

## **TON PENTRE AFC PEN PICS- 2011-12**

### **JONATHAN HOWE           Goalkeeper I Born: 15.02.1982**

Jon returned to the Bulldogs during the 2010/2011 Season from Division One rivals Taffs Well. He is a proven shot stopper with excellent agility and played a big part in Ton Pentre's unbeaten Division Two record last campaign.

### **THOMAS DAVIES           Defence I Born: 15.04.1989**

Tom transferred to the Rhondda Bulldogs from Cinderford Town in December 2009. He's a former Newport County youth team product who has become the linchpin of the Ton defence. Without a doubt, Tom is one of the first names down on the teamsheet.

### **JASON BREWER           Defence I Born: 15.11.1986**

Jason transferred to the Club from Aberbargoed Buds in January 2012. He made his debut against Barry Town and proved himself to be a very mobile player with ample agility.

### **ROSS PORTER           Defence I Born: 13.05.1990**

Ross was impressive in the Bulldogs defence during Ton Pentre's pre-season matches when he showed himself to be a composed defender. Previous clubs include Afan Lido, Merthyr Tydfil and Treharris Athletic Western.

### **ADAM LEWIS           Defence I Born: 04.09.1983**

#### **Club Captain**

Adam is highly respected player at Ynys Park and is an excellent choice for Club Captain. He has been incredibly consistent for Ton since joining the Club from Troedyrhiw at the start of the 2008/09 Season. He is a player who leads by example and is very popular with the Bulldogs fans.

### **SHANE BREWER           Midfield I 09.10.1988**

Shane is a former Newport County player who is in his second spell with the Bulldogs. Has incredible skill, agility and ability. He's a midfielder that can defend, attack and score goals. He is proving himself to be a vital player in Dean Morris' plans.

### **OWEN DAVIES           Born: 22.01.1994**

Owen is a youth team player with Merthyr Town who signs for the Bulldogs and provides depth to the squad. He hopes to use his time with the Bulldogs to gain valuable Welsh League experience.

### **RICHARD INGRAM           Midfield I Born: 15.02.1985**

Richard transferred to the club in September 2011 from Goytre United. He's a skilful midfielder that has represented Wales at youth level. He is a wonderful addition to the manager's squad.

### **JOE LEAHY           Forward I Born: 26.10.1992**

Joe is a very exciting prospect. He joins from Merthyr Town where he is highly regarded as one for the future. He has lightning speed and a keen eye for goal. He may only be with the Club for a short period of time but hopes to make an impact before a probable return to Merthyr.

### **ROSS FOWLER           Forward I Born: 25.06.1988**

Ross transferred to Ynys Park from Aberbargoed Buds, with whom he was a proven goalscorer. Scored his first goals for the Bulldogs in a match at Cardiff Corries in September. These goals demonstrated that he is a cool finisher

### **JOSH EVANS           Midfield I Born: 22.08.1990**

Josh joined at the start of last season from Pontypridd Town. A former Llantwit Fardre player, he is a talented and busy midfielder whose skill and verve for the game should have opposition players in knots. Josh impressed his teammates last season who voted him joint Players' Player of the Year.

### **LEON YOUNG           Midfield I Born: 13.06.1986**

Leon instantly installed himself as a fans favourite at Ynys Park after signing for the Club at the beginning of the 2009/10 Season from Aberbargoed Buds. He's a player that gives 100% commitment in the middle of the field. The lively midfield player possess great skill and when he's not powering forward he picks out a defence splitting pass. Was voted joint Players' Player of the Year last season.

### **CRAIG DAVIES           Midfield I Born: 28.10.1984**

Craig joins the club from local rivals AFC Porth and is a midfield bruiser with skilful ability. Has a strong tackle and a wonderful spectrum of passing ability.

### **GEZA HAJGATO           Midfield I Born: 23.10.1981**

Geza is a former Cardiff City youth player who signed for Bulldogs from Dinas Powys. He has a vast amount of Welsh League experience with previous clubs including Pontardawe Town, Taffs Well, Pontypridd Town and Goytre United.

**LEWIS TOMLINS                      Midfield I Born: 31.05.1994**

Lewis is a youth team player with Taffs Well but joins the Bulldogs for senior team experience. He has the skill and should build the strength to go with it during his time at Ynys Park.

