
I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 17-04-2008 11:52

No, not a moan, just a bit of catharsis.

On Saturday we will most probably be relegated bringing a sad end to 87 years of Football League membership.

I think I'm right in saying that we will be the longest serving league club to lose its status.

We're not the biggest club to get relegated - Oxford's achievements in their 45 year stint in the league far outshine what we've ever achieved - but it's going to be a huge blow.

However, I'm not sure how many non Wrexham fans really care. Certainly the media don't give a toss, after all, who cares about a club falling out of the fourth division when Arsenal's season is "going from bad to worse".

Derby County are the ones "losing their league place" because, after all, the Premier League is all that matters isn't it?

We've never been higher than the second division and next Tuesday night is the 30th anniversary of the day we beat Rotherham 7-1 to clinch promotion from the Third for the very first time ... but like I said, I'm not sure how many people even care.

I know I'm preaching (mostly) to the converted but it's good to get it off my chest!

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 17-04-2008 11:57

Jorge Porbillas wrote:

next Tuesday night is the 30th anniversary of the day we beat Rotherham 7-1 This and Gary Bennett and you want me to care???

Actually, I will be sorry to see you go. What's the chances of a rebound? (Something which seems to be becoming rarer by the year...)

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Zombie - 17-04-2008 12:07

My formative season was 76/77, when Palace got promoted out of Division 3. Our three main rivals that season were Mansfield, Wrexham and some south-coast club whose name escapes me. To me, Wrexham equals Dixie McNeill, and the most exciting finish to any season ever.

So it actually does sadden me to see two of those drop out of the league this year. Still, at least there's a way back now, unlike in the days of Southport and Workington.

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 17-04-2008 12:08

As a Brighton fan I know what it is like to face the "abyss" even if we managed to stave off the "ultimate" drop on a couple of occasions in the late 90s.

I remember that Wrexham team, I saw them beat us I think 2-0 at the Goldstone around that time, Arfon Griffiths and Bobby Shinton are the names I remember.

Hereford and Doncaster the two teams that "saved us" in 97 and 98 are back and doing well and I look forward to saying the same about Wrexham soon, too.

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Nocturnal Submission - 17-04-2008 12:10

Well, as someone who's mother grew up just outside of Wrexham and who went to the Racecourse Ground on a couple of occasions in the 70s, I care. I'm just hoping that the club bounces back as quickly and strongly as the likes of Carlisle and Doncaster have done.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 17-04-2008 12:11

Zombie wrote:

My formative season was 76/77, when Palace got promoted out of Division 3. Our three main rivals that season were Mansfield, Wrexham and some south-coast club whose name escapes me. Glad to see that you've already forgotten the club that you poxily pipped on goal difference. Typical self-absorbed London football fan...

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 17-04-2008 12:14

I will be very upset if & when Wrexham go down, both for the club and it's support and for Welsh football as a whole.

Like others, I hope that the drop out of the league might prove a catalyst for you to sort out what seem to be regular problems of recent years though I am not sure how likely that is.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Zombie - 17-04-2008 12:54

Gangster Octopus wrote:

Zombie wrote:

My formative season was 76/77, when Palace got promoted out of Division 3. Our three main rivals that season were Mansfield, Wrexham and some south-coast club whose name escapes me. Glad to see that you've already forgotten the club that you poxily pipped on goal difference. Typical self-absorbed London football fan...

It appears that whinging about Rotherham being not good enough 30 years ago, on a Wrexham thread, isn't being "self-absorbed", then...

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by noj - 17-04-2008 12:57

I care too Jorge.

In an ideal and just world the table really would be upside down. Although I wouldn't be bothered about Mansfield going up, Franchise and Peterboro' going down is a beautiful dream.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by boris - 17-04-2008 13:02

It's your own fault for having an x in your name. Crewe will be down in a couple of seasons, you markmywords.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 17-04-2008 13:02

I wouldn't mind, Zombie, but that wasn't the only time in (relatively) recent history that Wrexham have put seven past us...

