

Garden Village Player Profiles – 2010 / 2011

Mark Snell (Goalkeeper)

Mark is in his second spell with the club having rejoined during the summer of 2009 from Pontardawe Town. A great shot stopper and very experienced at this level. His constant talking will always keep the defence on their toes! Probably one of the top 3 goalkeepers in the Welsh League, if not the best!

Dale Hulland (Goalkeeper)

Has previous Welsh League experience with Briton Ferry, Goytre United and Morriston Town. Made his first-team debut in the 5-1 friendly win at Tenby in July 2006. A great shot stopper who has played a big part in the reserve teams' championship winning season in 2007/2008. In his fourth spell with the club and will be hoping to challenge for the number one spot in 2010/2011.

Steve Bater (Defender)

Steve signed from Pontardawe Town in November 2007, his second spell with the club. Steve is a player that is comfortable in defence or in midfield. A confident player in possession and a great reader of situations. Last seasons' players' player & managers' player of the year. An influential and important member of the squad.

David Evans (Defender)

David has been an established member of the first-team for many seasons after progressing through the junior section of the club. Can play at full-back or central defence and likes to attack as much as possible. Has deceiving pace for a big fella and was outstanding last season winning the Managers' player of the year award. First class attitude to the game.

Rhys Whitelock (Defender)

Rhys joined the club in the summer of 2010 from local rivals Pontardawe Town. Having spent most of his career to date at reserve team level, Rhys will be looking to make his mark at the club and achieve a regular first team spot. A young talented footballer who is comfortable in the left full back position.

Stephen Healey (Defender)

Stephen is an experienced defender who joined the club in the summer of 2010. Previously on the books of Swansea City then joined Llanelli in 2001. Has 50 appearances in the Welsh Premiership for Llanelli, Port Talbot & Grange Quins. Stephen has also previously played in the Welsh League with Bridgend Town, Goytre United & Barry Town.

Luke Jenkins (Defender)

Luke joined the club in 2008 from Carmarthenshire league side Burry Port. Over the last couple of seasons, Luke has featured mainly for the reserve team playing at centre half or in the centre of midfield. Luke is a no nonsense tough tackling defender who is also good in the air. Made his full first team debut towards the end of last season and has been impressive at right back during the pre season fixtures. Luke will be looking to have an extended run in the first team following the loss of last season's recognised full backs.

Josh Davies (Defender)

Josh returned to the club in the summer of 2010 after a season at Newcastle Emlyn whilst continuing his studies. Josh can play either in the centre of defence or in the left full back position and will relish the opportunity to be involved in the first team during the 2010 / 2011 season. Josh had previously played for the club's reserve team but has improved both his confidence and ability in the season away and will be a good acquisition to the squad.

Gerwyn Griffiths (Defender / Midfielder)

Gerwyn is a versatile player who can play at full back or in the centre of midfield. Joined the club in the summer of 2010 from Spar Mid Wales league side Tywyn Bryncrug. Has impressed since he arrived at the club with his commitment & enthusiasm levels during the hard pre season slog. Gerwyn will be looking to make a big impact this season and if he continues with his attitude, will be a great signing for the club.

Dayle Selva (Defender / Midfielder)

Dayle returned to the club in the summer of 2010 after a season at Swansea league side Gowerton Juniors. Dayle can play at full back or in the central or wide midfield positions and will be looking to prove that he has the ability to perform at this level. In his previous spell at the club, he made an instant impact in the first team. Dayle is an accomplished footballer with natural ability and great pace. Extremely fit and works hard during training and in his own time. Is a great signing for the club.

Craig Matthews (Defender / Midfielder)

Craig has come through the club's youth ranks and will be looking to establish himself in the senior squads this season. Craig can play at full back or in more advanced wide position. Exciting prospect with great ability.

Jak Shannon (Midfielder)

Jak joined Neath from Swansea-based outfit West End in January 2009. Jak is an accomplished passer of the ball who prefers to be in the thick of the action in central midfield. He joined Garden Village in January 2010 in a loan deal from Neath until the end of 2009 / 2010 season. Jak signed permanently for the club in the summer of 2010 and will be looking to continue his fine pre season form during the 2010 / 2011 season. Has the potential to play at a much higher level.

Chris Thomas (Midfielder)

Another player with bags of experience that Village can call upon in midfield. 'Taz', as he's known, was signed back in March 2005 and made his debut in the home win over Pontyclun that month. A tenacious and well respected player who loves a tackle has previous experience with Swansea City, Llanelli, Haverfordwest, Merthyr Tydfil, Goytre Utd and Neath. Played a major part in the promotion winning team in 2008 / 2009 and thrived on the responsibility of captaining the club in Division 1 last year.

