

On-field discipline a worry?



Figures just released by the FAW Disciplinary Department show a worrying increase in yellow and red cards over the season just gone.

The FAW Fairplay Table for the Welsh Premier League sees The New Saints top the table with four red cards and 38 yellows just ahead of Bala Town on 2/46 – just ten penalty points behind.

Newtown and Airbus come third and fourth respectively.

Interestingly the four clubs representing Wales in UEFA club competitions are also the top four in the fair-play table.

At the other end Rhyl are bottom with the worst record points-wise with 410 for nine reds and 78 yellows.

Druids hit double figures in reds with ten.

The red cards per-match-ratio of 0.38 is the highest ever recorded since stats began in 1994. That's a red card every three matches.

Likewise the per-match-ratio for yellow cards is 3.95 touching on four bookings per match – again the highest on record.

The importance of disciplinary improvement is highlighted by the rewards possible for overall good behaviour.

UEFA give three Europa League places to the three nations with the best record over the season. This takes in national team (all ages) behaviour, clubs in European competition, fans behaviour etc. These three nations are allowed then to enter the highest placed club in their own Fair-play table that is not already qualified for UEFA competition.

This year England submitted West Ham United, Holland's representatives are Go Ahead Eagles Deventer and University College Dublin representing the Republic of Ireland.

Wales were 19th in the UEFA Fairplay Ranking but had it hit the top three then Aberystwyth Town would have been playing in the Europa League.

The Fair-play Table and stats appears on page 7

Euro-draw club list nearly complete

The clubs representing their nations in next season's UEFA club competitions are nearly all known.

In the Champions League, The New Saints will play in the First qualifying round and will face one of four clubs in Crusaders Belfast of Northern Ireland, B36 Torshavn of the Faroe Islands, Lincoln Red Imps of Gibraltar or SS Folgore of San Marino.

Should they get through this round then they will be up against some well-known and experienced sides.

Celtic, Steaua Bucharest, Partizan Belgrade and HJK Helsinki are all in the seeded section of the Second qualifying round draw.

In the Europa League our three clubs will possibly face some real heavyweights!

West Ham United are the top seeds of the First Round and are accompanied by Rosenborg BK of Norway, IF Elfsborg of Denmark, Slovan Bratislava, AIK Stockholm, FH Hafnarfjardar and KR Reykjavik of Iceland, St Patrick's Athletic of the Irish Republic and HB Torshavn of the Faroe Islands all within the realms of potential opponents if UEFA "regionalise" the draw as they have done in the recent past.

We'll feature the full list in both competitions next week when all clubs will be known

ABERYSTWYTH TOWN

Aberystwyth Town FC enjoyed a fantastic Bank Holiday weekend as their Ladies and Under 19s sides both bagged Trophies with Central Wales Cup Final victories.



On Sunday afternoon Aberystwyth Town Ladies travelled to Newtown to take on Llanfyllin in the Central Wales FA Ladies Cup Final, bidding to win the trophy for the third successive season - and this they did in emphatic fashion, winning by five goals to one (see photo, right)

Then on Monday Emyr Jones' U19s side carried the Central Wales FA Youth Cup home from Rhayader with a closely fought 1-0 win over Llanidloes Town, thanks to an 84th minute strike from highly rated Daf

Carruthers.

Aberystwyth Town FC heartily congratulates both sides on their victories and we look forward to recognising their achievements at the Annual Club Dinner.

Aberystwyth Town FC is set to upgrade its website as we prepare to launch a new look service over the next few days. As this occurs some temporary disruption in our service may be experienced, for which we apologise in advance.

Our social media updates via twitter and facebook will continue and we expect the new website to be up and running by next Thursday at the latest - and hopefully sooner!

Thanks in advance for your patience. Thomas Crockett Media Director, Aberystwyth Town FC

AIRBUS UK BROUGHTON

AIRBUS UK Broughton director of football Andy Preece is delighted to have signed prolific goal scorer Tony Gray. Preece has ended a long search for a marksman and beaten off competition from clubs in both England and Wales to sign the prolific ex-Southport, Droylsden, Chester and AFC Telford striker.

Gray, 31, scored eight goals from 17 (+4) Welsh Premier appearances for Bangor City in season 2004/5 after joining from West Cheshire League Division One Club Newton where he had played a part in the club's 2003/4 championship season.

