

ABERBARGOED BUDS' PLAYERS' PROFILES 2011-12

Asa Kirkwood (Keeper) Age 28 A welcomed return to the fold. Asa is a quality keeper who is highly skilled and agile. Great shot stopper

Iwan Aherne (Capt) Defender. Age 30. Iwan is a class act who has stayed loyal to the Buds and who players look up to on the field of play.

Jason Brewer – Defender Age 25. A no nonsense defender who is strong in the tackle and in the air. 100% every game.

Nathan Edwards – Defender Age 36. Nathan has given so much to the Buds. A born winner and leader.

Matthew Jones – Defender Age 20 This lad possesses so much ability and will mature into a great player. Always gives 100% to the team.

Matthew O'Keefe – Defender Age 23. Keefy has quick feet and good vision. A fine player who adds quality.

Shane Brewer – Midfield. Age 23. Shane previously played for Newport County and who possesses great skill on the ball. A great left foot.

Dafydd Brewer - Midfield Age 22 A skilful well balanced player who is comfortable on the ball and can dictate the pace of the game.

Dan Jones – Midfield Age 20 Dan is a skilful player who is knocking on the first team door. Another great prospect who will benefit from experience.

Dean Randall - Midfield Age 33. Deano is an all action midfielder who covers from box to box breaking up opponent's possession and who is no stranger to getting on the score sheet on a regular basis.

Steve Edwards – Midfield Age 28 Steve is a naturally talented footballer who can cause chaos to any defence. A new signing who adds quality to the Buds line up.

Ross Mazurczak – Midfield Age 30 A natural left footed player with immense skill and vision whose past clubs included Swansea City.

Chris Jones – Forward Age 22. Chris can lead the line or play just behind the strikers. A very talented footballer who scores goals.

Tony Rees - Forward Age 26 A natural goal scorer at any level of the Welsh League. Possesses so much natural talent.

Ross Fowler - Forward Age 23. Has been the Buds top goal scorer for the past few seasons. Can finish with the best of them.

John Edwards (Forward) Age 18. In his second senior season who will figure in the first team squad. Watch out for this lad. Great prospect.

Craig Evans (Player Manager) Craig steps up to the manager's role for this coming season. Craig's experience as a player and leader on the field will undoubtedly allow him to take the club forward.

Ceri Kinsey (Player Manager) Ceri returns to the Buds having successfully managed Troedyrhiw last season to a respectable mid-table finish. His winning attitude will have a positive effect on this Buds squad.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BUDS

The Buds were formed in 1956 shortly after the demise of Aberbargoed Town who once played in the Welsh League. The Buds introduction to league football was through the old Gwent divisions before the West Monmouthshire League was formed. The Buds never left the top flight and when the league changed yet again, in the early eighties, the Buds found themselves in the Gwent county League 1st Division where they enjoyed success in the league and cup competitions. The Buds in the Gwent County never played outside the first division which is a tribute to past players and managers who kept the village team at the top for so many years. A special thank you to "Bunny" Edwards and his boys and also Cliff Wallbank and the teams of the seventies and eighties where John Lewis played his football before moving to Cardiff City and becoming Captain of the Bluebirds. The nineties saw the Buds go through a mediocre period in their history but still play in the 1st Division of the Gwent County League. As the millennium approached, the Club moved forward with a new batch of players and management and success soon followed with the County Motors Cup won twice and the league title in 2003, which was a double winning year. Sadly the ground did not meet the criteria for Welsh League football and this became a priority. With the ground improvements finished, it was now the small matter of winning the league which was accomplished at the end of the 2006 season. The Buds settled down in Division Three and were well positioned in their next three league campaigns always finishing in the top six. With a good group of players assembled, John Lewis came back to his home club and started the 2009/10 season as Manager and with his professionalism, knowledge of the game and discipline, the Buds earned promotion to the 2nd Division as Champions. Finished season 2010-11 in fifth position in division two and were finalists in the Nathaniel Car Sales League Cup. The story continues...