



Lincoln City Recruitment Plan Summer 2025

By Matt Fenton



Introduction

Welcome to my version of a Lincoln City Recruitment Plan for Summer 2025, in this piece I will be looking into:

- Transfer Window Objectives
- Retained List
- Current Squad
- Outgoings
- Highlighting Potential Recruits
- Squad Post Transfer Activity



Transfer Window Objectives

The summer transfer window is essential for squad restructuring and strengthening to put the club in a position to be competitive for the upcoming campaign. I would aim to achieve all the below objectives to ensure the squad is in the best place:

- Make sure the squad has the quality and depth for a Play Off finish
- Increase the amount of assets at the football club
- Maintain the wage structure
- Recruit for short-term and long-term success
- Look for hidden gems / great deals in the market
- Make efficient use of the loan market
- Offload players who will not get gametime / reduce wage bill
- Maintain average age of the squad



Retained List

Lincoln City provided a squad update on the 13th May announcing the players' situations; under contract, option exercised, out of contract with discussions ongoing, and players leaving the football club.

The club confirmed they have taken up the options to extend the deals for Adam Jackson and Ben House; confirming there are now 26 players under contract for the upcoming season, this includes the signed professional contracts for Charlie Parks and Gbolahan Okewoye.

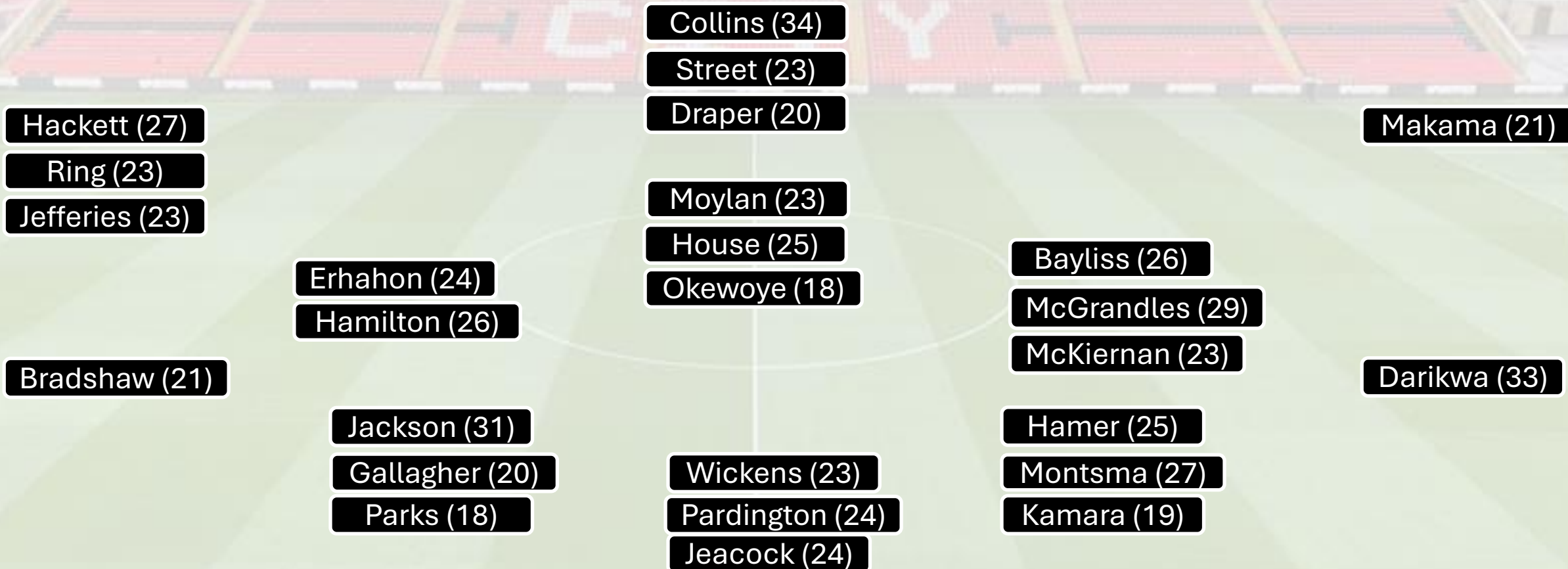
Paudie O'Connor, Sean Roughan and Zane Okoro remain in talks about a new contract, however it looks unlikely they will renew. Lincoln retain domestic compensation fee rights should Roughan and Okoro decline and sign for another club as they are under 24.

Good luck to Jay Benn, Sam Clucas, Ali Smith and Tyler Walker as well as loanees Bailey Cadamarteri and Joe Gardner as they will be departing the club.



Lincoln City 2025/26

Current Squad



Formation: 4-2-31 - Total Players: 26



Average Age: 24.2 – Under 23: 13

Outgoings

Part One

To enable new signings to be recruited and strengthen the squad, an array of players will need to leave the football club. The squad size currently consists of 26 players therefore there needs to be departures to reduce the squad being bloated and staying in the club's wage structure.

- I would be looking to send **Oisin Gallagher, MJ Kamara, Charlie Parks** and **Gbolahan Okewoye** out on loan as it would be a great opportunity to get consistent game time and more exposure in senior football. National League and below would be the most likely destinations.



Outgoings

Part Two

- **Zach Jeacock** is highly thought of at the club as he has potential to be a future League One starting goalkeeper. He looked comfortable and composed last season when called upon; Jeacock played 11 games in League One and kept 4 clean sheets with a 55% save percentage. Lincoln have 3 goalkeepers under contract, and it would be ideal if Jeacock got a loan move to League Two so he can get a consistent run of games to impress.
- **Lewis Montsma** is one of my favourite Lincoln City players and would be one of the top performing defenders in League One if it wasn't for his injuries. I feel at 27 years old; he needs guaranteed starts however I don't think he will currently get that at Lincoln. Montsma is contracted until summer 2027 and a loan move to League Two with an eye of being part of the squad the following season could be the best for his career and progression.



Outgoings

Part Three

- **Ethan Erhahon** would be the first name on the team sheet as he is a fantastic footballer and has been a consistent top performer since his move to Lincoln City in January 2023. However, it would be a great opportunity to sell Erhahon this window as he is hugely sought after from several clubs, and it could be the optimal time for his sale. This would create significant income for the club to reinvest and increase the transfer budget.
- **Conor McGrandles** had a lot of success in his first spell at the club and rejoined permanently last summer, playing 42 League One games and had a mixed campaign which included an array of solid performances – however I feel if the club want to progress and add extra quality to the midfield, McGrandles would see his game time limited. A permanent move could be on the cards.



TRANSFER TARGET #1 – Right Back

Player Profile

Tendayi Darikwa is Lincoln's starting right back and will be one of the first names on the team sheet as well as I can see him starting every game that he is available. Darikwa was the club's Player of the Season after a consistent campaign of outstanding performances.

The new signing would be someone who can provide competition and cover. I would be looking at short-term and long-term options; either a loan or a permanent successor in the right back position. They would need to be athletic and good going forward as well as solid defensively.



Ethan McGee



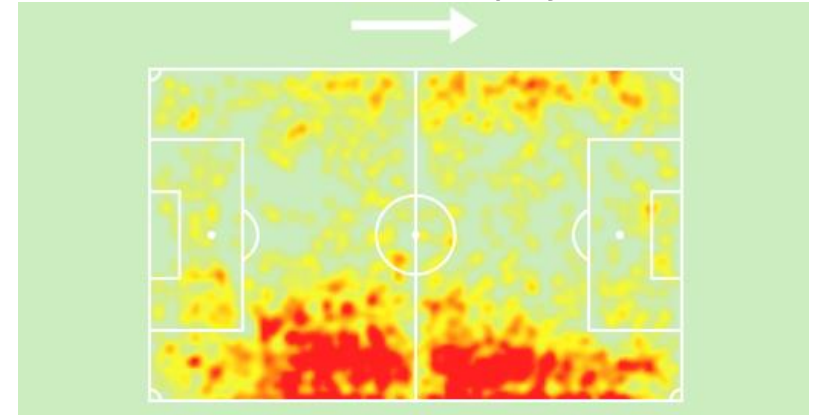
Current Club: Linfield
Nation: Northern Ireland
Age: 22
Height: 6ft

Ethan McGee has been a top performer as well as an outstanding talent in the NIFL Premiership over the past few seasons. The former Northern Ireland U21 international, predominantly a right back but can also play in midfield, helped his side win the league title by 22 points in the 2024/25 campaign. McGee is great on the ball and getting the team forward as well as being solid in tackles and winning possession. He has a high ceiling and would be an exciting signing.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League Stats – Linfield

Games Played	35
Clean Sheets	14
Average Match Rating	6.85
Balls Recovered per game	8.8
Duels won per game	7.1 (38%)
Goal Contributions	4



Lewis Payne



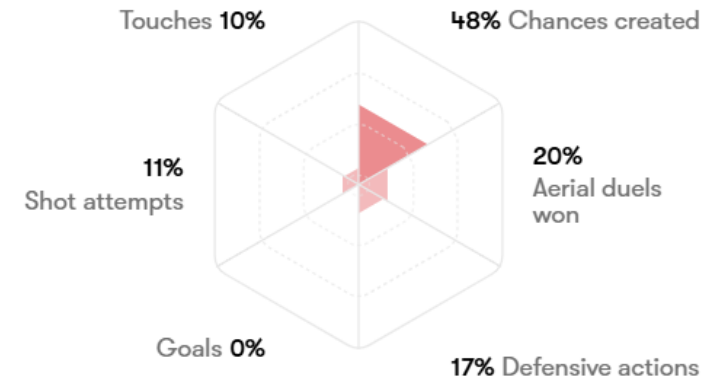
Current Club: Free Agent
Nation: England
Age: 21
Height: 5ft 10

Lewis Payne is set to depart Southampton after 10 years at the football club. He was a key part of the 2022/23 Premier League 2 Division 2 title winning side with 14 appearances and 2 goals to his name. Payne regularly captained the U21 side displaying his leadership abilities. He has had several loans across the National League and League Two – Payne had an impressive spell at Newport County in 2023/24 where he achieved 6 goal contributions in 31 league games. He would be a player with long-term aspirations to be Tendayi Darikwa’s successor at right back.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Cheltenham Town

Games Played	17
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.65
Balls Recovered per game	3.2
Duels won per game	2.7 (41%)
Goal Contributions	2



Connor O'Brien



Connor O'Brien has been at Accrington since the age of 8 and has progressed into being an exciting talent for the first team. He captained the U18s to the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup in 2021/22. O'Brien has already made 62 competitive appearances for Accrington which is fantastic exposure and experience for a player of his age. He is a Republic of Ireland U21 international and has 7 caps since making his debut in June 2024. O'Brien is a physical tireless runner that is strong in the air and good on the ball. He has great potential to rise through the leagues.

Current Club: Accrington Stanley

Nation: Republic of Ireland

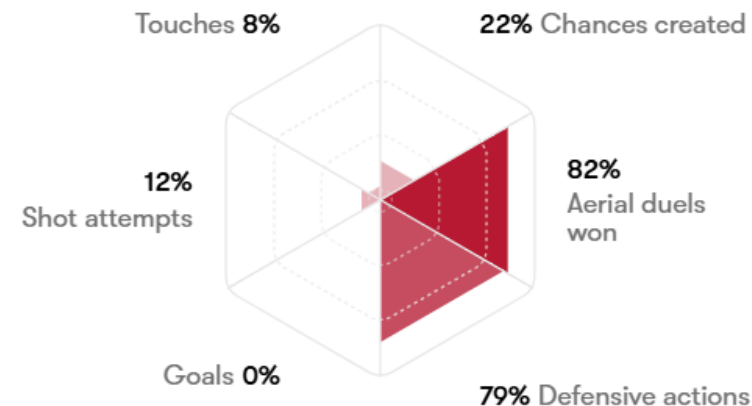
Age: 20

Height: 5ft 11

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Accrington Stanley

Games Played	25
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.59
Balls Recovered per game	3.0
Duels won per game	4.0 (51%)
Goal Contributions	1



Maxwell McKnight



Current Club: Free Agent

Nation: England

Age: 20

Height: 6ft

Maxwell McKnight is a lively right back, also able to play left back, that enjoys being progressive and playing on the front foot. He is attack minded and showcased his output qualities in 2024/25 with 2 goals and 3 assists in the Premier League 2. The promising talent has a strong build and defensive attributes. McKnight played every possible league fixture in 2024/25, highlighting his dedication to stay fit and be a top performer. He has been released by Tottenham Hotspur and a move to League One would be a good first taste of senior football. McKnight would provide Lincoln with solid depth.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League + EFL Trophy Stats – Spurs U21

Games Played	23
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.2*
Balls Recovered per game	1.0*
Duels won per game	2.3 (44%)*
Goal Contributions	5

*EFL Trophy only.



