

# ARTIAITH GORFOLEDD. CWSPAN Y BYD - YN Y DREFN YNA!



Capten ffantastig yn dathlu'r gôl allweddol

**D**w i'n teimlo fel fy mod i newydd fynd deuddeg rownd efo Mike Tyson!" Dyna eiriau cyn-ymosodwr Cymru, Iwan Roberts, ar raglen ffonio-i-fewn Radio Wales toc wedi'r fuddugoliaeth fawr yn erbyn Wcrain nos Sul. Ac roedd sawl un yn teimlo'r un fath.

Aeth y genedl gyfan drwy'r drin go-iawn wrth i'r tîm pêl-droed cenedlaethol sicrhau eu lle yn rowndiau terfynol Cwpan y Byd am y tro cyntaf ers 1958.

Gareth Bale gafodd y penawdau wedi i'w gic rydd gael ei phenio i'w rwyd ei hun gan gapten Wcrain, Andriy Yarmolenko.

Ond yr amddiffynwyr oedd yr arwyr y tro hwn, gyda neb yn gwneud mwy i sicrhau'r llechen lân na Wayne Hennessey, y golwr chwe throedfedd a chwe modfedd.

Roedd Ben Davies yn gawr yng nghanol yr amddiffyn, a Neco Williams yn serenau ar yr ochr chwith wrth i Gymru orfod amddiffyn am eu bywydau ar brydiau.

Dyna ogoniant y tîm sydd ganddo ni, ac arwydd o dîm da - maen nhw yn gwybod sut i ennill hyd yn oed pan nad yw'r pasio yn llifo a'r chwaraewyr ymosodol yn bell o fod ar eu gêm.

Ond roedd Cymru v Wcrain yn fwy na gêm bêl-droed wrth gwrs.

Roedd yn achlysur chwedlonol arall yn hanes diweddar y tîm

cededlaethol, gyda Dafydd Iwan unwaith eto yn cyfuno gyda'r dorf i godi'r to.

Un oedd yno yn dyst i'r fuddugoliaeth fawr oedd Huw Bebb, ein Gohebydd Seneddol. A dyma fo i rannu ambell argraff am ddiwrnod arbennig...

## **Dod â 64 mlynedd o boen i ben**

Roedd yr awyrgylch un un o gyffro a nerfuswydd wrth i Dafydd Iwan gerdded ar y cae i ganu 'Yma o Hyd', sydd wedi dod yn dipyn o anthem ymhlith cefnogwyr Cymru, cyn ein gêm dyngedfennol yn erbyn Wcrain.

Doedd dim modd anwybyddu anferthedd yr achlysur, wrth i Gareth Bale a'i gyd-chwaraewyr gerdded ar y cae, yn barod i geisio dod â 64 mlynedd o boen a thor-calon i ben.

Dw i ddim yn meddwl mod i erioed wedi clywed ein hanthem genedlaethol yn cael ei chanu gyda chymaint o angerdd ac y cafodd hi nos Sul, roedd yn brofiad gwirioneddol ysgytwol.

Yn sicr, fe wnaeth cefnogwyr Cymru chwarae eu rhan yn y fuddugoliaeth, y nhw oedd y deuddegfed dyn ac mae'r berthynas rhyngddynt nhw'r a'r chwaraewyr yn un arbennig.

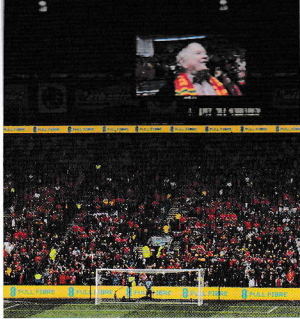
Dyw'r Wal Goch heb anghofio am y dyn wnaeth ein rhoi ar ben ffordd y siwrne yma chwaith.

Roedd "One Gary Speed" yn





...essey yn llwyddo  
...rain rhag sgorio



Dafydd Iwan ar  
sgrîn fawr y stadiwm



Cefnogwyr yn aros  
am y chwiban olaf

...inio o amgylch Stadiwm  
...as Caerdydd yn gyson yn  
...od y gêm, ac fe fyddai'r dyn  
...un yn falch iawn o weld  
...gwlad yn cyrraedd y greal  
...ctaidd o'r diwedd.  
...Wrth i'r chwiban olaf agosáu,  
...ydag Wcraïn yn gwthio i  
...oni'r sgôr, roedd y tensiwn yn  
...stadiwm yn cyrraedd lefelau  
...niddefol.  
...D fy nghwmpas roedd dynion  
...eu hoed a'u hamser mewn

...dagrau, yn gafaél yn dynn yn eu  
...hetiau bwced ac yn bloeddio fel  
...pethau gwallgof wrth i Gymru  
...amddiffyn am eu bywydau.  
...Oedd Wcraïn yn mynd i  
...sgorio, a ninnau'n mynd i orfod  
...dioddef 30 munud o amser  
...ychwanegol?  
...Na, fe chwibanodd y dyfarnwr  
...ei chwiban ar ôl pum munud  
...o amser ychwanegol ac mae'n  
...anodd disgrifio'r teimlad oedd  
...y tu mewn i'r stadiwm- bedlam

...llwyr!  
...Wedi'r chwiban olaf,  
...dychwelodd Dafydd Iwan i'r  
...cae ac y tro hwn roedd holl  
...chwaraewyr Cymru yn canu  
...'Yma o Hyd' gydag ef.  
...‘Ydw i'n breuddwydio?’  
...Meddyliais.  
...Na, mae Cymru ‘Yma o Hyd’  
...ac yn mynd i Gwpan y Byd!



