

NEWPORT CIVIL SERVICE – PLAYERS’ PROFILES 2011-12

Chris Jones: Chris is an excellent keeper and has served the club for many of years; he has good safe hands and has an exceptional kick with both feet. Chris represented Wales in the UEFA Regions Cup a few years ago and is a vital part of our team.

Gavin Lee: Gavin is a big unit who commands his box and is a great shot stopper. He played numerous games last season and will again be pushing for a regular first team place this season.

Alex Sargeant: Alex is a good solid keeper and a good understudy. Hopefully he can challenge for a regular 1st team squad place this season.

Steve Muir: Steve has been club captain for the last 5 years during a quite successful period for our club; his never say die attitude is his main strength.

Matthew Smith: Joins us this season from Llanwern AFC who Matty has played many seasons for. His experience and knowledge will no doubt be a great asset for us and has settled in quickly and has had a solid pre-season.

Gareth Wysome: Last season’s Player of the Year, Wysome is an excellent defender who is equally at home at centre back or left back. He is very rarely beaten in the air or on the ground and when he is missing from the squad we notice the difference as we did last year. Another player we hope stays free from injury.

Jamie Bailey: Jamie is a quality Central Defender who has all the ammunition required. A strong no messing around player who leads by example both on and off the field. 100% committed and was outstanding last season for the team

Ryan Howells: Ryan was last season’s Player’s Player of the Year. He can play in a few positions and scored arguably the goal of the season!

Gareth Bennett: An all-round excellent defender and any striker in the league will hate to play against him. He is strong, good the air and not too bad with his feet. Although is big toe does most of the work! He is known to pop up with the odd hat-trick!

Darren Woodcock: Darren has a lovely left foot, is a good header of the ball and as a good range of passing. He is an asset to the team whenever he plays.

Lee Palmer: Lee is another player who has served us well over time, dominant centre half who rarely makes a mistake, he loves to play the 50 yard killer ball but it only works 1 time out of 50! Lee also represented Wales in the UEFA Regions Cup a few years ago.

Gareth Cleverly: Clev as we call him is the joker of the pack. He has been with the club for many of years and is the midfield general. He just needs to learn to sit and pick things up instead of trying to do all the midfielder’s jobs.

Ben Burrows: Ben is joint player/manager and is vital to the club. He is a class player and now prefers to take things easier at the back rather than the all action of midfield. Niggling injuries have restricted his appearances over the last couple of seasons but hopefully this season will be different. Has played for football league clubs as well as Welsh League and been capped by Wales at junior, youth and has represented Wales in the UEFA Regions Cup.

Ian Burman: Ian is also joint player/manager. He likes to be known as the ‘Brains of the Operation’! His experience will be vital. Ian has played for too many clubs to mention but has also previously been assistant manager at Welsh League rivals Llanwern.

Lee Morgan: Lee has re-signed for the club this season having played local football for a couple of seasons. Lee is a strong committed midfielder who should prove to be a good addition to the squad having had a good pre-season with us.

Joseph Knorz: A pacey winger who has played previously for Newport YMCA another new signing for the coming season and will hopefully be pushing for a regular place in the squad.

Ryan Culverwell: Ryan has been with us a few years now and has loads of energy. He works hard for the team and can play in numerous positions. Ryan is a very valuable member of our squad.

James Thompson: Thommo is a hardworking, creative and skillful player who can change any game. Chips in with the odd goal and was a huge miss for the 2nd half of last season which he missed through injury.

Mattie Lawrence: Mattie is a striker who has consistently found the net over the last couple of seasons since re-joining us. Pacey, skillful and with an eye to goal he is a handful for any defence.

Dylan Morgan: Dylan returns to Newport having just finished University in Swansea where he played for South Gower last season. An exciting youngster who has already showed that he has the potential to be a class act. An energetic midfielder who can score goals and is already looking to be good signing for the season ahead.

