

London Owls Newsletter

AUGUST 2011 No.2

www.londonowls.co.uk - londonowls.enquiries@gmail.com



A Mixed Start

It's fair to say its been a mixed start to the League One season. Two home league wins balanced by two away defeats. Five goals scored outweighed by five let in at the other end. A solid cup win on penalties against a team who have just dropped out of the Premier League.



A look at last season tells us that League One will be competitive throughout and that early season hiccups can be overcome – Southampton lost 4 of their first six matches last year and went on to be automatically promoted.

The next few weeks promise to continue the rollercoaster ride and the London Owls will be present at all the forthcoming big games.

• **MK Dons (H) Saturday 10 September**

If you're interested in attending this game and travelling up to Hillsborough with the London Owls please email londonowls.travel@googlemail.com before midday on Wednesday 31 August.

• **Yeovil (A) Saturday 17 September**

Yeovil is not the most accessible ground by train so we are looking to see how many people might be travelling by car. If you can offer lifts to fellow supporters or are interested in chipping in to hire a mini-van please get in touch with Ian Colley - londonowls.travel@googlemail.com - as soon as possible as he is looking to finalise transport early this week.

• **Exeter (H) Saturday 24 September**

If you want to travel to this game please email londonowls.travel@googlemail.com before midday on Wednesday 14 September.

Useful Contacts

Email us

londonowls.enquiries@gmail.com
londonowls.membership@gmail.com
londonowls.travel@gmail.com

Join our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/londonowls

Follow us on Twitter

www.twitter.com/londonowls

Check out our website

www.londonowls.co.uk

Write to us

The London Owls, PO Box 233,
Borehamwood, Herts WD6 3WA

Follow the Current Squad on Twitter

Ben Marshall - @bmarshall_10
Cecil Nyoni - @CessK92
Chris Lines - @Linesy8
Clinton Morrison - @morrisonclinton
Danny Bath - @Danny_Bath
Giles Coke - @RealCokes
Jon Otsemobor - @semi36
Julian Bennett - @B13NNT
Liam Palmer - @LiamPalmer12
Matthew Tumilty - @Matty_Tumilty
Richard O'Donnell - @RichODonnell23

Sky's the Limit

Just to prove that we are the Manchester United of the lower divisions (or that they're the Sheffield Wednesday of the Premier League) Sky have opted to show two of our games live in less than a week.

Our first round game versus **Bradford** in the illustrious Johnstone's Paint Trophy is live on Tuesday **30 August**. On the following Monday, **5 September**, our League One encounter with fellow promotion hopefuls **Charlton Athletic** has also been picked for the Sky treatment.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details, but it is likely we will be meeting in Mabel's Tavern, 9 Mabeldon Place, WC1H 9AZ (five mins walk from either Euston or St Pancras tube stations) from 7.00 - 10.30pm for the games. However, in the case of Charlton it's only down the road so get yourself a ticket, now on general sale.



Meet the New Boys

Since the last newsletter, Wednesday manager Gary Megson has begun to overcome a frustrating summer transfer window by landing four new additions. Here's your guide to the new boys.

9. Chris O'Grady

Signed 9/8/2011 from Rochdale for £350,000

First through the door was a player on Megson's original list of nine targets handed to the Chairman back in May, as Chris O'Grady (nicknamed Didier COGba by Rochdale fans) became our new Number 9. Many saw this as a coup for the club, particularly as we outbid Championship clubs including Barnsley to secure the forward.

At first glance, O'Grady's career seems to be that of a journeyman. Starting as a trainee with Leicester City, he has played out on loan at six different clubs as well as permanent spells at Oldham and Sheffield's second best supported team; Rotherham United. However, it was only when signing for Rochdale on loan in August 2009 that O'Grady started to fulfil his potential. He scored an impressive 12 goals in 21 games and signed on a full transfer in the following transfer window.

The Sheffield resident went on to hit 31 goals in 88 league games for The Dale. A good return considering that for much of the time he was positioned on the wing. However, Megson insists he has bought the 25 year old to play up front, stating there there'd have to be a major injury crisis before he would be selected on the flank.

Unfortunately Chris' debut lasted just 29 minutes as he suffered a reoccurrence of a preseason ankle injury, but all Wednesdayites will be relishing seeing him back in the famous blue and white stripes very soon.



