

## Alec's diligence earns Reds a Vaulks windfall

Contributed by John Walsh  
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Workington Reds are to receive a welcome £5,000 New Year boost courtesy of Cardiff City.

It's all down to Will Vaulks, who played 20 times for the Reds in the 2012/13 season before moving to Falkirk.

Now 27, Vaulks has subsequently gone on to play for Rotherham, Cardiff and Wales, and can look forward to playing a part in the 2021 European Championships.

Initially Vaulks played on loan from Tranmere in August 2013 and after three months the deal became permanent, as he figured prominently in Conference North.

Two months after joining Reds he had an offer to join Falkirk and from there his career really took-off.

Workington chairman Les Byers said: "When he signed permanently for us when Humphrey Dobie was chairman, the clause in his contract said that Reds wouldn't stand in his way if an offer from a League club came in.

"The club was true to its word and when Falkirk came in and Will was keen to go we wished him all the best and the deal went through."

After three years north of the border with Falkirk, where he played 108 times, Vaulks was signed for Rotherham United for an undisclosed fee and in Yorkshire he made a further 148 senior appearances.

After three more years he was sold by Rotherham for a club record fee to Cardiff City, three months after he had made his international debut for Wales. Wirral-born Vaulks qualified through his Welsh mother.

Chairman Byers continued: "It was really down to our secretary Alec Graham after that. Alec is very diligent and he had noticed a FIFA announcement that there was money being paid to clubs who had played a part in an international's development.

"He wrote off with the details and Cardiff were contacted. They offered us £5,000 which was very good of them and that is on its way to us. It's good work by Alec and a nice gesture from Cardiff who didn't really have to respond."

Byers signs off as chairman tonight, handing over to Dave Bowden, and he leaves with an unbeaten Northern Premier League record. Since he took over from John Mackay in February Reds have not been beaten in the League.