He then moved to Burscough before making his mark in the Football Conference with Southport, Droylsden, Chester and Telford, scoring 56 goals from 133 (+29) appearances.

Last season, Gray notched 20 goals for the struggling Bucks and was voted club and players' player of the season at the New Bucks Head.

"I am really pleased to have signed someone of the calibre of Tony Gray, his scoring record speaks for itself," Preece says.

"I have come up against him many times but this is the first chance I have had to sign him. "He has been scoring goals regularly in a struggling side in the Conference and is still at the peak of his career with some of his best years ahead of him.

"We needed someone to take the weight off Chris Budrys, Andy Jones and Ricky Evans, none of whom are prolific goal scorers.

"We need more goals and, with Wayne Riley coming back to full match fitness, Tom Field and Matty McGinn also in good scoring form, Tony normally gets around the 20-mark.

"It's difficult to entice players into the Welsh Premier League but we've managed to get Tony and I'm so pleased to have signed him at this stage in his career."

"I'm made up. I had a few options, but weighing them all up Airbus was the best for me," Gray says.



"I had a decent season and scored a few, so I thought there'd be interest, but Airbus showed the most interest and they wanted me the most.

"I was at Chester with Ash (Ashley Williams) and Matty (McGinn) which helped too, and I know Tom Field. Obviously I've spoken to Andy (Preece) as well and he seems like a good fella. He said he's been following me for a while.

"I'm looking forward to getting going. Every striker wants to hit the ground running and score goals. I don't set myself targets - I'll just score as many as I can!"

This article courtesy of www.airbusfc.com, the Airbus UK Broughton FC website

BALA TOWN

Midfielder Conall gets engaged!

We were delighted to hear that yesterday (Saturday, 23rd) that Bala Town central midfielder Conall Murtagh popped the question to long-term partner Kate in Donegal. Congratulations to both from us all.

Bala Town can reveal this morning that we will face Denbigh Town in July as part of their pre-season plans. Finishing seventh in the Cymru Alliance, the Central Park outfit had a superb debut season after their promotion from the Welsh Alliance. Gareth Thomas has recently been named as new manager of the Denbighshire side and the home side will no doubt prove a challenge as always for the Lakesiders.

The local derby will take place on Wednesday, 29th July with a 7.30p.m. kick-off at Central Park.

Sixth season for Jonah

Good news this week in that midfielder Mark Jones has signed a new deal at Maes Tegid, extending his stay to a sixth season.

Currently the Lakesiders longest serving player, Mark has made 167 (+11) appearances scoring 31 goals in a black and white shirt.

An ex Wales International who has two caps to his name, Jonah joined the Club in 2010 after spells at Wrexham and Rochdale and was named Welsh Premier of the Year in 2011/12.

Making 26 (+10) appearances in the last campaign he was a constant presence in the centre of midfield and will once again be a vital player in the Town midfield.

BANGOR CITY

After the news breaking over the weekend of a visit from Tranmere Rovers, Bangor City would like to take this opportunity to announce further additions to their pre-season schedule. The schedule of upcoming matches so far is as follows:

Wednesday 15th July Colwyn Bay (A) 7.30pm KO

Tuesday 21st July Tranmere Rovers (H) 7pm KO

Saturday 25th July Guilsfield (H) 2.30pm KO

Saturday 1st August Porthmadog (H) 2.30pm KO

Tuesday 4th August Llangefni Town (A) 7.45pm KO

Friday 7th August Holywell Town (A) 7.30pm KO

Gap CONNAH'S QUAY

The Nomads recently celebrates the end of an excellent season throughout the Club at the Village St David's Park Hotel, and the evening saw a surprise appearance from Michael Owen.

The former Real Madrid, Liverpool and England superstar made a surprise appearance to present all of the first team awards, as well as the DACS Academy Player of the Year and gap personnel Academy Coach of the Year Award.

The evening started by awarding the outstanding achievements of the gap Coleg Cambria Scholarship team, which saw defender Ben Nash pick up both the Coaches Player and Players Player of the Year awards, while Josh Rimmer picked up the Most Improved Player award.

Next up was the U19 team, where midfielder Kieran Gaul picked up both the Coaches Player and Players Player of the Year award.

The final presentations of the evening saw the first team take the stage, but before the presentations could commence, Jay Catton announced a surprise guest to present the awards as former Real Madrid, Liverpool and England striker, Michael Owen entered the room. Joined on stage by first team Manager, Allan Bickerstaff, Owen presented the final awards of the night.

