



Tuesday 17th September - K.O. 7:45pm

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Trethomas Bluebirds AFC fans can save lives by giving blood

Trethomas Bluebirds AFC is teaming up with the Welsh Blood Service to inspire football fans to roll up their sleeves and become lifesavers.

As the first ever official community partner of the Football Association of Wales' JD Cymru Leagues and Genero Adran Leagues, the Welsh Blood Service's 'Blood, Sweat and Cheers' campaign calls on football fans to consider how many lives they could save if they donate blood at one of the upcoming donation sessions in their area.

Approximately 350 donations of blood a day are required by Welsh hospitals and the Welsh Blood Service is calling on support from local fans to make a significant difference to thousands of patients' lives.

The Welsh Blood Service needs to collect around 100,000 blood donations each year from roughly 70,000 volunteer donors. This year the organisation is hoping its 'Blood, Sweat and Cheers' campaign will help it meet its wider goal to recruit more first time donors.

Blood and its by-products play a vital role in saving lives each day, with donations helping accident victims, patients having a kidney, liver or an organ transplant, pregnant women, leukaemia and cancer patients, someone about to undergo open heart surgery or premature babies in need of a vital blood transfusion.

It's easy for anyone aged between 17 and 66 to book to donate online and become a lifesaving donor. From start to finish, the donation process takes up to one hour, with the physical blood donation lasting only 5-10 minutes.

Give blood for your club today, visit <https://wbs.wales/TrethomasBluebirds> to find all donation sessions in your area.

GAFFER'S NOTES



Good evening and a warm welcome to all our supporters for this Nathaniel MG last 16 Cup match at The CSE Ystrad Mynach. Thank you for your continued support over the past two games against Llanelli Town FC and Pontypridd United FC which continues to be a huge factor in our early season success. Additionally, your social media support does not go unnoticed and will continue to help us on the pitch as well as to raise the profile of the club so thank you.

I would like to extend my welcome to the match officials and all the players, officials, and supporters of Barry Town United FC. Barry, as you will be aware play their football in the top tier and are a huge club in Welsh Football history. They have been on a good run of late with two huge victories in the Cymru Premier followed up with a defeat on the road at TNS on Saturday; something that is not unfamiliar to clubs in the domestic pyramid, including ourselves with our away defeat in the FAW Welsh Cup last season. I am sure tonight's game will be full of entertainment and it will be great to test ourselves against topflight opposition once again.

We have had a positive start to our season which has been pleasing but we are under no illusion that this will be an unbelievably tough season for us at the highest level the club has ever operated within the Welsh Pyramid, something we are extremely proud to have achieved. We were comprehensively beaten 4:1 by a very strong Llanelli Town 10 days ago with Leon Thomas on target but credit to us all for 'bouncing back' with an excellent performance and win at Pontypridd United on Saturday. Leading 3-0 with goals from Ethan Edwards, Dave Vincent and Callum Huggins we conceded two late on to make it a nervy last few minutes but credit to the lads on this occasion we saw the game through to extend our lead at the top of the table to 3 points.

Some injury news and marksman Gareth Tedstone is making excellent progress with his rehabilitation, and we hope to have Teddy available for selection very soon.

On to tonight's game and sadly Callum Huggins is unable to play against his parent club due to stipulations within his loan agreement. Will Bevan serves a one match suspension also. We have no less than 3 players under 19 in tonight's squad which is testimony to the players themselves and the club structure that we now have in place. I predict an extremely tough challenge against an excellent side. I hope you will all get right behind us once again and we will be ready to give everything we have to get into the hat for the next round.

Mark Dunford (1st Team Manager)

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David Evans

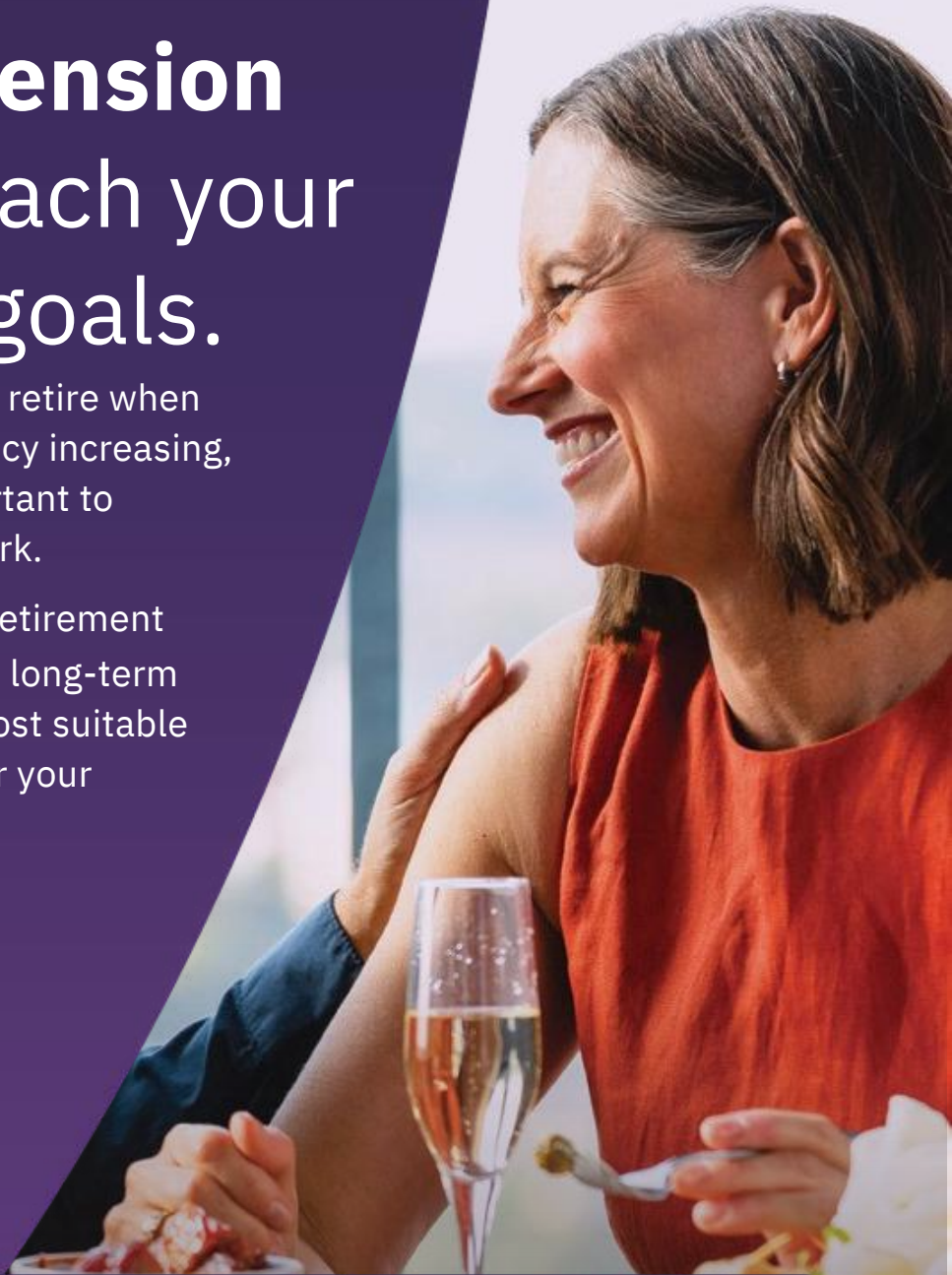
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Trethomas Bluebirds History

