

MONMOUTH TOWN PLAYERS' PROFILES 2011-12

Tom Pass. Goalkeeper. Age 20 Tom joined the Kingfishers this summer after spells with Frome and Forest Green Rovers. A former England under 18 international, Tom still has ambitions to make the grade at a higher level and will hope that a successful spell in goal with the Town will aid him in his progress. A superb shot stopper but equally comfortable with his feet.

Lee Williams. Goalkeeper. Age 25 Lee has worn the number one shirt for the past few seasons and will relish the competition for the shirt after the new keeper's arrival. Look confident in pre-season before suffering a broken leg in a friendly just a fortnight before the season started. Should return before Christmas and make a claim for the jersey.

Dean Palmer. Full Back. Age 20 Dean has matured in recent seasons after making appearances for the Town in a number of different positions. Capable of producing deadly set pieces with either foot and keen to get forward from his full back position. Still only young but getting better each season.

Dan Spence. Defender. Age 21 Dan can play either full back or centre half and has returned to action after suffering a broken ankle in December of 2009. Despite his young age, Dan reads a game incredibly well and is confident of playing his way out of trouble. Currently a student at the University of Glamorgan studying Sports Science.

Ross Kennedy. Defender. Age 31. Ross is now the oldest member of the side and his experience and determination are influential on the rest of the squad. Ross is another centre half who is happy with the ball at his feet and looks to play the game the right way.

Aaron Davies. Defender. Age 29. PE teacher Aaron is another defender capable of playing anywhere along the back line. After years of playing as an attacking midfielder, he has consistently produced high quality displays for the past four seasons in his more defensive role.

Rhodri Lewis. Defender Age 22. Rhodri has been used in all positions across the back four in recent seasons but always produced consistent displays. Comfortable on the deck and good in the air, Rhodri is also used in attack with a devastating long throw.

Dan Barnard. Defender. Age 17. Dan has progressed through the youth system after a spell on Schoolboy forms with Cheltenham Town. Made his first team debut last season and certainly didn't disappoint with mature and solid performances. Will certainly push for more starts this time out.

James Hughes. Midfield. Age 24. James returned to the club last year after a spell playing the oval ball game. Played a huge part in the Kingfishers title winning campaign and has returned this summer with even more determination. Strong, fit and skill to match, James will play another important role this year and have a big say on where the Town finish.

Jack Alderdice. Midfield. Age 24. Jack skippered the title winning team last year and has been influential for the past five seasons. Jack can run all day and dominate play from the centre of the field. Often referred to the heart beat of the team, when Jack plays well, the Kingfishers play well.

Andy Smith. Midfield. Age 31 Former Welsh Under 18 international who returned to his home club after spells with Newport County, Weston Super Mare and Clevedon Town. Andy managed the side from the Gwent Third division into the Welsh League. Will now have to fight for a place in the side, but another who will relish the competition.

Dan Macdonald. Forward. Age 23 Former England Under 18 international and Aston Villa professional, Dan signed for the Town after a spell at Rockfield Rovers. Dan has settled in well immediately and produced some electric displays in pre-season. Will add even more sparks to an already productive front line.

Sam Palmer. Forward. Age 24 Capable of playing on either flank, Sam has a bag of tricks and is happiest when one on one with a full back. A creator of many goals last season but also chipped in with

some vital goals of his own. Looking stronger as each season progresses.

Matthew Bowen. Forward. Age 24 Top scorer for the past six seasons, Matthew is a tireless front runner who excels at holding the ball up and bring others into play. A chaser of lost causes and good in the air. Matthew never allows any centre half to settle and will look to hit the 30 goal mark again this season.

Ashley Ford. Forward. Age 20 Last year's young player of the year, Ashley is composed on the ball and eager to find pockets of space and hurt defences. A scorer of plenty of goals and now maturing into an all round attacking footballer.

Elliott Ford. Forward. Age 23 Winner of player of the year in last year's title winning side. Electric pace and attitude to match, Elliott will give any left back a torrid time and look to be as direct as possible. Proved to be the difference last year with his goal tally and assists in a season that saw the Kingfishers net 97 times.

Craig Lewis. Forward. Age 25 Craig has been frustrated in recent seasons with spells on the bench but has never disappointed when asked upon and sometimes been unlucky not to have kept his place. Has certainly developed as a centre forward in recent years and will look to put even more pressure on the established front line this term.

SOME HISTORY OF MONMOUTH TOWN FC – THE KINGFISHERS

For history buffs Monmouth is the birthplace of Henry V, was home of Charles Rolls (of Rolls Royce fame) and witnessed the trial of the Chartists in 1840. Indeed, whereas the rest of the South Wales valleys seemed to be strong supporters of the Chartist movement it is rumoured Monmouth's upper classes even volunteered to carry out the execution of the now revered John Frost and his co collaborators.

On the football side there is evidence to suggest that an 'association club' was playing in all white at Dixton Road in the town in the year 1906. The Monmouth Beacon of 14th December recalls this and adds a comment about a period when football had been extinct in Monmouth which suggests earlier round ball shenanigans. Indeed research shows that Monmouth played Victoria and the Grammar school in the 1905/06

season and were joint champions of the Monmouth and District League in 1925/26 with Clearwell FC. The next honour recorded by the Town was victory on the Monmouthshire Senior cup on the eve of war in 1940, defeating Lovell's Athletic, (aka the Toffeemen) then about to lift the Southern League West title, 3-2 at Monmouth Sportsground which is still home today.

Nearly 20 years later, in 1958, the Town lifted the Monmouthshire Amateur cup beating Cefn Fforest 3 – 0 at Pontllanfraith. The following season saw victories in both the Monmouthshire senior and Monmouth Amateur cups. Silverware has been scarce since with wins in the Gwent amateur cup in 1984 and 1996 being highlights of many years gracing the fields of Newport and the Gwent Leagues with an occasional foray into the English Forest of Dean and Herefordshire leagues.

Playing in the bottom tier of the Gwent County as recently as 2005 the returning Andrew Smith took up the reins and gained promotion in his first season in charge finishing runners up to Rogerstone. Town clinched the Gwent County Division Two title ahead of Newport Civil Service in 2005/06 and were pipped by Civil for the Division One title in 2006/07. However, the Kingfishers were offered the chance to take the step into the Welsh league for the first time in their history and last season won the Division Three title at the fourth time of asking.

THE KINGFISHER LEGEND

Some local folklore has it that in about 1936 there were extremely bad spring floods on the Monnow and Wye which effectively wiped out all of the Kingfisher nests along the rivers. Until then Monmouth had been a magnet for ornithologists from all over the country to see Britain's most beautiful bird in all its glory. Official government sources from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Timber recorded their alarm at the plight of the Kingfisher population and a detailed study was carried out to assess the damage. Amazingly the only surviving pair of breeding Kingfishers were found nesting in a deflated football that had floated down the Monnow into the Wye and lodged itself with its laces in some branches overlooking the river. It was in the days before the Magic Marker so it could not be proven that the ball had been lost in a game at the Town's sportsground but it was deemed the obvious cause. And so... one loose shot saved the entire Kingfisher population of the Wye and Monnow rivers.