Jayden Joseph



Current Club: Leicester City

Nation: England

Age: 19

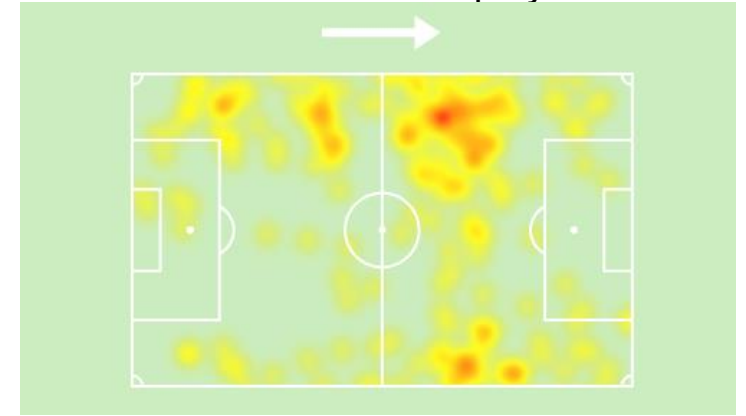
Height: 5ft 10

Jayden Joseph is an athletic right back that has had a fantastic first full season in Premier League 2 football where he has consistently impressed demonstrating his potential. He is great going forward and defensively reliable. He has an average match rating of 7.17 in EFL Trophy games; including a 7.8 rating against Notts County, this suggests he is ready to play senior football. An EFL loan would be great for his development and a move to Lincoln would geographically make sense.

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League + EFL Trophy Stats – Leicester U21

Games Played	23
Clean Sheets	3
Average Match Rating	7.17*
Balls Recovered per game	2.3*
Duels won per game	6.0 (69%)*
Goal Contributions	1

*EFL Trophy only.



Ben Crompton



Current Club: Sunderland

Nation: England

Age: 21

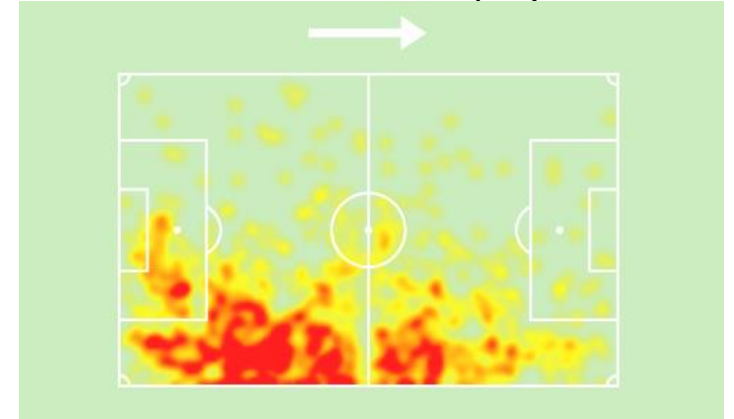
Height: 6ft 2

Ben Crompton is highly thought of at Sunderland and joined in 2022 from Shrewsbury Town. The right back, also able to play centre back, is outstanding defensively, assured and has excellent ability on the ball. At 6ft 2, Crompton has a strong physical build which puts him in good stead for professional football. He enjoyed a successful loan spell with National League, Tamworth in 2024/25 as he got glowing reviews. Crompton played and impressed in Tamworth's FA Cup third round fixture vs Spurs. With Sunderland now promoted to the Premier League, they could let Crompton go on a permanent transfer.

Transfer Type: LOAN/PERMANENT

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League Stats – Tamworth

Games Played	25
Clean Sheets	3
Average Match Rating	6.62
Balls Recovered per game	8.8
Duels won per game	5.1 (36%)
Goal Contributions	3



TRANSFER TARGET #2 – Right Centre Back

Player Profile

Tom Hamer would be my first-choice right centre back as I believe he has the quality and potential to be as efficient as the departing Paudie O'Connor. I would be looking for someone who can provide great competition to the backline and potentially becoming a starter.

The new signing needs to be defensively strong and assured on the ball as I feel Michael Skubala could look to be play a more possession-based system. As I have Lewis Montsma, Oisin Gallagher, MJ Kamara and Charlie Parks predicted to go out on loan and to return for 2026/27, I could see the club going for a loan option – this could also be cost effective, however they need to have the quality to perform for a side aiming to be in the top half in League One.



Stephan Negru



Current Club: Oxford United

Nation: Republic of Ireland

Age: 22

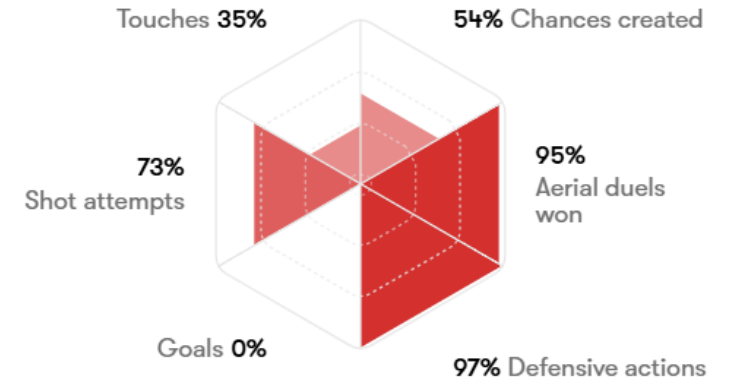
Height: 6ft 1

Stephan Negru signed for Oxford United after impressing and displaying his potential at League of Ireland side, Shelbourne in 2023. He joined League Two, Salford City in summer 2024 on loan due to limited game time at Oxford. Negru took the opportunity with both hands and was one of the best young defenders in the division. His main strengths are duels, tackling and positioning – Negru was a fan favourite at Salford City for his committed and no-nonsense approach. A move to League One, either on loan or as a permanent transfer could be next for his progression.

Transfer Type: LOAN/PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Salford City

Games Played	30
Clean Sheets	9
Average Match Rating	7.26
Tackles per game	2.0
Duels won per game	7.2 (72%)
Goal Contributions	2

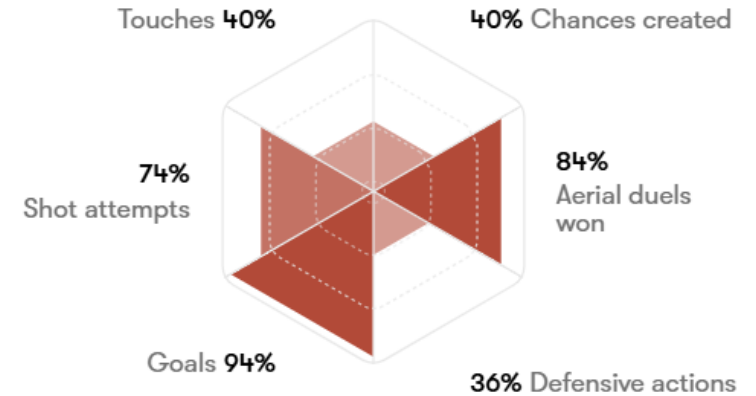


Connor O’Riordan



Connor O’Riordan spent more than a decade with Crewe Alexandra progressing through the academy ranks to the first team before earning a Championship move to Blackburn Rovers in January 2024 after several outstanding displays. The towering 6ft 4 centre back is composed, aggressive and has great technical attributes. He is a threat in the opposition’s box which aligns with Lincoln’s impressive set piece record. A loan move to a top half side in League One could be beneficial for the Republic of Ireland U21 international’s development.

Player Traits
Highlights a player’s statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Crewe Alexandra

Games Played	20
Clean Sheets	5
Average Match Rating	7.01
Tackles per game	0.9
Duels won per game	5.0 (53%)
Goal Contributions	3

Current Club: Blackburn Rovers

Nation: Republic of Ireland

Age: 21

Height: 6ft 4

Transfer Type: LOAN



Matthew Baker



Matthew Baker joined Newport County on a permanent last summer from Stoke City after two successful loan spells. He has become a reliable and consistent performer in Newport's backline as he has looked years ahead of his age. Baker's strengths include composure, leadership, work ethic and being defensively outstanding. He has been called up for the Wales senior side. Baker's impressive performances for Newport highlight his high potential and is someone I can see playing in the Championship and for his national team.

Current Club: Newport County

Nation: Wales

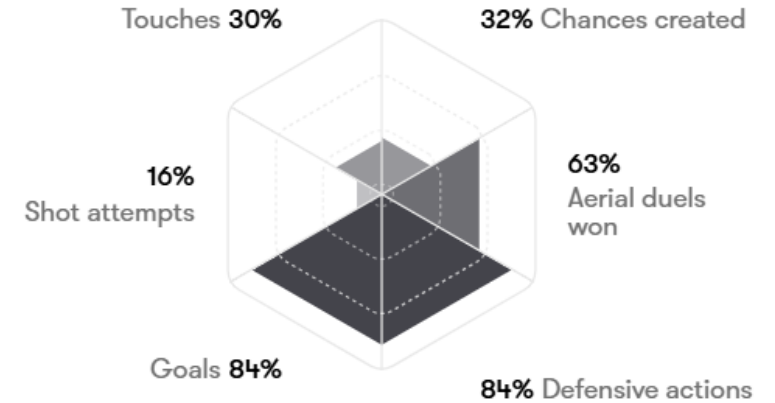
Age: 22

Height: 6ft 1

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Newport County

Games Played	41
Clean Sheets	13
Average Match Rating	7.08
Tackles per game	1.6
Duels won per game	5.2 (57%)
Goal Contributions	4



Alex Mitchell

Alex Mitchell signed for Charlton Athletic in summer 2024 from Millwall after a series of superb loan spells, including the 2023/24 campaign at Lincoln City. The big and powerful centre back has impressed throughout his career; winning Academy Schoolboy of the Year at Millwall, Young Player of the Year at St Johnstone, and playing a vital role for Lincoln in a defence that conceded just 40 goals. Mitchell is the perfect profile for a Lincoln defender in a Skubala side. He could be available for loan after Charlton's promotion to the Championship.

Transfer Type: LOAN



Current Club: Charlton Athletic

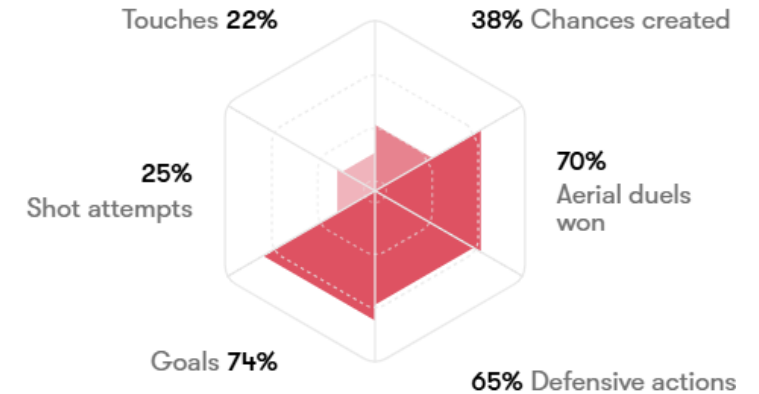
Nation: England

Age: 23

Height: 6ft 3

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Charlton Athletic

Games Played	31
Clean Sheets	10
Average Match Rating	6.99
Tackles per game	1.1
Duels won per game	4.7 (56%)
Goal Contributions	3



Dane Murray



Current Club: Celtic

Nation: Scotland

Age: 21

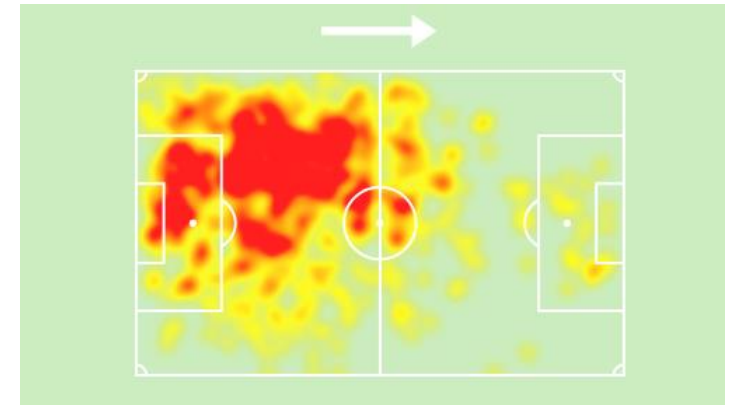
Height: 6ft 4

Dane Murray is very highly thought of at Celtic and if it wasn't for injuries, he would most likely be a first team regular. The towering centre back had a fantastic loan at Scottish Championship side, Queen's Park in the first half of the 2024/25 season, establishing himself as a key figure in the backline. Since being recalled in January, Murray has featured in 9 matchday squads however only coming on in one, against Aston Villa in the Champions League. A loan to League One could work wonders for his career as Murray would get more game time, new challenges and will be in the spotlight. Bosun Lawal made a similar move in 2023 and is now contracted to an EFL Championship side.

