



Lee Minshull

Currently a Senior Project Surveyor with a leading commercial fit out and refurbishment company, Lee Minshull wanted to make his first visit to Plough Lane last season for an FA Cup game involving two of his former clubs – AFC Wimbledon and Ramsgate – but unfortunately work commitments prevented this, so we are delighted to welcome him today.

“Both clubs had such an important and pivotal part in my playing career,” said the popular midfielder. “I was studying at Canterbury Christ Church University and playing on Sundays for Dolphin Sports, when they picked me up and soon put me in the first-team. We had some proper men and real good

characters. We won the Isthmian Division One South title, the League Cup and then made the Premier Division play-off semi-finals the following year in 2008, where we were beaten by Staines Town – who then lost to AFC Wimbledon of course.

“I’d already played against AFC Wimbledon with Ramsgate, which was an amazing experience with the size of the crowds and then I moved on to Tonbridge Angels where I had a really good season scoring 17 goals in 40 games, where manager Tommy Warrilow helped take my game to the next level.”

But then came interest from Terry Brown and the Dons, giving

Minshull a decision to make regarding full-time football in the Conference. “The year I signed was the first year they went full-time and they took a lot of players from the lower leagues – like me – who were keen to prove themselves. While we might not have been the richest club, they did everything right in terms of the training, the support from physios and the hotels we stayed in. We were massive underdogs against Luton, but it was an amazing time and another Kent boy, Danny Kedwell, scored the vital penalty to take us up. We actually lost our first game back in the EFL 3-2 to Bristol Rovers, but I came on with 20 minutes left to make my Football League debut.”

In January 2012, Lee joined Newport County on loan and four months later had another prestige game – the FA Trophy Final at Wembley, which the Exiles lost 2-0 to York City. He joined the South Wales club on a permanent basis that summer and at the end of the season he was back at the Golden Arch once again, this time with a happy ending as County defeated Wrexham 2-0 in an all-Welsh play-off final to regain their spot in the EFL after a 25-year absence and a reformation with similarities to the AFC Wimbledon journey. His teammates included several former Dons, among them Ismail Yakubu, Christian Jolley and Fraser Franks.

Minshull was released by Newport

in 2015 after 116 appearances and immediately joined Bromley, where he enjoyed two successful seasons, playing 60 games for the Ravens before dropping back into part-time football with Leatherhead, under player/manager Sammy Moore – who also added former Dons Jack Midson and Dan Gallagher to the Tanners ranks – and then Concord Rangers, as he began to concentrate on building his career away from the game. In June 2020, he announced his retirement as a player but remained with the Canvey-based ‘Beach Boys’ as assistant manager, a role he later had with Aveley.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Plough Lane today Lee!