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vs LEEK TOWN

29/08/22 - 3.00PM

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1874 NORTHWICH FC



Northwich Community Football Club,
trading as 1874 Northwich Football Club.
Registration no.: 32017R

20 Greenside Drive, Lostock Green,
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STADIUM: The Offside Trust Stadium,
Townfield Lane, Barnton, Northwich,
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Visit

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WEBSITE: www.1874northwich.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/1874Northwich

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COLOURS:

HOME: Green shirts, black shorts, green socks

AWAY: Orange shirts, grey shorts, grey socks

THIRD: Blue shirts, blue shorts, blue socks

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs LEEK TOWN

MONDAY 29th AUG 2022 | K.O. 3.00PM



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Paul Bowyer & Wayne Goodison

GOALKEEPING COACH: Chris Appleton

PLAYER/COACH: Jamie Reed

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Katy Bagshaw

KIT MANAGER: Andy Williams

UNDER 21s MANAGER: Kyle Murray

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good afternoon everyone. Today this Bank Holiday afternoon we welcome the players, management, officials and supporters of Leek Town FC to Townfield for what is our second home game of this season.

It has been over two weeks since we entertained Prescott Cables FC in conditions that can only be described as testing. I never thought that I would see football played in this country in conditions so extreme and it was a tremendous credit to both sets of players that they were able to perform in that heat.

Is this a sign of the future, we shall see.

The following Tuesday evening we travelled to Kidsgrove Athletic. It was good to see so many Greens making the journey to "the Grove". Someone once coined the phrase "a game of two halves" and Tuesday's encounter certainly summed that up perfectly.

The football played in the first half of Tuesday's game was probably some of the best and most flowing football that has been witnessed from 74 and whilst the second half may not have gone totally to plan, it was clear to see the progress of the squad in relation to where we were this time last year. Credit must also go to Kidsgrove for their second half performance. We must always remember that no opposition is ever going to rollover, every point won in this league is hard won.

This season has seen a significant change in our playing squad, but already I believe that we have seen signs of the potential that the new additions to 74 have brought to us. I'm sure that we will see a developing squad over the next few weeks as players begin to gel together and learn how to get the best out of each other, but already I see a new energy and enthusiasm in key areas on the pitch. We are certainly not a finished product, but I believe that there are signs that we are getting there.

This year 1874 Northwich FC celebrates its 10th anniversary, sometimes we need to just stand back and appreciate how far we have come as a club in that short time. As a true supporter owned and run football club we benefit from many positives in the manner in which the club is governed and the control that you, the owners have.

I believe that progress of the club over the last ten years has been measured and transparent, due on the whole down to the part played by our volunteers, both past and present. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of 1874 and it's not just on matchdays that they spring into action. Everything from ordering and collecting the pies in the canteen to producing this programme and maintaining the club website is down to our volunteers. For many it's a seven day a week commitment.

A major part of running 1874 Northwich FC is the continual effort involved in raising funds. As the years go by and we progress up the footballing pyramid, the cost of maintaining a competitive club increases year on year and we are eternally grateful to our club sponsors and advertisers for the support that they provide.

Nowadays the pressure on individuals and businesses finances is as acute as it has ever been and as a community club we are very mindful of that fact. Every penny helps and you can help by buying a cup of tea in the canteen, an extra Golden Goal Ticket or an extra 50/50 ticket. Not to forget Toddy's excellent Cash for Goals scheme that has become an extremely important source of income for the club.

If anyone feels that they can assist with our fundraising or commercial activities in any way, please have a chat to myself or any board member.

I hope that you will all enjoy this afternoon game and that the team can bring us our first home win of the season.

Let's be Loud and Proud

Up the 74!

Steve



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FROM THE DUGOUT

PAUL & WAYNE



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to this afternoons game against Leek Town.

I'd expect them to be in the chase for play off spots at the end of the season so today will be another stern test as our squad develops.

Saturdays result was hard fought. Having played some excellent football in the first half we had to dig deep in the second. We never quite got into our passing rhythm in the second half but at three down Clitheroe had nothing to lose. Some excellent defending and keeping saw us through. I'm not sure we would be undefeated after three games this time last season and it was good to see a resolute performance. Lets hope the lessons have been learnt from the second half performance at Kidsgrove where we didn't manage the game effectively.