Bale yn codi bawd

FIFA 2022  
WAL GO!

# Ym Stead



## Y foment fwyaf arwyddocaol yn hanes chwaraeon Cymru

ni, nid chwiban i gyhoeddi diwedd  
y gêm oedd hi ond chwiban i  
gyhoeddi dechrau'r dathliadau.

Mi wnes i edrych rownd ac roedd  
y na ddigon o ddynion mawr blewog  
canol oed mewn dagrau. Fel fi,  
doedden nhw ddim wedi disgwyl  
gweld hyn yn ystod eu bywydau. Fel  
fi, roedden nhw wedi crïo o'r blaen,  
yn 1977 a 1985.

Ac wedyn ar y cae daeth y  
foment fwyaf arwyddocaol yn hanes  
chwaraeon Cymru.

Ar y llinell hanner ffordd roedd  
Dafydd Iwan yn sefyll gyda meicroffon.  
Tu ôl iddo roedd y chwaraewyr. Dynion  
croenddu, dynion hil gymysg, dynion  
gwyn, rhai ohonyn nhw yn siaradwyr  
Cymraeg, ond y rhan fwyaf ddim.  
Roedd yna rai wedi cael eu geni yng  
Nghymru a rhai yn Lloegr.

Ac roedden nhw i gyd yn canu  
'Yma o Hyd'.

Roedd Gareth Bale o'r Eglwys  
Newydd yn y canol wrth gwrs, yn  
gwenu o glust i glust ac yn ysgwyd  
llaw Dafydd Iwan. Bydd ein chwaraewr  
gorau erioed yn cael chwarae mewn  
Cwpan y Byd wedi'r cwbl.

Am ddiweddgllo i yrfa anhygoel.

Bydd Cymru yna ar y llwyfan byd. A  
Chymru fydd hi, nid Wales dim mwy.  
Roedden ni yna yn 1958 ar ddamwain,  
ein henw wedi cael ei dynnu allan  
o het. Ond y tro yma rydym ni yn  
haeddu ein lle. Rydym ni wedi disgyn  
ar yr hyrdlen olaf dipyn o weithiau,  
ond mae ein cymeriad wedi newid  
yn ddiweddar. Dyma dîm sydd yn  
disgwyl ennill, yn gwybod sut i ennill,  
tîm sydd wedi trosglwyddo eu hyder  
nhw i'r wlad.

Nid "y wlad sy'n colli" ydyn ni ddim  
mwy. Nid y tîm sydd yn gwisgo'r  
colledion torcalonnus i'r Alban,  
Romania a Rwsia fel bathodyn o  
gywilydd. Dyma'r tro olaf fydda i  
yn ysgrifennu enw Joe Jordan yn y  
golofn hon.

Roedd y garfan o chwaraewyr  
oedd yn canu gyda Dafydd Iwan yn  
cynrychioli Cymru newydd. Gwlad  
flaengar, amrywiol a chynhwysol.  
Gwlad gyda hunanhyder a  
hunan-barch. Gwlad sydd yn mynd i  
Qatar i chwarae yng Nghwpan y Byd.



Dafydd Iwan a'r hogiau yn dathlu

## World Cup qualifying play-off

Wales

Yarmolenko 34 og

1

Ukraine

0

Att: 32,660

By Jason Burt

CHIEF FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
at Cardiff City Stadium

If there was any doubt that Gareth Bale is Wales's greatest player, then he emphatically ended it by forcing the goal that took them to the World Cup for the first time in 64 years.

This was an occasion that will live long in the memory. There was Bale's dramatic intervention, of course, but this was the most stirring of encounters, and the scenes at the end were extraordinary and will endure. The Ukraine players were devastated. There were tears, but also fierce pride.

The sight of the Wales fans all joining in the "thunder-clap" communion as the Ukraine team stood in front of the large wedge of blue and yellow-draped supporters was touching. Bale led his team-mates over, and they joined in before Aaron Ramsey – another who does not know what the future holds for him – walked to the other side and waited for his young son to be passed into his arms.

As the celebrations, mixed with a sense of relief and almost disbelief, continued on the sodden turf, veteran folk singer Dafydd Iwan stepped forward to lead one final rendition of *Yma o Hyd*, the song he wrote 40 years ago that has become an unofficial anthem of Welsh football, and there were more tears. And smiles.

The song translates as *Still Here*, which Bale, joining in, certainly is – and he will captain Wales to a World Cup for the principality's first time since 1958, when they reached the last eight, defeated by a Brazil team inspired by a 17-year-old Pele. Since then there has been a long catalogue of near misses and deep disappointment; from Scotland in 1977 and 1985 to Romania in 1993. Many great players have not made it. But no more.

In Qatar, they will face England, the United States and Iran, and we

do not know yet where Bale, after being released by Real Madrid, will be playing his club football. This was a possible last stand for Wales's golden generation, also including goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey and Joe Allen, but they go again and go with glory.

Days after collecting an award in the Queen's Birthday Honours, Bale has this achievement, one that surely means even more to him and to Wales. To the five Champions League triumphs among the 19 trophies and his nine years at Real can be added this landmark, perhaps the 32-year-old's most special given the occasion, the stakes, the sentiment and where he is in his career. Bale, it should be remembered, also scored both goals in the win over Austria that set up this play-off.

For Ukraine, it is hard to equate; it is hard to draw comparisons between football and a country fighting for its existence, except they have made it evident how much this team, what they are doing and their dream of reaching the World Cup meant in such awful circumstances. They played with the rare courage their country has shown in the past four months and were the better side.