Firstly, Ryan Fraughan won the goal of the season competition for his strike against Prestatyn Town in April. Next, was the award for Top Goalscorer of the Year, which went to Sean Miller, who notched 11 goals in the season. Following this award was the Coaches Player of the Year, an award picked up by left back Kevin McIntyre following his consistent performances throughout the season. The next set of awards saw Miller back on stage again, as he picked up both the Players Player and Supporters Player of the Year awards.

The final two awards saw a dream come true as lifelong Liverpool fan, Josh Rimmer was awarded the DACS Academy Player of the Year, and Josh didn't hide his happiness as he received his award from one of his heroes on stage. Finally, Owen presented the gap personnel Academy Coach of the Year award to Daniel Reece who has had a fantastic year, guiding the gap Coleg Cambria scholars to a League and Cup double as well as managing the U18 and U14 teams.

A small motivational speech from Owen saw the conclusion of a fantastic evening, and the revelation that we have a superstar fan, as he knew exactly where the Club were at Christmas and what we had done since.

Many thanks to Michael for taking the time to present the awards and massive congratulations to all of the award winners and nominees. A great end to a great season for the Club.

The Nomads can confirm their 2015-16 pre-season schedule of fixtures will start with a trip to Barnton AFC of the North West Counties Division One.

The game has been setup due to the common sponsor that both sides have in gap personnel, and the side finished seventh in the North West Counties League Division One last season. The match will take place on Saturday, 11th July at Barnton's home ground of Townfield Lane.

Our next game sees a trip to Huws Gray Alliance side, Guilsfield FC. The Guils were one of the top sides in the Alliance last season, finishing third, behind recently promoted Llandudno and second placed Caernarfon Town.

The trip to mid-Wales will take place on the following Saturday, the 18th of July with a 2:30pm kick off.

Next up, is a trip up the north Wales coast to Porthmadog on Saturday 25th July. The last time that The Nomads made the trip to Porthmadog, a young Rhys Healey netted two goals.

Saturday 8th August then sees a trip to Warrington Town for a 3pm kick off. The 2014-15 season saw a lot of media attention for The Yellow as they reached the first round proper of the FA Cup for the first time in their history, where they beat League Two club, Exeter City 1-0, however they were knocked out in the second round by Gateshead. The 2014-15 season finished on a high note however, as the club lifted their first trophy for 14 years, defeating Farsley AFC on penalties to clinch the Northern Premier League Challenge Cup.

Their final pre-season friendly of the season sees The Nomads' welcome a Tranmere Rovers XI to Deeside Stadium on Saturday 15th August. This is the second consecutive pre-season that Tranmere have come to Deeside with last July's fixture finishing 1-1.

We are also hoping to host an attractive home game on August 1st, for which negotiations are currently ongoing, so make sure you stay tuned to The Nomads' website for further information as and when it becomes available.

NEWTOWN AFC

Robins glove man Dave Jones has heaped praise on goalkeeping coach Andy Roberts for the job he has done at Latham Park this season.

Roberts was brought in by boss Chris Hughes early in the season to work with Jones and his number two Jack Perry. Since the coach arrived Jones has quickly grown into one of the league's best goalkeepers, and the stopper, who resigned from neighbours Caersws last summer, believes that is down to Roberts.

He said: "Andy has been brilliant for me this season and I can't thank him enough for what he has done and how much he has brought me on.

"We have a good relationship off the field as well which makes the training so much more fun.

"I have not had any specialist coaching for the last few years so to have Andy this season has been brilliant and it has made the season more enjoyable as well as bringing me on as a player."

Jones was almost ever present this year, but missed three games early in the campaign through suspension.

He played his part in the Europa League play off final win at Aberystwyth, making a superb late save in the game to deny the seasiders.

And the stopper, who played 74 games under Darren Ryan in his previous spell at the club, said that European qualification took a few days to sink in.

He said: "It is hard to put into words how I felt at the full time whistle.

"It didn't really sink in until a couple of days later that a small side like ourselves will be playing in Europe next season. For a club that probably operates on the smallest budget in the league and the fact we were favourites for relegation means it is a huge achievement."

Alongside 11 of his team mates, Jones signed a new deal last week and he believes having so many players re-sign so early isn't something you see at every club.

