

Aberdare Town FC Player profiles- updated Feb 2015

Elis Nash—aged 18 Elis joined us in the Summer from Merthyr Town. A great keeper who has a great future ahead of him. Made his debut against Garden Village with a man of the match performance. Spent time at Cardiff City as a schoolboy Lives in Aberaman.

Phil Clarke, aged 37 Gained a Welsh Under 18s cap. Previous Clubs Pontypridd, Inter Cardiff, UWIC, Bridgend Town, Ton Pentre. Phil is the elder statesman of the squad after signing from Ton Pentre at the end of October 2010. Phil is a quality defender and his experience will add much to the squad. Lives in Pontypridd.

Scott Woodford— aged 25 an excellent young defender who joined us 2 seasons ago, loves running with the ball and can play a great pass. Pops up with the odd goal from set pieces too! Lives in Cwmaman.

Aaron Garrett -aged 22 joined us midway through last season from Taffs Well. A very strong defender who can read situations well. Will be looking for more games this season. Lives in Cardiff.

Lewis Holder—aged 27 A central midfield player who has a superb engine. Signed for us at the start of last season after he played for AFC Llywdcoed in the Welsh League for the previous 2 seasons. Played for Aberaman as a 17 year old goalkeeper. Lives in Aberdare.

Anthony Taylor- aged 29. A defender who has returned to the Club in February 2015 following a serious injury 2 seasons ago that ruled him out of the game. Anthony is a tremendous talent who was signed as a professional with Cardiff City before a car accident. A great addition to the squad. Lives in Aberaman.

Luke Jones –aged 21. A strong skilful midfielder signed from Penydarren BGC in November this year. Previously with AFC Porth, Merthyr Town and Cardiff City. Lives in Merthyr.

Nicky Jones— aged 32. A strong midfielder who joined us at the start of this season. He will bring much needed strength to our midfield. Previous clubs include Barry, Ton Pentre, Carmarthen and Neath. Lives in Blaenrhondda.

Jack Howe – aged 22 A recent recruit from Cambrian & Clydach. Formerly with Merthyr Town where he had played as a full back for the past two seasons. Pace to burn and loves to get forward from defensive areas. Lives in Cwmaman.

Jordan Coles – aged 26 Rejoined us in December 2014. Jordan works as a personal trainer and brings his fitness into his style of play. A strong midfield player who covers every blade of grass. Formerly of Aberdare Town, Ton Pentre, AFC Llwydcoed and Penrhiwceiber Rangers and most recently Cambrian & Clydach. Lives in Abernant.

Gareth Jones— aged 29. Gareth rejoined us last season us after a few seasons away. Gareth is a strong central defender who will add to our back line. Played for us for 3 seasons from 2007-2009. Lives in Abercynon.

James Turner –aged 19. James is another product of our junior section and is another player who will be looking to break into the first team this impressing last season when he had the chance. A strong defender who likes to get forward. Lives in Aberaman.

John Phillips, aged 27. Previous clubs: Cardiff City, Newport County, Bath City, Yate Town, Llanelli. Most Like: Fernando Torres. John is an excellent footballer with real experience in the game. A goal scorer, first and foremost, Memorable moment – playing at Villa Park. Lives in Aberdare.

Nathan Jenkins, aged 17. Signed this season from Cwmaman Institute where he scored 26 goals last year in his first season in the Welsh League. A product of Aberdare's junior section where he started as a 5 year old. Has spent time at Swansea City. An exciting prospect for the future. Has represented Wales Colleges this season in Scotland. Lives in Aberaman.

Richard Ingram, aged 29. Signed this season after playing for Ton Pentre since September 2011 after previously playing for Goytre Utd. Richard is a skilful midfielder who has represented Wales at Youth Level. Richard is capable of scoring wonder goals and is a great addition to this season's squad. Lives in Merthyr.

Sam O Sullivan—aged 28. Signed this season from Port Talbot, A former Newport County wingman, Sam made 152 appearances for the Exiles before joining Merthyr in 2008. Moved to Carmarthen Town in June 2009, joining Cinderford Town in September that year and moved to Port Talbot Town in September 2013. Lives in Cardiff.

Lee Hartshorn -aged 28 Signed in December from Aberbargoed Buds. The centre-back, who was a former captain of Newtown in the Welsh Premier League, left the Robins due to work commitments in October 2011. He is also a former Llanelli, Afan Lido, Merthyr Saints and Cinderford player. Lives in Pontlottyn.