Having deservedly defeated Scotland away in midweek, in an equally intense occasion that must have taken much out of them emotionally as well as physically, given how little most of them have played in the past few months, they gave everything once more. But so did Wales, with



### Qatar World Cup 2022 Group B fixtures

#### England v Iran

Nov 21, 1pm  
Khalifa  
International  
Stadium, Al Rayyan

#### United States v Wales

Nov 21, 7pm  
Ahmad bin Ali  
Stadium, Al Rayyan

#### Wales v Iran

Nov 25, 10am  
Ahmad bin Ali  
Stadium, Al Rayyan

#### England v United States

Nov 25, 7pm  
Al Bayt Stadium,  
Al Khor

#### Wales v England

Nov 29, 7pm  
Ahmad bin Ali  
Stadium, Al Rayyan

#### Iran v United States

Nov 29, 7pm  
Al Thumana  
Stadium, Doha

some astonishing defensive performances from Ben Davies, Neco Williams and Hennessey.

Wales were under severe pressure throughout. They were often outplayed, with Oleksandr Zinchenko running the game from midfield, but Ukraine just could not – or were not allowed to – take their chances. The only goal was technically an own goal, but no one should blame Andriy Yarmolenko, who headed the ball past his own goalkeeper as he tried to cut out Bale's effort. Goodness knows how the Ukraine captain feels.

It was one of only two opportunities that fell to Bale. After Daniel James was fouled, Bale grabbed the ball and drove the free-kick across goal from the left-hand side of the penalty area with Yarmolenko div-

ing to intercept. Instead, the ball bulged.

Although Ramsey should have side-footed Wales into a two-goal lead early in the second half, substitute Brennan Johnson should have taken the base of a post with a volley. Ukraine dominated. Chance after chance was not taken.

They believed they had scored after just three minutes when Zinchenko's quick free-kick cut out Hennessey, only for it to be ruled out with some over-officiating. They should have taken the penalty soon after Wales scored when Allen kicked the back of Yarmolenko's foot as the forward fell in, and then they were denied again, by Hennessey, Williams and Davies – who made three blocks – the so-called "Red



# 'This victory is greatest result in our history'

Captain Bale says reaching World Cup finals is pinnacle

Page promises his side will attack their group in Qatar

By Sam Dean  
at Cardiff City Stadium

Gareth Bale described Wales's emotional victory over Ukraine as the greatest result in Welsh football history and joked that their place at this year's World Cup had forced him to postpone his retirement, at least "for a little bit".

There had been suggestions that Bale could bring an end to his career if Wales had not made it to the tournament in Qatar, but he played another starring role for his country by forcing Andriy Yarmolenko's decisive own goal in Cardiff.

The victory confirmed Wales's place at their first World Cup finals since 1958 and Bale said qualification for the tournament represented the "last piece of the jigsaw" for this generation of players.

"The result is the greatest in Welsh football history," Bale said. "It means everything. It is what dreams are made of and we have been working towards it since I first came in here. Words cannot describe how we feel at the moment.

"It is an incredible achievement and it will be something that we will forever be proud of. It is the last piece of the jigsaw that we all wanted, and we are going to celebrate well tonight."

Asked if it could be categorically said that he was now postponing his retirement, Bale laughed and replied: "For a little bit."

Wales manager Rob Page dedicated the victory to the late Gary Speed, who did so much to transform the national side before he took his own life in 2011.

"Gary Speed started this 12 or 13 years ago," Page said. "I want to dedicate this to Gary. He started the culture. There was a difference, there

was a change. The environment completely changed. I've inherited that, Chris Coleman took it on and took it to another level, and I've inherited that group.

"I'm so proud of these boys. They thoroughly deserved that. The one thing they needed was a World Cup and they've got it."

Page described the win as the best moment of his career and also promised that his players would attack their World Cup group, which includes England, Iran and the United States.

"The England game is the mouth-watering fixture," said Page, whose contract as Wales manager will now be extended until the end of the tournament. "You look at the other teams [in the group] and think we will roll up our sleeves and have a go. We will be full of confidence."

Page reserved special praise for goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey, who produced a sensational individual performance as Ukraine pushed for an equaliser. Ukraine's nine shots on target were the most by a team without scoring in any European qualifying game for this year's World Cup.

"He was magnificent, world class," Page said of his keeper. "He went to another level tonight and his performance was outstanding."

Some of Ukraine's devastated players were left in tears at the final whistle, and afterwards their manager, Oleksandr Petrakov, spoke movingly about the need for continued international support in their fight against Russia.

"You know what is happening in Ukraine," Petrakov said. "We have war raging all over the country. We have children and women dying on a daily basis, our infrastructure being ruined by Russian barbarians.

"The Russians want to hurt us but Ukrainians are defending their land. We just want your support, we want your understanding of what is happening at home. God forbid you will ever understand what we feel inside."



...ried a penalty for Joe Allen's tackle on Andriy Yarmolenko

# Bale achieves his mission to end 64

## James Gheerbrant



### Wales

Yarmolenko (og) 34

1

### Ukraine

0

In the game of their lives, Wales were taken to the very edge, and they were colossal. Wayne Hennessey was impassable in goal, Ben Davies totemic in defence, and when they needed it, as so often in the past, they had salvation on speed-dial.

It was Gareth Bale's first-half free kick, which skimmed cruelly off the head of Andriy Yarmolenko, that sent them to the World Cup again after 64 years.

Bale has achieved extraordinary things with this small nation, turning a form of the game in which some players ease off or give up into his mission and,

in the final chapter of his career, he offered one final act of sweet deliverance.

