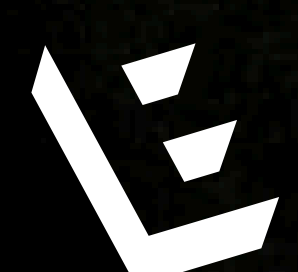


TOPBINS



 **EMERGE**

Picture by Lewis Mitchell / FAW

WELCOME TO TOP BINS MAGAZINE

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

This edition is a bit later than planned and a bit shorter but hopefully full enough of interesting news and views. The new season fast approaching has caught me short and with a million and one things going on with outside stuff and football, it's been hard to keep up but we will get there. A huge shout out to all our guests and photographers who without them, this would be a very dull word doc.

CONTENT & SOCIAL MEDIA


I've been doing a lot with social media this month after putting daily content out on TikTok and Instagram. I'm looking at doing more daily content around transfers and news but a bigger take on things at the end of the month. I'm also looking to do more interviews and pieces around Welsh football in general so if you want to get involved or have your say, please do. You may also notice a new logo as I play about a bit with the branding. Thoughts?

SPONSORS

I wanted to give a shout out to Jordan Fox and Emerge for sponsoring this edition. Jordan has been a great supporter of myself and the mag since we started.

Anyways, enjoy the edition. I hope you are having a good summer and next time we speak, preseason will be well underway.

Ta
Dan

A dark silhouette of a person wearing a winter coat and a hat with a pom-pom, walking away from the camera on the left side of the frame. The background is a solid dark grey.

COLIN CATON RESIGNS AS BALA TOWN MANAGER AFTER 22 YEARS IN CHARGE

Bala Town Football Club has confirmed the resignation of long-serving manager Colin Caton, ending a historic association that began in 2003.

The announcement marks the conclusion of one of the most significant managerial tenures in Welsh football.

The club has faced a turbulent twelve months, describing the past year as extremely challenging both on and off the pitch. As a small club operating in the JD Cymru Premier, Bala Town has highlighted ongoing difficulties that have been raised without resolution. The strain of these issues ultimately left Caton with what the club called “an almost impossible task” to continue in his role.

Despite the circumstances surrounding his departure, the tone of the club’s statement was one of deep respect and appreciation. Over more than two decades, Caton presided over 880 matches, leading Bala from the third tier of Welsh football to the very top. His achievements include promotion from the Cymru Alliance, three NEWFA Challenge Cup titles, three Cymru Alliance League Cup wins, and a hard-earned place in the Cymru Premier in 2009.



That promotion was the beginning of a sustained period of success. Under Caton, Bala enjoyed sixteen uninterrupted seasons in the top flight, securing nine qualifications for European competition, lifting the Welsh Cup, and winning the Nathaniel MG Cup. The club also recorded multiple top-three league finishes, establishing itself as a mainstay in the upper reaches of Welsh domestic football.

Caton's influence, however, extended far beyond results. The club praised his commitment, professionalism, and the strong relationships he built over the years. His resignation, they said, does not change the admiration and respect held for him within the club and the wider community.

Looking ahead, Bala Town confirmed that it will now begin work to ensure a stable and sustainable future for football at the club. No further comment will be issued for the time being.

Caton departs not only as a successful manager but as a defining figure in the history of Bala Town. His legacy, built over 22 years, will be long remembered.



MCKENZIE APPOINTED AS ABERYSTWYTH TOWN MANAGER

Aberystwyth Town have confirmed the appointment of Callum McKenzie as first team manager ahead of the 2025–26 season in the JD Cymru South. The announcement follows the club's relegation from the Cymru Premier, ending a run of over three decades in the top flight of Welsh football.

McKenzie brings more than 20 years of coaching experience at various levels of the game. His career to date includes roles at Cardiff City, Shrewsbury Town, and Everton America CT. Most recently, he has been working within the Wolverhampton Wanderers academy system, a role he is expected to continue while managing Aberystwyth.

He holds a UEFA A Licence, the Advanced Youth Award for the Professional Development Phase, and the FA Level 2 in Talent Identification. He is also studying for an MSc in Advanced Performance Football Coaching.

McKenzie also has a history within Welsh domestic football, having spent several seasons at Newtown where he worked as assistant manager, technical director and briefly as interim first team manager. Aberystwyth Town will compete in the JD Cymru South in the upcoming campaign. The club will be looking to regroup and re-establish itself following a disappointing season in the top flight. The appointment of McKenzie signals an intent to bring structure and long-term planning into the club's approach.

Club chairman Donald Kane has welcomed the appointment, citing McKenzie's strong values and vision for the future of the first team.

Aberystwyth are expected to begin preparations for the new season in the coming weeks. No further staffing or player changes have been announced at this time.

DISNEY APPOINTED NOMADS MANAGER



Picture by Lewis Mitchell/FAW

Connah's Quay Nomads have confirmed the appointment of John Disney as First Team Manager following his recent retirement from playing. The announcement marks a new chapter for the club after a season that failed to meet expectations, including a missed opportunity for European qualification.

Disney, a long-serving figure at Deeside Stadium, made over 300 appearances for the Nomads and has already been active in the club's youth and scholars coaching structure.

Speaking after his appointment, Disney said:

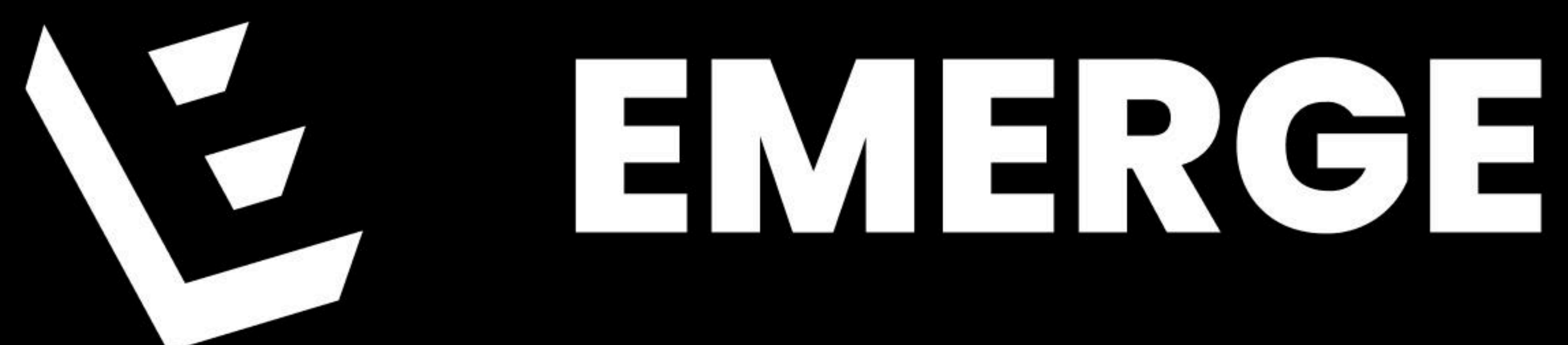
"We fell short and our remit for this season is to make sure we get back into Europe and get the club back where it belongs."