Formed in 1903, football began when a piece of land in the village was bought by a group of local miners. Workers at the Bedwas Colliery purchased land and Llanbafon Drive Playing Field was developed for recreation, including organised sport. This was to become the home of Trethomas Football for over 100 years.

The first records of Trethomas were in 1925-26 when the club played in Division 2 Section A of the Welsh League, finishing 11th with 12 wins and 6 draws out of 30 league games. Notable present-day local rivals also competed that season, Aberbargoed, Treharris and Abergavenny. The club continued to compete in this division, their best season in 1934-35, when Trethomas finished 3rd winning the Lady Lewis Cup and the Caerphilly Miners Hospital Cup.

Football resumed in Trethomas after the Second World War, with the club competing again in Division 2 Eastern Section in 1945-46. However, in 1947-48, the club struggled winning only 2 games out of 34 and conceded 157 goals, dropping out of the Welsh League, only to return in 2016.

In the intervening years, the club played local league football in the Monmouthshire League in the 1960s. However, by the year 2000 the club now known as Trethomas Bluebirds after club members looked for inspiration from Cardiff City, were playing in the Gwent County League.

Despite relegation to Division Three in 2002-03, the club bounced back to win promotion as Gwent County Division Three Champions in 2005-06. Promotion to Division One followed and the club were unlucky to finish as runners up in the 2012/13 season. The Bluebirds would not have to wait long though to return to Welsh League status as 3 years later the club were promoted to the Welsh Football League in 2015/16, as Gwent County Division One Champions.

The Welsh League return of Trethomas brought a 11th place finish with 11 wins in 30 league games. The club were now playing at Bedwas Rugby Club, having had to move to meet Welsh League criteria, before a move to the Centre of Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach.

The club were now well placed for future promotion and this also resulted in the Bluebirds finishing 3rd in the newly named Welsh League Division Two, before the restructuring into the Ardal Leagues, where the Bluebirds played in the South East Division of Ardal Southern.

Cup success in the inaugural Ardal Leagues Southern Cup 2021/22 was followed by Amateur Trophy success in the 2023/2024 season. The momentum continued into the 2023/24 season which saw the club promoted as Champions and entry into Cymru South for the 2024/25 season, the second tier of Welsh football.

TRETHOMAS BLUEBIRDS AFC

Harry Irving (GK)

Ryan Bolter

Jason Henley

Harvey Selway

Will Bevan

Gareth Emanuel

Alfie Jones

Dave Vincent

Lee Baldock

James Young

Tom Gameson

Ethan Edwards

Jack Jones

Leon Thomas

Gwion Pugh-Jones

Kallum Thomas

Gareth Tedstone

Andrew Evans

James Saddler

Adam Jones

Callum Huggins

Joe Cashman



First Team Manager:

Mark Dunford

Assistant Manager:

Matthew Jones

Adam Raymond

Coach:

Lee Moore

Gareth Williams (Goalkeeping)

Sports Rehabilitation Therapist:

Ollie Rodger

First Aider:

Kaycee Napper

Kit & Equipment:

Gary Morris



NATHANIEL
MG CUP



Barry Town United History

FORMATION AND EARLY YEARS

Barry Town United AFC's storied history dates back to 1892 when an association football team named Barry and Cadoxton District was formed in the area. During the early years, this side endured many upheavals, playing on five different grounds under various identities, including Barry Unionist Athletic, Barry United Athletic and Barry District. Players who featured during these years included Ted Vizard and Billy Jennings; who would each go on to play in the 'White Horse' FA Cup Final.

In November 1912, a meeting at The Windsor public house in Holton Road saw townsfolk choose to pursue membership of the thriving Southern League as Barry AFC (the 'Town' suffix was added after World War II). The club would secure land owned by the Jenner family and the people of the town came together to build Jenner Park, getting it ready for the first match of the 1912–13 season.

On 6 September 1913, Barry played their first ever fixture; a Southern League match against Mid-Rhondda at Jenner Park. The game attracted 4,000 spectators, including 1,000 travelling supporters.

Fittingly, the new team would register a surprise, albeit merited, victory, with Barry's Ralph Isherwood scoring the very first goal at Jenner Park just three minutes in. His second, midway through the second half, sealed a 2–1 victory, a fine start for the Barry side on, coincidentally, the same afternoon that future friendly opponents Arsenal played their first ever match at Highbury.

The ensuing two seasons would see Stoke City, Brentford, Coventry City and others visit the new ground. However, the Great War would soon interrupt any competitive proceedings; with Barry's first ever captain, Major James Wightman, one of many casualties of The Battle of the Somme.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE SUCCESS

The 1920–21 season ranks as one of Barry's greatest, as they surprised many by becoming champions of the Southern League's Welsh section. The achievement was all the more impressive when considering the small squad played over 100 matches in all competitions during the course of the season. Competing simultaneously in both the Welsh and Western League, the board gave priority to Southern League fixtures, swayed by aspirations of joining the new English Third Division.

Inspired by Stanley Cowie, the title was clinched in early May, and yet hopes of Barry being able to move to the Football League were scuppered a month later, when Charlton Athletic and Aberdare Athletic (the latter of whom finished second to Barry in the Welsh section) were elected instead.