This was an outstanding, absorbing game. With the greatest prize on the line, with the weight of their nations on their backs, these two teams poured their souls into this contest and provided a vision of international football at its very best: not merely an expression of national identity, but an affirmation.

Ukraine played an outstanding match and were desperately unlucky. No team has lost a match in this World Cup qualifying cycle with as many as their nine shots on target, and this was the only defeat of their campaign.

At a time when their country is a theatre of war, these players have turned their workplace into a theatre for something else: courage, resilience, the unquenchable human spirit. They have kept their country lodged in the global consciousness and brought succour and escapism to the bunkers and bomb shelters back home.

As they had done against Scotland, Ukraine settled quicker, pinching the ball in the final third on a couple of occasions. Joe Allen was booked for a late tackle and Oleksandr Zinchenko struck the free kick before Hennessey could get set, sweeping the ball in at the far post — yet the referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz decided he had taken the kick too quickly and Wales were relieved.

In a fast-paced opening, Hennessey had to be alert to palm away a looping, deflected cross from Vitaliy Mykolenko. Then Oleksandr Karavaev clipped a long ball over the top for Roman Yaremchuk, running off the shoulder of the last man. His low angled shot was well handled by Hennessey.

The tireless Zinchenko was the game's outstanding player in the first half-hour, running from box to box, constructing slick passing triangles with his team-mates, and forcing Hennessey into a sprawling save with a 20-yard shot. Yaremchuk almost played in Viktor Tsygankov with a

## World Cup: Group B

England	Iran
United States	Wales

### Fixtures

#### Monday, November 21

England v Iran.....1pm, UK time

United States v Wales.....7pm

#### Friday, November 25

Wales v Iran.....10am

England v United States.....7pm

#### Tuesday, November 29

Wales v England

Iran v United States.....both 7pm

balletic flick, but Hennessey rushed out bravely to redeem the situation.

Just as Wales were looking a little ragged, their hero's moment arrived. When they won a free kick just outside the left corner of the box, a nation turned its eyes to Bale.

The weight of the moment was palpable. His strike was sweet and true,

and Yarmolenko, throwing himself desperately at the ball, could only glance it off his forehead, giving Georgiy Bushchan no chance. The noise which enveloped the stadium was the detonation of 6½ decades of pent-up yearning and, as Bale streaked away in celebration, Yarmolenko remained face down in the wet grass, distraught. His ten team-mates went to their brother and lifted him up.

Ukraine should have had an instant opportunity to equalise. With Wales defending their box, Yarmolenko nipped in on Allen's blindside and was caught on the heel. Wales were very lucky to escape the ensuing VAR review unscathed.

Wales missed a huge chance to double their lead just after half-time. Neco Williams burned away from Yarmolenko and fed Dan James, who motored upfield on a curving run then slipped Kieffer Moore down the left. He picked out Aaron Ramsey, who opened his body just a fraction too much and sent the ball wide of the far post.

## Old mates, golf buddies and 100-cap heroes at heart of 'greatest win'

### Gary Jacob

**F**ittingly it ended with a meaty hug between the two old friends who provided the greatest inspiration on the biggest night in Welsh football history. Gareth Bale and Wayne Hennessey began their Wales journeys around the same time, with the same dream, and 16 years on they realised it by reaching the World Cup finals.

Bale, 32, and Hennessey, 35, are room-mates, golf buddies, mischief-makers around the camp and, in the past year, have each won a 100th cap. They also spent the entire season sitting on the substitutes' bench for

their clubs — Real Madrid and Burnley — making their performances even more magnificent.

Bale's free kick, turned in by Andriy Yarmolenko, dug Wales out of a hole. Hennessey saved the performance of his life for the big occasion, pulling off nine stops, topped by a superb plunge to his left to deny Artem Dovbyk in the dying moments.

"That's my best game in a Welsh shirt, at such a crucial stage," Hennessey said.

Bale, who described this win as his country's "greatest result", has now led Wales to a third tournament after a magical run to the semi-finals of Euro 2016 and making the round of 16 at Euro 2020. It remains to be seen which club he will join to maintain fitness before Qatar in November.

There is a reason why Wales look to Bale for inspiration on nights like this. Even though the free kick was on the wrong side for a left-footer, there was a sense of expectancy when Bale approached the ball. His shot deflected in and he pumped his fists to the crowd.

Three months ago, on the right-hand side of the same penalty area, he did the same against Austria in the play-off semi-final and later added a second goal in a 2-1 win. That was

**Hennessey and Bale fulfilled a shared dream**



his first goal from a direct free kick since embarrassing England's Joe Hart and Slovakia's Matus Kozacik at Euro 2016.

Bale also rescued Wales in qualifying last year when his winner in the third minute of stoppage time completed a hat-trick to seal a 3-2 fightback win over Belarus.

He has barely played since March and ran out of steam last night, being taken off with eight minutes left.

Hennessey was jumped on by most of the coaching staff at the final

whistle. His selection had been a surprise. He regained his starting spot against Austria because Danny Ward was injured but had been expected to drop to the bench, given that the fit-again Leicester City goalkeeper had been made the first choice before Euro 2020.

It is not a straightforward decision as both are back-ups for their clubs and Rob Page, the Wales head coach, had given each 45 minutes against Poland in the 2-1 defeat in the Uefa Nations League group game on Wednesday. Page said Hennessey's display against Austria had swung the difficult call.

Now, spearheaded by their biggest ever star, Bale, and his old friend Hennessey, Wales will walk out on the biggest stage once more.

