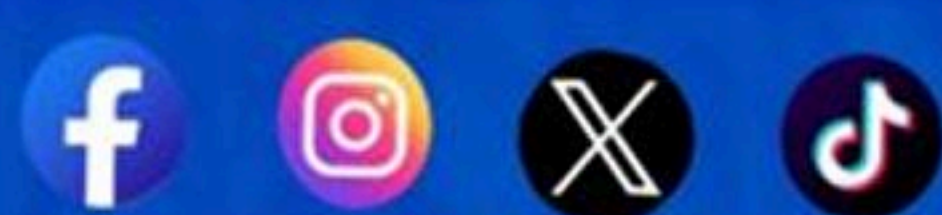


TOPBINS



THAT FOOTBALL DRAWING



THANK YOU

Well here we are, the tenth edition of TopBins magazine. It's a year almost when I sat in my lounge pottering around designing when I decided I wanted to design something for print and decided upon doing something for Welsh football.

At the time there was quite a bit of news going around so there was plenty of content to write up and discuss. A year on and there still seems to be enough news to discuss. The direction has changed a bit over time but the goal is still the same, promote the Welsh game.

It was around the same time I started to do stuff with Holywell helping my lad out with what he has been doing. He's moved forward with his dream and to see the progress he has made with coaching and the opportunities that are opening up for him, I feel he has a bright future in the game if he works hard and takes the chances as well as a bit of luck and for people to believe in him too. Needless to say, it's been a year of football in the household which hasn't gone down well with teenage daughter who would rather stick pins in her eyes than hear about overloads and pressing traps.

For the magazine, I have been very fortunate to have a group of supporters who have been with me from day one plus when I have asked for contributors and guests, I have had a great response. I have been blown away by the support and the effort to help me out when asked. I know how busy football is so for people to take the time to reply and help out means a lot, it really does. Even those who said I couldn't really do it alone helped by spurring me on.

However I am not someone who can sit still and rest and I have a desire to take the magazine forward. I would love to do more with it and bring more content that matters so I am always looking at ways to improve and keep the reader interested. I moved some content to TikTok and Instagram which helped shape the magazine and maybe that is something I need to do more with. Maybe I should look at a podcast or something every few months to tie editions together, I just don't know but I'll only do it if it makes sense.

I adore doing the magazine and want it to grow just as much as I want the game in Wales itself. I really hope you enjoy reading TopBins. Here's to another year.

Have a lovely festive break. Diolch,
Dan

CRAIG WILLIAMS TAKES THE REINS AT ABERYSTWYTH

Aberystwyth Town have named Craig Williams as their new First Team Manager, confirming a move that brings one of Mid Wales' most recognisable football figures back to Park Avenue. His appointment follows his exit from Caersws FC, where he had been leading the side in the JD Cymru North.

Williams arrives with a reputation built on decades of service in Welsh football. Few players in the modern era have matched his longevity. He spent 17 seasons with Newtown AFC, amassing a club-record 524 appearances and taking part in several European campaigns, including the memorable shootout victory over HB Torshavn that pushed the Robins into the Second Qualifying Round of the UEFA Europa Conference League. His total senior career appearances exceed 600, marking him as one of the region's most durable players.

Aberystwyth also know him well. He spent two seasons with the club between 2010 and 2012, long before stepping into management. His coaching journey took shape after retirement, progressing through roles at Newtown's academy before taking charge at Caersws in May 2025.



His departure leaves Caersws at a tricky moment. The Bluebirds had been navigating the lower end of the Cymru North table and found themselves sitting 13th, three points above the one relegation spot. With only a single team heading down, survival remains realistic, but the task now falls to a new manager to steady the club and push them away from danger.

At Aberystwyth, Williams inherits a side competing in the JD Cymru South and aiming to build further momentum. In his first comments after taking the job, he spoke about his familiarity with the club, his connection to the area and his desire to drive standards higher. The existing coaching team of Matthew Bishop, John Davies and Bryn McGilligan Oliver will remain in place, offering continuity as he settles in.

Club Chairman Donald Kane described Williams as an ideal fit for the club's direction, praising his knowledge of the Welsh game and long-term ties to the region. Aberystwyth believe his experience, leadership and understanding of the league environment will provide a strong foundation for the next phase of their project.

Williams now steps into a fresh chapter at Park Avenue, bringing his deep roots in Mid Wales football with him. Caersws, meanwhile, face the challenge of replacing a manager during a demanding spell, with their season still delicately poised.





DREAMS ALIVE IN THE WELSH CUP QUARTER FINALS

Pictures by **Sam Eaden** / FAW

This season's FAW Welsh Cup has already delivered a few raised eyebrows and heading into the quarter finals, the story just keeps getting better.

Two Tier 3 sides remain in the competition, something we rarely see at this stage of the Welsh Cup. Bangor City 1876 and Trearddur Bay are both still standing after impressive victories, with Bangor seeing off Trefelin and Trearddur Bay knocking out Newport City.

In recent years, the competition has largely been dominated by TNS and a small group of Cymru Premier sides, with familiar names and predictable endings becoming the norm. That makes this year's last eight feel refreshingly different.

Bangor City, though, still hold a unique place in the Welsh Cup's modern history. The club lifted the trophy four times between 1999 and 2010, during a period when Bangor were a genuine force in the domestic game. Those successes came under a different incarnation of the club, but the name, the support and the memories still carry weight.



Fast forward to now and Bangor City 1876's presence in the quarter finals feels symbolic as much as it is impressive. A Tier 3 side carrying a famous cup history back into the latter stages of Welsh football's showpiece competition. Different badge, different journey, but the same sense of occasion.

Trearddur Bay's run is every bit as eye catching. Competing in the Ardal North West, they currently sit fourth in the league behind Prestatyn Town, Porthmadog and Bangor City 1876, yet have refused to be overawed by higher ranked opposition in the cup.

Leading the charge is striker Tom Hilditch, who has been in ruthless form throughout the competition. Hilditch is the Welsh Cup's top scorer with 10 goals across the qualifying and knockout rounds, a return that underlines just how dangerous Trearddur Bay have been in front of goal.

There is also recent precedent for a Tier 3 side going deep in the competition. Holywell Town reached the semi finals in the 2013 14 season, becoming the first club at that level to do so, only missing out on a place in Europe after defeat to Aberystwyth Town.

And with a place in Europe awaiting the winners, the significance of this run cannot be overstated. For every club left in the competition, this is about more than silverware. It is about opportunity, exposure and a shot at the continental stage that can redefine seasons and, in some cases, entire clubs.

What is already clear is that this year's Welsh Cup has reminded everyone why this competition still matters, even if it continues to attract only limited attention from large parts of the Welsh media. On the pitch, it remains one of the most powerful and democratic competitions in the domestic game, capable of producing stories, belief and opportunity that few others can match.



FAW Welsh Cup Quarter Finals

Rhyl 1879	V	Barry Town Utd
Bangor City 1876	V	Caerau Ely
Flint Town Utd	V	Trearddur Bay
Caernarfon Town	V	Colwyn Bay

Games to be played between 30 Jan - 1 Feb

THE WELSH WHISPERER JOINS THE BOARD

Andrew Walton, better known to most as the Welsh Whisperer, has become one of the most recognisable voices in Welsh entertainment. Now he's added another string to the bow as he steps into a board role at Caernarfon. A supporter of the club and co host of the Caernarfon vodcast, he's moved from the stands and the studio into the heart of the decision making.

We caught up with Andrew to talk football, identity, and how his life in music shapes the way he sees the club's future.

You've stepped onto the Caernarfon board at a pivotal time for the club. What made you decide this was the right moment to get involved?

Fast forward about 3 years from turning up in town and watching the cofis on the terraces without knowing many people, I got in touch with the club and started helping out with some social media work and general offerings of support where I thought it might help them. Much more recently I was asked if I would be interested in joining the board, an offer I immediately accepted!

The first season I really followed the club was one where we were almost relegated, the following season we qualified for Europe and I'm glad to say that I was there on the famous night in Belfast with the Cofi Army. It was actually my best ever football experience, and I've been to lots of Wales games and English Premier League or Championship games since being a teenager. This experience showed me what the club is capable of, and the fact that we achieved that on a small budget (that's no secret) made me realise that with the right level of growth and investment we could really go up a level and visit Europe regularly, with all that it brings. So when I got the phone call, it really was a no brainer, just like the decision to start turning up at The Oval in the first place when I moved to the town. I got hooked as a fan but was also welcomed and valued as a contributor to the club so I really didn't have to think about it much. I'll be honest though, the fact that going to away games on the bus with cans of Guinness and stag do like trips to Belfast with about 500 others might have to make way for some more serious stuff did cross my mind!

As someone who has supported the club for years, what perspective do you feel you bring into the boardroom that maybe wasn't represented before?

I should declare here, I'm definitely not a Cofi native and life long fan! I'm from Carmarthenshire in the South West about 120 miles away so I'm not in the same league as so many of the fans here who have been watching Caernarfon literally their whole lives. That being said, I moved to the area about 4 years ago and starting coming to the games and was immediately hooked.

