

Football Grounds Frenzy Wales

A photographic tour of Welsh football grounds

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Right: A cast iron relic at Milford United in 1998.

A special mention for the Football Club History Database, www.fchd.info
Richard Rundle has an amazing website which has allowed me to check the names and historical dates of so many clubs over the years.

With grateful thanks to Dave Collins whose hard work and dedication in publishing Welsh Football magazine has given me much pleasure and so much information over the years. I only heard of Mid Rhondda by reading the magazine.

Large crowds at some grounds through the hard work of Chris Berezai / GroundhopUK

Front Cover: Cardiff City.
Back cover: Swansea City, Pontypridd Town, Chepstow Town & AFC Rhondda
(clockwise from top)



Billy Beynon! Our school had some great nicknames for teachers, but this wasn't one we used to make fun. For that there was Bongo Harry, Herman Thomas, Commander Jones, Cruncher Castle, Tadpole Bailey and Creeping Jesus. Bongo Harry later became Boxing Bongo Harry after he clouted a kid. Creeping Jesus became Creeping Willy for... well, he just disappeared one day. His new name had only lasted a short while after he was seen exposing himself to a boy in our class under his desk. Calling Mr Beynon by his first name may suggest we didn't much care for him, but like other respected teachers such as Tom Martindale and Ken Wilby, it showed the great respect we had for him.

He was also my introduction to Wales.

Billy Beynon came from Swansea and taught me English so well that I went from scoring the lowest mark in the end-of-year English exam in the whole fourth form to being awarded a Grade 1 at O-Level a year later. He encouraged us to write, to experiment with blank verse, to think, to take a chance and risk being wrong; all transferable skills which have been so useful to me since. We learnt to listen and think as he read Dylan Thomas poems to us in his beautiful lilting Welsh accent (try to say that as they do in Swansea - bew-ti-full). He was an inspiration.

Billy had left our school by the time I turned seventeen when our family moved to Swansea, so I couldn't tell him we were to live a corner-turn and a hundred steps from the gates of Cwmdonkin Park, often mentioned in Thomas' poems about

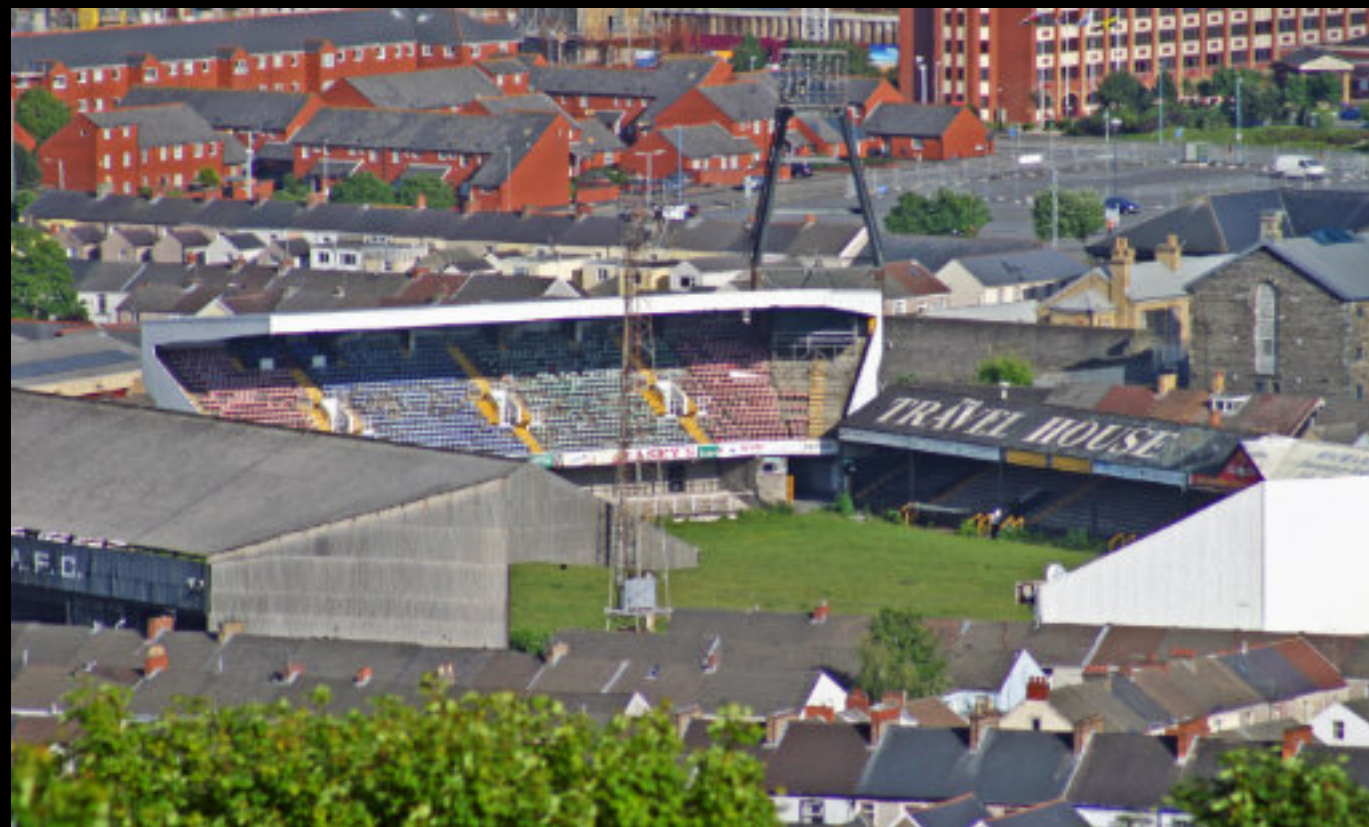
his childhood. I walked through every day, up the many, many steps to the college from which I left a trained teacher. On the way home I could look out over Swansea Bay, to the terraced houses by the city centre, to the dirt of industry away to the east. Always to the east in any industrial town I was told, so the prevailing wind didn't blow the smoke over the bosses' houses. I could see the hills of the Gower peninsular away to my right and the Vetch Field off to my left.