We've got a few knocks and strains from Saturdays game - Mark Jones is struggling with his ankle and there'll be a few tired bodies so we'll need to manage everyone today.

We've added Josh Quarless to the squad and his attributes were there for all to see on Saturday. He'll only get better the more he plays with us and it's another part of the squad where we've got plenty of competition for places now.

Enjoy todays game. After a few days break the games come thick and fast with a home game against Ramsbottom this Saturday.

Enjoy the game and thanks again for your support.

Up the '74

Bows and Goody

FIXTURE CHANGE

Just a note for your diaries! Our game at home against Ramsbottom United has been moved from Tuesday 13 September to Saturday 3 September, 3pm.



Two-time goalscorer on Saturday; Joe Woolley
Credit: Xenia Simpson

SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Well, this is a first!

I'm writing these notes knowing that they won't go to 'physical print.' We've taken the decision this season to produce an online version of Ever Glorious, for various reasons, so our fantastic matchday programme can now be distributed electronically far and wide!

Hopefully, this is going to bring bigger benefits for those who advertise in it. I know some people would prefer to have this in print, and we will continue to print some, but we genuinely think this is the way forward for us. Many other clubs are doing the same.

I would like to welcome our friends from Leek Town to Townfield for this Bank Holiday fixture. Some of you might not be aware, but clubs in the NPL get to choose who they would like to partner with on the bank holidays. When Leek Town Chairman, Jon Eeles, made contact to look at the possibility, we were happy to arrange this as we built a nice link last season.

Leek have had a mixed start to this season, a thumping win in the opening fixture against Bootle, was then followed up with a home defeat against title favourites Macclesfield. They've since gone on to secure a couple of draws. Leek are always strong, they taught us a bit of a lesson at Townfield last season and whilst we did secure a fantastic win away, I expect them to be up there challenging.

We've made a decent start to the NPL West season. Five points out of a possible nine is very pleasing. We followed up on the draw against Prescot with a 'game of two halves' at Kidsgrove. Cruising three nil at half time, we let that slip in the second half and I know it was disappointing. We've all said that we would have taken a point before the game started, but I know for many it felt like a loss in the end.

We didn't make the same mistake at Clitheroe on Saturday! The lads were outstanding in the first half and held a healthy lead at half time thanks to two goals from Joe Woolley and one from new boy Josh Quarless. Clitheroe came out in the second period

and put more pressure on. They clawed a goal back but what was pleasing from our point of view was that we managed the game out well. In fact, we had two good chances in the second half to put a little more daylight between the sides. As important as goals are, I must mention Ellis Allen in goal, for his superb double save to keep Clitheroe at bay. It was a tremendous three points at a side that many expect to be in the top five.

You may or may not have seen the Tweet that Clitheroe put out after the game? I'd like to share it because it topped my day off completely! Clitheroe said; *"Congratulations to 1874 Northwich on a deserved victory. Apart from the habit of beating us, they are the perfect guests! Great committee, their fans travel in numbers, no problems, and a spotless changing room. See you in the Trophy."*

When a message like that comes from another club, and a good one at that, then it couldn't make me prouder. So, a huge thank you for getting behind the lads wherever we play. I say it repeatedly, we take a substantial percentage of our home support to away games and most clubs don't do that.

I'd also give a 'virtual' medal to our Kit Manager Andy Williams, the special birthday boy this week, because when you are all heading back into the bar or starting to travel home after the game, he is making sure that the dressing room is left in a respectable manner. And it's no mean feat tidying up after a team of footballers. Thanks, legend!

Our squad does already feel a tight knit group at this very early stage of the season, we have some exciting

young players who will only get better as time goes on and more games are played. Mix them with experience and it feels a good blend. I would also like to welcome Josh Quarless to the club, we've seen what Josh can do (he scored against us last season!) and when he became available then we were certainly interested and contacted Linnets to lodge an approach. Josh's first game was Saturday, and he looked the part I must say. His goal was very coolly taken, superbly finishing beyond the keeper from a lovely through ball from Fenton Green. We know every game won't be like Saturday, there will be ups and downs, but if you all continue to encourage our younger players then there will be more ups I reckon.

