

HAVERFORDWEST COUNTY'S PLAYERS' PROFILES

Peter Blain (4-8-82). Signed in January from Bryntirion following a work transfer to Pembrokeshire. A Haverfordwest boy who played for the Academy and in the Welsh Premier for the Blues prior to going to College. Member of Bryntirion's last season's Championship side and a regular this season.

James Manson (13/12/89) A product of County's youth system, James made his WPL debut last season and won a man of the match award in his first game.

Martin Langdon (16/10/85) Martin has a wealth of experience in the Pembrokeshire League. He was signed from Herbrandston in the summer. As well as being a fine shot stopper he has a very keen footballing brain.

Gareth Elliott (8/6/83) Gareth is a long serving Bluebird with over one hundred appearances for the club in the WPL. He has also played for Merthyr and Barry. A solid and uncompromising defender who has made his presence felt both on and off the field.

Phil Cattlin (21/8/81) Played for Haverfordwest in 2002/3 after joining from local side Milford United, returning to Pembrokeshire League football, but back at New Bridge Meadow in 2004/5, the season in which he scored an S4C Goal of the Month. Moved to join former manager Deryn Brace at Carmarthen in January 2008, but left the following August to join local outfit Tenby. Rejoined County in 2011.

David Evans (17-9-86) Carmarthenshire based player who has experience with Charlton Athletic both on the YTS and as a professional. A confident, left back who is also happy when attacking. Dave is returning to football after a three year break.

Kristian Griffiths (24/01/87) A versatile defender who joined the club in 2009, making his debut in County's 2-1 away win against Rhyl. Was seen as a squad player during last season but made an impact towards the end, and is set to play a major role in the coming season.

Ricky Watts (07-11-91) A product of the County youth system who made his debut in the 2009-10 season as a 17 year old. A tremendous athlete and a player with an exciting future. He gained a Welsh Cap for the Under-18 schools in January 2010.

Richard Lewis (5-8-84) Signed from Ammanford where he was the top scorer for the last two seasons. An exciting, and talented left winger whose pace and crossing ability will cause a lot of defences problems this season.

Nicky Woodrow (25-4-86) Came through the Haverfordwest reserves and also played for Pembrokeshire League outfits Milford United and Herbrandston. Spent five seasons in the Welsh Premier with County scoring 23 goals in 46 starts, but was left in the summer of 2010. He returned in 2011 after winning a Pembrokeshire League double with Hakin.

Anthony Owens (27-3-90) A strong running winger who has been top scorer for Newcastle Emlyn for the past two seasons. His pace and attacking awareness have all ready been seen in preseason. Although he is usually a winger, is also able to play in the centre of attack.

Jay Brockway (29/08/91) A bustling centre forward who was previously with Goodwick and Merlin's Bridge whose physical presence and footballing skill will be a handful for many defences this season. Has shown promise in the preseason to earn a place in the squad and he is looking to develop his game.

Dale Griffiths. A domineering central defender who was on fringes of Swansea City squad before joining Merthyr. Played Welsh League for Pontardawe and WPL for Llanelli and Carmarthen Town. Signed for County in September 2011.

Darren Griffiths. Brother of Dale. A bushy front man who has played with Llanelli and Carmarthen Town in the WPL and Pontardawe, Goytre United and West End in Welsh League. Left Carmarthen in February 2011 to play for Moreland City in Australia. Signed for the Blues in November 2011.

Declan John. Midfielder who signed for the Blues in October 2011 from WPL Afan Lido. Wales U18 international when with Llanelli who also played on loan at Pontardawe. Has great potential.

Owen Thomas. Energetic midfielder in his second spell at the Bridge Meadow Stadium playing 2008-9 season in the WPL, returning in October 2011 from Newcastle Emlyn. As a youth won four Wales Schoolboy caps and also played for Swansea City and Carmarthen Town.

Chris O'Sullivan (16-2-83) Fishguard born Chris returned to Blues from hometown club, Goodwick United. Former Swansea City youngster who has played in the WPL for Aberystwyth Town as well as the Bluebirds. Former Welsh ABA Boxing Champion.

