cwmbran Town (0) 0 Llanelli (1) 4
Mark Dickeson 4

JANUARY 30TH (at Ninian Park)

Cwmbran Town (0) 0 Cardiff City (1) 2
Richard David (o.g), Gavin Gordon

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Cardiff City	6	6	0	0	12	4	18	+8
Merthyr Tydfil	6	3	0	3	10	11	9	-1
Llanelli	6	2	0	4	13	14	6	-1
Cwmbran Town	6	1	0	5	7	13	3	-6

GROUP C

SEPTEMBER 19TH

Connah's Quay Nomads (2) 2 Swansea City (2) 5
Steve Futcher 2 Michael Keegan,
Danny Barwood, Stuart Roberts 2,
James Berry

OCTOBER 10TH

TNS (0) 1 Swansea City (1) 2
John Toner John Coates, Kris O'Leary

OCTOBER 17TH

Connah's Quay Nomads (0) 0 TNS (1) 1
Maurice Doyle

NOVEMBER 7TH

Barry Town (1) 3 Swansea City (0) 2
Jamie Moralee 2, Terry Evans Bari Morgan,
Tommy Mutton

NOVEMBER 29TH

TNS (2) 4 Connah's Quay Nomads (0) 0
Nick Welton 3, Chris Edge

DECEMBER 5TH

Barry Town (1) 2 Connah's Quay Nomads (0) 0
Nicky Burke, Jamie Jenkins

JANUARY 9TH

Connah's Quay Nomads (0) 0 Barry Town (1) 2
Andrew York, Jamie Jenkins

JANUARY 16TH

Total Network Solutions (0) 0 Barry Town (1) 1
Jon French

JANUARY 24TH (at Pen-y-darren Park)

Swansea City (1) 1 Barry Town (0) 1
Steve Watkin Jamie Moralee

JANUARY 30TH

Barry Town (1) 4 Total Network Solutions (1) 2
Jon French, Andrew York, Gary Powell,
John Toner

FEBRUARY 8TH (THURSDAY)

Swansea City (0) 1 Connah's Quay Nomads (0) 0
Matthias Verschave

MARCH 5TH (MONDAY)

Swansea City (0) 1 Total Network Solutions (1) 1
Steve Watkin, Tim Alexander

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Barry Town	6	5	1	0	13	5	16	+8
Swansea City	6	3	2	1	12	8	11	+4
Total Network S.	6	2	1	3	9	8	7	+1
Connah's Quay N.	6	0	0	6	2	15	0	-13

Knock-out Stages

QUARTER FINALS

MARCH 13TH

Swansea City (0) 1 Carmarthen Town (0) 0
Matthias Verschave
Wrexham (1) 3 Aberystwyth Town (0) 0
Robin Gibson, Andy Morrell
Michael Blackwood

MARCH 26TH (Monday at Pen-y-darren Park)

Cardiff City (0) 0 Merthyr Tydfil (1) 1
Justin Perry

APRIL 26TH

Barry Town (0) 3 TNS (0) 2 (aet)
Jamie Jenkins, Lawrence Nicky Ward,
Gary Powell
Davies, Neil Sharpe

SEMI FINALS FIRST LEG

MAY 1ST

Barry Town (1) 1 Wrexham (1) 3
Lawrence Davies Carlos Edwards,
Kevin Russell,
Darren Ferguson (pen)

MAY 8TH (TUESDAY)

Merthyr Tydfil (0) 0 Swansea City (1) 2
Gareth Phillips, John Coates

SEMI FINALS SECOND LEG

MAY 10TH

Wrexham (2) 4, Barry Town (1) 2
S. Thomas 3, C Faulconbridge, L Staton,
M Burke
Swansea City (1) 2, Merthyr (0) 0
Verschave, Keegan

FINAL (at Vetch Field)

MAY 14TH (MONDAY)

SCORERS:

■ 8. Mark Dickeson (Llanelli)
■ 6. Craig Faulconbridge (Wrexham)
■ 5. Kurt Nogan (Cardiff City).
■ 4. Chris Watkins (Llanelli),
Stephen Thomas (Wrexham)
■ 3. Glyndwr Hughes (Aberystwyth Town);
Jamie Jenkins & Jamie Moralee (Barry Town);
Lee Brown (Cwmbran Town); Chris Summers
(Merthyr Tydfil); Nick Welton (Total Network
Solutions); Darren Ferguson & Robin Gibson

(Wrexham), Matthias Verschave (Swansea
City)

■ 2. Gavin Allen & Gari Lewis (Aberystwyth
Town); Jon French, Lawrence Davies & Andrew
York (Barry Town); Neil O'Brien & Ryan Nicholls
(Carmarthen Town); Steve Futcher (Connah's
Quay Nomads); Danny Carter & Justin Perry
(Merthyr Tydfil); John Coates, Stuart Roberts,
Michael Keegan & Steve Watkin (Swansea City);
Gary Powell & John Toner (Total Network Solu-
tions); Carlos Edwards, Chris Killen & Hector Sam
(Wrexham).

■ 1. Jonathan Williams (Aberystwyth Town);
Carl Owen, Karl Roberts & Paul Roberts (Bangor
City); Terry Evans, Luke Staton, Marvin Blake,
Geoff McLean & Neil Sharpe (Barry Town); Leo
Fortune-West, Danny Hill, Gavin Gordon, Andrew
Legg & Scott McCulloch (Cardiff City); Richard
Carter, Eston Chiverton, Mattie Davies & Adam
Moore (Cwmbran Town); Nicky Palmer (Llanelli);
Dean Clarke, Craig Lima, Ian Mitchell & Darren

Ryan (Merthyr Tydfil); Danny Barwood, James
Berry, Kris O'Leary, Bari Morgan, Tommy Mutton &
Gareth Phillips (Swansea City); Tim Alexander,
Maurice Doyle, Chris Edge & Nicky Ward (Total
Network Solutions); Michael Blackwood, Mark
McGregor, Kevin Russell, David Warren (Wrex-
ham) o.g Jon Paul Roberts (Bangor City), Shaun
Chapple (Carmarthen Town), Richard David
(Cwmbran Town), Gary Davies (Llanelli).

■ Total Goals: 137
■ Total Games: 44
■ Average: 3.11

FULL MATCH REPORTS/DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON
THE COMPETITION'S WEBSITE:
www.faw-premiercup.com

