

## **AFC PORTH PROFILES. 2014/15**

**Jason 'Dale' Pritchard** Goalkeeper, Age 23, Joined 2015, Prev Club Ynyshir Albions  
Great composure, returns club this season

**James Billington** Goalkeeper, Age 22, Joines 2014, Prev Club Halifax Town.  
Brave, commanding, Different "Gravy"

**Mathew Jenkins** Defender Age 23, Joined 1996, Prev Club AFC Porth Youth  
Sweet Left foot, always gives 110%, great clubman, always first join in with things.

**Gideon Summerhill** Defender, Age 19, Joined 2012, Prev Club AFC Porth Youth.  
Next big prospect come through Youth ranks, plays big part in U19s.

**David Mathews** Defender Age 22, -Joined 2004 Prev Club AFC Porth Youth.  
Fit as a fiddle, bags energy, run all day long, strong in the tackle. "Toogie"

**David Edgell** Defender, Age 24, Joined 2015, Prev Club Ynyshir Albions  
Strong in tackle, skillfull footballer has returned club this season.

**Dan Williams** Utility, Age 18, Joined 2015, Prev Club Newport County.  
Versatile player, play anywhere for the team, def one future.

**Adam Fisher** Defender, Age 19, Joined 2014, Prev Club AFC Porth Youth.  
Strong in tackle, good header ball, one future.

**Ceiron Beer**, Defender/Striker, Age 24, Joined 2014, Prev club Llanharry.  
Versatile player defence or attack at home with either.

**Huw Day** Midfield, Age 24, Joined 2004, Prev Club Merthyr Town.  
All action, great passer , bags energy in the centre midfield.

**Sam James** Midfield, Age 17, Joined 2010, Prev Club AFC Porth Youth.  
Feisty character, never one to shirk a tackle, showing great maturity.

**Owen Davies** Midfield, Age 20, Joined 2013, Former club Merthyr Town  
Returns second spell, maturing nicely, tremendous talent in centre midfield.

**Keiron Cook**, Midfield, Age 22, Joined 2014, Former club Tredegar Town.  
Tenacious midfield general, inspires those around.

**Chris Bullock** Forward, Age 24, Joined 2013/14, Prev Club Sporting Marvels  
Strong, powerfull front runner, great link up play, works unselfishly for team Captain.

**James Gronow** Forward Age 18, Joined 2008, Prev Club AFC Porth Youth  
Lightening feet showing great maturity, definitely one keep an eye on.

**Craig Billington** Forward Age 24, Joined 2014, Prev Club Brighthouse Town.  
Fit, athletic striker, who will score goals. Confident lad.

**Manager:- Richard Haig** Joined 2014, well known, respected locally , former Welsh Prem Striker, prev managed Cambrian BGC.

**Assistant:- Dilwyn Jenkins** Joined 1996 current U19 manager. Always encouraging lads,

## **AFC PORTH HISTORY**

AFC Porth are the latest in a number of teams to have represented the town of Porth, following on from Porth United, Porth Athletic, Porth Welfare, Beatus United, and AFC Rhondda, over a century of football in town.

In 1950 the late Mr Ray Hacker formed a company team called Beatus Utd, in the Rhondda League and were promoted to the South Wales Amateur League in 1964. A decision was made to change the name of Beatus United to the town name of AFC Porth in the season 1984-85.

AFC Porth were promoted to the Welsh league in 1991/92 and won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division losing only 1 game, the league was at that time made up of 3 Divisions National, 1 , and 2.

For season 1992/93 the Welsh Premier League was formed and although we were effectively promoted as the Welsh League reduced to 2 Divisions we again won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division title, gaining promotion to Div 1. In the next 8 seasons we did not finish lower than 10<sup>th</sup>, and if wasn't for the domination of Ton Pentre we could have conceivably won promotion to the Premier League, a bone of contention in some parts as Ton regularly won the 1<sup>st</sup> Division but turned down promotion on several occasions.

In 1995/96 it was decided to change the name to AFC Rhondda to give the club a bigger marketing profile, however we were relegated to Div 2 in 2001/02 ,there followed a bleak couple of years, culminating in relegation back to Div 3 in 2002/3. It was decided to revert back to AFC Porth in 2004, but a further relegation in 2006/07 saw a return to the Amateur League.

Time for a revamp and Paul Evans was appointed manager in June 2007.

He brought a wealth of experience and with the new Committee's help was able to recruit, we won the Amateur League in 2007/08 with an unbeaten League record, and returned to the Welsh League, not stopping there in our first season back we were promoted to Div 2 in 2008/09 as Div 3 runners up. Paul Evans stepped down and Ex Cardiff City legend Scott Young took over in Oct 2009, and after a season of consolidation, he brought his own coaches, did some fine tuning of players at the club resulting in a thrilling final day promotion back to Division 1 for season 2011/12, the first for ten years. After finishing a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup>, Scott Young left the club to take up a coaching role with Port Talbot.

Adrian Needs accepted the challenge and we finished 6<sup>th</sup> in his first season in charge. We won Nathaniel Car Sales League Cup in 2014, but Adrian along with vast majority of squad (14 out of 16) who won cup departed in summer 2014 .

Time for rebuilding with local talent, and Youth, tough times ahead but with right men in charge a bright future.

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