Despite reaching the Welsh Cup final, the Nomads were unable to secure a top six finish in the Cymru Premier, prompting a change in leadership. Disney now takes on the task of restoring momentum and refocusing the squad for the season ahead.

Alongside his playing career, Disney has developed as a coach in recent years, earning his UEFA B and A Licences and gaining experience within the club's academy system. His promotion to first team manager reflects a belief in continuity, development, and a clear understanding of the club's identity.

Connah's Quay are now looking ahead to the 2025/26 season with renewed ambition and a manager determined to bring success back to Deeside.





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PENYBONT BOLSTER SQUAD WITH SIGNINGS

Penybont FC have made significant moves in the transfer market ahead of the 2025–26 JD Cymru Premier season, securing the signings of forward Noah Daley, attacking midfielder Nathan Wood, defender Ash Baker, and goalkeeper Ayrton Best.

Noah Daley arrives from Carmarthen Town, bringing an impressive record of 73 goals in 126 appearances in the JD Cymru South. The 24 year old forward also made 5 appearances in the JD Cymru Premier during the 2019–20 season, adding top flight experience to his profile.

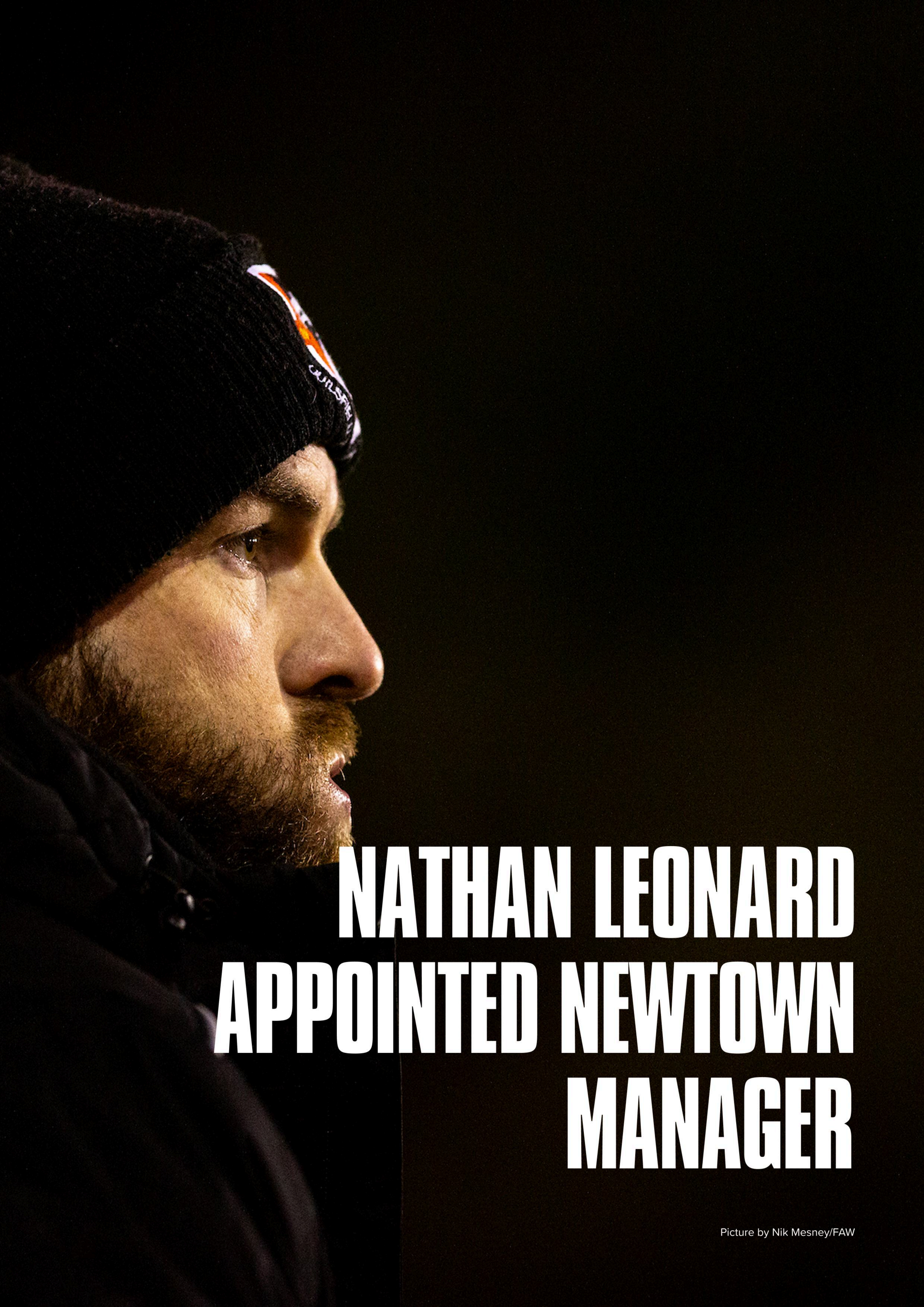
Nathan Wood returns to Penybont on a permanent basis after a loan spell during the 2024–25 season, where he made 15 league appearances and scored 4 goals. Previously, Wood played for Penybont from 2019 to 2023, amassing 114 league appearances and 25 goals. His familiarity with the club and consistent performance are valuable assets for the upcoming season.

