

NEWPORT YMCA'S PLAYERS' PROFILES 2011-12

Gareth Wesson – Goalkeeper Making a welcome return to the club after a couple of years absence. Gareth is strong and commanding. He is an excellent shot stopper and lists Plymouth Argyll, Newport County and Cwmbran Town amongst his former clubs.

Jack Hughes – Goalkeeper Jack is only sixteen but he has already made a name for himself with the senior squad. He suffered a serious leg injury that curtailed his game time last season but he is back fit this year.

Julian Phillips – Goalkeeper Julian has been the regular reserve team keeper for several seasons and was voted Reserve Team Players Player of the Year last season.

Mark Drew – Defender Mark is a versatile player, capable of playing anywhere along the back line or in midfield if needed. Mark reads the game well and is an important squad member.

Nicholas Medhurst – Defender 'Pickle' has been close to breaking through for a couple of seasons, he has made several first team appearances and maybe this will be his year. He is a product our youth set up

Joe Gibson – Defender A former Newport County Academy product and current captain of our under 19 team. Joe is a high energy player who always gives 100%. Joe got the chance to play for the senior side last year and grabbed it with both hands.

Craig Ford – Defender Another former Newport County Academy player. Craig can play left back or at the heart of the defence and was the only ever present last season.

Leighton Golledge – Defender Leighton signed during the summer and will provide competition at centre back. He has also played for Llanwern.

Richard Halford – Defender 'Alfie' captained the reserve side last season and was voted their Player of the Year. He is good in the air and comfortable with the ball at his feet.

Sam Davies – Defender Sam is one of our younger players but he has forced his way to the fringes of the first team and will be pressing hard for inclusion. He uses the ball well and likes to get forward at every opportunity.

Leon Spargo – Midfield A long serving player. Leon can play in a number of positions. He has a good range of passing and can hold the ball up well.

Alex Jenkins – Midfield (Captain) Alex has come up through the ranks. He likes to play a holding role but also enjoys getting forward whenever he gets a chance. He took over the captaincy in the middle of last season and has led by example.

Joe O'Brien – Midfield Strong hard working player with two good feet. Joe has a fantastic first touch and he links up well with his strikers

Martyn Phillips – Midfield Martyn is the kind of all action player every supporter loves to watch and every manager dreams of having.

Max Fessey – Midfield Has progressed from our youth set up to the first team squad despite being just 17 years of age. Max is a talented player with a big future at this club.

Daniel Edwards – Midfield Daniel is a regular member of the first team squad. He is a wide player with pace and skill to go beyond defenders. He has two great feet and an eye for goal.

Declan Flanagan – Midfield Declan is fiercely competitive and covers every blade of grass on the field. The engine room of the team he spent the summer coaching football in the USA.

John Pardue – Midfield 'Frankie' is one of the longest serving players at the club. He can play in midfield or defence and he gives the team strength and balance in the middle of the park.

Lee O'Connor – Midfield Lee has recently signed and will prove to be a good acquisition. He is a commanding midfielder that likes to get the ball down and pass.

Ben Lawrence - Midfield/Striker Ben was the surprise package of last season. He has come through the Academy sides and is now a regular and important member of the first team squad

Oliver Beckett – Striker Top scorer last season and sure to be close again this time around. Olly has pace and an eye for goal that sets him apart.

Aaron Pewtner – Striker Aaron has been hampered by niggling injuries but when fit he knows where the net is. If he stays fit he will press for a starting place in the senior side.

Aaron Stewart - Striker Aaron is another long serving player who topped the club goalscoring chart on numerous occasions over the years. He is a pacy striker with a good football brain.

Luke Young – Striker Luke is a former Newport County Academy player who is pushing for a place in the starting line up. Luke is quick and can cross a good ball he also knows the way to goal.

Aaron Cotter – Striker Returning this season after a year away. Aaron is a left sided player with the ability to go past players and create chances.

Mason Sully – Striker Mason has played youth football with our under 19 team and scored bags of goals. He will be looking for a chance to prove he can do it a senior level.

Nicky Potts – Striker Nick is a bustling centre forward who signed during the summer after a period out of the game. Former clubs include Newport Civil Service.

Our Management Team

Director of Football: Mark Coldrick

Mark is our now our Director of Football after spending several successful seasons in charge of the side leading them to two promotions and Welsh Cup semi and quarter final appearances. He supports Simon on matchdays

Manager: Simon Pratt

Former player at the club before leaving to coach with Newport County. Simon is familiar with the Welsh League scene and took over in October 2010.

Assistant: Craig James

Craig is a former 1st team captain and more recently 2nd team manager. Craig is currently mixing playing with supporting the manager. He is a strong tackling centre back and his close link with the current crop of players is a great help to the manager.

HISTORY OF NEWPORT YMCA FOOTBALL CLUB

Newport YMCA Football Club was formed in 1973 when the Newport Central YMCA and Newport Pill YMCA sides merged to form one club.

After many months of negotiation the two sides, usually fierce rivals on the park, merged to form the one Club, Newport YMCA.

The merger proved an instant success and cups and trophies came their way on an annual basis. In 1978 after winning the Gwent Premier League 4 times in succession they gained election to the Welsh Football League.

Over the next few years the club worked its' way up to the Premier Division, which at that time was the highest level of football in South Wales. In 1980-81 the club made it to the final of the Welsh Intermediate Cup (formerly known as the Welsh Amateur Cup and now known as the Welsh Trophy) only to lose the game 1-0 to Connah's Quay Nomads.

For one season the club were forced to play their home games at Somerton Park, home of Newport County, as uncertainty over the sale of some of the land at Mendalgief Road meant the club needed to find an alternative venue for home games. After spending the 1990–91 season at Somerton Park the YM returned to their home at Mendalgief Road as the sale of the land failed to materialise, causing building work on a new facility to be delayed.

The new building was eventually opened in 2000 and it saw an immediate improvement in the club's fortunes. In 2001 -2002 season they won the third division title and in 2004-2005 they gained promotion to division one.

After 3 seasons in the top flight the club was relegated back to division two where they remain. During their time in division one the club reached the semi-final and quarter-final of the Welsh Cup.