Luke Spencer—aged 18. A very strong midfield player who has a great future ahead of him. Signed at the beginning of February 2015 from AFC Llwydcoed. A superb prospect. Lives in Aberdare.

Joseph Yaxley- aged 20. Signed in February 2015. Joe's previous clubs are Team Bury in the Ryman Premier League and Ransomes FC. Joe is a centre midfield / striker and has great feet. A terrific prospect who will add something to our squad. Lives in Pontypridd.

Youth team players involved with the first team this season

Callum Jenkins, Shay Friel ,Curtis Hawkins ,Ryan Welch

Management Team

Lee Williams—Manager who has been appointed in October this year. 27 years old. Lee re-joined us 2 seasons ago after several seasons away. A versatile defender who first played for the club as a 19 year old after being a member of the Hartridge Academy in Newport. Previous clubs include Bettws and Cwmaman Institute. Lives in Aberdare.

Gags Price—Coach. Gags returns to the coach after previously managing our youth side several years ago. A very experienced coach who guided AFC Llwydcoed to several promotions during his time there. Lives in Aberdare

Anthony Jenkins— Anthony returned to the Club this season as Youth Team Manager, he has been assisting Lee since October. Anthony has vast experience as a player and manager. Has played in the UEFA Cup for Inter Cardiff against Celtic. Lives in Aberaman.

ABERDARE TOWN FC - HISTORY

The histories of Aberdare Town and Aberaman Athletic, clubs separately formed in 1892, have been intertwined for over 90 years.

In the early years, Aberdare were the most successful, dominating the then Glamorgan leagues and in the new domestic format, winning the Welsh League in its inaugural season of 1905 with further success in 1909, 1912 and 1921. We were also finalists in the Welsh Cup on three occasions during that period. Aberaman Athletic also reached a Welsh Cup final in 1903 and won three South Wales and Monmouthshire Cup finals before the outbreak of the First World War.

In 1920 Aberdare Town re-formed as Aberdare Athletic and the fledgling club entered both the Southern league and Welsh League finishing runners up and champions respectively. It is interesting to note that the local Welsh League derby with Aberaman in that season attracted a crowd of 8,000. The summer of 1921 produced an extraordinary chapter in our history when we were elected to the Football League – one of only six Welsh clubs to do so – the others being Cardiff City, Swansea City, Wrexham, Newport County and Merthyr Town.

With a population of 75,000 and a ground capacity of 23,000 at the Ynys Stadium allied with a strong “marketing” campaign, we topped the poll for election to the Third division being joined by Charlton Athletic.

We spent the years , 1921-1927 in Division 3 (South), for younger readers the equivalent to League 1 ,with a best finishing position of 8th and a highest home gate recorded at 16,000 against the then mighty Preston North End for a third round FA Cup tie in 1923. Alas, with the beginning of the Great Depression bringing severe unemployment to the area and the knock on effect of lower crowds and thereby income to sustain a Football League club, our days were numbered and we were replaced at the end of 1927 by Torquay United. A controversial merger followed with who had become the junior club, Aberaman Athletic. The sale of the Ynys Stadium in the town centre and a move to Aberaman

Park, saw the name changed to Aberaman Athletic who happily more than held their own in the Welsh League. As an acknowledgement of the brand of football exhibited, we were invited to be members of the Football League Western Division during the war years of 1939-45. A record crowd at the Park of 2,500 attended a Cup match against Bristol City whilst participating in the league. The club produced two stars of that era in Welsh international, Bryn Jones who was sold to Wolves and then moved to Arsenal for what was at the time a transfer record between English clubs of £14,000. From the neighbouring village of Abercwmboi came Alf Sherwood who was regarded at his peak as the finest left back in the British Isles and who represented Cardiff City and Wales with great distinction.

In the late 1940's Aberdare and Aberaman again merged for a short while before the Aberaman Athletic name was restored. Highlights of that period included being runners up in the Welsh League to Barry Town before the advent of the Welsh Premier, reaching the final of the FAW Trophy, and winning the Welsh League in 2009 under the sponsorship of ENTO and managed by David Morgan. In 2012 we decided for commercial reasons to rename the club Aberdare Town and we can all look back with pride on the 120 years of football and to a future based on our well founded ambitions to reach the Welsh Premier League.