

UEFA REGIONS' CUP PLAY-OFF

CYMRU NORTH

V

CYMRU SOUTH

08.05.22 | 2:30PM

CENTRAL PARK

CYMRU SOUTH

V

CYMRU NORTH

15.05.22 | 2:30PM

OLD ROAD





WELCOME

STEVE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

I wish you all a warm welcome to these play-off fixtures, which will determine which region will represent Cymru in the UEFA Regions' Cup.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the players from the JD Cymru Leagues and Ardal Leagues that have been selected in the Cymru North and Cymru South squads for these two games, which we have had to wait longer for due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

These two ties will allow us to showcase the talent on offer in the JD Cymru Leagues and Ardal Leagues, and I am sure these will be two great occasions for those in attendance.

Both legs are also big occasions for our teams of officials, so I would like to congratulate them all on their respective appointments.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Denbigh Town and Briton Ferry Llansawel for hosting these two fixtures.

CROESO

STEVE WILLIAMS
LLYWYDD
CYMDEITHAS BÊL-DROED CYMRU

Croeso cynnes i'r gemau Cwpan Rhanbarthol, a fydd yn penderfynu pa ranbarth fydd yn cynrychioli Cymru yng Nghwpan Rhanbarthol UEFA.

Yn gyntaf, llongyfarchiadau i'r chwaraewyr o'r Cymru Leagues JD a'r Ardal Leagues sydd wedi cael eu dewis i'r ddwy gêm, a gohirwyd oherwydd pandemig Covid-19.

Bydd y ddwy gêm nesaf yn rhoi siawns i arddangos sgiliau a doniau chwaraewyr sy'n chwarae yn y Cymru Leagues JD a'r Ardal Leagues, dwi'n siŵr bydd y ddwy gêm yn achlysur i gefnogwyr y gêm ddomestig.

Mae'r ddwy gêm hefyd yn achlysur arbennig i'r dyfarnwyr, felly llongyfarchiadau iddyn nhw am gael ei dewis.

Yn olaf, hoffwn ddanfôn ein diolch i Glwb Pêl-droed Dinbych a Chlwb Pêl-droed Llansawel am gynnal y ddwy gêm yma.

UEFA REGIONS' CUP

The UEFA Regions' Cup is a unique amateur tournament that has been running for more than 20 years.

It is a competition for players who have never featured at any professional level.

Contested by the winners of national amateur tournaments – with the smallest countries fielding national amateur teams – it is a showcase for the wealth of talent that exists under the radar in European football.

It is held every other season with the next edition running from summer 2022 until the eight-team finals in June 2023.

Italian sides have won three of the previous 11 editions (Veneto the only multiple champions along with

holders Dolny Śląsk of Poland) while there have been two successes for amateur teams from Spain.

Five editions have been won by the hosts (indicated*).

2020/21: Edition cancelled

2018/19: Dolny Śląsk (POL)

2016/17: Zagreb (CRO)

2014/15: Eastern Region (IRL)*

2012/13: Veneto (ITA)*

2010/11: Braga (POR)*

2008/09: Castilla y León (ESP)

2006/07: Dolny Śląsk (POL)

2004/05: Basque Country (ESP)

2002/03: C. R. Piemonte Valle d'Aosta (ITA)

2000/01: Moravia (CZE)*

1999: Veneto (ITA)*



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SELECTION?

Each UEFA member nation can enter one representative amateur team into the UEFA Regions' Cup.

Qualification for the competition varies between national associations, however it is required that a domestic qualifying competition is held to determine which amateur side represents the national association in the competition.

Following changes made to the way in which Cymru is represented in the UEFA Regions' Cup, players from Tier 2 and below are now able to participate in the competition.

In previous years, a qualification tournament held between all the area associations within Wales determined which region would represent Cymru.

However, following rule changes ratified by the National Leagues Board in 2019, the permutations

around who can be selected for the squad changed.