Barry retained membership of the Southern League for more than 60 years – their highest finish being fourth in the 1930s. Among the notables of the era were Johnny Gardner (with over 500 appearances), Dai Ward (300+ goals) and Fred Whitlow (a 100+ goal marksman) while Barry-born Ernie Carless combined football exploits with a successful cricketing career with Glamorgan CC.



Barry Town United History

FA CUP AND WELSH CUP GLORY

At the end of the 1920s, a crowd of 6,000 at Upton Park saw Barry beat Dagenham 1–0 to progress to the FA Cup 2nd Round; before losing to Brighton ten days later. It proved to be their most successful run in the competition. Barry reached the 1st Round again in 1934–35, losing 1–0 to Northampton at Jenner Park, but the build-up was tainted by a fire that ravaged the grandstand.

Football again took a backseat in 1939, with the eruption of World War II. Barry's Chris Mason would be captured as a POW during the conflict, though would return to Jenner Park to resume his career afterwards; entertaining spectators thrilled by the adventures of players such as Derek Tapscott (who would later sign for Arsenal), celebrated strikers Stan Richards and Gwilym Cain.

In 1949–50, Jenner Park became one of the first grounds in the country to introduce floodlights, with Newport County, Swansea City and Cardiff City all visiting to showcase the facilities. Two seasons later, an all-Welsh showdown in the FA Cup 1st Round saw Barry beaten by Newport, 4–0. Nevertheless, the town's most celebrated footballing achievement was right around the corner.

In May 1955, following a 1–1 draw at the Racecourse Ground in Wrexham, Barry beat Chester City 4–3 at Ninian Park in the replay to lift the Welsh Cup for the first time. Former Chelsea right-wing Charlie Dyke scored the winner, converting a dramatic late free-kick to take the cup back to Barry.

SIXTIES, SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES

In the late 1950s, a host of Scandinavian stars made their way to Jenner Park, and dazzled fans with their skill. Among their number were Finland's Hannu Kankkonen and Bengt 'Folet' Berndtsson; a member of the Sweden squad that reached the final of the 1958 World Cup. The influx of players from continental Europe came as a result of chairman John Bailey's business interests overseas.

During this period, the club embarked on an overseas tour, playing summer friendlies in Malta against Sliema Wanderers, Hibernians and Valletta. All three fixtures ended in a draw.

1961 saw another big game as QPR visited Jenner Park in the FA Cup. A crowd of 7,000 saw Laurie Sheffield's opener for Barry cancelled out late on. QPR would win the replay at Loftus Road comfortably. The 1960s and 70s are perhaps most fondly remembered for the personalities that pulled on the shirt. Among them, prolific goalscorers Ken Gully and Clive Ayres, brothers John and Dickie Batt, long-serving Bobby Smith and Ashley Griffiths, and Mike Cosslett; today, a club coach.

In 1982, Barry would leave the Southern League, focusing on Welsh League competition and winning six Welsh League titles before the decade's end; thanks in no small part to the goals of striker Steve Williams. The most significant match of the decade though came on 17 November 1984, as 3,850 crammed into Jenner Park to see Barry vs Reading in the FA Cup 1st Round. Despite Ian Love's goal, an injury-time winner by Trevor Senior was enough to send the Royals through.



Barry Town United History

EXILE AND RETURN

After insufficient floodlighting had ironically stopped the club being able to compete in the Southern League for most of the 1980s, the tail end of the decade saw the necessary ground improvements put in place, helping to support a return to the English football pyramid.

Barry entered the league's Midland Division and would consistently finish in the top six, yet were denied the opportunity to field a reserve XI in the Welsh League as they had done previously. Meanwhile, huge and lasting changes to Wales' club football landscape were on the horizon.

The creation of the League of Wales (now Welsh Premier League) in 1992 then prompted a decree that Barry would no longer be able to compete in the English pyramid at all while based on Welsh soil. As part of a group of clubs known as the Irate Eight (alongside Newport, Merthyr, Colwyn Bay, Bangor, Caernarfon, Newtown and Rhyl), the Town were forced into exile; with the first team adopting the cunning guise of Barri AFC and playing 'home' matches out of Worcester City's ground, while the reserves (by now, a local league outfit), manned the Jenner Park fort. However, this arrangement would last only a season, as O' Halloran performed a shock u-turn that saw the first team return home; eventually accepted into Welsh League Division One for the 1993-94 campaign.

DECADE OF DOMINANCE

Barry's return home to Jenner Park would spark the side's most successful period of all, as they earned immediate promotion to the top flight and a unique quadruple of Welsh League, Welsh League Cup, FAW Trophy and Welsh Cup honours (the latter, for the first time since 1955).

The Welsh Cup win was one of the Town's most famous achievements, as they upset Football League neighbours and Second Division outfit Cardiff City in front of 16,000 spectators at the old National Stadium. Barry's next reward was a European Cup Winners Cup tie against Žalgiris Vilnius of Lithuania, but they crashed out 7-0 on aggregate. Nevertheless, greater glory was on the horizon.

After an indifferent first season in the League of Wales, Barry opted to become the league's first fully professional club and, thereafter, won their first LOW championship in 1995-96. The season was however marred by the untimely deaths of club chairman Neil O' Halloran and young midfielder Matthew Holtham, the latter in a motorway accident on the way back from an away game in April.

1996 saw the club create history as the first League of Wales side to progress beyond the opening round of a European competition. Following victory in Latvia over Dinaburg, Barry ousted Hungarian side Budapest Vasutas in one of several epic European nights at Jenner Park. Despite trailing 3-1 from the away leg, Barry stormed to victory in the return, before winning a penalty shoot-out, 4-2.

Into the UEFA Cup first round proper, a memorable tie with Scottish Premier League side Aberdeen was their reward and, after losing 3-1 to Roy Aitken's side at Pittodrie, the Dragons were held to a pulsating 3-3 draw at a rain-swept Jenner Park; exiting the cup in thrilling fashion before over 6,000.



Barry Town United History

On the domestic scene, Barry were all-conquering, clinching a treble of League of Wales championship, Welsh League Cup and Welsh Cup. The championship was claimed with a record 105 points and a goal difference of more than +100. In January 1997, the team was part of the first League of Wales match to be televised live; a 5–2 win over Caernarfon that still holds the league's attendance record. Then, from March, Barry went 51 matches without tasting a single league defeat.

1999 saw Barry become the first League of Wales team to win the FAW Premier Cup, with a 2–1 win over Wrexham at the club's own Racecourse. Pipped to the title in 2000 by an emerging TNS, Barry would soon regain their crown, while European battles with the likes of Dynamo Kiev and Boavista saw players of the highest calibre grace Jenner Park, including the legendary Andriy Shevchenko.

