

TOP BINS

EDITION 2

Featuring

- Welsh Manager moves across the border
- Groundhopping 101
- A look at a seaside powerhouse
- North & South attendances
- Like father like son
- Stats from all 3 JD Cymru Leagues

And of course, much much more

topbins.co.uk

March 25 - Edition 2

Picture by Sam Eaden/FAW



Welcome To Top Bins Magazine

**A magazine dedicated to the
JD Cymru Premier, North &
South leagues bringing you
news, views and stats.**

What a start!

This is the second edition of Top Bins. A big thank you to all that shared, commented and subscribed, I'm glad you seemed to like the format and the content.

When I look back at the first edition and the work going into the second, the hardest thing for me is that sometimes content comes up at the start of the month but by the time we come to launching, it's kind of old news. This is something I am looking at in terms of if we can release news earlier if it's time sensitive in maybe short form articles online or something. It's something for me to consider anyway.

Also, there is a lot of great content to be seen outside of the JD Leagues such as the Ardal and women's football so again, I'll be looking at how we go about adding that too over time.

Anyway enjoy the read and please do share if you can.

Ta
Dan

The Case for More TV & Radio Coverage in Welsh Football

Welsh football has grown significantly in recent years, with clubs in the Cymru Premier and its regional leagues attracting passionate followings and impressive attendances. However, despite this growth, many fans feel that television coverage does not reflect the increasing interest and potential of the domestic game.

While S4C's Sgorio provides some live broadcasts and highlights, particularly of the Cymru Premier, the overall visibility of the leagues remains limited. Given the large crowds and dedicated support seen at clubs such as Barry Town United, Caernarfon Town, Colwyn Bay, Bangor 1876, Flint Town United, Llanelli Town, and others in the Cymru North and South divisions, there is a clear argument for increased live coverage to reflect the enthusiasm surrounding Welsh domestic football.

Boosting the Domestic Game

More live games would not only showcase the talent within the league but also help clubs financially. Television deals provide essential revenue streams, which clubs could reinvest into infrastructure, youth development, and professionalizing their setups. Many clubs are already proving their ability to attract thousands of supporters, and additional coverage could further grow interest and commercial opportunities for sponsors and broadcasters alike.

Welsh Football's Growing Fanbase

The success of Wrexham's Hollywood-backed revival has shone a spotlight on Welsh football. Their rise in popularity through TV exposure and streaming platforms has demonstrated the power of media in growing a fanbase. While Wrexham plays in the English system, the buzz surrounding them has had a positive ripple effect on interest in the Welsh domestic leagues. Increased television coverage would allow fans across the country and beyond to engage more with Cymru Premier and lower-tier teams, turning them into household names.

Strengthening Football's Cultural Identity in Wales

Welsh football is more than just the national team; it is deeply connected to local communities. Broadcasting more games in both Welsh and English would help grow the sport while also strengthening cultural ties. More TV coverage could be an opportunity to promote the Welsh language through sport, reinforcing its importance in national identity.

Exploring Radio Coverage as an Alternative

With the Cymru Premier expanding, travel across Wales can be challenging for fans who want to follow their teams. Long journeys to away games can be costly and time-consuming, making accessible coverage through TV or radio even more essential. Ensuring fans can stay connected to their clubs, whether through live broadcasts or audio commentary, should be a priority for football authorities.

In addition to television coverage, more teams could explore radio broadcasts to engage fans who enjoy following football in a more traditional format. Sport Cymru already covers some matches, and expanding radio coverage could bring the game to a wider audience, including those who may not have access to live TV broadcasts but still want to stay connected to their teams.

Haverfordwest has successfully implemented a radio-style format for their games on Twitter and YouTube, attracting strong listener numbers. Their match against Caernarfon saw over 300 listeners, demonstrating the potential audience for this type of coverage. If more clubs followed suit, radio-style commentary could become a key part of increasing Welsh football's accessibility

To improve Welsh football's visibility, broadcasters and the FAW should consider:

- **More live matches on S4C and online platforms** – A structured schedule of Cymru Premier, Cymru North, and Cymru South games could bring more consistent coverage.
- **Streaming services and digital platforms** – Clubs could benefit from a dedicated streaming service similar to iFollow in the EFL, making it easier for fans to watch games.
- **Partnerships with major broadcasters** – Securing deals with networks like Sky Sports, BBC Wales, or even streaming giants like Amazon Prime could bring more exposure.
- **Expanding radio coverage** – Encouraging more local stations to broadcast live commentary of Cymru Premier and regional league games would offer an alternative way for fans to follow the action. Clubs could also follow Haverfordwest's lead in utilising social media platforms for live commentary.





Mark Aizlewood to Step Down as Carmarthen Town AFC Manager

After years of dedication, Mark Aizlewood has decided not to renew his contract with Carmarthen Town AFC, officially bringing an end to his remarkable tenure. In a statement released on January 14, 2025, the long-serving manager confirmed that this season will be his last in charge of the Old Gold.

Aizlewood expressed his appreciation for the players, staff, volunteers, directors, sponsors, and supporters who have backed him throughout his time at the club. “The people of CTFC have made me one of their own,” he said, despite residing 60 miles away. He also shared his gratitude for his wife and family, acknowledging their support and understanding over the years.

Aizlewood has been a cornerstone of Carmarthen Town AFC, holding a UEFA Pro Licence for over 30 years and guiding the club to consistent top-six finishes in the Welsh league, as well as securing cup wins and European competition spots. “In my 20+ years at the club, these achievements became the norm, and we were at the very top of the football ecosystem in Wales,” Aizlewood reflected.

“The people of CTFC have made me one of their own”



However, Aizlewood recognised that circumstances at the club have changed, adding, “Unfortunately, this is not the case any longer. The ship is pointing in the right direction, and the destination is agreed by all, but perhaps now is the right time for a new captain to steer the club along its agreed journey.”

What’s Next?

While stepping away from his managerial role, Aizlewood reassured fans that his love for football remains strong. He plans to retain his UEFA Pro Licence and stay involved in the sport in some capacity. As Carmarthen Town AFC looks ahead to a new era, he wished his successor and the club continued success.

A Lasting Impact

Aizlewood’s departure marks the conclusion of one of the longest managerial reigns in Welsh football. His leadership, dedication, and passion for the game have left an undeniable mark on Carmarthen Town AFC.

With the club now beginning the search for a new manager, the focus shifts to building on Aizlewood’s legacy and continuing the proud traditions of Welsh football.



330
games

139
wins

58
draws

133
losses

The New Saints Reign Supreme in Nathaniel MG Cup Final

The New Saints reaffirmed their dominance in Welsh football by successfully defending the Nathaniel MG Cup, edging out a resilient Aberystwyth Town thanks to a moment of brilliance from Remi Oteh early in the second half.

Despite a significant 46-point gap between the two sides in the JD Cymru Premier, Aberystwyth defied expectations and put their league struggles behind them to make an impressive first-ever appearance in the Nathaniel MG Cup final. However, their spirited performance was not enough to deny the Saints another piece of silverware.



A Frustrating First Half

TNS, widely considered overwhelming favourites ahead of the contest, controlled possession as anticipated but were left ruing their wastefulness in front of goal. Aberystwyth, under the guidance of Antonio Corbisiero, displayed remarkable defensive discipline, frustrating the Saints throughout a goalless first half at Latham Park.

Early on, Danny Davies set the tone for TNS with an electrifying run down the right flank, whipping in a dangerous cross that signalled the Saints' attacking intent. Despite their dominance, clear-cut chances were rare until Jordan Williams squandered the best opportunity of the half. Unmarked inside the box, Williams connected with Jordan Marshall's pull-back, only to sky his effort well over the bar.

TNS continued to probe, with Aramide Oteh cutting inside from the left and seeing his low strike deflect off former Saints defender Louis Bradford and onto the post. Moments later, Daniel Williams had an opportunity to break the deadlock, but he dragged his shot wide after a weak Aberystwyth clearance fell kindly to him at the edge of the area.

"I thought my players were superb. We always knew they were going to be so ball dominant, but it was just that one moment of concentration where we just switched off, and so early into the second half. But I'm immensely proud of the players tonight. We said it when we first came in, we knew that there's something there in the work-rate they show off the ball and things, it's just in possession."

Antonio Corbisiero, Aberystwyth Town Manager

"We want to score goals, whoever we're playing. If there's only one in it, anything can happen. We would've liked to have killed the game off but it was as comfortable a game as we've had in a long time."

Craig Harrison, TNS Manager

Oteh's Decisive Strike

TNS emerged from the break with renewed urgency, and within three minutes, they found the all-important breakthrough. Oteh showcased his poacher's instincts, nipping in at the near post to convert Dan Williams' low-driven cross with a clinical finish.

With the advantage secured, the Saints sought to extend their lead, but Aberystwyth's stubborn defence refused to capitulate. Lively full-back Davies came agonisingly close to adding a second when he surged into the box and unleashed a dipping strike that whistled just over the bar with 15 minutes remaining.

As the clock ticked down, Aberystwyth's determination remained undiminished, but their attacking efforts lacked the cutting edge needed to challenge TNS's grip on the trophy. Ultimately, the Saints' composure and control saw them through to claim their 11th Nathaniel MG Cup triumph.

For Aberystwyth, it was a night of valiant resistance and a historic milestone despite falling short. For TNS, it was another chapter in their storied success, reaffirming their status as the undisputed powerhouse of Welsh football.

Wealdstone Appoint Neil Gibson As New Manager

Wealdstone have confirmed the appointment of Neil Gibson as their new manager on a two-and-a-half-year contract.

The 45-year-old takes charge following the departure of Matt Taylor, who left the club to become the new boss at National League rivals Solihull Moors. Gibson joins after a successful spell at Welsh side Connah's Quay Nomads, where he led the team to a Welsh Cup triumph and secured qualification for the Europa Conference League last season.

"I've had fantastic discussions with Rory [Fitzgerald, club chairman] and feel this is a perfect fit for both me and the club," said Gibson.

Since Gibson's arrival, Wealdstone have seen a significant upturn in form. The team has won their last three matches, moving them out of the National League's relegation zone and into 20th place.

Although they are not yet clear of danger, the recent victories have provided a crucial boost in their fight for survival, and momentum is building under their new manager's leadership.

Gibson's impact has been immediate, with his tactical adjustments and leadership helping to revitalise a squad that had struggled for consistency. The players have shown increased resilience and determination on the pitch, translating to improved performances and crucial points on the board.

Wealdstone fans have been encouraged by the turnaround, with optimism growing at Grosvenor Vale as the team battles to secure their National League status.



“Neil is someone we have tracked for some time, he brings a wealth of experience, a strong track record of success, and a clear vision for the future.”

Rory Fitzgerald, Wealdstone Chairman

Despite the recent successes, the challenge is far from over. With several tough fixtures ahead, Wealdstone must maintain their momentum to avoid being dragged back into the relegation battle. The next few weeks will be pivotal as Gibson looks to solidify his team's position and continue their fight for survival.

Gibson's arrival sees former assistant manager Paul Hughes, who stepped in as interim boss leave the club along with coach Peter Stanford.

As a player, Gibson started his career at Tranmere Rovers before going on to play for Rhyl, Southport, and Prestatyn Town.