# years of hurt

Ukraine continued to cut through. A slick move unlocked Wales down the left and Mykolenko's low cross was touched goalward by Tsygankov. Hennessey saved well but the ball rebounded straight to Yaremchuk, a pure reflex chance which he stabbed wide.

Ruslan Malinovskyi cracked a shot just wide, but Wales were growing in strength. The substitute Brennan Johnson struck the post with a crisp half-volley, then his lovely run opened a pocket of space for Ramsey, whose cross reached Bale.

His shot was controlled, low, and brilliantly saved by Bushchan. Still Ukraine didn't wilt and Davies had to make another superb block to deny a close-range Yarmolenko shot.

Hennessey had one last moment of inspiration. Another fine Mykolenko cross picked out Artem Dovbyk, whose flick header from six yards seemed a certain goal, but the keeper flung himself to his left and thrust up his left palm to repel the ball.

In the moments after the final whis-

tle, in a small corner of a foreign field, the 11 men of Ukraine gathered to salute their people. They had come so far, and come so near. They had wanted so badly to deliver their country a beautiful dream in the depths of their nightmare.

With tears in their eyes, they faced a sea of flags, flaxen gold and sky blue, and led their supporters in a Viking clap. And then something beautiful happened. The Welsh fans, at their moment of triumph, joined in the clap, a deafening echo of solidarity that felt like it could be heard around the world.

**Wales (3-4-1-2):** W Hennessey 9 – E Ampadu 8, J Rodon 8, B Davies 9 – C Roberts 7, A Ramsey 7, J Allen 6, N Williams 8 (R Norrington-Davies 90+3min) – G Bale 7 (H Wilson 83) – K Moore 6, D James 7 (B Johnson 71). **Booked** Allen, James. **Ukraine (4-1-4-1):** G Bushchan 8 – O Karavaev 7, I Zabarnyi 7, M Matviyenko 7, V Mykolenko 8 – T Stepanenko 7 (S Sydorchuk 70, 7) – A Yarmolenko 6, R Malinovskyi 7 (M Shaparenko 70, 6), O Zinchenko 8, V Tsygankov 8 (M Mudryk 77) – R Yaremchuk 6 (A Dovbyk 77). **Booked** Mykolenko, Mudryk. **Referee** A Mateu Lahoz (Sp).

# 'I won't be retiring ... for a little bit'

Gary Jacob

Gareth Bale hailed "the greatest result in the history of Welsh football" and joked that he had put off any retirement plans "for a little bit".

The Wales captain inspired his team to a 1-0 win against Ukraine that sent them to their first World Cup finals in 64 years. He was key to the decisive moment of the qualifying play-off at the Cardiff City Stadium, when his first-half free kick was inadvertently headed into the net by Andriy Yarmolenko.

Wales, who were fortunate not to concede a penalty when Yarmolenko looked to have been tripped in the area by Joe Allen, will earn about £10 million from qualifying for the tournament in Qatar, where they will be in a group with England, the United States and

Iran. Bale, who will turn 33 next month, left Real Madrid after his contract expired and will have to sign for another club to keep fit before the World Cup starts in November, with his hometown team, Cardiff City, keen on signing him.

"It's the greatest result in the history of Welsh football," he said. "I'm just delighted we are going to a World Cup."

"It means everything, it's what dreams are made of. I'm speechless. It's what we've been working all our careers for and to do this for the fans, the nation, ourselves and our families is an incredible achievement. It is the last piece of the jigsaw."

Asked by Sky Sports if the win had banished any thoughts of retirement, Bale smiled and said "for a little bit". The forward, who played only 290 min-

## A lot has changed since 1958...

<b>1958</b>	<b>Play-off win</b>	<b>2022</b>
Wales 4-0 Israel (two legs)		Wales 1 Ukraine 0
55	<b>World Cup qualifying participants</b>	209
Wolves	<b>English top-flight Champions</b>	Man City
<b>£65,000</b>	<b>British transfer record</b>	<b>£105m</b>
J Charles, Leeds to Juventus		P Coutinho, Liverpool to Barcelona
£20 per week (maximum wage)	<b>Top Welsh football earners</b>	£600,000 per week (G Bale's R Madrid salary)
41,500	<b>Population of Qatar</b>	2.98m
Harold Macmillan	<b>Prime Minister</b>	Boris Johnson
Connie Francis	<b>UK number one</b>	Harry Styles
<i>Who's Sorry Now?</i>		<i>As It Was</i>

be viewed as evidence of his desire for a fresh challenge. Mané scored a hat-trick in Saturday's 3-1 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying win over Benin, after

Mané's contract has a year to run

## Thompson defeats Kudla to win Surbiton Trophy

**Tennis** Jordan Thompson eased to a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Denis Kudla in the final of the Surbiton Trophy yesterday.

Kudla, the 29-year-old American, ranked No 81 in the world, beat Andy Murray in the semi-finals, but could not defeat Thompson, the world No 82 from Australia. Thompson, 28, lost to Rafael Nadal in the first round of the French Open last month, but was on more comfortable territory at the Challenger event in Surbiton, where he sealed his first tournament victory since October 2018.

The British grass-court season continues in Nottingham this week, with the Britons Heather Watson, Harriet Dart and Jodie Burrage in action today. Emma Raducanu, the second seed, will begin her Wimbledon preparations tomorrow when she plays Viktorija Golubic, of Switzerland.

## Van Aert the man to catch after first Dauphiné stage

**Cycling** Wout van Aert took the leader's jersey at the Critérium du Dauphiné with victory in the first stage of the traditional Tour de France warm-up race yesterday.

