

CWMBRAN CELTIC PEN PICTURES 2011/12

Gareth Morgan: 1st team manager. A young man who already has a wealth of experience in the Welsh League: manager at Taffs Well Youth (National League champions U17), assistant manager at Dinas Powys (2nd Division runners-up), 1st team coach at Aberaman (1st Division champions), manager at Croesyceiliog (League Cup winners).

Della Cheedy: 1st team coach. Formerly a player of great distinction as a trainee at Cardiff City & Exeter City and then Blaenavon & Croesyceiliog, Della became assistant coach at Cwmbran Town in the Tony Wilcox era, and managed Blaenavon, Tredegar Town & Risca United before joining Celtic midway through the 2005/6 season. "Diego" is the manager of the Fairwater High School Football Academy & he holds a FAW "A" coaching licence. Della's son Craig is 1st team captain & his daughter Sian is a Welsh league international & semi-professional player.

Mike Baugh: 1st team physio: 'Baughy' was a skilful left winger who played for Newport County at youth level, then joined Cwmbran Town before playing for many years for Celtic. He ran junior sides through to U16s and is now the U19 manager. He holds a FAW C coaching licence and is the Celtic Park ground manager. A first-class clubman in every respect.

Nicky Church: goalkeeper, aged 25. Ex-Academy with Cwmbran Town, Nicky has established himself as one of the best keepers in the league. A great shot stopper, he has played higher level football at Newport County, Cwmbran Town & Cinderford Town and Welsh League for Caerleon & Llanwern. Also had trials at Hereford & New Saints. He is in his 3rd spell at the club, having started as an ever present (37 games) in the 3rd Division championship team of 2006/7.

Lewis Watkins: goalkeeper, aged 19. Joined Celtic last season from Newport County Youth and made 2 appearances for the 1st team at Caldicot & Aberaman keeping a clean sheet in both games.

Lee Challenger: right back/occasional midfielder, aged 23. "Charlie" played junior football at Blaenavon before joining the Academy. A versatile 100% player, he made his debut for the 1st team in 2007/8 and other than having a season away in 2009/10 has since been a regular squad member.

Liam Palmer: right back, aged 22. Another Academy product, Liam is an attacking full-back with a prodigious long throw. He made his debut in 2007/8 and has had spells at Dinas Powys and Aberaman.

Lloyd Davies: centre back, aged 22. Played junior football at Griffithstown before joining the Academy. A solid, no-nonsense defender, strong in the air and in the tackle, Lloyd was captain of Celtic's U19 championship side who narrowly lost to Cardiff City on penalties in the 2007/8 Welsh Youth Cup semi-final. Lloyd made his 1st team debut in the 3rd Division championship side in 2006/7 and has been a fixture ever since. He is likely to miss the whole season with a serious cartilage injury.

Ben Luck: centre back, aged 21. Another Academy product, Ben is a dominant and consistent performer at the back. A good talker, he always leads by example and was captain for much of last season. Had a brief spell at Aberaman before returning in 2010/11.

Stefan Marchant: centre back, aged 19. Yet another ex-Academy player, Stefan was captain of last season's U19 championship winning side. Made his 1st team debut in 2009/10. He had a memorable game alongside manager Ben Graham in the 2-0 win away to Cambrian & Clydach last season. He will fill the void left by Lloyd Davies's long-term injury.

Ryan Timms: centre back, aged 20. Joined us this season from English side Worthing. Formerly with Sussex sides Southwick, Lewes and Horsham YMCA. As a very promising youth player, Ryan had trials with Bournemouth and Southend. He captained Lewes Youth team to the 3rd round of the FA Youth Cup in 2008/9 and later made his Blue Square Premier debut for the senior side.

Richard Crees: left back, aged 25. "Billy" joined last season from Tredegar Town. He is an attacking full-back, quick and comfortable on the ball. Very popular throughout the club, he was the supporter's player of the year last season. Formerly with Cardiff City (U16), Llanhilleth, Abertillery Bluebirds.

Michael Hiles: right back, aged 19. Another ex-Academy player, Michael can play anywhere across the back and is comfortable on the ball. He made his debut in our 2nd division promotion season 2009/10.

Luke Jones: left back, aged 18. A current Academy player and captain of the U19s, Luke is a solid no-nonsense defender with a powerful left foot. Takes dead ball free kicks and penalties. Having played for Celtic at junior and youth level, Luke made his 1st team debut at the end of last season and has been a regular in the squad this season.