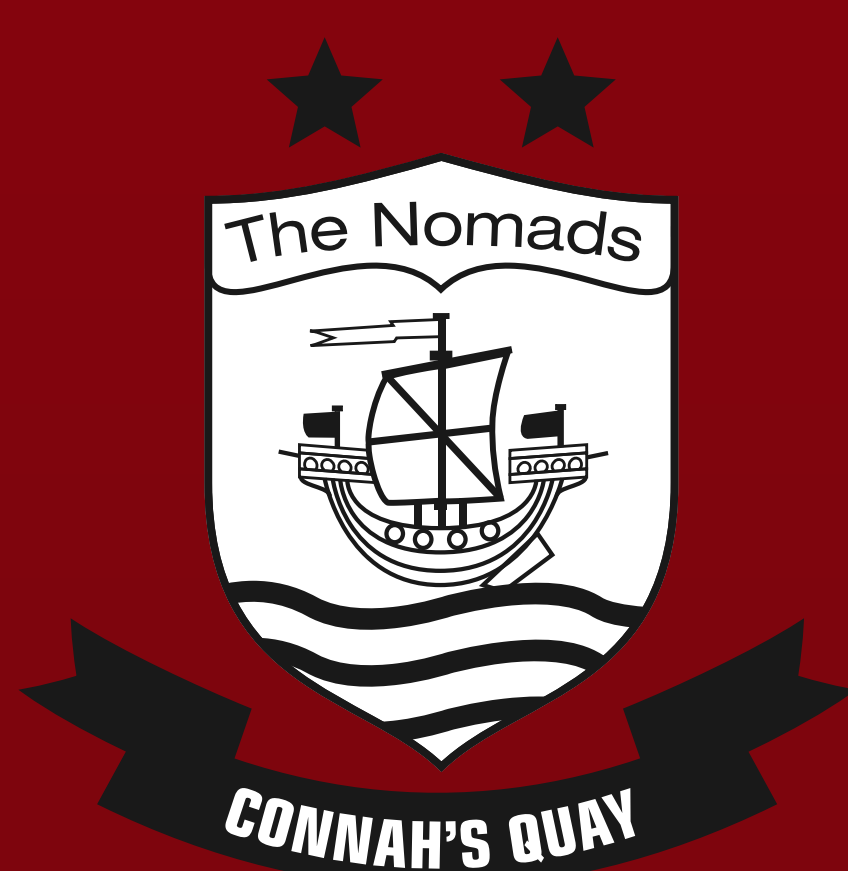
He moved into management with Prestatyn in 2007, guiding them to three Cymru Alliance titles and a Welsh Cup and NWCFA Challenge Cup double in 2013 before serving as the club's director of football. He later returned as manager in 2018 and also spent 18 months in charge of Flint United.

Throughout his managerial career in the Welsh leagues and cups, Gibson has taken charge of 331 matches, recording 150 wins, 60 draws, and 121 losses.

Picture by Sam Eaden/FAW



The Nomads' Rock Hits 300-Game Mark



Football is all about passion, loyalty, and hard work—and few players embody that more than Connah's Quay Nomads' captain, John Disney. Hitting 300 games for the club is no small feat, and Disney has done it with the kind of grit and determination that makes him a true fan favourite.

A Journey Worth Talking About

Disney's football journey has seen him play for clubs like Chester, Telford, Northwich, and Stockport County before he joined The Nomads from Hednesford Town in January 2016. He made his debut in a 2-1 win over MBI Llandudno in March that year, and from that moment, he was all in.

One of the most memorable moments early on? Getting sent off—while not even on the pitch! During The Nomads' first-ever UEFA Europa League campaign, Disney picked up a red card in the away leg against Stabæk just for warming down. But that's just a footnote in an otherwise stellar run with the club. In the 2016-17 season, he stepped up as a makeshift central defender and helped the team go unbeaten in their first 14 domestic games.

A Short Break and a Big Comeback

Disney left The Nomads in 2017 for Altrincham Town and later played for Bala Town, but it wasn't long before he found his way back. He returned to Deeside in June 2018, jumping straight into action in a UEFA Europa League clash against Shakhtyor Soligorsk.

Since then, he's been a rock in the squad, helping The Nomads win the JD Cymru Premier title and the Nathaniel MG Cup in 2019/20. His influence only grew over the years, and when club legend George Horan moved on in 2023, Disney was the natural choice to take over as captain.

Leading the Way

As skipper, Disney has been a key figure on and off the pitch. In his first season wearing the armband, he made 34 appearances and led The Nomads to a second-place finish. But the highlight? Lifting the JD Welsh Cup—the club's second-ever triumph in the competition.

A True Nomads Legend

With 300 games in the bag, Disney's legacy at Connah's Quay is well and truly cemented. His commitment, leadership, and all-out dedication make him one of the most important players in club history.

And he's not done yet. As long as he's wearing The Nomads' colors, fans can expect more solid performances, big tackles, and moments that define a true leader. Here's to many more games, wins, and unforgettable memories with John Disney at the heart of it all.



// An extraordinarily story and a compelling read from beginning to end.

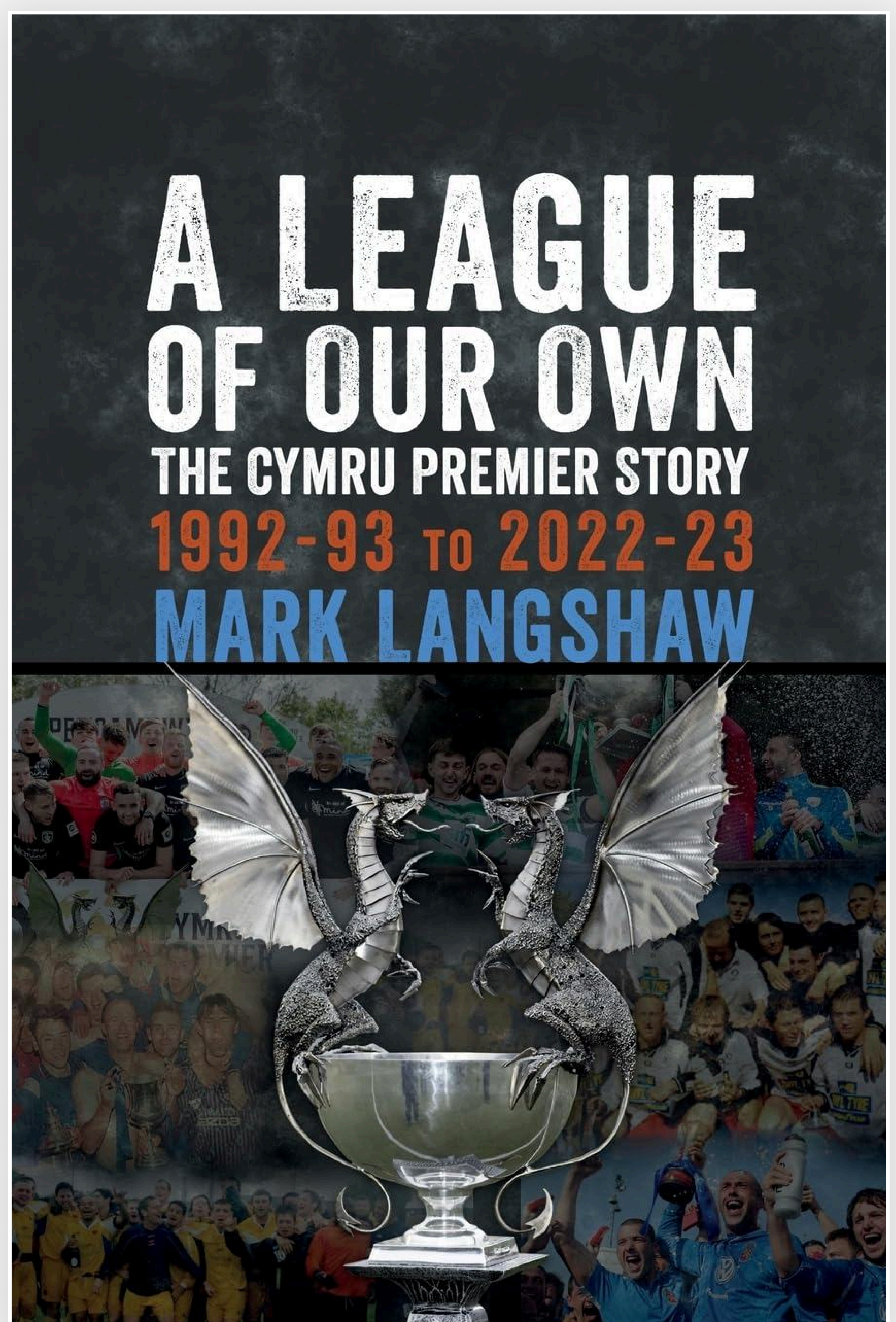
A League of Our Own is the first book to chronicle the fascinating journey of the League of Wales, from its inception in 1992 to its evolution into the Welsh Premier League in 2010 and the Cymru Premier in 2019.

The league's debut season was a mix of triumph and uncertainty—while its creation marked a major milestone for Welsh club football, the absence of the nation's 11 biggest clubs, including the so-called 'Irate Eight,' led to legal battles, friction, and distrust between the governing body and its members.

Meticulously researched and written by freelance football journalist Mark Langshaw, *The Cymru Premier Story* brings this history to life with over 90 illustrations, comprehensive final league tables for every season, and detailed appendices covering the league's most successful clubs, top scorers, average attendances, and European representatives. The book also includes more than 20 exclusive interviews with key figures who helped shape the league, offering unique insights into its formation and growth.

About the Author

Mark Langshaw is a freelance journalist who has written for a number of football publications including *Four Four Two*



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Declan McManus Signs for Coleraine FC

Coleraine FC has boosted its attacking firepower with the signing of experienced striker Declan McManus. The 30-year-old joins the Bannsideers from Welsh side The New Saints (TNS) for an undisclosed fee, bringing a proven goal-scoring record to The Showgrounds.

Originally from Glasgow, McManus started his career at Aberdeen before loan spells at Alloa Athletic and Greenock Morton, where he played a big part in Morton's Scottish League One title-winning campaign in 2014-15. His performances earned him a move to Fleetwood Town in 2015, followed by further loan spells at Greenock Morton and Raith Rovers. He quickly developed a reputation as a clinical finisher, with a strong work ethic and an eye for goal.

He's also had two stints with Dunfermline Athletic, with a successful spell at Ross County sandwiched in between. While at Ross County, he helped the club win both the Scottish Championship and the Scottish Challenge Cup before a loan move to Falkirk. McManus consistently proved his value across different leagues, adapting his game and continuing to deliver goals wherever he played.

In 2021, McManus made the switch to TNS, becoming the club's record signing from Dunfermline for a reported £60,000, a Welsh league transfer record. Over three seasons, he helped TNS dominate Welsh football, winning three consecutive Welsh Premier League titles, two Welsh Cups, and a Welsh League Cup. His goal-scoring ability stood out as he topped the Welsh Premier League's scoring charts in back-to-back seasons, bagging 24 goals in 2021/22 and 29 in 2022/23.

During his time at TNS, McManus played 132 games, scoring 95 goals and providing 26 assists. Most of his goals came in the Welsh Premier League, where he built a reputation as one of the deadliest strikers in the competition. His ability to score from a variety of situations—whether poaching in the box, finishing from distance, or converting penalties—made him a key asset for the team.



DECLAN MCMANUS



Beyond his domestic achievements, McManus also played a key role in TNS's historic European campaign this season, as they became the first Welsh league club to reach the group stage of a European competition. He featured in all six UEFA Conference League matches and scored in a 2-0 win over Astana. His experience on the European stage will bring valuable depth and leadership to Coleraine's squad.

On the international stage, he has represented Scotland at various youth levels, earning U-21 caps against France and Iceland. While his opportunities at the senior level have been limited, his consistent form at club level suggests he still has plenty to offer on a bigger stage.

Coleraine head coach Dean Shiels is thrilled to add McManus to the squad, making him the club's fourth signing of the January window. Speaking about the move, Shiels said: "I know Declan well—we played together at Dunfermline. He's a great guy off the pitch, has a top attitude, and will fit in perfectly with the squad.

"On top of that, he's a top player. His goal-scoring record in recent years has been unreal. If we want to push forward, we need a strong squad and competition for places. Declan is a pure goal-scorer, and players like that are priceless."

McManus will wear the number 29 shirt as he looks to make his mark in the Irish Premiership with Coleraine FC. Fans will be eager to see him in action, hoping he can replicate his impressive scoring form and help drive Coleraine's ambitions for success in the league and beyond.