Oh, and back in '77 we had to win by six goals at Port Vale to go up. We were four up with ten minutes to play and then Dave Gwyther was sent off...

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Mitch - 17-04-2008 13:05

I'll be sorry to see Wrexham go, as they're the only team who's fans seemed to actively dislike us (or have any opinion about us at all...).

I'll even let them off for inflicting Dave Brammer on us.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by HORN - 17-04-2008 13:07

Dave Gwyther - hmm. And where did he go after Rotherham? Of course, the last Welsh club to drop out of the league.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 17-04-2008 13:07

Cheers all.

As for coming back first time, I really can't see it. Brian Little said, somewhat astutely, after the embarrassment at Shrewsbury that the players aren't good enough ... well we've known that for quite some time Brian, and you did actually bring 12 of them to the club.

This visionary has now been given a two year contract, so I'm not very confident.

The only plus side is that facilities-wise we should be a big draw for non-league players, but we'll have to wait and see.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 17-04-2008 13:13

I'd be worried if I was you mitch ...

Halifax ... gone
Exeter ... gone
Oxford United ... gone
Wrexham ... going

... Crewe Alexandra ... next?

As for Dave Brammer, my abiding memory of him is of him walking off the pitch at Springfield Park giving us the Vs after we lost the Sherpa Van/AutoWindscreens/Dodgy Name Cup northern final against Wigan.

There had been a strong rumour he was leaving to join Port fucking Vale, so the fans let him know, in no uncertain terms what we actually thought.

That was his last game for us!

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by doubledeckerbus - 17-04-2008 13:24

I was somewhat surprised to read about Brian Little's new contract last week. Seems a very odd decision to me - are many of the fans happy with this?

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Mitch - 17-04-2008 13:31

We're managing to play our way out of the football league without any need for spelling conspiracies, ta Jorge.

And, like you, we'll have the poshest training ground in the Conference.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 17-04-2008 14:16

doubledeckerbus wrote:

I was somewhat surprised to read about Brian Little's new contract last week. Seems a very odd decision to me - are many of the fans happy with this?

The fans are split (as bloody usual with Wrexham).

Many think it's a good idea to have someone in charge over the summer and preparing for next season who already knows what is facing him squad-wise.

Many others (me included) think it would be a great idea if only that someone wasn't Brian Little. His squad selections have been bizarre to say the least and he is very quick to blame previous managers ... quickly forgetting that he's been in charge for longer than Brian Carey and that he's brought in more players than Brian Carey ... and still we're going down ...

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Kowalski - 17-04-2008 17:54

I am absolutely gutted about Wrexham being relegated. I don't think I'll be able to get used to the idea of a North Wales without a League Club.

I was on the Kop last year against Boston and the elation was overwhelming, I can't believe that lessons weren't learnt.

The bitterest part of this whole sorry situation is Franchise going up whilst one of the oldest clubs in the world vacates the league.

I sympathise wholeheartedly

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 17-04-2008 20:34

Kowalski wrote:

I was on the Kop last year against Boston and the elation was overwhelming, I can't believe that lessons weren't learnt.

Genuine question, what lessons and even if they'd learnt them could they have acted upon them?

While we're on a similar subject what have the clubs relegated from the FL that have come back seemingly healthier (Carlisle, Hereford) done to make the change and break the downward spiral? How do Wrexham look to emulate them not York & Scarborough

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Cavalry Trouser Tips - 17-04-2008 21:09

Just refuse to give the League the share back.

Surely there's something in how Leeds have gone about their 'business' that you can get a good lawyer in to go through with a jeweller's eyepiece and use to avoid relegation?

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 17-04-2008 21:22

Harry Carpenter wrote:

Genuine question, what lessons and even if they'd learnt them could they have acted upon them?

