

## **Ystradgynlais AFC - Pen Pictures 2008–09 Season**

### **Carl Davies - GK**

Solid and dependable. Not afraid to voice his opinion on the field. Ex Port Talbot player. Now in his 5<sup>th</sup> season.

### **Jon Hubscmid – GK**

Another good shot stopper and quick off the line. Commands his Area well.

### **Mike Bell - Full Back**

Youngster with bags of potential. Likes to play the passing game and not afraid of the tackle

### **Huw Littlewood – Midfield**

Good ball control. Likes to play with the ball at his feet. Versatile player who can also play at full back

### **Ioan King – Defence**

Progressed thru' the junior ranks. Good passer of the ball. Now one of the veterans of a very young squad.

### **Adam Alexander – Defence/Midfield**

Excellent workrate combined with pace makes Adam a very valuable member of the team. Will never let the side down with his work rate.

### **Mark James – Midfield**

Tireless midfield player. Good ball control With a high workrate

### **Mark Allen – Midfield**

Shows great enthusiasm and energy on the field. Is a valuable 1<sup>st</sup> team squad member.

### **Craig Watkins – Defence**

Aggressive hard tackling full back. Craig has excellent potential. Would like him to play more regularly.

### **Chris Innes – Defence**

The club will be expecting Chris to get us through a transitional period this season. Very strong in the tackle

### **Dai Miller – Midfield – Defence**

One of the veterans of the squad Good ball control and a good reader of the game. The club will be looking at Dai to encourage a young squad.

### **Steffan Berrow – Midfield**

First full season last year. Has displayed excellent potential so far. Very enthusiastic player who works very hard during a game.

### **Ceri Slyman – Midfield**

Busy and aggressive midfield player. Scored some crucial goals in the latter part of last season which helped the club avoid relegation.

### **Lee Thomas – Midfield/Forward**

skillful player. Likes to play with the ball at his feet. Hopefully will have more confidence this season and score some crucial goals.

### **Darren Langford – Forward**

Signed this season after playing for the club 2 seasons ago. Skillful player who can score goals. Looked fit and strong in pre-season.

### **Liam Lewis – Forward**

Skillful on the ball. Strong runner who can score goals. Very aggressive and enthusiastic.

### **Jon Griffiths - Defence**

No nonsense central defender. Has been plagued by injuries during the last few years. Hopefully can get back to fitness and fulfil his potential.

### **Dale Williams – Defence**

Recently resigned for the club. Solid defender and good in the tackle.

### ***MANAGER: ANDREW HOPKINS***

Prolific goal scorer in the Neath League in the 80's and 90's. Now in his 9<sup>th</sup> season as First Team Manager

### ***TRAINER: JAMIE WILLIAMS***

Has now turned his attentions towards coaching and training after suffering a re-occurring knee injury.

## **Ystradgynlais AFC**

Founded - 1910

Previous name - Gough Institute

### **Recent Welsh League Record**

2004 – 2005 - 13th

2005 – 2006 - 7th

2006 – 2007 - 7th

2007 - 2008 - 16th

## **Ystradgynlais AFC – A Brief History**

With a dearth of clubs in the Welsh League the decision of YSTRADGYNLAIS AFC to apply at the end of 2003-04 Season was a welcome surprise in the West Wales fraternity.

Ystrad seized the moment when they finished as runners up in the Neath League to AFC Caewern. With no other West Wales clubs applying for promotion, the way was clear.

The club first entered the Welsh League back in 1970. They had not won the Neath League in the previous season, but any club could apply in the days prior to the Pyramid rules.

After two mid table finishes (8<sup>th</sup> in both 70-71 and 71-72), the club struggled both financially and on the field. In 72-73 season the club finished 15<sup>th</sup> of 16 clubs.

Ystrad now returned to the Neath League, taking the place of their reserves who had just won promotion to Division 1 (this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier behind the Premier) in the 73-74 season.

Ystrad won the Division1 title at first attempt and in the following season achieved a best ever position of runners up in the Premier scoring 91 goals in the process. Ironically this second position was behind local rivals Cwm Wanderers.

Ystrad's fortunes were decline in following seasons and the 80's and 90's were spent in both Divisions 1 and 2.

In 2001-2002 Ystrad won the Division 1 title. The following seasons brought 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in the Premier Division with silverware in the form of the 'Premier Cup'

Present club officers inherited little in the way of historical records. However the club claims its foundation date as 1910 probably under the name of Gough Institute. They were believed to have entered the Swansea League around this time and winning the Intermediate Cup in 1912-13.