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League Stats – Queen's Park

Games Played	17
Clean Sheets	3
Average Match Rating	7.06
Balls Recovered per game	13.9
Duels won per game	6.6 (50%)
Goal Contributions	1



Emmanuel Adegboyega



Current Club: Norwich City
Nation: Republic of Ireland

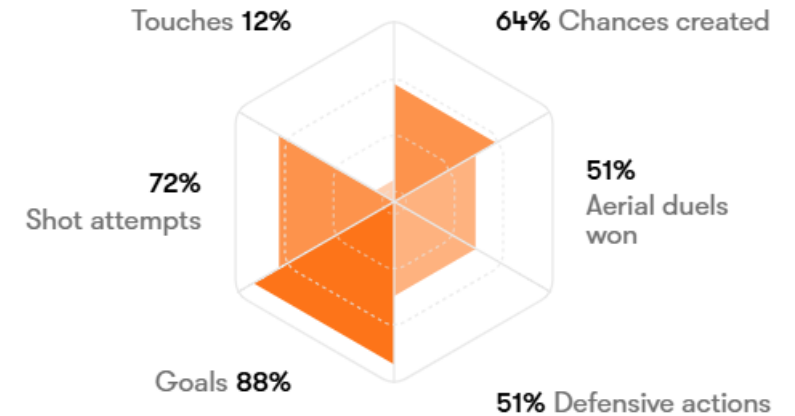
Age: 21
Height: 6ft 3

Emmanuel Adegboyega made the move to Championship, Norwich City from Drogheda United in the summer of 2023 after an array of commanding and impressive performances highlighting his potential. He joined League Two side, Walsall on loan in January 2024 and won the EFL Young Player of the Month award for February. Adegboyega spent the 2024/25 campaign on loan at Scottish Premiership side, Dundee United where he showed his outstanding defensive and ball playing abilities. He played with current Lincoln striker, Freddie Draper during the first half of the 2023 League of Ireland season. Another loan for the talent could be on the cards if he isn't guaranteed game time at Norwich.

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Dundee United

Games Played	31
Clean Sheets	10
Average Match Rating	6.91
Tackles per game	1.4
Duels won per game	4.4 (60%)
Goal Contributions	3



TRANSFER TARGET #3 – Left Centre Back

Player Profile

With the likely departure of Sean Roughan, Lincoln will only have 1 contracted left footed defender – Zak Bradshaw, however I see him more as a left back that could cover centrally if required. Therefore, the signing of a left footed centre back should be high on the recruitment list.

The signing will most likely be a starter so will need to be at a good League One standard; if that's someone experienced in the Championship/ League One or someone who has been an impressive performer in League Two. I'd be focusing on quality over age – this could be a signing out of the club's recruitment model.



Ryley Towler



Ryley Towler made the switch to Portsmouth from Bristol City in January 2023 after impressing on loan moves in League Two. The ball playing left footer has great mobility and athleticism as well as a fantastic range of passing and defensive attributes. Towler was part of the Portsmouth squad that achieved promotion to the Championship in 2023/24. He has found opportunities limited at his current side and a move to League One would be a great chance for consistent football to reach his undoubted high potential.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Current Club: Portsmouth

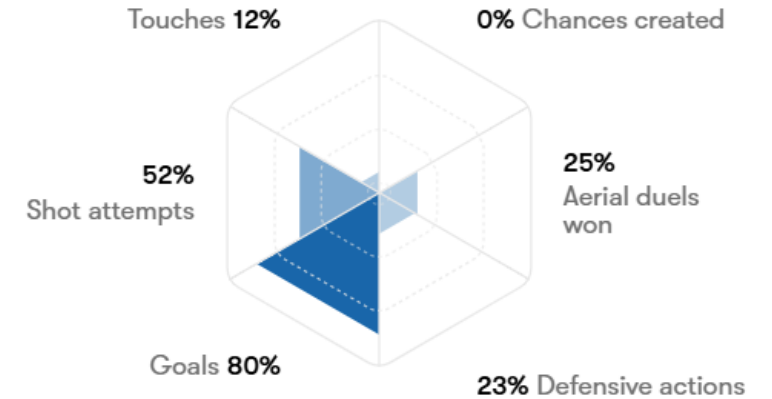
Nation: England

Age: 23

Height: 6ft 2

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Portsmouth

Games Played	12
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.68
Tackles per game	1.1
Duels won per game	2.9 (59%)
Goal Contributions	1

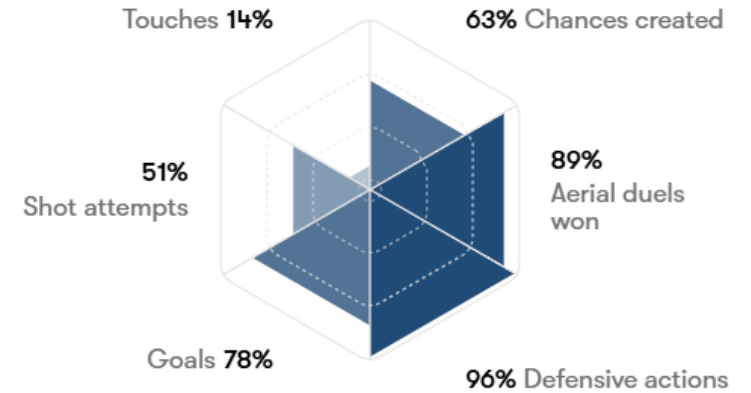


Sonny Bradley

Sonny Bradley is a vastly experienced leader as he has over 500 senior appearances playing in all three tiers of the EFL. He captained Luton Town to promotion to the Premier League in 2022/23, as well as winning the League One title with Luton in 2018/19, and promotion to the Championship with Derby in 2023/24. Bradley joined Wycombe Wanderers on loan in January 2024 and helped the club achieve a Play Off finish. The towering and physical defender would be a massive coup for Lincoln as he still has a lot to offer. Location could also work in Lincoln's favour as he progressed through Hull City's academy.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits
Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Wycombe Wanderers

Games Played	17
Clean Sheets	6
Average Match Rating	7.08
Tackles per game	0.5
Duels won per game	6.5 (66%)
Goal Contributions	1



Current Club: Free Agent

Nation: England

Age: 33

Height: 6ft 5



Murray Wallace



Current Club: Free Agent

Nation: Scotland

Age: 32

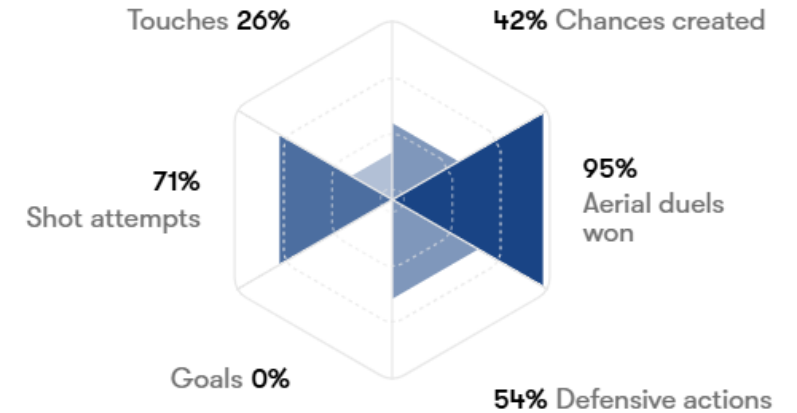
Height: 6ft 2

Murray Wallace joined Millwall from Lincolnshire side; Scunthorpe United in summer 2018 after making over 100 appearances and being a fans' favourite. Wallace, who is also able to play left back, has amassed over 450 senior appearances including 258 games in the Championship – this highlights the high standards and experience he will be able to bring. He is aggressive, aerially dominant and defensively solid as well as being progressive on the ball with a good range of passing abilities. Wallace would be a great signing and fantastic for the younger players to learn from.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Millwall

Games Played	11
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.91
Tackles per game	0.6
Duels won per game	4.3 (64%)
Goal Contributions	0



Tom McIntyre



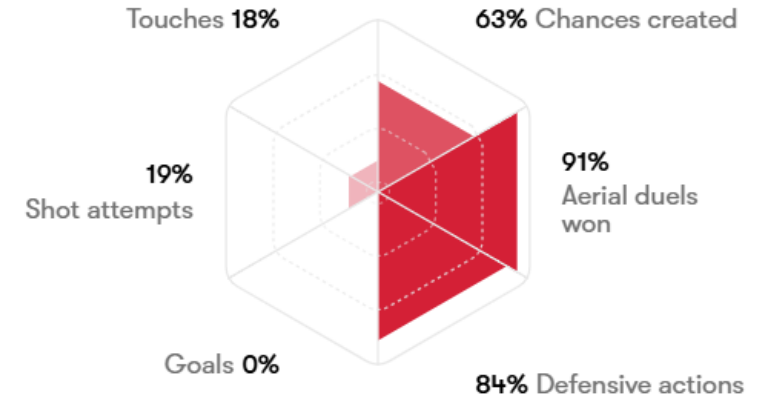
Current Club: Portsmouth
Nation: Scotland
Age: 26
Height: 6ft 1

Tom McIntyre progressed through Reading's academy and broke into the first team before joining fellow League One side, Portsmouth in January 2024. He helped his new side achieve promotion to the Championship winning the League One title. McIntyre signed for Charlton Athletic on loan a year later and made it back-to-back League One promotions by being victorious in the Play Offs. He is a committed and proactive defender that isn't afraid to get stuck in as well as being calm and composed on the ball. It looks likely McIntyre will get a transfer this window and Lincoln would be a solid destination.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Charlton Athletic

Games Played	10
Clean Sheets	4
Average Match Rating	6.74
Tackles per game	0.6
Duels won per game	3.4 (67%)
Goal Contributions	0



Elkan Baggott



Elkan Baggott is a towering centre back that has graduated from Ipswich Town's academy and experienced an array of EFL loans, most recently in 2024/25 with Blackpool helping the club achieve a top 10 finish. He is very physical and has a great frame as well as having good technical attributes. Baggott is an Indonesia senior international with 22 caps. He would be a great investment as Baggott has a high ceiling and will only keep improving with game time, I can see him being a future Championship starter. Baggott would add a lot of height and dominance to the Imps backline.