I'd say it's valuable to have someone from outside the traditional club circles involved at a board level, I'm well aware of what it's like to not know anyone involved and realise how important it is to not take for granted the fact that everyone who is a potential supporter already knows about us and what we're doing here.

My background in entertainment also brings value I hope, not in the entertainment itself but in selling a product and making sure everyone knows about it and how to access it. We know the Cofis are massive but we're not finished yet!

What are the key areas you're hoping to influence or improve as part of the new structure at the club?

We have a great team of media contributors at the club from photographers, graphic designers, commentators and social media people so we're in a good position. I hope to bring everything together effectively and up our game in terms of marketing ourselves. We're very lucky that we have always had a big, loyal and actually fanatical fanbase, I mean people that actually support Caernarfon properly not just as a 'local' side. There are still lots of people around town who I stop and talk to about the football club but I don't even know their names! It's just the go to conversation starter for a lot of people here, which is totally how it should be. We do however need to improve and increase the amount of quality content that we can offer them, things like live matchday updates, fan led commentary and lots more readily available merchandise like retro ranges, casual clothing and general good gear.

Caernarfon has always had a strong community identity. How important is that to your vision for the club's future?

The Cofi culture and brand is massive, there are lots of people just like me who have turned up at games and never looked back. The players love the fans, the fans love the players, and the club loves them all! I'm not involved in the coaching and management side of things but I know that it's a big factor in attracting players. We're proud that we provide a good match day environment for those looking for what I would call a 'proper' football experience where there is a pre match drinking culture (if you want it) and good energy on the terraces but also that it's a safe place for families. We love seeing children wearing replica shirts or anything yellow and green, they're the future of the Cofi army after all. Under 16s don't pay to get in, it's a move which obviously costs the club financially but we want to make sure that young people in Caernarfon can come and enjoy games however much money they have, and that they'll keep coming back for life. I've only just starting being aware of some aspects of the club at board level but I know that the club does good charity work in the community and that Bethan Roberts our SLO has plans to engage with younger fans further as well. One thing's for sure, when big games come around at The Oval we get around 15-20% of the town's entire population through the gates, which is amazing to be a part of and makes you realise how important the club is to the Cofis.

With the league expanding and competition increasing, where do you see Caernarfon in the next few years?

Personally I welcome the league's expansion, I think from a fan's perspective it means more away days and different clubs and players to watch. I'm also aware that it's probably going to dilute some of the talent, if more clubs can become competitive in what they pay players it will give them (players) more options that are still feasible for their full time jobs and situations at home etc. We recently launched our 5 year development strategy like everyone else and although a lot of big talking was done by all, we felt it was really important to be realistic. We want to be the very best of the non fully professional clubs by 2030, right up there challenging at the top of the Cymru Premier. With our support, on field potential and soon to be newly developed home stadium, we don't see why we can't be up there with the very best in the country. We know that players love playing in front of the Cofi Army, in a league where passionate fans can unfortunately be few and far between it's an asset that not too many other clubs can offer. Like the old saying goes, 'once you've been blessed by the cofis, you're a cofi for life!'

Your music carries a strong sense of Welsh identity. Does the culture around Caernarfon and its supporters influence your creative work in any way?

To be honest, although they're both very much unashamedly Welsh in nature and character, they're actually pretty separate. The whole Welsh Whisperer brand has been bubbling away for 10 years now and I'm really proud of everything I've managed to create in that time. The reality is though, that the Welsh Whisperer stuff is essentially made for a country and rural audience, and the Cofis are 100% townies, so it's a funny match that probably not many people expected! One thing they do have in common though is that it tends to be normal, hard working people that are interested in the two. There's not much cross over between Welsh Whisperer fans and Caernarfon Town fans but they're both sets of sound, solid people on the whole!



Does being a performer give you a different understanding of atmosphere, connection, and crowd engagement that you think can help the club?

I think it really does, in my early days as a performer I'd get to venues (I'm talking pubs, clubs and bars not professional music venues generally) and think 'God it's so bright in here' or feel awkward when there was never any background music to just get a bit of a vibe going. It's not rocket science that making a comfortable environment and an appropriate setting puts people in a good mood for whatever it is you want them to enjoy but it's amazing how many places miss this completely! We have great plans for matchday atmosphere and fan experiences that we can't wait to put into place when we get back to The Oval. We want to get those attendances up and pull in more of what I call the 'floating fans' who tend to only turn up for the big games (which they have every right to do by the way) but we'd like to see them week in week out so we need to showcase how good it is a bit more. Saying that, a football club saying 'please come it's honestly brilliant' is probably not going to cut it, we'll capture good times on the terraces as evidence, and they will come!

Music, entertainment, travel, and now club responsibilities is a lot to juggle. How do you manage those demands and stay effective in each role?

It really is a tricky thing and it has been over the years, especially with a young family now. Pre covid I'd be out around the country maybe 3-4 times a week doing some mammoth mileage and cutting some serious turf so to speak, but unfortunately I was away too much and something needed to go. More recently I've managed the travelling a bit better so that I'm around more and the summers tend to be the only part of the year that are as hectic as before, which seems to be working out ok. I can keep the wagon on the road and the Whisperer going strong whilst holding the fort at home! I am only finding my feet as a board member really but yes it takes up a fair bit of time. I wouldn't stand here though and say how good I am for giving my time to the club when there are people around me who have literally (and I mean literally) given full time hours to the club on top of their careers for decades. I suppose they'd say something similar to me in that, when you enjoy something and get a kick out of it, it doesn't really feel like work. My career in entertainment has felt like that on the whole and this doesn't feel too different. I did sit back for a while and wonder, should I just keep going as a fan and actually enjoy the matches 'strings free' or try and get involved? I came to the conclusion that if you have any skills that might be able to help your local football club, you probably should put them to use because if you don't, you'll just get annoyed at things you think could be done differently!

Do you think your experience in the public eye gives you an advantage when it comes to how a club should communicate with its supporters?

I think the way clubs in the Welsh system portray themselves is more important now than ever, particularly in the Cymru Premier where some clubs are looking for more significant investment. Everybody involved in the clubs want the same thing ultimately, a more professional league (in the financial sense and also in operation) with more fans and clubs that are more financially sustainable. In other words, proper football clubs. Why should people have to jump on a coach and spend big money on the English Premier League when we can build our own version at home? The product will never be the same as the EPL obviously, but personally I see that as our USP. Our job is to capture the good times, feed our supporters with everything Cofi related and hopefully take the club up a notch off the field whilst things are improving on it. I'm used to always being aware of how the Welsh Whisperer brand is portrayed and tapping into the right people to get them on side so it's definitely a big part of my role at Caernarfon Town as well. It's all about putting together a talented team to showcase Cofi culture, Cymraeg and this great football club's place in the town's history and importantly, its future.



Bring the beautiful game to life with **THAT FOOTBALL DRAWING**

Since 2021, That Football Drawing (TFD) has been creating bold, simplified digital illustrations celebrating footballers past and present. From rising talents to legendary icons, every design captures the spirit, colour, and passion of the game.

With a special focus on the Cymru Leagues and the rapidly growing women's game, TFD has proudly earned the support of clubs, supporter groups, and fans across the country. Along the way, TFD has also crafted unique illustrations for several Premier League stars.

All artwork is available as high-quality prints and stylish mugs—perfect for collectors, superfans, or anyone who simply loves the game.



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PONTYPRIDD UNITED MAKE SWIFT MANAGERIAL CHANGE AS DRISCOLL RETURNS

Pontypridd United have moved quickly to reshape their management team after confirming the departure of First Team Manager Mark Dunford and Assistant Manager Matthew 'Dai' Jones.

The decision came with Pontypridd sitting 10th in the league and following a recent cup exit to Colwyn Bay, results that have added pressure during a challenging period for the club. Dunford and Jones joined the club in the summer from Trethomas Bluebirds and were tasked with steadying the ship, but the club opted for a change in direction as the season reached a critical point.

In a statement, Pontypridd United said:

“We would like to sincerely thank Mark and Dai for their hard work, professionalism and commitment in their roles during what has been a challenging period for the club. We are grateful for their efforts and wish them both the very best for their future careers in football. “The process of appointing a new First Team Manager is already underway and we will update supporters with an announcement in due course.”



That process proved to be a short one. The following day, Pontypridd confirmed the appointment of Matthew Driscoll as First Team Manager, with Ismail Yakabu joining as Assistant Manager.

The pair arrive from Cinderford Town, with Driscoll returning to a club he previously represented as a player between 2010 and 2012.

There is little time for adjustment. Driscoll and Yakabu take charge immediately and will begin their tenure with a demanding home fixture against Aberystwyth Town on Boxing Day.

With a fresh management team in place, Pontypridd now turn their focus to stabilising results and restoring momentum as the season enters its next phase.



GIBSON LANDS ALTRINCHAM JOB ON A PERMANENT DEAL

Altrincham have confirmed Neil Gibson as their new permanent manager after an impressive four week spell in interim charge. He and assistant Lee Jones have agreed terms through to the end of the 2026/27 season.