Ash Baker, a 28 year old right back from Bridgend, joins Penybont following his tenure with The New Saints. Baker's career includes stints at Cardiff City, Sheffield Wednesday, and Newport County. He has also represented Wales at the U19 and U21 levels. His addition strengthens Penybont's defensive options and brings experience to the squad.

Ayrton Best, a young Australian goalkeeper, has signed with Penybont for the upcoming season. The club announced his arrival stating, "**Ayrton arrives. Young Australian goalkeeper Ayrton Best joins the club for the upcoming season. Welcome to the Bont Ayrton**"

These strategic signings demonstrate Penybont FC's commitment to enhancing their squad depth and competitiveness in the JD Cymru Premier.





NATHAN LEONARD APPOINTED NEWTOWN MANAGER

Picture by Nik Mesney/FAW

New Era Underway at Newtown AFC as Nathan Leonard Takes Charge

Since taking over as first team manager, Nathan Leonard has begun laying the foundations for a new era at Newtown AFC.

Leonard, who previously served as assistant coach at Latham Park, returned to the club following a recent coaching spell at Gresford Athletic. Now back in familiar surroundings, he steps into the top job with the task of guiding the Robins through a vital period of transition following relegation from the Cymru Premier.

The club will compete in the JD Cymru North next season, with Leonard leading the side into a significant year as Newtown prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary. This milestone adds even greater meaning to the season ahead.

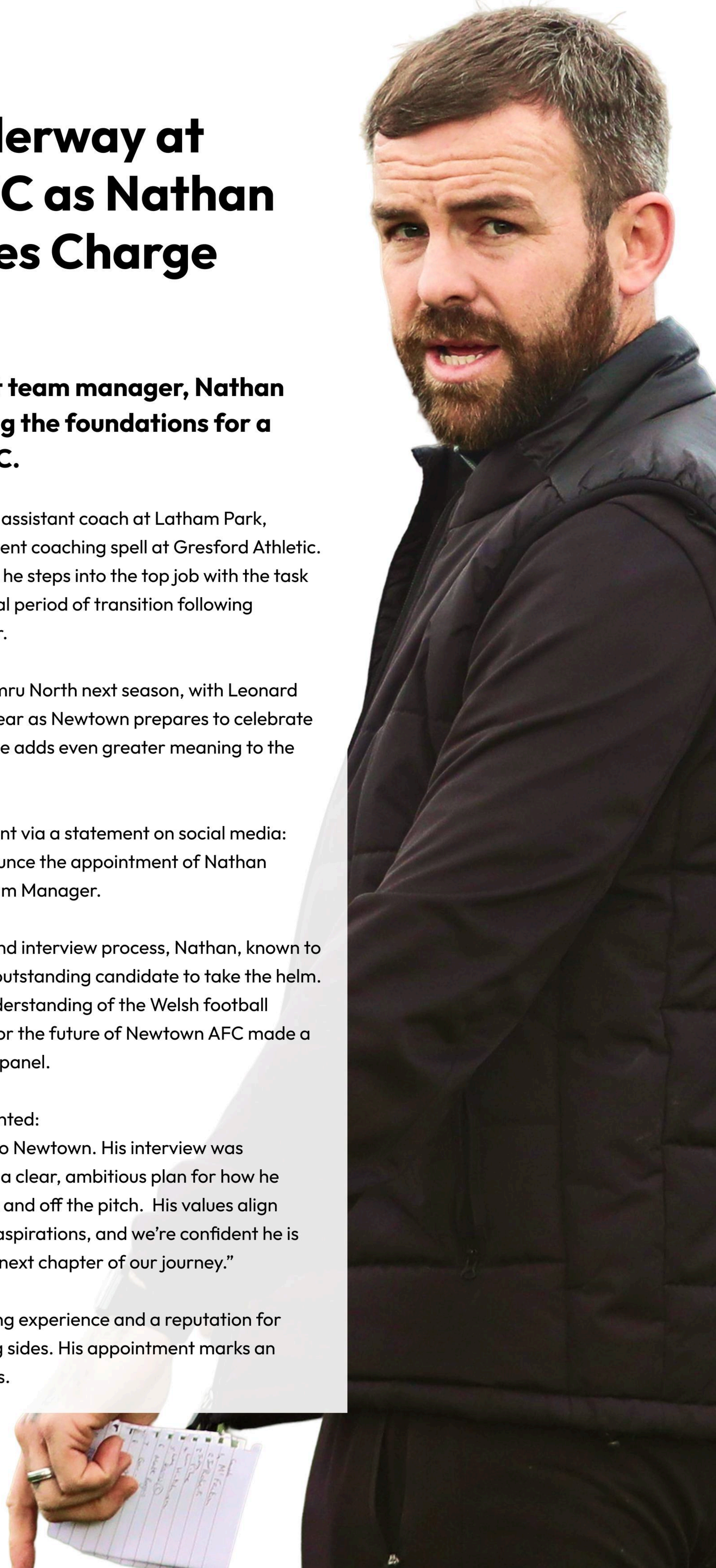
The club announced his appointment via a statement on social media: Newtown AFC is delighted to announce the appointment of Nathan Leonard as the new Men's First Team Manager.

Following a rigorous recruitment and interview process, Nathan, known to many as "Lenny," emerged as the outstanding candidate to take the helm. His passion for the game, deep understanding of the Welsh football landscape, and compelling vision for the future of Newtown AFC made a lasting impression on the selection panel.

Club Chairman Nick Evans commented:

"We're thrilled to welcome Lenny to Newtown. His interview was exceptional, and he demonstrated a clear, ambitious plan for how he wants to develop the team both on and off the pitch. His values align closely with the club's identity and aspirations, and we're confident he is the right person to lead us into the next chapter of our journey."

Leonard brings a wealth of coaching experience and a reputation for building competitive, hard-working sides. His appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the Robins.





Now a few weeks into the role, Leonard is already well settled and has begun shaping his squad for the upcoming campaign. A number of senior players from last season, including Aaron Williams, Jason Oswell, Zeli Ismael, George Hughes, Dylan Downs, Calvin Smith, and Desean Martin, have departed the club, leaving Leonard with the task of rebuilding and reshaping the squad. He has already made moves in the transfer market, bringing in Jamie Hyne and Steffan Jones, while goalkeeper Dave Jones has returned to Newtown ahead of the new season.