132
games

95
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26
assists

DECLAN MCMANUS

The New Saints announced the signing of 19-year-old Louis Phillips from JD Cymru South side Newport City during the January transfer window. He became the club's second signing of the window and was assigned the number 26 shirt at Park Hall.

LOUIS PHILLIPS

A product of the Cardiff City Academy, Phillips spent 12 years with the Bluebirds, having joined at the age of six. After departing the English Championship club last summer, he was swiftly recruited by his hometown side, where he played a pivotal role in Newport City's inaugural season in the second division.

The talented winger has made 16 appearances this campaign, registering 4 goals and 3 assists. His standout performances earned him the JD Cymru South Player of the Month award in December.

Upon completing his move to Park Hall, Phillips expressed his enthusiasm:

"I'm very excited to join The New Saints and continue my development in the JD Cymru Premier. Everyone at the club has been incredibly welcoming, and I can't wait to get started."

Head coach Craig Harrison also shared his thoughts on the new arrival:

"Louis has a strong pedigree, having come through Cardiff City's Academy, which provided him with a solid footballing foundation. He has also tested himself at senior level with Newport City this season, which is a great combination."

"With his technical ability, speed, and direct style of play, he has all the attributes and potential to thrive at TNS. We're delighted to welcome another exciting young Welsh talent to the club."

Head of Coaching Chris Seargeant echoed these sentiments, adding:

"Louis is a pacey and direct winger, and we're thrilled to have him on board. He has a bright future ahead, and we believe he can make an impact during the remainder of this season."

"We're also pleased to have secured his signature ahead of competition from several South Wales clubs. His decision to join TNS highlights the club's growing appeal for young talent looking to progress."

Everyone at The New Saints extends a warm welcome to Louis Phillips and looks forward to seeing him in action at Park Hall.



genero



TNS Beat Swansea To Cup

The New Saints clinched their first-ever Genero Adran Trophy title with a 3-1 victory over Swansea City in front of 658 spectators at Newtown FC.

Swansea endured a challenging first half, falling behind just 75 seconds into the match. Chantelle Teare capitalized on a misplaced pass from Charlotte Williams across her own six-yard box, tapping the ball into the net.

TNS doubled their lead when Lexi Jones struck a composed finish into the bottom corner after Williams lost possession out wide, allowing the Saints to work the ball to the edge of the area.

Their third goal came from a dangerous Olivia Buckland cross, which forced Swansea defender Lauren Davies into an unfortunate own goal.

Swansea pulled one back when a clearance by Rebecca Elliott was headed back by Robyn Pinder, with the ball striking the post and rolling along the goal line before spinning over.

Despite some nervy moments at the back, TNS held firm, while Swansea threatened with a few chances but ultimately fell short of a comeback.

The triumph marks a significant achievement for TNS, showcasing their growth in Welsh women's football. Their clinical finishing, defensive resilience, and tactical discipline proved decisive as they lifted the Genero Adran Trophy for the first time in club history.



Colwyn Bay Back in Welsh Football and Loving It



Colwyn Bay FC is locked in a thrilling title race with Airbus UK Broughton, going toe-to-toe in a battle for promotion to the Cymru Premier. Both teams have been relentless, matching each other win for win, with every game carrying immense stakes.

With Colwyn Bay’s formidable defense and knack for scoring crucial late goals, the race is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in recent memory. Their passionate fanbase at Llanelian Road has been behind them every step of the way, fueling their drive to reach the top tier of Welsh football.

For years, Colwyn Bay FC was a bit of an oddball in British football. A Welsh club playing in the English system, they spent decades battling away across the border, never quite feeling at home.

But since their big return to Welsh football in 2019, the Seagulls are flying high, reviving old rivalries and soaking up the passion of the local scene.

Switching from the English leagues wasn’t an easy call. After all, Colwyn Bay had been playing there since 1992, forced to move because of the Welsh FA’s rules at the time. They had some decent runs in the Northern Premier League and Conference North, but the long-distance away days and financial strain made life tough.

One of the best things about coming back? The rivalries. Taking on teams like Llandudno, Bangor City, and Caernarfon Town has brought back the kind of fiery matchdays that get fans buzzing. Crowds are up, the atmosphere is electric, and Llanelian Road feels more alive than ever.

Being in the Welsh system also opens the door to something huge—European football. The Cymru Premier teams get a shot at continental competitions, and for a club with big ambitions like Colwyn Bay, that’s a dream worth chasing. They’re not there yet, but the potential is massive.

So, when the chance to come home to the Cymru North arrived, it felt like fate. Finally, the club could fully embrace being Welsh again, compete in their national league, and build something sustainable for the future.

A Bright Future Ahead

Since making the switch, Colwyn Bay has gone from strength to strength. They've been investing in the squad, improving the stadium, and getting even more involved with the local community. The club's on an upward path, and Welsh football as a whole is growing with more investment and attention than ever.

Adding to the excitement, the Welsh Premier League is set for a major revamp in the next couple of years. Plans to expand the league will bring more teams into the top tier, increasing competition and creating new opportunities for clubs like Colwyn Bay. With a broader national league structure, promotion to the top flight could be even more valuable, giving teams a better shot at financial stability and, crucially, a potential route to European football.

Colwyn Bay has also built a strong and loyal fanbase, with their home attendances reflecting this passionate support. This season, they have averaged 679 fans at home games, following previous season averages of 714, 720, and 626. Their growing following has helped generate an electric atmosphere at Llanellian Road, reinforcing their status as one of the most well-supported clubs in the region.

If they can crack promotion to the Cymru Premier this season, it could be a game-changer. With the league expansion on the horizon, there's never been a better time for Colwyn Bay to establish themselves among the best in Welsh football. For now, though, fans are just enjoying being back in the thick of it—where they've always belonged, playing with pride, passion, and big dreams for the future.



JD Cymru North Title Race: Airbus and Colwyn Bay Neck-and-Neck as Season Reaches Climax

Picture by John Smith/FAW

The JD Cymru North title race has taken a few twists in recent weeks and now sees Colwyn Bay sitting at the top of the table.

At the start of the month, Colwyn Bay and Airbus UK Broughton played out a 1-1 draw, maintaining the razor-thin gap at the top. Following that result, Colwyn Bay secured back-to-back victories, propelling them to 60 points – two ahead of Airbus, who sat on 58 points but had a crucial game in hand. However, in their latest matches, Airbus were held to a 1-1 draw against Guilsfield, while Colwyn Bay edged past Ruthin with a 1-0 victory. This result has moved Colwyn Bay four points clear at the top with 63 points, though Airbus, now on 59 points, still have a game in hand. This sets up an intense battle for promotion, with every remaining fixture carrying immense significance.

Both teams have been formidable throughout the season, with Airbus boasting an impressive 79 goals, while Colwyn Bay have netted 74. Their attacking prowess is matched by defensive resilience, as Colwyn Bay have conceded just 21 goals – the best defensive record in the league – while Airbus have been equally disciplined, allowing only 25 goals.



The goals have come from a variety of attacking threats, making both teams highly unpredictable going forward. Airbus have been especially potent, led by Danny Warren with 17 goals.

George Peers has also been in excellent form, finding the net 16 times, while James Davies has contributed 11 goals, showcasing the squad's depth and firepower.

Colwyn Bay, despite losing Gwion Dafydd, who was recalled by The New Saints (TNS), have shared the scoring responsibility effectively. Craig Lindfield has been their standout performer, leading the team with 18 goals. Jamie Cumming remains a key figure in attack, consistently delivering crucial goals throughout the campaign.

Creativity has been a hallmark of both teams' attacking play. Jordan Evans has been the chief playmaker for Airbus, providing seven assists, while Danny Warren has contributed seven. Colwyn Bay have also displayed attacking versatility, with centre-back Sam Hart remarkably chipping in with six assists, highlighting his influence in both defensive and attacking phases of play.

With just four points separating the sides and Airbus holding a game in hand, the title race is set to go down to the wire. The slightest misstep could prove decisive as the season reaches its climax, making every match a high-stakes encounter. As it stands, the JD Cymru North title race remains one of the most thrilling in recent memory.

250 Appearances and Counting!

In the world of Welsh football, few players embody loyalty and excellence quite like Eliot Evans. The Cardiff Metropolitan University Football Club star has officially reached an incredible milestone—250 appearances for the Archers. Since joining the club in 2015, Evans has been a crucial part of the team’s journey, leaving an indelible mark on its history.

A dynamic attacking midfielder, Evans has played an instrumental role in Cardiff Met FC’s rise in Welsh football. From scoring vital goals to leading by example on and off the pitch, his influence extends beyond just the numbers. Over his career, he has scored 79 goals and provided 43 assists in the Premier League, showcasing his offensive prowess. His contribution was particularly vital in the club’s historic UEFA Europa League qualification, a moment etched in the memories of Archers fans.

Ahead of the 2022/23 season, Evans took on an additional responsibility as a player-coach, further demonstrating his commitment to the club’s development. His leadership qualities and tactical understanding have not only enhanced his own performances but have also inspired younger players within the squad.

To mark this achievement, Cardiff Met FC paid tribute to Evans across their social media platforms, celebrating his dedication and longevity. The milestone is a testament to his consistency, professionalism, and love for the game. As he continues to don the Archers’ jersey, fans will be eager to see what more Evans can achieve in the years ahead. Whether it’s guiding the club to more silverware or mentoring the next generation, one thing is certain—his legacy at Cardiff Met is already cemented.



JD Cymru Premier Expansion and Promotion/Relegation System for 2025/26

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) has announced the promotion and relegation structure for the 2025/26 season, ahead of the JD Cymru Premier's expansion to 16 teams for the 2026/27 campaign.

In September 2024, the FAW confirmed that the JD Cymru Premier will expand from its current 12-team format to a 16-team competition starting from the 2026/27 season.

2026/27 JD Cymru Premier Format Overview

To ensure a smooth transition to the expanded format, the FAW National Leagues Board has reviewed various options and finalized a system that promotes fairness and competitive balance.

Relegation from the JD Cymru Premier (2025/26 Season)

- The teams finishing 11th and 12th in the JD Cymru Premier during the 2025/26 season will be relegated to either the JD Cymru North or JD Cymru South.

Promotion to the JD Cymru Premier (2025/26 Season)

- The top three teams (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers) from both the JD Cymru North and JD Cymru South will be promoted to the JD Cymru Premier, provided they meet the Tier 1 licensing requirements.

Support for Tier 2 Clubs

To support the growth and development of clubs aiming for Tier 1 status, the FAW has introduced a Future Growth Fund, which will provide financial support to Tier 2 clubs working towards meeting Tier 1 licensing standards.

This strategic approach ensures a competitive and well-prepared transition to the expanded JD Cymru Premier format for the 2026/27 season.



Cambrian United Docked Three Points

A Disciplinary Panel of the Football Association of Wales (FAW) has met to consider the charges against Cambrian United FC for the Disciplinary Offences for an alleged breach of FAW Rule 61(B) and Cymru South Rule 14.1.

FAW Rule 61(B) states that: 'A Player registered with the Association to play for a Club with teams participating in both Professional Competitions and Amateur Competitions shall only be eligible to play for the Club in Professional Competitions during a Season if that Player was registered during a Professional Registration Period. Any player registered for the Club during the Amateur Registration Period can only play for the Club in Professional Competitions from the first Business Day of the following Professional Registration Period applicable to that Season.'

Cymru South Rule 14.1 states: 'No Club may play an ineligible Player in any Match. Any Club which plays an ineligible player in a Match, or Matches, will have three (3) points deducted from its League record for that Playing Season up to a maximum of 18 points and will also be liable to a fine. If the Player is a nominated but unused substitute for a Match, he shall be deemed as not having played for the Club in that Match.'

