

London Owls Newsletter

April 2012

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



London Owls Player of the Year Award 2011/12

So far, this century has been a dark one in the history of our beloved football club. Too often, in the wake of a relegation or season of mid-table obscurity choosing a player of the year has been a case of choosing the least worse performer.

But this year there is genuine competition and intrigue as to who will be crowned the London Owls Player of the Year.

If you are a member of the London Owls you have until Sunday 15th April 2012 to cast your vote by emailing: londonowls.poty@gmail.com.

Had loan aces Mikail Antonio or Ben Marshall been with the club all season they would surely be amongst the favourites to claim the prize, but here we look at some of the contenders who have performed heroics for the blue and white wizards throughout the campaign.

6. Jose Vitor Semedo (Defensive Midfielder/Magician)

Wednesdayites have been dealing with a complex question all season. How did we manage to turn central midfield from our weakest area to one of our strongest whilst only spending peanuts in the process? Much of this improvement has been down to the Portuguese ace Jose Semedo.

Signed on a free from Charlton, Jose has brought a solidity and defensive steel to a Wednesday midfield not seen since the days of Carlton Palmer and has contributed significantly to our improved defensive record this term - as thousands will testify, you'll never get past him. He has started every league game and in the process has become a fans favourite, a twitter trend, vice-captain of the squad and inspiration for one of the most original songs heard at S6 in years.

Semedo is Charlton's reigning Player of the Year - could he make it a double for different League One clubs?

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

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
Mark Reynolds - @reyn01ds
Matthew Tumilty - @Matty_Tumilty
Nile Ranger - @NilePowerRanger
Michail Antonio - @Michailantonio
Richard O'Donnell - @RichODonnell23
Ryan Lowe - @rlowe15
Stephen Bywater - @gjones123456789



4. Danny Batth (Centre Back/Mr Dependable)

Batth has demonstrated remarkable maturity for his tender years to become the Owls first choice defender, barely missing a game in the process. Strong, tough in the tackle, good in the air and quicker than he appears, the Wolves loanee has all the attributes to become a player at the very top level and we can only hope this will be at S6.



14. Gary Madine (Striker/Goal Machine)

Top scorers are always contenders for the big awards, and the Geordie Goal Machine's record speaks for itself. He has scored more than a goal every two games and looks set to join Steve MacClean as our only players to hit the magic 20 goals mark in the last decade.

This is a pretty remarkable performance when you consider how the picture looked in the summer.

Last season Madine was predominantly known for his donkey work to create space for Neil Mellor. He only hit 5 goals in 22 games for the Owls last term, and was expected to vacate a first team space when one of the touted names such as Le Fondre or McDonald was signed.

Instead Madine has stepped up to the plate to become the team's talisman and top scorer. Where would we be if he hadn't missed those 9 games over December?

2. Lewis Buxton (Full Back/Cafu Impersonator)

Much like Danny Batth, Buxton is so consistent it is sometimes easy to take his excellent displays for granted. He started this season as he ended the last – allying reliable defensive skills with swashbuckling runs forward and has even been deployed as a winger this term.



17. Reda Johnson (Full Back/Centre Back/Goalscorer)



Reda Johnson is perfectly designed to be a cult hero. Big, tough, committed and scorer of goals, lots of goals. Upon signing from Plymouth last season Reda showed a good deal of promise but clearly struggled with his positioning in an inexperienced and often fluctuating back line.

This year he has made a remarkable transformation into a galloping full-back, finally proving the answer to Wednesday's long-standing left-side problems.

He's also got up the other end to scored 7 goals, the highest total of any defender in the division and has become a huge fans favourite as a result.





43. Stephen Bywater (Goalkeeper/Eccentric)

On the pitch Bywater keeps things simple. You'll rarely see him making a flying camera save, but then he usually won't have to as his positioning and vocal organising of his back four take care of many of the problems he has to face.

Off the pitch Bywater is anything but simple. If you have to be daft to be a goalkeeper Stephen is well qualified and you only have to follow him on Twitter to see why - the picture of him eating a yoghurt in his car with a toothbrush was an undoubted highlight.

Honourable mentions

32. Miguel Angel Llera – Probably not played enough games to be in contention, but his performance of late have been remarkable. He doesn't just win headers at the back, he smashes in free kicks and perfect crosses as well!

5. Rob Jones – Club captain and inspirational leader in the big games, Jones has also chipped in with his fair share of goals.

8. Chris Lines – Splits the fan base. He certainly isn't Gerrard, Lampard or Xavi but he does a vital job of always being available to receive a ball, even under pressure, and rarely giving it away. For League One and for £20,000 you won't find much better.

9. Chris O'Grady – If Gary Megson had a vote in this poll this is who he would choose. Is he Wednesday's answer to Emile Heskey? Works hard, wins headers, holds up the ball, creates space and always makes his strike partner look good – but doesn't score enough goals?

Colchester Meeting Place

Many of the London Owls will be making the short trip to Colchester for Saturday's big game. Our pre-match meeting point will be The Fat Cat, 65 Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BZ. The pub serves real ale and is only ten minutes walk from the "Colchester Town" railway station (make sure to get off at this stop, there are several stations in Colchester) as shown below.



Got a story to tell?

We're always on the lookout for new stories for the newsletter. 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.

Travel Details

As ever, The London Owls will be travelling to all forthcoming home league games, catching the 0955 outbound and returning on the 1827 for the price of £32. Please email iacol@clara.co.uk if you want to get involved.

Dates for the diary

I know this is all irrelevant as we're going up automatically, but just in case here's the play off details:

- The League One & League Two first legs will be played on: Friday 11 May (7.45pm), Saturday 12 May (12.30pm), Saturday 12 May (7.45pm) and Sunday 13 May (12.00pm).
- The second legs will be played on: Monday 14 May (7.45pm), Tuesday 15 May (7.45pm), Wednesday 16 May (7.45pm) and Thursday 17 May (7.45pm).
- The final is on 26 May at Wembley at 3pm.
- Teams play each other as follows: 3rd place team vs. 6th and 4th vs. 5th. The teams finishing in 3rd and 4th have their home legs second but away goals do not count double.
- The team finishing 3rd usually goes first, so it is likely we would play on Friday and Monday. But this rule is not set in stone, Millwall finished 3rd in 2010 but played second. I think it is Sky who has the final say, so keep your eyes peeled!