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# PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

4<sup>th</sup> April 2024

All the news from Roundwood ahead of Friday's hosting of Plymouth Argyle



Leam Richardson

## On whether it is difficult to keep the group together with players who may know that their futures lie elsewhere...

"I wouldn't necessarily call it a problem. I think there are situations and I've come into a football club whereby I've probably managed the situation more than I have the football club in general because that's where we're at at the minute.

"I have spoken about cultures and making the transition towards a new one and there are only a series of things that I can speak openly about because a lot of them need to remain private and need to be conversations that have positive decisions coupled with them moving forwards.

"I was made well-aware of that when I came into the building and I'm maybe repeating what I've said before, but the Chairman is very buoyant and pro-active in what he wants from the football club and he outlined that in no uncertain terms what that was when I came in the building.

"Nothing surprised me and it's my job to make sure that we make positive decisions moving forward."



Leam Richardson

## On how influential a positive end to the season could be to the start of the next one...

"It can have a large bearing and I've got a real belief that your summer particularly can dictate your season.

"I've been involved where summers have had a positive impact on my season and others whereby things haven't gone as well and it has dictated that it has been challenging.

"That's something I'm very experienced with and I'm happy to be open with that opinion moving forwards which I gave two or three months ago. I'm waiting for the green light on some things and to have some conversations to take the club forward with the most important people at the football club.

"They need to know what the football club wants to look like and the Chairman is very much at the forefront and centre of that and he knows exactly what he wants his football club to look like because he's been successful over the years that he's been here."

## On enjoying the winning feeling after the triumph over Millwall...

"The lads are quite buoyant after the result on Monday, obviously we're in a job where results matter and of late, the results haven't fallen in our favour for quite some time.

"It's been good but the plaudits must go to the players. We were really thoughtful of them and the fans on Monday, but like the Championship does, you quickly move on."

"I think we go into every game wanting to give a real strong account of ourselves and we do that mindful of what the badge and the club means and how we want to move forwards."



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### Last Meeting

Plymouth Argyle 3-2 Rotherham United  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Jamie Lindsay and Tom Eaves were on target for the Millers, but a brace from Finn Azaz and a late Morgan Whittaker goal won the game 3-2 for Plymouth.

### Recent form

Plymouth Argyle

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### In the interim

Argyle relieved head coach Ian Foster of his duties earlier in the week, in a bid to halt their slide towards the drop zone. Director of Football Neil Dewsnip has taken interim charge until the end of the season alongside first-team coach Kevin Nancekivell.

Leam Richardson

## On whether the recruitment wheel is already starting to turn ahead of the summer...

"I've spoken before at competition at football clubs and I believe you are at your strongest when you can build from a strong position whereby you are proactive. I think you're at your weakest when you are forced to make reactive decisions.

"Now I'm at the forefront of it and I need to be a part of those decisions going forwards. It's challenging but it's something that I've done at clubs before and something that I'm excited about but there is still football to be played and some good games to be involved in coming up.

"There are really good opportunities for players that are here - starting on Friday night live on Sky - to give a good account of yourself individually and collectively."

## On whether he has any new selection dilemmas ahead of the Friday night clash with Plymouth Argyle...

"There have been since I've been here and I don't think I've been able to select the same team twice and in a lot of cases, I haven't filled the bench.

"There's always a dilemma and we have to overcome and adapt.

"You have to try and be positive in everything you do and we've trained well in the last few days on the back of a win on Monday to go into a very good game on Friday, live under the lights at your home stadium on Sky. It doesn't get much better than that.



Charlie Wyke

## On how much impact his loan with the Millers has had on his development...

"It was nice to get that winning feeling on Monday, it has been a long time coming and we want more of them now.

"You can tell coming into training that spirits have been lifted a little, we play to win games of football and haven't been able to do that of late, so to get that result has been a massive boost for everyone.

"We want to try and build on that performance, we've got a game on Friday and the aim now is to score as many goals and get as many points on the board as we can.

"As a striker, it is always good to score goals. We haven't been scoring as many as we should, so to score the winning goal and get the win was a great feeling.

"I know what Leam is about, we had a great time together at Wigan and he built an excellent team. I look forward to coming in today and really like working with him, I know what he brings as a manager."

Leam Richardson

## On Ben Hatton being involved with the first team in training and on matchdays...

"I think it is important that we get to know each other quite quickly with him moving up from the youth team next year.

"It's important that he gets ahead of the game and he can start introducing himself to the players, myself and get certain bits of information to get that headstart on where he normally might be.

"He's had some real plaudits from the Academy staff and I think when you are at a football club like ours the two departments have to work in tandem and if there is somebody that is worth putting in your environment you certainly have to allow them to grow and succeed.

"At my last few clubs we have promoted 20/30-plus Academy players into the first team who are having really good careers and it is something that I'm definitely for. If they're good enough, they're old enough."

## On assessing players between now and the end of the season and how that may impact their chances of being a part of next season's group...

"There is always a balance isn't there.

"You have to look at how big of a challenge it is and you can't leave yourself vulnerable because you're in the Championship but we're very mindful - as you've probably seen in some selections and decisions - where you have to make them for the future.

"You have to make sure you give people the best chance to succeed because you'll be working with them for another 12 months, two or three years.

"I think it's important that your attention goes towards that but whilst also being mindful of what is in front of you as well."