Tuesday 16th April was not only a proud moment for every Bluebird fan, but a proud moment for all residents of the Capital. Cardiff City finally confirmed their leap from Championship to the English Premier League. It’s been a long 51 years since the Bluebirds featured in the Premier League, but a 0-0 draw with Charlton Athletic secured there place alongside high-flying teams such as Manchester United, Arsenal and long-term rivals, Swansea, Becky Baker looks at what affect promotion could have on the Cardiff City, and the Premier League as a whole...

The Bluebirds return to the Premier League means that the league as a whole is now 10% Welsh, which is a testament to sport in Wales as a whole. Success was expected due to the clubs owner Vincent Tan investing a reported £60 million into the club, allowing manager Malky Mackay to create his idea of a perfect squad. Tan has also agreed to invest a further £25 million into the club to ensure that Cardiff don’t face the embarrassment of relegation after one season at the top.

It seems that although Cardiff fans are ecstatic to be one of the newest additions of the Premier League, the rivalry between Swansea and Cardiff has heated up way before the date of their match has been set. Twitter feeds and Facebook messages were bombarded with celebrations and congratulations from fans all over the world, but it turned sour quickly when Swansea fans caught wind of the celebrations.

Derby matches are loved in all sports; a sweet victory over your closest neighbours is always something to be savoured, by fans and the team itself. The rivalry between Swansea and Cardiff is the fiercest in British football and has been that way since the first ever matches before World War One. Every Bluebird or Jack can remember each win they received and each blow they suffered, and Cardiff’s promotion to the Premier League can only make it worse.

The rivalries will be interesting to watch, Swansea haven’t faced Mackay’s Cardiff before, nor have Cardiff faced Laudrup’s Swans. A lot has changed for both teams since they last met at the Liberty Stadium in 2011. The biggest change for Cardiff has to be Malaysian owner Tan’s decision to change the crest of the team and to change the colour from the famous blue to red. This seemed to cause controversy amongst fans, where many vowed to turn their back on the team. Even during celebrations following their promotion against Charlton, fans continued to chant “We’re Cardiff City, we’ll always be blue”, keeping their teams true colours close to their heart.

It seems that Swansea have grown through their placement in their Premier League, and currently boast a first-rate collection of players. It appears the 2013 squad really shadows the Swans we saw in the Championship two years ago. It could be argued that the rivalry has lost its touch however, you could count on one hand the number of players born and bred in either city, and the loss of Cardiff’s colours also contributes to this.

Sadly, the South Wales derby wouldn’t be complete without fan violence, and with the derby soon to begin at its biggest stage in history, it’s not without its worry.  Fans should begin to leave the dirty talk for the pub, and leave the players to prove their worth. It’s a proud moment for the Welsh in sport, and a disgusting display of fan violence may ruin this.

The potential for both teams is there, and the fans seem behind their teams now more than ever…let’s just see if the fans can behave themselves.

***(In a separate box)***

**University of South Wales receives promotion boost – Dan Lewis**

The University of South Wales is set to receive a promotion boost of its own thanks to Cardiff City’s promotion – with a potential increase in student figures.

The Bluebirds’ memorable climb to the Premier League has led to many in the South Wales area cashing in on the achievement, with more students expected to locate to the area in order to watch the likes of Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool on a more regular basis.

Swansea University saw an increase in student figures upon the Swans own promotion to the Premier League via the Play-offs three years ago – something which the newly branded University of South Wales could themselves look forward to.

The university already has strong connections to the club with the Cardiff City Academy based at the Sport Park in Trefforest, as well as other links in place which has benefitted the men’s football sides over the past few seasons.

 A spokesperson for the University said: “The University congratulates Cardiff City on its promotion to the Premier League. As a university we work closely with the club which has its training academy base at our own USW Sport Park.

“The promotion will raise the profile of Cardiff and the South Wales region across the globe, and it is exciting for our students be studying in a city which is home to a premiership football team.”

Cardiff University became the first university to take advantage of Malky Mackay’s side’s promotion to the Promised Land by placing a “Cardiff City Connections” page on the university website the day after promotion, which has remained active for the past month - a ploy which can be expected by the University of South Wales in the coming weeks.