

## CAERLEON FOOTBALL CLUB FIRST TEAM PLAYER'S PROFILES 2011-12

**Kieran Blackburn** (G/K) – Although still young in terms of a goalkeeper, Kieran has loads of experience under belt with Newport County and several Welsh Premier and Welsh League sides. A great shot stopper and a good organiser, ideal attributes for any keeper.

**Lewis Andrews** (Def) – One of the longest serving players currently at the club. Having been here for the past 12 seasons, Lewis is very much a senior member of the squad. He is strong in the air and quick on the ground.

**Jamie Hillier** (Def) – “The Wasp” has suffered a few injury scares over the past few seasons but always bounces back and forces his way into the side. Can play at left back or wing back and has even popped up in the opposition penalty area on times! At 38 Jamie is also classed as a senior member of the squad these days!

**Kanisorn Janrungsri** (Def) – “Joe” forced his way into the 1st team from the reserves last season. Equally at home at right or left back

**Leighton Burrows** (Def) – “Buzz” has rejoined us following a few seasons away. A big, strong, vocal defender who has gained a lot of experience for a young lad.

**Ben Davies** (Mid) – Ben is now in his second season following a year away in Australia. Ben has two feet and can run a game with his pinpoint passing and dominance in the air. A great addition to the squad

**Daniel Heath** (Def) – A towering central defender who as you would expect, dominates in the air but is also light footed and skilful

**Luke Harris** (Def) – Luke is another product of the youth side and has all the attributes of a good centre half. He’s big, strong and good in the air. Looked comfortable in pre season and is definitely one for the future

**Gareth Lynch** (Def) – Signed from Newport YMCA, Gareth is a good old fashioned no nonsense defender with vast experience at this level.

**Wayne Jepson** (Mid) – Wayne joined from Cwmbran Town a few seasons ago and has emerged as the unsung hero in midfield. Has also done a job at centre back when required. Jepps has the

ability to “Just get on with it”, breaking up opposition play and playing the easy ball to set things up.

**Andrew Cooke** (Mid) – Player of the year last year in his first season with the club since moving from local side Rogerstone. Andrew is the “Dogger” in midfield and has a great engine. Just likes to win the ball and set things up for his teammates.

**Luke Palmer** (Mid) – Last seasons players player of the year. Signed from Llanwern, Luke has bags of natural ability and just plays with an air of confidence. Pinpoint passing and a good engine, he also likes to get forward and has an eye for goal.

**Chris Bickerton** (Mid) – “Bicks” has signed from local side Spencer Boys and has been outstanding in pre season scoring 5 in 3 games. He is strong and has two great feet and is undoubtedly going to be a success at this level.

**Mike Williams** (Mid) – Mike has decided to start playing again after a year off and judging by his pre season performances has regained his appetite for the game.

**Denes Zatyko** (Mid) – Denes stepped up from the reserves last season and surprised everyone at how easily he fitted in. A great engine and an eye for goal

**Mark Gunter** (Str) – Now in his second season, Mark joined the club from local side Newport Civil Service. He is a proven goal scorer at Welsh League level and is a valuable asset to the side

**Jamie Davies** (Str) – Jamie is a product of the Newport County Academy from last season. He also had the honour of representing Wales at U18 schoolboy level last season. Still only 18, Jamie has proved in pre season that he’s ready to step up

**Shaun Pearce** (Str) – A strong good all round player, if he can avoid injury Shaun will make an impact this season. Has the ability to play in several positions and has a thunderbolt in both feet!

**Nicky Vassallo** (Str) – Vass has been dogged with injury over the past few seasons but has now hopefully turned the corner with some strong performances in pre season. Has tremendous pace and enthusiasm for the game along with an eye for goal.

**Liam Head** (Str) – Liam is another youngster from the youth team. Played several 1st team games last year and has shown in pre season he is ready to move up.

**Darren Berry** (Mid) - Darren, an acquisition from local league side Whiteheads is another youngster in Rello's squad. Darren can play anywhere on the left and has bags of skill.

**Lee Relish** (Manager) – Lee is now in his second full season as Manager. A former player at the club and manager at Cinderford Town. Lee brings with him tremendous coaching abilities and has the respect of everyone at the club.

**Dave Griffiths** (Asst Manager) – Dave has a wealth of experience of Welsh League football. Previous clubs include Cwmbran Town, Newtown, Caersws and Rhayader.

**Todd Quarterly** (Coach) – Todd has also stepped up with Rello and is a stalwart within the club. A no nonsense defender with the right attitude and commitment which will hopefully rub off on the youngsters on and off the field.

**Brendan Dowd** (Physio) – Brendan, at 55 is now a stalwart at the club. Having been a player, Manager, Programme seller and now Physio, he knows the club inside out!

## **HISTORY OF CAERLEON AFC**

Formed in 1893, The Club won many Trophies in the old Monmouthshire Senior League, before they were admitted to the Welsh League in season 1965-66. In their first season they were crowned Division 2 champions and also won the Welsh Amateur Cup, beating Welshpool in the final at Llanidloes. Success came again the following year when Caerleon became Division 1 champions in 1967-68. They were subsequently promoted to Premier Division in the 1968-69 Season where they remained until relegated in 1977. Relegation didn't however last long and Caerleon were promoted again to the top division after the 1978-80 season when they were runners-up in the league. They became a Member of the newly formed Welsh National Division in 1982.

Runners up of the National Division 1983-84, Caerleon retained their place in the top division until relegation came after the 1988-89 season. The Club reached its lowest point when further relegations in 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons left them in the Welsh League Division 3. Having been Champions of Welsh League Division 3 in 1998-99, fortunes turned with back-to-back promotions resulting in promotion back to Division 1, finishing in third place in 1999-2000. Caerleon were at last back on top in the Welsh Football League Division 1. An unlikely success also came in the 1999-00 Welsh Cup when Caerleon reached the quarterfinal, losing 4-1 at home to Bangor City. In 2007 the Reserves won the Harris Printers Shield against Bryntirion Athletic 2-1 at Taffs Well.

Caerleon remained in the top flight until 2009-10 when a bottom of the table finish saw them relegated to Division 2.

Lee Relish was appointed Manager late in the 2009-10 season and his priority now is to get the club back where it rightfully belongs, the Welsh League 1st Division.