On a hilly stage between La Voulte sur-Rhône and Beauchastel, Van Aert the 27-year-old Jumbo-Visma rider, held off the challenge of Ethan Hayter, the 23-year-old Briton from Ineos Grenadiers, in a bunch sprint.

"It was a fast run-in," Van Aert said. "After the climb the pace was always high in the first group. My team positioned me really well."

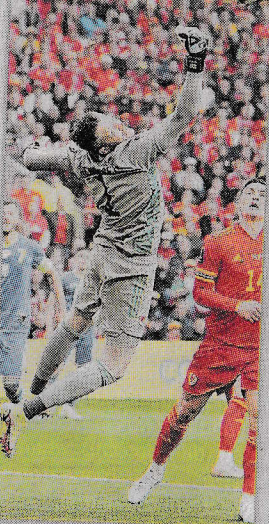
Chris Froome, the four-times Tour de France winner, achieved his best result since a career-threatening crash in 2019 at the Mercan Tour Classic Alpes-Maritimes last month and the 37-year-old showed further signs of improvement yesterday by finishing in the bunch.

209	TOTAL PASSES	579
4	CORNERS	7
2	OFFSIDE	1
7	FOULS	7
0	CARDS	2
2		0

Referee: Antonio Miguel Mateu Lahoz

**MAN OF THE MATCH**

WAYNE HENNESSEY



USA v Wales 7pm, Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan  
 Nov 25: Wales v Iran 10am, Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan  
 England v USA 7pm, Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor  
 Nov 29: Wales v England 7pm, Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan  
 Iran v USA 7pm, Al Thumama Stadium, Doha

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# DIOLCH I'R

#TOGETHER

## Wales end 64 years of World Cup hurt but the agony goes on

BY **ANDY DUNN**  
 Chief Sports Writer  
 @andydunnmirror



**ON this occasion, let's not talk about heroes because they are in Ukraine, defending their country, defending the families and friends of the men who lost a football match yesterday.**

But let's salute two teams who disputed an epic match – not epic in terms of quality, perhaps, but epic in terms of emotion, epic in terms of effort, epic in terms of drama.

No wonder the stadium was awash with tears at the end of a wonderfully draining contest.

What a crying shame Ukraine will not be at World Cup 2022. And what poignant scenes as

the Ukrainian players stood in front of their supporters, clapping them, weeping uncontrollably. Then, Gareth Bale and the Welsh squad joined them and the stadium poured out its support for the Ukrainian people.

It was a moving finale to a magnificently moving occasion. And after Bale had hugged Manchester City's Oleksandr Zinchenko, boy, was he entitled to celebrate.

Ironically, Bale (right) did not have the best of games but his deflected free-kick was still the moment that takes Wales to their first World Cup in 64 years.

In contrasting ways, this was always going to be a contest in which controlling emotions would be a key issue. And for

half an hour, the Ukrainians, in that respect, appeared to do a far better job than the home team.

A wonderfully stirring build-up certainly wound up a few of the Welsh, Joe Allen treading violently on the toes of Taras Stepanenko to earn himself a yellow card inside two minutes.

Everything Ukraine did was more composed and they created a succession of half-chances, only to be denied by keeper Wayne Hennessey, albeit not in particularly convincing fashion.

Everything Wales did was more frantic, Bale snatching at

one decent shooting opportunity typical of their indiscipline.

And, let's face it, he did not even strike the free-kick – won by Dan James – that led to the breakthrough all that well. A shot? A cross?

Whatever former Spurs star Bale intended, he cannot have anticipated the helping hand from West Ham's Andriy Yarmolenko. His team-mates

were quick with consolation but quite what Yarmolenko was doing is anyone's guess.

It was not a deflection, it was an awful attempt to intercept Bale's delivery.

To put the tin hat on a hugely

forgettable first half for Yarmolenko, referee Antonio Lahoz decided his penalty-area tumble was not the result of a mistimed Allen kick.

Surprisingly, the VAR agreed. And, after the break, Wales should have made even more capital out of their good fortune but former Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey tagged a rotten finish onto the end of a slick counter-attack.

Had Viktor Tsygankov converted a great chance, Ramsey's regret would have been instant.

Hennessey stopped the weak Tsygankov effort with his right boot, which pretty much summed up the Wales keeper's overall performance.

Unconventional, occasionally



**UKRAINE**

Bushchan	7
Karavaev	7
Zabarnyi	7
Matvienko	7
Mykolenko	8
Stepanenko	6
Yarmolenko	5
Malinovskyi	6
Zinchenko	8
Tsygankov	7
Yaremchuk	7

**SUBS**

Sydorchuk (Stepanenko 70)	6
Shaparenko (Malinovskyi 70)	6
Dovbyk (Yaremchuk 77)	6
Mudryk	6

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# Fall short of glory

WALES  
Yarmolenko og 34

1

UKRAINE

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## Katherine Lucas



If ever proof were needed that Gareth Bale's touch is magic, here it was. When he stands over a dead ball from distance, the spectacular unfolds. Even when the free-kick lacks power or plunge, it still ends up in the back of the net.

Andriy Yarmolenko was diving towards his own goal as the final, crucial touch deflected in. Cue a deafening crescendo that threatened to raise the roof, even with an hour to go until Wales would seal their place at a first World Cup since 1958.

For Ukraine, national pride was never in doubt. In the dressing room, a flag was unfurled bearing messages from soldiers on the frontline fighting bigger battles than this. Led onto the pitch by Yarmolenko draped in blue and yellow, there can no longer be any question about the significance of the sporting theatre on the world stage. If Russia's almost universal ban from competition was a fitting punishment, Ukraine had the opportunity to send a message of defiance.