That bleeding an inexperienced manager with no funds in the bottom half of division 4 is not a good idea.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by mnb098mnb - 17-04-2008 22:01

I stumbled across this youtube clip of a Watford vs Wrexham match on youtube yesterday:
<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=knEkI9KehfA>

Watford making it to the top flight for the first time against Wrexham (who were wearing a natty blue kit). Most notable bit of the clip is the "HORNET TV" ident at the beginning of the clip that must have been made on a ZX Spectrum.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Greenlander - 17-04-2008 23:14

Wrexham aren't a team we've come up against in my time. A 4-1 win with a couple of corking own goal including a 20 yard header by Bryan Hughes and a bizarre pub somewhere on the Welsh borderlands are about my only memories.

I'll be sad to see you (and Mansfield) go, it's teams like D&R and Barnet I'd like to be rid.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by repeater - 17-04-2008 23:14

You have my sympathies, Jorge. I'm sorry to say I thought you might be in real trouble once you signed Drewe Broughton on loan. Drewe was relegated with Rushden in 2005/06, and Boston in 2006/07.

Why couldn't he have stayed at Franchise and worked his relegation magic there?

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by NickSTFC - 18-04-2008 17:38

Believe it or not some people in Shroosbury care.
They are going to miss or "derbies" (and 6 points)with the decent crowds.

The BSP is not the end of the world, but then we only spent one season in the then Conference, which explains why I enjoyed it.

Shroosbury were lucky in that off the field we had no problems like a lot of Clubs that drop out of the league often have.

You could be down there awhile, good luck.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 19-04-2008 16:05

Congratulations Jorge, gives you another week at least.

"It's not the despair. I can take the despair. It's the hope I can't stand.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 19-04-2008 17:23

I bloody well care.

Apart from the Welsh club solidarity, Wrexham were the first opponents I saw City play on my return to football-watching.

Also anyone who has read "All Played Out" has to have a soft spot for Wrexham.

Bizzarely the only time I have been to the Racecourse has been to see Motorhead play there however. Every year I intend to take Marley to the Liverpool freindly when it happens

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 19-04-2008 18:43

Bored Of The Dance wrote:

Also anyone who has read "All Played Out" has to have a soft spot for Wrexham.

Does Pete Davies mention Wrexham in 'All Played Out' or do you mean 'Twenty-Foriegners in Funny Shorts'?

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Mercedes Actros - 19-04-2008 18:49

I remember Wrexham knocking us out of the FA Cup in 1978.

City were 2-0 up and cruising then suddenly you were 4-2 up. City struggled back to 4-4, then you stuffed us 3-0 in the replay at the Racecourse.

We were in the first division at the time, but Dixie McNiel tore us apart at will.

I think you went quite a way in the competition that year, and got promotion as well.

Good result today. Keep hoping.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 19-04-2008 23:17

Sorry, Harry, I stand corrected

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by E10 Rifle - 20-04-2008 00:08

For what it's worth I'll add my name to the Wrexham sympathisers. They were royally shafted by Hamilton a few years back and fought against it pretty much as well as they could and don't deserve this. Especially if it means horrible club-guzzling teams like Dagenham & Redbridge staying up.

And of course Wrexham are associated with three of my favourite ever football matches, which all took place within a two-month period between April and June 1989.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 20-04-2008 09:59

I think I'm right in saying that we will be the longest serving league club to lose its status.

Unless Notts County go down with you ... mind you, they are now in the fortunate position of having two remaining fixtures against teams that have nothing (effectively) to play for, Wycombe having made the playoffs and Chesterfield missing out.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Bombanero - 20-04-2008 11:04

I care too.

- 1) beating Arsenal in the cup
 - 2) nice traditional ground with proper 'ends'
 - 3) wednesday seemed to play well there
 - 4) their website was really lovely about hillsborough when they gubbed us one year
- =====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by sidjames - 20-04-2008 11:17

For what it's worth, I too would be sorry to see Wrexham go.

We could have one of those last day deciders like Barnet v Torquay a few years back and Wrexham v Boston last season. Mansfield's final game is at Dagenham & Redbridge.

