

BONVILSTON ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



The First Fifty Years

B.B.C. SOCIAL CLUB, LLANDAFF, CARDIFF
SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER, 1992

Anniversary Event sponsored by

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Anniversary Committee

S. HUNT

C. BEER

P. JONES

R. MUNCEY

R. BIRTLES

P. SWEETMAN

I. BREWER

S. PENNY

S. COLLINS

This programme was compiled by S. Hunt, P. Jones and P. Sweetman and is dedicated to all the people who have represented the Club during the First Fifty Years of its existence.

"Without them — Bonvilston Athletic Club would not exist"

A Message From The Chairman

Welcome to the 50th Anniversary of Bonvilston Athletic Football Club, I hope you enjoy your evening with us as we celebrate Fifty years of sporting friendship. Some of those attending this evening will be meeting friends from days gone by, and I am sure that there will be some stories to exchange during the evening.

I have been involved with the Club since 1976 and was pleased to be elected as Chairman two years ago. Over the years I have seen many players come and go, but there has always been a resolute nucleus of players who have stayed with Bonvilston through good times and bad. These are the important people of the Club — the 'heart of the Club', without them it wouldn't have survived. The standard of the teams has varied greatly, from very good to very poor! But, whatever the circumstances, Bonvilston has always fielded a side and never let the opponents down. We have always been known for our good sportsmanship being good winners and sporting losers.

I would like to mention Phoenix Automation for sponsoring the 50th Anniversary Celebration/Re-Union along with Sportsflair and K.T.S Financial Services in contributing to the running of the Club. On a final note, I would like to thank you all for attending this evening and hope that you all have a very enjoyable evening.

S. HUNT Chairman



Forword

To celebrate Fifty Years of Bonvilston Athletic Club, it was decided by the Committee to produce a Commemorative Programme. To compile a brief history of the Club has been quite a challenge — but, in true Bonvilston spirit, we got there in the end . . . To mention everyone who has taken part in the Clubs' history is a difficult thing to do, and we apologise for any omissions, but we hope some of you attending this evening, will remember one or two names or occasions from the events which we have written about. It is only intended as a brief account of the life of the Club but we hope you will find it of some interest. -THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Early Years

The origins of a team in Bonvilston began in 1910, when a group of people gathered on occasions to play football between themselves. A team was formed and was sponsored by the Brains family (of brewing notoriety). The records say that there was a second period of the Club in the 1930s when it had a team in the Vale of Glamorgan League. The 'real' Bonvilston Athletic Club was formed in 1942 and this is the Club that is present today. A well-documented book, which was kept by the various secretaries of the Club 'came to light' during the research of this brochure.

The team was also known as Bonvilston Home Guard in 1942-43 and played at the rear of the Red Lion public house in Bonvilston. The first goal posts at the pitch were cut from nearby Meardy Wood and the crossbar was a piece of string!



Bonvilston Athletic Club 1946 — First official team photograph
Back Row (Left to Right): Dewi Hopkins, Doug Lehman, Archie Jones, Billy Carter, Tom Ranger, Tom Harris, Horace Penwarne, Arthur Ranger, Arthur Pope
Front Row (Left to Right): Phil Watts, Charlie Evans, Howell Williams, George Price, Trevor Carey, Godfrey Douch

The teams played just three times in 1942, all the games being friendlies. One match was against an Italian Prisoners-of-War team and the other two against St. Nicholas. The following season saw Bonvilston Athletic Club play thirteen matches — again they were all friendlies. Searchlight Battery, Bomb Disposal, Anti-Aircraft Battery and the Civil Defence were some of the opponents during this wartime period. Bonvilston joined the Cardiff and District League for the 1944-45 season and played in the second division. The record for that year was Played 22, Won 4, Drew 0, Lost 18, Scoring 32 goals and conceding 97. After such a poor season, it was surprising that the team carried on! The third match of the season was against Cardiff Naval Base. Bonvilston lost 15-1. According to the records, this is the heaviest defeat ever faced by Bonvilston. Howell Williams played at right back against a professional from Millwall — it is rumoured that he only ever saw the back of him! A certain R. Reid scored 8 goals in a match against Dinas Powis — and failed to score again during the season. A change in the boundaries of Glamorgan meant that in 1946-47, Bonvilston competed in the Barry and District League 1st Division. The opening match was a 1-1 draw against Aberthaw. Phil Watts (attending tonight) scored the goal. The Club re-joined the Cardiff and District League in 1947-48 with Eric Danter the League Secretary being instrumental in its reinstatement into the league. During the season, the Club competed in the third division and managed just 5 victories in 22 matches. Phil Watts (records say he scored 104 goals for the Club) was top scorer that year with thirteen goals. Bonvilston 'B' team played friendlies at Cowbridge, St. Hilary and Peterston not yet having entered a league. The following season, 1948-49 saw the 'A' and 'B' teams of Bonvilston competing in the Cardiff and District League, 3rd West and East Divisions. A Bonvilston 'C' team played friendlies that year against St. Hilary and Aberthaw. During the 1952-53 season, when competing in Division 2, Bob Shepherd scored an incredible 49 goals — a record which still exists today although Andrew McClymont managed a credible 43 goals during season 1991-92. Opponents during those days were Spillers, Pengam, Roath Villa and Cathays United — only a couple have survived as long as Bonvilston.