It was alleged that the Club fielded an ineligible player, in that, having been registered with the Association for Cambrian United FC during the Amateur Registration Period, he played for the Club in a Professional Competition prior to the first Business Day of the following Professional Registration Period applicable to the 2024/25 season, in the following fixture:

- Cambrian United FC v Pontypridd United (2024/25 JD Cymru South) – 1 January 2025

Both charges were found proven. In line with Cymru South Rule 14.1, the Club has received a deduction of three (3) points, effective immediately in the JD Cymru South 2024/25 season. The Club has also received a monetary fine.

Cambrian United FC may request for the matter to be referred to an Appeals Panel of the Football Association of Wales. Written notice of such a course of action must state the grounds of appeal and be submitted to FAW no later than 5pm on Wednesday 26 February 2025.

The New Saints FC Pursue FIFA Action

Following Brad Young's transfer to Saudi Arabia, Al-Orobah FC has yet to pay any of the agreed transfer fee.

After an appeal to the FIFA Players' Status Chamber regarding the outstanding amount, the club was given 45 days to pay the first instalment of \$150,000 plus 5% interest to The New Saints FC. However, this payment has not been made.

As a result, the second instalment, which was due on January 1, 2025, also remains unpaid.

In response, The New Saints FC has lodged a further claim with FIFA for the outstanding \$100,000, which is now under review by the FIFA Football Tribunal.

FIFA General Secretary Mattias Grafström has proposed that the second instalment be paid within 45 days from February 21, 2025.

Meanwhile, Jones has made nine appearances for his new team, scoring once and providing one assist.

The New Saints' chairman, Mike Harris, expressed his frustration:

"We strongly advise any clubs considering negotiations with teams in the Saudi Pro League to think carefully before proceeding. When agreements are made, they should be honoured. Twice now, we have been promised payments that have not materialized, despite repeated requests."



A United Future for Football in Bangor

Bangor 1876 has announced on their website that an agreement has been reached with Bangor City Stadium to form a partnership aimed at strengthening football in the city and enhancing its impact on the local community.

We are thrilled to announce that Bangor City Stadium and CPD Bangor 1876 have reached an agreement to work in partnership in order to strengthen football in our city and enhance its impact on the local community. Next year will mark the 150th anniversary of the creation of the first football team in Bangor, and this partnership celebrates our proud legacy while marking an exciting new chapter for football in our city. It brings together two passionate communities with a shared vision for success, growth and community impact.

Together, we are committed to building a club that sits at the heart of our community. We will work tirelessly to develop local talent, strengthen ties with local businesses, and create a club culture that everyone in Bangor can be proud of. Our goal is to provide opportunities for all age groups, ensuring football continues to grow and prosper in Bangor.

Based on a shared ambition to see Bangor again represented in the Cymru Premier, this partnership represents a powerful step towards seeing our city regain a place in the top tier of Welsh football.

Over the next few weeks, we will be holding meetings to facilitate the partnership and ensure a smooth transition. We will continue to share updates on our progress and next steps as we move forward. We thank everyone involved in these discussions, for their time and dedication and we look forward to an exciting future together as one united club.



Picture by Craig Thomas/FAW

“This is a significant moment for football in Bangor. Our goal has always been to create a club that is sustainable, successful and deeply connected to the community. This partnership is a major step towards that vision, ensuring we provide the best facilities, opportunities and support for the community, players, staff and supporters alike. We’re excited about what the future holds and look forward to working closely with everyone to make this a success.”

Nick Pritchard, Co-Chairman of Bangor City Stadium

“Our mission from day one has been to seek to preserve the future of football in Bangor, building on a proud history that can be traced back to 1876 and which has involved many memorable moments down the years. We are pleased to now have an agreement which allows us to move forward confidently, and to work towards creating an exciting and sustainable future which we hope will be of great benefit to our club and our local community.”

Glynne Roberts, Chairman of Bangor 1876

The Roaring Crowds of Cymru's North and South

Welsh football has long been fueled by passion, community, and a deep-rooted love for the game. While the Cymru Premier often takes center stage, the Cymru North and Cymru South leagues are proving they have just as much heart—and the growing crowds are proof. With an average attendance of around 248 spectators per match, these leagues are alive with energy, proving that grassroots football in Wales is thriving.

A Tale of Two Leagues: Where the Fans Flock

Football at this level is all about local pride, and it shows. While the Cymru Premier boasts an average attendance of 377, clubs in the Cymru North and Cymru South are creating their own electric atmospheres. In the Cymru North, Colwyn Bay FC and Bangor 1876 FC are leading the way, with average crowds of 679 and 458, respectively. But that's just the start—some matches have drawn bumper crowds, with Colwyn Bay FC breaking the 1,000 mark and peaking at a jaw-dropping 1,236 for a highly anticipated clash against Bangor 1876. And they're not the only ones—other clubs have witnessed surges past 800 fans, further highlighting the region's unwavering footballing spirit.

Down in the Cymru South, the story is just as compelling. Afan Lido FC and Trefelin BGC are drawing strong numbers, averaging 346 and 339 fans per game. The passion reaches fever pitch in the biggest fixtures—such as the showdown between Afan Lido and Trefelin BGC, which saw an impressive 851 spectators pack into the stands. These numbers prove that, while slightly trailing their northern counterparts, southern football fans are no less devoted to their teams.

More Than Just a Game—It's a Community

What makes Cymru North and South football special? It's the sense of belonging. Unlike the Cymru Premier, where larger clubs benefit from corporate sponsorships and televised matches, second-tier football is built on pure community support. These clubs depend on match-day revenues, local business sponsorships, and the fierce loyalty of their fans to keep going.

Beyond the numbers, these leagues serve as a proving ground for the next generation of Welsh talent. By turning up in droves, supporters aren't just watching a game—they're actively shaping the future of Welsh football, creating an environment where young players can flourish and take the next step in their careers.

Challenges on the Road to Growth

Despite the rising numbers and passionate support, Cymru North and South clubs still face significant hurdles. Financial constraints, aging stadiums, and limited media exposure mean that even well-supported teams struggle to break into the mainstream. But the tide is turning.

Clubs are increasingly harnessing the power of social media, innovative marketing, and local partnerships to grow their fanbase. And, of course, success on the pitch matters—teams with a history of victories, like Bangor 1876 FC, naturally attract more fans. If more clubs can establish a strong on-field presence, the entire league stands to benefit.

The Next Chapter in Welsh Football

The numbers don't lie—football in Cymru's second tier is on the rise. While they may not be filling the massive stadiums of Europe's elite leagues, these clubs are carving out their own space, backed by passionate supporters who show up week after week.

As long as local clubs continue to nurture talent, engage their communities, and stay financially stable, the future looks bright. Welsh football may not always be in the global limelight, but under the floodlights of Colwyn Bay, Bangor, and Afan Lido, the passion for the game burns just as brightly. And that's something truly special.

JD Cymru North Attendances 2024/25

From the following figures, Colwyn Bay feature in a lot of the high attended games across the league followed by Llandudno FC.

Highest attending game

Colwyn Bay 0 Bangor City 1876 4 (1236)

Team	Ground	Capacity	Highest Attendance	Average Attendance
Colwyn Bay	Four Crosses Construction Arena	3000	1236	679
Bangor City 1876	Bangor City Stadium	3000	1005	458
Denbigh Town	Central Park	1200	1046	321
Buckley Town	Globe Way	1250	467	276
Llandudno FC	Go Goodwins Stadium	1500	1175	421
Airbus UK	Hollingsworth Group Int Airfield	1600	609	296
Flint Mountain	Essity Stadium	1690	511	296
Holywell Town	Bartons North Wales Stadium	2000	470	330
Mold Alex	Alyn Park	3000	373	206
Prestatyn Town	Bastion Road	2300	380	246
Caersws FC	Recreation Ground	4000	215	161
Guilsfield FC	Community Centre Ground	1100	200	128
Gresford Athletic	*The Airfield	2100	374	184
Llay Welfare	The Ring	1000	225	133
Penrhyncoch FC	Cae Baker	1000	205	117
Ruthin Town	**Maes Tegid	3000	159	78

*Gresford currently share grounds with Airbus UK

**Ruthin are playing at Bala's ground during a new pitch installation at Memorial Playing Fields

JD Cymru South Attendances 2024/25

From the following figures, Trefelin and Llanelli Town feature in a lot of the high attended games across the league.

Highest attending game

Trefelin 1 Afan Lido 1 (881)

Team	Ground	Capacity	Highest Attendance	Average Attendance
Afan Lido	Marstons Stadium	4200	851	346
Trefelin	Ynys Park	2000	881	339
Llanelli Town AFC	Stebonheath Park	3700	528	294
Carmarthen Town	LHP Stadium	3000	379	252
Pontypridd United	USW Sports Park	1000	311	234
Trethomas Bluebirds	CCB Centre for Sporting Excellence	1000	313	206
Newport City	Newport Stadium	2450	340	223
Ammanford AFC	Ammanford Recreation Ground	2000	361	187
Taffs Well	Rhiw Dda'r	3000	247	161
Baglan Dragons	Evans Bevans Playing Fields	1000	438	180
Goytre United	Glenhafod Park Stadium	4000	601	200
Llantwit Major	Compact Cars Megadome	2000	196	149
Caerau Ely	Cwrt-yr-Ala	1000	227	139
Cwmbran Celtic	Avondale Motor Park Arena	1500	170	102
Penrhiwceiber Rangers	Glasbrook Field	1000	160	117
Cambrian United	M&P Group 3G	1000	189	140

Denbigh Secure Duo

Denbigh Town Football Club is thrilled to announce the contract extensions of two key players, Sam Duffy and Ben Lockley, ensuring their stay at Central Park through the 2025/26 campaign. Both players have become integral members of Dewi Llion's squad, demonstrating their commitment to the club's ongoing ambitions.

Sam Duffy: Prolific Forward Continues Journey at Central Park

Sam Duffy has officially penned a new deal with Denbigh Town, securing his presence for another season following a remarkable debut year. Since joining in the summer, the 23-year-old forward has made 26 appearances, netting seven crucial goals and becoming a fan favorite at Central Park.

Reflecting on his decision, Duffy shared his excitement:

"I'm really pleased to commit to the club for another season after a great start here. From the moment I joined, I could see the progress being made both on and off the pitch, and it's something I want to continue to be a part of. Playing regular football, scoring goals, and doing it alongside a fantastic group of lads made the decision easy when Dewi approached me about staying on."

Picture by Nik Mesney/FAW



Head coach Dewi Llion praised Duffy's impact and leadership: **"Sam has been a crucial part of our team this season, and having him on board for another year is fantastic news. He came in quite late during the summer but adapted seamlessly. After a few seasons of moving between clubs, this is a great opportunity for him to fully immerse himself in our squad. He brings experience to a young team, having played at a higher level, and his leadership on the pitch has been invaluable. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with him and seeing his development next season."**

Duffy's football journey began with a brief stint at Prestatyn Town before joining Denbigh Town in August 2024. Prior to that, he showcased his talent at Flint Town United in the JD Cymru Premier, as well as Holywell Town and Mold Alexandra, where he celebrated winning the WBS League Cup at Central Park in April 2024.

Since his arrival, Duffy has consistently impressed, including scoring on his home debut last August. His renewed commitment promises more memorable moments for the fans next season.

Ben Lockley: Defensive Rock Commits Future to Denbigh Town

Joining Duffy in reaffirming his future with Denbigh Town, Ben Lockley has signed a new contract that keeps him at Central Park until the end of the 2025/26 campaign. At 23 years old, Lockley has grown into a pivotal figure within Dewi Llion's team, bringing stability and leadership to the defense.

Expressing his enthusiasm, Lockley said:

“I’m really pleased to commit to the club for next season. I feel like I’ve improved significantly as a player here over the past three seasons, playing week in, week out, and growing alongside the club. I’ve had some fantastic memories already with Denbigh, from a top-six finish in the JD Cymru North to a league and cup double the year before. Now it’s time to keep up that progression and achieve more.”