Tom James: centre back, aged 19. Ex-Academy, Tom has forced his way into the 1st team squad with some fine pre-season performances. Made his 1st team debut this season v Cwmaman Institute.

Michael Baugh: right back/occasional midfield, aged 17. A current Academy player, son of physio Mike, "Spike" made his 1st team debut at the end of last season aged 16. A football fanatic who has trained with the 1st team since he was 12, we have great hopes that Michael will have a long and successful career with the club.

Rakesh Patel: right midfield, aged 22. "Kesh" plays wide on the right. An ex-Academy player, he broke into the side in 2007/8 and has been a regular ever since. He has the ability to glide past players and delivers a great ball into the box. Last season he started to find the net finishing with 6 goals. Kesh has a great self-effacing personality and he was clubman of the year last season.

Craig Cheedy: centre midfield, aged 25. Another ex-Academy player, strong with bags of stamina, Craig holds the club record of most Welsh League & Cup appearances (176) having been a regular member of the team since they joined the Welsh League in 2005/6. Craig previously played for Llanelli, Cwmbran Town & Croesyceiliog. He took over the captain's armband in the 2nd half of last season and by his tremendous on-field example inspired the team to pull out of the relegation zone. His reward was the nomination of club player of the year.

Luke Sallis: centre midfield, aged 22. Luke made his 1st team debut in 2005/6 whilst still in the Academy, and he established himself as a regular two seasons later. He has loads of energy, a superb work-rate and has the knack of arriving late in the box unmarked to score goals both with his feet and his head.

Owen Cook: centre midfield, aged 19. Owen has just left the Academy. An all-action player, strong in the tackle and with a good engine, Owen made his 1st team debut in 2009/10 and is now pressing for a regular squad position.

Dominic Broad: midfield, aged 24. Dominic joined us this season from Croesyceiliog. Was a schoolboy on Leicester City's books and had trial with West Bromwich Albion. Played 1 match in Welsh Premier League with Grange Quins, moving on to Taffs Well, Cardiff Corries, Cwmbran Town and Ton Pentre.

Dominic Connor: left defender/midfield, aged 25. A Chepstow lad, formerly with Chepstow Town and a new signing from Caldicot Town. A strong player with a good attitude who likes to get forward to support the attack.

Shane Williamson: centre forward, aged 30. "Ginger" came through the club's junior ranks and forced his way into the Gwent County 1st team aged just 16. He is the club's current longest serving player & leading goalscorer (96 goals in Welsh League & cup). In the club's County league days Shane had a taste of higher grade football with Cwmbran Town, Tredegar Town & Cinderford Town.

Owen Llewellyn: striker, occasional midfield, aged 21. Owen played for Celtic at Junior level before joining the Academy. He quickly gained a 1st team place in 2007/8 as a pacey hard-working wide midfielder player but found his best position when he was pushed forward as striker in the 2nd division promotion season 2009/10 scoring 17 goals. Missed most of last season through injury but returned late on to become top scorer with 7 goals in only 13 games which kept the club in the 1st division.

Chris Pike: striker, aged 18. "Pikey" has worked his way through the Celtic junior sides into the Academy, Reserves & Youth sides. A natural goalscorer Chris was the club's Golden Boot winner in 2009/10 for his goals for the 3rd team.

Nanah Baah: striker, aged 30. Nanah has just joined Celtic. He is a powerful forward who has had packed a vast amount of experience into his career to date. Formerly with Kingstonian, Dulwich Hamlet, Egham Town, Aldershot and a trialist with Luton Town in England. He moved to Wales and has played top flight Welsh League football for UWIC, Grange Quins, Barry, Bridgend, Bryntirion, Dinas Powis, Caerau Ely, Ton Pentre as well as having a spell in Somerset at Clevedon Town.

Keiron Cook: midfield: aged 19. Ex-Newport County Academy and newly signed from Cwmaman Institute.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CWMBRAN CELTIC

Formed in 1925 Cwmbran Celtic are the town's oldest established football club. In the early years the club was known as CYMS (Catholic Young Men's Society). After the immediate success of winning the Newport & District Division 2 Section A title in 1925/6 there was then a 25 year gap before the next trophy, the Premier Division title in 1950/1. The club was re-formed in the early 1960s under the new name of Cwmbran Catholics. In 1972 with playing membership open to all denominations the club dropped the catholic title and re-named as Cwmbran Celtic. In season 1972/3 Celtic won the Gwent Amateur Cup and were runners-up in the Gwent Premier League.