Then, in the 2001–02 season, Barry became the first League of Wales team to win a Champions League tie, when they defeated the Azerbaijan champions Shamkir to set up a tie with Portuguese giants Porto. Barry lost the first leg in Portugal by an 8–0 margin, after conceding two early penalties in front of a partisan 55,000 crowd. However, the Town would win the home leg 3–1; a famous result that has grown in legend with the career success of Ricardo Carvalho, Helder Postiga and others.

DECLINE AND TURMOIL

Barry's golden era would not last forever, and the continual challenge of securing enough prize money to sustain their high standards set would eventually catch up with those running the club. After chairperson and backer Paula O' Halloran stood aside, former Scarborough and Grantham Town official Kevin Green came in as the club's new Chief Executive; yet his varying initiatives failed to stop the rot. In one move that garnered significant press, Green would recruit FA Cup-winning ex-footballer and celebrity John Fashanu as the club's high-profile chairman in the winter of 2002. Some saw Fashanu as the missing piece of the puzzle, and the man who would help sustain Barry's success going forward. Promising African and Chinese television deals and an influx of Nigerian internationals, Fashanu made the headlines, yet did little to steady a Barry ship in increasingly rough seas. Then, after success on reality show *I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!* saw him attain new-found mainstream popularity, Fashanu left the club; which by now was in a perilous financial state.

In the summer of 2003, the club went into administration and a professional squad containing a young Abebayo Akinfenwa would quickly disintegrate. An interim management team was appointed, together with an amateur squad drawn primarily from N & M Construction of the South Wales Amateur League (five levels below the Welsh Premier). Within a month, Barry had gone from winning a match in Europe to losing 8–0 at Caernarfon. Though the professional-era bubble had well and truly burst, fans set about raising money to help keep the club alive. Eventually, mystery man Stuart Lovering arrived to purchase the club. Few could have foreseen what was to come.



Barry Town United History

2003–04 was difficult, with champions Barry's first Welsh Premier League win not arriving until February 2004 when they beat fellow strugglers Welshpool 5–4 with a 98th-minute penalty from youngster Luke Sherbon. Manager Colin Addison was brought in to resuscitate the team's ailing fortunes, yet the Dragons still ended up bottom of the division and were relegated to the Welsh League Division One. Controversially, Addison was dismissed by Lovering on the eve of the next campaign, with replacement David Hughes leaving months later on finding his budget slashed.

Meanwhile, a district valuer had determined the club should pay £42,000 in rent and rates each season for the remainder of its lease. Judging the figure to unfairly be based on the relinquished professional status, Lovering opted to move the team to the White Tips Stadium in Treforest from January 2005 to May 2006. During the absence, a number of fans formed breakaway Barry FC; the culmination of a series of disputes with Lovering, who had banned them fundraising at the club. With the Town relegated to their lowest-ever league status in 2006–07, the future appeared bleak.

FAN-LED FIGHTBACK

While chaos reigned off the field for much of the decade, the roots of recovery began to grow with the appointment of manager Gavin Chesterfield. Chesterfield led Barry to promotion in 2008, with the hope a winning run in the second tier would see the club's dwindling support return. After stumbling early on, Barry enjoyed a 21-match unbeaten streak and finished the season third. Nevertheless, any achievements were continually overshadowed by events behind the scenes.

In December 2008, a crisis meeting at Jenner Park saw supporters pledge their commitment to operating the first team (eventually forming a company for this purpose), to allow Lovering to focus on finding a buyer. In one of multiple close calls, the club appeared on the verge of being sold in 2010, when businessman Clayton Jones appeared to strike a deal. However, this fell through at the eleventh hour, scuppering an ambitious plan to bring in John Hartson as Barry's Director of Football.

Undeterred, 2010 saw the Stand Up For Barry campaign launch, using new social media platforms such as Twitter to spread news of the club's plight with a wider online audience. With celebrities and strangers alike throwing their weight behind the cause, the support received from across the football community proved an invaluable asset, as Barry's fans strived to keep their club alive.

Shortly after the close of the 2010–11 campaign, Lovering announced his renewed intent of withdrawing the Barry first team from so-called 'higher league' football. To prevent this, the Barry Town Supporters' Committee (BTSC) took on complete control of all football and its funding; beginning what became known to some as the 'DIY Football' era. In the eventful months that followed, the rejuvenated, fan-run Barry Town set-up enjoyed their most successful Welsh Cup campaign in several seasons; defeating historic rivals Merthyr at Penydarren Park and winning at Haverfordwest in extra-time, before being edged out at Newport County, by three goals to two.



Barry Town United History

2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the club's formation, with a series of events lined up to mark this and the subsequent centenary season. To launch the festivities, Cardiff City visited in an August friendly, attended by 2,000 spectators. However, Lovering's threats to withdraw Barry from the Welsh League would intensify in the weeks prior, threatening to cast a cloud over the celebrations. In November, a successful '100 Years of Barry Town' event was attended by players past and present, before the Town beat Welsh League champions Cambrian and Clydach on the 100th anniversary.

Then, in March 2013, following wins against Caerleon, Penrhyncoch, Ely Rangers and Pontardawe, Barry won 2-0 at Flint Town United to progress to the Welsh Cup semi-final for the first time in a decade. Gavin Chesterfield's team would narrowly lose to eventual winners Prestatyn Town, while marking the first ever appearance of a fully-amateur Barry side at the Welsh Cup semi-final stage.

SURVIVAL AND RESURGENCE

On 7 May 2013, mere weeks after their heroic Welsh Cup exit, Stuart Lovering moved to withdraw the senior team from the Welsh League, against the will of the BTSC, players and supporters; who were ready, willing and able to fulfill the remaining two league fixtures (both against Ton Pentre).

Rejecting this perceived act of sabotage, those running the football outlined their intentions to continue as they were, adopting the United suffix to help symbolise their continuing unity and endeavour. However, a meeting of the FAW Council in Betws-y-Coed determined the team would have to play "recreational football" instead; a declaration that was met with widespread outcry.

Eventually, there seemed hope for beleaguered Barry, when a second meeting was arranged to hear new evidence as to why the team should be able to continue. At this second gathering, in Caersws, 15 of the FAW Councillors voted against discussing Barry's future, sensationally ending the meeting in no more than five minutes and at considerable expense. Notably, it emerged that this decision went against the recommendations of the FAW's Domestic Committee and legal team.

