

## **Ton Pentre AFC Player Pen Pics - 2014/2015**

**Neil Collins (Goalkeeper)** - Collins is a very experienced goalkeeper that has previously won the Welsh League Division One title with Aberaman Athletic. Collins was voted as both the Bulldogs Club Player of the Year and Players' Player of Year for the 2013/2014 season.

**George Daly (Midfielder)** - Daly joined the Bulldogs from Bridgend Town in Summer 2013. Daly is a talented youngster who impressed throughout 2013/2014 during his first season at Ynys Park. He's also previously played for Rhondda rivals AFC Porth.

**Andre Griffiths (Midfielder)** - Griffiths has an impressive skill set and vastly improved throughout the 2013/2014 season to become a vital part of the Bulldogs team. Griffiths will be hoping to make even more of a mark in the Welsh League this season.

**Leon Young (Midfielder)** - Young is a firm favourite at Ynys Park and the midfielder produced some fine performances throughout the 2013/2014 campaign in various positions. Young always plays with 100% commitment to the cause.

**Lewis Hydes (Defender)** - Hydes is one of the most exciting players to watch in the Welsh League. His bursts of pace and ability to ease past opposition players is an asset to the team. Hydes is a Welsh Universities International who has previously played for Taffs Well and Pontypridd Town.

**Jaymie Wearn (Striker)** - Wearn joined the Bulldogs from Merthyr Town in September 2012. The striker possesses incredible skill and a keen eye for goal. Finished top goalscorer for Ton Pentre last season and he will be looking to do the same this campaign.

**Thomas Davies (Defender)** - Davies transferred to the Bulldogs from Cinderford Town in December 2009. Since then he has become a vital player at Ynys Park. The incredibly talented defender picked up the Supporters Player of the Year for the 2013/2014 season following a public vote.

**Ross Porter (Defender)** - Porter is an impressive defender who is both cultured and reliable. The defender has become an integral part of the Bulldogs defence. His previous clubs include Afan Lido, Merthyr Tydfil and Treharris Athletic Western.

**Dafydd Brewer (Defender)** - Brewer is a solid and reliable defender who has joined the Bulldogs from Aberbargoed Buds for the 2014/2015 Welsh League Division One season. Brewer featured prominently during Ton Pentre's pre-season friendly schedule.

**Shane Davies (Midfielder)** - Davies is an excellent signing for the Bulldogs having secured his services from Rhondda rivals AFC Porth. The midfielder has an impressive array of skill and ability in addition to much experience at such a young age.

**Ross Fowler (Striker)** - A proven goal scorer, Fowler returned to the Bulldogs from Division One rivals Aberbargoed Buds during the 2013/2014 season. Following a lengthy injury the striker looks fitter than ever and will be relishing this season's challenge.

**Ryan Jenkins (Striker)** - Jenkins has joined the Bulldogs from Barry Town United for what will be his second spell at the Club. The striker is a former Wales U17 International who has also spent time at Manchester City, Leeds United and Nottingham Forest.

**Alyn Jones (Striker)** - Now in the twilight of his career, Jones has re-joined the Bulldogs as a member of the coaching staff in addition to registering as a player. Jones is legend at Ton Pentre having scored many important goals for the Bulldogs over many years.

**Ryan Morgan (Defender)** - Morgan returned to Ynys Park in the 2013/2014 season for his second spell. Now back to full fitness, Morgan is looking hungry for action with the Bulldogs. The defender is a former Club Player of Year and his experience will be vital during the course of the 2014/2015 season.

**Adam Raymond (Midfielder)** - Adam is an experienced Welsh League campaigner having spent many seasons with Newcastle Emlyn and also enjoyed a spells with Dinas Powys and Haverfordwest County. Raymond has a no-nonsense approach to the game and has become a vital member of the squad.

**Daniel Richard (Striker)** - Richard registered for the Bulldogs ahead of the 2014/2015 season having spent last term with Aberbargoed Buds. Richard is a capable goalscorer with some impressive skills. Previous clubs also include Goytre (Gwent) and Merthyr Town.

**Leigh Smith (Striker)** - Smith is a former Cardiff City striker that has also spent time with Merthyr Town. He has an abundance of skill and is an exciting player to watch. In what will be his first season with the Bulldogs, Smith will be hoping to get amongst the goals.

### **Management Team**

Dean Morris (Manager)  
Andrew Hughes (Assistant Manager)  
Alyn Jones (Coach)

### **TON PENTRE AFC – A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BULLDOGS**

After suffering their first ever relegation at the end of the 2010/2011 Season, Ton Pentre bounced straight back to Welsh Football League Division One after lifting the Division Two title by finishing the League season unbeaten.

The Rhondda Valleys based club were demoted due to the re-organisation of domestic Welsh football during the 2009/2010 Season, which saw the Division One relegation zone increased from three to five places. The Bulldogs suffered heartbreak as they dropped into the fifth spot during the final 20-minutes of their last game of the season. It therefore seemed fitting that they return to Division One as undefeated champions.

Having lifted the Division Two trophy, Ton Pentre are looking to build upon their already rich history by consolidating their position in Division One this season.

It is accepted that the first competitive matches in Ton Pentre were underway in 1896 and the Ynys Park club have represented the soccer loving fans of the Rhondda ever since.

The Bulldogs were members of the Southern League from 1909 to 1915 and again after the First World War which saw Ton Pentre playing against opposition such as Luton Town, Southend United, Cardiff City, Aberdare, Stoke, Coventry City, Portsmouth and Swansea Town.

In 1919 Ton Pentre were involved in a preliminary round match of the FA Cup when over 20,000 people watched the Bulldogs beat Mid Rhondda at Tonypany. It is thought to be the biggest crowd to have ever gathered in the Rhondda.

Ton Pentre made their one and only Welsh Cup Final appearance on 4th May 1922 at Pontypridd where they played Cardiff City. The Bulldogs lost the match 2-0 with Len Davies and Jimmy Gill netting Cardiff's goals.

The post-war coal boom collapsed in 1923 and valley teams such as Mid Rhondda, Pontypridd, Porth and Aberaman disappeared under financial stress. Ton Pentre were able to continue but only at the expense of leaving Southern League football for more localised Welsh League football.

Ton Pentre's present day set-up dates from 1935 since which the Bulldogs established themselves as a potent force, however, although invited to participate in the inaugural season of the League of Wales, they declined preferring to justify their inclusion by gaining promotion as a right in the 1993/1994 Season. Ton Pentre's stay in the League of Wales saw the club finish a credible third place in each of their first two seasons and in 1995 they became the first Welsh participants in the UEFA Intertoto Cup competition.

Unfortunately, the European experience proved to be an expensive one for the Bulldogs and their European 'hangover' resulted in a drain on resources and after being dragged to the brink of insolvency the Rhondda club were forced to resign from the League of Wales and return to the Welsh Football League.

Ton Pentre won Welsh League Division One five times in consecutive seasons between 1997/1998 and 2001/2002, which equalled the league record held by Barry Town. Ton Pentre were again crowned Welsh League Champions in the 2004/2005 season for an incredible sixth time in eight seasons.

The Bulldogs are situated at the heart of their community and many believe that with the right kind of support and financial backing, Ton Pentre is a club capable of gracing the top level of Welsh football once again.