From that view I came to bond with Wales in a way only an outsider, a Sais, can manage. When taking the images in this book, I photographed the amazing grandstands that so many clubs built and also the many home-made structures, each evidencing the industrial skills of those involved with the clubs. Once inside, I tried to look back outside the ground, to appreciate the settings in which they are set, and to see the houses where club members, players, spectators or their families might live. Each image has been carefully cropped to draw the eye into and around the key features.

I could add captions, I could add detail to the images, but I prefer to let you appreciate them with minimal interference, just club names and the year in which I visited the ground. I hope those with the book get as much pleasure from looking at the images as I have from putting it together.

Odd though, only when I was staring at the blank screen earlier looking for a way to start this introduction did I make the connection and realise how much I had gained from being taught by Billy Beynon.





Swansea City

2007



2000

Garw



Ton Pentre

1995



2007

Barmouth & Dyffryn Utd



Maesteg Park

1998



2002

Garw



Ynysybwl

2001



2013

Llandrindod Wells



Port Talbot Athletic

1995



2000

Swansea City



Swansea City

2004



2004

Swansea City



Cardiff City

2010



2004

Swansea City



Bangor City

2004



2013

Abergavenny Thursdays



Treharris Athletic

2009



2007

Aberystwyth Town



Llanelli

2001



1995

Ammanford



Swansea City

2000



2005

Treforest



Newtown

1998



2007

Newtown



Ferndale Athletic

2001



2005

Blaenau Ffestiniog Amateurs



Ynysybwl

2001



1999

Presteigne St. Andrews



Fields Park Pontllanfraith

2004



2009

Montgomery Town



Llandrindod Wells

1999



2009

Bargoed



Ffostrasol Wanderers

2007



2009

Penrhynoch



Tonyrefail Welfare

2005



1999

Milford United



Welshpool Town

1998



2001

Merthyr Tydfil



Llanidloes Town ————— 1998



2001 ————— AFC Rhondda



Carmarthen Town

2003



1998

Caerau



Treowen Stars

2013



2009

Aberystwyth Town



Treharris Athletic

2009



2009

Treharris Athletic



Caersws

1998



2005

Croesyceiliog



BP Llandarcy

2000



2011

