



DEESIDE/FLINTSHIRE PRIMARY SCHOOLS' FA FOUNDED 1966 MEMBER OF WSFA The History of Deeside/Flintshire P.S.F.A.



The summer of 1991 saw Deeside Primary Schools' Football Association's twenty five year reign as one of the most successful Primary District Associations in the U.K. alter when its name was changed to Flintshire Primary Schools' Association. However little changed other than the name as successes continued and more importantly the Association continues to provide talented Under 11 players of East Clwyd with the opportunity to compete at district level against other Associations and to enjoy sport and improve their social, sporting and physical skills through the medium of football. The Deeside/Flintshire story began in 1966.

The late Mr Ron Bishop under guidance from Mr Bert Mothersole founded the Association. Ron dedicated himself to developing youngster's talents until his sudden and untimely death in early middle age in 1984. Over the years Ron was ably assisted by the likes of Glyn Davies, Robin Lloyd Jones, Alun Evans, Cledwyn Ashford, Bryn Jones, and Gwyn Lloyd Jones. On his death his work was continued by the Bard of Bangor himself, Bryn Jones and the evergreen David Nickless who is still involved in the Flintshire Association some thirty two years later. Cledwyn Ashford worked with Ron Bishop between 1975 and 1982 and finished when he left the Authority to take up a Head Teachers post in Wrexham. He came back into the fold in 1991 and is still heavily involved. The likes of Gwyn Lloyd Jones and Darren Martin helped for a few years to keep the Association going but another reliable stalwart was found when Andrew Jones an ex Deeside player joined the Flintshire teaching staff in 1992 and became a coach with the Association and Jamie Tennant's contribution for a few years was invaluable. Over the last few seasons Walter Brookes has provided keeper coaching and in 2006 Christopher Boulton an ex player joined the Flintshire teaching ranks and offered his services to the Association. During the last few season's young teachers Gareth Caughter and Nathan Williams plus Flintshire employee Steve Thomas have joined the coaching team which means that the number of volunteers organising the Association is at the strongest level that it has been for sometime.

Deeside were Welsh National Champions on six occasions, taking the Tom Yeoman Shield in 1972-73, three successive seasons between 1980 and 1983 and the two seasons between 1988 and 1990 while the Association were beaten finalists in 1979-80. Deeside were winners of the Alderman Moors (Cheshire) Cup on three occasions and were Cheshire League Champions on their only two appearances in the competition between 1989 and 1991. First place at the Jersey Festival was gained twice as was runners up spot; the Association were North Wales Champions on no fewer than fourteen separate occasions and North Wales 7's winners on ten occasions including seven successive victories between 1977 and 1983.

The Deeside/Flintshire record of achievement at Under 11 level for producing future professional and international players is second to none. Of the successful Deeside team of 1982-83 half of the fourteen strong squad were eventually signed by league clubs at 16 years of age including Gareth Owen of Wrexham, Craig Lawton by Manchester United and Mark Peters by Manchester City. All three went on to play as Welsh Under 21 Internationals. Other well know ex-Deeside players include Ian Rush, former Welsh captains Kevin Ratcliffe and Barry Horne, Tony Norman of Sunderland, Gary Speed Leeds United, Andy Holden of Oldham, Michael Owen Liverpool and Danny Collins at Chester, Sunderland and other clubs. Not so well known is Stephen Morgan who became the youngest player to appear in Oldham's first team at the ripe old age of 16 years and 8 months. Kevin Jones, Craig Knight Stephen Rishworth and Jamie Reed played for Wrexham. Nicholas Fenton played at Manchester City & Notts County.

The late Gary Speed set a national record of 106 appearances for Primary Associations during his three years representing Deeside whilst Ian Rush hit a record 74 goals during 1972-73. Both records were broken in 1991 by centre forward Michael Owen who played for the Association for three seasons – ironically Rush's goal tally was passed in Owen's 33rd game of the season – exactly the same number of matches that Ian Rush had taken to set the record eighteen years previously. Michael made 115 appearances against other representative sides and in those games scored 149 goals and in his record-breaking year scored 92 goals. He was also the first ex-Deeside/Flintshire boy to be accepted to Lilleshall National School of Football Excellence. Rush's year with Deeside saw the Association take the Welsh Tom Yeoman Shield for the first time, added to the North Wales 11 a-side and 7 a-side titles. More amazingly their record for that year read:

Played 33 Won 33 Drawn 0 Lost 0 Goals for 220 Goals against 20

Deeside's Player of the Year that season was...no, not Ian Rush, the ex-Liverpool and Wales striker but Gareth Pritchard of Ysgol Heol Gaer, Flint. As a matter of fact, this prestigious trophy was awarded to only four of the aforementioned professionals – Gary Speed in his final season 1980-81 (This was another vintage season for Deeside – 35 victories and two draws from their 37 Association fixtures), Stephen Morgan 1981-82, Gareth Owen 1982-83 and Michael Owen also in his third season, 1990-91.

