

## **GOYTRE'S PLAYERS' PROFILES 2011-12**

### **Goalkeepers**

**Bryan Gumm** – New Recruit this season, Joins the club from Cwmbran Celtic and will be looking to push for a first team place. Good shot stopper and distribution which makes Bryan a good young prospect.

**Richie Minor** – Returns to the club after 3 seasons away. Solid goalkeeper who throws in the occasional showboat moment. Good calming presence at the back and will be looking to play his part this season.

### **Defenders**

**Dean Taylor** (Deano) – Joined the club in 2001, a stalwart at the heart of the Goytre defence. Good Strength and ability in the air - ever present for the last 3 years. Dean is excellent at reading the game and organises the backline well and chips in with the occasional goal.

**Ryan Howells** – In his 4<sup>th</sup> Year at the club Ryan is great in the air and quick. Formed a good partnership with Dean Taylor last season and will be looking to create a solid partnership again this term.

**Kristian Wharton** – Kristian operates as a holding midfielder or centre back and provides a great defensive screen breaking up opposition attacks and allowing our forward players to move forward. Strong in the tackle and comfortable on the ball.

**Michael Pritchard** – Pritch is a new recruit this season and has been playing football for Swansea University for the last 3 years. Pritch has a great left foot and is comfortable going forward.

**Dan Evans** – Dan joins the side from Tredegar and can play either in midfield or at right back. Comfortable on the ball and loves the competitive side of the game.

**Scott Askew** (Biff) – Scott returns this season after a season away at Pontypool Town. Loves being in the thick of the action and enjoys the physical side of the game. Good character in the dressing room even at his age.

**Simon Ritter** – In his 7<sup>th</sup> Season at the club, Simon is a good solid full back who likes to get forward when possible. Comfortable on the ball and has a good turn of pace.

### **Midfielders**

**Carl Evans** (Evo) – In his 4th season with the club, Carl's experience and drive will be crucial if we are to achieve anything this season. A strong and dogged midfielder, with a good football brain, passing skills and provides valuable protection for the defence. Carl steps up this year as Player/Manager and will be looking to push the club forward towards promotion.

**Anthony Richards** (Junior) – Junior returns to the club after a year playing in the Gwent County. Junior has a great engine and is good in the air. Good long throw which offers a different threat to the opposition. Junior will also be looking to get amongst the scorers this season.

**Darren Webb** (Milky) – Darren is a combative central midfielder who has a good engine. Comfortable on the ball and can deliver a good set piece. Young player who will be looking to feature more this season.

**Paul Williams** – Paul joins the squad after a good season last year with the 2nds and a strong pre-season. Paul is able to dominate the central midfield area and offers great strength and drive. Very combative and loves a challenge.

**Aaron Palfry** – In his second season at the club. Very skilful and quick with a great left foot. Plays on the left wing and likes running at the opposition and can deliver a telling cross from the wide areas. Another player who offers a goal threat this season.

**Corey Jenkins** - Corey joins the side from Fleur De Lys and is a right winger who has great pace and is very skilful. Great on the ball and can go a player with ease. Will be looking to get amongst the goals this season after finishing as one of the top scorers in the league last year.

**Rhys Williams** (Pablo) – Rhys joins the squad from Gilwern after previously being a Goytre U18 player. Rhys is a dangerous wide player who can easily beat a player and deliver a telling cross. Another young player who will be looking to feature heavily this season.

## **Forwards**

**Matthew Prosser** – In his 2<sup>nd</sup> season after joining from Caersws. Matthew has great strength and hold up play which brings other players into the attacks. Also very strong in the air and good on the ball, Matt provides a serious goal threat and will be a serious contender for the Golden Boot this term.

**Graham Mason** (Trigger) - Graham is a very skilful player who can turn most defences inside out and has been one of our main attacking weapon in the last couple of seasons, Graham is a win you the game type player and will be looking to getting back to top form after missing much of last season through injury.

**Lewis Clare** – In his 3<sup>rd</sup> Season after joining us from Croesyceiliog. Lewis is a gifted young player and offers excellent pace along with a great attacking option. Comfortable with both feet Lewis can also play on either wing and will be another looking to finish as top scorer this season.

**Gareth Edmunds** (Eddie) – Gareth offers extra strength up front and is very direct. A good striker of the ball Gareth is dangerous inside and outside of the box. Gareth comes into the squad after finishing as the 2<sup>nd</sup> team's leading scorer last term.

## **GOYTRE HISTORY**

The club can trace its history back as far as 1902 when Goytre AFC played their football at Goytre Hall. More recently the club played on a series of fields loaned by local farmers, changing in private garages and then having to drive to the pitch, up until the late 80s when the club acquired its present ground through the actions of the trustees in taking out bank loans to purchase the ground, which was then developed with the aid of grants from the Football Trust and Monmouth County Council.

The club originally played in the Gwent Central League and eventually gained promotion to the Gwent County League in 1998, winning promotion to division two in its first season. It spent three seasons in division two before winning that division and progressing through division one, finishing as runners-up to Aberbargoed but gaining promotion to the Welsh League when Aberbargoed were unable to find a suitable ground.

In our first season in Welsh League, the club consolidated their place in the division, finishing in a creditable 7th position; we have since established ourselves in the league and developed the facilities at Plough Road to incorporate a new clubhouse and bar. The Plough Road pitch offers an excellent playing surface which has recently hosted several Welsh Football events.

Last season saw the arrival of Sean Wharton and Steve Gray as the new management team to the Welsh League side offering a different level of coaching and professionalism than the club has experienced before. This was further enhanced by Sean and Steve being joined by former Wales International and Premier League footballer Nathan Blake.

In the most successful season to date we finished the season as League Cup winners and narrowly missed out on promotion where on the final day of the season we were denied promotion on goal difference.

This season sees veteran Midfielder Carl Evans step up as player manager following the departure of last season's management team. Carl will be assisted by Paul Brown as we look to push once again for automatic promotion. Carl's experience will be crucial as we introduce several young talented players into the side this year that we have high hopes for.