27. Danny Uchechi

Signed 10/8/2011 on loan from FC Dender (Nigeria) until January

Certainly our most left-field signing of the summer, 21 year old forward Uchechi can be seen as a low risk gamble by the club. Megson is notoriously reluctant to sign trialists but decided he needed a further look at Uchechi and took him on loan until January, when the club can reassess the situation.

Danny started at Charlton and scored 13 goals with their under-18 team, then added five goals in reserve squad matches in 2008-09 season. He was snapped up by West Ham United in spring 2009 but failed to make a first team appearance with the Hammers and returned to his homeland with FC Dender. He has since tried to get back into British football with trials at Leicester, Aberdeen, Peterborough and lastly Wednesday. He has played for his country at Under-20 and Under-23 level.

Young, pacey, and signed on the cheap from an African club, Uchechi sounds like the archetypal Football Manager signing and this screenshot from the game looks promising. Hopefully Megson can harness his raw pace and enthusiasm.

Technical Attributes		Mental Attributes		Physical Attributes	
Comers	7	Aggression	10	Acceleration	14
Crossing	8	Anticipation	5	Agility	13
Dribbling	6	Bravery	8	Balance	13
Finishing	7	Composure	6	Jumping	6
First Touch	10	Concentration	4	Natural Fitness	16
Free Kick Taking	9	Creativity	6	Pace	14
Heading	13	Decisions	4	Stamina	10
Long Shots	12	Determination	13	Strength	8
Long Throws	5	Flair	15	Other	
Marking	4	Influence	9	Goalkeeper Rating	1
Passing	6	Off The Ball	6	Condition	100%
Penalty Taking	12	Positioning	3	Last 5 Games	7.48 (3 gls)
Tackling	4	Teamwork	7	Morale	Very Good
Technique	6	Work Rate	11		

Nigeria	22 years old
1 youth cap / 1 youth goal	14.9.1989
176 cm	Right
74 kg	Preferred Foot
\$300 per week	\$10,000
30.6.2013	Estimated Value

8. Chris Lines

Signed 11/8/2011 from Bristol Rover for £50,000

An attacking midfielder and set-piece specialist, Lines has previously spent his entire career at his home town club, making over 150 appearances and scoring 21 goals.

After The Gas were relegated last season, Lines attracted interest from several clubs at higher levels and went on trial with Championship Crystal Palace over the summer. He failed to earn a contract with the Selhurst Park outfit, but the Owls swooped in with a £50,000 offer and snapped up Chris on a three year contract.

Lines is an avid tweeter and was the dressing room DJ at his former club listing Lil Wayne, Drake and Rick Ross as his three favourite artists. It remains to be seen what fellow midfielder and heavy metal fan David Prutton will make of this.



10. Ben Marshall

Signed 17/8/2011 on loan from Stoke City until January

Whilst Megson is previously on record as being wary of signing young loan players who might make their mistakes at Wednesday, he has no such worries about Ben Marshall.

Megson explains: "We've got him because of my friendship with Tony Pulis ... I spoke to Tony when we played the pre-season game against Stoke. He said there were a couple of Championship clubs showing interest in him, so I said 'with all due respect, if he comes to play for Sheffield Wednesday and he can do it, then you'll know a lot more for what you need at Stoke'. They are a big club, with massive support, real passion and lots of expectation - similar to this club except that they play in red and white and we play in blue and white."

Ben is no novice at this level having completed a very successful loan spell at Carlisle (a brief which included providing ammunition for Gary Madine) and is a product of the Man United academy.

News in Brief

- London Owls have made our annual donation to the Wednesday Academy, which this year totalled £400. Funds were raised from membership, donations and our quiz night.
- Membership renewals are now due, and we hope as many of you as possible are able to support us and help make this season a successful one on and off the pitch. Membership rates are **£5** for adults, **£10** for families and **£2** for Students/Over 60s. Email for more info or send a cheque to our PO Box address.
- A reminder that the meeting place for all home games is The Wadsley Jack, 65 Rural Lane, Sheffield S6 4BJ.
- Association of Provincial Football Supporters' Clubs in London (APFSCIL) Darts League is back very soon and our first fixture is against Manchester City on Monday 26th April. If you fancy yourself with the arrows email to find out more.