With their immediate and long-term future unclear, Barry began their pre-season across the border in England, followed by a 3-2 defeat to Premiership newcomers Cardiff City, watched by a crowd of 1,650 supporters. Remarkably, given the difficult circumstances, Barry had even led 2-1 at half-time.

Ultimately, a High Court judge in Cardiff ruled in Barry's favour; stating that the FAW Council had acted unlawfully in denying them their licence to play Welsh League football. As a result, the fan-run Town team were entered back into the Welsh League for the start of the 2013-14 football season.



Barry Town United History

In the years that followed this landmark struggle, Barry would go on to win two consecutive Welsh League titles, reclaiming their rightful place in the second tier and continuing to develop as a club, both on and off the pitch; adopting new youth, academy, female and pan-disability sections.

In 2016–17, the team would reach the final of Nathaniel MG Cup for the first time since 2001, becoming only the second side from outside the top flight to achieve this feat since the Welsh Premier League's tournament was expanded to include outside entrants, several years previously.

Then, in April 2017, the club secured its return to the JD Welsh Premier League as Welsh League Division One champions; continuing this remarkable revival.

On Saturday 6 April 2019, a remarkable 5–2 victory at Bala Town, coupled with a 6–0 win for The New Saints away against Newtown, ensured Barry would finish at least third in the 2018–19 JD Cymru Premier and qualify for the preliminary round of the UEFA Europa League. This marked a remarkable transformation for the club, qualifying for European competition for the first time since winning the JD Cymru Premier in the 2002–03 season.

A second European appearance in as many years would follow, as Barry travelled to the Faroe Islands to play NSÍ Runavík in a one-legged tie, following the abandonment of the 2019–20 season in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the club's league results had begun to decline and Barry were ultimately relegated to the Cymru South in April 2022, having finished 11th out of 12 in the 2021–22 Cymru Premier.

Nevertheless, the club would bounce back, with new manager Lee Kendall, a former goalkeeper at Jenner Park, guiding the team to the Cymru South championship with three games to spare.

On 25 July 2023, Kendall resigned as manager after just nine months in charge, despite signing a two-year contract with the club following their promotion back to the Cymru Premier. Kendall would be replaced by former Wales international defender Steve Jenkins.



BARRY TOWN UNITED

Luc Rees
Michael Goerge
Callum Sainty
Ben Williams-Margetson
Joshua Yorwerth
Kayne McLaggon
Elliott Richards
Sam Snaith
Keenan Patten
Rhys Schwank
Robbie Willmott
Drew Perrett
Aiden Lewis
Gavin Beddard
Jac Thomas
Luke Starling
Oliver Hulbert
Kian Woodiwiss
William Richards
Liam Armstrong
Haydn Craven
Aaron Bourne
Luke Masrani
Evan Press



First Team Manager
Steve Jenkins

Assistant First Team Manager
D. Ackerman

Coach
J. Hutton
E. Thomas
M. James (GK)

Sports Therapist
R. Mordaunt



RECENT RESULTS

August 26th

Cymru South League

Caerau Ely FC 2-2 Trethomas Bluebirds

August 30th

Welsh Blood Service League Cup

Trethomas Bluebirds 0-1 Caerau Ely FC

September 7th

Cymru South League

Trethomas Bluebirds 1-4 Llanelli Town AFC

(Report later in programme)

September 14th

Cymru South League

Pontypridd United 2-3 Trethomas Bluebirds

(Report later in programme)



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			P	GD	PTS
1		Trethomas Bluebirds	8	6	17
2		Cambrian United	7	5	14
3		Llantwit Major	8	4	14
4		Carmarthen Town	8	3	14
5		Newport City	8	3	14
6		Llanelli Town	7	8	13
7		Trefelin	7	5	13
8		Goytre United	8	3	13
9		Pontypridd United	8	-3	11
10		Cwmbran Celtic	8	-2	9
11		Baglan Dragons	7	-3	8
12		Taffs Well	7	-10	7
13		Caerau Ely	7	0	6
14		Afan Lido	8	-2	6
15		Ammanford	8	-5	6
16		Penrhiwceiber Rangers	8	-12	4

LEAGUE TABLE



Trethomas Bluebirds suffer first league defeat of season to Llanelli Town

Credit: Tom Hicks; Caerphilly Observer

Trethomas Bluebirds were brought back down to earth after a 4-1 defeat to title favourites Llanelli Town at the Centre for Sporting Excellence – their first league defeat of the season. The unbeaten pair met on Saturday September 7, with Llanelli Town growing into the Cymru South having won their last game 3-0 against Pontypridd United.

It was a “bad day in the office” as Bluebirds manager Mark Dunford put it. The table-toppers were second best all over the pitch and will want to quickly put that one behind them.

Kick-Off

The unbeaten Bluebirds seemed quiet during the warm-ups, something which they unfortunately carried over into the game.

Cries of ‘you’re still in the changing room’ from assistant manager Matthew Jones after a string of poor touches and passes led to a cheap foul on the edge of the box.

Nothing came of that chance, but only a minute later was midfielder James Saddler dispossessed leaving Llanelli with men over.

A quick ball inside to Henry Jones sucked the defence and keeper across before the forward squared to Danny Williams, who took a touch and found the back of the net.

Trethomas have typically been one of the quickest teams to get going in recent seasons; this was anything but. They looked a yard off it all over the pitch.

The hosts did slowly get back into the game with a few chances down the right, but by the 20th minute another mistake led to a Llanelli second.

A pass short by captain Saddler was pounced on by Joe Hunt, who quickly shovelled it to Jones inside. He took two touches before curling a beauty from the edge of the area, past Harry Irving into the top corner. A lethal strike.

Henry Jones’ superb strike to make it 2-0. Credit Bryan Edwards

It was the worst possible start for the Bluebirds, who needed a spark somewhere on the pitch to get them going.

Fullback Harvey Selway came within inches of being that spark after his strike on the edge of the area looked certain to find the corner. Somehow the outstretched glove of Scott Coughlin managed to tip his effort wide.

Moments later and Trethomas were in again. A ball inside to Leon Thomas perhaps should have been hit first time before a defender came across and cleared.

Thomas made no mistake when a ball was chipped over the top to him by Andrew Evans however. It wasn’t the cleanest strike, but it worked to his advantage as it crept in at the near post.

