

A Brief History of Pontypridd Town AFC

The history of the modern Pontypridd Football Club began in 1991 when the failing Welsh League side of Ynysybwl amalgamated with local league side Pontypridd Sports & Social Club to form Pontypridd & Ynysybwl FC. After one season of playing their home games at the Recreation Ground in Ynysybwl the club moved to their new home in Ynysangharad Park, on the site of the former Pontypridd RFC Ground, and changed their name to their current one, that of Pontypridd Town.

With the help of the local council new changing rooms were opened, floodlights installed and the stand at Ynysangharad Park were upgraded, making it one of the better grounds in the league. The changes also brought some good fortune as a sixth place finish in Division Two was, due to reorganisation of the Welsh League following the formation of the League of Wales, enough to earn promotion to the top division for the first time in the club's history.

The 1992/93 season saw the club enjoy its highest ever league position when they finished in third place with just 3 defeats in 26 games. Fifth position was achieved in 1993/94 and eleventh position in 1994/95 but the 1995/96 season brought mixed emotions. This season saw the club go on a memorable Welsh Cup run. Llanwern, Newport YMCA, Taffs Well and Cemaes Bay were defeated along the way and the club were awarded a quarter final tie against eventual winners Llansantffraid of the League of Wales. Despite leading 1-0 at half time through a Romano Bacchetta goal, two goals from League of Wales legend and Hall of Famer, Toni Morgan saw the visitors through. However, the season ended in disaster as, despite finishing in eleventh place, Pontypridd were deducted seven points by the league for fielding an ineligible player, which resulted in relegation to the second division. The club hung on to second division status for three seasons before relegation back to the basement division.

The club has enjoyed a rollercoaster ride since then as they climbed back to division one before financial problems saw them sink back once more to the basement. There was talk of a merger with Treforest but, sadly, the talks collapsed and Ponty were left to struggle on. Luckily for the club businessman Phil Gibb rescued the club and with the help of manager Allan Davies the club is in a far better position than for many a year. However, Ponty's luck still hasn't changed with four successive near misses in promotion. Hopefully, Ponty's luck will change soon and the club can start climbing the Welsh pyramid once more!

In July 2013 Allan Davies, Simon Dyer and Mark Dodds all resigned and left the club following poor commitment from the players. They have been replaced by Dominic Broad (player/manager), Damien Broad (player/assistant manager) and Sam Houldsworth (player/coach).

Player Info

Ryan Griffiths – GK

Signed from Cambrian & Clydach in 2014, a great shot stopper and commands his area well.

Alex Blake – GK

Young keeper signed from Caeeau Ely, will challenge for the No 1 short this season.

Damien Broad – DEF

Player/Assistant Manager signed from Cardiff Corries in 2013.

David Bartlett – DEF

Another Full back who signed in 2013 from Cardiff Corries

Javi Garcia – DEF

Spanish Centre Half who signed from Spanish side Corella in 2015 along with his brother Carlos.

Matthew Escott – DEF

Big, strong and fast defender who signed in 2014 from Caerau Ely

Nathan Thompson – DEF

Signed from Splott Albion in 2013 and has dropped into the back line to shore up the defence.

Nyran Bird (C) – DEF

Signed in 2013 from Aberbargoed Buds.

Zac Iheanacho – DEF

Talented young defender.

Sam Graves – DEF

Played for Ponty last season but moved to London, now returning after a spell with FC Cubo.

Aaron Carew – MID

Fast attacking midfield player with great close control. Signed in 2013 from Caerau Ely.

Carlos Garcia – MID

Spanish Midfielder who signed from Spanish Side Corella along with his brother Javi in 2015.

Dominic Broad – MID

Player Manager who signed from Caerau Ely in 2013. Has a wealth of experience in the Welsh League.

Geraint Passmore – MID

A creative midfielder with a great touch with a wealth of Welsh League experience, signed from Bridgend Town in 2013.

Luke Gullick – MID

Classy midfielder with a wealth of experience, was called up to the Trinidad & Tobago squad in 2012.

Michael Thomas – MID

A big guy with a bigger engine who bosses the midfield area. Signed from Cardiff Corries in 2013.

Tom Rutherford – MID

A no-nonsense Midfield General who marshals the middle of the field.

Owain Morgan – MID

Youth player who has broken into the first team this season, lots more to come from this player next season.

Andrew Coleman – FWD

Last season's top goalscorer, has a great touch. Signed in 2013 from Cardiff Corries.

James Hill - FWD

Fast striker with an eye for goal, signed in 2013 from Splott Cons FC.

Stephen Hill-Clement – FWD

Former Wales u19 striker.