Bonvilston Athletic Club 'A' — 1949

Back Row (Left to Right): Ron Price, Cyril Powell, Dilwyn Davies, Bob Shepherd

Front Row (Left to Right): Peter Ranger, George Price, Horace Penwarne, Eric Griffiths (Capt), Ken Lains, Phil Watts, Arthur Morris



Bonvilston Athletic Club '13' — 1949

Back Row (Left to Right): Charlie Evans, Tom Harris, Henry Crockford, Grill' Williams, Dick Williams

Front Row (Left to Right): Howell Williams, ?, Dick Greatrex, Bill Carey, 'Jew Lewis, Arthur Davies, Doug Lehman



Bonvilston Athletic Club 1951

Top Row (Left to Right): Arthur Pope, Bob Shepherd, Torn Harris, Ken Lavis, Hubert Taylor Middle Row (Left to Right): Peter Ranger, Glyn Elwood, John Ruggles, Alan Jones, Doug Lehman Bottom Row (Left to Right): Phil Watts, Bob Morgan

The Later Years

Ron Jones became Secretary of Bonvilston Athletic Club in 1963 and held the position for a 25 years — a remarkable feat by any standards. Llewellyn Griffiths was Chairman at that time and the Treasurer was Sid Lunn. In the years between 1963-65 the Club nearly went out of existence. The Clubs' finances depended on subscriptions until Denis Collins was introduced to the Club. He persuaded the Committee to run a Tote and he personally supervised it to raise funds. It was his actions that put the Club back on a sound financial footing. The General Committee had eleven members with two Sub-Committees one was a Team Selection Committee and the other was the Tote Committee. In those days, five members sat on the Selection Committee along with the Team Captain. The Chairman has a casting vote in the event of a deadlock. The Team Captain at that time was selected by the Team Selection Committee. Before the Tote was introduced, the

kits were cleaned, free of charge, by Molly Griffiths and Olga Jones. Derek Heighton ran the Tote until the mid-seventies, when it was taken over by Olga Jones who was ably assisted by Llew Griffiths and Mr. & Mrs. Spackman. Gerald Johnson assisted with the administration and fund-raiser for the Club in these years (1963-70s). With the death of Sid Lunn, the Treasurers positions was taken over by Dave Wilks who was a regular first team player. The playing facilities have changed over the years. Originally, until the mid-seventies the football pitch was behind the Red Lion. A fellow called Llew Griffiths could be seen any Saturday morning, marking the pitch for the afternoon game. Then, after a few pints in 'the Red', he would amble over to the football 'pavilion' and light up the old boiler, ready for the afternoon match. The pitch was often covered with mole-hills and cow pats, and these often had to be stamped down before play could commence. The 'pavilion' a very flamboyant name for a wooden but that housed two football teams along with a tin bath, in which players were supposed to get washed! It was always a standing joke at



Bonvilston. The last person in the bath often got out dirtier than he was than when he first went in! One player, Colin Hooper used to jump in the bath completely in his kit. Unfortunately, the Committees intentions to purchase the playing field were destroyed by planning permission being granted for housing development and the Club was forced to leave. Bonvilston then performed on Cardiff pitches, playing home matches at Trelai and Pontcanna.



