

## **BRYNTIRION ATHLETIC PLAYERS' PROFILES 2011 - 12**

**PETER BLAIN: Goalkeeper** – Peter joined us last season from Dinas Powys and was a magnificent signing. A formidable sight for opposition strikers. Directs his back four very well.

**ANTHONY RAWLINGS: Striker** – Anthony has been in top form for the last couple of season. Always willing to run into the dangerous positions and is an excellent outlet for the side. Born goal scorer.

**JONATHON CUSS: Striker** – Jon is one of the club's most prolific strikers and is now in his 9th season with Bryntirion. When he is in top stride not many can stop him. Great to see him back amongst the goals in our championship winning team.

**IAN GEARIE: Defender** – “Geezer” is a Bryntirion legend. Now in his 11th season with the club, he has again come back with renewed energy and has looked very good in pre season.

**RICHARD HODGE: Midfielder** – Our wing wizard was instrumental in us winning last year's title. Chipped in with 15 goals and had very many assists. A perfect player for this team.

**TOMOS WELLINGTON: Midfielder** – Tomos is the enforcer of the team and continues to drive the team forward. Always chips in with goals and lists one of his hobbies as collecting cards.

**SEAN 'BARNEY' WILLIAMS: Defender** – Signed from local league club Brynna FC, Barney has made the step up to Welsh League football look very easy and his partnership with Rhys Williams was a major factor in the championship winning team.

**PAUL EVANS: Midfielder** – Paul is our club captain and the reigning Player of the Year for us. He was also the top scorer for the team last year. An exceptional signing for the Manager.

**IAN TURNER: Midfielder** – Ian joined us from Bridgend Town. He is a very strong left sided player who added an extra dimension to the squad. Played in Goytre Utd's championship winning teams. Looks superb in pre season.

**JOHN PAUL BUDD: Defender** - John Paul is a Youth team Product and after a spell with Neath FC has come home to Bryntirion. An outstanding prospect.

**JOHN PHILLIPS: Midfielder** - John is another young star coming into the 1st Team after spells with Bridgend Town. We finally have in our ranks after a lengthy spell of chasing him. Very hard tackler.

**RHYS LLEWELLYN: Defender** – Rhys has come through our youth ranks and is highly rated. Now studying in UWIC, he has broken into the 1st team squad and staked his claim for a place and won a league winners medal after breaking into the team.

**MATTHEW JONES: Midfielder** – Matthew is another who has come through the youth ranks and was voted Young Player of the Year last season. Likes a laugh. Excellent defender with lots of energy.

**RHYS WILLIAMS: Defender** – A very strong defender who has slotted back into his partnership with Barney like he has never been away. Scored against Bangor City in the closely run Welsh Cup game last season.

**BRIAN BURKE: Midfielder** – Brian returned to us from Taffs Well. Another former youth player coming through the ranks. He likes to get on the ball as much as possible. Another important part to the squad.

**FRANCIS FORD: Manager** – Franny is in his 6th season with the club and takes the team from strength to strength. Now has earned legendary status at our club after guiding the team to the League title.

Known in the club as (Sir) Francis.

**PAUL WISEMAN: Assistant Manager** – Paul joined us last season and has a wealth of knowledge of the Welsh League. His winning mentality must have rubbed off on the squad to help us win the title.

**ANDREW 'CHUBBS' NEEDS: Physio** - One of our clubs greatest assets with the power of healing. Always with a smile on his face. His healing hands were a massive difference in the title winning season.

**TAYLOR HARDING: Midfielder** – Taylor is another youngster who is braking his way into the 1st Team squad. Joins us from Carmarthen Town

**JOE HOPKINS: Defender** – Joe is a classy player who after serving his time in the Reserves has now started to come more and more into the 1st Team squad and always plays well.

**MARTIN DANDO: Midfielder** – Dando had a year off from football last season due to work commitments and missed the title win. He will be trying his hardest to catch up.

**BRANDON WALTERS: Striker** – Brandon returns to the club after a spell with Porthcawl. Although not the youngest, he trains and plays as if he was still in his early twenties.