Players from Tier 2 and below are able to compete in the competition, providing they have never played in the JD Cymru Premier and have never been a professional.

As per the FIFA Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players, professional football players are defined as all those who have a written contract with a football club.

Players must also have been registered in Wales and within their region for a minimum of two years to be eligible and were between 19-40 years old at the date of their first appearance.



THE SELECTION DILEMMAS

The squads for the play-off were confirmed by both managers in April. The two regions were set to go head-to-head two years ago to determine who would play at the 2021 edition of the competition, although the tournament was cancelled by UEFA due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It means both managers have had plenty of time to mull over their squads, with the quality on display in the JD Cymru Leagues and Ardal Leagues presenting the pair with selection headaches.

JD Cymru South champions Llantwit Major are the most-represented club in the Cymru South squad, with Jonathan Jones

selecting six of their players. Jones has named some familiar faces in his squad, with six of Pontypridd Town's players called up, including Sam Johnson - the third-highest goalscorer in the 2021/22 JD Cymru South campaign with 21 goals.

While Swansea University, Carmarthen Town, Penydarren and Goytre AFC are also represented in the squad.

In the Cymru North squad, Guy Handscombe has selected three players from Ruthin Town, along with two from Holyhead Hotspur, Holywell Town, Colwyn Bay and Guilsfield.

Ruthin's Jamie Cumming and Matty Hill, who have both been selected, hit an impressive 28 goals between them in the 2021/22 JD Cymru North season.

Players from Llanuwchllyn, Conwy Borough, Chirk AAA, Buckley Town, Llangefni Town, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant and Llanrwst United have also been picked.





UEFA
REGIONS'
CUPTM

CYMRU IN THE UEFA REGIONS' CUP

The first team to represent Cymru in the UEFA Regions' Cup was Gwent, who flew the Welsh flag when they featured in the 2009 edition of the competition.

Matthew Palmer of Newport Civil Service scored Cymru's first goal in the tournament at the Municipal Haberfeld Stadium in Rishon Le-zion, Israel on 5th September 2008. It arrived during a seven-goal thriller with South Bohemia, who earned a 4-3 win in the second match of the preliminary round.

Gwent represented Cymru again two years later in the preliminary round, which took place in Croatia, for the 2011 edition. A difficult group, including sides from Turkey, Croatia and England, saw them finish bottom of their preliminary round group for the second time.

There was an improvement in the 2013 competition as North Wales Coast flew the Welsh flag and finished third in their preliminary round group.

North Wales Coast then became the first Welsh region to win a game in the 2015 competition, as they beat Northern Estonia 3-1, but were unable to reach the intermediate round.

South Wales featured in the 2017 and 2019 editions and made history in the latter as they became the first Welsh region to qualify beyond the preliminary round.

The success was made even sweeter as their preliminary round matches took place on home soil at Barry Town United's Jenner Park, with South Wales earning convincing 5-0 and 4-0 wins over Swedish side Kozara and Greece's Euboea respectively.



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COACHES' CORNER

Cymru North manager Guy Handscombe and Cymru South's Jonathan Jones are both relishing the prospect of competing in Europe.

The region which comes out on top in the play-off will face three fixtures - against Sweden, Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic - in the intermediate round stage of the UEFA Regions' Cup in October later this year, with Cymru placed in Group 4.

Northern Ireland were selected as the country to host Cymru's three games after a draw was conducted by UEFA in December 2021.

The play-off has been a long time coming after the 2021 tournament was cancelled by UEFA due to the pandemic, and it left Handscombe with a feeling of uncertainty over whether he would get the opportunity to take up the role again.

"I started working with Mark Orme [assistant manager] and other staff members to try to build the squad," said Handscombe.

"But then the pandemic struck so we wondered if we would get the opportunity again. When the call came I jumped at the chance because it's a great opportunity, not only to work with players who are able to represent the north of Wales, but also to potentially represent their country.