Jones said: "I am made up to sign for another year because we have had a great season which made it such an easy decision. Also it is good to have so many of the boys re-sign so early.

"It just goes to show that we have all enjoyed our season and we all get on as one big group rather than a few smaller groups like you get at other clubs. And to have players signed so early will help the coaching staff organise for pre-season and the coming season."

The Robins return to training in the next two weeks, however Jones believes that the short break isn't a problem, as all the players are now relishing the chance to play against Europe's elite.

He said: "I know two weeks off isn't a lot but with the European games coming up I just want to get back to it.

"But lucky for me I am only back for the first session before I go off on holiday.

"Then hopefully a couple of weeks later we will be jetting off again. I just can't wait for the draw to be made and to see where we're off."

HEAVY defeats and years of pain made the Europa League play-off final win even sweeter for the Newtown players who have long served the club, including centre half Shane Sutton.

Less than two weeks after qualification to Europa was secured via a tense 2-1 victory at Aberystwyth Town, Sutton, along with 11 of his other team mates have signed new deals.

It will see Sutton take on an eighth season in the red shirt, after clocking up nearly appearances for the club in a spell that has been an uphill struggle.

When Sutton arrived, as a former Shrewsbury Town trainee, he played 14 times in his first season in 2007/2008 before going on to be an ever present in the side.

A host of Newtown players have suffered tough seasons and heavy defeats, but Sutton believes there was always hope they could win something.

He said: "I think it has been a really long time coming.

"We came close in the league cup a few years ago, but didn't quite get over the line that time."

Sutton, along with Max Penk, Luke Boundford, Keiran Mills-Evans, Matty Cook, Jamie Price and Gareth Partridge were all in the play-off final squad, and all suffered tough times, most notably a 9-2 defeat at Llanelli.

They also suffered a 7-1 defeat at home at the hands of Airbus a season later, however Sutton believes the togetherness that is shown at the club has helped them through those times, and got the players their rewards.

He said: "It feels so good to have this success because there have been tough times.

"Seeing everyone together makes it all worthwhile, and looking at everyone after at Latham Park celebrating just shows how close we are as a squad and a club as a whole."

Sutton also paid tribute to Chris Hughes re-signing 11 players only a week after the play-off final win.

He said: "It is great to keep everyone together and it was a standard decision for myself.

"We've got a couple of weeks off now which will be nice, but the short break is well worth the scar on my eye and a wonky nose I suffered in the cup final.

"I usually hit a few festivals in the summer but I have made sure I got them in early so that they don't clash with the Europa League."

PORT TALBOT TOWN

Andy Dyer extends stay and aims to retain squad

The club are delighted to confirm that Andy Dyer will continue as manager next season and that he has already been proactive in his preparations for next season.

Dyer, who was appointed as manager last March, is keen to move swiftly as he prepares for his first full campaign at the GenQuip Stadium and has made retaining all of last season's squad his priority.

And Dyer has already secured the services of popular midfielder Liam McCreesh, for what will be the 29-year-old's sixth season with the Steelmen.

The club are also pleased to announce two new signings with Paul Fowler and Joe Clarke from Carmarthen Town and Goytre United respectively.

Dyer said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to be continuing and pushing on with the progress that we made last season. My first job is to retain all of our players from last season and I'd like to keep that squad together.

"Our two new signings will help improve our midfield; young Joe Clarke is a left-footer, a tall strong lad and dynamic footballer. I'm really pleased to have signed Paul Fowler and am looking forward to coaching Paul again and to get him back to what he was two or three years ago, as he's someone who I know next season can go in and dominate central midfielders.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge next season and am excited to be able to build my own squad and improve on what we already have here and hopefully we can improve on the fifth-spot we achieved last year.

"We're out there looking to sign three or four more that we've got lined up and are hoping to get them over line."

The club meanwhile have already announced their first pre-season fixture, with Terry Butcher bringing his Newport County first-team to the GenQuip Stadium on Saturday July 11.

RHYL FC

Rhyl Football Club are pleased to announce that Gareth Owen has appointed Mark Roberts as Head Coach.

Mark is an UEFA A Licence Holder and has spent several years coaching at Liverpool FC Academy and a football development officer for the Wales Football Trust. Last season Mark was Head Coach at Cefn Druids FC and more recently he has been appointed coach education manager for the Football Association of Wales.

