

MONDAY
Money

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

The film stars who bought a football club

Is football like a Hollywood movie? After an epic rivalry with Notts County, the small Welsh club owned by the stars has topped the national league.

In the end it all hung on a penalty. Notts County were 3-2 down, but they could come back. If Cedwyn Scott made this shot, then Wrexham's hopes for **promotion** to the **English Football League** would be dashed.

But this final crisis ended in the hands of Wrexham's keeper, Ben Foster. The game was Wrexham's, and their great **rivals** were defeated.

In the stands, Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney, Wrexham's celebrity owners, went from **agonised** to **jubilant**. Promotion was now within their grasp.

Next a 3-1 win over Boreham Wood



Red Dragons: Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney own Wrexham AFC, the UK's fifth oldest club.

THE STORY SO FAR

Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney bought Wrexham AF in November 2020, for £2 million. That season, they came second in the national league.

saw Wrexham through. They had done it.

It was a Hollywood ending for this tiny Welsh club.

When McElhenney and Reynolds, two American actors with little knowledge of football, bought the club, some fans doubted them.

What would Hollywood stars know about the passion needed to show up to

game after game in the fifth **tier** of British football?

But they invested time and money in the club and local community. After a bittersweet, near-miss season in 2022, they have now helped steer Wrexham into the league.

The *Detective Pikachu* star, Reynolds, has said that if he did not feel the passion at first, he does now, sometimes to his cost.

"Now I love this sport so much that I hate it. It's one of the greatest things that's ever happened to me and genuinely one of the worst."

KEY WORDS

Notts: Short for Nottingham

Promotion: Moving up to a new level

English Football

League: The UK's main professional football league

Rivals: Main competition

Agonised: In pain

Jubilant: Celebrating

Tier: Level

Dedication: Being very committed to something



YOU DECIDE

Is football like a Hollywood movie?

YES. The drama of football is equal to anything they cook up in Hollywood.

NO. Football takes hard work and **dedication**. It is not a fantasy or a story. It's a way of life.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

One of these three news stories is fake.
Which one?

Robo-camera mistakes man's bald head for ball

Chickens given footballs during bird flu lockdown

Greased pig man of the match in farmyard cup

How many Premier League titles did Manchester United win under Sir Alex Ferguson?



- A) 8
- B) 13
- C) 17

TIME TO DESIGN!

Football might have the drama of a film, but can you make your Wednesday at school seem more exciting by making a movie poster for it.

Step one:

Think about your design! What is your tagline? Take inspiration from movie posters to make your day look exciting.

Step two:

Create your design! Make your Wednesday poster. If you have time, you could even make a trailer.



Talking point

Do we only care about watching sports when there is a story behind the games?

Amaze someone

Even owners who are not film stars are heroes next to the Doncaster Rovers owner, who was sent to prison for trying to burn down his own club's grounds!

A match between local rivals is often called a "derby" due to a particularly fierce game of "mob football" that took place in Derby in the 18th Century.

THE EXTRA PAGE

Wrexham's push for promotion

Cedwyn Scott, Notts County's last hope, readied the ball on the spot 12 yards out, standing over a chance to salvage promotion dreams. The visitors had begun the day level on points with Wrexham as the two clubs vied for the National League title and a single automatic promotion place.

High in the stands Wrexham's Hollywood owners gnawed at fraying fingernails. Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney were unable to watch. Scott stepped up and the pair could finally bear a glance, as goalkeeper Ben Foster guessed right to save the penalty and Wrexham began to celebrate a 3-2 victory. The Red Dragons now stand one victory away from promotion to the EFL.

Their first chance to clinch promotion comes on Saturday against Boreham Wood at the Racecourse Ground.

"That was just bananas," Reynolds gasped as he and Foster embraced following the win. "That was the most dramatic thing I've ever seen in my life. I couldn't watch — and then I turned just in time to see you. I'm never going to be the same again."

You could, of course, have scripted



Fan Favourite: Wrexham's loyal supporters have welcomed the Hollywood stars.

it. Foster's intervention was ripped from the pictures, an ageing hero called out of retirement for one last job. But that made the climax no less sweet. This felt like the perfect end scene to Wrexham's fairytale.

It was easy to scoff when Reynolds and Rob McElhenney completed their takeover at the Racecourse Ground, dismissing it as a publicity stunt.

But the pair have proved not just genuine Hollywood stars, but genuine football people. To see them rapt in the drama showed how they have bought in, having keenly felt the lows of last year's promotion near miss. Their qualities have been shown in their investment in the town more widely, and in the support of a women's team making their own rise through the ranks.

"It's just insane to me in this league

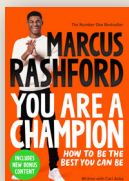
that only one goes up automatically," Reynolds said, an unlikely advocate for structural reform of the English fifth tier.

"If it were different — and I think it should be — both of these clubs would be celebrating together right now because what they've done is not only created drama unlike anything you'd ever see in a movie, but something that I think people will be talking about for ages."

As petrochemical giants, bankers and state investment funds squabble over commodities at the top of the game, here is a club rediscovered under two men who genuinely care. This is the sort of Hollywood story football should be celebrating. ■

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Spot the fake
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