Preparations for the 2025–26 season are well underway, with Leonard meeting players, staff, and supporters as Newtown look to build momentum ahead of a campaign that holds both challenge and opportunity. Further signings and departures are expected in the coming weeks as the squad continues to take shape.

You've stepped in after Newtown's first ever relegation from the Cymru Premier. With the league expanding soon, how does that affect your planning both short term and long term?

Short term it was always going to be about which players were staying and where we needed to strengthen. There was also no pre season games sorted by the previous manager so a lot has been up in the air.

There will be a high turnover of players this summer, but with the relegation the club has seen it as the perfect time for a re-set and a more sustainable future. We want the club to be here in another 150 years time so we need to get our house in order now and build for the future.

Long term I want to improve the club on and off the pitch and also have a positive impact on the academy and the girls football teams. I will be very hands on and I want to be at this football club for a very long time, this certainly isn't a short term project for myself or the football club. There's a lot to do long term and I know there's lots to do in the local community to build positive relationships which can only help the whole club.

Zeli Ismail and Jason Oswell were two massive players for the club. With their departures, how are you planning to rebuild not just the squad but also the leadership and mentality within it?

We can't replace Zeli or Jase like for like, in terms of budget or experience they have. In my opinion Zeli was the most talented winger in the league last season and Jase has proven year in year out he's one of the best strikers. What we need to do is find replacements that are young, hungry and that can withstand the physicality of tier 2. Not an easy task but with the squad we've assembled im more than happy with our attacking options. You'll see some serious young talent in our attacking positions this season and a think a few will certainly turn a few heads.

Mentality wise a lot of that can come with me, the environment I create and standards I set the players. I've recruited talented players but also good players off the pitch so I know they can deal with the mental side of things. We still have great experience in our squad as well with Dave Jones, Kieran Mills Evans, Rob Evans, Dom Smith, Jojo Harries and Jamie Hyne. They will be the glue that keeps the group together and set those standards for the young lads off the pitch. It's not a bad group of men to lead any squad and I know I can rely on all of them to make sure we are all prepared physically and mentally for every session and game.

The JD Cymru North is always a tough league but with the expansion of the top flight coming, the race for promotion will be even more intense. How are you preparing the team to handle that added pressure and competition?

Setting high standards from day 1, lead by example and create a positive happy environment for players to enjoy their football. If they enjoy coming into Newtown I know I will get the best out of all the players.

There's no internal pressure on the players, we have our goals that I'll keep between us and the board have been superb with me from day 1 and not put any pressure on me whatsoever about the season ahead, infact the complete opposite.

All good players thrive on tough competitive games and our lads are no different. They can't wait to get going and it will be the best Cymru North league ever in my opinion as I can't see one easy game for anyone.

You've had success in this division before. How does your previous experience in the Cymru North shape your approach with Newtown in what could be one of the most competitive seasons yet?

I think it helps when you go to tough away grounds on what to expect but for me it's about concentrating on us and using all our energy to help improve one another rather than what anybody else is doing.

I know what it takes to get into the top 3 in this league but I've also had difficult spells as a manger as well. All I know is I need to work harder than any other manager, give my players everything and hopefully that will be enough to get us promoted.

What kind of football do you want this Newtown side to play and do you see this as a chance to reshape the club's identity after a tough year?

I would love to say to you now we'll be playing out from the back and playing attractive sexy football but that's not always possible in football. There's hundreds of ways to win a football match, probably touching on my previous experience is that you need to play to your teams strengths and exploit your opponents weaknesses. We will have our principles that will never change but in terms of a style that will be developed over pre season and identifying our strongest formation to fit our best players.

For the supporters, promotion will be the goal but what does success really look like to you this season, especially given the context of rebuilding and rising competition in the league?

I want to win the league but so do the other 15 managers! We have several talented youngsters at the club and I want to develop them and see them in the first team. I want to improve The academy and the whole club on and off the pitch. This won't happen overnight but I'll challenge myself everyday to work harder for this football club and slowly make improvements every day.

Of course as club we want promotion, Newtown football club belongs in the Welsh premier but football owes you nothing. We as a club need to work together to make the goal a possibility and I'm honoured that I'm the one leading the club this season .



CHARLEY EDGE SIGNS FOR NEWTOWN

Charley Edge has joined Newtown after leaving Gresford Athletic. He was a key player for Gresford over the past two seasons and leaves with a great record of over 20 goals in just over 60 games from midfield.

Edge was vice captain and became known for his set piece quality. His free kicks in particular caused teams real problems and he stepped up when it mattered most. Whether it was a shot on goal or a cross into the box his delivery was always dangerous.

Now he links up with Newtown who are looking to bounce back after relegation to the JD Cymru North. It is a fresh challenge for Edge and a good move for a club that is aiming to push for promotion at the first attempt under Nathan Leonard.

He brings quality on the ball a calm presence in midfield and a real threat from dead ball situations. With his experience and leadership he could be a big part of what Newtown are trying to build. It is a smart signing and one that shows the club means business this season.





GRESFORD BOLSTER SQUAD WITH THREE NEW SIGNINGS

Gresford Athletic have confirmed the signings of Jake Roberts, Mark Winslade and Iwan Roberts ahead of the new JD Cymru North season. The trio bring energy, experience and attacking threat to the squad as the club looks to push on in 2025–26.

Jake Roberts, known for his attacking flair and ability to create in the final third, joins after a frustrating spell on the sidelines due to injury during his time at Holywell Town. Now fully fit, he will be eager to get back to regular football and make an impact in Gresford colours.

Mark Winslade arrives with a reputation as a hardworking, no-nonsense striker who never shies away from a battle. He is the type of forward who puts himself about, presses from the front and will run through a brick wall for the team. His physical presence and commitment will give the side a different dimension up top.

Iwan Roberts adds further depth to the group and brings with him good energy and determination, qualities that will serve the squad well over a long season.

With these three additions, Gresford are making a clear statement of intent as they look to build on last season's foundations and compete strongly in the JD Cymru North.