Mark spoke of his delight today,

"Thank-you to Mike, Paul, Kevin, the whole board and committee for the opportunity to come into the club alongside Gareth for the upcoming season. The opportunity to work with Gareth in a club that is so close to his heart will be a wonderful experience for me and I look forward to sharing my experiences and coaching qualities with all players and staff in what I am sure will be an exciting season ahead."

"I've had the opportunity to visit the club whether as an opposition coach or to view fixtures over the last few seasons, and the opportunity to work in front of a fantastic set of supporters who have a true passion for the club is something that I look forward to experiencing."

"I look forward to getting to know everyone around the club across the coming weeks and months and can't wait for the players to return to start structuring an identity within the team and group that the fans can continue to be proud of."

The first of the club's exciting pre-season fixtures have been announced.

Rhyl FC v Caernarfon Town: Friday 10th July, 7:30pm Rhyl FC v Manchester City: Tuesday 28th July, 7:30pm
Manager Gareth Owen has chosen to release strikers Jack Kenny and Carl Lamb.
Kenny joined the Lilywhites in July 2014 after a spell with Atherton Collieries and scored 4 goals in his 19 league games with the club last season.
Lamb signed for the club in January as a free agent scoring once in 11 Welsh Premier League appearances.

THE NEW SAINTS

The New Saints will take on Caernarfon FC in a friendly on Friday the 31st of July.
The friendly will take place at The Oval and will kick off at 19:30pm.
The Saints visited The Oval last season and found themselves two nil down in the FAW Welsh Cup. However, a spirited performance ensured that TNS fought back and progressed before clinching the Welsh Cup Final in May to complete a domestic treble.
During that cup tie, Darren Thomas' superb goal famously ended up causing a wall to collapse at The Oval.
The Soccerfest Charity Cup 2015 will take place on Sunday the 14th of June at Park Hall Stadium.
The Charity Cup will be a five a side group and knockout football tournament with the winners being crowned as Soccerfest Champions with prizes to be won.
There will also be a family fun day taking place at The Venue with activities for all ages.
The fun day will include Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Inflatable Adventure Children's Football Competitions and a car boot sale.
All proceeds to go to Prostate Cancer UK.
The event will begin at 10:00am and will finish at 16:00pm.
£100 entry per team.
Car Boot spaces are available for as little as £5.
To enter a team, please contact either Graeme Kirkham or Niall Broe on graeme@gotothevenue.com or niall.broe@tnsfc.co.uk
Alternatively you can call The Venue on 01691684840.

LLANDUDNO FC



Alan Morgan announces his first summer signing!
Alan Morgan has tonight announced that experienced Defender & Bangor City Captain Michael Johnston (27) will be his first signing of the Summer!
Former Tranmere Rovers and Bangor City Defender Michael Johnston has become Manager Alan Morgan's first major signing ahead of the 2015 campaign!
Alan told the club website this evening that he is delighted with his first acquisition ahead of the club's inaugural season in the Welsh Premier league.
He said earlier "I am incredibly excited to bring in a player of Michael's experience to the club. He has played in the Welsh Premier league for Bangor since 2007 and will bring with him a wealth of knowledge to our squad. He is a Welsh Premier League winner, a 3 times Welsh Cup winner and he has played in both the UEFA Champions League and Europa League. He has also represented his Country at U17's, U19's and U23's and was Captain of Bangor City.
Michael is a born leader and will complement the many other leaders we already have in our squad. He is typical of the standard of the players who are now starting to look at Llandudno FC and

take note of what this club is all about.

This is going to be an exciting Summer for Llandudno FC and our supporters and I hope before too long to make some further announcements."

Disciplinary Analysis 2014-15

FAW FAIRPLAY TABLE

Teams	Red Cards	Yellow cards	Offences	Penalty Points
The New Saints	4	38	42	196
Bala Town	2	46	48	206
Newtown AFC	3	52	55	238
Aberystwyth Town	5	65	70	312
Airbus UK Broughton	6	61	67	314
Carmarthen Town	7	62	69	320
gap Connah's Quay	4	71	75	330
Bangor City	4	73	77	336
Port Talbot Town	5	73	78	348
Cefn Druids	10	67	77	372
Prestatyn Town	9	73	82	384
Rhyl FC	9	78	87	410
Totals	68	759	827	3,766