At this point, I'd like to say a 'bit of a well done' to Bow & Goodie. We had several squad changes over the summer, some were known in advance and were planned for and then others happened as we were heading back to pre-season training. As ever, the guys just got on with the job and offered this 'old mother hen' words that we'd be ok. What they have done, and what was needed, was to freshen up and change the dynamics of the squad. They've made me smile already!

You may have seen in the Newsletter, that a small group has been formed to look at how we celebrate our tenth anniversary in November. This could involve

a legends game, a celebratory meal, perhaps dedicated leisurewear to mark the occasion? If you have any thoughts, or want to get involved, then this would be welcomed. Ten years, eh?! What a blast! Someone in a previous footballing life said, "good luck to them running their own club, they will see how hard it is." Yes, they were right, it is a hard job at times but my god, I think we've all generally done ok!

In other football news, I was delighted to see that Sammy Hind is back playing football after such a long time out with a serious mouth injury. Sam joined Stockport Town and is now playing with Scotty McGowan, Matty Russell and Sam Hare. Trip out on the cards to watch our former players, when '74 don't have a game, I reckon!

Finally, according to our fabulous statisticians, our Leader Matt Woolley captained 1874 for the 250th time at Clitheroe. What an absolute legend Matty is.

Our local lad has represented our club superbly every season in our history. So proud of him, he does things the right way. Well done Matt and thank you.

That's it for now, enjoy the game and thanks for your support.

"Come on you Green Boys!"



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SIMMO'S NOTES

ANDREW SIMPSON

A first win is cathartic.

That is true no matter when, or where, it arrives.

The fact that 1874 Northwich celebrated theirs at Clitheroe, which is becoming a favourite destination following an FA Cup success there in 2019, is significant.

If, as most observers believe, the Blues are likely contenders for a promotion play-offs place this season then beating them can serve to boost belief.

The evidence for that should be seen on the pitch this afternoon – something the management team will be looking for.

They will have taken great heart the players appear to have put into practice lessons learned during the draw with Kidsgrove when an interval lead evaporated before their eyes.

On Saturday, the opposite was true.

It was heartening to discover that Josh Quarless scored on his debut, more so in the absence of Jamie Reed, and that's the impact he'll have been hoping to make.

He will need time to adjust, the same way every new recruit does, but the initial signs are encouraging.

What he does is widen the options available to Paul Bowyer and Wayne Goodison, but his skill set means they won't need to compromise on style.

The context for Leek Town's visit feels different to how it did 12 months ago.

While their team is settled, and many of the names on the team-sheet that night will be the same today, 1874 are a different proposition.

They're savvier now, for starters.

A lack of street smarts, as they say in America, was a major contrast between the sides last season in their first meeting at Townfield.

Leek arrive here on the back of a chastening week that started with an embarrassing FA Cup exit at the hands of lower-ranked Atherstone Town of the Midlands League.

They were on course to respond with a creditable success at Glossop North End in their next outing only to be thwarted when the Hillmen scored a stoppage-time equaliser.

The tale 48 hours ago, when Ramsbottom United were guests at Harrison Park, was a similar one.

Leek led, only for Ryan Jennings' late goal to earn a draw for the visitors.

They'll be highly motivated for that not to happen again.

A final word for Matt Woolley.

I was intrigued to read a tweet from the club's official account acknowledging that he has captained an 1874 Northwich team for the 250th time.

While his place in the club's history has long since been secured, we should never take for granted the contribution he makes on and off the field.

An outstanding ambassador for what 1874 embodies, his leadership is as important as ever this season in a squad stacked with so many young players that have no previous experience at this level.

He's definitely a guy whose know-how I'd like in the same dressing room if I was one of them.

Enjoy the game, folks.

Simmo



Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Northern Premier League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In have recently launched a new online Volunteer Hub where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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THE '74 BIG BIRTHDAY BASH

JAMES WOOD

As all '74 fans will be aware, this November marks a special occasion in the history of our club – our 10th Birthday! And I'm sure that we'd all agree that it would be a real shame if we didn't take the opportunity mark this notable event in some way!

Hence, myself and Ash Dobell - assisted by Board members Alex Dickinson and Guy Jewell - have been asked by the Board if we could put on our collective thinking caps and come up with potential events and initiatives that would make the celebrations really memorable!