Ukraine had to play the game, not the occasion, and they very nearly got off to the perfect start when, just three minutes in, Oleksandr Zinchenko took a set-piece quickly – too quickly for the officials' liking – and it bobbed all the way past Wayne Hennessey in goal.

It should not have come as a surprise to anyone, however, when Bale engineered the opening goal for Wales. While he had thus far nestled the ball out of play and blazed an opportunity over the bar, the path to Doha was always going to be trodden by their talisman.

For a man who has won five European Cups and three titles, it said something that he considered Wales' qualification to be among his greatest achievements. He promised too that cap No 103 would not be his last, with even brighter moments lying in wait for his country.

It could all have been undone when VAR threatened to penalise a blindsided Joe Allen for felling Yarmolenko; but no penalty. These

## Wales



## Ukraine

**Substitutions:** Wales Johnson (James, 71), Wilson (Bale, 83), Norrington-Davies (N Williams, 90). **Ukraine** Sydorchuk (Stepanenko, 70), Shaparenko (Malinovskyi, 70), Mudryk (Tsygankov, 77), Dovbyk (Yaremchuk, 77). **Booked:** Wales Allen, James. **Ukraine** Mykolenko, Mudryk. **Man of the match** Bale. **Match rating** 8/10. **Possession:** Wales 32% Ukraine 68%. **Attempts on target:** Wales 3 Ukraine 9. **Referee** A Mateu Lahoz (Sp) **Attendance** 26,846.

margins felt decisive in a midfield battle where Wales had to learn Scotland's lessons from the semi-final. They could not press with no plan, Aaron Ramsey needed to sit tight. Yet as Ukraine jostled for the equaliser, Hennessey was heroic.

Tested down low, sprawling for long balls and parrying away Artem Dovbyk's header; the goalkeeper, in place of Robert Page's more regular stopper Danny Ward, was repeatedly called into action, not least when Ethan Ampadu struggled with the offside trap. Hennessey had Ben Davies to thank for ensuring it was not a solo effort to keep Ukraine at bay. The Tottenham defender mustered two remarkable sliding tackles.

Page took off the physical presence of Moore for the bounce of Brennan Johnson, newly promoted to the Premier League with Nottingham Forest and striking the post within moments of his introduction. In turn, Ukraine did not have the same flexibility, thwarted from close range and then resorting to more speculative efforts.

The final triumph eluded them, but the journey here has amplified everything that is emotive, powerful and dignified about this Ukrainian side. That has not changed, regardless of the result.



## I hope everyone rem

By Simon Evans

AT CARDIFF CITY STADIUM

Ukraine coach Oleksandr Petrakov said he could not utter a word of criticism of his players after their World Cup qualification dream ended with the loss to Wales.

Ukraine had beaten Scotland in their playoff, semi-final to set up the meeting with the Welsh but an own goal from Andriy Yarmolenko and a series of fine saves from Wales keeper Wayne Hennessey put paid to their chances of making the November tournament in Qatar.

Asked what he had said to Yarmolenko, whose misdirected header from a Gareth Bale free-kick flew in his own net for the winner, a downbeat Petrakov said he had simply thanked him and all the players. "I can only say thank you for everything he did for the team. I do not have any criticism to any of the players in the team," he said.

"If you want to criticise, criticise

me, the head coach. We everything we could bu people of Ukraine to re team, our efforts. I wan we didn't score but that happens. I am lost for w know what to say," he a Throughout the prep this week's games, Petru made impassioned com the war in his homelan

9  
Shots on target by Ukraine, who also put nine off target when firing at Wayne Hennessey's net

## Wales's fixture

Group B England, Iran, States, Wales

Mon 21 Nov United S Wales 7pm GMT. ITV

Fri 25 Nov Wales v Ira BBC

Tue 29 Nov Wales v E BBC

(All matches played at bin Ali Stadium, Al Ra

By IAN MITCHELMORE  
at the Cardiff City Stadium

WALES

Yarmolenko 34 (og)

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UKRAINE

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**W**ales ended 64 years of pain by beating Ukraine 1-0 to book their place at the World Cup in Qatar.

Gareth Bale's free-kick was deflected in off Andriy Yarmolenko in the first-half to settle what was an enthralling play-off final contest at Cardiff City Stadium. Both sides had further chances to bulge the net, with Wayne Hennessey producing a string of sublime saves while Ben Davies typified what was a monumental defensive effort from the hosts.

And the Red Dragons held on to banish the demons of past failures in 1977, 1985, 1993 and 2017 while extending their unbeaten record at Cardiff City Stadium to 17 matches.

Page made a huge call with his line-up, bringing in Kieffer Moore in place of Harry Wilson in what was the only change from the 2-1 semi-final win over Austria in March. Despite his recent foot injury, the towering forward's worth has been only too clear to the current coaching staff, with Moore coming into the match in buoyant mood having averaged a goal every 20.75 minutes in his four substitute appearances for Bourne-

mouth. As for the occasion, the respect was there in abundance for Ukraine, a country that has somehow overcome immense adversity to even be able to field a side in Cardiff. But this was business. And for Wales, there were no dreaded 'Diweddariad Carfan' posts. No convoluted permutations. This was a straight shootout. Dafydd Iwan produced another stir-

ring rendition of Yma o Hyd to fire up the Red Wall.

But it was the visitors who almost made a dream start as, after Joe Allen was booked inside two minutes, Oleksandr Zinchenko fired home from a quickly-taken free-kick, although, much to the relief of the home side, referee Antonio Miguel Mateu Lahoz disallowed the effort.