**Ones to watch for future:**

**Cullum Kinsella, Nathan Jones, Adam Yeates, Adam Caswell.**

## **BRYNTIRION ATHLETIC – A BRIEF HISTORY**

Bryntirion Athletic Football Club was formed in 1956 by Mr Bill Rosewell with the help of Mr Tom Evans and Mr Percy Pudge. The club's first trophy, the Open Cup, was won in 1959. Then, in 1964, Bryntirion entered the South Wales Amateur League. Mr Bill Shales then became extensively involved in the club and without his intervention the club, arguably, would not have survived. Then in 1972 Ray Warner joined the club and was to serve Bryntirion for twenty-five years before handing over the reins to Vic Carpenter.

The early years were a struggle to survive with the club having to seek re-election due to poor playing performances. However, in 1986 Bryntirion took the bold decision to ground share with Bridgend Town which was to be their first team home for the next ten seasons. During that time the club suffered somewhat of a "yo-yo" existence between the two divisions. Then between 1994 and 1998 the club regained stability and began to earn respect as a well-run, progressive club!

But, to progress further up the Pyramid System, Bryntirion would have to develop their own ground. In the 1996/97 season, land was acquired courtesy of Bridgend County Borough Council and a local developer and Bryntirion Athletic formed a steering committee to embark upon a massive fund raising exercise. Lottery funding was obtained and further financial assistance was also gained in the form of a loan from Brains Brewery, but more importantly £120,000 was raised by donations and gifts from Dennis and Sally Evans of Regal Travel, Vic Carpenter of Ocean Construction, Dai Brett of Rapide Transport and Emlyn Phillips of Mid Glamorgan Provisions Ltd.

In 1997 the club returned to Bryntirion Park only to find that the drainage system did not extend to the first team pitch! Further expenditure to rectify this resulted in the project's costs spiraling past the £400,000 mark. Despite this and major building costs, the doors of the clubhouse finally opened on 23rd December 2000.

In 1998 Bryntirion recorded their first ever Corinthian Cup win with an exciting 3 – 2 extra- time victory over British Steel. In 2000 Bryntirion reached the final of the prestigious FAW Trophy but were beaten by Trefelin Boys Club.

After winning the South Wales Amateur League Championship in some style in 2002 and having met the strict ground criteria imposed by the Welsh F. A., Bryntirion were forced to play-off against South Wales Senior Champions, Bridgend Street, who in fact failed to meet the necessary criteria. On the day Justice was done when Bryntirion recorded a convincing 4-0 victory with goals from Lee Stevens, Darren Nota (2) and Nigel Jordan.

The 2004/5 season was to prove one of Bryntirion's best seasons with the first team capturing the Third Division Championship and the Youth team becoming only the third team to win the prestigious MacWhirter Youth League at the first time of asking under the management of Jason Bekker and Owen Roberts. This achievement followed on from the youth team's previous Cup and League Double in the South Wales Youth League when the management comprised of Harry McLean and Richard Duckfield. It had been an intoxicating six seasons for Bryntirion's first team under the expert guidance of manager Phil Clay and coach Peter Francombe and the club will be forever indebted to them both for their commitment, professionalism and sheer hard work, culminating in the 2004/5 season with promotion to Division One. Phil's achievement in taking the club from relative amateur league obscurity to the top flight of the Welsh League in just four seasons is remarkable and Phil has been justly

rewarded for his efforts by being made a Life Member of the club, joining Chairman Emlyn Phillips and Ray Warner who sadly passed away in Feb 2008.

In 2006 Vic Carpenter stepped down as Secretary after fourteen years in power, handing over control to Clive Layne. Clive's administrative experience with the Bridgend League and Brynna F.C. has stood him in good stead and he settled in well, quickly establishing a relationship with both players and management. He has also has an excellent relationship with fellow clubs and the Welsh League officials. Clive is also a qualified referee.