Current Club: Ipswich Town

Nation: Indonesia

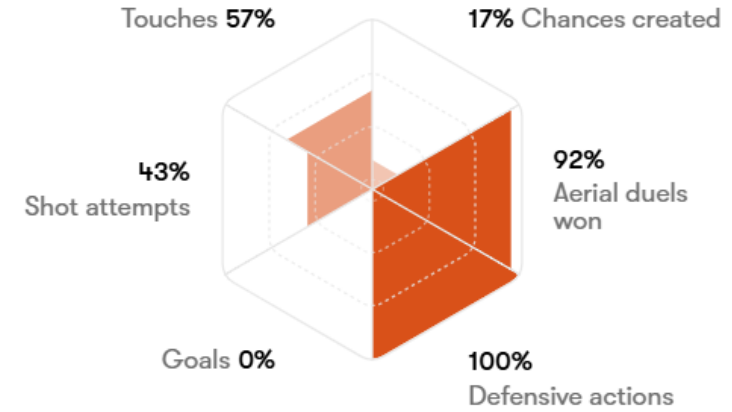
Age: 22

Height: 6ft 5

Transfer Type: LOAN/PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Blackpool

Games Played	18
Clean Sheets	5
Average Match Rating	7.09
Tackles per game	0.8
Duels won per game	5.3 (61%)
Goal Contributions	1



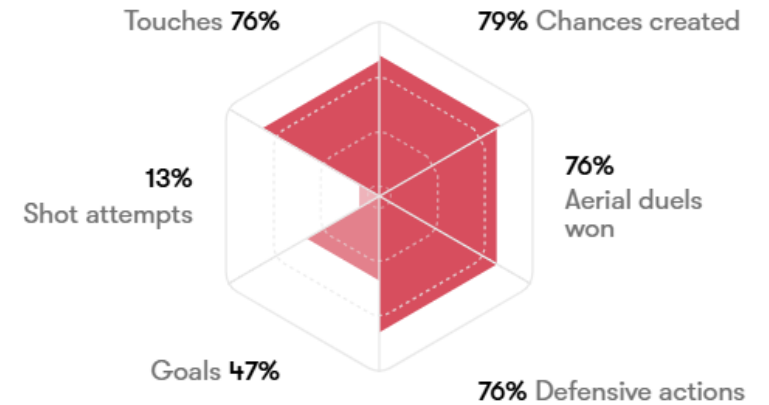
Miguel Freckleton



Miguel Freckleton joined Sheffield United U23s in 2021 and has developed through a series of loan spells, including winning the National League title with Chesterfield in 2023/24. He signed for League Two, Swindon Town on loan for the 2024/25 campaign and consistently improved throughout the season especially since the appointment of Ian Holloway as manager. Freckleton is robust with great recovery pace, defensively dominant and a progressive ball carrier. He has all the attributes to be a fantastic performer in the top end of League One and above.

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Swindon Town

Games Played	28
Clean Sheets	8
Average Match Rating	6.94
Tackles per game	1.5
Duels won per game	5.3 (57%)
Goal Contributions	2

Current Club: Sheffield United

Nation: England

Age: 21

Height: 6ft 4

Transfer Type: LOAN/PERMANENT



TRANSFER TARGET #4 – Left Back

Player Profile

Similarly to left centre back, with the exit of Sean Roughan, Lincoln will only have one left footed option at left back. Zak Bradshaw is returning to the club after 27 appearances in League Two and will need time to adapt to the standards of League One. I can see the club opting to go for a first-choice option.

The new signing will need to be athletic to be able to support the left winger as well as being a consistent performer. They will need to be good going forward and, on the ball, as well as solid defensively.



Liam Gordon



Current Club: Walsall (OOC)

Nation: Guyana

Age: 26

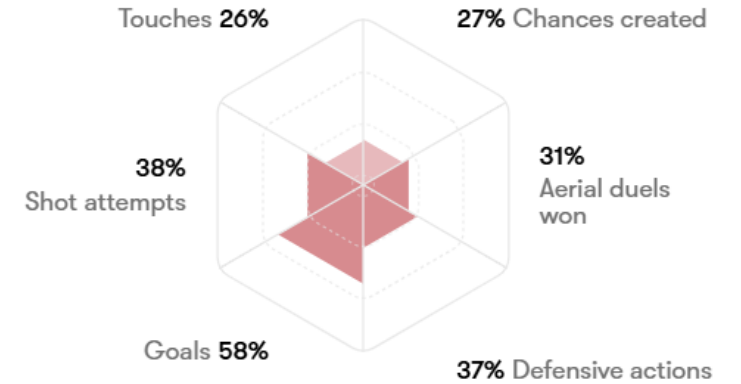
Height: 6ft

Liam Gordon joined Walsall from Bolton Wanderers in summer 2022 and has been a constant feature as he has played 118 League Two games producing 6 goals and 6 assists. His strengths include being very athletic with pace to get up and down the left side with ease, great crossing ability as well as having great awareness at the back. Gordon, who is also able to play centre back, has received international recognition as he has featured 26 times for Guyana. Gordon was a key performer in Walsall's early season dominance in League Two. He would be a great signing as I can see him holding his own in League One.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Walsall

Games Played	44
Clean Sheets	15
Average Match Rating	6.86
Balls Recovered per game	3.7
Duels won per game	4.2 (46%)
Goal Contributions	4



Ben Jackson



Current Club: Barrow

Nation: England

Age: 24

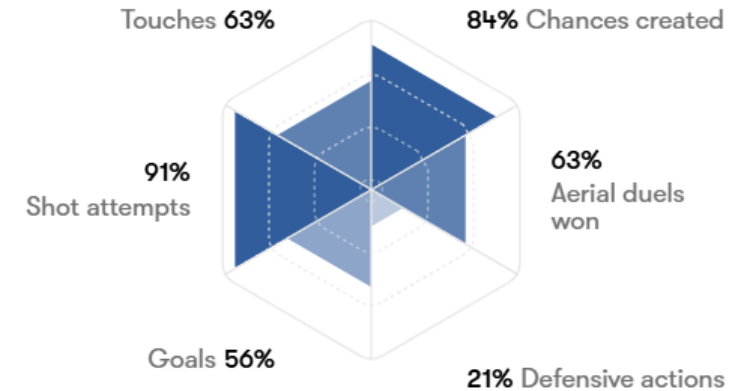
Height: 5ft 10

Ben Jackson signed for Barrow last summer after progressing through the academy at Huddersfield Town. He has had a fantastic season showcasing his undoubted quality, not only has Jackson achieved 11 goal contributions and provided a constant threat, but he has also impressed with his work-rate and defensive side of the game. He managed to play in 45 of the 46 League Two matches which highlights his consistency levels and resilience to remain in peak condition. Jackson has another two years on his contract at Barrow, but he could be someone worth investing in as he has a lot of key attributes to succeed.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Barrow

Games Played	45
Clean Sheets	12
Average Match Rating	7.06
Balls Recovered per game	3.8
Duels won per game	4.6 (61%)
Goal Contributions	11



Matty Jacob



Current Club: Hull City

Nation: England

Age: 23

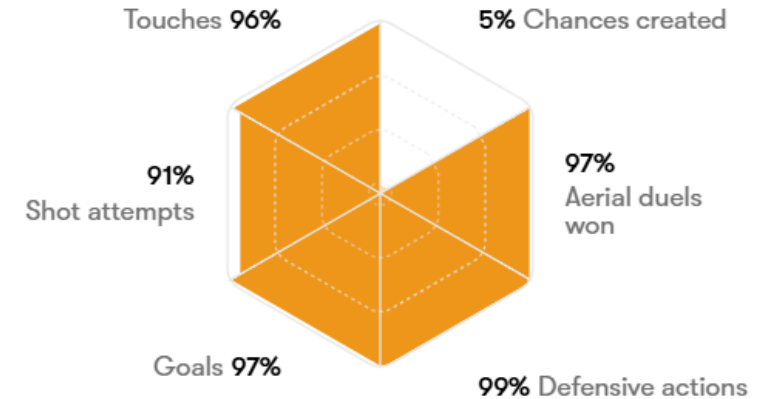
Height: 5ft 11

Matty Jacob has been with Hull City since joining the academy at U9 level. He is athletic, good on the ball with strong technical attributes and has a great range of passing, as well as being solid at the back. Jacob has had limited opportunities at Hull but has impressed when given the chance; he was the best-performing left back in the Championship over the last festive period according to WhoScored. Jacob has only 12 league starts over the past two campaigns, a loan could be on the cards to enable more senior football. He would also be an exciting investment and permanent signing.

Transfer Type: LOAN/PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Hull City

Games Played	8
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.76
Balls Recovered per game	1.8
Duels won per game	3.6 (51%)
Goal Contributions	1



Ziyad Larkeche



Current Club: QPR

Nation: France

Age: 22

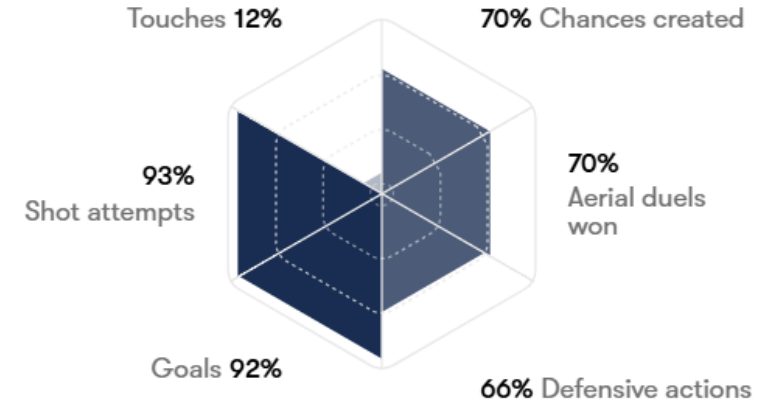
Height: 6ft

Ziyad Larkeche is a former PSG youth and joined Fulham U23s in 2020. He was given his first taste of senior football in a loan spell at League One, Barnsley in 2023 – playing 18 games and helping his side reach the League One Play Off final. Larkeche earned a move to QPR after his promising displays; he played 20 matches in the Championship during 2023/24. He impressed last season during a loan at Dundee; producing 7 goal contributions and becoming a fans favourite. He has been capped 6 times by France U20, this highlights his high potential and quality. Larkeche would be a great signing as I feel with more consistent game time, his performances will only elevate.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT/LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Dundee

Games Played	27
Clean Sheets	3
Average Match Rating	6.82
Balls Recovered per game	3.1
Duels won per game	4.8 (45%)
Goal Contributions	7



Owen Dodgson



Current Club: Burnley

Nation: England

Age: 22

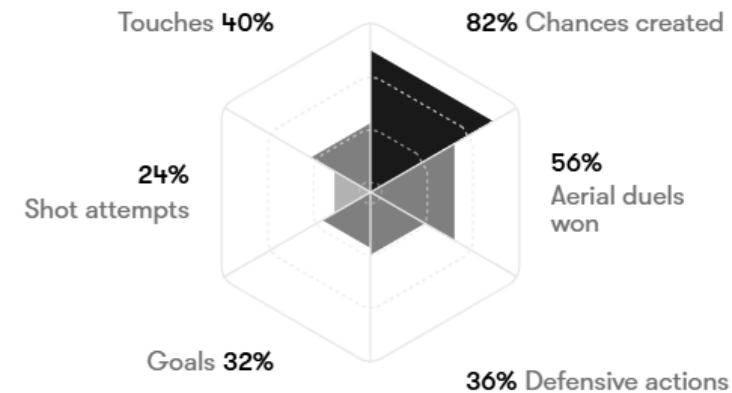
Height: 5ft 10

Owen Dodgson is a former Manchester United youth prospect and joined Burnley in November 2020. He has had several loan spells across the EFL and Scottish Premiership, most recently impressing at Burton Albion helping the club avoid relegation. Showcasing his delivery and creativity by producing 1 goal and 4 assists. Dodgson has great athleticism and energy levels as well as being strong in the tackle. He has good experience as he has 50 appearances across League One and League Two. A permanent move could be great for his career, can also see him going on another loan spell.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT/LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Burton Albion

Games Played	22
Clean Sheets	6
Average Match Rating	6.99
Balls Recovered per game	3.5
Duels won per game	3.3 (52%)
Goal Contributions	5



Valentino Adedokun



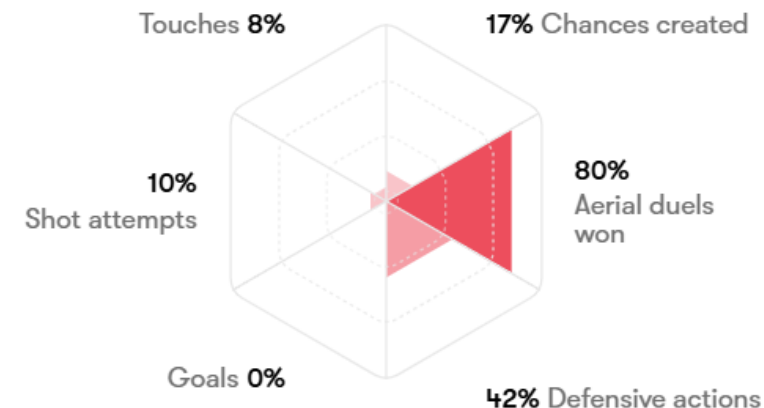
Valentino Adedokun joined Brentford B in the summer of 2021, transitioning from Dundalk where he had made a notable impression with a lot of promise. Adedokun had two loan spells during the 2024/25 campaign including spending the season half of the season in League Two with Cheltenham where he demonstrated a lot of potential. He is very pacy and has bundles of energy as well as being aggressive and relishes in 1v1 defending. Adedokun is a former winger and has lot of quality going forward. He would be a financially low risk with a potential high reward as he has all the raw attributes to be very successful at League One level. I can see him being a future Championship player.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Current Club: Brentford
Nation: Republic of Ireland
Age: 22
Height: 5ft 10

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Cheltenham Town

Games Played	15
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.67
Balls Recovered per game	2.9
Duels won per game	3.3 (51%)
Goal Contributions	2



TRANSFER TARGET #5 – Defensive Midfielder

Player Profile

With the likely sale of Ethan Erhahon, who has been incredible in the heart of the midfield with dominating displays breaking up play, Lincoln will need to locate a replacement. It will be difficult for Lincoln to get a successor who is as good as Erhahon, however the club could target a player who has a similar profile and potential.

