

## **BRIDGEND TOWN'S PLAYERS' PROFILES 2011-12**

NEIL COLLINS Collo's 3<sup>rd</sup> season with us. Division 1 winner with Aberaman,. Also played for Goytre, Pontypridd and Scunthorpe Utd. Youth caps for Wales

MARTYN ELLACOTT Welcome return to Marty. Excellent and Experienced goalkeeper who has re-signed for us and is our goalkeeper coach

TERRY EVANS Experienced new signing. Previous clubs include Cardiff, Swansea, Barry, Newport, Carmarthen and Haverfordwest. Terry has Welsh U21 and Welsh Non League caps and has won League of Wales, League Cup and Welsh Cup medals.

LEWIS JAMES New signing. Details TBA

MARK CRUTCH Commanding centre back who has been clubs Player of the year for the last 2 seasons. Dominant in the air.

MARK DODDS Doddy signed for us this year from Haverfordwest. Was Haverfordwest captain and has taken that role here.

NATHAN COTTERAL New signing. Previous clubs include Carmarthen, Cwmbran, Barry and Port Talbot. Nathan has played in the UEFA Cup and Champions League.

RUSSELL WIGLEY New signing from Cardiff Corries. Russ is an ex-pro with Leeds Utd and his previous clubs include Merthyr, Cwmbran, Inter Cardiff, Port Talbot and Ebbw Vale where he had European experience. Welsh U15 and U18 caps. C licence coach.

JOSH COLLINS Second spell at club. Details TBA

JAMIE BRADFORD New Signing. Welsh Premier experience. Details TBA

HAYDEN FLEMING Flash is an experienced driving midfielder. YTS with Cardiff and QPR. Previous clubs Carmarthen, Port Talbot and Taffs Well. Club coach.

GRANT THOMAS Previous clubs include Merthyr and Aberaman. Steady and reliable centre midfielder who breaks it up well, keeps it simple.

OMAR ABULAH New signing Details TBA

DALE RAVEN Wide, energetic midfielder. It is good to see Dale back with us as he has been out injured for a season and a half.

RAMEER OUTLAW Extremely fast and strong. Recovering from injury sustained last season.

GIANLUCA PALLADINO 2<sup>nd</sup> season Details TBA

JAMAL EASTER New signing. Jamal was a pro with Cardiff for 1 year and was also on loan to Bristol Rovers and Torquay Utd. Welsh caps at U17, U18 and U 21 level

DREW FAHIYA Played for us several seasons ago. Welsh Premier experience. Details TBA

NATHAN WHITE New signing from Afan Lido. Quick forward who scores goals for fun

SAM SMALL New signing. Previous clubs; Afan Lido, Aberaman, Barry, Clevedon, Cwmbran and Llanelli where he played for them in the Inter-toto Cup.

MATTHEW HIBBS New signing. Details TBA

MATTHEW DAVIES New signing. Experienced goal scoring campaigner. Details TBA

CRAIG LIMA. MANAGER. Experienced player with Newport, Merthyr and Carmarthen. Port Talbot, Inter Cardiff, Ebbw Vale. Welsh Semi Pro Cap. In his 4<sup>th</sup> season at the club. Craig is looking forward to his new role as club manager.

ANTHONY BIRD. Assistant Manager. Experienced player whose details would have filled 2 or 3 copies of the News of the World.

## **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 the 2007-08 season. We then moved to brand new facilities at The University of Glamorgan playing fields for the 2008/9 season. In season 2009/10 we moved to The Brewery Field in Bridgend while we wait for news of the proposed Island Farm Development which will house, Football, Rugby, Hockey, Tennis and Boxing facilities.