



SOUTH WALES ALLIANCE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk

SWAL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022



SW Alliance League News

2022-2023 Pre-Season

With the 2021-2022 season only finally completed a couple of weeks ago this is the period for clubs to start preparing for the 2022-2023 season - which, with the changes coming in for 2023-2024, will mean a very competitive season for all 3 Divisions!

First we would like to welcome the 5 new clubs into the Alliance League. Joining us from the SW Ardal League are:



Ton Pentre FC



AFC Porth

who will be joining the Premier Division. Plus the 3 teams who managed to get through the SWFA Play-Offs who will be joining Division 2



Fairwater FC



Penygraig United FC



Tongwynlais FC

The SWAL wishes both Baglan Dragons and Cefn Cribwr FC full success in the Ardal League.

At this point Cornelly United and Llangynwyd Rangers FC will move back to their local Leagues - however with the changes coming in for the 2023-24 season it will allow a smoother pathway for them to return back into the SW Alliance League without, hopefully, the requirement for any play-offs. There will be more detail in July's Newsletter.

With the "quiet" period we can take the opportunity with June's Newsletter to update everyone with what we know so far.....





Issue 238 - 2021-22 End of Season Review

Quote from WFM magazine:

SPECIALS

Proper souvenir programmes for showpiece games like local cup finals have become a rarity, sadly, but one that sets a new standard is the South Wales Alliance League's issue for their W John Owen Cup Final. A colour cover, colour team photos on inside covers, and on the internal black and white pages a range of articles about the league, the finalists, referee and more - an excellent production by league secretary Phil Sweet. Unquestionably this season's award winner in the "Specials" category.

A pdf version of this season's cup final programme and match report/team sheet is available on the SWAL website - go to

<http://www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk/downloads/w-john-owen-cup>



THE WELSH FOOTBALL MAGAZINE is a publication devoted to all aspects of football (soccer) in Wales. It is run independently by football fans and operates on a non-profit-making basis. Although amateur by nature, the magazine is produced to high standards of professionalism in content and production. Their intention, as well as recording news and results, is to offer a positive, but independent view of football in Wales: never negative or controversial for the sake of it - but also prepared to be critical when necessary in the interests of the game.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

Eight issues are published each season and are available by postal subscription or from a variety of club shops and retail outlets in Wales.

To subscribe for a year, please send £27 by cheque payable to **WELSH FOOTBALL**, to WFM,

57 Thornhill Road,
Cardiff, CF14 6PE

or by making an online bank transfer to:

Account 14035486 at sort code 09-01-53.

Don't forget to let the WFM know your delivery address - just email info@welsh-football.net

Please use the Contact Us page on the WFM site to request further information.

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

WFM now has published well over 200 editions. You can see the most recent issues [here](#)





SWFA Change of General Secretary



Mark Adams has now formerly left the SWFA as the associations' General Secretary to fully take over his new position as FAW Vice President.

The SWFA wishes him all the best in his new role at the FAW which will be a busy year particularly since Wales have qualified for the Fifa World Cup in Qatar.



Geoff Buckingham will replace Mark as SWFA General Secretary moving up from his role as SWFA Assistant Secretary (Discipline). Geoff has been part of the SWFA since 2008 and was formerly Chairman of the SWFA Senior League prior to its merger with the SW Amateur League to form the SW Alliance League.

Geoff will inherit the SWFA Gen Secretary's email address:

secretary@southwalesfa.co.uk



Geoff's disciplinary role will be taken up by Dave King who, in turn, will inherit the SWFA Disciplinary email address:

discipline@southwalesfa.co.uk



SWFA Cup competitions

SWAL Clubs can now enter FAW Cup, Trophy and SWFA Senior Cup this season



PROVISIONAL SWAL FIXTURES

The 2022-2023 SWAL season will start on Saturday 6 August. The information forms to clubs have gone out and once they have been returned we will begin reviewing the fixtures for 2022-2023. The aim is to provide provisional August fixtures once the FAW Cup & FAW Trophy draws are made - hopefully in early July - to allow clubs as much notice as possible.





TIER 3 FAW CLUB LICENSING DECISIONS 2022

The FAW Tier 3 First Instance Body met on 11 May to consider the Tier 3 Licensing Applications for the 2022/23 season.

The clubs were assessed against a number of infrastructure and personnel criteria.

FAW Tier 3 Licensing is a mandatory requirement for clubs to participate at Tier 3 of the Welsh Football Pyramid for the 2022/23 season in the Ardal Leagues.