The signing should ideally be great at recovering the ball, technical, athletic and have great positional awareness. An experienced player could also be useful to help guide the younger members of the squad.



Eli King



Current Club: Cardiff City

Nation: Wales

Age: 22

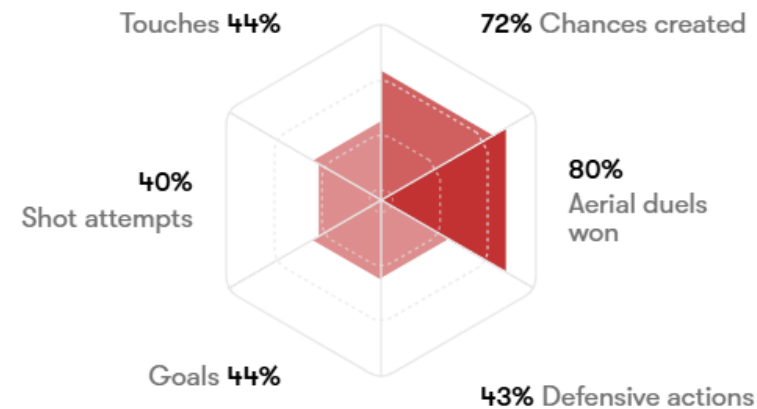
Height: 6ft 2

Eli King has been with local team Cardiff City from a young age progressing through the academy to the first team. He has experienced an array of loan spells across the EFL and Scotland, he has amassed 101 senior appearances. King has a good build which he uses to his benefit as he excels in tackles and duels. As well as being strong in breaking up play, he is comfortable and composed on the ball. He has also received international recognition as he has 14 caps for Wales U21s. Regular football looks unlikely as Cardiff City start life in League One, therefore a permanent transfer away could happen. King is someone that has a lot to offer and will be eager to break into the Wales national side.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Stevenage

Games Played	28
Average Match Rating	6.88
Interceptions per game	0.3
Balls Recovered per game	2.3
Duels won per game	3.0 (55%)
Goal Contributions	4



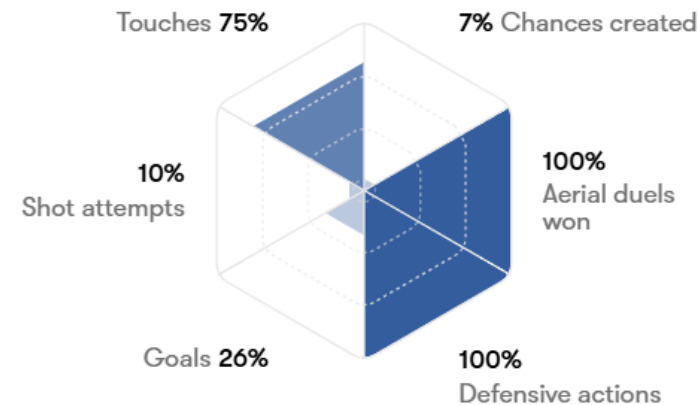
Jamie McDonnell



Jamie McDonnell joined Nottingham Forest U18s from Glentoran in summer 2020, after a series of impressive seasons. He is a Northern Ireland U21 international and will be eager to make a senior cap in the next couple of years. McDonnell experienced his first taste professional football at the start of 2024/25 signing on loan for League Two side, Colchester United. McDonnell has looked a class above the division and consistently stood out. He is great on the ball and getting the team forward. McDonnell's defensive per 90 stats are impressive; 4.1 tackles won, and 11 duels won. He would be a great loan signing for Lincoln.

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Colchester United

Games Played	32
Average Match Rating	7.06
Interceptions per game	1.0
Balls Recovered per game	4.6
Duels won per game	11.0 (60%)
Goal Contributions	1

Current Club: Nottingham Forest

Nation: Northern Ireland

Age: 21

Height: 6ft

Transfer Type: LOAN



Adam Forshaw



Current Club: Free Agent

Nation: England

Age: 33

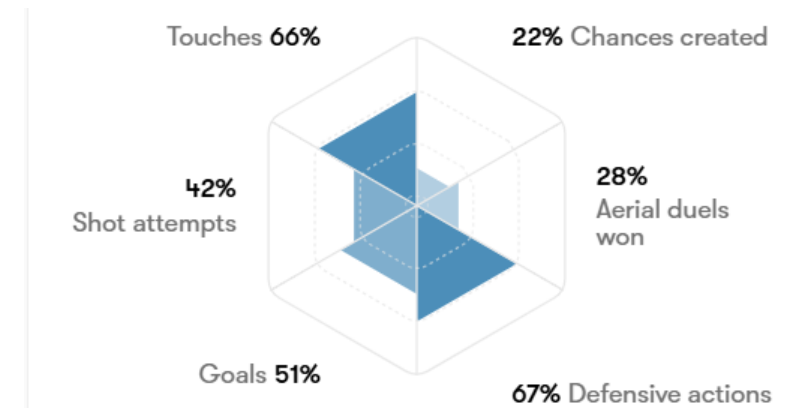
Height: 5ft 9

Adam Forshaw is a vastly experienced player that has played over 350 senior games, mainly featuring in the Championship. The former Everton graduate has had a combined transfer fee of around £10 million. Forshaw proved last season that he still has the quality - going on to play in 32 Championship games. He may not have the pace, but Forshaw makes up for it with his ability on and off the ball. He was coached at Leeds by Lincoln City head coach Michael Skubala. Forshaw would be a solid signing that would add calmness and experienced to the side which will allow the younger players to flourish.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Plymouth + Blackburn

Games Played	32
Average Match Rating	6.63
Interceptions per game	0.4
Balls Recovered per game	2.0
Duels won per game	2.5 (59%)
Goal Contributions	1



Tyrese Fornah



Current Club: Free Agent

Nation: Sierra Leone

Age: 25

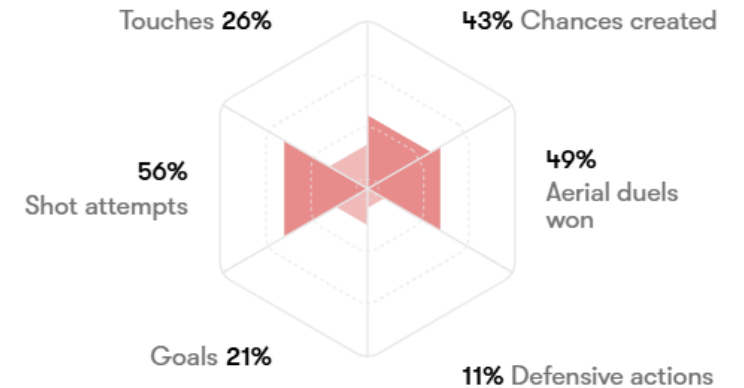
Height: 6ft 1

Tyrese Fornah joined Nottingham Forest U23s from Brighton in 2018 and gone on to have several loans spells across the EFL and in Portugal. He signed for Derby County in summer 2023 and was part of the automatic promotion squad to the Championship during the 2023/24 campaign. Fornah went out on loan to League Two, Salford City for the 2024/25 and consistently impressed with strong performances. He is great on the ball and a fantastic carrier to get his side forward as well as being robust and solid at winning back possession. Fornah is a 3-time capped Sierra Leone international. He would be a solid acquisition for Lincoln on a free.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Salford City

Games Played	40
Average Match Rating	6.79
Interceptions per game	0.8
Balls Recovered per game	5.5
Duels won per game	4.7 (43%)
Goal Contributions	5



Jenson Metcalfe



Current Club: Everton

Nation: England

Age: 20

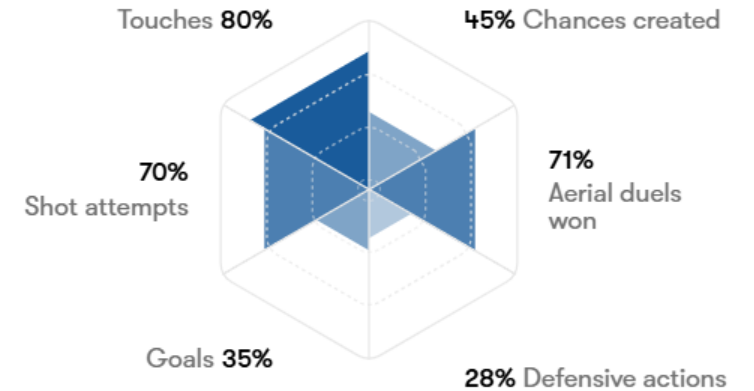
Height: 6ft

Jenson Metcalfe has progressed through Everton's academy and was named on the bench for the first two matches of the 2024/25 Premier League season, highlighting his potential and standards that he has shown in the U21s. He joined Chesterfield on loan in August to get his first taste of senior football. Metcalfe thoroughly impressed for the League Two outfit dictating the tempo of games, commanding performances and fantastic ability on the ball. He is a strong ball carrier and tenacious off the ball; a League One loan in the upcoming campaign would be great for Metcalfe's development.

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Chesterfield

Games Played	28
Average Match Rating	6.88
Interceptions per game	0.4
Balls Recovered per game	3.5
Duels won per game	4.0 (54%)
Goal Contributions	2



Kaden Rodney



Current Club: Crystal Palace

Nation: England

Age: 20

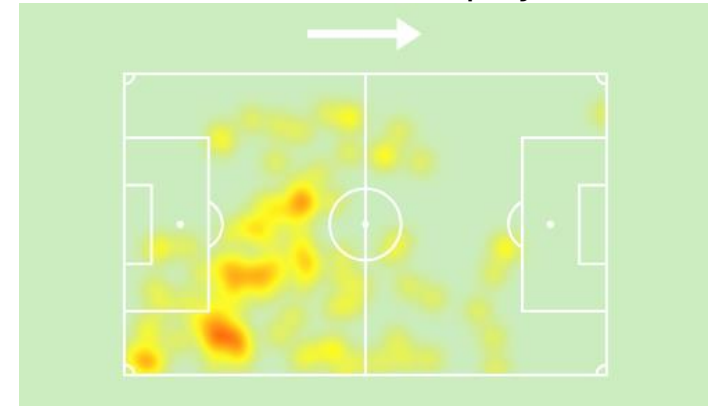
Height: 6ft 1

Kaden Rodney regularly played up an age group progressing through the Crystal Palace academy, becoming a key component to the U21 side as they achieved a Play Off place in Premier League 2. He has been on the bench for the first team as well as featuring in EFL Cup and EFL Trophy games. Rodney is a Rolls-Royce type of midfielder as he is athletic, hard working, great on the ball and enjoys breaking up play. He is versatile as he can also play at centre back and right back. Rodney has received youth international call ups for England. An EFL loan move could be great for his development and Lincoln would be a suitable environment.

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League + EFL Trophy Stats – Palace

Games Played	21
Average Match Rating	7.00*
Interceptions per game	1.0*
Balls Recovered per game	3.5*
Duels won per game	5.0 (91%)*
Goal Contributions	0

*EFL Trophy only.