Llanelli continued to sit back after the goal and invite pressure, but still posed a huge threat whenever they made it out, especially down the left where they relentlessly targeted Selway and Evans.

The half almost ended on a high for the Bluebirds when midfielder Thomas Gameson smartly tried to lob the keeper with a header, but he tipped it away and the score remained 2-1 at the break.



Second-half

It was a fast and positive start from the Bluebirds, who would have had a serious talking to from the coaching staff at half-time.

Thomas skipped past a few down the left and drew a free-kick, only for the visitors to break with ease and almost score themselves up the other end. Everything was far too easy for the title favourites.

The resulting corner led to what was surely the killer blow. Not cleared away far enough, the ball was crossed back into dangerman Ethan Cann who made no mistake with an unmarked header.

Things soon went from bad to worse when Evans crunched into a Llanelli forward on the break. It wasn't a clever tackle, but when referee Jordan Harman was surrounded by red shirts, it looked certain he was going to show that exact colour.

Now down to ten-men, it was going to be a case of keeping the scoreline respectable for the Bluebirds, not something they've had to do very often if at all.

Cann probably should have had his second of the afternoon soon after. A good save from Irving though, who put in a few, kept it at three.

Barry Town loanee Callum Huggins was brought on to try and apply some pressure further-up the pitch, but he naturally struggled to get much time on the ball.

It became a little sloppy from both sides, but when chances came they fell to the visitors.

Danny Williams had the best of them with ten minutes to go. Having rounded the keeper, he had to score. Somehow though, he fired wide.

The day was just about summed-up for the Bluebirds when the final touch of the game was a free-kick fired straight at Irving by Hunt. The ball was dropped to the feet of substitute Lewis Iles who couldn't miss. 4-1.

It was a disappointing result for Trethomas, but more disappointing was the performance. From minute one they were second best, and were consequently punished by an excellent Llanelli side.

Despite the loss, they do remain top of the Cymru South on goal difference over Cambrian United and Newport City.

Reaction

After the game, Mark Dunford reflected on the defeat: "We were poor today. When you don't turn up against sides like this, you'll get hurt.

"Sometimes you can be poor and get away with it, but it wasn't good enough from start to finish today.

"We had a couple of spells but there was some poor decision making in the opening 15 minutes which cost us."

A team who typically start well, Dunford was asked why that wasn't the case this time: "I counted about seven bad decisions from the start of the game which, like I say, against quality teams like Llanelli is all the difference."

The Bluebirds face another tester on the road to Pontypridd United in their next match.

Asked about that one, Dunford said: "I've just spoken to the boys and reminded them we have been here before, not very often, but we have.

"You don't suddenly become bad footballers or a bad team overnight. We'll hurt today but then dig deep, train well, and go again."



Bluebirds bounce back with win over Pontypridd United

Credit: Tom Hicks; Caerphilly Observer

After suffering their first Cymru South defeat of the season last weekend, the Trethomas Bluebirds responded superbly with a 3-2 win over Pontypridd United.

The Bluebirds made the short trip to Treforest on Saturday September 14 to face a Dragons side who've struggled for form this season, despite being newly relegated from the Cymru Premier. The match itself was as comfortable as it could get for the visitors, who were 3-0 to the good after 80 minutes. Some late goals from the hosts made it interesting, but Trethomas were well worth the points in the end.

Kick-off

After a mistake-riddled start in their 4-1 loss to Llanelli Town last weekend, Bluebirds manager Mark Dunford would have wanted to see his side focused and on the front foot from the first whistle. That's exactly what he got, within moments were the Bluebirds through on goal and testing former Trethomas keeper Cameron Clarke. It was winger Ethan Edwards with a strike from a narrow angle down the right, saved well by Clarke who could only palm wide for a corner. The corner was cleared only as far as Barry Town loanee Callum Huggins on the edge of the area, whose blocked shot found its way through to Edwards bursting into the box.

He took two touches to clear himself of any defenders and slotted the ball away to grab his sixth of the campaign. What a start then for the Bluebirds. After ten minutes or so played the Dragons had yet to touch the ball other than to tackle or clear. There were cries of 'where's the movement?' from Jamie Veale as he looked to play a pass out of the defence but was met with constant pressure and seemingly no white shirts.

This was largely down to Huggins and Leon Thomas for the Bluebirds, who pressed with intent and coordination – something clearly drilled into them during training. Edwards was continuing to cause problems down the wing as he so often does. There was a moment of concern when he needed some treatment to his thigh, but he ran it off. James Young and Thomas Gameson were looking bang at it in midfield any time Pontypridd did manage to break the press, Young usually the one making the tackles whilst Gameson looked for the forward pass.

He found himself on the end of one down the right, just about managing to squeeze a cross in before the ball went out. It was flicked goal bound by Huggins and forced another save out of Clarke. The set piece was again cleared short by the Dragons, with corner taker Lee Baldock getting another chance to whip one in. His high looping ball was difficult to pick-out, but defender and former Pontypridd United player, David Vincent, leapt the highest and thumped his header at Clarke who couldn't stop it. Having already suffered two league defeats this season, the Dragons were getting quite ragged out there. Striker Daniel Griffiths was barking at his teammates over a lack of service.

This marked a change in tactics from the hosts, who up until then looked to build from the back and maintain possession in the late summer sun. Having had no luck doing that, they went old school and opted to find the forwards with balls in behind, often directly from Clarke in goals. The Bluebirds looked equally comfortable with this. If anything, it suited the likes of Vincent at his towering height to stand there and head balls away.

Half-time approached and the game became quite scrappy and stop start. The Bluebirds were more than happy to see that, as the whistle went without their keeper Harry Irving needing to make a single save.



Second-half

A half-time change for Pontypridd told you what manager Gavin Allen thought about that opening 45 minutes, as Joshua Stephens made way for Ashley Evans.

The switch didn't do much to change their fortune however. A great ball by Baldock down the left was aimed at Huggins who managed to control it past captain Jarrad Wright and stride towards goal. With defenders closing, Huggins picked his spot and fired into the near corner expertly to make it 3-0. There was a risk the game could have got away from the hosts, who had looked resigned to defeat from the first minute in truth.

