

## UWIC PLAYERS' PROFILES 2011-12

**TOM EDMONDS.** Goalkeeper. 3<sup>rd</sup> year student from Dorset Won his place with his steadiness and anticipation.

**CHRIS WILLIS.** Goalkeeper. Another more than competent keeper from Dorset who has to wait for his opportunity

**EDDIE DALE.** Goalkeeper. 1<sup>st</sup> year student. At 6ft 8in, the tallest keeper in the league. Previous club: Witney Town

**TOM BOWEN.** Defender. A versatile player with attacking tendencies. Signed from Aberystwyth Town

**TRYSTAN DAFYDD.** Central defender, who played with great consistency last season. Previous club: Y Felinheli

**JAMES WARD.** Central defender from Truro. First-year student who has impressed in pre-season.

**RYAN BEATTIE.** Central defender. Another freshman who has impressed. On Torquay's books, but on loan last season to Bideford Town.

**MORGAN LEWIS.** Central defender. 2<sup>nd</sup> year student whose opportunities were limited last season.

**KRISTIAN SPEAKE.** Defender. Joined from Haverfordwest last season. A very capable left back who likes to take up attacking positions.

**GARETH CAWLEY .** Midfield. Skilful and creative player in centre of the field. Previous club: Cardiff Corinthians

**ELIOT EVANS.** Midfield. A talented hard-working player, who plays on the left side. Previous club: Bristol City Academy.

**JAMES HARRIS.** Midfield. Freshman who has impressed in pre-season games. Previous club: Bryntirion Athletic.

**CHARLES CORSBY.** Midfield. Broke into the team in mid-season and held his place with consistent performances.

**MATT MICKLEWRIGHT.** Striker. 1<sup>st</sup> year student who can play either on wing or as central attacker. Previous club: Bovey Tracey.

**JAMIE ROGERS.** First-year student who played for Brockenhurst in the Wessex League premier division last season.

**DAN CHORLEY.** First year student. Previous club: Bristol City Academy

**WILL FULLER.** Another first-year student. Previous club: Salisbury City.

**SAM CARRINGTON.** Forward returning from last season. An industrious player who operates on left flank

**ED JONES.** Forward. A prolific goal scorer who likes to attack defenders.

**LEWIS MURRAY.** Forward. A predatory but intelligent striker who leads the attack with authority. Previous club: Bryntirion Athletic

**LUKE SWAFFIELD.** Forward. A striker who confounds defences with his pace. Previous club: Dinas Powys.

**CHRISTIAN EDWARDS.** Director of Coaching. Former Welsh international, who played in the Football League for Swansea, Nottm Forest and Bristol Rovers, and was assistant manager at Aberystwyth Town until committing himself full-time to UWIC. Currently studying for post-graduate degree.

## UWIC HISTORY

UWIC - otherwise University of Wales Institute Cardiff – was formed in 1951 as Cardiff Training College, playing in the local leagues. In 1964 the club took advantage of the re-organisation of the Welsh Football League to win a place in the bottom division. Under the gifted leadership of Stuart Griffiths, they became a nursery for future caps at amateur level, while Dai Davies and David Williams went on to win international honours at the highest level. During this 'golden age' the club appeared in six national cup finals between 1968 and 1976, twice winning the Welsh Amateur Cup and on one occasion the Welsh Intermediate Cup.

In 1975 they won promotion to Division One and the following season they were champions and promoted to the Premier Division. The students had gained a reputation for playing attractive football, but already the strains of playing outside academic terms were obvious and they were relegated in 1979. In 1990, the whims of academia demanded that they change their name again, this time to Cardiff Institute of Higher Education, but the new title did not guarantee a brighter future and two years later the club found itself back in the bottom division.

Fortunately, Norman Dawkins, a former student and Welsh amateur cap, joined the staff and virtually single-handed he pulled the club together on and of the field. In 1996 the institute adopted its current name and this time a change of fortune was evident as within two seasons they were back in the top division, winning the Welsh League Cup in 1999.

In 2000-01 another Cardiff club, Inter Cardiff, were encountering financial difficulties in the League of Wales, and UWIC bailed out the club by merging their resources. The club, playing as UWIC Inter Cardiff, survived a difficult season, but could not financially sustain a semi-professional squad and, reverting to a student base, they were relegated in the following year.

The club, quietly shedding the 'Inter Cardiff' appendage, enjoyed some successful years in the Welsh League's top tier and in 2003-04 reached the Welsh Cup quarter-finals. But a student team always suffers from an annual turnover of its playing squad and in 2007 UWIC were relegated to the second division.

In 2009, UWIC appointed ex-Welsh international Christian Edwards – now a post-graduate student – to regenerate the football programme. Despite a mid-table finish, the controversial restructuring of the league left the club unable to avoid being placed in Division 3 last season, but the team showed its true potential with a run to the Welsh Cup quarter-finals and a prolonged challenge for promotion, and laid the foundations on which to build future success.