

CARDIFF GRANGE HARLEQUINS – PLAYERS’ PROFILES – SEASON 2014-15

Gareth Nott – Excellent shot stopper with footballing ability. A former Quin with plenty of experience and ability. Goal Keeper

Rhys Richards – Vastly experienced defender for someone so young, calm and reliable. Defender

Amanj Hassan – Strong and quick full back, experienced and established at Welsh League level. Defender

Sueber Essa – Young defender with plenty to offer, new addition to the squad. Defender

Ross Powell – Tough tackling, no nonsense defender, reliable and one you want in a battle. Defender

Theo Reed – Strong and quick full back who will easily move into Welsh League football. Defender

Robbie Burns – Second season with us, enthusiastic and still learning his trade, could play across the back. Defender

Layton Maxwell – Layton brings a wealth of experience to the club, makes it look too easy. Midfield/Coach

Andres Coll – Several years at the club now, a classy midfielder with the Spanish touch. Midfield

Carl Fitzgerald – Vastly experienced midfielder, loves a battle, Quins old boy. Midfield.

Josh Beddis – Young midfielder and joins us for a second time, classy touch with plenty to offer. Midfield.

Joao Rodrigues – Loves a battle and has the Portuguese touch, can play him anywhere. Midfield.

Gareth Cawley – Strong and competitive midfielder who gives his all, versatile to play across midfield. Midfield

Adam Ahmed – Young midfielder learning his trade in Welsh League, keen to run at players. Midfield

Dan Rai – Energetic footballer, gives his all and still learning his trade in Welsh League. Midfield

Ryan Tranter – Hard working midfielder, looking to make his mark at Welsh League. Midfield

Adan Jama – Tricky winger, looks to attack defenders. Looking to make his mark in Welsh League. Midfield

Tim Dunne – Athletic and pacey footballer, a handful for any defender. Forward

Kier Yip – Hard working forward with an eye for goal, second spell at the club. Forward

Curtis Debrasso – Young forward with an eye for goal and classy touch . Forward

Management

Omar Abdillahi – Player/Manager – Former Quin returning from a brief spell at Pontypridd Town. On his day one of the best around. ,Midfield

Ishy Akhtar – Assistant Manager - Several years at the club, learning his trade. Currently doing his UEFA C Licence.

Layton Maxwell – Layton brings a wealth of experience to the club, makes it look too easy. Midfield/Coach

CARDIFF GRANGE HARLEQUINS – HISTORY

The 'Quins' were formed in 1935, and came to prominence in the early 1990's becoming the first Cardiff club to progress from "parks" football into the Welsh League, through the FAW Pyramid system. Playing their football at Cardiff Athletic Stadium in Leckwith, the Quins won the Welsh League Challenge Cup in 1995, were first promoted to Division One in 1996, and returned in 2002 determined to make a big impact.

The club achieved Welsh Premier League status by finishing runners-up in 2004/05. Unfortunately the financial realities of competing in that league proved too much, and the Club was immediately relegated following the mid-season departure of the manager and the expensively assembled squad.

However, the club was blessed with a talented group of youth players, and a new committee was formed in the close season of 2006, determined to keep Welsh League football in Grangetown, to develop a new generation of local players and to work within the club's budget. The tough decision to suspend its membership of Welsh League Reserve Division was taken to ensure survival in 2006-07, the cost of playing games at Leckwith being prohibitive.

Following relegation to Division 2 in 2006/07 and a turbulent few years on and off the pitch, the summer of 2008 saw the threat of the Quins dropping out of the Welsh pyramid become a very near reality. However thanks to a local group of individuals and business the dreams of restoring past glory lives on. The new committee is committed to developing all areas of the club by providing stability on and off the field. The club currently operates a no-pay policy to players while hoping to ensure the club maintains its community feel.

Although season 08/09 ended quietly the clubs aim of ensuring 2nd division status was met. Following the turmoil of summer 2008, season 09/10 started with an air of stability at the club, with the appointment of Gavin Price as manager, however due a disappointing start the club parted company with the manager. Unfortunately the season ended with the disappointment of relegation to Division 3 following the implementation of the FAW strategic plan.

For season 10/11 the club drafted in vastly experienced Mike Wadden as manager to work on returning the club to past glories. Mike brought with him experienced coach Nick Yates; after a promising start, reaching the quarter finals of the Welsh Cup and topping the table in February, the push for promotion fell away and eventually a relegation battle was successfully fought.

Season 11/12 was a disappointing one, after a slow start the Quins picked up in the middle of the season but faltered again towards the end. For 12/13 several new signings came on board and a solid management team retained, the club had hoped to make a successful attempt at regaining its Division 2 status but after a disappointing start a management change took place and ex Bridgend St and Llanelli manager Gary Proctor was given the responsibility to ensure Division 3 status.

Season 13/14, whilst starting with optimism saw a difficult season ensue. A mid-season manager change saw Gary Proctor leave followed by exodus of players, leaving Allan Davies to see the season through. A difficult preseason has followed and we hope the appointment of local lad and former Quin – Omar Abdillahi – will stabilise things for 14/15.

The committee is sure the foundations are in place for the management team to build a successful side, playing a brand of football the club and its opponents have become accustomed to see.

The committee continues with its aim of developing a football club which evolves into a community club to which everyone can relate. Most importantly 95% of the first team lives locally, while the youthfully assembled squad of current players and new signings will no doubt push the club in the right direction for many years.