It nearly got worse for them when Veale ducked a cross he assumed was going to his keeper, only to find Thomas had gambled in behind. It was a difficult half volley for the Trethomas winger to control despite being in front of goal. Thomas couldn't get his foot over it and sent his effort over the bar. More changes from the Dragons did result in a slight uptick in possession. Still not really threatening though, Dunford made a few himself to match the fresh legs. With around ten minutes to go and still without a shot on target, the hosts were handed a lifeline when a Luke Cummings free kick took a wicked deflection to send Irving the wrong way. The game still felt won however, there was no sudden burst of energy from Pontypridd, and Trethomas accepted that goal was just unlucky.

However, the game did spark into life when substitute Kallum Thomas went down in front of the benches claiming an elbow to the face. Referee Benjamin Williams waved it away to the fury of the Trethomas coaching staff who entered a war of words with Evans in particular – the one involved in the incident. Pontypridd suddenly looked up for it. Quick passes and bursting runs, they threatened every time they had the ball. Fortunately for the Bluebirds, they only had to hang-on for another couple of minutes. That felt like an age however after Williams pointed to the spot following a tangle of legs just inside the Trethomas box. Griffiths stepped-up and finished emphatically into the bottom corner to make it 3-2 with a couple minutes of injury time still remaining.

There were anxious faces in the Trethomas dugout now, who might have been having flashbacks to both Trefelin and Caerau Ely in which they had to settle for draws after conceding late equalisers. No such heartbreak on this occasion though. The final whistle went and everyone could breathe again. A superb display then from the Bluebirds with the score line not really doing the performance justice. Those three points mean they maintain their grip at the top of the league.

Reaction

After the game, Caerphilly Observer spoke to Bluebirds assistant manager Adam Raymond. He said: "To come to a former Welsh Premier side who still have a core of top players and control the game for at least 80 minutes shows we can mix it at this level.

"We've still got a bit of learning to do to see these games out. The boys managed it though to their credit and it's a massive win away to a top side."

Asked how pleased he was to see a response to their recent loss, Raymond said: "We had to have a look at ourselves this week. It was the first time in a long time where we let ourselves down. "We have a very honest bunch of lads though who reflected and committed to putting things right. You saw that out there today."

The Bluebirds have an exciting third round Nathaniel MG Cup match on Tuesday night up against Barry Town in Ystrad Mynach. On that one, Raymond said: "They're giants of Welsh football and it should be another exciting test for the boys.

"They'll hopefully bring a good crowd in what will be another huge game in recent years for the club."

MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Mark
Dunford**



**Matthew
Jones**



**Adam
Raymond**



**Lee
Moore**



**Gareth
Williams**



**Ollie
Rodger**



**Kaycee
Napper**



**Gary
Morris**



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RESERVES UPDATE

League: FAW Reserve League South East 2024/25

Home Ground: Llanfabon Drive, Trethomas, CF83 8BP

Results:

Undy Res 3 -1 Trethomas Bluebirds Res

Trethomas Bluebirds Res 4-0 Caldicot Town Res

Trethomas Bluebirds Res 2-0 Risca United FC Dev.

Abergavenny Town FC Res 7-1 Trethomas Bluebirds Res

Trethomas Bluebirds Res 1-0 Goytre AFC (Gwent) Res

Confirmed Fixtures:

Thursday 28th September 2:00pm (Away)

Caldicot Town FC Reserves



LEAGUE TABLE		
3	CROESYCEILIOG AFC	10 pts
4	ABERCARN UNITED	10 pts
5	UNDY AFC	9 pts
6	CHEPSTOW TOWN	9 pts
7	TRETHOMAS BLUEBIRDS	9 pts
8	NEWPORT CORRIES	8 pts

#UPPATRE

U16S UPDATE

League: TERV Junior League U16 2024/25

Home Ground: Llanfabon Drive, Trethomas, CF83 8BP

Results

Trethomas Bluebirds U16s 1-5 Pontyclun Junior FC U16

Trethomas Bluebirds U16s 0-6 Llantwit Fardre U16

FC Caerffili U16 Castles P-P Trethomas Bluebirds U16s

Cilfynydd AFC U16s 1-6 Trethomas Bluebirds U16s

Trethomas Bluebirds U16s P-P Aber Valley U16

Confirmed Fixtures:

Thursday 19th September 6:00pm (Away)

Church Village FC U16

Saturday 21st September 9:15am (Away)

Cwm Welfare AFC U16

Saturday 28th September 9:15am (Home)

Llanbradach AFC U16

U16S MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Alun Griffiths (Manager)

Bern Hoskins (Coach)

Leigh Ashman (Fitness coach)

Jon Maslen (Coach Assistant)

SQUAD LIST

Lloyd Hunt

Shane Ayeni

Kobe Parfitt Parry

Tom Peter Evans

Evan Rees Davies

Rhys Searle

Jack Lang

Thomas Jack Marshall

Cameron Alexander Horrell

Samuel Platt

Alban Raph Jeffery

Jamie Sargent

Alfie Tasker

Morgan Lee Davies

Elis Rice

Cameron Lay

Morgan Hunt

Cai Shane Carter

Sam Morgan Hallam

Ollie Newcombe

U19S UPDATE

Gaffer's Notes

We have had a positive first pre season, in which we've recruited and built a new team to compete in the FAW South Youth League. It is refreshing to be part of a club that is determined to create a pathway for local young players within Caerphilly County Borough to develop and play at the highest standard possible. To date, seven Youth Team players have been involved within the First Team set up and eleven with our Reserve Team.

We are looking forward to being part of such a competitive league and having a positive campaign in our inaugural season. Our objective this season is to work closely with the First Team & Reserve Team Staff to give as many opportunities as possible for players to develop and gain opportunities through the club's pathway.

I am extremely proud to be part of a club which has such strong family ties. Personally, going from an ex player to now Joint Youth Team Manager. Additionally, my father Barrie Hughes, grandfather Emrys Hughes and great-uncles Gary Morris & Tyrone Morris have been part of this club.

Introduction - Youth Team Coaching Staff

Youth Team Joint Managers

Robert Hughes & Scott Jeynes

Both have extensive experience when it comes to youth development, including coaching and scouting roles at Cardiff City FC, Swansea City AFC, Newport County AFC, Football Association of Wales, Welsh Schools FA, Cardiff & Vale Schools FA, Caerphilly Schools FA, Sport Caerphilly, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Risca United AFC & Aberbargoed Buds FC.

Youth Team Coaches

Ryan Jeynes, Phil Bowden & Iwan Hoskins

Similarly, these three also have a vast amount of coaching experience and working within youth development. Most recently having coached at Risca United AFC, Aberbargoed Buds FC & Machen AFC and will be valuable members of our coaching set up.