Gibson brings a deep bank of experience from both Welsh and English football. As a player, he came through at Tranmere Rovers before spells with Rhyl, Southport and Prestatyn Town. His move into management began at Prestatyn in 2007, where he delivered three Cymru Alliance titles and a Welsh Cup and NWCFA Challenge Cup double in 2013. He later returned as director of football and then manager again in 2018, and also spent 18 months in charge at Flint United.

He has also worked in the English system with a 20 game spell at Wealdstone, where he recorded 8 wins, 4 draws and 8 defeats.





Across his Welsh league and cup career, Gibson has taken charge of 331 matches, earning 150 wins, 60 draws and 121 losses.

Chairman Mark Luby said the club ran a full process before making the appointment and stressed that the decision was based on far more than short term results. He highlighted the experience and professionalism Gibson and Jones have shown since stepping in, saying both have proved they can build on the momentum already in place.

With the pair now locked in, Altrincham are aiming for stability and continued progress. The club is confident supporters, volunteers and sponsors will get behind the management team as they push into the second half of the season.

FUTURE OF WELSH DOMESTIC FOOTBALL

The domestic game in Wales is evolving, and Welsh football is heading towards a period that will define the next decade. The Cymru Premier is about to expand and suddenly the conversation has changed. It is no longer just about who goes up. It is about what going up actually means and whether the system is ready for it.

League expansion is not new in Wales, but this time it feels different. There is more interest, more scrutiny and more expectation. Crowds are growing, coverage is improving and talk of sponsorship and future TV deals refuses to go away. Momentum is building, but so are the questions.

That interest is not limited to the top tier either. This season has shown just how strong the appetite for domestic football is further down the pyramid.

We have seen excellent crowds across Tier 2 and Tier 3, and Bangor City 1876 pulling in over 1,000 supporters for two cup matches is a clear example of what is possible when clubs are visible, well run and properly connected to their communities.

For years the Welsh domestic game has been dismissed by people who do not watch it. Anyone who turns up week in, week out knows the truth. This is competitive football, rooted in local identity, driven by volunteers and sustained by people who care deeply about their clubs.



When Expectation Meets Reality

This season is a perfect example. With the league expanding to 16 teams, three clubs from both the north and south will be promoted. That alone has changed the nature of the promotion race. More places have meant more belief, more spending and in many cases clubs throwing the kitchen sink at it in pursuit of a rare opportunity.

As the season has gone on and more detail has emerged around the revamped league, that optimism has been tempered by uncertainty. A lack of clarity around some key areas has raised an uncomfortable but necessary question. What happens if clubs finish in a promotion place but cannot go up because of licensing, or choose not to go up because the financial and structural jump no longer makes sense.

The Real Cost of Going Up

The true cost of promotion is often the first shock. Going up is not just about better football. It brings higher wages, more travel, additional officials, increased administration and tougher compliance. For many clubs, those costs arrive immediately, long before any extra income does.

That exposes the growing gap between clubs. Right now, only one side in the Cymru Premier operates on a fully professional basis. Others may want to follow, but for many clubs that simply is not realistic. Geography, finances and player availability all matter. Professional teams can train more, recover better and recruit differently. Semi pro clubs have to juggle football with work, family and travel. Over a season, that gap shows.

As expectations rise, the balance becomes harder to manage. Push standards too quickly without support and the gap only grows wider. Clubs end up chasing ambition while carrying risk they cannot afford.

That leads to a difficult but necessary question. Is promotion always the right move. For some clubs, being strong, stable and competitive at Tier 2 may be healthier than overstretching for a single season at a higher level. That is not a lack of ambition. It is sensible decision making.

Licensing, Travel and Player Availability

Licensing and infrastructure requirements add another layer of strain. Floodlights, seating, media areas, ground grading and ongoing maintenance all cost money. These standards matter, but without meaningful support they risk becoming obstacles rather than targets.



Travel and player availability are already major factors and they are only becoming more important. Longer journeys, midweek fixtures and the growing idea of the Cymru Premier becoming a Friday night league all add pressure to semi pro squads. What looks good on paper a regular slot, fewer clashes with the English game and something easier to sell to broadcasters can be far less practical in reality.

Friday night games and long distance travel often mean players having to take time off work or lose income just to play. For players balancing jobs, family and football, that sacrifice adds up. Over time, the risk is obvious. Better players may simply decide it is not worth it and either drop down a level, look elsewhere or walk away altogether. Supporters and volunteers feel it too. Weekend football suits communities. Move too much into working days and you risk losing fans and stretching volunteers even further. What works for a TV schedule does not always work for a community club.

That does not mean change should be rejected outright. Selective Friday games or showcase fixtures could work. But forcing every club into the same model risks prioritising how things look over how they actually function.

Volunteers and Youth Development

And without volunteers, none of this exists. The same people opening gates, washing kits, running socials and dealing with admin are being asked to do more, more often and under greater pressure. That is not an infinite resource.

Youth development is becoming essential rather than optional. Clubs that can bring players through locally give themselves a chance to compete without overspending. Those that cannot are pushed further into the market, usually at greater risk.

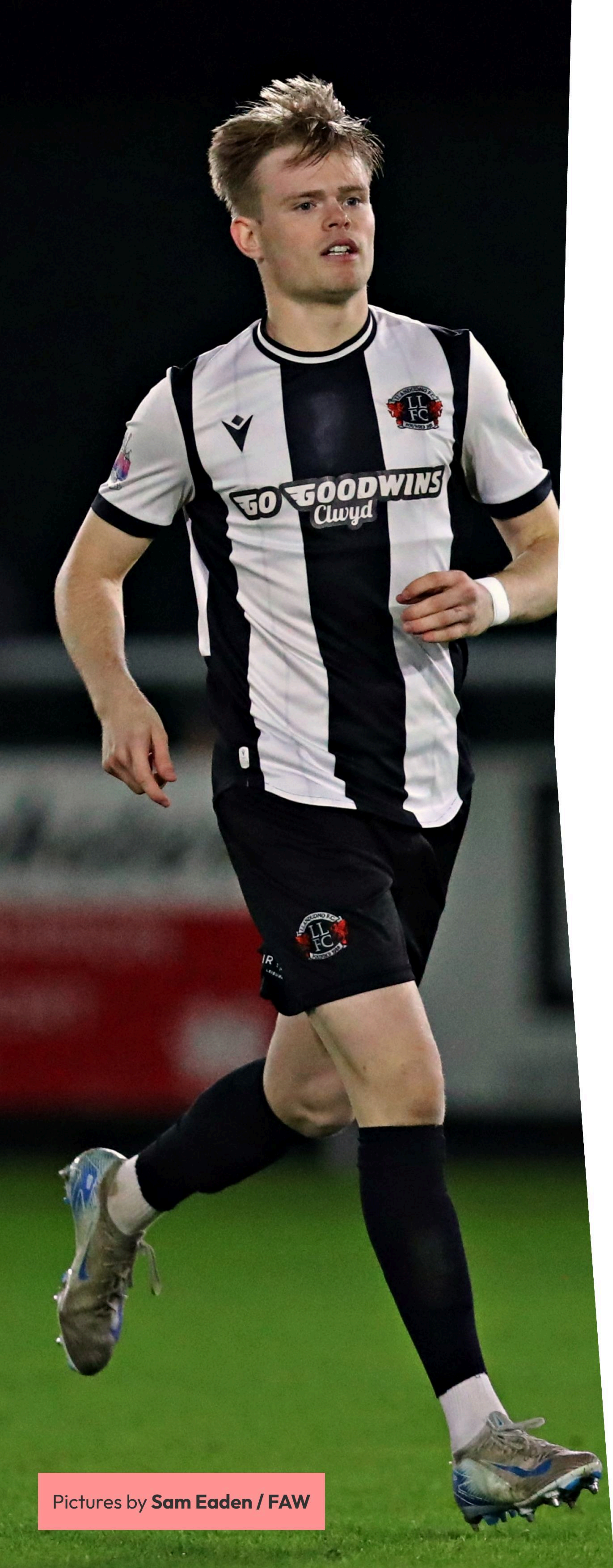
Could Tier 2 Become the Stronger Product

There is also a scenario Welsh football needs to take seriously. Over time, the Cymru North and South could become stronger than the Premier in certain ways. If good players prefer to stay closer to home rather than commit to increased travel and demands, Tier 2 becomes attractive, especially where the money is good enough. Add clubs who are financially stronger staying at that level because promotion simply does not stack up, and the balance of quality can shift.

That is not failure. It is a rational response to the structure in place.

If Tier 2 football does begin to offer the better overall product, the FAW will face some big decisions. Pathways, incentives and structures would need rethinking so that progression reflects reality, not assumption.





Consultation, Governance and Broadcast Coverage

It is also important to recognise the pressure the FAW are under. Delivering meaningful change in Welsh football is not simple. Balancing ambition, sustainability, governance and limited resources across a diverse pyramid is a difficult task, and senior leadership have consistently shown a willingness to engage and listen.