Manager Dewi Llion was full of praise for Lockley, last season’s ‘Manager’s Player of the Season’:

“Ben is a top player at this level and someone we’re really happy to have signed for next season. He came to the club at 20 as a raw talent and has progressed incredibly since then, establishing himself as a leader on the pitch and a consistent performer. He proved his dedication by not missing a single game in all competitions last season. He’s the first player to commit to next season, and I can’t wait to continue working with him.”

Lockley joined Denbigh Town in the summer of 2022 alongside his twin brother Harry from Conwy Borough. Since then, he has made 107 appearances for the club, scoring 11 goals, including a memorable strike in the FAW Amateur Trophy Final. He also secured a league winner’s medal in the Lock Stock Ardal North-West and celebrated a cup victory in the Lock Stock Ardal Northern League Cup.

In Denbigh Town’s debut season in the JD Cymru North, Lockley was ever-present, playing every game and earning the Manager’s Player of the Season Award. This season, he has continued his exceptional form with 29 appearances and two goals, contributing to the club’s historic run to their first-ever Welsh Cup Quarter-Final.



Picture by Sam Eaden/FAW

A Bright Future for Denbigh Town FC

With Sam Duffy and Ben Lockley’s commitments secured, Denbigh Town FC is poised for continued growth and success. Both players bring invaluable experience, leadership, and skill to a young and ambitious squad under Dewi Llion’s guidance.

Fans at Central Park can look forward to more thrilling moments as Duffy continues his goal-scoring exploits, and Lockley fortifies the defense with his consistent performances. These renewals signal the club’s intent to build on recent successes and aim for greater achievements in the upcoming season.

Denbigh Town FC eagerly anticipates the 2025/26 campaign with renewed hope and confidence, knowing they have secured the futures of two of their brightest stars.

Following in Their Fathers' Footsteps

Newtown AFC have signed Julian Schwarzer Garcia for the rest of the season. The 25-year-old goalkeeper, last with Indonesian club Arema, joins as a free agent, eager to make an impact in the Welsh Premier League.

Schwarzer Garcia comes from a footballing dynasty. His father, Mark Schwarzer, played over 500 Premier League games for Middlesbrough, Fulham, Chelsea, and Leicester, also representing Australia in two World Cups.

Born in Harrogate, England, Julian qualifies to play for the Philippines through his mother, Paloma, and has earned three international caps. His career began at Fulham's academy before loan spells in non-league football led him to Malaysia and Indonesia. Now, he aims to help Newtown climb the league table.

"I'm delighted to have signed for Newtown," Schwarzer Garcia said. **"I'm looking forward to the challenge and will do my best to help the club reach its goals."**

Newtown, currently 5th in the 6 team Phase 2 league, hopes Schwarzer Garcia will bring much-needed stability in goal. Head coach Callum McKenzie believes his distribution and experience will add a new dimension to the team's play.

"Julian is an exciting signing and fills a gap in the squad," McKenzie said. **"His experience will strengthen us in phase 2."**

The club's official statement praised his agility and comfort on the ball, highlighting him as a key addition for the season's second half.

“I’m really happy to join The Nomads. Everyone has been very welcoming and I’m keen to help out where I can for a big push to the end of the season.”

Meanwhile, another footballing son is making waves in Wales. Cameron Ferguson, the 21-year-old son of former Inverness Caledonian Thistle manager Duncan Ferguson, has also found a new home in the Welsh league. After being made redundant from Inverness Caledonian Thistle when the club went into administration in October, 2024, Ferguson made his debut for Connah’s Quay Nomads in a 1-0 win over Newtown.

Ferguson was one of four players let go due to the financial crisis at Inverness, alongside Adam Brooks, Flynn Duffy, and Wallace Duffy. Jack Newman’s loan deal was also terminated as he returned to Dundee United. Despite the setback, all players have since secured new clubs.

Cameron Ferguson’s career began at the Everton Academy before he joined Tranmere Rovers’ scholarship programme. He then moved to Newcastle United’s U21 squad before playing in Scotland for Forfar Athletic and Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Upon signing with Connah’s Quay Nomads, Ferguson expressed his enthusiasm: **“I’m really happy to join The Nomads. Everyone has been very welcoming and I’m keen to help out where I can for a big push to the end of the season.”**

His father, Duncan Ferguson, was in the stands watching his son’s debut and later shared his thoughts on S4C’s football show Sgorio.

Both Schwarzer Garcia and Ferguson are determined to forge their own paths in professional football while carrying the legacies of their fathers. As they battle for success in the Welsh league, their stories serve as a testament to the enduring influence of family in football.

Groundhopping: The Ultimate Football Fan's Adventure

For many football fans, watching their team play at home is a sacred ritual. But for a growing number of supporters, the thrill lies not just in supporting a single club—but in experiencing the beautiful game across as many stadiums as possible. Welcome to the world of groundhopping.

What Is Groundhopping?

Groundhopping is more than just attending matches—it's a passion, an adventure, and for some, an obsession. Enthusiasts, known as groundhoppers, travel from stadium to stadium, ticking off venues from their ever-growing lists. From the towering arenas of the Premier League to the hidden gems of non-league football, every ground tells a story, and every match offers something unique.

For some, the goal is simple: visit as many stadiums as possible. Others take it a step further, setting personal challenges—seeing a game in every top-flight stadium of a country, completing an entire league's set of grounds, or even venturing abroad to witness football in different cultures.



The Magic of the Journey

Ask any groundhopper, and they'll tell you: it's not just about the football. The experience begins long before kickoff. There's the train ride through scenic landscapes, the first glimpse of floodlights from a distance, the hunt for the best local pre-match pub, and the joy of discovering a club's unique traditions.

In Germany, you might find yourself in a standing-only terrace, surrounded by passionate ultras waving flags. In England's lower leagues, you could end up at a ground with just a few hundred die-hard fans, where the tea lady knows every supporter by name. In Argentina, the stadium might shake beneath your feet as thousands bounce in unison. Each visit is a new adventure.



The Rules of the Game

Groundhopping isn't just about showing up—it's about earning your visit. Many purists follow an unwritten rule: a stadium only "counts" if you've watched a full competitive match there. Some take it further, insisting that only league matches apply, while others embrace friendlies and youth games.

Keeping track is a big part of the fun. Many groundhoppers log their visits in notebooks, spreadsheets, or dedicated apps. Some write blogs, share photos on social media, or swap stories in online communities, where the real die-hards discuss the quirkiest grounds, best atmospheres, and must-visit footballing cathedrals.

A Growing Subculture

While the origins of groundhopping can be traced back decades—particularly in football-mad nations like England and Germany—the hobby has exploded in popularity with the rise of budget travel and social media. Today, thousands of fans share their stadium-hopping exploits, trading tips on hidden gems and planning cross-border football adventures.

It's not just about the biggest clubs. In fact, many groundhoppers prefer the raw authenticity of non-league and lower-division football. No corporate sponsors, no overpriced tickets—just football in its purest form.

Why Do It?

For some, it's a personal challenge. For others, it's a way to soak in the culture and history of the game beyond their own club. And for many, it's simply the joy of discovery—the anticipation of the unknown, the beauty of the unexpected.

Football is a universal language, but every ground has its own dialect. The roar of the crowd, the smell of matchday snacks, the chants that echo through the terraces—each stadium is a chapter in the story of the game.

So, next time you find yourself in a new city, why not check the fixture list? You might just discover your next footballing pilgrimage.





We caught up with Clint, owner of the 94thminute blog dedicated to his ground-hopping adventures and another groundhopper Sean from Newport and asked them a few questions around the activity.

Why did you start

Clint - I wanted to start ground hopping because I didn't know much about the grounds within North Wales and wanted to visit them. It also gave me a reason to discover the towns themselves and learn more about local history. Another reason was that I was becoming disillusioned with football on the other side of the border and wanted to experience local football more. Being a Holywell Town fan also helped in this regard as I would often visit these grounds and clubs where Holywell had an away game at.

Additionally, I noticed there wasn't much information on the grounds (at the time) so it became a bit of a fact-finding mission for me to note down what was available at each club. That's how the blog came about - I wanted to write down my experiences so people would have more information and be more likely and comfortable to come visit North Welsh clubs.

When did you start groundhopping?

Clint - Back in 2013, I wanted to do something unique to raise money for a charity, so a few mates and I decided to travel to all 12 teams that founded The Football League (as well as a few other historic clubs) within a few days. Luckily a few of the clubs we contacted allowed us access to the stadiums to take pictures to prove we have visited before venturing off to the next stop. It was a fun little trip and sparked off something inside of me that wanted to visit more grounds, and set a long-term goal of visiting 100 grounds in total.

It wasn't until 2014 when ground hopping started getting more "serious" after visiting Colwyn Bay when they were competing in the Conference North, and I wanted to visit more Welsh grounds. It all snowballed from there.

Sean - I started roughly in 2016/ 2017 after getting the bug visiting Sparta Prague, Borussia Dortmund and PSV. I then started combining watching Newport County & Wales with watching as much football as possible all over the world.

Favourite ground?

Clint - One of my favourites is Gwydir Park in Llanrwst. I like going to Llanrwst and the ground is in such a scenic location with excellent views of the Dyffryn Conwy and being next to the river. Sadly, that location is its downfall due to it constantly getting flooded during the winter months and it's looking likely that Llanrwst United will be moving from there sooner than later.

Another ground I enjoy is Porthmadog's Y Traeth. I've always had an enjoyable time visiting there as the people are always so friendly, and the ground itself is unique and how a Welsh ground should be. Comically, every time I have visited Y Traeth, it's always rained, so perhaps I need to see the ground in sunny weather to appreciate its full glory haha.

Llandudno's Parc Maesdu is also another spectacular ground to visit due to its close proximity to the town and train station. You can make a good day at the seaside with a couple of drinks in Llandudno's many excellent establishments before venturing to the ground. It's also the location for my most favourite groundhop where I saw Holywell Town win the 2015 FAW Trophy there. I swear, half of Holywell was in Llandudno that day!!

Finally, if I was to pick a ground from my home county of Flintshire, it would have to be Rhydymwyn's Dolfechlas Road. Just a great little ground with a superb backdrop and a friendly welcome. I have a lot of time for Rhydymwyn for that alone.

Sean - Favourite ground is either Caernarfon Town for the atmosphere, and Abercarn United or Abertillery Bluebirds for the views.

Weirdest location / stadium

Clint - Throughout my ground hopping, I have been to some odd locations to get some ground ticks. I have ventured up to the Highlands and visited both Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Ross County's grounds. The Dingwall ground is the most northerly professional team in the UK, so that was a cool moment to be up there, if a little bit crazy. I do love Scottish football and would love to visit more "fitba" grounds in the future.

Another random groundhop was travelling to the Isle of Man for the day and ended up watching some Manx football. We watched Rushen United (from Port Erin) destroy Ayre United 13-1 in a fantastic, if cold, match. I adore the Isle of Man and would love to head over there again and watch more Manx football. Football on the islands around Great Britain always fascinates me, with the IoM being especially interesting.

Within Wales, I think any time I venture into deepest, darkest Powys is always a fun adventure. The one ground in particular I remember being particularly a mad one was when my mate Greg and I went down to Rhayader for a Holywell away day. Also the ground was a little bit higgly-piggledy with its stands, but I absolutely adored it for its quiriness and loved its clubhouse and old school pub vibe. It's another club I wish great success for as again they gave us all such a warm welcome. Plus, I would love another excuse to visit Rhayader again. We never got a chance to look around the town, so I'd love the opportunity to explore it more next time.

Sean - Most unique location a tough one. There's so many grounds nestled amongst the mountains or valleys, I could list so many from that perspective. Cefn Druids' The Rock, which is built into a disused quarry cliff, is definitely one of the most unique. I went for a friendly against Colchester United too, which made it a very unique friendly in a very unique ground

How many miles do you reckon you travel a month?