Three SWAL clubs were successful in their application for a Tier 3 licence:

- Canton Liberal FC
- Pencoed Athletic BGC FC
- Cardiff Corinthians

On behalf of the SWAL we congratulate them on their successful applications

http://contentfaw.aws-skybrid.co.uk/files/9016/5349/2620/Tier_3_Licences_25.05.22_-_Press_Release.pdf



PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

These have already started! Clubs are requested to let us know so updated lists of pre-season friendlies can be posted on the SWAL website on Fridays and scores will be updated as and when we're told of the results.

www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk/

DO NOT FORGET PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FROM SWFA!

Email - friendlies@southwalesfa.co.uk

A more formal scores round-up is available in the Information pages

www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk/downloads/inter-club-results



Why Register your Officials on Comet?

Because they are covered by the FAW's Insurance! For details click on the link below.

<https://faw.bluefinsport.co.uk/>





FAW GRASSROOTS FACILITIES FUND AWARDS £3M TO PROJECTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The first phase of the Football Association of Wales Grassroots Facilities Fund programme is underway with £3m worth of work beginning on 47 projects across the country.

The main categories of grant awards from the Grassroots Facilities Fund were:

- 33% on upgrading and creating changing facilities, particularly for women and girls.
- 18% on pitch improvements and drainage works.
- 15% on full sized 3G pitches as club hubs on education sites.
- 11% on small sized all weather training areas.
- 11% on pitch maintenance equipment.

The Grassroots Facilities Fund was developed by the FAW and other stakeholder investors, including the Welsh Government, UK Government, Sport Wales, UEFA and FIFA.

The Fund focuses on supporting the creation and development of facilities in Wales to achieve:

- A growth in participation in sport and recreational activity.
- Stronger & more stable community focussed clubs, with more players across all ages & backgrounds.
- A particular focus on helping achieve the FAW's target of doubling the women & girls' game



Football Association of Wales CEO Noel Mooney said: *"We are grateful to see the Grassroots Facilities Fund already making an impact to our football family across the country."*

"The initial round of funding marks the beginning of an exciting journey, and the FAW will continue to work closely with all of its stakeholders to create a facilities investment fund in order to deliver a number of impactful projects across all corners of Wales as we strive to make football inclusive and accessible to all."

One of the FAW's key strategic objectives of 'Our Wales | Ein Cymru' is to have inspirational and fit-for-purpose football facilities throughout the country. The association aspires to transform grassroots football and facilities across Club, parks, and education sites via the Grassroots Facilities Fund.

Over the summer and early autumn, the FAW will announce the next rounds of funding for grassroots football in Wales and will set out how organisations can apply.

<https://www.faw.cymru/en/news/faw-grassroots-facilities-fund-awards-3m-projects-across-country/>

Some in receipt of the grants are:

- Sully Sports FC - Upgrade current changing and toilet facilities - accessible for female players and for disabled persons. Grant of £128,524
- Cardiff City House of Sport Construction of community multi sports pavilion with 4 changing rooms for male and female players, officials and a community room at Llanrumney Community Sports Hub Grant of £185,000
- Rhondda Cynon Taf Council Creation of a 3G pitch Baglan Football Field. Grant of £100,000
- Cwm Welfare Community Sports Club Ltd - Construction of a modern 4 team changing room build with officials changing and club and community room. Grant of £252,000

For a full list click on the link below:

http://contentfaw.aws-skybrid.co.uk/files/4116/5365/1017/FAW_GFF_Summary_Of_Phase_1_Grants_for_PR_-_26_5_22.pdf



A FEW MORE FACTS & FIGURES FROM THE 2021-2022 SEASON

GOALS SCORED

	Total Goals	1st Half	2nd Half	Av Goals per game
Premier Division	1006	48%	52%	4.2
Division 1	861*	49%	51%	4.1
Division 2	1037	50%	50%	4.3

** Only 28 games in Division 1*

Premier Division - over 17% of goals were scored in final 10mins, 12% either side of half time.
Division 1 - similar to the Premier Division with 15% in final 10mins & 13% in 10mins either side of half time.

Division 2 - almost the same except 16% scored either side of half time & 15% in last 10mins!