In the same year the club welcomed a new Manager in the form of Francis Ford. Francis played for Cardiff City in the Football League and has both managerial and playing experience at a number of Welsh League clubs, most notably Bridgend Town and Barry Town. Francis is now beginning his sixth campaign with Bryntirion Athletic. The 2007 / 08 was one of the clubs most successful to date. Under the guidance of Francis Ford and Matthew Bishop, the side finished fifth in Welsh League Division One, reached the Nathaniel Car Sales Welsh League Cup Final, narrowly losing out to Goytre United, and were just edged out by WPL side Welshpool Town in the fourth round of the Welsh Cup.

The Reserve team also had a great season with joint managers Derrick Jones and Matthew Lewis winning their League and reaching the final of the Harris Printers Shield where unfortunately they narrowly lost out, this time to Caerleon. Not to be outdone, the third team, playing in the Bridgend & District League, also had their share of success. Peter Goodwin's side reached the Final of the League Cup and achieved promotion to the Premier Division.

And last, but by no means least, Bryntirion's Home Guard or Vic's Vets as they became known, won the inaugural Welsh Veterans Champions Cup beating a strong Abercarn side 3 – 1 in a memorable final.

The Over 45's followed this up with winning the title in 2008 / 09.

Paul Wiseman joined as Assistant Manager last season to aide Franny to continue the work. Paul has an excellent background after playing as a striker for Goytre United and the squad has taken to him very well.

This link up proved to be the catalyst to our greatest ever season in the 2010 / 2011 season. With a couple of shrewd signings and others hitting form, we finally claimed the Welsh League Division 1 crown for the very first time. Bryntirion Athletic finished 5 points ahead of runners up Afan Lido and the celebrations lasted for quite a while. Also in this record breaking season, we were drawn away in the Welsh Cup 3rd round against eventual Welsh Premier League Champions where we gave them the biggest scare before Bangor ran out 2 – 1 winners. Bangor City were very complimentary about our club and would invite us to a 4 team tournament featuring Stoke City at the end of the season. (Unfortunately, European competition commitments saw this cancelled). We also saw in this season another appearance on S4C's Sgorio programme.

So now onto the new season, we again see (Sir) Francis Ford and Paul Wiseman taking the reins and although we have lost a couple of fringe players from the squad, we have signed more quality for a more strength in depth squad. Also we are finding our Youth system is bearing fruit and new generations of young stars are pushing for places in both the 1st team and Reserve teams.

Other changes this season see Ceri Thomas again guiding the successful Reserve team with Nigel Jordan. The 3rd team is again managed by Peter Goodwin and coached by Julian Edwards and Mark Evans. The Under 19's team in the MacWhirter Youth League West Division sees Terry Boyle join forces with Peter Williams and Andy Holman in nurturing our young stars for the future.

Off the field and behind the scenes the directors have also been busy! In 2009 with the aid of an FAW grant two flights of steps and concrete pathway was laid around the pitch together with disabled access directly from the car park to the stand. The club also installed all new perimeter fencing and added 90 seats to our stand. Last season saw new dugouts erected on the opposite side of the pitch which seats 8 people in each and the old brick dugouts have now been demolished. New welcome signs have also been erected on the main stand and also at the entrance to our ground with one of our main club sponsors Nathaniel Car Sales.

This pre season has seen the club upgrade the floodlights from 250 lux to 500 lux. We have also started work on our new training facilities which has seen new training floodlights erected and the ground between both pitches have extensive work on it. All these changes have paid off as Bryntirion Park was chosen to hold two international matches in August 2010. The FAW Trust awarded the Under 16's Schoolboys friendly match between Wales and Switzerland on August 17th and the FAW awarded the Under 17's ladies international friendly between Wales and Belgium on August 30th. Again the club has been awarded another international tie for this season when Wales Under 17's Ladies face their Finish counterparts on the 17th of August 2011.

Helen Jones is our Club Stewardess, and the clubhouse continues to shine and affords a warm welcome to customers old or new. Whilst our Chairman; Emlyn Phillips is as ambitious as ever and the life force behind this ambitious and progressive club. Next up hopefully is a new stand for our Bryntirion Park ground.

Visit our web site for up to the minute news at:-

<http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/bryntirionajfc/>

**Vic Carpenter.**

**Director**