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The Birth of the Swans in 1912

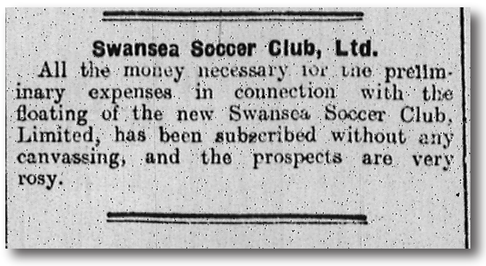
The first 'Swans' football team was formed in 1872, as a winter activity for the town's cricket players. However, by 1874 the cricketers had switched to rugby and Swansea RFC was born. There were various amateur clubs in the town at this time, such as Swansea Villa, but it was over 20 years before fully professional football came to South Wales.

The founding of the Football League in 1888 pushed forward the process of commercialising the game in the UK. In 1912 a number of local citizens decided to start a professional club in Swansea. A mixture of commercial investment and town pride led to players being recruited from all over the UK. Swansea Town entered the Southern League, alongside Cardiff City and a number of other Welsh Teams.

1912-13 team.
Tim 1912-13.

Supporters club logo 1913.
Logo'r clwb cefnogwyr 1913.

On 7 September 1912 the first professional league match for Swansea Town took place at the Vetch Field. The match against Cardiff City ended in a 1-1 draw. The first season was highly successful, with the Swans winning the Welsh League, the Welsh Cup, and coming 3rd in the Southern League Second Division. Scorer Billy Ball became the Swans' first hero.



Swansea Soccer Club, Ltd.

All the money necessary for the preliminary expenses in connection with the floating of the new Swansea Soccer Club, Limited, has been subscribed without any canvassing, and the prospects are very rosy.

1912 newspaper extract.
Detholiad papur newydd 1912.

THE NEW SWANSEA ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL GROUND.

A photograph of the Vetch Field, which has been acquired by the Swansea Town Association Football Club, Ltd., their ground. Men are seen at work under the supervision of Mr. Walter Whittaker, the manager, who is standing on the left.

Herald of Wales 7.9.1912.

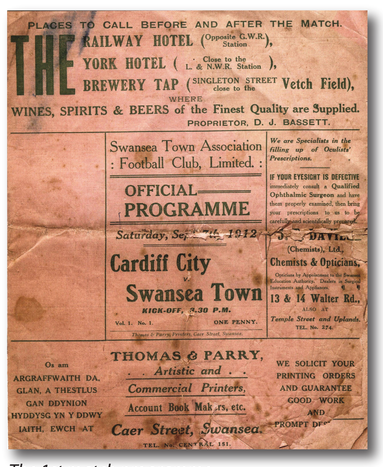
Genedigaeth y Swans ym 1912

Ffurfiwyd tîm pêl-droed cyntaf y 'Swans' ym 1872, fel gweithgaredd dros y gaeaf ar gyfer chwaraewyr criced y dref. Fodd bynnag, erbyn 1874, roedd y cricedwyr wedi newid i chwarae rygbi a ganwyd Clwb Rygbi Abertawe.

Cafwyd clybiau amatur amrywiol yn y dref yn y cyfnod, megis Swansea Villa, ond roedd dros 20 mlynedd cyn i bêl-droed proffesiynol ddod i dde Cymru.

Roedd sefydlu'r Gynghrair Bêl-droed ym 1888 wedi datblygu'r broses o fasnacheiddio'r gêm yn y DU. Ym 1912, penderfynodd nifer o ddinasyddion lleol ddechrau clwb proffesiynol yn Abertawe. Arweiniodd cymysgedd o fuddsoddi masnachol a balchder y dref at chwaraewyr yn cael eu recriwtio o bob rhan o'r DU. Roedd Tref Abertawe yn rhan o'r Gynghrair Ddeheuol, ynghyd â Dinas Caerdydd a nifer o dimau eraill o Gymru.
Ar 7 Medi 1912, cynhaliwyd y gêm gynghrair broffesiynol gyntaf i Dref Abertawe ar faes y Vetch. Gorffennodd y gêm yn erbyn Dinas Caerdydd yn gêm gyfartal 1-1. Roedd y tymor cyntaf yn llwyddiannus iawn, gyda'r Swans yn ennill Cynghrair Cymru, Cwpan Cymru ac yn dod yn 3ydd yn Ail Adran y Gynghrair Ddeheuol. Billy Ball, y sgoriwr, oedd arwr cyntaf y Swans.