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 20-04-2008 11:18

MA, yes we beat Newcastle in the next round and then Blyth Spartans - we lost to Arsenal in the QFs. I was actually talking about the Blyth Spartans match with Dixie McNeil yesterday.

Can't say the same thing about those three matches E10! Bloody play-offs ...

Yesterday though, we found a team who are actually worse than us, incredible though it may seem. It's really just prolonging the agony until Tuesday - if we don't beat the Wurzels we go down because D&R play Mansfield on the last day.

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 20-04-2008 12:38

Ah fuck, I hadn't factored that in to my musings.

I had to check who exactly which Wurzels you were referring to , I don't think we call them that.

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 20-04-2008 13:46

Harry Carpenter wrote:

I had to check who exactly which Wurzels you were referring to , I don't think we call them that.

I take it Britol City ar the Wurzels to CCFC, Harry?

Shroo-ar-oo-arsbury are sometimes known by us as the Wurzels too, but more often than not, they're the Slops.

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 22-04-2008 13:37

A message of support, Jorge?

d acha Wreccsam

Tuesday 22 Apr 2008 06:03:45 by Col

Bro ewyllysia bod yn gobeithio a Wreccsam all gwna 'u blaid acha Dydd Mawrth hwyr at yn baeddu ddyrchafiad chydymgeiswyr Henffordd 'n Gyd.

Hon herwhela ewyllysia ca a 'n fawr ddeud acha ai Rochdale all gwna 'r briga 'n dri ai peidio.

Ddod 'n annichellgar , ni angen Henffordd at ddefnydda atalnodaau.

Wrecsam cer i mewn i 'r herwela acha 'r bacia chan a enilla acha Dydd Sadwrn.

A buddugoliaeth gave 'u eiliw chan gobeithia

Fel 'n gyfryw , ewyllysiwn pawb bod bleidwyr chan Wrecsam achos 'r hwyr.

Brian Little s 'n goch a gwynnwy bragad

Hawddamor Wrecsam chan pawb am Spotland

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 22-04-2008 14:28

What's that Harry? Welsh through an online translator? I can barely make it out.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 22-04-2008 14:51

It's on a Rochdale site, as per the link.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 22-04-2008 14:55

Ah yes, How silly of me.

I'll go down the Racecourse on Saturday, whatever they do tonight. I've got a free weekend with the WPL season over, and haven't been to watch Wrexham yet for the first season in recent memory.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 22-04-2008 19:51

Hereford 1-0 up at HT, Blue Square looms...

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Cavalry Trousers Tips - 22-04-2008 21:01

It finishes 2-0 and they're out.

Commiserations Jorge Porbillas and all other Wrecsam fans.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 22-04-2008 21:06

Commiserations JP, hope you're back in the league soon and (though it may seem unlikely now) you enjoy the Conference.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by rick derris - 22-04-2008 21:10

thirded

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 22-04-2008 21:36

Bad luck, Jorge. You only have to look at the team that beat you tonight to realise that it isn't all doom and gloom.

With a bit of luck, I may be able to catch you at Bath City

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Kowalski - 22-04-2008 21:39

Shit!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Mercedes Actros - 23-04-2008 10:18

Forest Green is a really nice away trip as well.

Comiserations to everyone.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Aldo Simoncini - 23-04-2008 10:19

What will happen to the academy now? That's a worry.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 23-04-2008 10:43

Que sera sera,
Whatever will be will be
We're going to Forest Green
Que sera sera

... as we sung last night.

Thanks for the messages of support everyone. Just got in to work - didn't get home till half past two this morning, so had a bit of a lie in.

Despite the glimmer of hope, last night was inevitable really.

Hereford weren't that much better than us last night but it just proves that we're a very poor side in a poor league.

478 Wrexham fans in a crowd of 3,739 made me realise how good our crowds have been this season. They are going for automatic promotion - we've been bottom three since the first week of September. They got 3,700-odd last night in a must-win game, yet our average gates are over 4,200.