Declan Carroll (4-7-93) Tenby youngster, product of Blues Youth Academy who has played at Carmarthen Town. Exciting prospect.

Mickey Ellis In his first season as manager, but has been appointed Caretaker manager on several occasions. He has been involved with the club for over 30 years both as a player and a coach. A holder of a UEFA 'A' licence he was previously responsible for the fitness of the players before taking over the reins at the end of last season.

Wayne Jones A quality left side player who made 295 WPL appearances for County and Carmarthen Town. Was manager of Newcastle Emlyn before joining the County coaching staff last season under Derek Brazil. Recently gained his 'B' licence, and his enthusiasm for the game is unrivalled.

HAVERFORDWEST COUNTY CLUB HISTORY

Haverfordwest Football Club was formed on 7th December 1899 and subsequently became Haverfordwest Town. The early fixtures were friendlies until the Club joined the Pembrokeshire League before the First World War. The Club competes in the Pembrokeshire League to this day.

The First Team moved up to the Welsh Football League in 1936 and became known as Haverfordwest Athletic. The Bluebirds were usually in the top flight of the League, but were relegated to the Second Division in 1954. They returned as Champions and stormed to the First Division title in 1956. During that triumphant season the Bluebirds held Cardiff City's First Division outfit with Gerry Hitchens, Alan Harrigton, Ron Stiffall, Colin Baker and Danny Molloy et al to a Welsh Cup 3-3 draw at the old Bridge Meadow in front of over 3,000 on a wet Thursday afternoon. The Blues were led by the legendary former Welsh international and City stalwart, Stan Richards through these famous times.

The Club in this period became Haverfordwest County as the town holds "county" status by ancient charter.

In 1960-1 the Blues won the League Cup, were runners up in the League in 1969-70 and 1970-71, but were relegated in 1975-76. Promotion was won after three seasons followed by the League Championship in 1980-81 losing only five games and also winning the WWFA Senior Cup for the first time, the first of six wins to date.

In 1983 the League was restructured into a National Division; only one season in the eight of that system did the Blues finish below sixth including winning the Championship in 1989-90. The Blues also won the League Cup in 1988-89 and were invited to be founder members of the Welsh Premier League in 1992-93.

After two seasons in the WPL, Safeway Supermarkets Limited purchased the old Bridge Meadow and part of that deal was the development of a purpose designed stadium behind the old site. The Club had to forfeit its WPL status while this took place and played in the Welsh League for three seasons, twice as Runners Up before returning to the WPL as Champions in 1996-97.

For the next few seasons the Club never arose above 10th place and escaped relegation on one occasion by no clubs being available to replace them.

The Club then appointed local boy and ex Wrexham favourite Deryn Brace as Player Manager. The Blues had a difficult start and were in the relegation places by mid season. The run-in saw 8 out of 10 matches ending in victory and the same squad finished third in the WPL in 2003-4 and qualification for the then UEFA Cup. County drew Icelandic opponents and lost 4-1 on aggregate. The Bluebirds then finished fourth the next season and reached the semi final of the Welsh Cup.

During the 2006-7 season Deryn left the Club and was replaced by ex Manchester United and Cardiff player, Derek Brazil. The team were comfortable in mid table and survived the "cut" when the WPL was reduced to 12 members. However the Bluebirds finished bottom of the inaugural Super 12 WPL.

Derek Brazil has been replaced by Bluebirds stalwart Micky Ellis, former player here and at Pembroke Borough, current Academy Director and First Team Coach for the last 10 seasons. Micky has held a UEFA "A" Licence for 17 years. His Assistant is the former Newcastle Emlyn manager, Wayne Jones, who played for five seasons here and also for his home town club, Carmarthen Town.

The Conygar Bridge Meadow has been developed into an international venue with Women's World Cup matches against Germany, Belgium and Belarus, and a number of Under 19 and 17 Wales matches. A crowd of 2,400 saw the Blues entertain English League Wrexham in 2004 in the Premier Cup, and over 2,000 at last season's Schools Victory International against England. In August 2011 an Under 21 international against Hungary was staged.