

## **HAVERFORDWEST COUNTY PLAYERS' PROFILES SEASON 2014-15**

**Wayne Jones** Manager. A quality left side player who made 295 WPL appearances for County and Carmarthen Town. Was manager of Newcastle Emlyn before joining the County coaching staff under Derek Brazil. He was appointed first team coach for season 2011/12 and shared the manager's role with Mickey Ellis last season. appointed manager in May 2013. Should complete his 'A' license this year;

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**Sean Cresser**. Coach. Joined the coaching staff in July 2012. A former Welsh League player at Ammanford, Garden Village and Newcastle Emlyn. Was Assistant Manager at Newcastle Emlyn and Academy coach at Carmarthen Town. Appointed by Wayne Jones in May 2013.

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**Craig Morris** 27/07/81 (goalkeeper) An experienced 'keeper who re-joined the club from Merthyr Town in January 2014. Craig has made 112 appearances in the WPL for Neath, Llanelli and Afan Lido.

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**Dan Evans** 08/02/97 (goalkeeper) A product of HCAFC's Academy and currently the U19s 'keeper. Dan made his 1<sup>st</sup> team debut as a 16 year old in Nov. 2013 in a Welsh League game at Goytre and put in a man of the match performance. Several Football League clubs have shown an interest in this talented goalkeeper. He has real ability being a great shot stopper and a good distributor of the ball.

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**Dale Griffiths** 02/11/85 (defender) Returned in August 2013 as skipper after a successful season with West End. We were disappointed to lose Gonzo after he had joined us from WPL club Carmarthen in 2011 as he is a proven leader and a quality central defender.

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**Sam Rodon** 27/05/93 (defender) Spent 7 years with Swansea City Academy. Sam has been capped for both Welsh Schoolboys Under 18s and captained the Welsh Colleges Under 19s. He joined us from West End in August 2013 and quickly became a firm favourite at the Club. Winner of Players' Player, Manager's Player and Supporters' Player for season 2013/14. A nephew of former Bluebird's favourite Chris Roden,

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**Antonio Facciuto** 27/2/91 (defender) A Llanelli boy who is currently studying mathematics at Swansea Univ. He impressed our management when playing for Pontardawe Town and he became our first signing for season 2012/13 A gifted left sided defender who has been a regular starter for the last two seasons.

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**Ricky Watts** 07/11/91 (defender) A product of Camrose FC and our youth system He made his WPL debut in the 2009-10 season as a 17 year old. A tremendous athlete and a player with an exciting future. He gained a Welsh Cap for the Under-18 schools in January 2010. Moved from midfield to wing back in 2012 and has made that position his own ever since.

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**Spencer Williams** 19/10/1996 (defender) A product of our Youth Academy, Spencer had a very successful 2013/14 season with the U19s; he also represented the Welsh Schools Under 18 section. A stylish full back with an excellent temperament, he has been most impressive in recent pre-season games. A real prospect and surely a regular member of the 1<sup>st</sup> team squad for season 2014/15.

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**Chris O'Sullivan** 16/02/83 (Midfield) An experienced WPL player who started his career at Swansea City and later joined Aberystwyth. Has been a regular member of the Bluebirds' squad for several seasons and we hope that his experience will be a great influence again this season. Also a former Welsh ABA lightweight champion.

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**Nicky Palmer** 11/06/81 (Midfield) Nicky makes a welcome return to a club for which he made 93 WPL appearances between 2003 and 2007. He has amassed a total of 327 WPL games with Llanelli, Carmarthen Town and Port Talbot as his other clubs. An energetic midfield player who will be a strong influence on the younger players in the side.

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**Sean Pemberton** Midfield 15/12/85 Signed from Pembrokeshire League club Narberth mid way through season 2012/13. Was a regular starter in midfield where his performances were consistently impressive. A combative midfielder who is particularly strong in the air.

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**Jordan Follows** 23/03/90 (Striker) Has had WPL experience at Llanelli, Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. Also chosen by Brian Flynn for Welsh U21s. a proven goalscorer who will strengthen our fire power up front.

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**Steffan Davies** 14/07/89 (Striker) A product of the Carmarthen academy Steffan signed for The Bluebirds in Nov'14 from Mid Wales League club Bow Street where he had impressed for a couple of seasons. Had previously spent a short time at the Bridge Meadow but suffered a serious leg injury which required major surgery and curtailed his career for a while. Previous Welsh League experience with Pontardawe, Dinas Powis and Ton Pentre. A proven goal

scorer who will certainly add height and strength up front.

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**Luke Borrelli** (Striker) 28/03/92 A product of Afan Lido's youth system, Luke played in the Welsh League for Pontardawe before moving in 2012 to Afan Lido where he played regularly in the WPL scoring 10 goals in 40 appearances. An exciting addition to our squad in November '13, Luke then signed for Port Talbot in July 2014 but we are delighted to have signed him once again in October 2014.