I won't go into how little I think of Brian Little's tactical nous just yet ... I'll have my lunch first.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by boris - 23-04-2008 11:15

It will be interesting to see how your crowds hold up next season, Jorge. Ours actually improved after relegation, but there were a number of factors involved, mainly the departure of Kassam and the feelgood factor engendered by the new owners. A 19-game unbeaten start to the season didn't hurt either.

This season has seen the average home crowd down by about 1500 (or 25%), which is still much better than the other Conf clubs, but has meant a lot of belt tightening too, especially as we also lost the parachute payment. Next season looks like they're going to decrease ticket prices, which is a gamble, but could mean that the crowds don't drop off too much further, despite the disappointment of this season.

Anyway, good luck for next season, and I hope that you can go back up (with us, of course).

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 23-04-2008 11:25

Sorry you've gone down, JP. Hopefully we'll do the good and proper thing and ensure that you've got a fixture with Mansfield next season...

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by ant259 - 23-04-2008 11:42

I'm sorry you've gone, too, Jorge (and other Wrexham fans).

We had some great tussles in the Cup, and one of my first away trips was to the Racecourse, when Alan Devonshire scored a brilliant solo effort in a 2-2 draw. I also fondly remember a 4-3 win for you when Pop Robson scored an absolute belter as a consolation for us.

Despite everything I suspect you'll have fun in the Conference...for the first year at least, and you'll probably see crowds go up. I just hope you get promotion first time round, or things could go horribly wrong.

Best of luck.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 23-04-2008 12:11

Incidentally, if their website's owt to go by, The Guardian doesn't give a flying fuck...

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 23-04-2008 12:13

Only one line in the print version as well. Very poor show.

=====

Re:I\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Bogzilla - 23-04-2008 13:30

Yeah, commiserations and hopes for a swift return echoed here too.

=====

Re:I\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 23-04-2008 13:38

I was outraged by the 'Guardian's ' ignoring it, too. There was literally nothing beyond the score in my edition. Huge picture of Hicks and his rich scum sons, though.

Condolences to all supporters and sympathisers. I thought after saturday they still just had a bit of a chance, but last night meant something to Hereford too, of course.

=====

Re:I\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by mnb098mnb - 23-04-2008 16:05

I think the subjects at the bottom of the WSC chart Wrexham's demise quite succinctly.

Wrexham - Alex Hamilton - Darren Ferguson - Brian Little - Conference

=====

Re:I\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 23-04-2008 16:37

Yeah I'm very sad about this and agree with Harry when he hopes that a year or two in the conference might be just what is required. However I know that having been close to this situation only 5 years ago I know how frightening this can be. For every Doncaster and Carlisle there are clubs who have not returned and have quietly slipped further and further away from life in the 92.

It's today that I'll remember my childhood favourites. Bobby Shinton, Arfon Griffiths, Dixie McNeill, Dai Davies and Mad Mickey T. Wrexham versus Arsenal in the cup is still one of my favourite childhood memories because until Swansea went on their mad late 70's early 80's run there was only that Blyth Spartans cup run and Cardiff's win over Spurs (Peter Sayer if I remember rightly) in the cup that made a Welsh boy dream of competing with the big clubs.

=====

Re:I\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by NickSTFC - 23-04-2008 18:20

Good luck, just glad it wasn't us.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkaIFLHKgm4>

It's a p1ss take but the sentiment is in Vera's song.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by E10 Rifle - 23-04-2008 19:42

Commiserations to Jorge and Wrexham. Hope you bounce back swiftly.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by ale - 23-04-2008 20:50

quite obviously I'm missing something as it's accepted Wrexham are relegated...

but they are 6 points point off 22nd with two games to play with an admittedly inferior goal difference of eight behind Dagenham...

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 23-04-2008 20:52

Dagenham play Mansfield in their last game so we can't catch either of them

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by mnb098mnb - 23-04-2008 20:55

Mansfield are playing Dagenham & Redbridge on Saturday. Two games left.