That said, responsibility cannot sit with one individual alone. System wide change requires broader consultation and shared ownership, particularly from those clubs most affected by reform.

There is a growing sense that the right people may not have been asked at the right time. Many Tier 2 clubs feel they have had limited opportunity to shape decisions that will affect them significantly. By the time the implications became fully clear, the window to influence those decisions may already have closed.

A pyramid only works if those most affected by change have a genuine voice in shaping it. Without that, even well intentioned reform risks drifting away from the realities clubs face week to week.

The same applies to broadcasters. Live coverage currently focuses almost entirely on the Cymru Premier, with only occasional exposure for the north and south through highlights, interviews or cup games. That is understandable, but it also reinforces the gap.

There is no need for big budgets or heavy production to improve that. A small increase in live games from the Cymru North and South would raise visibility, reward strong support and give more clubs a platform. If the best stories, crowds and contests are happening outside the top tier, coverage should be prepared to follow.

What Comes Next

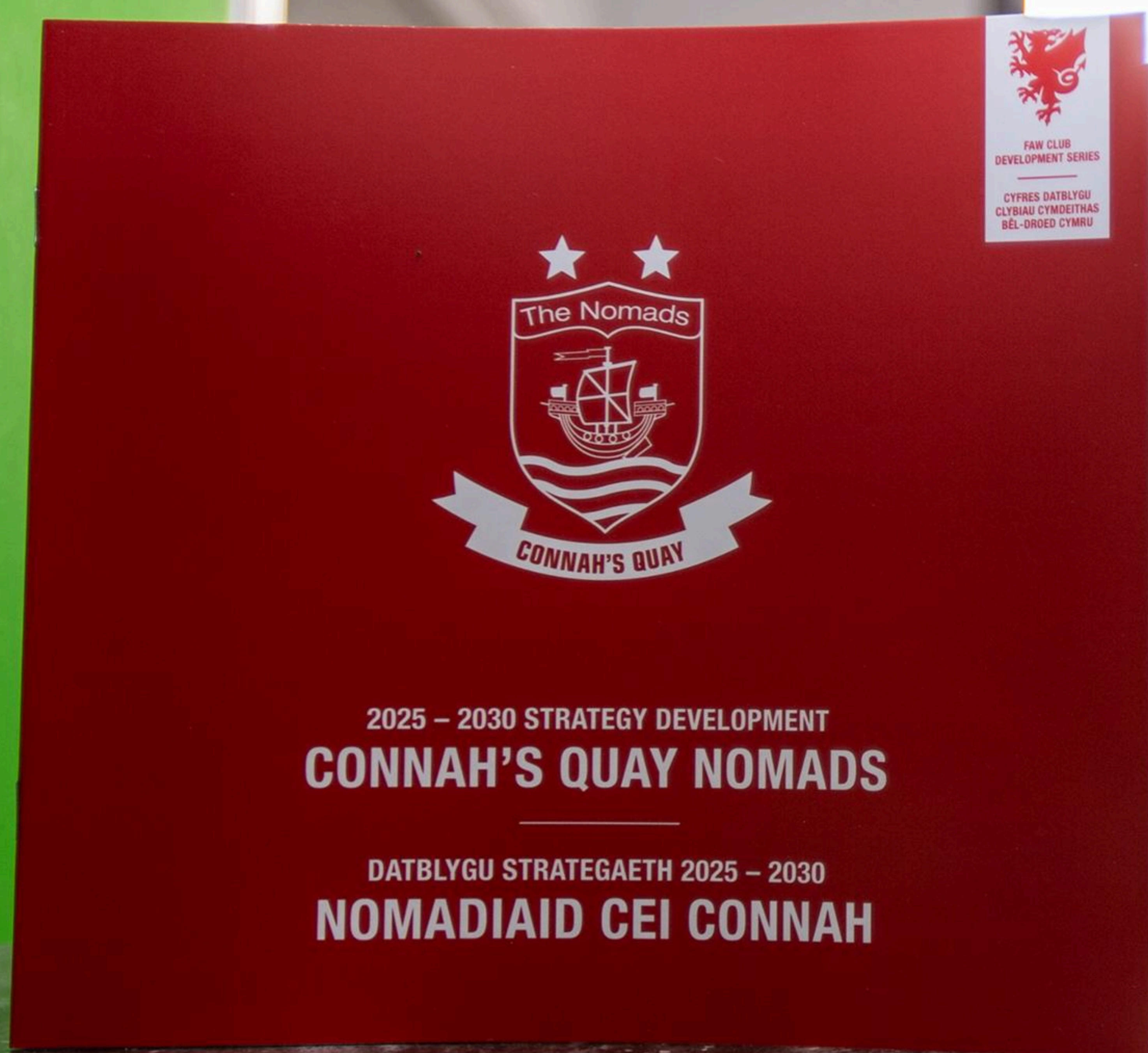
All of this feeds into the wider question of professionalism. Is going pro the answer. For a small number of clubs, maybe. Full time environments can raise standards. But professionalism without protection risks creating a league split between those who can afford it and those who cannot.

What feels unavoidable is the need for investment across the board. Facilities, staffing, youth systems and player welfare all need support if expectations are going to rise. Ambition alone is not enough.

That also brings governance into focus. If more money is coming in, safeguards matter. Proper owner and director checks might slow things down, but without them the risk of short term thinking and long term damage grows quickly. Expansion and TV deals sound exciting, but the same question keeps coming back. Who really benefits. If new money only helps a few clubs, the gap widens rather than closes.

By 2030, Welsh domestic football is expected to look different. That timeline comes from a long term strategy developed by the FAW alongside Cymru Premier clubs, including former Premier sides like Newtown and Aberystwyth. It may not set a hard deadline for going professional, but the direction of travel is clear. Expectations are rising.

The challenge now is making sure ambition is backed by support. Progress cannot be built on pressure alone. If Welsh football is going to grow in a sustainable way, success should be measured by stability, credibility and clubs still standing at every level of the pyramid.



CYMRU SPORT PODCAST

The Cymru Sport Podcast has been running a few months, yet it is already carving out its own space as a show fully focused on the Cymru leagues. It is steadily growing, helped by honest weekly chat and a strong lineup of guests that includes current players, managers and staff from across the domestic game.

Alan Stubbs, Gaz Lloyd and Darren Moss bring their own voices to the table, creating a relaxed but informed look at football in north and mid Wales that listeners have quickly warmed to.

If you have not given it a try yet, it is well worth a listen. It has become a regular part of my week and I hope it continues to grow and shine more light on Welsh league football.

We spoke to the lads about how the podcast came about, where it is heading and what keeps it moving forward.



What got you all together in the first place and what made you decide to start the podcast?

Gaz; Met Al after my commentary debut at TNS v Llangollen and again a few weeks later after taking Assistant Managers role at Ruthin. It was obvious that Al had a passion for the Cymru North and was easy to get along with and has an interviewing style that is unique and has a knack of making everyone at ease (with me and Mossy we need some keeping in check). I've known Darren since childhood and someone I have the utmost respect for his playing days and coaching and I'm not sure I'd have taken being left out of a cup final squad so well by anyone else other than Mossy we are good friends. After we both did the Press Pass episodes with Al he floated the idea of the podcast and between the three of us started the journey on the show to what it's become now.

Daz; I met Alan at a Llay game I think Gaz was watching the game, also it's always something I have been asked to do when finishing football. I thought the Welsh set up needed more exposure especially the North/South rather than just the Welsh Premier. Obviously being involved with Llandudno and Gaz at Ruthin at the time I thought it would be a good fit, I known Gaz since kids and played grassroots football together. Gaz is a top bloke and knows local football better than most. I felt with our contacts and the help of Alan we would give the podcast a go, seems to get bigger and bigger each week.

Al; Mossy was always a hero of mine fans favourite because he left everything out there on the pitch gave 100%. We had a drink at Llay Welfare club after Llandudno's win, chatted about a podcast and thankfully Daz agreed. With Gaz we met after TNS v Llangollen in the Welsh Cup he was doing TNS TV and Radio with the brilliant Stewart Bloor, I interviewed him after, then we met up again at Colwyn Bay when he just began as Assistant manager's role at Ruthin Town and we kept in touch ever since. Gareth and Darren are good friends so in the summer we came up with the idea

When you sit down each week, how do you decide what topics are worth talking about to get on the podcast?

Gaz; I enjoy the opportunity to promote the league and Welsh football in general and look forward to recording each week, from thinking perhaps at the beginning there wouldn't be enough to talk about weekly, it shows how much the league brings that there are so many talking points each week.

Daz; We thought about getting managers, players views on Welsh set up, then decided to look at players careers and also bring some fun into it.

Al; We are lucky there is plenty going on in Welsh domestic leagues in Tier 1,2 and 3 for example this week's podcast Gareth became Assistant manager at Gresford Athletic and the leaked Welsh Cup Draw. The boys also come up with ideas

What do you enjoy most about covering North and Mid Wales football from your point of view as coaches and presenter?