■ Rob Page's face says it all at the final whistle



It served as a real warning sign for the hosts who, to their credit, swiftly set about taking the game to the Ukrainians. In soaking conditions, those in red had clearly been given licence to try their luck from distance, particularly following Georgiy Bushchan's wobble in his side's semi-final win over Scotland.

Ben Davies and Neco Williams both had long-range attempts, although Ukraine continued to carry a threat and looked the more likely to score. Nerves were clearly there, and Hennessey had to make a smart save to deny Roman Yaremchuk who got into a one-on-one position after being played onside by Ethan Ampadu.

Hennessey was comfortably the busier of the two goalkeepers, and Wales were once again relieved to see the away side spurn a chance as Viktor Tsygankov curled wide, although the offside flag had been raised. The

goalkeeper was fully proving his worth on his 102nd cap, coolly palming away Zinchenko's driven effort as the pressure from the visitors increased. But just as the concerns were growing, Daniel James was scythed down by Ruslan Malinovskyi.

Time for the talisman.

As he did against Austria, Bale rifled the free-kick goalwards, although this time, in a desperate attempt to clear the effort, Yarmolenko headed beyond his own goalkeeper to send the Wales supporters into raptures. It was just the moment of luck Wales will have wished for, but Ukraine showed typical defiance in tough circumstances.

Zinchenko was once again denied by Hennessey before the video assistant referee intervened when Allen caught Yarmolenko in his own box, but he opted against awarding a penalty when it looked for all the world to see that a spot-kick should have been



■ We're off to Qatar!.. Wales players lead the victory charge

given as the hosts led 1-0 at the break following a nerve-shredding 45.

One more push. And push they did. The sublime Neco Williams brilliantly played his way out of trouble before setting James free, and after he picked out Moore, the frontman squared to Ramsey who uncharacteristically guided his shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

They were almost punished when Vitaliy Mykolenko got into space on the left before crossing, although Hennessey - having the game of his life - denied Tsygankov with his legs before Yaremchuk hit the rebound wide. Davies then had to produce a heroic sliding challenge as Yarmolenko threatened.

Counter attacks increasingly became Wales' best chance to give themselves a comfort blanket, and following a composed piece of skill from Connor Roberts, James' blocked looping effort was tipped over the crossbar

by Bushchan. But Ukraine kept coming. Malinovskyi drilled wide from distance, and Davies once again produced a vital challenge after Allen was dispossessed.

With 20 minutes on the clock, Brennan Johnson replaced James as Wales continued to defend for their lives.

The substitute almost made the crucial impact five minutes after entering the pitch as he found space at the back post, but his volley from Roberts' cross crashed against the post, with Bale being denied by Bushchan soon after.

Davies hurled himself in front of another shot before Wilson came on for Bale as Wales looked to see out the final stages, and it was star of the show Hennessey who threw a huge left hand out to claw away Artem Dovbyk's header.

Five minutes of additional time promoted groans from the home fans, and the sublime Neco Williams - who

was duly replaced by Rhys Norrington-Davies - took a whack for his troubles after hurling himself in front of a shot.

But the referee's final whistle eventually sounded, and it prompted wild scenes of celebrations as Wales qualified for a World Cup for the first time since 1958, with Rob Page following in the footsteps of fellow Rhondda product Jimmy Murphy in leading his country to the biggest tournament in international football.

Wales are now set to face the United States of America, Iran and England in the group stages of the World Cup later this year while they will benefit from a £10m cash boost as a result of their glorious campaign.

■ **Get your Wales World Cup 48-page souvenir special on Saturday, June 11. Order your copy via the online shop at <https://shop.regionalnewspapers.co.uk/wales-world-cup-special-1965-n.asp>**

...play nicely. Perhaps lucky not to give away a penalty, but read things very nicely in midfield.

### NECO WILLIAMS

Covered every blade of grass. A constant thorn in the Ukraine defence down the flanks, and a bully defensively. A marvellous intervention to deny Yaremchuk the chance to break free was a highlight. He's not had many better games for Wales.

### GARETH BALE

Was actually quite a quiet game by his exceptionally high standards. But his classy touches and ability to pick out a pass certainly made a difference. His typically excellent free-kick for the own goal once again oozed class.

### KIEFFER MOORE

His first start since December 30, when he was still at Cardiff City. Couldn't really get going in terms of goal threat, although he did tee up Ramsey for a golden chance in the second half.

### DANIEL JAMES

Carved out a number of opportunities for his team, but perhaps laboured to show fluency. Then again, his harsh early yellow card, and the difficult conditions may well have had something to do with that.

### STAR MAN WAYNE HENNESSEY

Kept out everything thrown at him. A brilliant stop to deny Tsygankov early in the second half, but his save to keep out Dovbyk is already surely one of Welsh football's most iconic moments of modern times. A performance he, and three-and-a-half million others will cherish.



### SUBSTITUTES

Brennan Johnson (for James, 71); Harry Wilson (for Bale, 82); Rhys Norrington-Davies (for N. Williams 90). Not used: Harris, Matondo, Thomas, Ward, J Williams, A Davies, Gunter, Mepham, Morrell.

### UKRAINE

Bushchan; Karavaev, Zabarnyi, Matviyenko, Mykolenko; Yarmolenko (C), Malinovskyi (Shaparenko 70), Stepanenko (Sydorчук 70), Zinchenko, Tsygankov; Yaremchuk. Subs not used: Pyatov, Riznyk, Sobol, Bondar, Syrota, Dovbyk, Mudryk, Pikhonok, Kacharaba, Zubkov.

REFEREE: Antonio Miguel Mateu Lahoz

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8  
8

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