Nicky Cadman: Cadman has been with the club for a few seasons now and is an excellent player with bags and bags of energy. He pops up with a few goals and drives the side forward. We hope he has an injury free season to push us on.

Matthew Palmer: Matthew is another player who has been with the club for years. He has a good touch, good vision and can pop up with the odd goal here or there. He has represented Wales in the UEFA Regions Cup

David Mellon: Mellon was our top scorer last season in his 1st full season. Excellent pace, good finisher and could make all the difference in where we finish this season.

Phil Tranter: A vastly experienced striker having previously played for Newport YMCA and Monmouth Town. His goals tally each season speaks for itself and we hope that continues for us this year. A great addition to the squad and to have another goalscorer on board.

Daniel Bailey: Dan is a very versatile player having played Striker Midfield and even in goals which could be his best position! A consistent player who is strong awkward and skillful all in one!

NEWPORT CIVIL SERVICE - HISTORY

Newport Civil Service were founded in 1963 and initially worked their way through the Newport & District League system. After achieving Gwent County League status they started to make an impact at this standard in the late 1980's by winning Division 3 in season 1987/88 and Division 2 the following season. In the 1989/90 season the Civil followed up the 2 previous years successes with a 2nd place finish in the 1st Division as well as winning the Gwent Challenge Cup for the 1st time in their history. After finishing 3rd in Division 1 during season 1990/91, several years of mid-table finishes came along; the only success in

this period was winning the Gwent Amateur Cup in 1994/95. Season 1996/97 saw Newport Civil Service finish bottom of Division 1 but failing to be relegated due to Chepstow Town being promoted to the Welsh League. This warning to the Civil took an immediate effect with a 4th place finish in season 1997/98. Towards the end of the 1998/99 season, the Civil were on course for an incredible 'Treble', only for disaster to strike as they were penalised 9 league points for unknowingly fielding an ineligible player, who was suspended from the Sunday football leagues. This ended the league challenge and was followed by a loss in the final of the Gwent Amateur Cup to local rivals Newport Corinthians. The only positive for a season that promised so much was a 1-0 Gwent Challenge Cup Final triumph over another Newport Side, Pill AFC. There was another period of mid-table finishes following this until the 2001/02 season which saw the club struggling for players all season and relegation to the 2nd division followed. This shook and hurt the club but with a new management team and players they achieved a 4th place finish in their 1st season back in division 2. Consecutive 3rd place finishes followed, with promotion being so close, but eventually poor results in the last few games of each season denying the Civil. Promotion back to Division 1 was finally gained in the 2005/06 season with a runners-up position to Monmouth Town. However there was change again then with a new management team and a loss of a vast amount of players for the assault on the 1st Division. The Civil ended up winning the 1st Division but failed to gain promotion, which was a huge blow, due to the Civil Service Sports Club being taken over and developed by Playfootball.net. History came after the 2007/08 season when Newport Civil Service retained their Gwent County 1st Division title. They did this by losing just 2 games throughout the whole season, one being the very 1st game and the second in early October. After a lot of hard work by players and officials they applied for Welsh League status but were rejected and also failed an appeal before a 2nd appeal was successful and promotion granted for the 1st time in the clubs history. The inaugural season in the Welsh League was a success for the club with a more than respectable finish of 5th, although promotion was well within the club's ability. There was also a piece of silverware to celebrate as Newport Civil Service won the Gwent Senior F.A. cup in the first season of entering by beating 2nd division Cwmbran Celtic 4-3 in the Final after disposing of Newport County at the semi-final stage by of a score of 1-0. The 2009/10 season was a disappointment with Welsh league status only being secured on the final day of the season, despite an 11th place finish! Last season saw a promotion challenge being forged only for it to disappointingly end as the huge amount of games in the final few weeks of the season took their toll. This led to a 6th place finish, albeit only 6 points short of 3rd place, when a place in Division 2 had looked on the cards. Hopefully this season will see success once more and an improvement on last season's finish.