Gaz; Enjoy linking up again with players, coaches, managers, committee members from the past from North and Mid Wales

Al; Welsh domestic football needs a voice I'm lucky that through Cymru Sport we get to games interview players and managers they get to know you and then you whether you are in Tier 1,2, or 3 I have done Tier 4 the clubs just need to be heard so if we can cover as much as we can and it's great with some of the players, the managers and clubs to get a voice on the radio

As current coaches in the league, how hard is it to stay impartial when you're talking about results, performances and other teams?

Gaz; The impartiality was a concern at first but it's been easy to be honest, a lot of podcasts are built on their controversy and controversial opinions and outlandish views, we want ours to be something that prides itself on having relative success on much more promotional basis and somewhere where an honest insightful review is given

Daz; Being impartial talking about results, performances and other teams has been fine as long you be honest , hopefully listeners will listen

Al; I think with them both being coaches its vital for the listener to get their opinion. I have worked with both Gaz and Daz in the commentary box and for me it's great to have former players and managers in co commentary for vital analysis and tactics that you can't often see where they can.

How do you go about choosing guests and getting them involved?

Gaz; The guest feature has evolved and with many football contacts we have brought in some fantastic guests, and the key is making the feature about them and highlighting the careers they have had and giving an insight into their path. It's key for me that we keep the variety and the opportunity to get players/managers that have been at different clubs and getting those clubs the media space they deserve. All three of us work hard together to have a plan of guests and it would be easy to get people from our clubs to fill the space, but it has to be more than that and give a space to players and clubs from across North and Mid Wales

Daz; In term of guests myself and Gaz are lucky that we have a large number of contacts. Guest wise been very interesting, hearing views, careers, future and also funny stories

Al; Again, through covering games for Cymru Sport whether interviewing , commentary on games plus Gareth and Darren knowledge of players and managers. The enjoyable thing is now players and managers are asking if they can come on.

Has any guest ever caught you off guard with something they said?

Gaz; I'm only ever caught off guard by these two to be honest!! From Fridge freezers on toes to imaginary burglaries and flashing Shropshire lights!

Al; No guests ,only Gareth with his sense of humour caught me off guard. Doing a commentary with Gareth he doesn't like fingerless gloves. Mossy just makes me laugh especially about agents and his in depth research work for the Ardal North West/ East league weekend review is a piece of art.

What part of the domestic game do you think deserves more attention than it gets currently?

Gaz; Tier 2 deserves to be more visible especially with 6 new clubs joining Cymru Premier next season, the earlier their story is caught by the broadcasters the better which I can only bring more viewers to the Prem next season.

Daz; I think there is not enough coverage about the North/South/Mid Wales leagues and this year perfect to try and promote with three top spots available. More live games Sgorio should be doing more

Al; TV coverage needs looking at not enough Cymru Premier games especially we need to get Cymru North/South games on and more coverage of Welsh Cup games.

What kind of feedback do you hear most from listeners?

Gaz; Feedback seems positive, and more people are listening each week, which not for us but for the league generally can only be a good thing

Daz; The feedback has been amazing but need more listeners.

Al; They put us on to help them sleep. Joking apart some people have thought we record the show in a pub(I wish) because its relaxed and the banter is like you were down the pub. The players/ managers seem to enjoy it according to Gareth and Darren.

Is there anything you'd like to add to the podcast in the future, whether that's new features or new types of guests?

Gaz; I would like to do a live show or take it into a studio format and possibly combine some highlights if that's achievable. Almost creating a magazine show type format with regular features that people look forward to.

Daz; We looking to do a golf day podcast next year and choose venue invite two golfers from each club to commentate we would film interview players while taking part we would be looking for sponsors help. We would like to do a live show sat around a table in future with different guests

Al; I do a Press Pass Podcast and Gareth and Darren have just started their own podcast Mossy and Lloyd meet.... which I edit it for the boys, and I enjoy listening to it as well they are very good and knowledgeable. As for the Cymru North and Mid Wales podcast try and get more teams, players and managers involved from the Ardal North West/East leagues. We have only been doing the podcast for about 4 months we are learning and seeing what works but as Gaz and Daz said regular features I think for the podcast to move forward.

Where would you like the show to be this time next year?

Gaz; Hopefully increasing in listeners/viewers and increasing the focus on the club's players and coaches. Would love to get more commentaries and live games online. Daz golf day idea is something we will work on for sure. As far as Al is concerned would love to see him getting more live games and get more credit for the passion and insight he brings.

Daz; This time next year would like more help with sponsorship, better equipment, possible venue to record. We want more listeners, questions and ideas thrown at us. More live commentary at games between three of us

Al; Just happy to do the podcast with the two lads that not only give their time up for free especially with their coaching and family life, they have become good friends as long people are happy to listen that makes what we do worth while.

Anything else you would like to say

Al; Thanks for the interview and just want to wish your readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Big thanks to the lads for answering the questions, you can find the podcast on cymrusport.cymru/category/cymru-north-podcast/

2025/26 GOLDEN BOOT

The race for the golden boot is hotting up, the usual suspects are in the hunt and the goals keep coming. The question now is simple: can any new contenders sneak in before the pack breaks away for good? With form swinging week to week, there's still room for someone to crash the party.

Here's where things stand.





JORDAN WILLIAMS
TNS

19



CRAIG LINDFIELD
HOLYWELL TOWN

13



JAMIE BREESE
HOLYWELL TOWN

13



GEORGE PEERS
AIRBUS UK

13



LIAM EASON
CAMBRIAN UTD **15**

RACE FOR GOLDEN BOOT

JD Cymru Premier

	Jordan Williams	TNS	19
	Adam Davies	Caernarfon Town	11
	James Crole	Penybont	10
	Noah Daley	Penybont	10
	Jordan Davies	Colwyn Bay	10
	Elliott Reeves	Flint Town United	10

JD Cymru North

	Jamie Breese	Holywell Town	13
	Craig Lindfield	Holywell Town	13
	George Peers	Airbus UK	13
	Jamie Hyne	Newtown	9
	Jake Roberts	Gresford	9

JD Cymru South

	Liam Eason	Cambrian Utd	15
	Jack Bevan	Llantwit Major	7
	Luke Bowen	Trefelin BGC	7
	Ethan Edwards	Pontypridd Utd	7
	Daniel John	Ammanford	7



GRESFORD ATHLETIC MOVE QUICKLY AS DAVE EVANS TAKES CHARGE

Gresford Athletic have appointed Dave Evans as their new First Team Manager, stepping in at a time of significant change at the club.

Evans joins the club following the departure of the previous board and management team, and arrives after leaving Ruthin Town when Colin Caton took over there. His knowledge of the Cymru North and experience at this level provides Gresford with a clear and steadying option as they reshape their direction.

Alongside the appointment, the club recently confirmed that a well attended committee meeting had taken place, forming a new group focused on ensuring fixtures continue as planned and establishing strong foundations for the club's future. The statement highlighted the committee's commitment to long term stability and keeping Gresford Athletic in a strong position within local football.

Evans will be supported by a refreshed backroom team made up of Assistant Manager Gaz Lloyd and coaches Tryfan Prosser and Azzy Davies.

With a new structure in place on and off the pitch, Gresford will look to settle quickly and build consistency as the season develops.

500 UP FOR KAI EDWARDS

Welsh football stalwart Kai Edwards has reached a huge personal milestone, clocking up 500 career games.

The Connahs Quay Nomads defender has been one of the most dependable figures in the domestic game for more than a decade. Consistent, intelligent, and a natural organiser, he's built a career on doing the hard yards properly and doing them every single week.

Starting out in Wrexhams youth system, Edwards went on to feature for The New Saints, Neath, Prestatyn Town, Llandudno, Holywell Town, and several spells with Connahs Quay. Across those clubs he's played a major part in title challenges, cup runs, and European campaigns, always bringing the same level of steadiness at the back.

Since returning to the Nomads in 2023, he's been far from a token squad player. He has already made 10 league appearances this season and remains a key part of the side, offering authority on the pitch and experience that rubs off on everyone around him.

With 350 Cymru Premier games already behind him and his 500th career appearance now in the books, Edwards continues to cement his place as one of the leagues most respected and enduring defenders.

And the way he's going, there are plenty more to come.





LUKE COOPER CONFIRMS NEWPORT CITY DEPARTURE

There will be a notable absence at Newport Stadium going into the new year, with club captain Luke Cooper confirming he is set to move on and explore options when the January transfer window opens.

Newport City currently sit fourth in the Cymru South, just three points away from the automatic promotion places, but the next phase of their campaign will be without one of their most experienced figures. Cooper leaves after 18 months at the club, a period that saw City establish themselves at Tier 2 and push firmly into the promotion conversation.

During his time with Newport, the 32 year old made 52 appearances and scored eight goals, playing a major role in the club's third place finish in their first ever Cymru South season. His influence extended beyond the pitch, wearing the armband and helping set standards in the dressing room.

Confirming the decision publicly, Cooper spoke positively about those around him while explaining why the move had become necessary.