FLINT MOUNTAIN WIN TIER 2 APPEAL

JD Cymru North status confirmed after standout debut season as fans feared drop and survival twist for Bangor 1876

Flint Mountain have officially secured their place in the JD Cymru North for the 2025/26 season after winning their Tier 2 licence appeal, putting an end to weeks of uncertainty that had fans across the league on edge.

The club confirmed the decision via social media:

“We are delighted to confirm that following an appeal to the FAW, we have been awarded a Tier 2 licence for next season.”

The announcement came as a major relief not just for the club, but for supporters who had seen their side make an impressive impact in their first ever season at this level. Flint Mountain finished seventh in the JD Cymru North, a remarkable achievement after their promotion from the Ardal NW League the year before.

The licence had initially been denied due to personnel requirements not being met. That sparked speculation that the club could be forcibly relegated, a situation that would have handed a lifeline to Bangor 1876, who ended the season just inside the drop zone.

But following a successful appeal heard by the FAW Appeals Body, Flint Mountain's place in the second tier has been confirmed.

For Bangor 1876, the result means disappointment. Their hopes of staying up through licensing developments were ultimately dashed, confirming relegation despite a late push for survival. Flint Mountain play their home games at Cae y Castell, sharing the ground with Flint Town United. With the licence secured and top tier status retained, the club can now focus fully on building for next season and continuing their upward momentum.

After a seventh place finish and a successful fight off the pitch, Flint Mountain are ready to prove they belong at this level.



CRAIG WILLIAMS APPOINTED CAERSWS MANAGER

Caersws FC have announced the appointment of Craig Williams as their new first team manager. It marks the return of a respected figure in Welsh football to the Recreation Ground, this time on the touchline rather than the pitch.

Williams is well known to Caersws fans, having played for the club during the 2023–24 season. While many had assumed he may have been part of the coaching staff during that time, Williams was in fact still an active player. His coaching development has largely come through his long association with Newtown AFC, where he has worn many hats over the years including player, Development Team Manager, and most recently, caretaker manager of the senior side. His spell as caretaker at Newtown came earlier this year, stepping up in April 2025 following the departure of head coach Callum McKenzie. The club turned to Williams during a transitional period, showcasing their trust in his leadership and football intelligence. He held the role until May 1, 2025.

Reflecting on his new challenge at Caersws, Williams said:
"It's really exciting. It's a great opportunity for myself."

With a UEFA A Licence and Elite Youth A Licence to his name, Williams is a coach with a clear vision and modern approach. Caersws chairman Neil Lewis welcomed the appointment, calling Williams a "young and ambitious coach" and backing him to guide the Bluebirds forward.

The club's supporters, many of whom admired Williams for his professionalism and football IQ as a player, now have reason to be excited about the new era he brings as manager. His familiarity with both the club and the league will be invaluable as he looks to shape a competitive squad for the 2025–26 campaign.

Williams' journey from player at Caersws to caretaker manager at Newtown and now to first team boss at the Recreation Ground is a testament to his growth in the game. The next chapter begins now and all eyes will be on how he puts his mark on this historic club.

A full-page background image of a man, James Graham, in a red and white vertically striped football kit. He is wearing a red armband and is positioned on a green football pitch. A white football with the 'macron' logo is on the ground near his feet. In the background, a goal net and stadium seating are visible.

FORMER CAPTAIN RETURNS TO CLUB

Holywell Town have confirmed the return of James Graham to the club, this time in a coaching capacity.

The former ball-playing defender has been appointed First Team Coach ahead of the 2025–26 season, strengthening the club's backroom staff as preparations begin for the new campaign.

Graham previously played under current manager Johnny Haseldin during a successful spell at the club. His return reunites a familiar duo and adds further experience to the technical team. Known for his composure on the ball and reading of the game during his playing days, Graham brings both insight and familiarity with Holywell's footballing philosophy.

The appointment comes as Holywell look to build on a competitive 2024–25 season, which saw a strong league showing and a run to the final of the NEWFA Challenge Cup. The club continues to focus on progression, with Graham's arrival seen as a step forward in maintaining stability and raising performance standards on the training ground.

Having previously contributed to the club's identity on the pitch, Graham now transitions into a key role off it, expected to work closely with players and staff as Holywell aim to challenge on multiple fronts in the season ahead.

NEW CHAPTER BEGINS AT TRETHOMAS BLUEBIRDS

Trethomas Bluebirds have unveiled a fresh managerial team ahead of the 2025 26 JD Cymru South season, appointing Paul Evans as First Team Manager. The announcement follows the departure of Mark Dunford and his coaching staff, who have joined Pontypridd United after a highly successful spell at Trethomas.

Evans, who brings Cymru South experience, is joined by assistant manager Paul Reid and first team coach Leighton Jones as the Bluebirds look to build on a strong debut season in the second tier.

“I’m very much looking forward to it. After speaking to chairman Dave Evans as well as Derek Brazil, their morals and ethics on the way they want the club to be run in a family first way is what I’ve been brought up on.” Evans said following the club’s official announcement.

His early impact has impressed the club’s leadership. Chairman Dave Evans praised the appointment and the clarity of Evans’ footballing vision.

“He commanded respect instantly and his views on developing youth align with our values.”

Recruitment will be a key focus in the early stages of Evans’ tenure.

“We don’t want to just pick anybody who could get us through the first few months, we need somebody who can settle us down.”

A RESPECTED DEPARTURE

Mark Dunford and his coaching staff leave behind an impressive legacy. During their time at Trethomas, they led the club to promotion from the Ardal South East, won the Ardal Southern Cup and FAW Amateur Trophy, and achieved a second place finish in the Cymru South with 59 points from 30 games.

With a new leadership team in place and solid foundations already laid, Trethomas Bluebirds look ahead to the new campaign with renewed belief and ambition under Paul Evans.



LUKE BOWEN SET TO JOIN TREFELIN AFTER CYMRU PREMIER GOAL SCORING CAREER

Trefelin have pulled off a major coup ahead of the summer transfer window with the signing of prolific striker Luke Bowen, who will officially join the club once the window opens.

Bowen makes the move from Briton Ferry Llansawel, ending his time at the Old Road as one of the most consistent goal scorers in the domestic game.

