

## Caerleon Football Club First Team Profiles 2014-15

**Richard Lancaster (G/K)** – Lanky is a long serving member of the football club and has limited availability due to his job in the RAF but is 100% committed and as with all keepers seems to get better with age!!

**Gareth Wesson (G/K)** – A recent recruit from Chepstow Town, Wess brings a wealth of experience which includes Newport YMCA, Newport County and Cwmbran Town. His presence both in the dressing room and the box has already proved invaluable.

**Ryan Diaper (Def)** – Another player returning to game after several seasons away due to work commitments. Ryan has earned his side in the squad through hard work and dedication in pre-season

**Simon Bolton (Def)** – Signed from neighbours Caldicot last season, “Ginge” has settled in well. In addition to his tough tackling approach he is a good talker and organises those around him.

**Ryan Cueto (Def)** – Second spell at the club after a season away. Ryan has tremendous pace and tremendous enthusiasm. If he can get the two to work at the same time he’ll be a great player!!!!

**Gareth Bennett (Def)** – Another recruit from Chepstow Town, Gareth has previous Welsh League experience at Newport Civil. A tough no nonsense centre half. Gareth has all the attributes of a No.5, strong in the tackle and powerful in the air.

**Matthew Compton (Def)** – Matt is another product of the successful youth set up. Can adapt to defence or midfield. Has a great engine and definitely got a good future in front of him

**Josh Skyrme (Def)** – Recently signed from Newport Civil Service, Josh has great ability and strength with a good left foot and will be a valuable addition to the squad.

**Scott Lewis (Mid)** – Scott can play in any position and always gives 100%. Tremendous attitude in games and training. Last season’s player of the year

**Andrew Cooke (Mid)** – Players player of the year last season. Andrew is the “Dogger” in midfield and has a great engine. Just likes to win the ball and set things up for his teammates.

**Alex Waters (Mid)** – In his second season with the club, Alex is a “busy” player and doesn’t give his opponent a minute on the ball. Looking to improve on a great season last year plus has set himself the stretch target of “One goal”!!

**Ben Siggins (Mid)** – Signed this season from Liswerry, Ben has added that bit of quality we were missing in midfield. He has the ability to break down opponent play and set attack up through his accurate passing ability.

**Kade McConville (Mid)** – Another Youth team product. Kade is equally at home at full back or in midfield. Never stops running and hassling his opponents.

**Ross Oakley (Mid)** – Ross has bags of skill, a great turn of pace and a powerful shot in both feet....what more could you ask for?? Is equally at home in defence going forward.

**Liam Head (Str)** – When he puts his mind to it Liam has the ability to change a game with a moment of skill!! Looking to bring consistency to his game this season and a few more goals!!

**Jamie Davies (Str)** – Jamie is a product of the Newport County Academy. He also had the honour of representing Wales at U18 schoolboy level. Now in his fourth season at Welsh League level, Jamie can switch play with his slick passing and also has an eye for goal.

**Yousif Al-Doori (Mid)** – Recently signed from Newport Civil Service Yousif is equally at home up front or midfield and has an eye for goal. Another great addition to the squad

**Mark Dunn (Str)** – Mark rejoins from Chepstow Town after several seasons away. Dunny again has vast Welsh League experience and can even count Notts County amongst his former clubs. Equally at home in midfield or up top

**Luke Cueto (Str)** – Luke showed last season that given the chance he can be prolific in front of goal. He scored back to back hat tricks in the first two friendlies!! Tremendous pace as well.

**Sammy Oakley (Str)** – Just turned 18 but Sammy, a product of last season’s youth side has showed that he is ready to step up to first team football. An exciting and promising future in front of him.

**James Francis (Str)** – Signed from local side Malpas three seasons ago, Jim finished last season as top scorer with 14 goals. Limited play time in pre-season due to cricket but has bags of skill and a good eye for goal.

**Ben Wooten (Str)** – Recently joined from Newport Civil, Ben has bags of pace and definitely an eye for goal. Managed a hat trick in the last pre-season game so looking to gain a regular spot. A great asset to the squad.

**Dave Griffiths (Coach)** – Dave is another stalwart at the club having been a player, Asst Mng and Manager. Has vast experience of football in Wales at all levels with Newport County, Newtown, Caersws and Rhayader to name a few.

**Brendan Dowd (Coach/Physio)** – Brendan, at 55 is now a stalwart at the club. Having been a player, Manager, Program seller and now Coach/Physio, he knows the club inside out!!

**Nicky Davies (Coach)** – Nicky has fulfilled just about every job in the club and without his hard work and dedication, the club would not exist.

**Paul Coldrick (Asst Coach)** – “Codger” has been involved with the club on and off for many years in many roles. His experience and knowledge of the game is invaluable and will be a big asset to the youngsters within this year’s squad.

## History of Caerleon AFC.

Formed in 1893, The Club won many Trophies in the old Monmouthshire Senior League, before they were admitted to the Welsh League in season 1965-66. In their first season they were crowned Division 2 champions and also won the Welsh Amateur Cup, beating Welshpool in the final at Llanidloes. Success came again the following year when Caerleon became Division 1 champions in 1967-68. They were subsequently promoted to Premier Division in the 1968-69 Season where they remained until relegated in 1977. Relegation didn’t however last long and Caerleon were promoted again to the top division after the 1978-80 season when they were runners-up in the league. They became a Member of the newly formed Welsh National Division in 1982.

Runners up of the National Division 1983-84, Caerleon retained their place in the top division until relegation came after the 1988-89 season. The Club reached its lowest point when further relegations in 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons left them in the Welsh League Division 3. Having been Champions of Welsh League Division 3 in 1998-99, fortunes turned with back-to-back promotions resulting in promotion back to Division 1, finishing in third place in 1999-2000. Caerleon were at last back on top in the Welsh Football League Division 1. An unlikely success also came in the 1999-00 Welsh Cup when Caerleon reached the quarterfinal, losing 4-1 at home to Bangor City.

In 2007 the Reserves won the Harris Printers Shield against Bryntirion Athletic 2-1 at Taffs Well. They also had a great 2010-11 season finishing runners up in the league.

Caerleon remained in the top flight until 2009-10 when a bottom of the table finish saw them relegated to Division 2.

Lee Relish was appointed Manager late in the 2009-10 season and his priority was to get the club back where it rightfully belongs, the Welsh League 1<sup>st</sup> Division and he achieved that goal in the 2011-12. Unfortunately the club's stay in the top division was short lived as we ended the 2012-13 season bottom of the league with 9 points.

With previous Managers Dave Griffiths, Brendan Dowd and Nicky Davies back at the helm for the 2013-14 season, it really was a matter of starting from scratch. With two players from the relegated squad remaining it was very much a case of calling on the reserve side and the under 19 squad and building a new side. That side managed a creditable 10<sup>th</sup> position but more notably won the FAW Fair Play award for the Welsh League and the use of a Nathaniel Car Sales minibus for the 2014-15 season.

With several new additions to the squad the management team are hoping to build on last year's success both on and off the field.