"Thanks Newport City for the last 18 months. Fantastic group of players and a privilege to be a part of. Certain things recently do not sit right with me, leaving me no other option than to leave. Looking for a new opportunity in January, I still feel I have a lot to give."

With the window approaching, Cooper will be an attractive option for clubs seeking experience, leadership and a proven performer at this level.

THE STORY OF THE WELSH FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

For more than three decades, one publication has quietly carried the weight of documenting the Welsh domestic game. Long before social media, podcast studios, content teams and the current boom in coverage, Welsh Football Magazine was there, issue after issue, telling the story of our leagues, our clubs and our communities.



Founded in 1991, with the first edition hitting shelves in January 1992, the magazine arrived just as the new national league structure was being formed. It wasn't built on trends or commercial backing. It was built on a simple belief: that Wales deserved its own dedicated football magazine, one that treated the game here with the seriousness, respect and curiosity it rarely received elsewhere.

Thirty years later, it's still going. Over 250 issues. Thousands of matches logged. Countless clubs and competitions recorded. It has become a reference point, a time capsule and, in many ways, the backbone of written coverage of Welsh football.

Welsh Football Magazine isn't sensational or click-driven. It's steady, consistent and fiercely independent. It's honest when it needs to be, positive when the game deserves it, and always focused on telling the story of Welsh football from the inside.

With that kind of longevity, commitment and sheer graft behind it, there's no one better placed to talk about the past, present and future of covering the domestic game in Wales than the man at its heart, David Collins.

Here are the questions we put to him.

When you launched the first issue in 1992, what did you hope the magazine would become and how does that compare to where it is now?

We were just setting out to offer an alternative to the mainstream Welsh press, its coverage of English football and the negative attitude to domestic football, especially the creation of the League of Wales. We hoped there was a market if we could improve on previous publications in reliability and quality.

After more than 30 years documenting the Welsh game, what changes stand out the most to you?

The Cymru Premier and the domestic structure has matured and there's more interest and respect than there was in the nineties. And, of course, whereas we were the only ones covering it in 1992, now the digital world has brought an explosion in content and information – which is great.

What keeps you motivated to keep publishing after all this time?

At vero eos et accusamus et iusto odio dignissimos ducimus qui blanditiis praesentium voluptatum deleniti atque corrupti quos dolores et quas molestias excepturi sint occaecati cupiditate non provident, similique sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollitia animi, id est laborum et dolorum fuga. Et harum quidem rerum facilis est et expedita distinctio. Nam libero tempore, cum soluta nobis est eligendi optio cumque nihil impedit quo minus id quod maxime placeat facere possimus, omnis voluptas assumenda est, omnis dolor repellendus.

From idea to finished issue, what does your production process look like?

At the different stages of the season, the 8 issues vary in emphasis. There's a pretty well-established pattern now so I know roughly what each issue needs to look like: August is a guide and preview, the autumn issues are full of news and action, winter issues might be more feature based and then the last two issues of the season focus on outcomes, trophy winners and promotion/relegation matters.

As soon as each issue is mailed out, I usually establish what my main contributors plan to send in for the next one. And I'll start getting some of my articles written early – maybe a club I've visited recently and the history features (25, 50, 100 years ago).

In the last couple of weeks before the editing deadline, I'll work on the remaining content – round ups of each tier etc. and spend time working on the page layout.

The last few days are fine-tuning the content and assembling it for the designer /printers. Then it's all sent as digital files, but I still produce a manual 'mock-up' of how each page should look. After that it's a case of checking the proof file (pdf) and then waiting for the printed magazines to be delivered a few days later.

In the days before the printed magazines arrive, I compile the tables supplement in Word / pdf and get it copied at a local printshop, so it's bang up to date, but ensuring the two sections are ready at the same time.



How long does a typical issue take to put together and get printed?

About 6 weeks end to end, with most activity in the last week before it goes to the printer. In terms of the amount of time I spend, it's hard to be precise as it's broken up over time, but at a guess about 1-2 days a month.

What tools or methods do you rely on to organise all the reports, stats and features that go into each edition?

I have accumulated a library of books and records on Welsh football (as well as our own publication archive) so some reference sources are in house. I also rely heavily on resources like the online Football Club History Database (FCHD).

What's the toughest part of running an independent football magazine for so long?

The toughest part is the admin and marketing. Subscription admin is time consuming and there's always a need to attract new subscribers to keep numbers at a viable level. As an independent without a marketing budget, that's hard.

The magazine has become a huge archive of Welsh football. How important is that long term record to you?

It's definitely a source of pride. All our publications are in the National Library of Wales and British Library so they're a resource for future generations of researchers, historians etc. That, and the encouragement from supportive readers, are what motivate me to keep it going.

How do you view the rise of fan led fanzines and digital outlets covering Welsh football today?

It's great that there is now so much more coverage and a younger generation producing it. But I do think it's regrettable that even after 30+ years, the domestic game is still ignored by broadcasters and mainstream media.

Looking ahead, what do you see as the future for Welsh Football Magazine?

A hard one to answer! It's viable (because none of us take any payment or expenses) and it's also very clearly still appreciated, so there's nothing telling me to consider stopping. But equally, it's a big commitment to run and edit and I don't think anyone else would want to carry on when the time comes that I can't do it any more, whenever that is.

Anything else you would like to add?

The only thing I'd add is that it still surprises me that there's more interest in Welsh football from outside Wales than within. More than half of my subscribers are outside Wales. We always envisaged the magazine being distributed through clubs as well as subscriptions, but only one or two clubs still support us this way, and that's down to individuals who run club shops etc at those clubs .

Big thanks to David for answering the questions, you can find the Welsh Football magazine on welsh-football.net



SHARIF COMMITTS FUTURE TO CONNAHS QUAY

Connahs Quay have secured a new deal for midfielder Abdi Sharif, a popular move after his impressive start at the club.

Sharif joined in the summer and has already made nine competitive appearances, including his debut in the opening night fixture against Colwyn Bay that caught the eye of Somalia head coach Rachid Lousteque. That performance helped earn him a place in Somalia's recent FIFA Arab Cup and World Cup qualifying squads. He featured in two camps, played in the win over Bahrain which ended a six year wait for an international victory, and was involved in the narrow penalty shootout loss to Oman.

Manager John Disney has praised Sharif's quality, professionalism and attitude, noting the role of the club's hybrid programme and individual coaching sessions in his development since arriving. Disney says the midfielder has shown moments of real class and has become a valued figure within the squad.

Sharif is expected back in December after a busy spell of international duty and minor injuries, and the Nomads believe he will play a big part as they push towards their goals for the rest of the season.

YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL: BEHIND THE LENS

In 2021, Haverfordwest County announced they were producing an all access, behind the scenes documentary. Over the past four seasons, “You Can Have It All” has become more than just a documentary for the club. It has evolved into a chronicle of an extraordinary journey, capturing a football club that has been on an incredible path and is about to be showcased once again.

The fourth series of the documentary, premiering throughout December and available on the club’s YouTube channel, follows Haverfordwest County AFC through drama, triumph and history making moments that have captured the hearts of Bluebirds supporters and football fans well beyond Pembrokeshire.

What makes this project particularly special is not just the on pitch action, but the perspective it offers. Unfiltered access to the emotional highs and lows of following a club on the rise, all guided through the lens of one of the club’s directors, Ryan Evans.

We sat down with Ryan Evans, the man behind You Can Have It All, to talk about the series, the challenges of documenting life at a football club, and what’s next for Bluebirds fans.



What was the original idea behind *You Can Have It All*, and did you expect it to grow into what it is today?

I've been associated with the club for over a decade now. Wayne Jones and Sean Cresser first brought me down to help out on the coaching staff, but after my second son was born, I decided to take a break from life at the Meadow. Soon after, Rob Edwards came in as chairman and started turning an already well run club into a more innovative environment. We had a few chats about doing different things, and then one day, around the time Amazon and Netflix were releasing their *All or Nothing* series, the penny dropped. I've always had a passion for technology, particularly videography, so we thought we'd have a go and I made a swift return to the club.

Haverfordwest had only just returned to the Cymru Premier and were fighting for survival, so the goal was simple. Give supporters an honest look at what happens behind the scenes. We wanted to show the passion, the preparation and the people behind the club. At that point, as an amateur literally winging being a documentary maker, I never imagined it would resonate so widely.



Season One covered a relegation battle, Season Two ended with a seventh place finish and play off glory, Season Three saw the club's first European adventure in 20 years and now Season Four provides insight into yet another European tour. That's quite a rags to riches journey, isn't it?

It really is when you look back at it. None of this was planned or scripted, it's just been the natural progression of the club. Season One was about survival, just trying to stay in the league. Then suddenly, we're winning playoffs, qualifying for Europe and creating moments that will live long in the club's history.

What makes it special is that it's been built the right way, with a lot of hard work behind the scenes from players, staff, volunteers and the board. The documentary has simply captured that journey as it's unfolded. I don't think anyone could have predicted what we'd have achieved just a few years on, but that's what makes football – and I'd like to think, this series – so compelling.