Guilsfield



Pontardawe Town

2001



1998

Gwynfi United



Cwmaman Institute ————— 2005



2002 ————— Garw



Cilfynydd

2005



2013

Llantwit Major



Clydach Wasps

2013



2006

Kenfig Hill



Seven Sisters

1998



1996

Trelewis Welfare



Abercynon / Carnetown

2005



2006

Pontyclun



Skewen Athletic

2005



2006

Dyffryn Banw



Kenfig Hill

2004



1999

Porth Tywyn Suburbs



Cwmamman United

2007



2005

Panteg



Dinas Powys

2001



2003

Tondu Robins



Mid Rhondda

2001



2006

North End



AFC Llwydcoed

2004



2005

Chepstow Town



Montgomery Town

2009



2013

Clydach Wasps



Panteg

2005



2001

Pontyclun



Pontypridd Town

2005

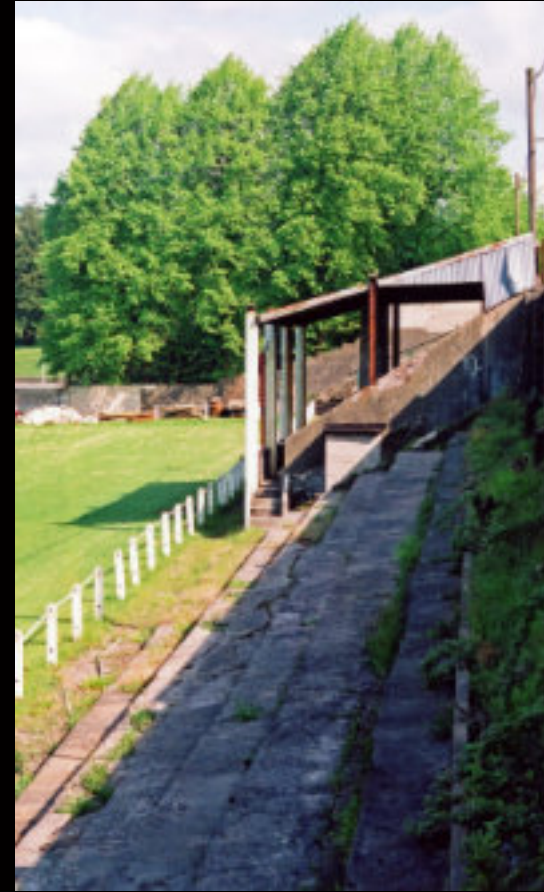


2005

Pontypridd Town



Ferndale Boys Club ————— **2009**



2001 ————— **Tonyrefail Welfare**



Merthyr Tydfil

2001



2002

Colwyn Bay



South Wales Police

2009



2016

Corris United



Ferndale Athletic

2001



2005

Cwmaman Institute



Blaenau Ffestiniog Amateurs

2005



2006

Blaenau Ffestiniog Amateurs



Cilfynydd

2005



2013

Tredegar Town



Penrhwiwer

2006



1998

Gwynfi United



Talysarn Celts

2005



2005

Talysarn Celts



Caerau

2004



1998

Aberystwyth Town



Penmaenmawr Phoenix

2002



2002

Penmaenmawr Phoenix



Cambrian & Clydach Vale BC

2001



2004

Trefelin BGC



Llanberis

2004



2009

Churchstoke



Corris United

2007



2009

Ferndale Boys Club



Ferndale Boys Club

2001



2002

Garw



Caerau

2004



2006

Cambrian & Clydach Vale BC



Ferndale Boys Club

2009



2004

Trefelin BGC



Pontypridd Town

2005



2005

Abercwmboi



Trelewis Welfare

2001



2005

Abercynon / Carnetown



AFC Porth

2007



2006

Aber Valley YMCA



Garw

2002



2009

Treharris Athletic



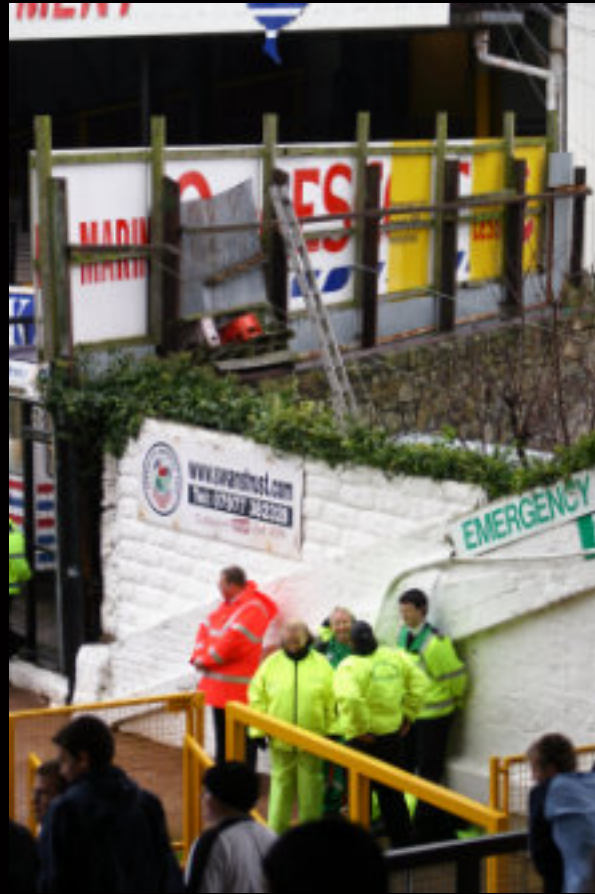
Pontypridd Town

2005



2003

Merthyr Tydfil



Swansea City

2004



2004

Swansea City



Treharris Athletic

2009



2009

Treharris Athletic



Treharris Athletic
29th August 2009

Treharris Athletic
29th August 2009

Treharris Athletic
29th August 2009





Tonyrefail Welfare
6th November 2005
Ffostrasol Wanderers
19th May 2007
Llansantffraid Village
27th October 2007
Ffostrasol Wanderers
19th May 2007
Llansantffraid Village
27th October 2007