Clint - Sadly nowadays, I don't do much ground hopping or even watch many games due to my work commitments, so when I do get a chance, it's usually to watch Holywell Town games. However, during my peak period of ground hopping, I would be travelling all throughout North Wales watching games. Originally, I kept it local by covering the Flintshire clubs, but as time went on, I branched out into trip in neighbouring counties.

If my friend Greg came along (and often did the driving) we would head towards central Wales for games. He was also a big reason for me doing ground hopping as he's a person who enjoys going to places for no reason other than a visit it depends. I watch Newport County & Wales away too, so some months I really rack up the air miles! In terms of Welsh ground hopping it's probably a couple of hundred miles a month - the furthest I've travelled is Caernarfon Town which was incredible and well worth the journey.

Sean - It depends. I watch Newport County & Wales away too, so some months I really rack up the air miles! In terms of Welsh ground hopping it's probably a couple of hundred miles a month - the furthest I've travelled is Caernarfon Town which was incredible and well worth the journey.



And finally Clint, what future plans do you have for the blog?

Clint - In terms of ground hopping, I'd love to do more Welsh and Scottish clubs in the future but that may require a change in either my work shifts or job in total for that to happen, so sadly, they won't be forthcoming anytime soon. Nonetheless, I am still eager to write more articles for the website.

I would to explore more about other clubs dotted around the world and interview supporters on their specific clubs to learn more about them and their culture. However, I am aware that a lot of people followed me for Welsh football, so am going to veer back towards pel-droed and focus more on Welsh football. I'd love to write articles on specific Welsh clubs as well as focusing on the leagues themselves to give people more knowledge on the clubs who play in them and the leagues themselves, especially to those readers from outside of Wales.

Overall, I want to use the blog to help promote Welsh football even further. When I started the blog, there was no other Welsh football sites out there, so to see so many other media sources (and this great magazine of course) now showing off the beauty of Welsh football is incredibly heartwarming and encouraging for the future. It has certainly made me question my blog's position in it all, and even question whether it was worth continuing. However, if the site can become an "elder statesman" (for want of a better description) within the Welsh football world, then that would be fantastic. Maybe, I may just narrow my focus to Flintshire clubs in the future and evolve into "Football Flintshire"...who knows?

All in all, I just want to help other people enjoy Welsh football and get out there to support their local teams. There are so many excellent clubs and leagues out there that they deserve to have some attention shined upon them. I just hope my humble blogs help in that aspect.

Penrhiwceiber Rangers AFC: A Club on the Rise

Nestled in the heart of the South Wales Valleys, Penrhiwceiber Rangers AFC is a club built on passion, resilience, and an unwavering community spirit. Established in 1961 by local football enthusiasts Billy Cooksley, Tony Jones, and Chris Kerr, the club has grown from humble beginnings into a competitive force in Welsh football.

A Historic Ascent

For years, Penrhiwceiber Rangers competed in regional leagues, steadily growing in reputation. The 2023–24 season was a defining moment in the club's history, as they clinched the Ardal South West title, securing a coveted promotion to the JD Cymru South for the 2024–25 season. This milestone not only validated their ambition but also set the stage for a new chapter in their journey.



The Challenge of Cymru South

Now competing at a higher level, the Rangers have faced a tough baptism in the JD Cymru South. As of February 2025, the club has registered five wins, four draws, and fifteen losses. Goals have been hard to come by this season, with the team only managing 21 goals so far. The squad is managed by Dean Brown, who also plays as a center back and has featured in 13 games this season.

The team's top scorer is winger Brandon Davies, who has netted seven league goals in twenty one games, followed by midfielder Warren Jones, who has scored four goals in twenty two games.

While the transition has been challenging, the team remains determined to establish itself in the league, adapting to the increased intensity and tactical demands. The club averages 117 fans per match, with their highest attendance of 160 recorded in a game against Newport City.

Glasbrook Field: The Fortress of the Valleys

Every great club has its home, and for Penrhiwceiber Rangers, that sanctuary is Glasbrook Field. Located on Glasbrook Terrace, the ground has witnessed the highs and lows of the club's journey, serving as a battleground where local supporters rally behind their team. The passionate fans, deeply embedded in the fabric of the club, continue to be a vital source of motivation for the players.

A Community-Driven Future

Beyond football, Penrhiwceiber Rangers remains an integral part of the local community, fostering grassroots development and offering young talents a pathway into the sport. The club's commitment to youth programs ensures a steady stream of talent ready to carry forward the Rangers' legacy.

Though their current season has presented hurdles, Penrhiwceiber Rangers AFC is far from disheartened. With their rich history, devoted fanbase, and relentless ambition, they continue to carve their place in Welsh football. Whether battling for survival or eyeing another promotion, one thing is certain—Penrhiwceiber Rangers are here to stay.



JD Cymru Premier In Detail

JD Cymru Premier

Season stat pack

The Important Numbers

Games played 156	Goals scored 459	Average goals 2.94
Best attack 71 TNS	Best defence 14 Haverfordwest	Worst attack 22 Aberystwyth
Worst defence 60 Aberystwyth	Penalty goals 22	Nil nils 12

Top Scorers

Rhys Hughes	12
Connah's Quay Nomads	
Aramide Oteh	11
TNS	
Louis Lloyd	11
Caernarfon	
Ollie Hulbert	10
Barry Town	
Aaron Williams	9
Newtown	
James Crole	9
Penybont	
Ben Ahmun	9
Haverfordwest	
Jordan Williams	9
TNS	

Most Assists

Zeli Ismail	14
Newtown	
Jake Phillips	9
Flint Town United	
Nathan Wood	8
Penybont	
James Crole	7
Penybont	
Robbie Willmott	7
Barry Town	
Osebi Abadaki	7
Bala Town	

Most Cleansheets

Zac Jones	14
Haverfordwest	
Joel Torrance	10
Bala Town	
Adam Przybek	10
Penybont	
Connor Roberts	9
Barry Town	
George Ratcliffe	8
Connah's Quay	
Jack Flint	5
Flint Town United	

JD Cymru Premier Season stat pack

When The Goals Went In

First Half 207 goals / 45.3%

0-4 ⊕ 16 3.5%	5-9 ⊕ 18 3.9%	10-14 ⊕ 25 5.5%	15-19 ⊕ 20 4.4%	20-24 ⊕ 21 4.6%	25-29 ⊕ 18 3.9%	30-34 ⊕ 21 4.6%	35-39 ⊕ 23 5.0%	40-45+ ⊕ 45 9.8%
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Second Half 250 goals / 54.7%

46-49 ⊕ 18 3.9%	50-54 ⊕ 38 8.3%	55-59 ⊕ 22 4.8%	60-64 ⊕ 25 5.5%	65-69 ⊕ 24 5.3%	70-74 ⊕ 22 4.8%	75-79 ⊕ 18 3.9%	80-84 ⊕ 29 6.3%	85-90 ⊕ 34 7.4%	91+ ⊕ 20 4.4%
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Goal Trends

1-9 mins

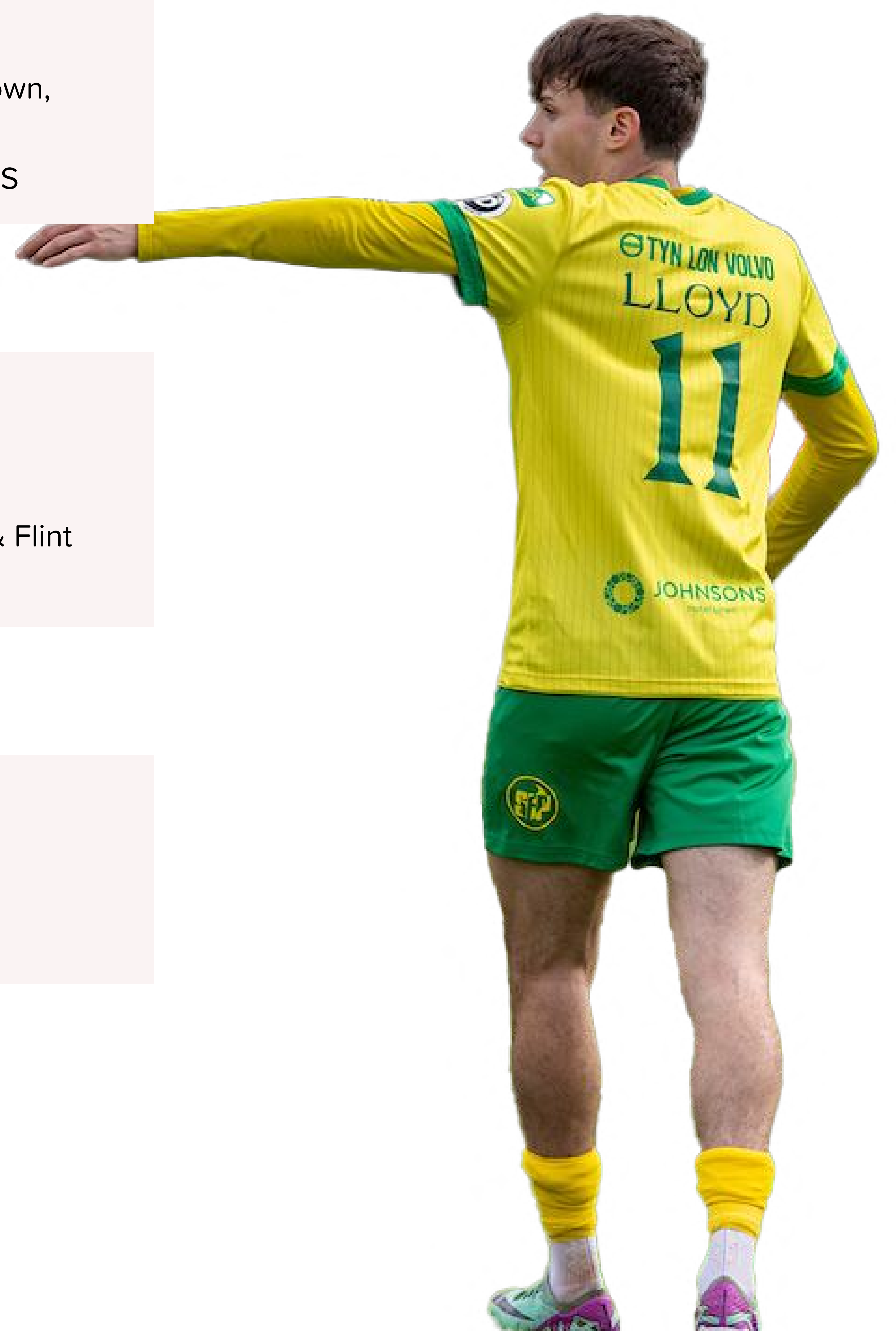
Early Starters 8 TNS 6 Cardiff Met & Caernarfon	Wasn't The Plan 5 Bala 4 Newtown, Briton Ferry, Flint Town, Caernarfon & Cardiff Met 3 Aberystwyth, Barry Town & TNS
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40-45+ mins

Kept Pushing 8 Penybont & TNS 5 Briton Ferry & Connah's Quay 4 Cardiff Met	Lost Focus 7 Barry Town & Briton Ferry 6 Caernarfon 5 Bala, Aberystwyth, Newtown & Flint Town
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85-91+ mins

Left It Late 11 TNS 8 Caernarfon 6 Briton Ferry	Couldn't Hold On 11 Aberystwyth 8 Newtown 5 TNS, Penybont & Bala
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JD Cymru North In Detail

JD Cymru North

Season stat pack

The Important Numbers

Games played 192	Goals scored 740	Average goals 3.85
Best attack 79 Airbus UK	Best defence 21 Colwyn Bay	Worst attack 28 Llay
Worst defence 91 Prestatyn	Penalty goals 48	Nil nils 3