Phil John (Midfielder)

Battling midfielder who was part of the junior's set-up at Garden Village. He moved on to play for neighbouring Carmarthenshire League side Gorseinon in 2007 but returned to Stafford Common later that season to help aid Village's push for promotion. Phil was an ever present and played a big part in the promotion to Division 1. Missed a lot of last season through injury but made a return towards the end and played a big part in preserving our Division 1 status.

Mark Carlisle (Midfielder)

Mark is excellent central midfield player who joined the club in the summer of 2009. Mark has an abundance of natural ability with great vision and a range of passing. Previously played for Morriston Town and Cwmamman United in the Welsh League and is looking forward to returning to action following a long lay off due to a nasty knee injury. Mark's presence will add experience to the squad and he will be looking to have an extended run in the first team in 2010 / 2011 season.

Craig Spring (Midfielder)

Springer joined the club from local Division 1 rivals Pontardawe Town in 2009. He was previously the club's youth team captain but his opportunities in the Ponty first team that season were limited. Craig has a great attitude to the game and has already shown in training that he has a great engine and is full of running. Craig has bags of potential is proving to be a great acquisition for the club. He will be looking to make his mark this season when given the opportunity and will provide stiff competition for the rest of the midfielders already in the squad.

Harry Allen (Midfielder)

Harry signed for the club in February 2010 and made his first team debut as a substitute in the match against a West Wales Select XI. Harry is a strong combative midfielder who is comfortable in possession and a great passer. Brother of Swansea City & Welsh International midfielder Joe Allen.

Gareth Jones (Midfielder)

Gazza joined the club in the summer of 2010 have spent most of his career in the Carmarthenshire league with Gorseinon Athletic. Had a brief spell at Aberaman Athletic in 2009 / 2010 when Leighton James was manager. Gareth can play anywhere in midfield and his versatility & experience will be welcoming assets. Gareth made his debut in the pre season friendly v CRC Rangers and was impressive out wide or in the centre of midfield.

Marc Lloyd (Midfielder/Forward)

As a youngster, Marc was on Millwall's books. Marc is in his second spell with the club having returned to the club during the summer of 2009 after taking a break from the game for a season. Marc is an exciting player who can operate in midfield or up-front. Lloyd brings experience to the squad and will also get his fair share of goals.

Derrick Jenkins (Midfielder/Forward)

Tough-battling midfielder/forward who joined the club from Briton Ferry in October 2005 and made his debut as a substitute in the home win over Troedyrhiw a few days later. Left the club in 2006 for a short spell at Morriston Town but returned to the club in 2008 and was influential in the reserve team winning the championship. Derrick was influential in the promotion team of 2008 / 2009 and scored a number of important goals. Has great energy and is a great player to have in the squad as he can play in a number of different positions. Has the potential to play at a much higher level.

Richard Jones (Midfielder/Forward)

Promising young striker who came through the club's youth ranks. Has made a number of senior appearances for the first team over the last couple of seasons and will be looking play on a more regular basis in the coming season. Can also play on the left hand side of midfield from where he scored a crucial goal in last season's draw away at local rivals West End. Has great potential and natural balance, a threat going forward to any defender.

Ashleigh Twigg (Midfielder/Forward)

Ashleigh has been at the club for a couple of years and served his apprenticeship in the club's third and reserve teams. Will be looking to have more of a role in the first team this season following brief appearances last season. Ashleigh is a pacey wide man who can also operate up front. One for the future!

Christian J Richards (Defender/Midfielder/Forward)

CJ has been operating as a full back or wide midfield. Has been at the club for 3 seasons but has mainly featured in the reserve team. Has featured up front during pre season, a position he is keen to remain in. CJ's versatility makes him an important member of the squad. His ability has been recognised in the past when he was bestowed the honour of captaining the Welsh Schools representative team.

Daniel Lancey (Midfielder/Forward)

Daniel rejoined the club in Sept 2010 after a brief spell at Goytre United. He first joined the club in February 2010 from 1st Division neighbours Afan Lido and felt at home at Stafford Common. Daniel can play in wide on the left or up front, signed for Lido in the January 2009 window from Neath FC and scored on his debut against Ton Pentre. Prior to joining Neath in 2008, Daniel made twelve sub appearances for Port Talbot Town. A former Wales Under-17 International and ex-Swansea City junior Daniel will be an excellent signing for the club and will provide the natural balance and pace on the left hand side of midfield.