Squad List

Cameron Jenkins
Niks Gnedlers
Cohen Graves
Max Allen
Sam Cox
Jayden Griffiths
Rhydian Jones
Zak Thomas Bull
Ashton Sullivan
Jack Mas-Barrett
Ryan Lee Thomas
Rory Gregory
Noa Barry
Harry Noaks
Connor Wigmore
Jacob Steven
Lewis Bowden
Sam Barber
Cameron James
Jude Shorney
Jack Trollope
Owen Thomas
Cameron Preece
Kaylan O'Kello
Keon Bryan

U19S UPDATE

League: FAW Youth League South East 2024/25

Home Ground: CSE Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7EP

Results

Abertillery Bluebirds Youth 2-2 Trethomas Bluebirds U19

Brecon Corries Youth 7-6 Trethomas Bluebirds U19

Trethomas Bluebirds U19 4-1 Cardiff Draconians Youth

Confirmed Fixtures:

Sunday 22nd September 2:30pm (Away)

Canton Football Club Youth

Sunday 29th September 2:30pm (Home)

Chepstow Town FC Youth

Sunday 6th October 2:00pm (Away)

Cwmbran Celtic FC Youth

Sunday 20th October 2:00pm (Home)

Goytre AFC (Gwent) Youth

Sunday 27th October 2:00pm (Home)

Newport City FC Youth

JD CYMRU SOUTH FIXTURES

2024/25

July

27th Llantwit Major (A) 1-0

August

6th Penrhiwceiber Rangers (H) 3-0

10th Ammanford (A) 2-3

16th Taffs Well (H) 3-0

23rd Trefelin (H) 2-2

26th Caerau Ely (A) 2-2

September

7th Llanelli Town (H) 1-4

14th Pontypridd United (A)

27th Llantwit Major (H)

October

5th Carmarthen Town (A)

11th October Afan Lido (H)

26th Goytre United (A)

November

1st Newport City (H)

9th Cambrian United (A)

22nd Baglan Dragons (H)

30th Cwmbran Celtic (A)

December

6th Llanelli Town (A)

28th Carmarthen Town (H)

January

1st Newport City (A)

10th Goytre United (H)

17th Taffs Well (A)

24th Ammanford (H)

February

7th Trefelin (A)

21st Caerau Ely (H)

March

2nd Baglan Dragons (A)

7th Cwmbran Celtic (H)

22nd Penrhiwceiber Rangers (A)

28th Cambrian United (H)

April

4th Afan Lido (A)

12th Pontypridd United (H)



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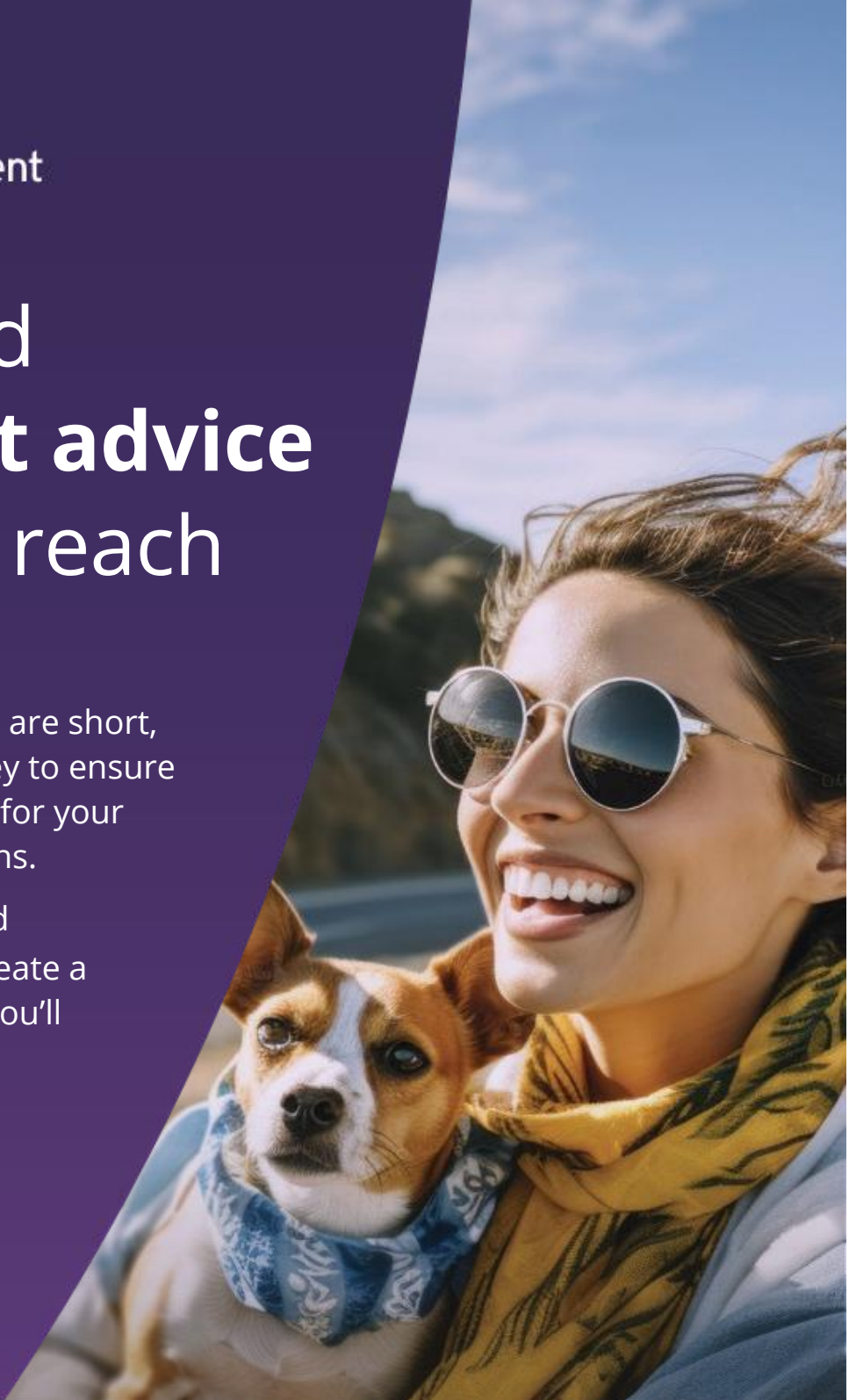
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