TRANSFER TARGET #6 – Box to Box Midfielder

Player Profile

Lincoln City excelled in the second half of the 2023/24 League One season with impressive performances and free flowing football, and one of the main reasons why was that there was bundles of energy and creativity in the middle of the park.

The new signing would be a box-to-box midfielder that can help the team progress forward as well as being solid and good at regaining possession, with a good turn of pace and being able to produce goalscoring opportunities from midfield.



Kian Spence



Current Club: Barrow (OOC)

Nation: England

Age: 24

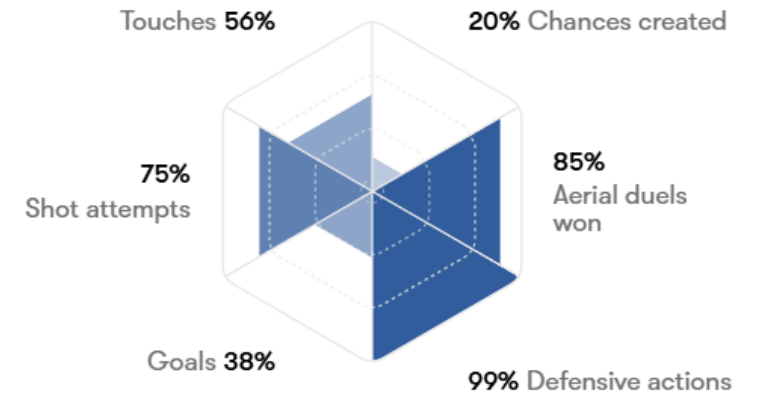
Height: 5ft 10

Kian Spence was released by Middlesbrough at 18 years old and rose through non-league to earn himself a move to League Two side, Barrow in summer 2023. He has taken the opportunity with both hands and has been a standout performer in his position over the past two seasons. Spence achieved 15 league goal contributions in 2023/24 and another 6 in 2024/25 – highlighting his attacking qualities and creative spark. He can operate anywhere across the midfield; as an 8 and a 10 but also as a 6. Spence's contract is due to expire this summer, and he is expected to go to a League One side on a free transfer.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Barrow

Games Played	32
Average Match Rating	7.10
Successful Passes per game	20.6 (74%)
Balls Recovered per game	3.9
Duels won per game	5.6 (46%)
Goal Contributions	6



Joe O'Brien-Whitmarsh



Current Club: Southampton

Nation: Republic of Ireland

Age: 20

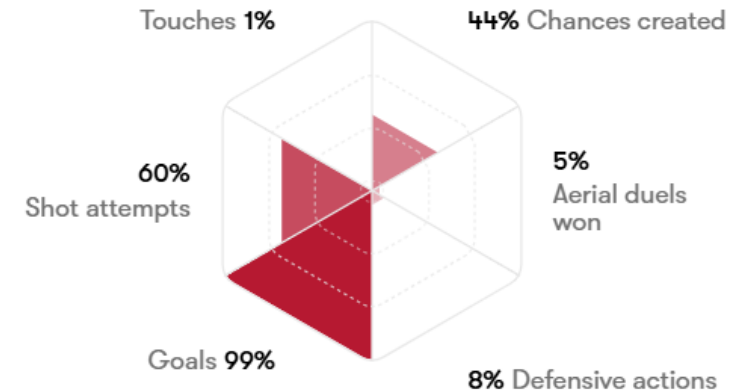
Height: 6ft

O'Brien-Whitmarsh signed for Southampton in January 2024 after a breakout season with League of Ireland side, Cork City. The highly rated midfielder has made a great impression in Premier League 2 producing 5 goal contributions in 13 games, this has earned him being on the bench for the first team on several occasions. O'Brien-Whitmarsh is technically outstanding and has been compared to James Ward-Prowse. The Republic of Ireland U21 international plays in a positive manner and enjoys creating and scoring goals. He had his first taste of senior football in League Two with Accrington and will be keen to push on.

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Accrington Stanley

Games Played	13
Average Match Rating	6.80
Successful Passes per game	8.5 (67%)
Balls Recovered per game	2.5
Duels won per game	1.5 (38%)
Goal Contributions	3

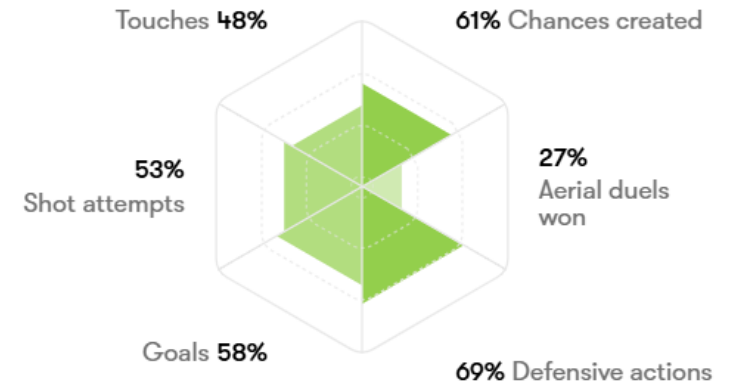


Charlie McCann



Charlie McCann started his career with Coventry and earned a move to Manchester United at 16 – after 4 seasons, he made a big move of £750,000 to Rangers – this highlights his potential and how highly thought of McCann is. He made another money move to Forest Green in January 2023 in a deal worth towards £400,000. McCann is an agile box to box midfielder with superb vision and technical ability, as well as being strong defensively and going forward with progressive runs. The former Northern Ireland U21 international has had a fantastic season with 11 goals and 5 assists, McCann would be a great signing.

Player Traits
Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Forest Green Rovers

Games Played	39
Average Match Rating	6.98
Successful Passes per game	26.2 (78%)
Balls Recovered per game	6.1
Duels won per game	5.2 (31%)
Goal Contributions	16

Current Club: Forest Green Rovers

Nation: Northern Ireland

Age: 23

Height: 5ft 10

Transfer Type: PERMANENT



Adam O'Reilly

Adam O'Reilly made the move across the water to join Preston North End in December 2016 from Ringmahon, touted as an exciting prospect. After a series of loan spells, he was unable to breakthrough and returned to Ireland to sign for Derry City in 2023. O'Reilly has become an integral part of his side's midfield playing 79 games in the league as well as European qualifiers. His build gives him a naturally lower centre of gravity which allows O'Reilly to navigate the pitch with ease, dribble with precision and makes him resilient to physical challenges. O'Reilly has bundles of energy and a great range of passing. He would be an exciting recruit as O'Reilly is a top talent.

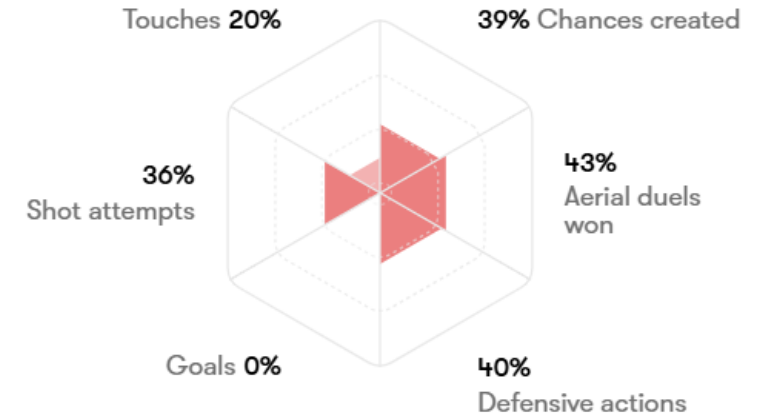
Transfer Type: PERMANENT



Current Club: Derry City
Nation: Republic of Ireland
Age: 24
Height: 5ft 6

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2025 League Stats – Derry City

Games Played	17
Average Match Rating	6.81
Successful Passes per game	27.6 (78%)
Balls Recovered per game	5.3
Duels won per game	4.6 (49%)
Goal Contributions	1

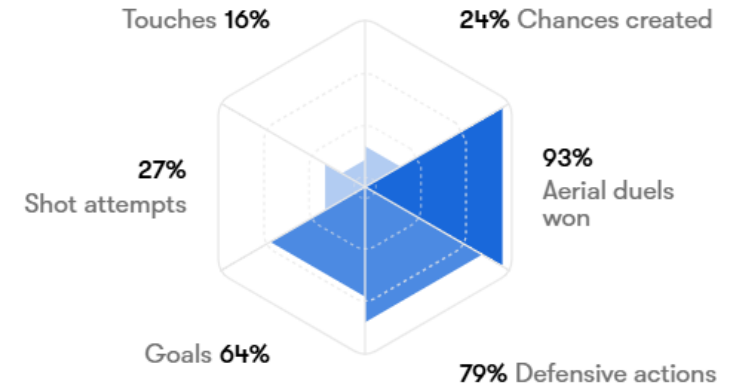


Will Collar



Will Collar progressed through Brighton's academy and joined Scottish side, Hamilton Academical on a permanent contract in summer 2019. After 2 seasons, he returned to England to sign for National League, Stockport County. Collar has been instrumental to his sides rise from National League to finishing 3rd in League One. He has a superb strike as well as great timings of runs into the box. Collar's goal contribution record at Stockport is fantastic, he has produced at least 9 per season with his highest being 13 goals and 6 assists during 2022/23. I can see him having bundles of interest if he departs Stockport – Collar would be a stellar signing at Sincil Bank.

Player Traits
Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Stockport County

Games Played	40
Average Match Rating	7.03
Successful Passes per game	16.2 (70%)
Balls Recovered per game	2.6
Duels won per game	4.4 (47%)
Goal Contributions	10

Current Club: Stockport County (OOC)

Nation: England

Age: 28

Height: 5ft 10

Transfer Type: PERMANENT



Matty Craig



Matty Craig has been with Spurs since a young age and has been a consistent performer for the U21s. The former Scotland U21 international was fantastic for League Two, Doncaster Rovers on loan in the second half of 2023/24 – he was a big part of their impressive form and promotion push. Craig is a composed and creative midfielder that is great in possession as well as being able to do the defensive part of the game. He secured two League One loans during the 2024/25 campaign and was halted with a lack of minutes. With opportunities, I can see Craig being a top operator at League One level.

Current Club: Tottenham Hotspur

Nation: Scotland

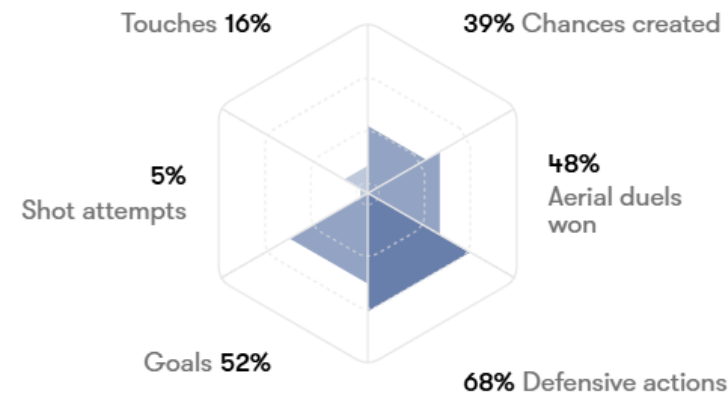
Age: 22

Height: 6ft

Transfer Type: PERMANENT/LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Barnsley + Mansfield

Games Played	19
Average Match Rating	6.78
Successful Passes per game	16.4 (79%)
Balls Recovered per game	3.1
Duels won per game	3.7 (57%)
Goal Contributions	1



TRANSFER TARGET #7 – Winger

Player Profile

Lincoln have an array of exciting and quality attackers across the forward line and in the attacking midfield/ wide spots – the club is going into the summer transfer window in a very strong position. I feel the need for one more addition for extra balance and threat.

The new signing needs to have athleticism, great trickery on the ball, end product and be intelligent off the ball with progressive runs. Also, be able to provide healthy competition and, have the ability to make an impact from the start and off the bench.