43pts Dagenham & Redbridge

42pts Mansfield

37pts Wrexham

So Wrexham are down.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by ale - 23-04-2008 21:15

as I said...blindingly obvious ...

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Janik - 23-04-2008 21:50

Someone a few posts back suggested that clubs have been slipping far enough returning to the 92. Not many of them, really. And those that have tended to be those who were less established league clubs, Boston, Scarborough (RIP) and people like that.

I don't think an ex-league club (or at least a club who left the league after 1980) has ever been relegated from the conference on playing grounds. Halifax might be the first this Saturday, but even they are only where they are due to a -10 point penalty for going into administration.

The Conference is coming to resemble Division 4 circa 1970. Which, of course, makes it harder to get out of. Next season there will be established well supported clubs like Wrexham, Oxford, two of Cambridge, Exeter and Torquay,

York, Kidderminster, Rushden, along with whoever else comes down. As well as progressive established non-league clubs like Burton and Stevenage.

It took Doncaster five years to turn themselves around. I don't think that is an unrealistic time frame for others coming down to envisage. Which would be OK, if you could guarantee getting the set-up correct whilst in the Conference, as Doncaster managed.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by boris - 24-04-2008 10:04

Janik wrote:

I don't think an ex-league club (or at least a club who left the league after 1980) has ever been relegated from the conference on playing grounds.
Southport? When were they relegated from the League?

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 10:07

Southport weren't re-elected. The important word here is "relegated".

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by ursus arctos - 24-04-2008 10:11

Southport failed in their (third consecutive) re-election bid in 1978; they were replaced by Wigan Athletic.

200 percent has additional background on them here .

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by boris - 24-04-2008 10:15

They weren't re-elected, therefore they were relegated. Innit.

However, ursus puts the timing on it to prove that they don't fulfill the criterion anyway.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 10:20

boris wrote:

They weren't re-elected, therefore they were relegated. Innit.Huge, huge difference. As far as I can recall, none of the clubs who weren't re-elected since the war have subsequently returned to the Football League.

=====

Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 24-04-2008 10:23

I notice the Telegraph (it was lying on my seat on the train) did a decent-sized feature on Wrexham's fate today. Then again their commitment to the lower (and non) leagues has always been greater than the other papers.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by twohundredpercent - 24-04-2008 10:36

What GO said, basically. Re-election was very seldom about playing performance on its own - it was as much about how a club greased the wheels (Gateshead, most famously, were voted out in 1960 after finishing third from bottom and in the bottom four for only the second time - rumour had it that it was because the directors bar at Redheugh Park charged visiting officials for drinks), or whether a non-league team was riding the crest of a wave of popularity at the time (Hereford United replaced Barrow in 1972 largely because they had received a considerable amount of national attention in the FA Cup that season). Of the clubs that were voted out of the League since 1950, New Brighton folded, Gateshead folded and re-formed, Bradford PA folded and reformed, Barrow, Southport and Workington are in the Conference North (the Conference started after Southport, the last team to be voted out, went).

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by ursus arctos - 24-04-2008 10:46

200 is too modest to blow his own horn, but he did an excellent series covering all of the clubs noted above on his blog.

Though he should add a search box to the home page so links like the one I posted above to the Southport entry are easier to find . . .

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Nil a fhios agam - 24-04-2008 10:50

Doncaster have only turned it around due to the owner, John Ryan, putting substantial amounts of money into the club. The club was an absolute mess when it was relegated with a real contender for worst chairman ever.

=====

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by twohundredpercent - 24-04-2008 10:57

UA: You're a gentleman and a scholar. I did tag everything on there, but I think that I might have missed out "re-election". I'll fix that later this afternoon (I'm a little pushed for time now).

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Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Janik - 24-04-2008 17:13

Gangster Octopus (User)

Posts: 313

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares 1 Day, 4 Hours ago

Incidentally, if their website's owt to go by, The Guardian doesn't give a flying fuck...