Phil Myles (Forward)

Quick striker who joined the club in October 2005 from Briton Ferry at the same time as Derrick Jenkins. Had a brief spell at Morriston Town but returned to the club where he mainly featured in the club's successful reserve team. Has an eye for scoring spectacular goals and has been top-scorer for the reserve team on a couple of occasions. Played a cameo role last season and scored a couple of important goals at the end of the season. Will be looking to play more regularly this season and continue his excellent goal scoring record for the club.

Ashley Richards (Forward)

Made the switch to Stafford Common after playing for Skewen in 2004/05, Ashley is a very tall striker with an eye for goal. Was top-scorer in 2005 / 2006 season with 19 goals. 'Horse' as he is known left the club in 2007 to play for Pontardawe Town but returned to the club in 2008 where made a big contribution with some important goals in the promotion season. Formed a great partnership with Craig Burgess and will be looking to reform the partnership this season following Craig's long lay off last season. Last season's top goalscorer.

Craig Burgess (Forward)

Craig signed for the club from Tredegar Town in 2008. He made a big impression in his first season finishing top scorer including a hat trick at home against local rivals West End. Craig is a hard working and powerful forward with eye of goal. Craig missed most of last season following severe facial and knee injuries. Craig has returned during pre season and has continued his excellent scoring form for the club. Will be looking to stay injury free and cause havoc in the opposition defences during the forthcoming season.

Lee Rastatter (Forward)

Lee is an experienced centre forward who has been at the club for a number of seasons. A big powerful player who is great in the air but equally comfortable with the ball at his feet. Possesses great technique and ability with great eye for scoring some spectacular goals. This season he has been appointed Club Captain.

History Of Garden Village Football Club

Garden Village A.F.C. was founded in 1922 and started playing football at Swansea League level before joining the Carmarthenshire League mid-way through the 20th century. After a number of league and cup successes over the years, Village gained promotion into the Welsh Football League at the end of the 1998/99 season after finishing second in the Premier Division of the Carmarthenshire League, and successfully beating Neath League team Cwmamman United in the Welsh League promotion play-off for west Wales.

In only their first season of Welsh League football, they secured promotion by finishing third in Division 3 behind Garw and Ely Rangers - one point ahead of fourth-placed AFC Llwydcoed - and also fared well in the

Welsh Cup; a run that saw them dispose of Pontyclun and Ely before being knocked out by then League of Wales side Inter Cardiff 5-0 at Cardiff Athletics Stadium.

The Second Division proved to be a much tougher test for Village but they managed to finish a respectable eighth in their first season. They did, however, manage to secure promotion at the second attempt when they won the Second Division championship at the end of 2001/02 with a 3-2 win in their final game of the season at relegated Chepstow Town.

Village had just one short spell in the top flight of Welsh League football before they were relegated at the first attempt. After an excellent run of form towards the end of the season, which almost kept them up, other teams hit similar form and Village narrowly missed out on survival, finishing two points adrift of Ely Rangers.

They've recorded top-10 finishes in their time back in Division 2 under the leadership of long serving manager Bob Lloyd. In the summer of 2008, Bob decided to resign from his position of first team manager and the club made the decision to recruit the new management team internally. Ceri Griffiths, Paul Lewis and Gerry Neal who the previous season had tasted success in lifting the Welsh League Reserve Division West title became the new management team and enjoyed a great first season in charge.

In the 2008 / 2009 season, the club got promoted to Division 1 for only the second time in their history by finishing third behind West End & Ely Rangers, they also set a new club record for the amount of points achieved in the Welsh League.

Back in Division 1 for the first time in 8 years and with the previous experience in mind, the club set about the task of establishing themselves as a Division 1 outfit. With a number of new players added to the squad, the club made history by avoiding relegation and exceeding the number of points they had achieved the previous time they had played in Division 1. The task was made even harder by the decision of the Welsh League to relegate 6 clubs but excellent victories away at Aberaman Athletic, Caldicot Town, Ton Pentre & Barry Town coupled with outstanding performances at home against Afan Lido & Barry Town provided us with a platform which helped us achieve our objective and retain our Division 1 status.

The club's Stafford Common ground is greatly admired by visiting teams and their supporters and has been credited as having an exceptional playing surface. The ground is always improving – in 2006 the club opened its new changing room facility at the end of the main pitch while a new bar and suite area was added to the current club house in the summer of 2008. In 2009, the club completed the next phase of the off field developments by building a new 75 seater stand as well as rebuilding the covered standing area that had been damaged by a storm. In the summer of 2010, the club has completed the first phase of works for the installation of floodlights for the main pitch. The club is anticipating that the work will be completed early in 2011.