Red cards and Cautions up on last season

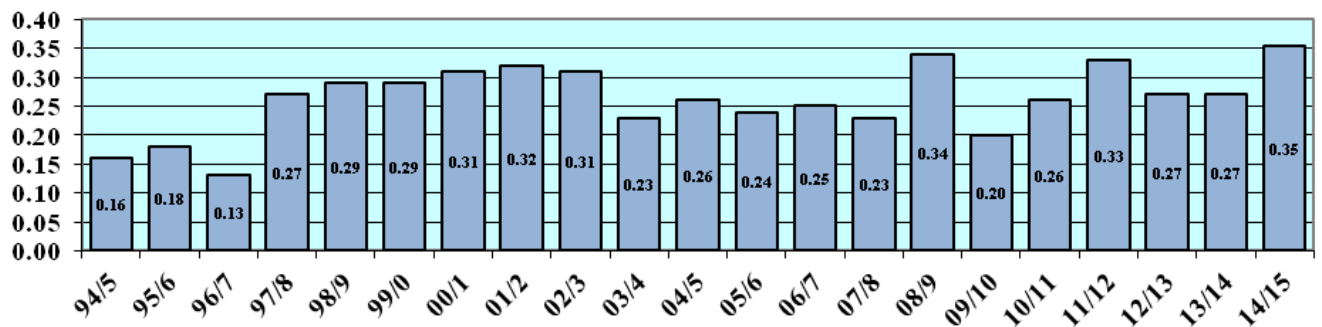
Highest ever per match ratio for both red and yellow cards

A red card every three games and nearly four yellows per match

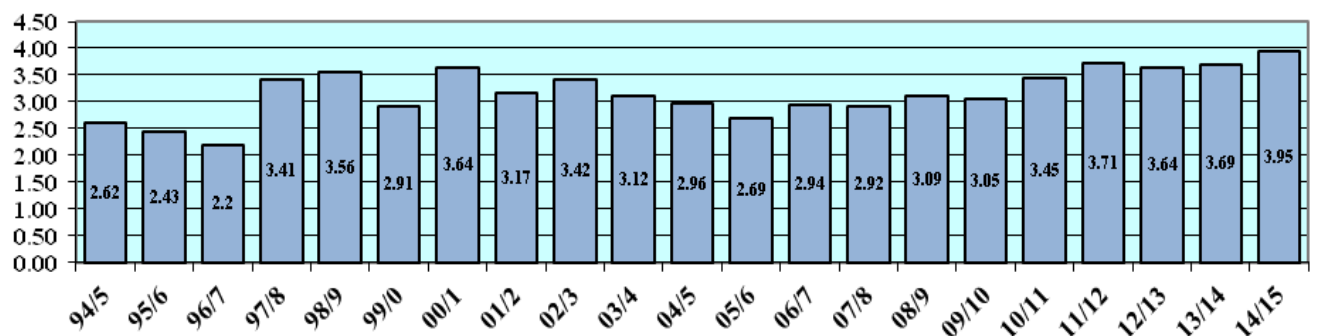
SEASON BY SEASON COMPARISON

Season	94/5	95/6	96/7	97/8	98/9	99/0	00/1	01/2	02/3	03/4	04/5	05/6	06/7	07/8	08/9	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Red Cards	61	67	54	112	79	90	96	99	96	62	79	72	68	70	104	60	50	64	52	52	68
Yellow Cards	995	923	924	1431	967	889	1114	970	1048	848	905	822	799	892	947	935	662	713	699	709	759
Matches	380	380	420	420	272	306	306	306	306	272	306	306	272	306	306	306	192	192	192	192	192
Reds p/m	0.16	0.18	0.13	0.27	0.29	0.29	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.23	0.26	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.34	0.20	0.26	0.33	0.27	0.27	0.35
Yellows p/m	2.62	2.43	2.2	3.41	3.56	2.91	3.64	3.17	3.42	3.12	2.96	2.69	2.94	2.92	3.09	3.05	3.45	3.71	3.64	3.69	3.95

Red Cards per Match



Yellow Cards per Match





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Compiled by Mel Thomas at Soccerfile Wales

mel@soccerfilewales.com Tel/Fax: 01766 830805

Distributed by e-mail only from WPL, 11 / 12 Neptune Court, Cardiff CF24 5PJ

Contact: Lucy Kelly via lkelly@faw.co.uk or 02920 435 847