What has been the most rewarding moment filming the series so far?

There have been so many over the last few years, but winning that first European tie against KF Shkëndija has to be number one. I'll never forget those few weeks. To be there capturing the build up, the penalty shoot out and the celebrations was special for everyone involved. It felt like a defining moment for the club.

What challenges do you face filming a football documentary, especially on the road in Europe?

Logistically, it can be tough. I'm working around a full time job and family life, travel schedules and often in Wales, the weather. When we went to the Faroe Islands, we all had a really low baggage allowance, so I had to pack a reduced amount of tech. But that's also part of the excitement. The key is being prepared but adaptable, ready to capture the moment when it happens.

How do you decide which moments make the final cut?

It's all about storytelling. Results are important, but what fans really connect with are the human moments, the nerves before kick off, the reactions in the dressing room, the joy and the disappointment. I try to capture as much as possible and then edit with a focus on emotional impact and narrative flow.

What can fans expect from Season Four?

The series starts with a feature on the Play Off Final win against the Cofis, then moves to the draw in Geneva, the build up games, and the two legs against Floriana. The draw in Geneva was another fantastic few days, some pretty good footage from Malta, plenty of training ground antics. We also cover the pre and post match experiences in Belfast for the Linfield game. It's a three part

Finally, what's next for You Can Have It All?

I've only just finalised all the episodes, and with a newborn arriving in October, I'm ready for a short break from documentary making, I'll be honest. Hopefully the series gets good engagement and feedback, and then who knows? Bluebirds in Europe again one day would be nice.



You Can Have It All is available on the Haverfordwest County YouTube channel, with additional clips shared across the club's Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and X platforms.

A Brief History of the Series

Season One documented a rollercoaster 2021 to 22 campaign, as the Bluebirds battled relegation and secured their Cymru Premier status in dramatic fashion.

Season Two captured an unforgettable run to European qualification for the first time since 2004, culminating in back to back penalty shoot out victories in the play offs against Cardiff Met and Newtown.

Season Three followed Haverfordwest's first European campaign in nearly two decades, including a historic penalty shoot out victory over KF Shkëndija in North Macedonia and a controversial tie against B36 Tórshavn in the Faroe Islands.

Season Four, premiering across Christmas 2025, continues the story as the club embarks on another continental adventure in the UEFA Conference League qualifiers, with trips to Malta to face Floriana and to Windsor Park for a showdown with Linfield.

A massive thank you to Ryan for taking the time to answer the questions.





MUDIMU HEADS TO AFCON

Flint Town's Alec Mudimu is heading back onto the international stage after being named in the Zimbabwe squad for the upcoming African Nations Cup. At 30, with 26 caps already behind him, he returns as one of the more experienced figures in the group.

Mudimu's career has taken him far and wide. Supporters in Wales will remember his spell at Caernarfon, but he has also played for FC Sheriff in Moldova, Ankaraspor in Turkey, Stalybridge Celtic earlier in his career and a handful of other clubs across different leagues. That journey has shaped a player who understands how to adapt and compete wherever he ends up.

This season at Flint, he has been a constant. While the team has spent most of the campaign in the lower positions, Mudimu has featured in the vast majority of their matches and has stayed reliable throughout. His physical presence, experience and willingness to take responsibility have been important in a difficult year.

Zimbabwe open their tournament with a huge one. They face Mohamed Salah's Egypt in their first game, a test that will demand all their composure and organisation. For Mudimu, it is exactly the kind of challenge his international experience has prepared him for.

For Flint, it is a proud moment to see one of their key players on a major continental stage. And for the Cymru leagues, it's another reminder that the talent here is recognised well beyond Wales.



SCUNTHORPE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ARAMIDE OTEH

Scunthorpe United have been taking a closer look at Aramide Oteh, with the striker featuring as a trialist on non contract terms. He first appeared for the club's reserves, marking that debut with a goal and giving an early glimpse of what he can offer.

Oteh came through the system at Tottenham, earning plenty of early attention before moving to Queens Park Rangers, where he made more than 20 senior appearances. He then built his experience across the EFL with spells at Walsall, Bradford City, Stevenage and Colchester United.

After a permanent move to Salford, he later switched to Crawley Town and enjoyed one of his most effective periods, scoring nine times and playing a key role in keeping the club in the league.

A move to The New Saints followed, and he delivered the best season of his career with an impressive return of 18 goals from 34 games. He departed at the start of the current campaign to return to English football, and Scunthorpe are now assessing whether he could be the right addition going forward.

Oteh's goal scoring debut for the reserves certainly didn't harm his case.

THE NON-LEAGUE NETWORK

The Non-League Network is where the non-league game comes together – a first-of-its-kind platform connecting players, clubs, and fans with scouting tools, transfers, community chat, exclusive content, and a marketplace built for the beautiful game's grassroots.

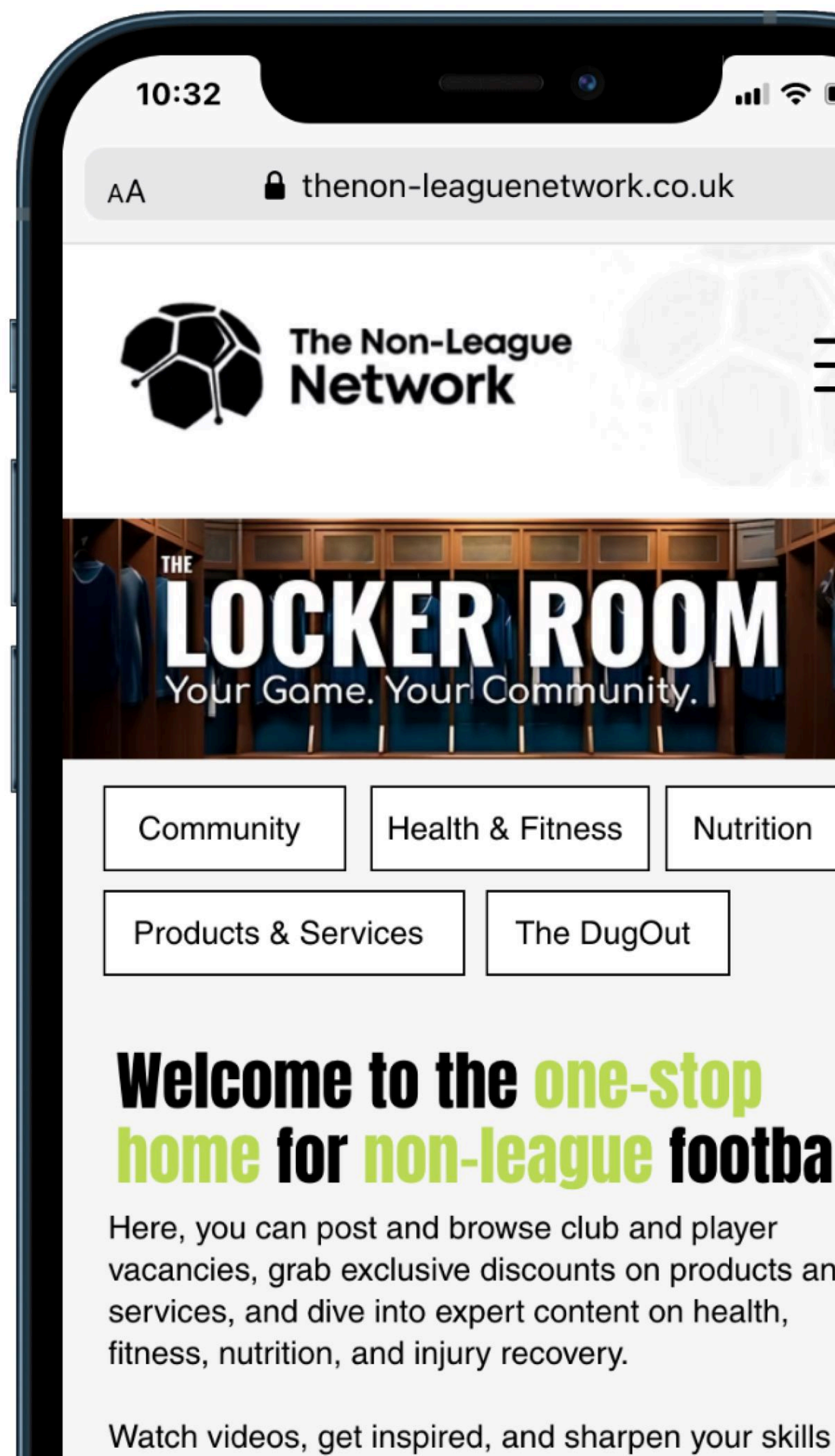
“We are entering an aggressive growth phase, rapidly expanding our user base. Developed entirely in-house and with full ownership of our IP, the platform is initially free to access and created specifically for the non deal as a dedicated channel, something that hasn't been achieved before.”