Owen Dale



Current Club: Oxford United

Nation: England

Age: 26

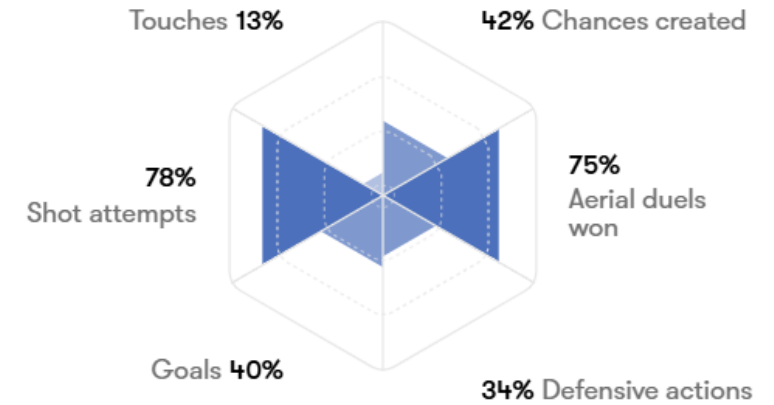
Height: 5ft 9

Owen Dale is a Crewe Alexandra graduate and was part of the 2019/20 League Two promotion winning squad. He was very impressive during 2020/21 as he achieved 11 goals and 2 assists in 43 league matches. Championship side, Blackpool purchased the tricky athletic winger in January 2022 for a reported fee of £500,000. He joined Oxford United in February 2024 and helped the club win promotion to the Championship via the Play Offs. Dale enjoys driving at defenders and has a lot of energy as well as being League One experienced. He also has a great delivery and an emphatic work rate.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Wigan Athletic

Games Played	17
Average Match Rating	6.78
Goals	1
Assists	1
Successful Passes per game	13.1 (71%)
Successful Dribbles per game	1.1 (43%)



Dilan Markanday



Current Club: Free Agent

Nation: England

Age: 23

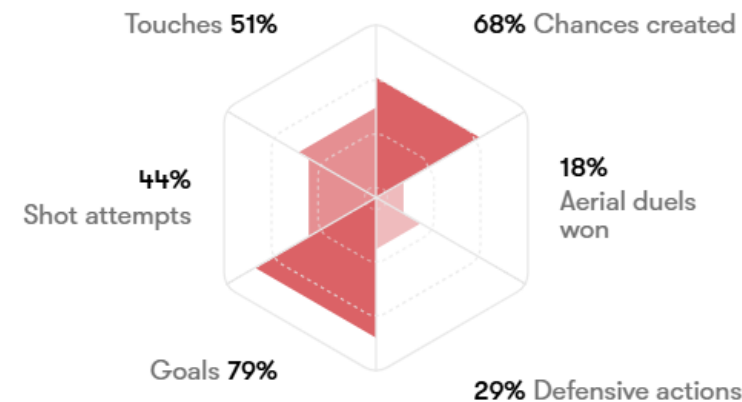
Height: 5ft 6

Dilan Markanday was outstanding during the Spurs academy and produced 12 goals and 5 assists in 14 Premier League 2 matches in 2021/22 which alerted Championship, Blackburn Rovers to buy the exciting winger in January 2022. He joined Chesterfield on loan ahead of the 2024/25 campaign and thoroughly impressed with trickery, ball carrying and chance creator. Markanday is clinical in front of goal and has the ability to create something out of nothing. He went on loan to Leyton Orient for the second half of the season and helped the club reach the League One Play Off final. On a free, it's a no brainer.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Chesterfield

Games Played	22
Average Match Rating	7.20
Goals	6
Assists	3
Successful Passes per game	19.7 (80%)
Successful Dribbles per game	1.4 (49%)



Ellis Taylor



Current Club: Harrogate Town

Nation: England

Age: 22

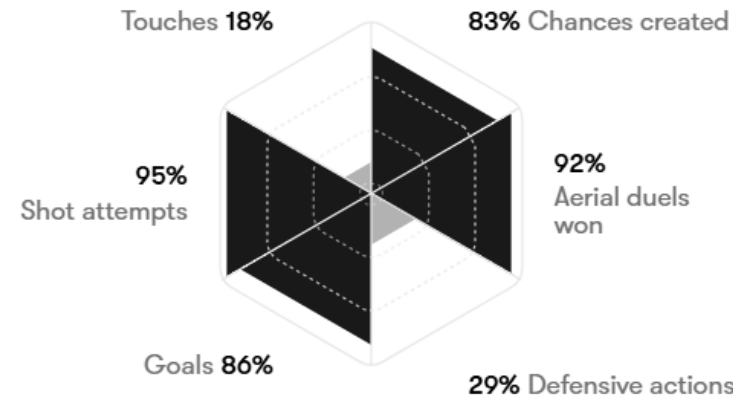
Height: 6ft

Ellis Taylor is a Sunderland academy graduate that looked exciting throughout the youth teams, he joined Harrogate Town on a permanent in the summer of 2024. Taylor has had a fantastic breakout campaign with 10 goal contributions in 36 League Two games. He is athletic with a wand of a left foot and excels in 1v1 dribbling. He isn't afraid to shoot and is a big threat anywhere in the final third. Taylor has the attitude and all the right attributes to be very successful at League One level. I can see him being a future Championship player.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Harrogate Town

Games Played	36
Average Match Rating	7.22
Goals	7
Assists	3
Successful Passes per game	12.5 (60%)
Successful Dribbles per game	1.1 (48%)



Benicio Baker-Boaitey



Current Club: Millwall

Nation: England

Age: 21

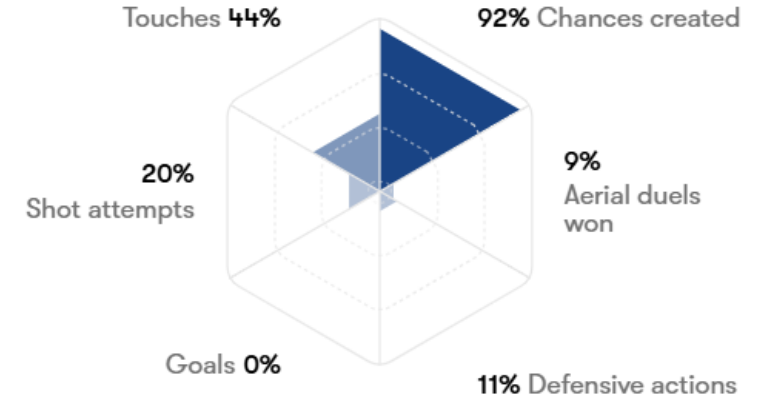
Height: 5ft 4

Benicio Baker-Boaitey has developed in the academies of West Ham, FC Porto and Brighton – playing 24 Premier League 2 games for the latter. He was named on the Premier League bench for Brighton on 5 occasions during the 2023/24 campaign. Baker-Boaitey joined League Two club, Port Vale on loan in summer 2024 and impressed in his limited game time – Port Vale went on to win automatic promotion to League One. He is a tricky dribbler, very agile and has blistering pace. Baker-Boaitey joined Millwall on a permanent in the last transfer window. An EFL loan could work wonders for his progression.

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Port Vale

Games Played	10
Average Match Rating	6.83
Goals	0
Assists	2
Successful Passes per game	7.8 (80%)
Successful Dribbles per game	1.2 (46%)



Tom Barkhuizen



Current Club: Free Agent

Nation: England

Age: 31

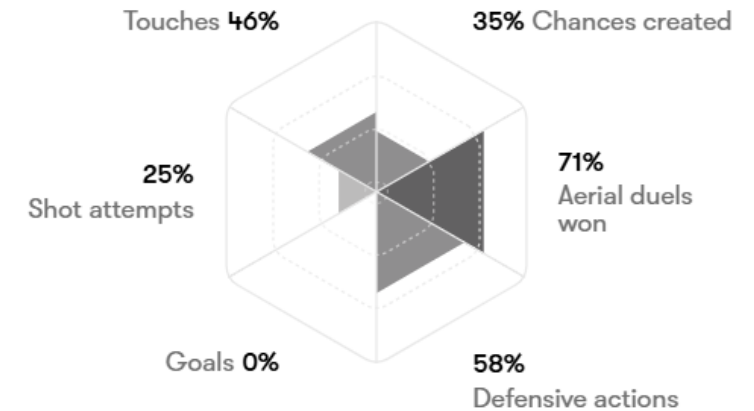
Height: 5ft 9

Tom Barkhuizen progressed through the Blackpool academy and joined League Two, Morecambe on a permanent deal in the summer of 2015. He had an incredible first season with 10 goals and 5 assists. Barkhuizen made the move to Championship side, Preston North End where he went on to have an array of successful goal contributions campaigns. The athletic winger joined Derby County in 2022 and produced 12 goal contributions as his side won promotion to the Championship in 2023/24. He is vastly experienced especially at Championship level as he has 54 goals/assists in 239 games. He had a fantastic link up with Lincoln striker, James Collins at Derby.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Derby County

Games Played	19
Average Match Rating	6.59
Goals	0
Assists	0
Successful Passes per game	5.7 (76%)
Successful Dribbles per game	0.2 (25%)



Ethan Williams



Ethan Williams signed for Manchester United from Rochdale in November 2019 after a series of high potential displays. The excellent dribbler has produced 10 goal contributions in 20 Premier League 2 games. He went out on loan for his first taste of senior football to League Two side, Cheltenham Town for the second half of the 2024/25 campaign. Williams made a great impact as he got fans off their seats and became an instant favourite. He has outstanding athleticism, is a keen shooter and has a lot of quality in the final third. Williams is great on the ball and hard working off it to help his side regain possession. I can see him having a lot of interest.

Current Club: Manchester United

Nation: England

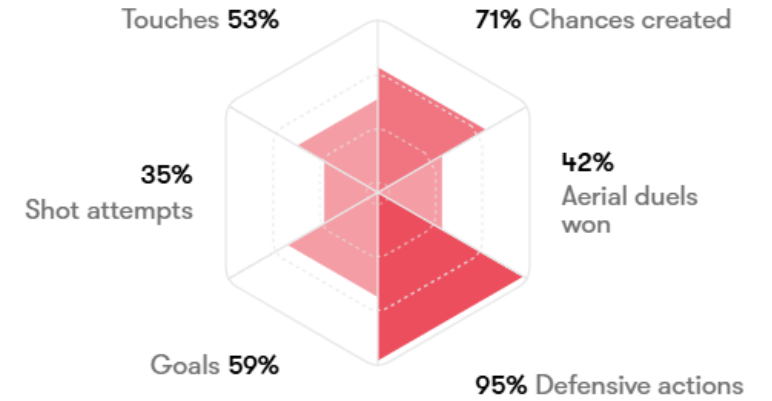
Age: 19

Height: 6ft

Transfer Type: LOAN

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2024/25 League Stats – Cheltenham Town

Games Played	17
Average Match Rating	6.83
Goals	2
Assists	2
Successful Passes per game	7.2 (63%)
Successful Dribbles per game	0.8 (48%)



TRANSFER TARGET #8 – Project Players

Player Profile

In previous seasons, Lincoln have delved into the market looking for young talents that can come in and develop with an eye to the long-term future. I have identified six gems that are playing in Non-League, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland that the club could see as project players.

The new signings will most likely go back out on loan to get regular first team football. Players who are out on loan to the National League and below can feature for Lincoln in the EFL Trophy.



Conor Reynolds



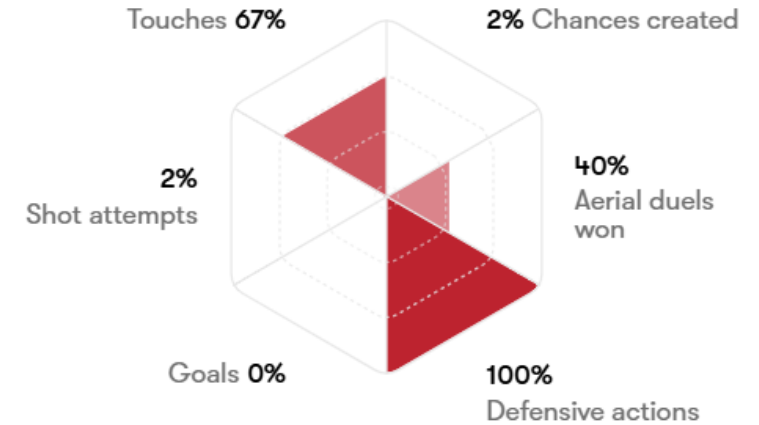
Conor Reynolds is an exciting right back that has burst onto the scene in the League of Ireland this season. Reynolds, who can also play centre back, has proved he is one of the top talents in the division with consistent performances. His main strengths include having fantastic defensive awareness, great technical ability and being strong in challenges. Reynolds is composed on the ball and shows maturity years beyond his age. He has a high ceiling, and it won't be long before Reynolds is receiving more plaudits.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Current Club: Sligo Rovers
Nation: Republic of Ireland
Age: 18
Height: 6ft

Player Traits

Highlights a player's statistical strengths and weaknesses, in comparison to similar players.



