

## PONTYCLUN FC FIRST TEAM PLAYERS' PROFILES

### 2011-12

**Dan Bevan (Goalkeeper)** – Dan is in his 1<sup>st</sup> season at the club. An excellent keeper who has a bright future ahead of him.

**Barry Whitelam (Goalkeeper)** – Tremendous keeper who has a long history with the club and is also the RAF's number 1. Back at his rightful home.

**Mark Poole (Goalkeeper)** – An excellent keeper, who has also played in the Welsh Premier.

**Sam John (Goalkeeper)** – Sam is a talented young keeper who recently signed from Newport County.

**Phil Watson (Defender)** – Phil is one of the fittest players at the club and is a very good defender, a long-serving player.

**Thomas Mouncher (Defender)** – Tom is a recent signing from Taffs Well, joining brother Gareth. Tremendous young player who can operate in a number of positions comfortably.

**Gareth Mouncher (Defender/Midfielder)** – Gareth recently joined the club, having previously played for Newport County, Aberaman and Cwmbran Town. Possesses a lovely left foot, will be an excellent signing.

**Matthew Trigg (Defender)** – An excellent young player, developing with every game and has a bright future. Came through the ranks from our youth team.

**John Davies (Defender)** – John has recently signed from Ely Rangers. A very good defender, who will be a great addition.

**Chris Bowen (Defender)** - Chris is an excellent defender, equally strong in the air and on the deck. Reads the game very well.

**Eliot Davey (Defender)** – Eliot is a long-serving player, who is a big influence on the pitch, reads the game well.

**Tyrone Pope (Defender)** – Tyrone is as good a header of the ball as you will see anywhere, has been at the club since 2001 and still going strong, great defender.

**Sean Connelly (Defender)** – Sean is now at Pontyclun, after a tremendous professional career, spanning over 500 Football League appearances for Stockport County, Tranmere, Wolves and Rushden & Diamonds. Is also head physio at Cardiff City

**James Russell (Midfielder)** – Jimbo possesses tremendous pace and power and has looked sharp in pre season.

**Aled Davies (Midfielder)** – A strong, competitive midfielder, who passes the ball well and possesses a powerful strike.

**Craig Williams (Midfielder)** – Craig is a talented midfielder who can play wide or through the middle equally well. Injuries disrupted last season for him but is hoping to stay injury free this time around and will be a big influence.

**Craig Roberts (Midfielder)** –A tremendously talented player, with great feet and very strong in the air. Craig can also play up front. 1st Team Captain.

**Simon Payne (Defender/Midfielder)** – Simon has developed into an excellent player and can perform equally well in midfield or defence.

**James Williams (Midfielder)** - Jamie is a skilful player, who isn't afraid to take on his opponent. Still only 17, but looks to have a great future in the game.

**Adrian James (Midfielder)** – A tremendous competitor and vastly experienced midfield player, who joined the club almost 10 years ago.

**Conor Mckahey (Midfielder)** – Conor is a new signing. Previously played for Cork City Academy and is a very good technical player.

**Luke Toner (Midfielder)** – Luke is an influential midfielder, who can be a match winner on his day. Tremendous fitness levels.

**Gareth Davies (Midfielder)** – Gaz is another recent signing, who can operate anywhere in midfield or at full back.

**Huw Corne (Midfielder)** – Huw is a recent signing from St Josephs and a superb prospect. Very comfortable on the ball and great ability.

**Matthew Havard (Forward)** – Matthew is in his 3rd season at the club and has improved quickly as a player. Frightening pace and power which will cause defences problems this year. Recovered from a serious knee injury last season.

**Dean Clifford (Forward)** – Dean is a recent signing from Taffs Well and has a great future ahead of him. Great pace and a nice touch, knows where the back of the net is.

**Ryan Hill (Forward)** – A tall, pacy striker, who has been with the club for a number of years. Now making his mark at 1st team level.

**Joel Woodington (Forward)** – Missed a big chunk of last season through injury and looks to be back to his best. A great all round centre forward and natural goal scorer.

**Ross Hutchins (Midfielder/Striker)** - Can perform equally well in midfield or up front and has been a regular goal-scorer throughout his career. Also known as 'The Pigeon Catcher'

**Barry Quinn (Manager)** – Barry is a former 1st team Captain for many years, including lifting the div 3 championship in 2003. Has now made the step into the 1st Team Manager's role. Currently doing his UEFA coaching badges.

**Russ Wigley (Coach)** – Russ has come on board as 1<sup>st</sup> Team Coach, Brings fantastic experience, including Welsh Premier and European football. Currently working towards his B Licence.

**Phil Preene – Director of Football** – Phil is 'Mr Pontyclun'. Has previously been both a player and manager for many years at the club. He works tirelessly for the club in various capacities.

**John Jenkins (Physio)** – John has been with the club for many years and uses his first aid skills to good effect. A true club man.

## **PONTYCLUN FOOTBALL CLUB – A BRIEF HISTORY**

The Club was founded in 1896 and has played its matches at Ivor Park since the beginning of the 1920s.

In the early years the Club was a member of the Bridgend and District League but immediately after the First World War joined the Cardiff and District League. In 1922 the Club was admitted to the Football Association of Wales, one of the few amateur clubs to achieve such status. In 1968 the Club was admitted to the Welsh Football League, then the premier league in Wales and long before the introduction of the “pyramid system”. At the same time the Club continued to run senior teams in both the Rhondda and Pontypridd Leagues and junior teams in the Rhondda League.

Since entering the Welsh League, the Club has achieved promotion three times. In season 1979/80 the Club was runner up to Lake United and again in season 1992/3 to Treowen. However, the proudest moment in the Club's long history came at the end of season 2002/03 when on an emotional May afternoon the Club won the Division 3 title, pipping Skewen Athletic (now Neath Athletic) by the slimmest of goal differences (plus one). In the same season the Reserve team were runners up in the Welsh League Reserve East Division.

A former secretary and goalkeeper of the Club, Thomas Edward Russell, was very influential in Welsh soccer when he became Secretary of the South Wales Football Association and later President of the Football Association of Wales from 1968 to 1972. T.E.Russell also had a part in the FAW adopting the motto of Pontyclun FC on the national badge in 1951 – “Gorau Chwarae Cyd Chwarae “(Best Play is Team Play) which remains to this day. A former Welsh international, Keith Pontin, had his first taste of football as a junior at the Club and also made a contribution at senior level when he played out his “twilight” years at Ivor Park.