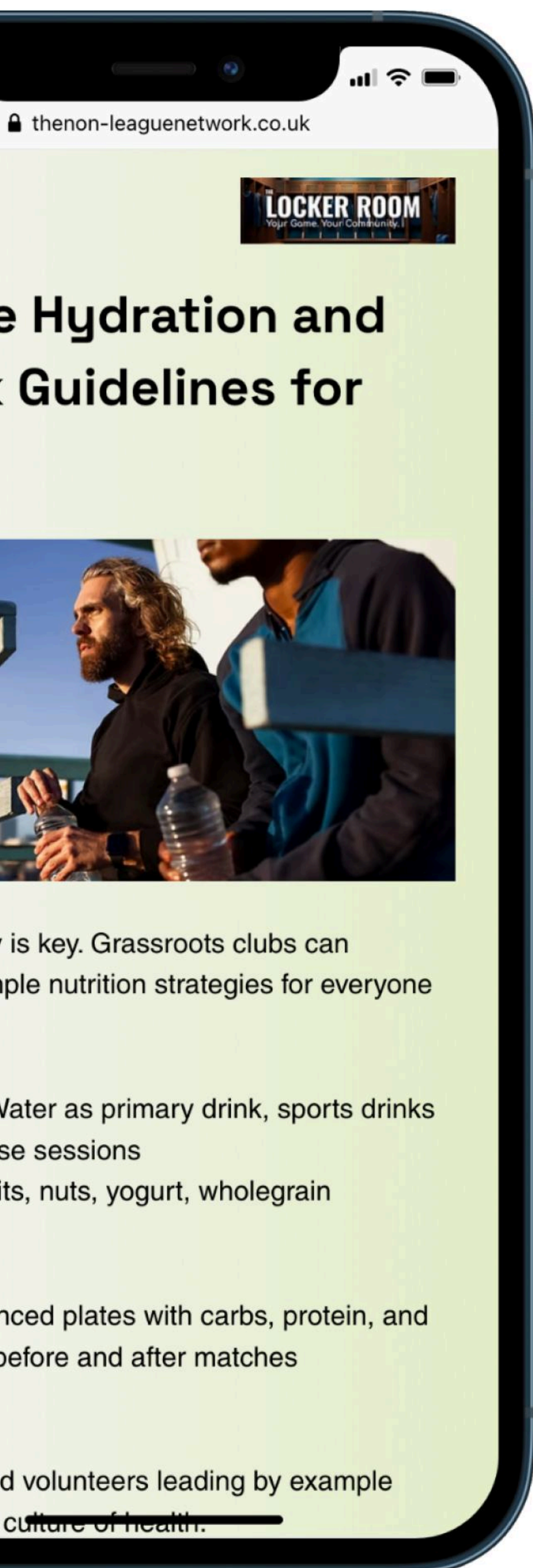
Jason Pyne, CEO

About The Locker Room

NOW launched on The Non-League Network

Step inside The Locker Room – your all-in-one space for the game beyond matchday. Designed exclusively for the non-league community, The Locker Room brings together health, performance, connection, and fun in one easy-to-use hub.





WHAT'S INSIDE:

Club & Player Social Community

Your very own social network for non-league football. Connect, post, chat, and advertise for the talent or club you need.

Sample pages:

The Locker Room Dedicated Social Media Platform – A members-only social media platform area within the Network, offering health & fitness advice, nutrition tips, products, services, and football-related content, all designed to support players and clubs.

Health & Fitness

Expert tips, training plans, and advice to keep you match-ready all season

Nutrition

Game-focused guidance on fuelling your body for performance, recovery, and long-term health.

Products & Services

Exclusive deals on football gear, coaching, club support, and more – all hand-picked for our community.

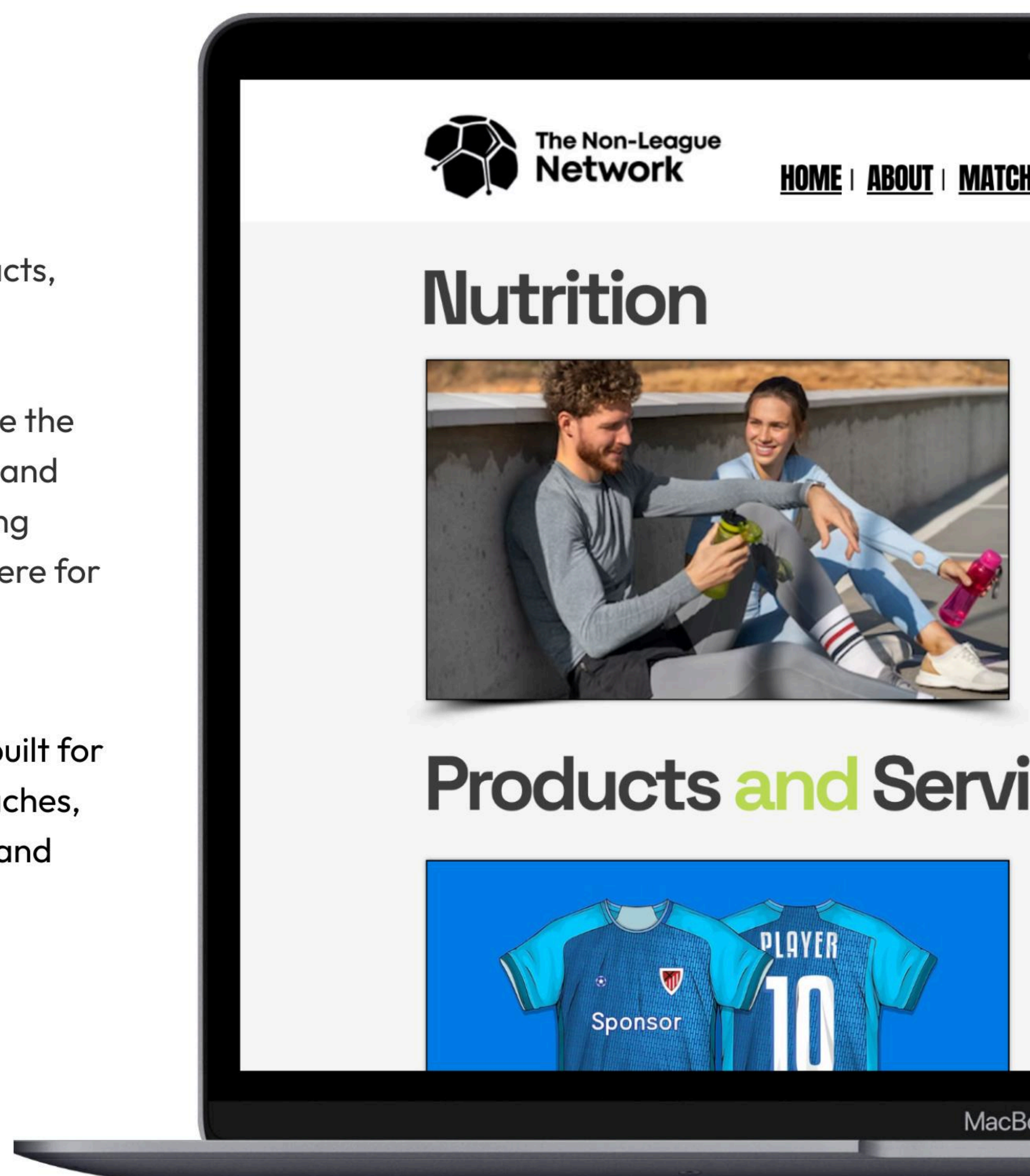
Other Stuff

The lighter side of football: trivia, funnies, quirky facts, and stories that make the game what it is.

The Locker Room is more than a feature – it's where the non-league family comes together to learn, share, and enjoy the game in new ways. Whether you're chasing peak performance, building your network, or just here for the banter, you'll find your space here.

The Non-League Network – An online community built for non-league football, connecting clubs, players, coaches, and fans. It's a place to share news, opportunities, and resources.

Sign up is FREE and can be found at www.thenon-leaguenetwork.co.uk



THE WELSH FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE

There are loads of good resources for Welsh football now so we've made a list of the podcasts, radio stations and everything else so you can keep in touch with the Welsh game. If you want to add your resource to the list, get in touch, more than happy to add.

Radio / Podcasts

Radio Cymru Sport

Cymru Sport is an internet based radio service, designed to fill the gap for live sport commentary in the regions of Wales. It also offers a podcast covering mostly Mid and North Welsh football.

cymrusport.cymru



SW20 Football Hour

Covering South Welsh football in the JD Cymru South and Ardal South East leagues

mixcloud.com/SW20Radio

Magazines / Print

Welsh Football Magazine

Welsh Football Magazine is a print publication devoted to all aspects of football (soccer) in Wales, run on an unpaid basis by football fans, for football fans.

welsh-football.net



THE WELSH FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE

Blogs

The 94th Minute

Clint is a groundhopper from Flintshire in North East Wales. He decided to create this blog to give a record of his experiences visiting grounds

the94thminute.wordpress.com



Video

Newport City FC

Cymru Sport is an internet based radio service, designed to fill the gap for live sport commentary in the regions of Wales.

youtube.com/@newportcityfc1438