Billy Ball



PLACES TO CALL BEFORE AND AFTER THE MATCH.
THE RAILWAY HOTEL (Opposite G.W.R. Station),
YORK HOTEL (Close to the L. & N.W.R. Station),
BREWERY TAP (SINGLETON STREET close to the Vetch Field),
WHERE
WINES, SPIRITS & BEERS of the Finest Quality are Supplied.
PROPRIETOR, D. J. BASSETT.

Swansea Town Association Football Club, Limited.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Saturday, Sep[illegible]th, 1912

Cardiff City v. Swansea Town

KICK-OFF, 4.30 P.M.

Vol. 1. No. 1. ONE PENNY.

We are Specialists in the filling up of Oculists' Prescriptions.

IF YOUR EYESIGHT IS DEFECTIVE immediately consult a Qualified Ophthalmic Surgeon and have them properly examined, then bring your prescriptions to us to be carefully and correctly dispensed.

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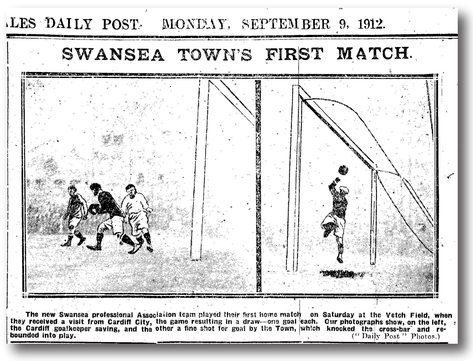
Os am ARGRAFFWAITH DA, GLAN, A THESTLUS GAN DDYNION HYDDYSG YN Y DDWY IAITH, EWCH AT

The 1st match programme.
Y rhaglen gyntaf erioed.

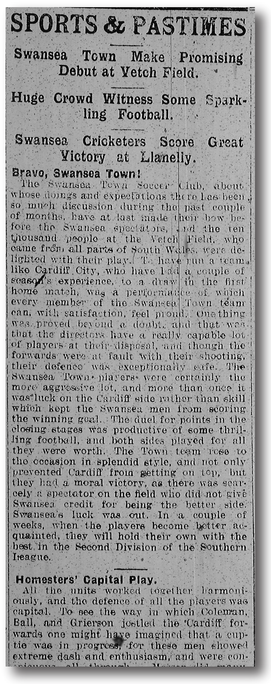


LES DAILY POST. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1912.

SWANSEA TOWN'S FIRST MATCH.

The new Swansea professional Association team played their first home match on Saturday at the Vetch Field, when they received a visit from Cardiff City, the game resulting in a draw—one goal each. Our photographs show, on the left, the Cardiff goalkeeper saving, and the other a fine shot for goal by the Town, which knocked the cross-bar and rebounded into play. ("Daily Post" Photos.)

South Wales Daily Post 9.9.12.



SPORTS & PASTIMES

Swansea Town Make Promising Debut at Vetch Field.

Huge Crowd Witness Some Sparkling Football.

Swansea Cricketers Score Great Victory at Llanelly.

Bravo, Swansea Town!

The Swansea Town Soccer Club, about whose doings and expectations there has been so much discussion during the past couple of months, have at last made their bow before the Swansea spectators, and the ten thousand people at the Vetch Field, who came from all parts of South Wales, were delighted with their play. To have run a team like Cardiff City, who have had a couple of season's experience, to a draw in the first home match, was a performance of which every member of the Swansea Town team can, with satisfaction, feel proud. One thing was proved beyond a doubt, and that was that the directors have a really capable lot of players at their disposal, and though the forwards were at fault with their shooting, their defence was exceptionally safe. The Swansea Town players were certainly the more aggressive lot, and more than once it was luck on the Cardiff side rather than skill which kept the Swansea men from scoring the winning goal. The duel for points in the closing stages was productive of some thrilling football, and both sides played for all they were worth. The Town team rose to the occasion in splendid style, and not only prevented Cardiff from getting on top, but they had a moral victory, as there was scarcely a spectator on the field who did not give Swansea credit for being the better side. Swansea's luck was out. In a couple of weeks, when the players become better acquainted, they will hold their own with the best in the Second Division of the Southern League.

Homesters' Capital Play.

All the units worked together harmoniously, and the defence of all the players was capital. To see the way in which Coleman, Ball, and Grierson jostled the Cardiff forwards one might have imagined that a cuptie was in progress, for these men showed extreme dash and enthusiasm, and were con-

9.9.1912 South Wales Daily Post. Swansea Town v Cardiff City Match Report.
Adroddiad Gêm 9.9.1912 Tref Abertawe yn erbyn Dinas Caerdydd.

Willie Messer

Sam Jepp

Jack Duffy

Jack Nicholas

Arthur Cleverley

Jim Coleman

www.swans100.org.uk

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