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AMMANFORD AFC SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY KO 2PM EVANS BEVANS, BAGLAN



BAGLAN DRAGONS FC



CHRIS AKERS

MATTHEW AKERS TREASURER

SCOTT TURNER CLUB SECRETARY

LOUISE TAYLOR SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

DEAN BRIDLE

CARL CLEMENT FIRST TEAM MANAGER

PAUL LEWIS

SEAN CAYFORD

ADRIAN BARNSLEY GOALKEEPING COACH

MATTHEW HERMAN PHYSIOTHERAPIST **CLUB HONOURS**

ARDAL SOUTHERN PLAY OFF WINNERS 2022/2023

ARDAL SOUTH WEST LEAGUE RUNNERS-UP 2022/2023

SOUTH WALES ALLIANCE PREMIER DIVISION CHAMPIONS 2021/2022

FAW AMATEUR TROPHY RUNNERS-UP 2021/2022

SOUTH WALES ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION RUNNERS-UP 2015-2016

SOUTH WALES AMATEUR LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS 2002-2003

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Welcome to the Evans Bevans

It's my great pleasure to welcome the players, officials and supporters of Ammanford to the Evans Bevans playing fields for today's match.

Ammanford have been plying their trade at this level for a number of years and are having a very strong season. In our first encounter away at Ammanford's recreation ground at the beginning of December ended in a 2-2 draw when goalkeeper Mathew Stanton grabbed his second of the season late on, after a goal on 30 minutes from Tom Davies.

Both sides come into today's match in fine form with Baglan winning our last 5 and Ammanford winning their last 3 against Goytre, Pontardawe and Carmarthen respectively.

Last Saturday, our first team welcomed an excellent young Taffs Well side to the Evans Bevans where a second half goal from Tom Davies proved to be the difference.

Today marks Jack Fleming's 100th appearance for the club. Jack has been an excellent asset to the club and gets better and better as we've progressed through the tiers,

Yesterday marked the 5 year anniversary of the passing of Paul Evans. Paul was a great footballing man and an even greater person. Kind, loyal snd ferocious, Paul is missed every day.

I hope you enjoy today's match.

Chris Akers

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PAULILEWIS ASSISTANT/MANAGER







ADRIAN BARNSLEY GOALKEEPING COACH



MATTHEW HERMAN PHYSIOTHERAPIST









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FIXTURES & RESULTS

CONTRACT OF					
DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	COMPETITION	RESULT	OUTCOME
21 JUL	AFAN LIDO	HOME	NATHANIEL MG CUP	1-3	DEFEAT
29 JUL	PONTARDAWE TOWN	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	1-2	WIN
8 AUG	CARMARTHEN TOWN	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	0-1	DRAW
12 AUG	LLANTWIT MAJOR	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	1-4	WIN
18 AUG	ABERGAVENNY TOWN	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	2-3	WIN
28 AUG	CWMBRAN CELTIC	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	3-3	DRAW
2 SEPT	BRITON FERRY LLANSAWEL	HOME	WBS CUP	0-1	DEFEAT
8 SEPT	LLANELLI TOWN	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	2-1	DEFEAT
16 SEPT	FC CWMAMAN	HOME	FAW CUP	5-1	WIN
22 SEPT	TAFFS WELL	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	1-4	WIN
30 SEPT	ABERTILLERY BLUEBIRDS	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	H	DRAW
6 OCT	CAERAU ELY	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	3-0	DEFEAT
14 OCT	HAVERFORDWEST COUNTY	AWAY	FAW CUP	0-0	DEFEAT PENS
21 OCT	AFAN LIDO	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	0-1	DEFEAT
28 OCT	AMMANFORD	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	P-P	POSTPONED
4 NOV	AMMANFORD	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	P-P	POSTPONED
17 NOV	CAMBRIAN & CLYDACH VALE	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	2-0	DEFEAT
25 NOV	TREFELIN BGC	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	4-1	WIN
2 DEC	GOYTRE UNITED	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	P-P	POSTPONED
8 DEC	AMMANFORD	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	2-2	DRAW
15 DEC	GOYTRE UNITED	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	3-2	DEFEAT
26 DEC	BRITON FERRY LLANSAWEL	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	1-2	DEFEAT
3 JAN	BRITON FERRY LLANSAWEL	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	0-2	DEFEAT
6 JAN	CAMBRIAN & CLYDACH VALE	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	0-2	DEFEAT
12 JAN	AFAN LIDO	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	0-2	WIN
20 JAN	CAERAU ELY	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	2-0	WIN
27 JAN	GOYTRE UNITED	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	2-1	WIN
3 FEB	ABERTILLERY BLUEBIRDS	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	0-3	WIN
10 FEB	TAFFS WELL	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	1-0	WIN
17 FEB	AMMANFORD	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	C. Mark	and all
24 FEB	TREFELIN BGC	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	1.005	
2 MAR	LLANELLI TOWN	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	SA	
9 MAR	CWMBRAN CELTIC	AWAY	JD CYMRU SOUTH	120	
16 MAR	ABERGAVENNY TOWN	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH		
29 MAR	LLANTWIT MAJOR	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	- 10-	
1 APR	CARMARTHEN TOWN	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	a star	
13 APR	PONTARDAWE TOWN	HOME	JD CYMRU SOUTH	16	
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STANDINGS JD CYMRU SOUTH