"I think it's an opportunity that we should all embrace because they don't come around very often."

Both managers are aiming to guide their side into the intermediate round stage, and Jones is hopeful the play-off will also give both sides the opportunity to show the quality of football in the north and south.



COACHES' CORNER

"It's a really exciting time because we've got further into the process than we did last time around," said the Pontypridd boss.

"That's given us a better window of opportunity to prepare for the north against south game and the draw has been published now, so we can plan accordingly. Hopefully we can showcase the football differences and go toe-to-toe in terms of standards."

Jones, who will be assisted by Ammanford AFC manager Gruff Harrison, says his staff have undertaken a rigorous selection process to give the south region the best opportunity to progress.

"We tried to make the selection process as well rounded as we could," he said. "We engaged with managers across the JD Cymru South and Ardal South leagues to get their shared opinions and views.

"We wanted to spread the net as wide as possible, so we could engage with managers who've got expertise and views on players. We then collated all of that information to make our selection for the Cymru South squad."

Handscombe, meanwhile has past experience working with the likes of Ruthin Town, Llandudno, Llanrust United and Porthmadog,

And drew on that experience to aid his player selection process for the Cymru North squad.

"There were a core group of players that were selected before the pandemic, but there are quite a few of them who have moved on to play in the JD Cymru Premier, which is fine and understandable.

"I've got a lot of experience of being around Tier 2, so I'm well aware of players I've coached and those that I've come up against."



SQUADS

CYMRU NORTH

Rob Dascalu (Llanuwchllyn)

Cameron Darling (Buckley Town)

Jake Cooke (Holywell Town)

Gari Owen (Llangefni Town)

Chris Catherall (Guilsfield)

Jordan Carrington (Colwyn Bay)

Sam Downey (Colwyn Bay)

Jamie Cumming (Ruthin Town)

Osian Davies (Ruthin Town)

Liam Morris (Holyhead Hotspur)

Matty Hill (Ruthin Town)

Dylan Allshorn (Holywell Town)

Jake Jones (Chirk AAA)

Khyam Wyton (Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant)

Cai Roberts (Holyhead Hotspur)

Meilir Williams (Conwy Borough)

Jamie Hyne (Guilsfield)

Callum Parry (Llanrwst United)

Manager: **Guy Handscombe**

CYMRU SOUTH

Morgan Davies (Pontypridd Town)

Jack Lansdown (Llantwit Major)

Kris Evans (Llantwit Major)

Elliot Jones (Swansea University)

Sean Williams (Llantwit Major)

Vaughan Fowler (Pontypridd Town)

Abubacarr Sama (Goytre AFC)

Alex Lloyd (Penydarren)

Connor Goldsworthy (Llantwit Major)

Lee Baldock (Pontypridd Town)

Christian Davies (Pontypridd Town)

Nathan Jones (Llantwit Major)

Aiden Lewis (Pontypridd Town)

Matthew Delaney (Carmarthen Town)

Thomas Gameson (Risca United)

Samuel Johnson (Pontypridd Town)

Josh Jones (Llantwit Major)

Adam John (Carmarthen Town)

Manager: **Jonathan Jones**

CYMRU NORTH V CYMRU SOUTH

REFEREE / DYFARNWR - JAMES WALKER

ASSISTANT 1 / LLIMANWYR - RICHARD DOLPHIN

ASSISTANT 2 / LLIMANWYR - KENWYN HUGHES

4TH OFFICIAL / 4YDD SWYDDOG - JOHN JONES

CYMRU NORTH V CYMRU SOUTH

REFEREE / DYFARNWR - ALEX MCINCH

ASSISTANT 1 / LLIMANWYR - MATTHEW JOHNSON

ASSISTANT 2 / LLIMANWYR - BROOKLYN LLOYD-MEEK

4TH OFFICIAL / 4YDD SWYDDOG - TOM BEVAN

