

## **BRIDGEND TOWN PLAYERS PROFILES 2010-11**

**Neil Thomas Goalkeeper** – Known as 'Tomo'. Ex Merthyr and Carmarthen Town where he played in Eurpoe on numerous occasions. One of the most consistent keepers in the Welsh Premier Division. Experienced, great organiser and distributes the ball so well.

**Scott Hayward Defender** – Strong defender, signed from Cambrian in the summer. Can also play centrally. Great engine, loves to get forward from full back.

**Dale Otten Defender** – Dale was with the Swan's as a youngster, then signed for Llanelli for a season. Caught the eye playing for Pontardawe last season. Great left foot and loves the banter too!

**John Meacock Defender (Captain)** – John has been one of the most consistent defenders in Welsh League over the last ten years. Reads the game well. Pacey and his distribution from the back is second to none. Signed from Goytre United in the summer.

**Lewis Williams Defender** – Hails from Pontycymmer. Strong, intelligent defender who is very comfortable on ball. Previous clubs, Garw, Bryntirion and signed from Bettws in the summer.

**Mark Crutch Defender** - Commanding centre half. Was at Aberaman championship winning side good turn of pace and uses ball well out of defence.

**Steve Conaty Midfielder** – Steve has been around for years! Bags of energy, a real committed midfielder who doesn't stop. Winner.

**Paul Jones Midfielder** – 'Elec Legs' as he is often known. Signed for Cardiff from Bristol City as a 14 year old. Explosive winger who clips in with his goals. Previous clubs are Maesteg Park, and Bettws.

**Michael Waters Midfielder** – Had brief spells at Swansea then on to Newcastle as a young lad. Great left sided player and very intelligent footballer as he will tell you! Previous clubs Goytre United, Afan Lido, Neath, Aberystwyth Town.

**Dale Price Midfielder** – One of the best layers of the ball at the Club. Great vision from the middle of the park who keeps things simple. Previous clubs, Carmarthen, Ton Pentre, Goytre United.

**Rameer Outlaw Midfielder** – Second season with the club. Fast, strong and has good feet.

**Grant Thomas Midfielder** – Played at Merthyr and at Aberaman championship side. Steady centre mid player, breaks it up well and keeps it simple. Loves the gel!

**John Phillips Midfielder** – Product of the youth team, former trainee at Cardiff City. Made eye-watering contact with a few players last season.

**Richard Ryan Forward** – Richard's goal scoring record speaks for itself – one of, if not all time top scorers, regularly scoring 40 goals a season. Just hope he can transfer that to Bridgend and we benefit from his finishing skills.

**Vinnie Wattleworth Forward** – Good at giving problems to other teams defences. Previous clubs include Pontardawe.

**Daniel Thomas**

**Jamie Bradford**

**Mark Sage Manager** – Started Welsh League at Garw AFC followed by Maesteg Park before joining Bridgend Town winning Welsh League Div 2. Went back to Garw, in the same side as Darren Lyons in Garw's most successful period. Went on to manage Bettws, taking them from the bottom of Div 2 to Div 2 champions and then finishing fourth in 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

**Darren Lyons Assistant Manager** – Strong, committed, honest player. Started with Porthcawl then joined Garw AFC and then to Goytre United where he captained through their most successful period. His first position in managerial duties.

**Van Jenkins Physio** – Great infectious character. Signed from Bettws in the summer, he had been doing the job for more than 10 years. Vocal and great presence at club.

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF BRIDGEND TOWN**

Bridgend was formed in the early 1920s and joined the Welsh section of the Southern League in the 1922 -23 season. But after three seasons during which they finished 6<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, they left that league and disbanded.

They did not start up again until the early 1960s. In the 1962 -63 season they joined the Welsh League and became Division 2 East Champions in their first campaign. From then on there was a very successful period in the club's history. In 1968 -69 Bridgend were crowned Welsh league champions and won the title for the second time four seasons later. By that time their name had changed to Everwarm as the Bridgend central heating company were their main sponsors.

In the 1976 -77 season, the name reverted to Bridgend Town and they reached the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup only narrowly losing to Cardiff City. They were also runners up in the Welsh League that season. In 1977-78 the club rejoined the Southern league and were runners up in Division 1 North being promoted to the Premier Division.

In 1978 -79 the league was reorganised and they were in the Midlands Division which they won and became overall Southern League champions after beating Dorchester 5 -1 in the play offs. This was their proudest moment.

In 1983 -84 they left the Southern League and concentrated on the Welsh League becoming runners up two seasons running.

Since then, they have been relegated to Division 2 on two occasions. The first time they bounced back as champions and were promoted to Division 1, where they stayed as a mid table side until 2001 -02 when they were relegated again.

In the following season, under the guidance of Francis Ford and Cohen Griffiths, they regained their Division 1 status, narrowly missing out on the runners up spot on goal difference.

Over the following two seasons Francis and Cohen restored pride back into the Bridgend club when they took them to 10<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> place respectively.

The 2005 -06 season started off poorly and as the club had League of Wales aspirations it was decided a change of management should take place and Nicky Tucker (ex Llanelli) was appointed with Drewe Phillips (ex Garw) as his assistant.

Unfortunately this did not have the desired affect and it was decided by mutual agreement that Nicky Tucker should stand down. Drewe Phillips was given the position of manager and Ryland Morgan, who has a top FIFA coaching qualification, was appointed as team coach. This partnership proved successful as the team climbed up from the lower reaches of the division to a respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place.

When we left Coychurch Road in 2006 we relocated to Locks Lane, Porthcawl for 2007 -08 . Unfortunately this arrangement did not meet with the approval of the residents despite the fact that we would have left them with a brand new clubhouse.

We moved to brand new facility with an excellent playing surface at The University of Glamorgan Playing fields for 2008/9. & 2009/10 seasons. We have completed the circle by playing at The Brewery Field, (Bridgend's Rugby Stadium) which is being re-vamped and will be host to both Bridgend Town and the Bridgend Ravens.

We are also upgrading the social facilities as our intention is that the clubhouse is a focal point for several different sports in Bridgend.