Flintshire Primary Schools' FA first success came in the 1992-93 season when the team emulated the success of their predecessors by winning the Tom Yeoman Shield, the Cheshire League Championship and the Vale Packaging Trophy and were beaten finalists in the Moors Cup. Chris Boulton who now assists with the coaching was a member of the team along with Andrew Dorman who played in the Scottish League with St. Mirren. The 1993-94 squad also won the Tom Yeoman Shield and the Vale Packaging Trophy and were finalists in the Moors Cup. The 1994-95 squad were a team in the true sense of the word and their success in the Tom Yeoman Shield, the Cheshire League and Vale Packaging Trophy was based on a great deal of team spirit, determination and enthusiasm mixed with a high level of skill. This

meant that Flintshire like Deeside before it had won the Tom Yeoman Shield and become Champions of Wales for three years in succession.

This was to be the last season that the Tom Yeoman Shield was played for at 11 a-side. Changes by the FAW were at hand and the game at the Under 11 age groups became small sided. This decision had fundamental repercussions for Flintshire Organisation as it meant that its fixture list had to be significantly reduced as English Schools' Primary Representative football still played at eleven a-side and many of the teams are reluctant to play small sided. Sadly for future players the Association's three tours per season into regions of England came to an end. These tours against quality English Associations were excellent for developing the football ability and social side of the players. Anyway whatever the changes Flintshire's success in Wales continued. They have been crowned North Wales Champions in eighteen of the twenty seasons between 1995 and 2015 and have won the Tom Yeoman Shield in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2012 & 2014. The Association were runners up in the Tom Yeoman Shield in 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2013 & 2015. Success came in the Phil Staley Shield in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015. Season 1998-99 was memorable in that Annabelle Price of Ysgol y Bryn, Mynydd Isa became the first girl to represent Flintshire PSFA and in doing so became the first girl in Wales to win a medal in the Tom Yeoman Shield and yes it was a winners. We are pleased that Annabelle went on to represent the England Ladies team at Under 17 & Under 19 level. Four years down the line in 2002-03 Sara Hilton became the second girl to represent the Association and she also became a Tom Yeoman Shield winner. This season was also to be a vintage season in terms of results and their record read:

Played 29 Won 26 Drawn 1 Lost 2 Goals for 122 Goals against 23

The defensive record is even more impressive when you take into account that the games played is in fact 58 because each game played involves two games and the scores are aggregated to give the final result. Third in line for girls playing for the Association was Hannah Keryakopolis of Penyffordd School who played in the 2004-05 season. She was a Tom Yeoman Shield Runner-Up (see below) and has also gone on to play at full international level for Wales. At aged 21 she has already won 20 full international caps for Wales. She plays for Birmingham City Ladies in the top tier of ladies football in England.

The 2004-2005 squad won their way through to the Tom Yeoman final and lost out to Swansea by 2-0 in two top quality games. In 1982 the two teams contested the final when the Deeside team including Gary Speed and our current manager Andrew Jones defeated Swansea captained by Christopher Coleman the ex Welsh international who now manages the Welsh National team. Season 2005-06 also saw the Association finish as runners up in the competition to Afan Nedd losing out on a corner kick rule following a 1-1 draw. The same fate also sank the 2008-09 squad who won through to the final against Porthmadog, drew 0-0 in the two games and lost out by one corner to nil. Season 2011-12 saw Flintshire return to winning ways when they returned from Cardiff as joint winners of the WSFA Tom Yeoman having already secured the WSFA North League and the Phil Staley Shield. Season 2012-13 saw the squad retain the WSFA North League and the Phil Staley Shield & finish up as runners up to Cardiff in the WSFA Tom Yeoman. The 2013-14 squad were to go one better winning the WSFA Tom Yeoman, the WSFA North League and the Phil Staley Shield. In 2014-2015 season the squad retained the WSFA North League and the Phil Staley Shield and were runners up to Carmarthenshire in the WSFA Tom Yeoman Shield only losing out by 1-0 to a goal 40 seconds from the final whistle. The Association have completed the double of WSFA North League and the Phil Staley Shield seven years on the trot between 2008 & 2015

Flintshire started competing in the Tom Yeoman Shield eleven years after its inception but they have now caught up and overtaken Associations like Newport ,Cardiff & Swansea by winning the prestigious trophy a record fifteen times. Season 2015-16 sees the 58th year of the trophy and it is good that we will be taking part. It is hoped that the Deeside/Flintshire story will continue for many years to come and the most talented young footballers in Flintshire will be given the opportunity to compete at the highest level. Children should be given the opportunity to enjoy sport and to improve their talents and their social, sporting and physical skills through the medium of football.

A number of the Flintshire players like their predecessors from Deeside have gone on to play professional league football. Simon Spender at Wrexham, Andrew Dorman at St. Mirren, Crystal Palace & Bristol Rovers, Damien Hopkin at Bradford City, Ben Jones at Chester City, Ryan Shawcross for Manchester United and Stoke City, Jamie Reed for Wrexham, York, Cambridge United & South Melbourne, Craig Jones for Bury, Tom Lawrence Leicester and on loan at Rotherham and Ryan Hedges who in 2015 played on loan from Swansea at Leyton Orient. Goalkeeper Daniel Ward has appeared on the bench a number of times in season 2014-15 for Liverpool was on loan at Morecambe and season 2015-16 is on loan at Aberdeen..

The Association celebrates its Golden Jubilee in the 2015-2016 season.

In its 49 years the Association has only had four managers:

1966-1984 Ron Bishop

1985-1991 Bryn Jones

1992-2011 David Nickless

2012-2015 Andrew Jones



To be continued