A familiar name across the Welsh football scene, Bowen boasts an impressive record in the Cymru Premier, having scored 113 goals in 289 appearances during spells with various clubs. His eye for goal, physical presence, and wealth of experience have made him one of the most respected forwards in the league over the past decade.

Bowen's arrival signals Trefelin's clear intent to push on next season and challenge at the top end of the table. With his proven ability to lead the line and deliver goals consistently, the 33-year-old will no doubt be a key figure in the club's ambitions.

This move also marks a fresh chapter for Bowen, who now brings his talents to the Cymru South, where he'll look to make an immediate impact and continue his impressive scoring form. For Trefelin, it's not just a signing, it's a statement.





PROLIFIC STRIKER JOINS NEWTOWN FROM GUILDSFIELD

Newtown AFC have made an early move in the transfer window, announcing the signing of striker Jamie Hyne from Guilsfield FC.

The 22 year old arrives at Latham Park following an exceptional 2024 25 campaign, in which he scored 17 goals in the JD Cymru North and added 8 more in cup competitions.

The club confirmed the signing on social media, welcoming Hyne as their first addition of the summer under new manager Nathan Leonard.

“Pleased to get Jamie in this early in the window. He will bring lots of quality to our attacking play but also a great person off the pitch which is what we want at the football club,” said Leonard.

“His drive, determination and workrate will only see him improve throughout the season and I’m looking forward to working with him again.”

Hyne’s move reunites him with Leonard and the early timing of the transfer reflects the manager’s intent to build a strong squad with character and quality in equal measure.

Newtown also thanked Guilsfield manager Gavin Allen for facilitating the move.

“A big thank you to the Guilsfield manager Gavin Allen as well for his help and honesty over the past week.”

Hyne’s arrival gives Newtown a proven goalscorer as they prepare for the new JD Cymru Premier season. With a sharp eye for goal and the attitude to match, he looks set to make an impact in the top flight.

NIC ARNOLD HANGS UP HIS BOOTS AFTER 20 YEARS WITH AMMANFORD

It is the end of an era at Ammanford AFC as club stalwart Nic Arnold has called time on his playing career after two decades of loyal service.

The Betws born defender has been part of the club since he was six years old, going on to make nearly 250 appearances across the youth, development, reserves and first team. Aside from a short stint at Garden Village, Nic has been Black and White through and through. He saved his most memorable moment for last as he scored a dramatic stoppage time equaliser against Baglan Dragons on the final day of the season. It was his only senior goal for the club and it came with his final touch.

Arnold is stepping away from football to focus on work and personal commitments, having recently launched his own business called Lifestyle Osteopathy and Injury Clinic in Cross Hands.

Speaking after announcing his decision, Nic said:

“After nearly 250 appearances, I have to say goodbye to this football club. The pleasure has been mine. I will definitely be back as a fan as soon as possible.”

A proper fans' favourite, Nic was known for his passion, graft and total commitment to the cause. He was the kind of player every club needs but few are lucky enough to have.

Everyone at the club and across Welsh football will no doubt wish him all the best for what comes next. Legend status well and truly secured.





PONTYPRIDD UNITED STRENGTHEN SQUAD

Picture by Lewis Mitchell/FAW

Pontypridd United have made a strong statement ahead of the 2025 to 2026 season by confirming seven new signings. Under new manager Mark Dunford, the club has brought in wingers Ethan Edwards and Jack Jones, midfielders Tom Gameson and James Saddler, full back Harvey Selway, and centre backs Andrew Evans and Liam Angel.

Ethan Edwards joins from Trethomas Bluebirds after an excellent campaign in the JD Cymru South. The 22 year old scored nine goals and registered nine assists, earning a nomination for the league's Young Player of the Season award. He will wear the number 77 shirt.

Jack Jones also arrives from Trethomas. A direct and versatile winger, he made headlines in November 2024 with a 97th minute winner against Newport City. He takes the number 11 shirt.

Tom Gameson strengthens the midfield after a standout year with Trethomas. The 26 year old was named in the JD Cymru South Team of the Season after starting 31 matches in 2024 to 2025.

James Saddler returns to the club, having been a key figure during Pontypridd's promotion campaigns between 2020 and 2023. The experienced midfielder adds leadership and familiarity to the squad. Harvey Selway, aged 20, joins at full back. He made 30 appearances last season, scoring once and providing one assist. He was also on the scoresheet in Trethomas's four nil win over Pontypridd.

In defence, Liam Angel adds experience. The 26 year old has over 150 senior appearances in the Southern League and has represented Wales at youth level. Formerly of Newport County, Angel is expected to wear number 5, subject to international clearance.

Andrew Evans also joins as a centre back to increase options at the back. Further details on his previous clubs have not been publicly released.

These signings follow the appointment of Mark Dunford, who was shortlisted for Manager of the Season after leading Trethomas Bluebirds to a second place finish in their first JD Cymru South campaign.





KEY DEPARTURES AT HAVERFORDWEST AHEAD OF EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN

Haverfordwest County are set for a summer of change as four players prepare to leave the club. Zac Jones, Luke Tabone, Harri John and Dan John will all move on following the conclusion of the 2024 to 2025 season.

Jones and Tabone were central to the club's strong defensive performances throughout the campaign. Jones kept 15 clean sheets and was a consistent figure between the posts, while Tabone featured in 12 of those matches, bringing leadership and organisation to the back line.

Harri John and Dan John also depart after contributing to the team's progress in recent seasons. Their exits, along with those of Jones and Tabone, represent a significant shift for a squad that has shown steady development under the current management.

With European qualifiers fast approaching, these departures pose a clear challenge for Haverfordwest as they prepare for a crucial period. Replacing the experience, reliability and understanding that these players brought will be a key task in the weeks ahead.

As the club looks to continue its momentum both domestically and in Europe, attention will now turn to recruitment and readiness for the tests to come.



LINDFIELD JOINS HOLYWELL TOWN

Holywell Town have pulled off one of the standout signings of the summer with the arrival of experienced forward Craig Lindfield.

The 36-year-old leaves Colwyn Bay after a prolific spell that saw him score 36 goals in 72 appearances across league and cup. Twenty of those came in the league last season, underlining his reputation as one of the most consistent finishers in the Cymru Leagues.