Top Scorers

Jamie Breese	20
Holywell Town	
Craig Lindfield	18
Colwyn Bay	
Danny Warren	17
Airbus UK	
Mark Cadwallader	17
Llandudno	
George Peers	16
Airbus UK	
Nathan Brown	16
Denbigh	

Most Assists

Jack Sconce	11
Flint Mountain	
Danny Andrews	9
Holywell Town	
Nathan Browne	9
Denbigh Town	
Jordan Evans	7
Airbus UK	
Owen Davies	7
Denbigh Town	
Danny Warren	7
Airbus UK	

Most Cleansheets

Keighan Jones	10
Airbus UK	
Rhys Williams	9
Colwyn Bay	
Ryan Goldston	7
Buckley Town	
Shaun Pearson	5
Holywell Town	
Max Williams	4
Caersws	
Bradley Farrar	4
Bangor 1876	
Cameron Darling	4
Llandudno	
Reece Thompson	4
Flint Mountain	
Dan Goldtson	4
Ruthin Town	
John Danby	4
Flint Mountain	

JD Cymru North

Season stat pack

When The Goals Went In

First Half 339 goals / 45.8%

0-4 ⊕ 27 3.6%	5-9 ⊕ 38 5.1%	10-14 ⊕ 31 4.2%	15-19 ⊕ 38 5.1%	20-24 ⊕ 28 3.8%	25-29 ⊕ 42 5.7%	30-34 ⊕ 37 5.0%	35-39 ⊕ 32 4.3%	40-45+ ⊕ 66 8.9%
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Second Half 401 goals / 54.2%

46-49 ⊕ 20 2.7%	50-54 ⊕ 22 3.0%	55-59 ⊕ 41 5.5%	60-64 ⊕ 50 6.8%	65-69 ⊕ 50 6.8%	70-74 ⊕ 40 5.4%	75-79 ⊕ 38 5.1%	80-84 ⊕ 27 3.6%	85-90 ⊕ 49 6.6%	91+ ⊕ 64 8.6%
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Goal Trends

1-9 mins

Early Starters

- 9 Airbus
- 7 Colwyn Bay
- 6 Ruthin & Flint Mountain

Wasn't The Plan

- 10 Prestatyn
- 8 Denbigh
- 7 Bangor

40-45+ mins

Kept Pushing

- 9 Airbus
- 7 Guilsfield & Flint Mountain
- 6 Llandudno & Colwyn Bay

Lost Focus

- 9 Prestatyn
- 6 Llandudno & Flint Mountain
- 5 Denbigh, Bangor & Penrhyncoch

85-91+ mins

Left It Late

- 12 Colwyn Bay
- 11 Airbus & Penrhyncoch
- 10 Llandudno

Couldn't Hold On

- 13 Prestatyn
- 12 Llandudno
- 10 Mold



JD Cymru South In Detail

JD Cymru South

Season stat pack

The Important Numbers

Games played 197	Goals scored 633	Average goals 3.21
Best attack 54 Llanelli	Best defence 21 Llanelli	Worst attack 21 Penrhiwceiber
Worst defence 65 Taffs Well	Penalty goals 33	Nil nils 8

Top Scorers

Liam Eason Llanelli Town	22
Noah Daley Carmarthen Town	21
Lee Trundle Trefelin	18
Lewis Reed Ammanford	16
Gareth Tedstone Trethomas Bluebirds	15
Ethan Cann Llanelli Town	12

Most Assists

Richard Noyes Newport City	11
Adam John Ammanford	8
Haben Samson Caerau Ely	7
Lewis Reed Ammanford	7
Ioan Evans Afan Lido	6
Joe Hunt Llanelli Town	6
Dylan Thomas Baglan Dragons	6
Jamie Veale Pontypridd United	6
Josh Graham Newport City	6

Most Cleansheets

Scott Coughlan Llanelli Town	10
Cameron Clarke Trethomas Bluebirds	9
Harry Irving Trethomas Bluebirds	7
Lee Idzi Carmarthen Town	7
Morgan Davies Cambrian Utd	6
Exaucen Dimoneke Caerau Ely	6
Mathew Stanton Baglan Dragons	6

JD Cymru South Season stat pack

When The Goals Went In

First Half 281 goals / 44.4%

0-4 ⊕ 16 2.5%	5-9 ⊕ 29 4.6%	10-14 ⊕ 29 4.6%	15-19 ⊕ 25 3.9%	20-24 ⊕ 41 6.5%	25-29 ⊕ 34 5.4%	30-34 ⊕ 34 5.4%	35-39 ⊕ 25 3.9%	40-45+ ⊕ 48 7.6%
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Second Half 352 goals / 55.6%

46-49 ⊕ 20 3.8%	50-54 ⊕ 26 5.4%	55-59 ⊕ 26 4.9%	60-64 ⊕ 19 3.8%	65-69 ⊕ 26 5.2%	70-74 ⊕ 30 5.5%	75-79 ⊕ 26 5.4%	80-84 ⊕ 30 5.5%	85-90 ⊕ 44 8.1%	91+ ⊕ 40 8.1%
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Goal Trends

1-9 mins

Early Starters 10 Carmarthen 6 Llanelli 5 Pontypridd Utd	Wasn't The Plan 7 Cwmbran 5 Goytre, Caerau Ely & Cambrian 4 Ammanford
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40-45+ mins

Kept Pushing 8 Goytre 6 Trethomas Bluebirds & Carmarthen	Lost Focus 6 Ammanford & Taffs Well 5 Cwmbran & Baglan Dragons 4 Penrhiwceiber & Goytre
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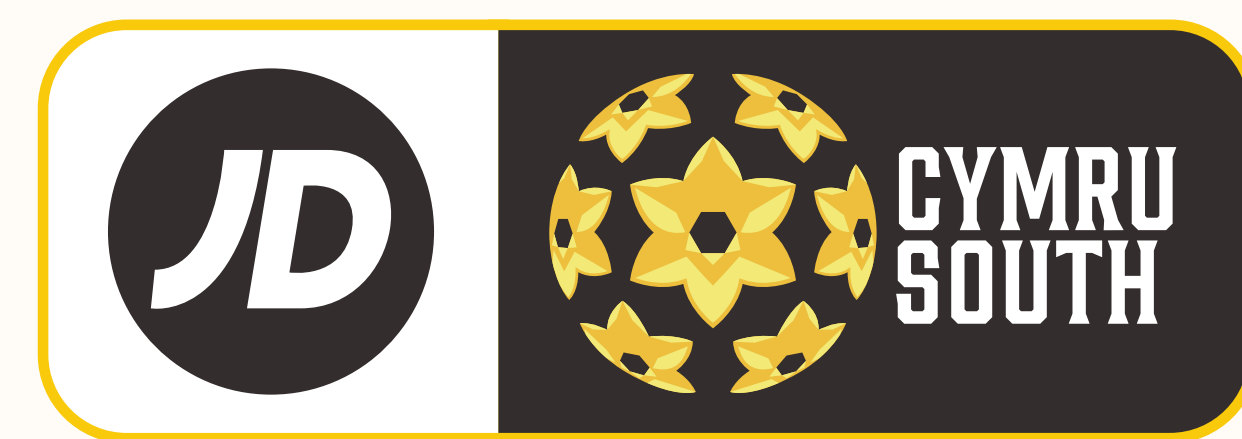
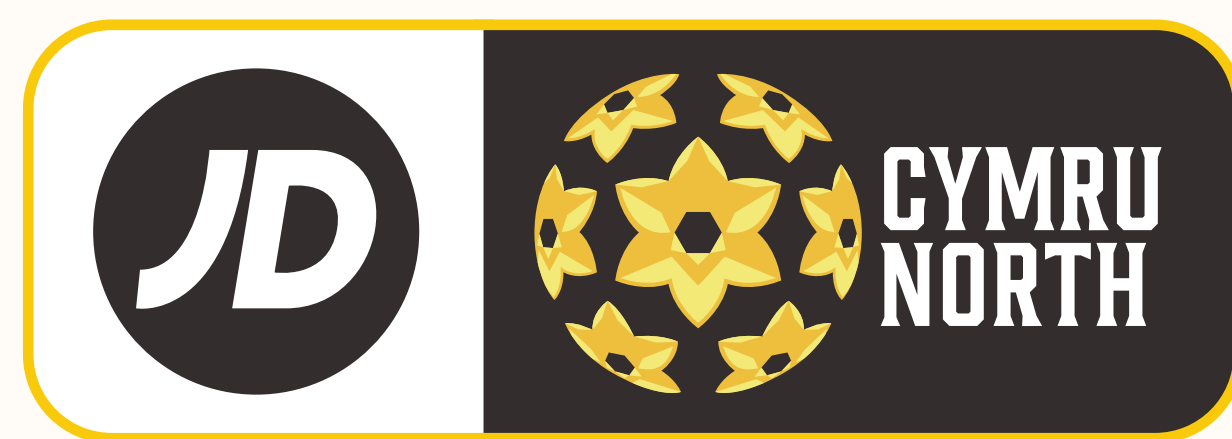
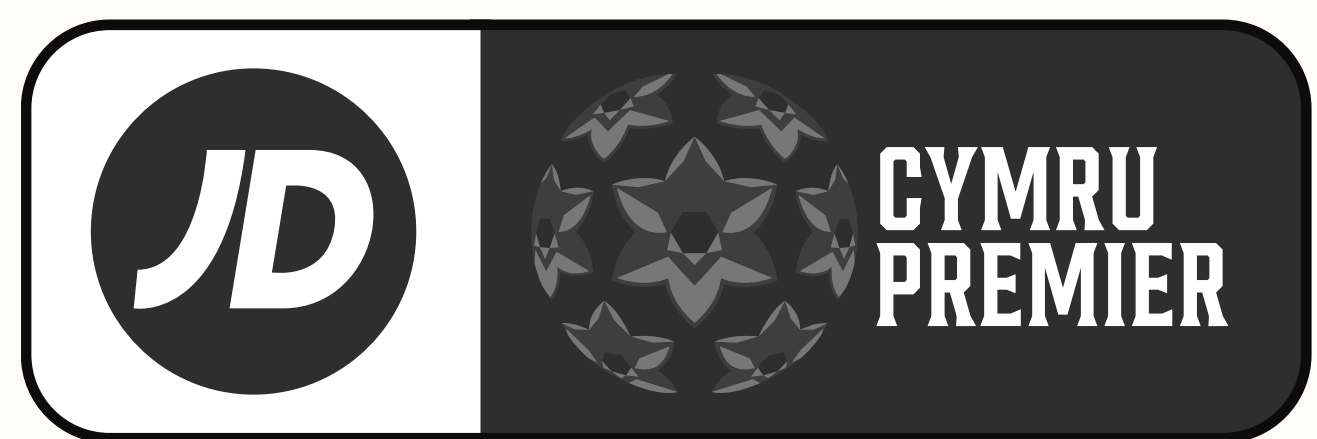
85-91+ mins

Left It Late 12 Cwmbran 9 Caerau Ely & Pontypridd Utd 7 Newport City & Ammanford	Couldn't Hold On 10 Goytre & Afan Lido 8 Trethomas Bluebirds, Baglan Dragons, Taffs Well & Cwmbran
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GOALS OF WALES 24/25



GOALSOFWALES.DAN-DAVIES.CO.UK

Website dedicated to the JD Cymru Leagues tracking the goals and trends.

THE FOOTBALL LAB



FOOTBALLLAB.CO.UK

Founded in 2020, The Football Lab is a premier indoor football facility offering the highest quality indoor pitches for players based in North Wales. Our mission is to influence every footballer and to have the best facility for players to learn and develop their skills physically, mentally and socially. We offer a wide range of services ranging from Pitch hire, Birthdays parties to elite 121 coaching.