Bonvilston Athletic Club 1984 Back Row (Left to Right)• S. Hunt, 13. Ham, M. Edbrooke, M. Gadd, B. Pengelly, S. Collins, M. O'Neil Front Row (Left to Right): D. Wilkes, R. Muncey, S. Brown, N. Suttcliffe, M. Roche

The Secretary who succeeded Ron Jones' 25-year stint in the position was Craig Beer in 1988. In fact, he is only the 8th person to have held this important position. The Secretary of any Club usually gets inundated with all the problems! For the record, the past-Secretaries have been:

Jack Candlish	1942-43	Tim Taylor	1955-58
Dewi Hopkins	1943-46	Charlie Deere	1958-63
Tom Ranger	1946-48	Ron Jones	1963-88
Dewi Hopkins	1948-55	Craig Beer	1988-

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Club continued to field an 'A' team and a 'B' team. A struggle to put two sides out during the latter end of the 70s period forced Bonvilston into operating just one team. The Club spent many years competing in Division Two of the Cardiff and District League, only twice appearing in the Third Division. Bonvilston re-introduced its Second Team in season 1990-91, where it competed in the Fifth Division of the Cardiff and District League. The team, under the guidance of Ray Muncey, struggled and finished last but one during that year. More recently, during season 1991-92 the Bonvilston Athletic First Team finished as Runners-up in Division Three, failing to win the League by two points. It would have been the first time that Bonvilston had won a

League Championship — or any honour, for that matter! The First Team Manager was Paul Sweetman, who was appointed at the start of the season. The 'Seconds', still being run by Ray Muncey, also achieved promotion that year. Bonvilston enjoyed a small measure of success — at last! Currently, the Club operates two teams on a Saturday and one in the Vale of Glamorgan Sunday League. The Sunday lads won the Clubs' first trophy — the Six-a-Side Tournament run by the League. The Club is doing well at the moment, particularly the Second Team, who are near the top of Division Four. The Sunday Team are top of Division Two in the Vale League. The Club could mark the end of its Fiftieth Year with success in their respective divisions — what a way to round off the 'Tifitieth'. We hope that this record of events has given you an insight into the Club and its origins. Here's to the next Fifty Years ...

Also Celebrating This Evening

Earlier this season, Ray Muncey celebrated twenty-five years of unbroken service with Bonvilston Athletic Club. To play for one Club for this length of time is remarkable. There are three other current players who have also been associated with the Club for a notable length of time. They are Peter Jones (1967), Steve 'Charlie' Collins (1968) and Brian Ham (1973) — all of whom have spent periods away from the Club. Ray played his first game for the Club on 30th September, 1967 for the 'A' team vs.

Bridgend Street at Tremorfa Park. The result was a three-all draw. As he nears fiftieth birthday (he won't tell us how old he is!) Ray has been the subject of many a practical joke. During the 1987 tour to Ipswich he was brought onto the pitch in a wheelchair! He was arrested on one occasion for being drunk and disorderly. Apparently, he was 'sleeping on the floor' and two policemen carted him off the cells for the night. The question everyone is asking is — 'how long is Ray going to keep playing?



The Famous Bonvilston End of Season Tour

The first recorded Bonvilston Athletic Club trip took place in 1967. The Club visited Ostend in Belgium. It was a highly enjoyable Tour and the players were joined by their wives and girlfriends (not much chance of that happening these days!)

The second trip, a year later, was a very impressive affair. A game took place at the local town ground. Before the match, the teams paraded through the streets — accompanied by a band. Somewhat overawed, Bonvilston lost the game two goals to three.

The tradition of the weekend tour has continued up to the present time. Despite putting up many a pathetic display on the trips — we have always won the singing contests back in the bar! Bonvilston have always been good ambassadors for Welsh football on its travels.

During the 80s, the Club struck up a good relationship with a team from Ipswich. Both teams exchanged visits on four or five occasions. On one occasion in Weymouth, a coloured player by the name of Ronny De Mille travelled with us. He broke his ankle during the tour match and had to be put in plaster.

During the evenings' drinking bout, players took it in turns to carry him around, from pub to pub. Some old codger rubbed his eyes in disbelief, saying 'Golly, in my days, the coloureds used to carry the whites!' .

The 1990 trip took place in Tenby, West Wales. After a heavy nights drinking, the Club reached the pitch and took part in a memorable seven-all draw against St. Florence! A typical result in a Bonvilston Tour match loads of goals — loads of mistakes — loads of ale!

Last years' trip was in St. Helier in Jersey. Most of the lads were poor sailors It's very doubtful that the Tour will be 'overseas' next year!