

THE BEST OF GUNNAR

Having joined Cardiff City in 2011 from Coventry City, Aron Gunnarsson has been a true servant for the club, playing over 250 matches for the Bluebirds and enjoying the successes of two promotions to the Premier League as well as a trip to Wembley in the 2012 League Cup Final. Looking back at the highlights of his time at the club, we hear from some of the people from City's past and present that have shared the pitch with him.

“ He was the heartbeat of the changing room. What I remember most about Aron was that it wasn't just about him – it was about the team doing well. That's probably why he's had such a successful time at Cardiff City, and why he's been there for so long. Hopefully he's still improving at his darts. When he first came to the club, he was throwing a dart as if it was a javelin! Over the three years that I was there with him he improved incredibly. We'd be there an hour before training and an hour afterwards.”

Don Cowie (2011-2014)



ON THE SCORESHEET
(October 22nd, 2011)

Celebrating his first goal scored at home for the Bluebirds in a 5-3 win over Barnsley.

OUR FIRST EVER PREMIER LEAGUE GOAL

(August 25th, 2013)

Gunnar celebrates having equalised against Manchester City at home, scoring Cardiff City's first ever Premier League goal at a packed CCS.



“ I think he's always been one of those players that was destined to go on to be a captain, which is obviously what he has gone on to do with his country. Gunnar's goal against Manchester City at home is one of the biggest memories that I have of playing with him. We'd had a tough match against West Ham United and we were looking at playing the champions at home in the next match, but when Gunnar scored in that game, I will always remember that.”

David Marshall (2009-2016)



“ We had a little room up at the training ground where we used to all play darts that Don and some of the boys had set up. To be fair, over the course of about a season Gunnar managed to become one of the best players out of the lot of us, and he and **Heiðar Helguson** would say they were going to represent Iceland in the Darts World Cup! I knew Gunnars firstly from when I played against him when he was at Coventry. I knew how good a player he was, so I was pleased that we got a hold of him. I remember that we had a pre-season trip to Seville and he just immediately fit in really well with the lads. He got along well with everybody.”

Kevin McNaughton (2006-2015)



GUNNAR IS A BLUEBIRD
(July 8th, 2011)

Aron Gunnarsson leaves Coventry City to sign at CCS in 2011.

“ Obviously I came up as a young lad and when I started training more with the first team Gunnars was in the squad. He was always good to me as a midfielder that was coming through, and of course we've gone on to play together probably hundreds of times, so I've always enjoyed playing with him. I remember playing against Nottingham Forest after the Gaffer joined the club, and both Gunnars and I scored. It was a sign early on I think that we had a good thing going with a new manager coming in and everyone was enjoying it. It gave us a lot of confidence and then we went on to get promoted the following season.”

Joe Ralls (2011-Present)



#CITYASONE
(February 26th, 2012)

Lining up in the 2012 League Cup Final for a penalty shootout against Liverpool.

DO THE AYATOLLAH, KENNY!

(August 7th, 2011)

Gunnar and Kenny Miller celebrate in front of the City away end at the Boleyn Ground. Miller's late winner meant success for him and Gunnar in their first competitive match as Bluebirds.



“ We all used to go away together as lads, and he’s someone that has some funky dance moves when he’s maybe had one or two too many!

When he’s in your team it’s a better team for it. You can look at him next to you and you know that he’s going to want to win the ball and cover every blade of grass on the pitch. He’s a fighter and every fan can see that he’s given his all for the Bluebirds.

Mark Hudson (2009-2014)



LEAGUE CUP FINALIST
(February 26th, 2012)

Ahead of kick-off in the 2012 League Cup Final, Kenny Miller and Aron Gunnarsson share a joke on the pitch at Wembley Stadium.

“ I first played against Gunnar when he was at Coventry. We’d had a team meeting before the game, and we were told of this young Icelandic guy. Obviously, I didn’t know who he was at the time. Then when I got out on the pitch I saw this guy with a horrendous mullet haircut! I remember thinking ‘wow that’s a not a good look’.

Matt Connolly (2012-Present)



A FIRST PROMOTION
(April 20th, 2013)

Aron makes 45 Championship appearances as City win the Championship title, securing the trophy with a 1-1 draw at Burnley.

“ When I first joined, I just remember getting the impression that he was a hard man but a nice guy. On the pitch he’s always solid and feisty in a tackle, then off the pitch he’s a really nice guy.

I roomed with him for about five years, so we’ve had plenty of good times together when we were both at the club.

Craig Noone (2012-2017)

“ He puts his heart into every performance and he’s somebody who you want in front of you, especially as a centre-back. For me personally to be able to learn from him how to be a better captain has been massively influential.

I think that people will remember him as a warrior. He’s been such a great servant to the club. He wheels himself out as much as he can. He’s had some injury problems, but he just straps himself up and gets out there and gives it everything. I think people will remember that, especially Cardiff City fans and the players who’ve played with him.

They will remember him for being one of those guys that you know you’ll get 100% out of. He has been invaluable to the team.

Sean Morrison (2014-Present)



PREMIER LEAGUE AGAIN
(July 9th, 2018)

Aron agrees a new one-year deal to remain at CCS as the Bluebirds return to the top flight with promotion in 2018.



CAPTAIN. LEADER. LEGEND! (June 27th, 2016)

Iceland captain since summer 2012, Gunnar leads his country to their first ever major international tournament (Euro 2016), and a quarter final place following a 2-1 victory over England.



TREBLE WINNER
(May 2nd, 2017)

Aron Gunnarsson celebrates after winning the Most MOTM, Players’ Player of the Year and Player of the Season Awards for 2017.



CUTTING DOWN FOREST (April 17th, 2017)

Gunnar always seemed to score against Nottingham Forest. Some wonderful and important goals as well.



GLORIOUS GUNNAR
(November 30th, 2018)

Beginning the comeback against Wolves at home earlier in the season, Gunnar is seen here drilling the ball acrobatically past ‘keeper Rui Patrício.



“ Early doors he liked to dance a bit, but as he got older, I think he realised he wasn’t very good at it and decided to stop! He was a good lad, a good laugh and just enjoyed being involved in anything that was going on.

My best memory of him was probably a goal he scored against Wigan. He got the ball and just ran for about 30 to 40 yards on the most bobbly pitch imaginable. He just kept going and going, I think it typifies Gunnar as a player. He’s just one of them that will keep going with the ball, and he ended up scoring the winner, which I remember was massive for us.

Peter Whittingham (2007-2017)