

## Garden Village AFC 2014-2015 Pen Profiles

### Christian Allen – Forward (Age 25)

Chrissy joined Garden Village from Swansea based rivals Pontardawe Town in July 2013. A whole hearted and determined striker, Chrissy will be looking to build on last season's total of 19 goals.

***Previous Clubs: Pontardawe Town, South Gower, Cwmfelin Press, Mumbles Rangers***

### Luke Allen – Defender (Age 19)

Luke joined Garden Village from recently relegated West End in July 2014; joining his brother Chrissy at the club. Luke is a solid defender and will be looking to establish himself as the clubs' first choice left back this season.

***Previous Clubs: West End, Neath AFC***

### Nehemias Barria – Midfielder (Age 20)

Neme joined Garden Village in August 2014 after originally visiting family based in Waunarlwydd. Neme possesses excellent flair and has the ability to beat his man with ease. Neme has also pitched in with a fair share of goals this term. Exciting player!!

***Previous Clubs: -***

### Sam Brown – Midfielder (Age 30)

Sam re-joined Garden Village in July 2013 following a 3 ½ year spell at West End. Sam was last season's captain and managed a club record haul of 32 goals in all competitions. Sam's ability at set pieces is exceptional as well as his passing ability and vision.

***Previous Clubs: West End***

### Jack Britton – Midfielder (Age 20)

Jack joined us from high-flyers Haverfordwest County in February 2015, and made his debut in the away fixture at Goytre. Despite a 2-1 loss, Jack's debut was very impressive and he looks like a very good signing for the club. Skillful and quick and definitely one for the future!

***Previous Clubs: Haverfordwest County***

### Daniel Burgess – Midfielder (Age 23)

Dan joined the Garden Village ranks from Neath League side Onllwyn in August 2014, and after some solid displays in the Reserves, he was promoted to the 1<sup>st</sup> team set up. Dan is a no-nonsense midfielder who is good in the air and strong in the tackle.

***Previous Clubs: Onllwyn***

### Ashley Curtis – Forward (Age 20)

Ashley joined Garden Village from West End in July 2014 and has made an excellent impression in the preseason friendlies so far. Possesses an excellent amount of pace and has an eye for goals.

***Previous Clubs: West End, Haverfordwest County, Carmarthen Town***

### Christopher Curtis – Goalkeeper (Age 32)

Chris joined Garden Village in February 2015 from Penybont and looks to be an excellent addition to the squad. Chris commands his box well and is constantly talking to the defence and midfield – something we have needed for a long time. Valuable addition to the squad.

***Previous Clubs: Penybont, Goytre United, Haverfordwest County, Afan Lido***

**Craig Davies – Defender (Age 23)**

Bunji joined Garden Village from Pontardawe Town in July 2014. An excellent defender who is strong in the tackle and good in the air, Bunji's experience of Division 1 football will be vital to our chances this season.

***Previous Clubs: Pontardawe Town, West End, Landore***

**Josh Doyle – Defender (Age 20)**

Doyley joined Garden Village in October 2013 from Afan Lido, and immediately gained a place in the starting line-up. Josh is strong at going forward and is constantly solid defensively. Josh played in midfield at times last season, which makes him a useful asset to the squad.

***Previous Clubs: Afan Lido, Pontardawe Town***

**James East – Midfielder (Age 17)**

James joined Garden Village from Port Tennant Colts in August 2013 to originally play in the Youth Team, but such were his performances with the Youth Team – he was signed for senior football within 2 months. James is an exciting young talent who can operate in defence or midfield. Outstanding potential!!

***Previous Clubs: Port Tennant Colts***

**Luke Fleming – Goalkeeper (Age 18)**

Luke joined Garden Village in September 2014, following spells at West End and Afan Lido. Luke comes as a highly recommended goalkeeper, having spent spells of pre-season with us. Luke will be looking to make the Number 1 position his own this season.

***Previous Clubs: West End, Afan Lido***

**Tom Grey – Defender (Age 21)**

Greyo joined Garden Village in October 2013 from Pontardawe Town and immediately established himself as one of the 1st names on the team sheet. Tom is a fierce competitor for the ball and is excellent in the air.

***Previous Clubs: Pontardawe Town***

**Matthew Harding – Defender (Age 24)**

Matt has been at the club for a number of years, having played through the junior ranks of the club. A proper local boy, Matty is dependable for any team he is selected and is equally able in defence or midfield. Nice to have him back after a lengthy spell on the treatment table.

***Previous Clubs: None***

**Colin Harris – Midfielder (Age 19)**

Colin joined Garden Village from West End in July 2014. A strong and pacey midfield player, Colin is looking to make a good impression this season and has already displayed some excellent performances during pre-season.

***Previous Clubs: West End***

**Anargyros Poutachidis – Defender (Age 30)**

Argi joined us in November 2014 from local rivals West End – making his 1<sup>st</sup> team debut away at Bangor City. Solid and dependable, Argi is highly thought of by the management team and will be looking to make a solid claim for a starting berth week in week out.

***Previous Clubs: West End***

### **Cory Saunders – Defender (Age 18)**

Cory joined Garden Village in August 2014 following a spell with Hereford United. Cory is a natural left sided player who possesses good pace and an excellent engine. Despite being only 18 years old, Cory is an excellent signing for the club

***Previous Clubs: Hereford United, Swansea City***

### **Callum Silcox – Midfielder (Age 18)**

Callum joined Garden Village from Welsh League Division 3 side Llanelli Town in February 2014.