YELLOW CARDS

	Total Yellows	1st Half	2nd Half	Av no of Yellows per game
Premier Division	769	26%	76%	3.2
Division 1	584*	27%	73%	2.8
Division 2	710	36%	64%	3.0

** Only 28 games in Division 1*

Premier Division had 37% of yellow cards in final 20mins, 14 in total inside first 10 mins
Division 1 also had 37% of yellow cards in final 20 mins, but 7 in total inside first 10 mins
Division 2 again had 35% of yellow cards in final 20 mins and 34 in total inside the first 10 mins!

RED CARDS

	Total Reds	1st Half	2nd Half	Av No of Reds per game
Premier Division	56	13%	87%	0.3
Division 1	78*	11%	89%	0.4
Division 2	62	12%	88%	0.3

** Only 28 games in Division 1*

Premier Division had 53% of red cards in final 20 mins, 7 of the 56 in total in first half
Division 1 also had 38% of red cards in final 20 mins, but only 8 of of 78 in total in first half
Division 2 again had 62% of red cards in final 30 mins and 9 of the 62 in total in first half





CLUB NEWS

Information taken from clubs Twitter accounts



ABERDARE TOWN appoint Ryan Betteney ahead of the 2022/23 campaign arriving at Aberaman Park after a short stint at FC Porthcawl last season



ELY RANGERS appoint Rhys Evans as first team manager



CWM WELFARE AFC appoint Gavin Groves and Jonny Jones as new first team coaches



PORTHCAWL TOWN appoint Brent Matthews as first team manager and Nigel Jordan as his assistant



GARW SBGC are happy to announce the recruitment of a new management team of Gareth Darks, Simon Floyd and Nathan Rose



BLAENRHONDDA FC are looking for a new manager for for the 2022/2023 season. If interested, please contact Rob Griffiths on 07914 939378 or email RobGriffiths63@hotmail.co.uk to have a chat about this opportunity.



BETTWS have a vacancy for a first team manager. DM the club on Twitter



COGAN CORONATION AFC - Manager Vacancy - Following a solid season bringing a new squad together, our first team manager has taken up a coaching assignment abroad - so we are now looking for a new manager



ABERFAN FC appoint Geriant Corkrey as their new manager and Ross Porter as his assistant



TON PENTRE AFC - the Bulldogs are delighted to announce that Liam Williams has agreed to be their new Manager





BORED THIS SUMMER?

The FAW has over 1,000 registered referees and are committed to search for and develop additional referees to cover all areas of the game within Wales.

It's now possible to become a referee via the FAW's online course.

<https://becomearef.wales/>



There is a proud history of developing referees to the highest level with a selection either being on the FIFA Referees Panel, FIFA Assistant Referees Panel & the JD Welsh Premier League.

Whether it's aspirations to officiate a World Cup Final or help out your local youth or adult leagues, every new referee needs to attend and pass a referees course run by the FAW and the online course is a first step to becoming a FAW Referee.

The Course is an online training module with a practical session to finish.

On successfully passing the exam and practical session you will receive a Referee Starter Pack, including a Full Referees Kit, Whistle, Flags and Red & Yellow Cards.

Advanced Referee Award - £25

The core FAW online refereeing course, become fully qualified - NO KIT

Referee Leaders Award - £15

A course that centres around officiating at junior football and is a great introduction to the LOTG

Advanced Referee Award - £70

The core FAW online refereeing course, become fully qualified - FULL KIT

Futsal Qualification Award - £30

Become a fully qualified Futsal Referee by undertaking this course, created by experts at the FAW

<https://becomearef.wales/>

Why Become a Referee?

- If you love football and want to be a major part of the game in Wales - why not?
- You get "the best seat in the house" and get to give back to the game you love
- Courses are written by FAW experts, will upskill you in the Laws of the Game
- You will be fully supported along the way
- You can take the course at a time and place that suits you to fit into your lifestyle

REFEREE



AMBITIOUS PLAN TO DEVELOP REFEREES

Players, coaches, parents and officials across the Welsh Football Family have been urged to play their part to grow a diverse, younger base of referees, across Wales.

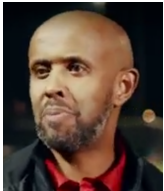
As the number of players and teams continues to grow throughout the nation, the FAW have unveiled ambitious plans to develop enough referees to officiate the extra matches.

The new vision involves increasing the number of active referees from 859 to 1,500 by transforming the image of referees and attracting currently under-represented groups, such as females, under 35s and those from BAME backgrounds, in the next five years.

This growth is already being seen in the capital as the Cardiff Referees Society recruited 25 new BAME officials at recent recruitment events & have more planned across the city and beyond.