2025 League Stats – Sligo Rovers

Games Played	12
Clean Sheets	2
Average Match Rating	6.53
Balls Recovered per game	4.7
Duels won per game	4.5 (54%)
Goal Contributions	0



Matty Carson



Current Club: Torquay United

Nation: Northern Ireland

Age: 21

Height: 6ft

Matty Carson is a promising left back currently playing for Torquay United in the National League South, after joining from Southampton last summer. Within the first month of the campaign, Torquay extended his contract to protect their key asset following a superb start and eye-catching performances. Carson has received international recognition as he has played for Northern Ireland U16s up to U21s. He is athletic, calm in possession and solid defensively. Carson provides an attacking threat as he achieved 9 goal contributions in the league this season. He has a big future, and I can see him climbing the divisions.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Transfer History

Season	Date	Left	Joined	MV	Fee
24/25	Jul 1, 2024	Southampton U21	Torquay	-	free transfer
23/24	Nov 1, 2023	Braintree	Southampton U21	-	End of loan
23/24	Sep 1, 2023	Southampton U21	Braintree	-	loan transfer
22/23	Jul 1, 2022	Southampton U18	Southampton U21	-	-
20/21	Jul 1, 2020	Glentoran U18	Southampton U18	-	?

2024/25 League Stats – Torquay United

Games Played	36
Clean Sheets	12
Average Match Rating	6.83
Goals	4
Assists	5



Dylan Sloan



Current Club: Larne

Nation: Northern Ireland

Age: 21

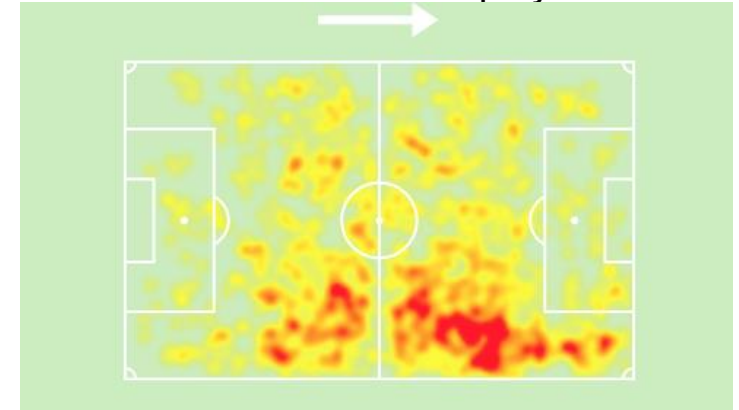
Height: 6ft

Dylan Sloan is a dynamic and versatile midfielder, able to play as a 6 and an 8 as well as more advanced. The Northern Ireland U21 international continues to get better with more senior experience, he has won x2 NIFL Premiership league titles. Sloan is robust and has a strong physical presence. He combines this with great technical ability and quality in possession. Sloan can contribute defensively and in attack, providing 3 goals and 1 assist during 2024/25. He has previously been linked with EFL sides so it wouldn't be a surprise if Sloan made the move across the water.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League Stats – Larne

Games Played	24
Average Match Rating	6.78
Successful Passes per game	14.8 (77%)
Balls Recovered per game	5.2
Duels won per game	5.5 (33%)
Goal Contributions	4



Jayden Carbon



Current Club: Oxford City

Nation: England

Age: 19

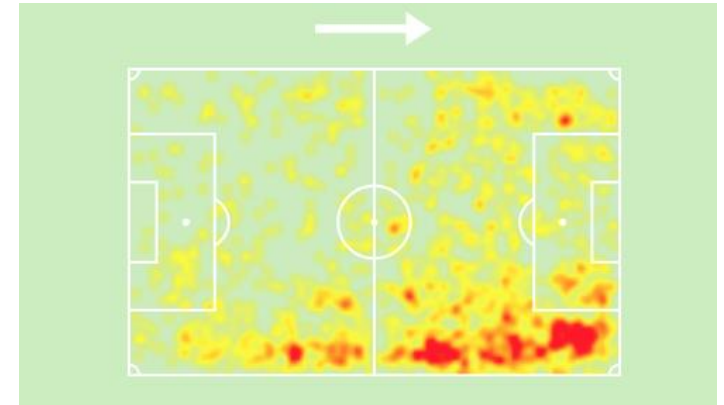
Height: 5ft 11

Jayden Carbon has been on the books of Oxford City since the age of eight and signed his first senior contract last summer. Carbon has looked lively and exciting in his maiden season in the National League North. He is very versatile as he can operate out wide and as a striker. Carbon is athletic, skilful and has a great eye for goal. He is tricky on the ball and showed great maturity putting in impressive performances against more experienced opposition. I have been really impressed with what I've seen from Carbon - he is one to watch out for.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League Stats – Oxford City

Games Played	39
Average Match Rating	6.59
Goals	5
Assists	1



Kyle Crossley



Current Club: South Shields

Nation: England

Age: 20

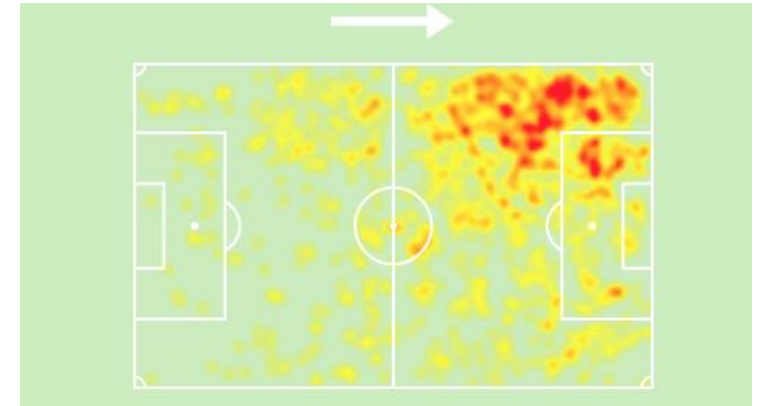
Height: 5ft 9

Kyle Crossley is a former Newcastle United academy graduate and was very impressive during U18s and U21s. The tricky winger achieved 7 goals and 1 assist in 14 Premier League 2 games in 2023/24. Crossley joined National League North side, South Shields last summer and has looked a class above. He has showcased he is comfortable playing across various attacking positions allowing him to be a flexible option for any team. Crossley is pacy, skilful, great on the ball and provides a consistent attacking output. He has outstanding potential and if he continues his form, he will be an EFL player soon.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



2024/25 League Stats – South Shields

Games Played	44
Average Match Rating	6.91
Goals	10
Assists	7



Jack Maskell



Current Club: Darlington

Nation: England

Age: 20

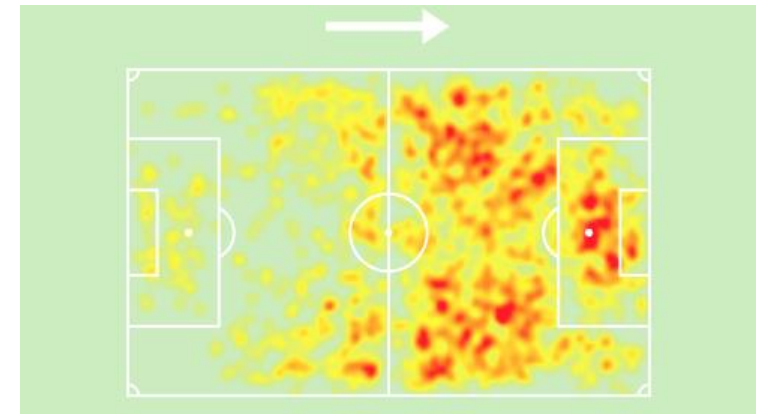
Height: 5ft 10

Jack Maskell joined National League North side, Darlington last summer after a fantastic campaign in the Northern Premier – East Division, netting 26 goals in 36 league games as well as earning multiple end of season awards. Maskell is an exciting young striker who can score different types of goals, is aerially dominant and has a great work ethic. He makes outstanding tactical off the ball movement and is strong at holding up the ball. Maskell has demonstrated significant potential and is someone EFL clubs should take note of.

Transfer Type: PERMANENT

Player Heatmap

Highlights a player's activity on the pitch and uses colour intensity to show how frequently a player has been involved in play.



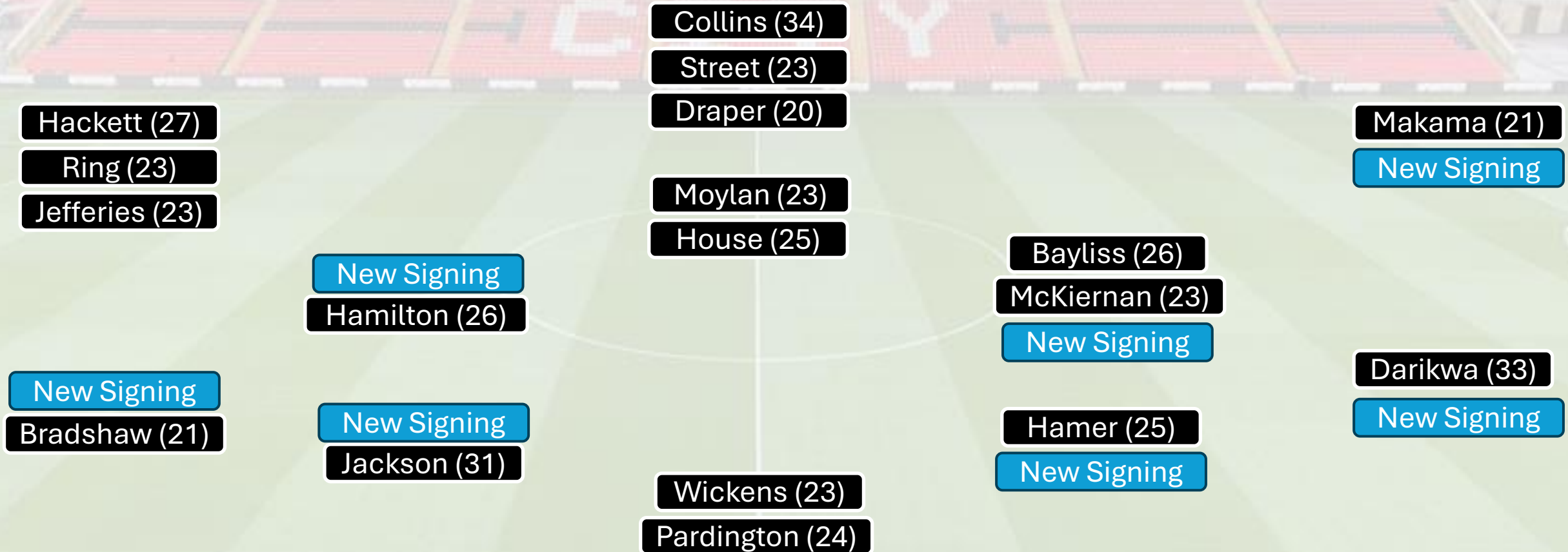
2024/25 League Stats – Darlington

Games Played	41
Average Match Rating	6.86
Goals	9
Assists	4



Lincoln City 2025/26

Squad After The Transfer Window



Formation: 4-2-3-1



Total Players: 25

Summary

In this Recruitment Plan, I have assessed the current squad and looked into potential outgoings as well as investigated an array of transfer targets. I have put forward 48 player suggestions across 8 potential signings that could be required. I have explored short-term and long-term contingencies.

The targets suggested align with the transfer window objectives – the suggestions consist of signings that:

- Increase the overall quality of the squad
- Increase the amount of assets at the football club
- Maintain the wage structure
- Maintain average age of the squad
- Efficient use of the loan market
- Increase depth and flexibility in the squad

If Lincoln City have a similar recruitment to this plan, I am confident the squad will have enough quality, flexibility and depth to meet the ambitions of a Play Off finish.





Lincoln City Recruitment Plan Summer 2025

By Matt Fenton

Thank You For Reading.