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**Declan Carroll** 04/07/93 (striker) Started his career with Tenby before joining our youth squad where he was a regular starter in MacWhirter League matches. After a brief spell at Carmarthen Declan joined Aberystwyth and he was a regular WPL squad member during season 2012/13. A strong and skilful player who we are delighted to welcome back into the club.

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**Greg Walters** 10/1/95 (striker) Another product of our successful youth system. Greg is a talented and versatile player who is gifted with pace and energy. Represented the Welsh Under 18s in Feb. 2013 and he made his Welsh League debut last season too.

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**Kieran Howard** 17/01/91 (midfielder) Joined the club in Nov 2014 from Afan Lido. Kieran has a good football pedigree having spent several years at Swansea City from where he also represented Wales at U17 and U19 level. He has played over a century of games in the WPL at Neath, Carmarthen and Afan Lido and he has already proved to be an excellent acquisition for The Bluebirds

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**Owen Thomas** 04/12 84 (midfielder) Re-joined the club in January 2015 having returned from Australia. Previously Owen had played WPL football at Carmarthen Town and Aberystwyth but he originally signed for The Bluebirds from Welsh League club Newcastle Emlyn. A wholehearted player who brings solidity to our squad.

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## **Haverfordwest County Club History**

Haverfordwest Football Club was formed on 7th December 1899 and subsequently became Haverfordwest Town. The early fixtures were friendlies until the Club joined the Pembrokeshire League before the First World War. The Club competes in the Pembrokeshire League to this day.

The First Team moved up to the Welsh Football League in 1936 and became known as Haverfordwest Athletic. The Bluebirds were usually in the top flight of the League, but were relegated to the Second Division in 1954. They returned as Champions and stormed to the First Division title in 1956. During that triumphant season the Bluebirds held Cardiff City's First Division outfit with Gerry Hitchens, Alan Harrington, Ron Stiffall, Colin Baker and Danny Molloy et al to a Welsh Cup 3-3 draw at the old Bridge Meadow in front of over 3,000 on a wet Thursday afternoon. The Blues were led by the legendary former Welsh international and City stalwart, Stan Richards through these famous times.

The Club in this period became Haverfordwest County as the town holds "county" status by ancient charter.

In 1960-1 the Blues won the League Cup, were runners up in the League in 1969-70 and 1970-71, but were relegated in 1975-76. Promotion was won after three seasons followed by the League Championship in 1980-81 losing only five games and also winning the WWFA Senior Cup for the first time, the first of six wins to date.

In 1983 the League was restructured into a National Division; only one season in the eight of that system did the Blues finish below sixth including winning the Championship in 1989-90. The Blues also won the League Cup in 1988-89 and were invited to be founder members of the Welsh Premier League in 1992-93.

After two seasons in the WPL, Safeway Supermarkets Limited purchased the old Bridge Meadow and part of that deal was the development of a purpose designed stadium behind the old site. The Club had to forfeit its WPL status while this took place and played in the Welsh League for three seasons, twice as Runners Up before returning to the WPL as Champions in 1996-97.

For the next few seasons the Club never arose above 10th place and escaped relegation on one occasion by no clubs being available to replace them.

The Club then appointed local boy and ex Wrexham favourite Deryn Brace as Player Manager. The Blues had a difficult start and were in the relegation places by mid season. The run-in saw 8 out of 10 matches ending in victory and the same squad finished third in the WPL in 2003-4 and

qualification for the then UEFA Cup. County drew Icelandic opponents and lost 4-1 on aggregate. The Bluebirds then finished fourth the next season and reached the semi final of the Welsh Cup.

During the 2006-7 season Deryn left the Club and was replaced by ex Manchester United and Cardiff player, Derek Brazil. The team were comfortable in mid table and survived the "cut" when the WPL was reduced to 12 members. However the Bluebirds finished bottom of the inaugural Super 12 WPL.

Derek Brazil has been replaced by Bluebirds stalwart Micky Ellis, former player here and at Pembroke Borough, current Academy Director and First Team Coach for the last 10 seasons. Micky has held a UEFA "A" Licence for 17 years. His Assistant is the former Newcastle Emlyn manager, Wayne Jones, who played for five seasons here and also for his home town club, Carmarthen Town.

Wayne Jones replaced Micky as Manager and lead the club to fourth position in division One of the Welsh League in season 2013-14.

The Bridge Meadow has been developed into an international venue with Women's World Cup matches against Germany, Belgium and Belarus, and a number of Under 19 and 17 Wales matches. A crowd of 2,400 saw the Blues entertain English League Wrexham in 2004 in the Premier Cup, and over 2,000 at last season's Schools Victory International against England. In August 2011 an Under 21 international against Hungary was staged. In 2013 the ground was a venue for matches in the UEFA Women's under-19 championship.