Please note, although no boardcode buttons are shown, they are still useable

Logged

#17220

Harry Carpenter (User)

Posts: 400

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares 1 Day, 4 Hours ago
Only one line in the print version as well. Very poor show.
Please note, although no boardcode buttons are shown, they are still useable

Logged

#17276
Bogzilla (User)

Posts: 16

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares 1 Day, 3 Hours ago
Yeah, commiserations and hopes for a swift return echoed here too.
Please note, although no boardcode buttons are shown, they are still useable

Logged

#17279
Felicity, I guess so (User)

Posts: 39

Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares 1 Day, 3 Hours ago
I was outraged by the 'Guardian's ' ignoring it, too. There was literally nothing beyond the score in my edition. Huge picture of Hicks and his rich scum sons, though.

Why were people upset by this? Or more specifically, why were people upset by the lack of coverage this season, when other clubs going under in very similar circumstances in previous years, with precisely the same muted coverage, has annoyed nobody?

The only time relegated teams from the lower leagues get reported on is when it's a dramatic last day sort of thing. For example, last season, Boston are thirty minutes from safety, lots of reports. Torquay went down earlier in the month, it might get a passing mention.

'05-'06 Oxford = fuss, Rushden = silence

'04-'05 both Cambridge and Kidderminster out of the league without discussion

'03-'04 Carlisle = fuss, York get barely a mention

Also, I've heard no complaints about the lack of coverage of Colchester, Scunthorpe, Port Vale and Luton's already confirmed relegations.

If demotion has long seemed inevitable, and it is sealed with a whimper with a couple of games left, then you don't get reported on.

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Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 24-04-2008 17:56

Janik wrote:

Also, I've heard no complaints about the lack of coverage of Colchester, Scunthorpe, Port Vale and Luton's already confirmed relegations.

If demotion has long seemed inevitable, and it is sealed with a whimper with a couple of games left, then you don't get reported on.

Colchester, Scunthorpe, Port Vale and Luton are not going out of the league.

Just to clarify, you don't think being relegated out of the football league is a story worth reporting? Who do you support again?

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Re:I\'m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Janik - 24-04-2008 18:05

It's no more or less a story worth reporting this season than it was in previous years.

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Re:I\'m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 24-04-2008 18:07

So is that a "it's not worth reporting" or a "it should have been reported last year too."

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Re:I\'m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Janik - 24-04-2008 18:12

It's a "You lot didn't complain about the lack of coverage when my team were relegated. You bastards."

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Re:I\'m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 24-04-2008 18:15

Janik wrote:

It's a "You lot didn't complain about the lack of coverage when my team were relegated. You bastards."

Aha, so it's a "you lot like his club more than my club" snipe, then ...

Did you complain about the lack of coverage?

I can't remember a thread about the lack of coverage about any relegation, but OTF being OTF I'm sure there would have been a similar reaction, after all the ratio of small club to BRC/BBC on OTF is pretty good.

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Re:I\'m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by ian.64 - 24-04-2008 19:51

If demotion has long seemed inevitable, and it is sealed with a whimper with a couple of games left, then you don't get reported on.

Alas, that's true. It's the way of league things: the process of failure - that of relegation - is taken as read and there's a 'nothing to see here, move on' attitude to it all. You're relegated. That's it. Live with it.

But I was thinking recently about this state of affairs concerning the media and the lower leagues. I was spurred into giving it some pondering when I learned that a hack representing the West Midlands sports press was present in the press box at Wembley at the West Brom-Pompey FA semi-final. When Pompey won, there were high-fives a-plenty indulged by the national hacks, agog with joy that their favourite geezer, Harry had won. We couldn't win in every sense.

And that led me to other thoughts. If you read the websites of national papers - and the papers themselves - they offer thoughts and suggestions on the Premiership itself. If and when Manchester United face continental opposition in the CL, for example, there's a bunch of hacks proffering how best Ronaldo and Co. can overwhelm and win the day. What system? What style of play?

