

## **ABERBARGOED BUDS FC – PLAYERS’ PROFILES 2014-15**

**David Burnett** – Goalkeeper. A tremendous acquisition this season after signing from Taffs Well. Previous clubs include Port Talbot Town and Grange Quins

**Liam Vaughan** – Right Back. Signed this season from Gwent county side Neuadd Wen. Good defender who is very comfortable in possession

**Tyla Preece** – Central Defender. Released by Newport County 2013-14. Tyla has produced some terrific performances and has achieved consistency which belies his age.

**Kieran Thomas** – Central Defender. Home grown player who has developed into a top class defender. Very comfortable on the ball but also a fantastic defender,

**Jason Brewer** – Central Defender. Another home grown player who has just returned to the club. No nonsense defender who is terrific in the air.

**Craig McDonnell** – Left Back. In his second season with the club. Craig has pace to burn but has excellent close control and dribbling skills

**Liam Shaw** – Central Midfield. In his second season with the club. Top quality box to box mid-field player who has also an eye for a goal.

**Wayne Antoniazzi** - Central Midfield. Home grown player who has developed into a key player his season. Chipped in with important goals

**Gavin Meacham** – Central Midfield. Second season at the club. Gavin has proven to be a very versatile and talented footballer. Is able to play comfortably in a number of positions

**Lewis Jones** – Central Midfield. Released by Newport County 2013-14. Lewis has terrific passing ability and is maturing into a fine midfield player

**Dafydd Brewer** – Central Midfield. Home grown midfielder who has recently returned to the club. Complete midfielder, good competitor and passer of the ball. Natural leader of the team that achieved promotion in 2012-13

**Rhys Jones** – Central Midfield. Experienced competitor who was signed this season from Penybont.

**Kane Jones** – Central Defender Young central defender in his first season at Welsh League level. Has adapted well when play in a number of positions.

**Jordan Maisey** – Central Midfield. Home grown attacking midfielder with an eye for goal. In his 3<sup>rd</sup> season at the club yet only 19 years of age.

**Scott Armitage** – Striker. Joined the club in close season from Treforest. Excellent close control with pace and finishing to match. Is having an excellent season

**Tom McCarthy** – Striker. Joined this season from AFC Porth. Prolific goalscorer so far this season who has electric pace.

**Tony Rees** - Striker Home grown striker who has recently returned from injury. On his day one of the most feared strikers in the division

**Jonny Dunn** – Striker. Signed this season from Llanwern. Tremendous pace with an eye for a goal. Has settled in very well and we have great expectations of him.

**John Edwards** – Striker Returned to the club recently from Penrhiwfer. Quick powerful forward with a good touch and an eye for goals.

**Manager** - Adrian Needs

**Assistant** - Robert Lewis

**Coaches** - Craig Evans, Rhys Luther

**Physio** - Rob Hudson

## **HISTORY OF ABERBARGOED BUDS FC**

Aberbargoed Buds, The Buds were formed in 1956 following the demise of Aberbargoed Town who had previously played in the Welsh League. The Buds introduction to league football was through the Divisions of the old Gwent League before the West Monmouthshire League was formed. The Buds remained in the top flight of that league and rightly took their place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the newly formed Gwent County League in the early eighties enjoying League and Cup success.

Teams managed by Ken "Bunny" Edwards and Cliff Wallbank kept the Buds in the top division and encouraged quality players such as John Lewis to join and who later went on to play for Cardiff City and indeed captained the side.

The nineties was not a good decade for the Buds but they still managed to remain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the Gwent County League. As the millennium approached, the club introduced new players and management and success soon followed by winning the County Motors Cup twice and the League title in 2003, a double winning year!

As the club's ground did not meet the Welsh League criteria, promotion to the next level was not possible. That therefore became a priority and with another League title achieved in 2006, promotion to the Welsh League was accomplished. In the first three seasons in Division Three the Buds were never outside the top six and in March 2009 saw the return of John Lewis as Manager. The following season 2009-10 saw the Buds gain promotion as Division Three Champions. The following season saw the Buds finish in a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> position and also reach the Final of The Nathaniel Cup narrowly losing 1-0 to Goytre. However John Lewis resigned as manager after the final to be replaced by Ceri Kinsey and Craig Evans for season 2011-12.

The 2011-12 season started poorly with seven losses out of eight games played. This resulted in the return of John Lewis as manager assisted by Alyn Jones. With results improved, Alyn took over as Manager in January 2011, with John Lewis becoming Director of Football. Alyn completed the job of guiding the club to safety finishing 4<sup>th</sup> from bottom after such a poor start. The following season 2012-13 under the guidance of Alyn Jones saw the Buds reach the First Division for the first time in their history finishing as Runners- up to Goytre.

The 2013-14 season proved to be an historic period for the Buds with floodlights erected, project managed by former Chairman Gary Thomas along with Welsh League First Division football at the Recreation Ground for the first time in their history. Unfortunately this proved to be short-lived as the Buds were relegated for the first time in their history, after just one season however they acquitted themselves very well and now look for an immediate return.

The 2014-15 saw the club appoint Adrian Needs as First Team manager with the remit to return the club to the First Division at the first attempt. The story continues today!

### **Aberbargoed Buds Players - Season 2014-15**

David Burnett  
Alex Lippiatt  
Craig McDonnell  
Tony Rees  
Jordan Maisey  
Kane Jones  
Dafydd Brewer  
Lewis Jones  
Liam Shaw  
Liam Vaughan  
Scott Armitage  
Tyla Preece  
Wayne Antoniazzi  
Rhys Jones  
Kieran Thomas  
Daniel Thomas  
Tom McCarthy  
Gavin Meacham  
Jonny Dunn  
John Edwards  
Elliot Williams