

YOUTH REPORT

Season 2011-12 was a landmark season as clubs prepared for the biggest and most stringent changes ever introduced in to youth football. Under the guidance of the Premier League and the Football League, The Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP) forced the first changes and reorganisation of youth development since the introduction of the Football Association's Charter for Quality in 1997.

In July 2012 a new youth development infrastructure was set in place thereby affecting a new grading system for all clubs. In previous years clubs were either Academy or Centre of Excellence. Now all football clubs are classed as Academy but have a grade of one, two, three or four. Gradings are calculated by ten Key Performance Indicators.

- 1 Vision and Strategy
- 2 Leadership and Management
- 3 Coaching
- 4 Education and Welfare
- 5 Games Programme
- 6 Sports Science and Medicine
- 7 Player Development and Progression
- 8 Talent Identification and Recruitment
- 9 Facilities
- 10 Financial Sustainability

ALL Academies are currently working towards inspection and final grading from the Independent Standards Organisation. At Scunthorpe United we have the following youth structure:

Staff

Academy Manager/U18 Coach
Tony Daws

16-18 Professional Development Coach
Paul Harsley

12-16 Youth Development Coach
Andy Graham

5-11 Foundation Phase Coach
James Pieroni

Chartered physiotherapist
Josh Needham

Administration/Head of Scouting
Jeff Daws

To satisfy the rules of the Elite Player Performance Plan the youth development programme now has 6 full time staff fully committed to developing players that will one day hopefully play in the first team for Scunthorpe United FC.

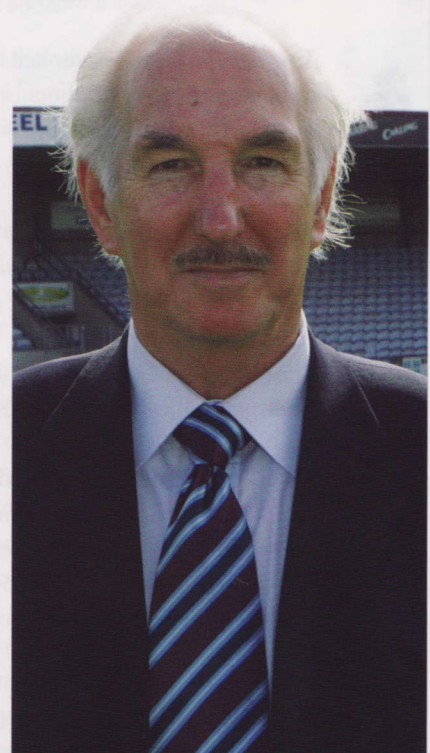
As well as the junior U18 team made up of the apprentices, we also have eight schoolboy teams starting at age under nine and each age group team has 2 UEFA 'B' qualified coaches teaching the players throughout the week.

We have approximately 125 children registered with us and these boys play in a games programme on Sunday mornings against other professional clubs Academies.

During season 2011-12 former youth team product Josh Lillis established himself as the number one goalkeeper at the football club. Central defender Niall Canavan was in and out of the first team and continued to represent the Republic of Ireland as an U21 international.

Matt Godden was a regular on the substitute's bench prior to injury and is waiting for his opportunity to arise where he can show his goal scoring talents.

Central defender Ashley Palmer made his first team debut in the Johnstones Paint Trophy against Hartlepool as a right back and then made his Football League debut away at Notts County as a left back. Unfortunately first year professionals Ashley Palmer, Aron Wint, Jordan Thewliss and Jake Turner were released by Manager Alan Knill by the end of the season.





YOUTH REPORT (continued)

The second year apprentices have now been with us for a year and progress well as we look to identify any players to receive professional offers at the end of this current season. The new intake of 1st years have settled in and we hope that three or four of these boys will have developed well enough to be offered professional contracts at the end of season 2012-13.

St Lawrence Academy

The partnership with St Lawrence Academy continues to develop in to its fourth year and we thank Head Teacher Joan Barnes, Head of Specialism's Phil Dalowsky and their staff for all of their help and assistance now that we are located at the Sports College.

Thanks to the Governments Building Schools for the Future programme, St Lawrence Academy is now being totally rebuilt and moving forward the youth department will be housed in a fantastic new school with state of the art sporting facilities.

BTEC National Certificate – Level 3

John Leggott College continue to deliver the BTEC National Certificate Level 3 in Sport qualification where the apprentices attend college for one and a half days a week. Each year every second year boy completes his education and although they don't all get a professional contract, opportunities arise through further education which is a big part of the programme. Some boys move on to university and we have also seen boys move to America and Australia to further their careers.

PFA/ Level 2 Coaching Qualification

The PFA delivered the Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football and all of the 2nd year apprentices that undertook the qualification attained pass status. This qualification will help the young player if he isn't awarded a professional contract by the football club but may wish to develop his coaching career or attain a football/education scholarship in America.

NVQ Level 3 – Achieving Excellence In Sports Performance

This is an 'on the job' educational qualification that all of the boys undertake as part of the full ASE programme on a weekly basis at the football club.

All of these qualifications helps the boy to achieve recognition for his work if he is not successful in gaining a professional contract and will help to attain a further education place or alternative employment.

The youth players acquitted themselves well during season 2011-12 and Captain Callum Howe, a central defender was offered a professional contract.