Lindfield, a former Liverpool academy product, brings a wealth of experience, leadership and proven quality to a Holywell side already brimming with ambition. His addition is a clear statement of intent from the Wellmen, who continue to strengthen ahead of the new campaign. Fans at the Barton's North Wales Stadium will be excited to see what Lindfield can bring as he links up with a squad pushing for top honours.

A proven goalscorer. A major addition. And another big step forward for Holywell Town.



CONNAH'S QUAY NOMADS ANNOUNCE FIRST SUMMER SIGNING

Connah's Quay Nomads have kicked off their summer transfer activity with the signing of experienced striker Jason Oswell.

The former Wrexham, Stockport County and Crewe Alexandra forward joins from Newtown following a strong campaign in the Cymru Premier, where he scored 11 goals in all competitions.

Oswell netted 73 goals in 165 appearances during his time at Latham Park and now brings valuable experience, physical presence and a proven eye for goal to Deeside.

Speaking to the club's website, Oswell said:

"I am absolutely delighted to sign for Connah's Quay and to be part of an exciting new chapter at the club. This is a fantastic opportunity to challenge myself again and contribute to a team with high ambition. I cannot wait to get started and give everything for the badge."

Picture by Craig Thomas/FAW

CONNAH'S QUAY NOMADS SECURE SIGNING OF WINGER ZELI ISMAIL

Connah's Quay Nomads have strengthened their squad with the signing of experienced winger Zeli Ismail from Cymru Premier rivals Newtown AFC.

The 31-year-old brings a wealth of experience, having played for clubs including Wolverhampton Wanderers, Walsall and Bradford City. Born in Kukës, Albania and raised in England, Ismail has also represented England at under-16 and under-17 level.

In all competitions for Newtown, he made 96 appearances, scored 13 goals and provided 30 assists, consistently posing a threat on the right flank. Renowned for his pace, creativity and ability to influence games, Ismail is expected to play a key role as the Nomads prepare for the upcoming Cymru Premier season.

His arrival follows the recent addition of striker Jason Oswell, also from Newtown, as Connah's Quay continue to strengthen their attacking options ahead of the new campaign.

Picture by Nik Mesney/FAW



GEORGE HUGHES BRINGS NEWTOWN SPELL TO A CLOSE

George Hughes has officially announced his departure from Newtown, bringing an end to a six-season spell at Latham Park that saw him make 169 appearances and score five goals.

The midfielder first joined the Robins in the summer of 2018 following his release from Shrewsbury Town. After a year with Airbus, he returned to Newtown in 2020 and became a regular presence in the side over the following five seasons.

Reflecting on his departure, Hughes posted on social media: “6 amazing seasons and lots of incredible memories! A club which means an awful lot to me, but time for something new ❤️”

His exit marks the end of a significant chapter in both his career and Newtown’s recent history. A consistent performer in midfield, Hughes leaves with the respect of teammates, coaches and supporters alike.

Pictures by John Smith & Craig Thomas/FAW

An aerial photograph of the Colwyn Bay Football Club stadium. The stadium is a rectangular green field with white markings, surrounded by a blue and white fence. To the right of the field is a long, multi-colored stand. In front of the stand is a parking lot with several cars. The stadium is situated in a residential area with many houses and trees. In the background, a large body of water is visible, with a long pier or breakwater extending into the sea. The sky is blue with some clouds.

COLWYN BAY MAKE FIVE KEY SIGNINGS AHEAD OF NEW SEASON

Colwyn Bay have strengthened their squad with five new additions as preparations continue for the upcoming Cymru Premier season.

These five signings mark a busy and ambitious start to the summer for Colwyn Bay as they look to build a competitive side for the new campaign.



Aaron Williams joins from Newtown following an impressive campaign in which he scored 19 goals in 27 appearances. His arrival adds firepower to the Bay’s front line and brings proven Cymru Premier pedigree.



Aron Williams signs from Connah’s Quay Nomads. The winger came through the Nomads’ academy system and rejoined the club in 2020 after a spell with Buckley Town. He brings experience and attacking quality to the wide areas.



Alex Downes returns to Llanelian Road from Bala Town. A familiar face to Bay supporters, the defender was part of the squad that won the Cymru North in 2023 and made over 100 appearances during his previous spells at the club.