In 1979 the club bought its own premises at Oak Street, Old Cwmbran which is the club's present headquarters. The club's ground was in Cwmbran Park but over the seasons the drainage deteriorated and the club sought and was granted the use of the

grounds outside Cwmbran Stadium which were shared with Cwmbran Cricket club. The cricket club later moved to Caerleon and Celtic were granted the lease.

Cwmbran Celtic played in the Gwent County League throughout the 1980s and 1990s and after gaining promotion as champions of Division 2 in 1986/7 they were comfortably placed in the 1st division for the next dozen or so seasons. However a disastrous slide found the club languishing in the 3rd division when Paul "Dishy" Richardson became manager in 1999. Richardson transformed the side bringing in experienced ex-Cwmbran Town stalwarts Mickey Copeman, Kevin Payne and Gary Sturch alongside teenage striker Shane Williamson who is still playing today. The side was later bolstered by the return of ex-professionals Ben Graham and Mark Parfitt. The side gained successive promotions from the 3rd to the 1st division between 1999 and 2001 and in season 1999/2000 they won the Gwent County league cup.

In season 2004/5 under new player-manager Mickey Copeman, the club were runners-up to Clydach Wasps. The champions of the Gwent County League are eligible to apply for membership of the Welsh Football League. Clydach applied but their ground was adjudged not to be of the required standard. As runners-up Cwmbran Celtic applied for the place. Their own ground on the field outside Cwmbran Stadium was also not up to standard but Celtic were able to share Cwmbran Stadium with Cwmbran Town and so the Welsh League accepted the club's application.

In their first season, 2005/6, Celtic struggled near the bottom of the 3rd division all season. In April 2006 Celtic travelled to Chepstow Town knowing that they had to win this game to stay in the league. They went 1-0 down. With minutes of normal time remaining substitute Jason Price equalised but a draw was not enough. In the 9th minute of time added on player manager Mickey Copeman went up for a corner. The ball was cleared off the goal-line by a Chepstow defender, it hit Copeman on the back and rebounded into the net. Celtic had achieved a last gasp win and, after winning their final match against Seven Sisters, Celtic escaped relegation on goal difference.

The following season, 2006/7, Celtic, now back at their upgraded and newly named ground, Celtic Park, were transformed. They only lost 2 games all season and enjoyed a 24 match unbeaten run. When they went to Risca Town for their last match of the season they were already promoted but they had to beat the home side if they wanted to win the Championship ahead of Llanwern. Going into the last 3 minutes of normal time Celtic were 1-0 down and playing with 10 men when Sammy Winter scored with a speculative long range shot. A draw was not enough to win the league but in the last minute a Risca clearance found full back Ben Graham outside the box. Ben volleyed the ball hopefully towards goal and struck it so perfectly that it looped over the goalkeeper's head and into the net. Celtic were champions.

In Division 2 Celtic consolidated their position in seasons 2007/8 and 2008/9 during which they introduced a number of players from their new partnership with the Fairwater High School Football Academy in Cwmbran which was managed by Celtic coach Della Cheedy. In season 2009/10 they were front runners destined to win the Championship. However they lost two key defenders who transferred to Aberaman Athletic at a crucial time and vital points were dropped. Nevertheless Celtic still finished their games in 1st place and would win the title if Penrhwiweiber failed to win at Newcastle Emlyn. The home side was 2-0 up at one stage but the visitors clawed their way back to win 3-2 and deny Celtic the championship. At the end of the

season Mickey Copeman stood down after 7 years in the role during which he secured 3 promotions for the club from the Gwent County League to the top division of the Welsh League.

In their first season in the 1st division, 2010/11 under new manager Ben Graham, Celtic struggled during the first half of the season and were firmly planted in the relegation zone but a superb run-in during which they won 7 and drew 3 of 14 games placed them safely in 12th place out of 16.

In season 2011/12 the side made a good start to the season under Alan Dibble who decided to step down in September 2011 with the team in 5th place in Division 1. In October 2011 the club appointed Gareth Morgan, a progressive character with a proven record of success with Taffs Well, Dinas Powys, Aberaman and Croesyceiliog, as the new manager.