**DALE SMITH                              Forward I Born: 14.04.1984**

Dale joins the Bulldogs from South Wales Amateur League outfit Kenfig Hill where he has spent the past few seasons. The player had a brief spell with former Welsh League club Porthcawl Town. Made his debut against Goytre United in October 2011

**CHRISTOPHER COLVIN      Forward I Born: 04.04.1987**

Chris made the step-up to the Welsh League from South Wales Senior League team Penydarren BC last season and made an incredible impact. The confident striker scored 31 goals, helping the Bulldogs achieve the Division Two title. His incredible season saw him voted Club Player of the Year and Supporters Player of the Year.

**DEAN MORRIS                              Manager I Born: 14.11.1971**

Dean enjoyed many seasons as a player at Ynys Park where he won multiple Welsh League titles with the Bulldogs. He was appointed manager prior to the start of the 2010/11 Season. Dean achieved the impossible last season as he returned the Bulldogs to Division One, following their first ever relegation, finishing the League season undefeated.

**NEIL MORGAN                              Physio I Born: 31.03.1971**

Neil joined Dean Morris' backroom staff from Pontypridd Town at the start of the 2010/2011 Season and very quickly became a favourite at Ynys Park amongst players and fans. Neil is an ace with the sponge and fantastic for team morale.

**TON PENTRE AFC – A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BULLDOGS**

After suffering their first ever relegation at the end of the 2010/2011 Season, Ton Pentre bounced straight back to Welsh Football League Division One after lifting the Division Two title by finishing the League season unbeaten.

The Rhondda Valleys based club were demoted due to the re-organisation of domestic Welsh football during the 2009/2010 Season, which saw the Division One relegation zone increased from three to five places. The Bulldogs suffered heartbreak as they dropped into the fifth spot during the final 20-minutes of their last game of the season. It therefore seemed fitting that they return to Division One as undefeated champions.

Having lifted the Division Two trophy, Ton Pentre are looking to build upon their already rich history by consolidating their position in Division One this season.

It is accepted that the first competitive matches in Ton Pentre were underway in 1896 and the Ynys Park club have represented the soccer loving fans of the Rhondda ever since.

The Bulldogs were members of the Southern League from 1909 to 1915 and again after the First World War which saw Ton Pentre playing against opposition such as Luton Town, Southend United, Cardiff City, Aberdare, Stoke, Coventry City, Portsmouth and Swansea Town.

In 1919 Ton Pentre were involved in a preliminary round match of the FA Cup when over 20,000 people watched the Bulldogs beat Mid Rhondda at Tonypany. It is thought to be the biggest crowd to have ever gathered in the Rhondda.

Ton Pentre made their one and only Welsh Cup Final appearance on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1922 at Pontypridd where they played Cardiff City. The Bulldogs lost the match 2-0 with Len Davies and Jimmy Gill netting Cardiff's goals.

The post-war coal boom collapsed in 1923 and valley teams such as Mid Rhondda, Pontypridd, Porth and Aberaman disappeared under financial stress. Ton Pentre were able to continue but only at the expense of leaving Southern League football for more localised Welsh League football.

Ton Pentre's present day set-up dates from 1935 since which the Bulldogs established themselves as a potent force, however, although invited to participate in the inaugural season of the League of Wales, they declined preferring to justify their inclusion by gaining promotion as a right in the 1993/1994 Season.

Ton Pentre's stay in the League of Wales saw the club finish a credible third place in each of their first two seasons and in 1995 they became the first Welsh participants in the UEFA Intertoto Cup competition.

Unfortunately, the European experience proved to be an expensive one for the Bulldogs and their European 'hangover' resulted in a drain on resources and after being dragged to the brink of insolvency the Rhondda club were forced to resign from the League of Wales and return to the Welsh Football League.

Ton Pentre won Welsh League Division One five times in consecutive seasons between 1997/1998 and 2001/2002, which equalled the league record held by Barry Town. Ton Pentre were again crowned Welsh League Champions in the 2004/2005 season for an incredible sixth time in eight seasons.

The Bulldogs are situated at the heart of their community and many believe that with the right kind of support and financial backing, Ton Pentre is a club capable of gracing the top level of Welsh football once again.