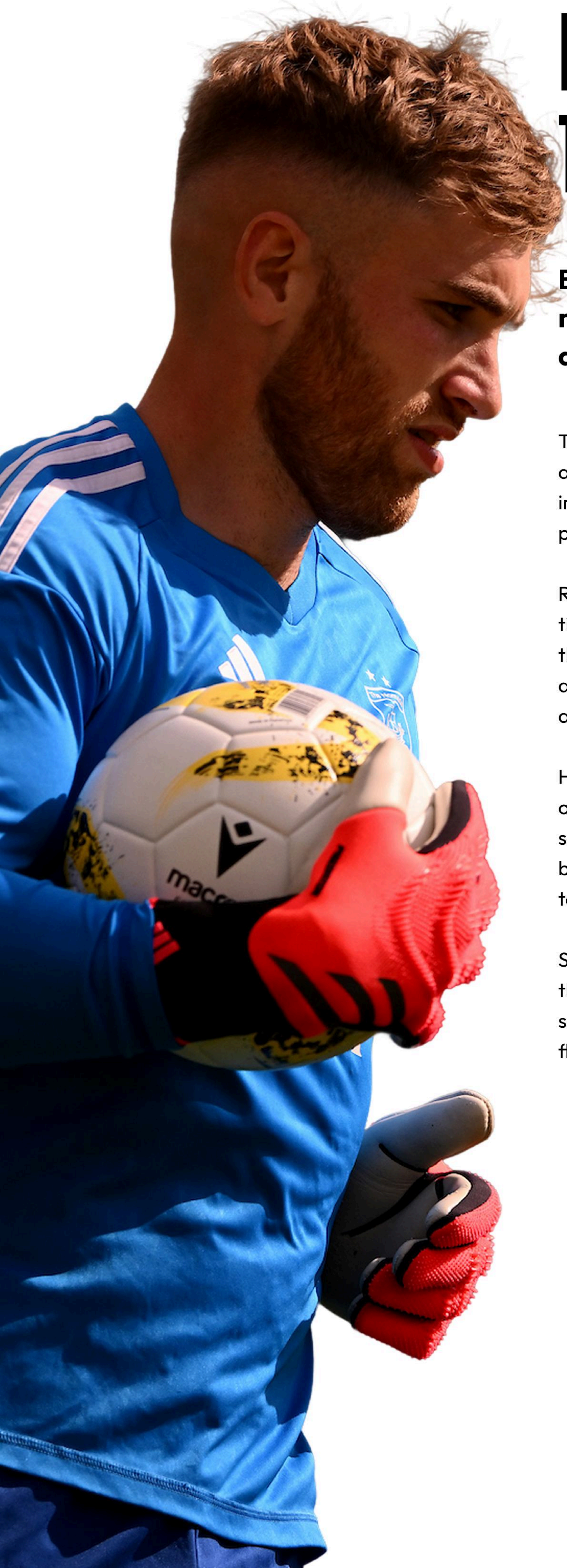


Also arriving from Bala is centre half Nathan Peate. An experienced defender at this level, he adds strength and leadership to the back line.



The fifth addition is midfielder Aeron Edwards. Well known in Welsh domestic football, Edwards adds further quality and experience to the Colwyn Bay squad.





RATCLIFFE RETURNS TO BARRY TOWN

Barry Town United have confirmed the return of goalkeeper George Ratcliffe ahead of the 2025-26 season.

The 24-year-old makes the move back to Jenner Park after a spell with Connah's Quay Nomads, where he impressed in the Cymru Premier with a string of strong performances between the posts.

Ratcliffe is no stranger to Barry, having previously spent time at the club during the 2019-20 campaign. During that spell, he made a number of first-team appearances and was part of the squad for the club's European fixture against Cliftonville.

His return adds further strength to Barry's goalkeeping options as the club continues its preparations for the new season. Known for his composure and presence, Ratcliffe brings valuable experience at this level and will be looking to make an immediate impact.

Supporters will be pleased to see a familiar face back at the club, with Ratcliffe set to compete for the number one shirt as Barry look to build on their progress in the top flight.



NOMADS ADD EXPERIENCED YOUNG DEFENDER TO SQUAD

Marco Fregapane has become the latest addition to John Disney's squad as preparations continue for the new campaign.

The 19 year old right back arrives from Congleton Town where he amassed over 130 senior appearances in the Northern Premier League West Division. Having come through the youth setup at Macclesfield FC, he joined Congleton's Under 18s before making the step up to the first team.

Fregapane was a key figure in Congleton's recent success which included a promotion and a run to the play offs this past season. Although his side were beaten in the final by Hednesford Town, his individual performance stood out. Now joining the Nomads, Fregapane is expected to bring depth to the defensive options while setting an example for younger players making the transition into senior football.

A close-up, profile shot of a young man with blonde, curly hair, smiling and clapping his hands. He is wearing a blue football jersey with a crest on the chest. The background is plain white.

BLACKWELL-JONES JOINS AIRBUS

Airbus UK Broughton have announced their first signing of the summer with the arrival of Mason Blackwell Jones from Bangor 1876. The 23 year old forward becomes the first new face through the door as the Wingmakers prepare for the 2025 to 26 campaign.

Blackwell Jones made 57 appearances and scored 12 goals across two seasons at Bangor 1876, finishing as the club's second highest scorer in the 2023 to 24 season with nine goals. His performances stood out despite Bangor's struggles, and Airbus have acted quickly to bring him in ahead of pre season.

Speaking on the signing, Airbus manager Mark Allen said, **"Mason has been someone we have been tracking for a while, and he will bring attacking flair to us and high energy."**

A product of the academies at Manchester City, Wrexham, and Stoke City, Blackwell Jones has also featured in senior football for Rhyl, Flint Town United, Prestatyn Town, Conwy Borough, Llandudno, and Denbigh Town. Airbus will be his sixth Cymru North club.

Described as an energetic and versatile attacker, Blackwell Jones now looks set to play a key role in Airbus's plans for a stronger league push. His arrival adds further quality to a squad aiming to return to the top flight.

QUICKFIRE NEWS ROUNDUP



Llandudno Town have signed central defender Ryan Austin from Caernarfon Town. They also added Jordan Pownall and Kieran Smith. Leaving the club are Mo Ali, Dan Wood and Mitchell Williams.



Jack Thorn has left Aberystwyth Town to join Flint Town United. The versatile midfielder, who captained Aber last season, becomes Lee Fowler's first signing of the summer as Flint prepare for life in the Cymru Premier.



Llantwit Major have signed keeper Kane Draper from Cwmamman United and Jack Bevan from Trefelin.



Tommy Creamer has left Colwyn Bay after four seasons and over 115 appearances. A key figure at Llanellian Road, he was known for his long-range goals and resilience through injuries.



Flint Town Utd have signed Cameron Ferguson from local rivals Connah's Quay Nomads.



Holywell have confirmed the signings of Fabrizio Murtas, Joe Sullivan and Ieuan Hewitt as preparations continue for the upcoming campaign.



Caerau Ely have strengthened their squad with the addition of defender Kieran Booker, who moves from Penrhyncoch.



Newtown have re-signed former goalkeeper Dave Jones from Aberystwyth Town and signed defender Steffan Jones from Telford.



George Newell has left Bala to join Marine. George is the son of former Blackburn Rovers player Mike Newell.



Asa Hamilton has committed to another season as Buckley Town manager after signing a new deal for 2025/26. Appointed in October 2023, he transformed the team from relegation candidates to a top-five side in the Cymru North.



Denbigh have signed Dan Flanders on a permanent deal following a successful loan deal from Connah's Quay Nomads



Jonathan Evans has left Aberystwyth Town following the expiry of his contract. The club captain made 150 appearances and was a key figure in recent seasons. His departure marks the end of a significant chapter at Park Avenue.



Mold Alex have made two big moves as they gear up for the new season. Dave Forbes joins from Gresford bringing experience and goals to the front line. Lucas Gregson also signs permanently after a strong loan spell from Connahs Quay



Cam Strinati has signed for Cambrian United. The versatile defender, known for his tough tackling and leadership, returns to the club after a stint with Llanelli Town.