

Lee Payne

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Lee Payne is a full-time Football Agent (who has held a FIFA and FA Licence for almost 20 years) regulated by the FA as a Registered Intermediary.

I have built up a formidable reputation over the last 20 years when it comes to identifying, recruiting and representing professional footballers at all stages of their careers.

I started my own career as a footballer with Luton Town at youth level before playing non league football with various clubs including Hitchin Town and Barnet. In 1988, I was sold to Newcastle United for what was at the time a non league record transfer fee of £125,000 and made my Football league debut in October 1988 at St James Park for the Magpies before later moving to Reading Fc in 1989.



**Lee Payne** in action for Newcastle Utd vs Arsenal in 1988

In 1990, I moved to Dutch first division side BV Veendam where in my first season became supporters player of the year. Three further seasons followed in the Netherlands with BV Emmen, before a serious knee injury brought my career to a premature end in 1996.

My career in professional football wouldn't end there an opportunity in player recruitment came when Harry Redknapp appointed me West Ham United European scout based in Holland and it was from that base that I built up my experience scouting top talent.

It was in 1997 in the Netherlands where I became the youngest Football Agent in Holland at 29 years of age whereupon I successfully built up an impressive roster of clients.

My real passion is for scouting and identifying youth and raw talent and working with players over the long term to assist in the development of their careers.

Notable examples of this would be when I signed a young goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen from the Finnish league who I subsequently took to Bolton Wanderers and would become one of the all time great Premier league goalkeepers, Ben Foster was another young professional who I scouted and represented and saw him go on to play for Manchester Utd and England and when I spotted Grant Holt's potential whilst in the lower leagues at Rochdale I subsequently took him to Nottingham Forest, Shrewsbury, Norwich City and Wigan Athletic).

Other players I have acted for include Svetoslav Todorov, Steve Simonsen, Stephen Ireland, Paddy Kenny, Glenn Whelan, Nick Montgomery amongst others .

In recent times my track record of identifying players in the lower or even non-leagues and placing them into professional clubs has continued apace – Cohen Bramall (Arsenal), Freddie Ladapo (Crystal Palace), Kelle Roos (Derby County) and Che Adams (Sheffield Utd) are just some examples of many.



I also spent a period living and working in Brazil working in Player recruitment and retain strong links to Brazilian football in particular .

I am also fluent in Dutch and Portuguese languages and hold FA coaching badges.