Treharris Athletic
29th August 2009
Tonyrefail Welfare
6th November 2005





Swansea City

2004



2003

Swansea City



Swansea City

2000



2000

Swansea City



Swansea City

2005



2005

Swansea City

Aber Valley YMCA	121
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AFC Porth	120
AFC Rhondda	43
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Bangor City	3, 18
Bargoed	35
Barmouth & Dyffryn Utd	7
Blaenau Ffestiniog Amateurs	29, 92, 93
BP Llandarcy	52
Caerau	45, 100, 112
Caersws	50
Cambrian & Clydach Vale BC	104, 113
Cardiff City	16
Carmarthen Town	44
Carnetown	64, 119
Chepstow Town	77
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Cilfynydd	58, 94
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Corris United	89, 108
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Newtown	26, 27
North End	75
Panteg	71, 80
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Penrhyncoch	37
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Tondu Robins	73
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Treforest	25
Treharris Athletic	20, 48, 49, 123, 128-131, 133
Trelewis Welfare	63, 118
Treowen Stars	46
Welshpool Town	40,
Ynysybwl	10, 30



1

Aber Valley YMCA
A crowd of 318 watched an evening fixture against Taff's Well Reserves on August 26th 2006.

Abercwmboi
xxxxyy

Abercynon
Abergavenny Thursdays
Aberystwyth Town
AFC Porth
AFC Rhondda
Ammanford
Bangor City
Bargoed
Barmouth & Dyffryn Utd
Blaenau Ffestiniog Amateurs
BP Llandarcy
Caerau
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Cambrian & Clydach Vale BC
Cardiff City
Carmarthen Town
Carnetown
Churchstoke
Cilfynydd
Clydach Wasps
Colwyn Bay
Corris United
Croesyceiliog
Cwmamman United
Cwmaman Institute
Dinas Powys
Dyffryn Banw
Ebbw Vale
Ferndale Athletic





Cardiff City

2009

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Abercwmboi	117	Gwynfi United	55, 97	Treharris Athletic	20, 48/49, 123, 128/9, 131/132
Abercynon	64, 119	Kenfig Hill	61, 68	Trelewis Welfare	63, 118
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Caerau	45, 100, 112	Newtown	26, 27		
Caersws	50	North End	75		
Cambrian & Clydach Vale BC	104, 113	Panteg	71, 80		
Cardiff City	16	Penmaenmawr Phoenix	102, 103		
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