Got a story to tell?

We're always on the lookout for new stories for the newsletter, and in particular are hoping to get match reports from every game from a wide variety of fans.

If you have any contributions no matter how big or small please email mattkelcher@gmail.com or tweet @mattkelcher and they will be included in a future newsletter.

Match Reports

Please email mattkelcher@gmail.com if you would like to produce a match report for a future edition

Bournemouth 2 - 0 Wednesday (13 August 2011)

By Matthew Kelcher (@mattkelcher)

When Mr Dependable becomes Mr Calamity you know its going to be a long afternoon. Wednesday started off brightly if unspectacularly on the south coast, getting the ball in the right areas without ever applying the final killer touch. Our best early chance resulted from neat passing between Liam Palmer and Clinton Morrison but the former Ireland international pulled his shot just wide of the far post. Bennett's long throws were inevitably worrying to the Cherries and our defence looked as solid as it had against Rochdale a week before. Then, six minutes before half time, Rob Jones, our new skipper and key summer recruit, inexplicably missed a far post header from a corner leaving his opposite number Adam Barret to nod home (and they guy in front of me actually did shout "Megson Out" after this!). As the second half commenced Wednesday again showed plenty of endeavour but didn't have the quality to really put together a final ball or cross to trouble the goalkeeper, although Semedo and Madine had decent chances. The inevitable second soon came and Jones was again at fault, playing a terrible pass straight out of play in the left back area. Bournemouth put the game out of reach from the resulting throw. We travelled home hoping Jones had gotten all his mistakes for the season out of the way, and that soon we'd be able to bring in the kind of wide players and forwards who can turn pressure into chances and chances into goals.



Bury 2 - 1 Wednesday

By Paul Beckett

After a trip to the Seaside the previous Saturday, the Mighty Faithful assembled in great numbers at Gigg Lane on Tuesday. A reasonable indication of the performance of the team comes at the end of the match when the team are clapped off. Or not as on Tuesday after a deserved defeat to just-promoted Bury who played football when they could and hoofed it when they really had to. Wednesday seemed second best in most areas, with a disjointed performance from a team obviously still getting to know each other. The Madine/O'Grady partnership looked dysfunctional for the half-hour they played in tandem, the central defence looked very panicky at times, and the midfield was out-passed by Bury's neat play. O'Grady missed a golden chance in the first few minutes and Reda Johnson had a goal harshly disallowed for fouling the keeper, but we were only equal to Bury for about 15 minutes just after half time.



Prutton and Semedo were lost in the midfield melee, Reda and Otsemobor looked uncomfortable on the ball. After O'Grady went off, we played 4-5-1 in an attempt to stop Bury from playing through the midfield, but this resulted in isolating Madine, who was getting long-balls fired up at him while lacking close support. There were a couple of

bright spots - Buxton looked good working the right flank, O'Donnell didn't really have that much to save, Bennett looked OK when defending and Uchechi was lively when he came on. But on this showing, next season's trip to the Seaside is likely to be more Bournemouth than Brighton, and you've got to hope it's not Morecambe.

Leppings Lane Views

What opposition fans thought of us in recent games. If you know anyone who could write something suitable they can email it to mattkelcher@gmail.com

Wednesday 2 - 1 Notts County

By Jonathon Tanner, Notts County Supporter (@Tannerjc)

You might think its a bit early in the season for sweeping statements, and you would be right. But anyone at Hillsbrough this afternoon could have been forgiven for thinking they were witnessing two mid-table sides playing out the end of their respective seasons. Notts took the lead through a fairly innocuous penalty and went in one-up at half time with little to worry about. A bit of near post flapping and a stern Julian Bennett volley drew the Owls level and prompted the first chorus from the North Stand. From then on Wednesday plundered the wings and the winner was no surprise. Spurred on by the band they waltzed home to a victory which Gary Megson will have welcomed but won't have set many pulses racing on the Kop. That said fair play to Wednesday - a proper football club. Great pubs (the Tap, Fat Cat, Kelham Island and New Barrack) honest fans, a beautiful stadium and live music from the terraces. Its just a shame that on this showing neither side will have fears or aspirations come March 17th....