Secretary Amin Said says the society has a desire to support new referees on their journey and urges other areas to follow their model.



He said: *"I'm hoping some of the new recruits will become FIFA referees or ref in the Cymru Premier. Once they've done one game, all the apprehension goes away and they get that buzz from doing it. I tell them the best seat in the house is in the middle of the pitch and when players are exposed to good referees, they become better players. We can help push up the quality level in the game. It would be amazing to see referees from Wales at a World Cup, the potential is there but we have work to do."*

<https://www.faw.cymru/en/news/ambitious-plan-develop-referees/?back=/en/news/&pos=50>



REFEREE



BAAH LOOKING TO INSPIRE A DIVERSE NEW GENERATION OF REFEREES

The prolific striker turned manager, best known for leading Caerau Ely to the Welsh League Division One title in 2015, claims completing the FAW Advanced Referees course has made him a better coach and is improving his players' knowledge and understanding of the game.



Nana has a simple message for anybody thinking about doing the FAW course, saying: *"Being a referee enables you to learn so much. You become a better person and you get to know so many different people. You can referee at different levels, you can pick and choose where you want to ref. It's a great opportunity for people to go onto the bigger stage, if they start now and I can't recommend that enough."*

<https://www.faw.cymru/en/news/baah-looking-inspire-diverse-new-generation-referees/?back=/en/news/&pos=155>



So..... What do Referees get up to during the close season?



Once the season finishes it's time for the referees to start their preparation for next season. Not only are there new Laws of the Game to learn and understand (more to follow in July's Newsletter) but also to upskill by learning and taking on board new initiatives from any array of speakers in the SWFA Referees Seminar which was held on Saturday 18th June at the Holiday Inn, Tongwynlais.

Not only are referees updated on facts and figures from the previous season (for example 41% of SWFA Referees are under 35), Comet updates to appointments for cup competitions and how they are detailed. The seminar was opened by Robin Davies (SWFA President). Speakers included Richard Burgum (SWFA Referees Officer) Lee James (Ardal SW Referee appointments) and introductions to the new SWFA General Secretary Geoff Buckingham & Disciplinary Secretary Dave King.

Jack Rea

- the new FAW Match Officials Recruitment & Retention Executive - gave a presentation on his new role at the FAW which he took up in April 2022.

Jack outlined the future of referees in Wales - including assistants - and the targets for 2026 to improve the referee shortage in Wales. This goes in hand with the training and development of the match officials and - importantly - how this is to be achieved



David Hughes

- the Director of Cardiff City Academy, gave a presentation on how the Cardiff City Academy is run and the principles it uses to bring on footballers.

This includes, not just the skills and fitness, but also the personal standards the Academy expects from the junior players. This involves team work and bonding as well as how they present themselves and represent the Bluebirds.

FAW Long Service Awards

- were presented to two SWAL referees - Martin New (left) and Brian Scales (right) for their services to football in Wales.

Both Martin and Brian have been regular referees in the SW Alliance League (and previously the SW Amateur & Senior Leagues) for many years. Congratulations to them both for their achievements and award.





SWAL LEAGUE FUNDING

THE 100 CLUB

The SWAL have started a 100 CLUB to help raise funding for the League

All information on joining the 100 Club is available here:

www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk/downloads/swal-funding

★ JUNE 2022 WINNERS ★

First Prize: Idwal Jones

Runner Up Prize: Primrose Brett

To join contact Karin Preene Email karinpreene@gmail.com

Or go to <http://www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk/downloads/swal-funding>



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for South Wales Alliance Football League with easyfundraising?

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS:

1. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/southwalesalliancefl/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to South Wales Alliance Football League at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and South Wales Alliance Football League will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Obituaries



Keith Vallance - Aberdare Town President

Keith passed away in May after a short battle with cancer. He played for Poole Town and locally managed Abernant, Kings Head and Aberaman before becoming the President of Aberdare Town.

<http://www.aberdaretownfc.co.uk/news/202122/keith-vallance.htm>



Bob Fry - former Ely Rangers Secretary

Former Ely Rangers Secretary and referee passed away in May. Bob was the secretary of Cardiff Referees Society in the 1970s & 80s before becoming the secretary of Ely Rangers during their Welsh League days



Finally - in case you've missed it.....



Wales have qualified for



**FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022**



**SWAL website is continually updated with information
Go to the Downloads and check out the folders.
www.southwalesallianceleague.co.uk/downloads**

If anyone has any suggestions or articles for the SWAL Newsletter please let me know

Terry

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