			P	GD	PTS
1	١	BRITON FERRY LLANSAWEL	20	33	46
2	٢	LLANELLI TOWN	19	32	40
3	3	CARMARTHEN TOWN	55	12	38
ų		AFAN LIDO	21	12	37
5		AMMANFORD	19	12	37
6		BAGLAN DRAGONS	22	7	34
7		CAMBRIAN & CLYDACH VALE	20	5	29
8		CAERAU ELY	20	7	28
9	٩	TREFELIN	20	-11	28
10	٢	TAFFS WELL	19	3	25
11		GOYTRE UNITED	19	-7	25
12	8	CWMBRAN CELTIC	19	-4	24
13		PONTARDAWE TOWN	19	-10	21
14	.	LLANTWIT MAJOR	20	-17	21
15	0	ABERTILLERY BLUEBIRDS	21	-39	11
16	X	ABERGAVENNY TOWN	55	-35	8





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OUR VISITORS AMMANFORD AFC

The club was founded as Betws sometime during 1945 and 1946, with its headquarters at the Coopers Hotel, when Mr Vic Grove donated the gift of a chicken for a raffle and from the revenue came the beginning of the club.

Association football had been played at Betws in the 1920s by Ammanford Thursdays, made up of shop assistants who were only available to play on Thursday afternoons when it was half day closing at the shops. They played their matches on Caemawr (a council housing estate was built on this field in 1947).

In the 1930s the Ammanford Corinthians, who were members of the Gwalia and Llanelli leagues, played on Betws Park. The first team and founders of the Betws Soccer club were known as the 'Betws Blackbirds'. The first president was Sam Roberts, Chairman: D.R. Davies, Secretary: Robert Freeman and Treasurer: Joel Williams. The Trustees were Joe Lewis and Ben Jacob. Crad Jones and Vic Edwards were also among the early administrators of the club.

In the early years the Betws Blackbirds were playing friendly matches, before joining the Ammanford and District league: they later joined the Carmarthenshre League. Matches were played on the present Rice Road ground, and their dressing rooms were in the old building at the rear of the Coopers Hotel. The Betws team had tremendous local support and the large crowds of followers turned out to watch every home game.

When the club joined the new Ammanford District League their opponents included Folland Rovers, Cathan Stars, Tycroes, Waterloo Wanderers, Pontardulais, Brynaman, Pontyberem, Penygroes and Tairgwaith. One of the most remarkable features of this period was that sufficient finance was obtained to purchase the playing field. It is to the committee of that time that full credit must be given for their wisodm and initiative in negotiating the purchase of the field. Later, the adjoining land, which was used as garden allotments, was purchased. Today it is the site of the clubhouse; the price paid for the ground was £750.