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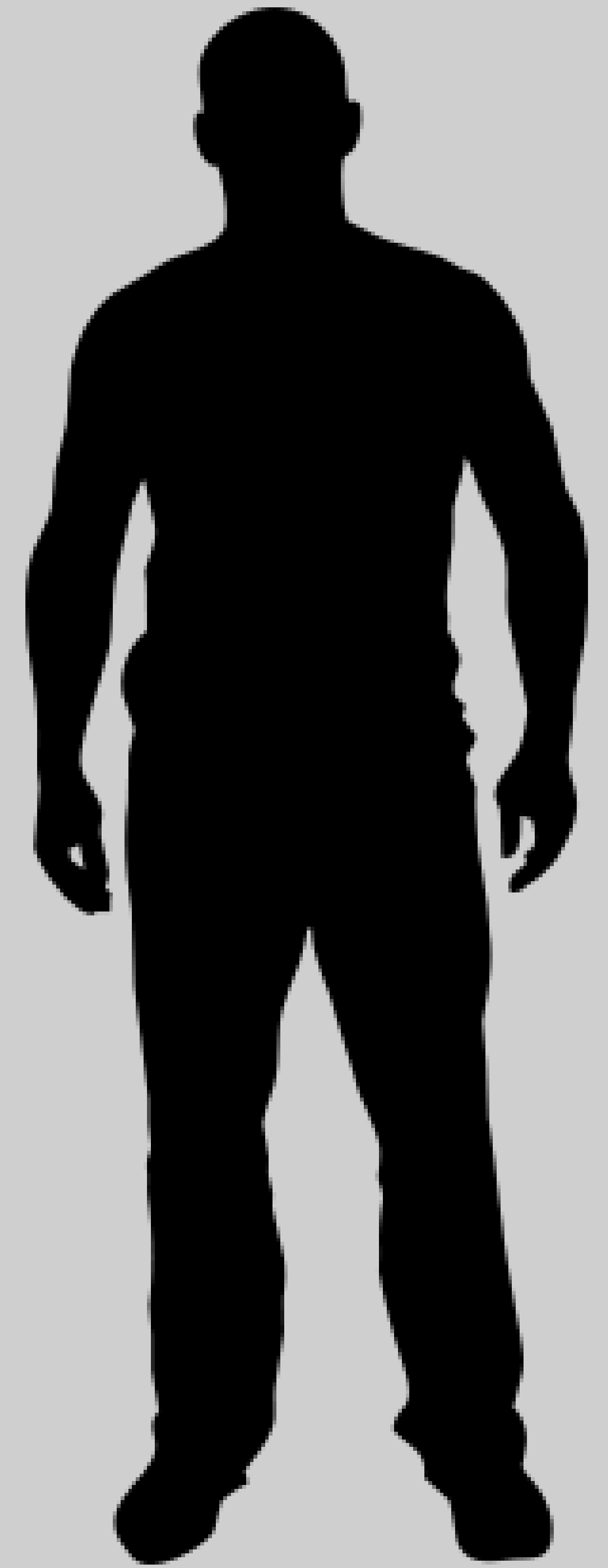


ANGLESEY WEB DESIGN NORTH WALES

D13CREATIVE.CO.UK

I'm Dylan Jones, a professional web designer and developer based in Anglesey, North Wales and D13 Creative is my web design studio. Inspired by the stunning North Wales countryside I design and build websites that look great and work on all manner of devices from mobile to desktop.

Whether it's a bilingual content management system, ecommerce website, bespoke web application or just a simple brochure website, I can deliver the right solution for your needs at an affordable price.

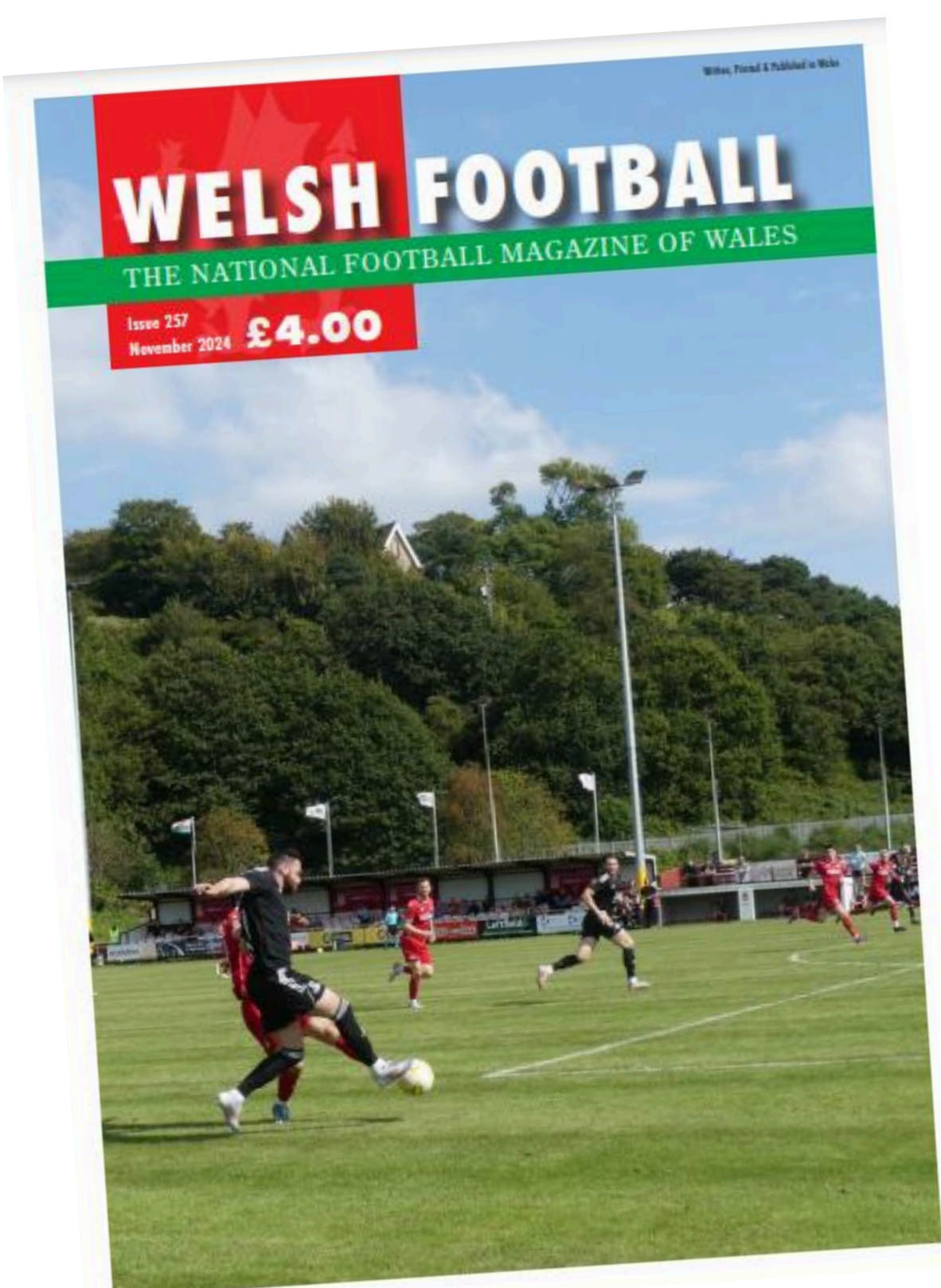
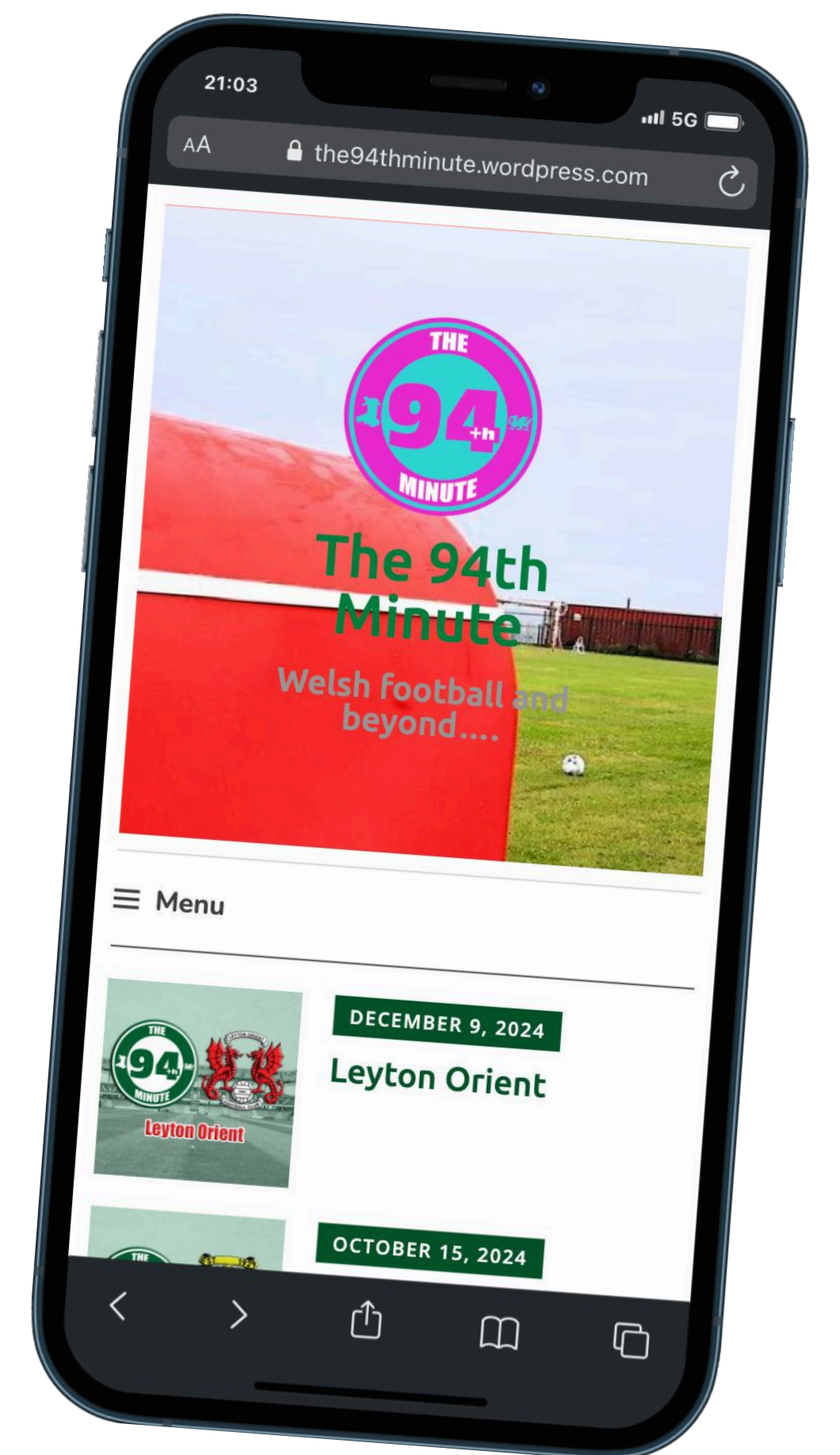


Friends of Top Bins

94th Minute

Clint, a groundhopper from Flintshire in North East Wales, started this blog to document experiences visiting various football grounds. The goal is to promote the teams to fellow football supporters and provide useful information for other groundhoppers who might want to explore these grounds in the future.

<https://the94thminute.wordpress.com/>



Welsh Football Magazine

“Welsh Football” was founded in 1991 by football enthusiasts who believed Wales should have its own dedicated football publication. At the time, the first national League of Wales was about to be formed and there was a growing awareness of the value of our status as an independent nation within UEFA and FIFA.

The first issue appeared in January 1992 and the magazine has been published continuously since that time, reaching its 250th edition in December 2023.

<https://welsh-football.net/>

Football Cymru Community

A brand new discord server for all welsh football fans, come join and represent your club you support! it's easy to sign up!

<https://x.com/fooballcymru>

