

PONTYPRIDD TOWN PLAYERS PROFILES – 2011-12

Leighton James (Goalkeeper) – Leighton is a local boy who has rejoined Ponty this season from Goytre United in the First Division. Leighton previous clubs include Newport County.

Shaun Llewellyn (Goalkeeper) – Shaun is another local lad, who is a great clubman and is Ponty through and through. He will deputise for Leighton if there is a problem.

Daniel Hooper – A recent signing from Cardiff Corries. Can play anywhere on the left or centre midfield. Has great delivery that can always spot a pass!

Brett Hewitt A vastly skilful and experienced full back who represented the Boy's Clubs of Wales in his younger days. Joined the Town 2 years ago from AFC Llwydcoed.

Simon Heal: Ex Cardiff City player who is equally comfortable at right back or centre midfield. Simon was signed half way through last season from Cinderford.

Paul Dawes: An energetic midfield player who loves "rattling" in the midfield. Dawsey is in his third season with the club. He has played for Taff's well, Dinas Powys and Aberaman Athletic.

Jason Lewis: A quickfire forward with speed and skill which allied together equals goals. Jason joined from Penrhiwceiber Rangers 2 seasons ago where he scored 30 goals for them.

Scott Hillman: Signed from Cardiff Corries last season. Scott had a fine pedigree as a youth and has played for a number of clubs in the Welsh League. A left sided centre half.

Leigh Phillips: Leigh was part of the championship winning side that won the second division last season with Ton Pentre. A commanding centre half who likes to get it down and play.

Lloyd Toghill: A product of the Newport County academy Lloyd, 21, has already played for a number of Welsh League clubs including Ton Pentre, Aberaman Athletic, from whom Lloyd joined, and his home club Taff's Well. Lloyd was capped at under 18 for Wales.

Nathan King: Nathan signed from his home town club Penrhiwceiber. Nathan is still a professional boxer who can play anywhere down the spine and will bring a vast experience and certainly a lot of steel to the Pont.

Layton Maxwell: Layton previous clubs include Liverpool, Cardiff City and Mansfield Town. He has also played in the League of Wales. Layton brings a wealth of experience to Ponty Town.

Solomon Taylor: A January signing from Aberaman Athletic, Solomon is an ex Cardiff City junior and has excellent technical ability when on the ball.

Dale Raven: Dale has signed from Bridgend Town. However Dale has been out injured for 2 years, but hopes to re-start his career this season. Plays out wide and cause a headache for any full back on his day.

Barrie Gunstone: Barrie joins Pontypridd from Dinas Powys. Barrie has played for several clubs in the Welsh League, where he has continually scored goals.

Tom Morris: Several clubs were chasing Tom in the summer for his signature, fortunately Ponty were successful in gaining his services. Tom is likely to score at least double figure this season. A lot is expected of Tom this season who previously played for UWIC.

Duncan Culley: Duncan is in his second season at Pontypridd. Big Dunc was top scorer last season netting 30+ goals. It is hoped that if he scores a similar number this season, then Ponty will have a successful season.

Zaki Misbah – Recently signed from Aberaman. Previous Clubs include Blackburn Rovers. Zak comes to the Dragons with hopes that he will score a bag full of goals!

Simon Oyler – He is another striker who joins the Club this season. Previous clubs include Taffs Well. Simon's availability may some what be restricted as he plays table tennis for Wales.

Allan Davies (Player / Manager) Vastly experienced defender who is in his 3rd season as Manager at the Town. Previously spent 10 years at Burton Albion where he came under the guidance of Nigel Clough before leaving to join Worcester City and Gresley.

Robert Ellis (Asst. Manager) Rob is in his second year working with the manager Allan Davies at Ponty. He hopes to put last year's disappointment of missing out on promotion by goal difference behind them. Previously managed at Taff's Well, Tredegar Town and UWIC before taking the Assistant Manager's post at Clevedon Town in the Southern League.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PONTYPRIDD TOWN

The history of the modern Pontypridd Football Club began in 1991 when the failing Welsh League side of Ynysybwl amalgamated with local league side Pontypridd Sports & Social Club to form Pontypridd & Ynysybwl FC.

After one season of playing their home games at the Recreation Ground in Ynysybwl the club moved to their new home in Ynysangharad Park, on the site of the former Pontypridd RFC Ground, and changed their name to their current one, that of Pontypridd Town. With the help of the local council new changing rooms were opened, floodlights installed and the stand at Ynysangharad Park were upgraded making it one of the better grounds in the league.

The changes also brought some good fortune as a sixth place finish in Division Two was, due to reorganisation of the Welsh League following the formation of the League of Wales, enough to earn promotion to the top division for the first time in the club's history. The 1992/93 season saw the club enjoy its highest ever league position when they finished in third place with just 3 defeats in 26 games. Fifth place was achieved in 1993/94, and eleventh in 1994/95, but the 1995/96 season brought mixed emotions.

The season saw the club go on a memorable Welsh Cup run. Away victories over Llanwern (4-0), Newport YMCA (4-2) and Taff's Well (1-0) saw Anglesey based League of Wales team Cemaes Bay visit The Park and be defeated 1-0. The quarter finals brought a tie against eventual winners Llansantffraid of the League of Wales. Although leading through a Romano Bacchetta goal at half time, two goals from Tommy Morgan took the visitors through.

But at the end of the season, after originally ending the season in eleventh place, Pontypridd were deducted seven points by the league for fielding an ineligible player, which resulted in the club being relegated to the Second Division. The club hung on to Second Division status for three seasons before relegation back to the basement in 1998/99. 2000/01 season saw the club finally climb to safety after a season of struggle after former Ynysybwl player Brian Gibson was appointed as player/manager.

The 2001/02 saw the club clinch third place, and promotion back into the Second Division. The 2004/2005 season saw the club finish in 5th place with promotion back into the first Division being obtained the following season..

In 2007 Pontypridd challenged for the Welsh League title but had to settle for a third place finish. Finance problems saw relegation follow the following season and by 2008 the club was in talks with Treforest FC about a merger. Talks collapsed and the club played on although they finished bottom and were back in Division Three. From where, under the Chairmanship of businessman Phil Gibb and manager Allan Davies, they hope to achieve promotion this season