As the team continued to progress, in 1949 the need for a higher standard of football in the locality was put forward at a meeting of the Welsh league at Bridgend. The past performances of the disbanded Ammanford Corinthians, may have played a part in the election of the club to the Welsh League, where they played in division two (West). In 1952, the club reached the final of the West Wales Amateur Cup, narrowly losing to Atlas Sports, Fforestfach, 3-2 on the Vetch Field, Swansea.

With Mr. Danny Finch as their manager the club finished runners up to Llanelli in the season 1957-58. The following season was very successful: on beating rivals Carmarthen Town on Boxing Day before a huge crowd, Betws became league leaders which they held to become champions and win promotion to the first division. They also won the division two cup, beating the champions of division two (East), Tredomen, at Rice Road by 3 goals to 2, Betws goal scorers being Idris Lewis (2) and Billy Abramson.

The ladies supporters in their makeshift facilities in an old shed at the entrance to the ground provided refreshments at every home game. The dedication of the ladies supporters and their contribution to provide revenue and entertainment played a big part in the club finance. Along with the hard working committee members, there were many unmentioned helpers who all contributed in keeping the soccer flag flying. The club also provided a darts, tennis and cricket section.

On Saturday 22 August 1959, the club played its opening fixture in the first division of the Welsh League at home before a packed ground againstCardiff City, whom they beat by 2 goals to 1. On this memorable day for the club, the Betws team was: Harrison, H. Williams, D. Jones, Lee, Scrine, Stead, Chennard, Lewis, T. Williams, Loftus and Abramson. Stead (penalty) and T. Williams being the scorers. By the end of the season, the club finished in the bottom half of the division and the following season being relegated.

Name change

There were other teams playing in the league under the name of Betws. In order to avoid the confusion over identification of previous seasons, a request by the Welsh League in 1960 resulted in the club changing its name to Ammanford Town. Through the loyal support of their followers the club, having built a clubhouse in 1963, expanded in 1967 by building a stand, changing rooms and showers at a cost of £4,000.

In 1964, the club appointed Roy Saunders as their player manager, the former Liverpool and Swansea Town player. It was the time during his association with the club that proved its most successful. In season 1965-66 they became champions of division one, and the following two seasons became runners up of the Premier Division, to Cardiff City on both occasions.

Now it could be seen that 'the village beyond the river' was really amongst the giants of Welsh league football. Local players in the town team were Mike Lewis and Ioan Rees who have given valuable service, whilst goalkeeper Dai Davies went on to play for Swansea, Everton, Wrexham andWales. In 1969, Roy Saunders left the club to take up a coaching appointment to Swansea Town. Upon the departure of Roy Saunders, Evan Powell took over as manager assisted by Myrddin Price as secretary.

On the cup scene, the biggest day was in January 1991 when they played at home in the 4th round of the Welsh Cup against Wrexham. In atrocious weather conditions, 'Town' put up a gutsy performance but lost 5-0 to their more experienced opponents.

Merger

In the 1980s, with growing recession and the decline in the club's fortunes with poor attendances, they did, for financial reasons, consider withdrawing from the Welsh League. However, the club were still members of the league at the end of the millennium having amalgamated with local Ammanford Athletic A.F.C. in 1992.

During the 1998-99 season the club reached the quarterfinals of both the Welsh Cup and the Flocon Cup, securing a return to Division 1. In preparation for this return, joint team managers Neil Petherbridge and Wynne Jones assembled a team consisting mainly of local lads. They put into motion plans to develop the Rice Road facilities, bringing them up to modern day standards.

COACH'S COMMENTS



Today we welcome Ammanford AFC to the Evans Bevans in the JD Cymru South.

Ammanford are a top side and are enjoying a great season so far. They will be disciplined and dangerous this afternoon and are a very good footballing side.

In the reverse fixture, a goal on 30 minutes set us on our way in a first half where we played some good football. After going in at the break at 1-1, Ammanford got their second and it looked like we wouldn't take any points back to Baglan with us. That was until Mathew Stanton scored his second goal of the season from inside his own half to grab us a point late on.

As with all fixtures in this league, our boys will have to be up for the fight today in order to get anything out of the game.

I hope you enjoy the game and thank you for your continued support.



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