And the same for the rest. Every day and every week, Paul Wilson, Henry Winter and their ilk use their columns to provide the answers to the problems that beset the great and good of the top flight, full focus is placed upon finding out

how the mighty can be even mightier. Troubles besetting Fergie? Let's discuss them. Arsene not won anything this year? Let's find out why. Rafa Benitez still hasn't found his best team? Let's do it for him. All minutiae discussed and considered by our nation's hacks.

Right.

Now, when a team comes up from the Championship to play in the Premiership, where's the authoritative voice to consider options or suggestions that might help them survive beyond the hackneyed, shitty response, "they'll have to spend big"? If the subject of the Championship's 'mediocrity' arises once again, where's the hack to come up with a plan to make it less 'mediocre' and fill it with quality other than just murmur 'be more consistent' in a small paragraph? If a sleazy cunt wants to buy up a club in order to gain maximum dosh from the land upon which it rests, where's the journo to come up with the solution to ensure the bleeder never has the benefit of being considered as a buyer for even a millionth of a second? When a club goes into liquidation and has the most uncertain of futures, where's the hack to posit his reasons why it happens and offer his opinions on how it can be possible for clubs to avoid such a scenario?

Where's Paul? Where's Henry? Nick Townsend?

They'll probably be at Old Trafford, finding descriptive metaphors for Ronaldo's stepovers, or chuckling warmly at the latest hue that crosses Fergie's kebab-shaped jowls.

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Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by twohundredpercent - 24-04-2008 20:05

Right: all done.

Here

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Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 24-04-2008 20:57

What's the problem with Dagenham and Redbridge, E10? I can remember Cheltenham playing Redbridge Forest and clearly they merged with Dagenham at some point. Was there something particularly bad about the merger? Beyond being a merger, of course.

I like them because they've got a Tower Hamlets Bangladeshi as their captain.

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Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 21:00

You'll get the full rundown off E10, but basically Dagenham And Redbridge are the club that ate East London. Including Walthamstow Avenue.

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Re:I'm not sure anyone else cares

Posted by twohundredpercent - 24-04-2008 21:05

Tubby: First, there were Leytonstone FC and Ilford FC. They merged in about 1979, to form Leytonstone-Ilford, and sold Ilford's ground. A couple of years later, they sold Leytonstone's ground and moved to play at Walthamstow Avenue. In about 1987, they merged with Walthamstow Avenue, but carried on playing as Leytonstone-Ilford, before changing their name to Redbridge Forest, selling Walthamstow's ground and moving to groundshare at Dagenham FC. They got into the Conference and, when the money ran out (presuming that most of it had already been creamed off) merged with Dagenham to form Dagenham & Redbridge.

Walthamstow's Green Pond Road was the only won of the original three clubs' grounds that I went to, to see St Albans play Leytonstone-Ilford in about 1986. It was clearly once a great ground, but was falling apart at the seams. At the time, Leytonstone were top of the Isthmian League Premier Division (in real terms, the Conference South), but I still remember that the crowd that day was 210. There were about 80 or so travelled down from St Albans, and I remember looking at their fixtures in the programme and seeing that it was their biggest crowd of the season.

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Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 24-04-2008 21:06

They're more an Essex borders side, aren't they?

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Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 24-04-2008 22:01

Ah sorry, just seen your post. I can't imagine all those teams existing in East London now but it does seem excessive. And I expect you're right about money being creamed off.

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Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by mnb098mnb - 26-04-2008 10:58

Wrexham have released 14 players today - or at least told them not to come back next season.

One of them is Mark Jones (now 23) who at one point looked like turning into a good player. What happened?

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Re:\m not sure anyone else cares

Posted by Jorge Porbillas - 26-04-2008 11:37

mnb098mnb wrote:

One of them is Mark Jones (now 23) who at one point looked like turning into a good player. What happened?

He became Jonathan Cross

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