Callum made his debut for the reserves and has made his way up to the 1st XI. Callum will be looking to establish himself in the squad on a regular basis this season.

***Previous Clubs: Llanelli Town***

### **Gary Taylor – Midfielder (Age 27)**

Gary joined Garden Village from Pontardawe Town in July 2014, following a successful time there as captain. Gary has played Welsh League football from a young age so his experience and knowledge is an important element for the squad. Possesses good passing ability and also is excellent at set pieces.

***Previous Clubs: Pontardawe Town, Goytre United, Haverfordwest County***

### **Matthew Thompson – Midfielder (Age 26)**

Matty joined Garden Village following some time out of the game – he last played for Afan Lido in the 2012-2013 season. Matty provides us with excellent technical ability, is strong in the air and also the tackle; while his experience at the young age of 26 is invaluable. Excellent addition

***Previous Clubs: Afan Lido, Port Talbot Town***

### **Frank Tobin – Defender (Age 19)**

Frank joined Garden Village in September 2014 following a recommendation from Tom Grey. Frank is a strong full back who likes to get forward to support the wide players. Has shown excellent potential with his displays this season so far

***Previous Clubs: -***

### **Jordan Vickers – Midfielder (Age 18)**

Jordan joined Garden Village in March 2014 from Swansea League side Kilvey Fords. Jordan has established himself in the 1st XI already and will be looking to make the wide midfield position his own. Possesses good feet and exceptional skill along with pace

***Previous Clubs: Kilvey Fords, West End***

### **Rhys Whitelock – Defender (Age 25)**

Rhys makes a welcome return to Garden Village, following his previous spell here between 2010 and 2012. Equally able in defence or midfield, Rhys provides us with pace out wide and his crossing ability is of a very high standard. Nice to see him back!

***Previous Clubs: Penybont, Pontardawe Town***

### **Cerith Williams – Defender (Age 24)**

Cerith joined Garden Village from Afan Lido in July 2013. Cerith was part of our promotion winning squad last season, but an injury forced him to miss the season run in. Equally able in defence or midfield, we will be looking forward to having him fit again for the remainder of the Division 1 campaign.

***Previous Clubs: Ammanford, Afan Lido***

## **Garden Village AFC History**

Garden Village A.F.C. was founded in 1922 and started playing football at Swansea League level before joining the Carmarthenshire League mid-way through the 20th century. After numerous league and cup successes over the years, Village gained promotion into the Welsh Football League at the end of the 1998/99 season after finishing second in the Premier Division of the Carmarthenshire League, and successfully beating Neath League team Cwmamman United in the Welsh League promotion play-off to become the West Wales representative in the Pyramid system.

In only our first season of Welsh League football, the club secured promotion by finishing third in Division 3 behind Garw and Ely Rangers - one point ahead of fourth-placed AFC Llwydcoed - and also fared well in the Welsh Cup; a run that saw them dispose of Pontyclun and Ely Rangers before being knocked out by the then Welsh Cup holder & League of Wales side Inter Cardiff.

The Second Division proved to be a much tougher test for Village but managed to finish a respectable eighth in our first season. We did, however, manage to secure promotion in our second season winning the final game of the season at Chepstow Town and become Division Two Champions. Village had just one short spell in the top flight of Welsh League football before they were relegated at the first attempt. An excellent run of form towards the end of the season, which almost kept them up, but unfortunately this coincided with other teams hit similar form and Village narrowly missed out on survival, finishing two points adrift of Ely Rangers.

After a number of seasons in Division Two, where the club never finished outside of the top 8 positions, the club regained Division One status when they finished third in season 2008/09. We remained in top division for two seasons but, unfortunately, a poor season in 2010/11 saw us relegated back into Division Two.

In the summer of 2013 the club made a decision to appoint a management team from outside of the club, something that had not been done since the early 90's. Steve Price was appointed manager and with his newly formed team gained promotion at their first attempt finishing a creditable third. The outcome of our season going into the last game away to Briton Ferry Llansawel where victory would get us being named as Division Two Champions, unfortunately, we lost 2-1 to a last minute penalty moving us down to third and victory for Briton Ferry gained them runners-up and promotion.

Recently the club has shown its commitment into developing our own young players by introducing an Under 18 team in the West Wales Youth League as well as an Under 19 team in the Welsh National Youth League. Working together with our junior section this will now give our younger players a ladder to work their way into senior football from junior levels.

The club's Stafford Common ground is greatly admired by visiting teams and their supporters and has been credited as having an exceptional playing surface. The ground is always improving – in 2006 the club opened its new changing room facilities while a new bar and suite area was added to the current club house in the summer of 2008. 2009 saw us complete the next phase of our development by installing a new 75 seater stand as well as rebuilding the covered standing area that had been damaged previously by a storm.

During the summer of 2010, we were delighted to announce the completion of the floodlights system on the main pitch with additional training lights onto the outer pitch/warm up area. This long running project meant we were able to play midweek and evening games throughout the season, and further enhance the excellent facilities that we have already got, here at Garden Village.

In the summer of 2012, the main pitch was ripped up completely to install the new drainage system. Over the years, the main pitch has had many problems with the drainage, so the decision was made to upgrade the drainage facility to help solve the problem. The work was finally completed at the end of September 2012, and since has proved to be a very successful project due to the virtual disappearance of any games being called off. The summer of 2014 saw further development of the main stadium with a wooden perimeter fence being erected to fully enclose the main pitch area.