Consequently, 'The '74 Big Birthday Bash' (as we've coined it) Working Group held its first meeting on Thursday 18 August and as a result it was agreed that the following ideas would be worthy of taking forward to establish their feasibility, benefits, likely costs, non-financial resource implications etc.

1. 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
 - To be held on Sat 12 November (after the Hanley home game) or Sat 19 November (after the Widnes home game)
 - Price:TBC, but we are aiming for circa £30-35 per head
 - Venue TBC but a number are being considered.
 - 3 Course 'Traditional' meal
 - Post meal 'awards' (Player of the Decade, Goal of the Decade etc)
 - Other 'activities'
2. 1874 'Legends' Game – Venue and date TBC but likely to be an Ian Street XI v a Bo-Go XI!
3. Special 10th Anniversary playing kit and / or leisurewear – Might we wish to commission SK Kits to produce a one-off 10th Anniversary 'branded' playing kit for the home game that we designate as our 10th Anniversary event weekend (Hanley on 12th November or Widnes on 19th). Fans could be asked to submit a design for this 'special' shirt, with the favoured one being chosen by them.

Cost will clearly be a consideration, but depending how much it would cost to produce 15 'outfield' + 1 goalkeepers shirts , we could seek fans / members to fund the cost of one each and they would then receive this after the game (fully laundered of course!). Alternatively, If the 'one-off' kit proves very popular

with fans, we could put them on general sale to fans.

Alternatively, do we concentrate on producing a range of branded leisurewear (Polo-shirts, T-shirts, Hoodies, Caps, Hats, sweatshirts etc) and other mementoes Key Fobs etc

4. Increased Prize for November 300 Club draw – To be confirmed
5. 10 Year Anniversary Booklet – Another idea is that we produce a special 10th anniversary booklet in a similar way we do with the Yearbook.

We'd want the production costs to be covered by receipts from sales and ideally we'd like it to make a profit. Initial thoughts are that this would cost £10-15 but it may be less / more depending on sales. In order to determine if a publication such as this might be viable we may seek fans to place pre-orders before we commit to going to print.

If this initiative is taken forward, the one thing that we are really keen to do it to put you, the fans, at its very heart. So what we'll be looking for are your memories - both good and bad – anecdotes, stories (If printable!) and reflections so that we can ensure that it truly reflects the last decade and the history of our great little club!

6. Parade of '74 Legends – If the 'Legends' game doesn't take place, then alternatively we may wish to invite some of our more popular / favourite past players to attend the game on 12/19th November and present them to the crowd before kick-off.

We do want to stress that the above ideas are only OUR outline thoughts and suggestions – it's not a 'done-deal' by any stretch of the imagination. In fact, we'd only be too pleased if fans members came forward with other ideas/ events that they'd like to see the club consider including in the celebrations. In addition, if there are fans who have a burning desire to '74 Big Birthday Bash' Working Group, then please don't hesitate to come and speak to Ash or me.

James Wood

BIG GAME PREVIEW

by GARRY CLARKE



1874 NORTHWICH V LEEK TOWN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

On this Bank Holiday Monday afternoon 1874 Northwich welcome Leek Town to Townfield for a NPL West fixture.

Leek Town opened their 2022/23 campaign with a 4-0 win away at Bootle with their goals being scored by Josh Ryder, Rob Stevenson, Tom Carr and Will Saxon. This was followed up by a 3-1 home defeat at the hands of Macclesfield, Dan Trickett-Smith with the goal.

Leek crashed out of the FA Cup losing 5-1 at home to Atherstone Town in the preliminary round, Saxon with the goal. Last Tuesday they drew 1-1 at Glossop North End, William Reeves giving them the lead before they conceded a last minute equalizer.

Leek Town, having drawn 1-1 at home to Ramsbottom United on Saturday, are now 7th in the table, one place above '74, with the same record, 5 points from 3 games.

Leek Town finished the 2021/22 season 3rd in the NPL West table losing out to Runcorn Linnets in the play offs.

2021/22 NPL West records:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Leek Town	38	24	7	7	74	36	+38	79
1874	38	13	8	17	59	58	+1	47

Their top goal scorer last season was Daniel Trickett-Smith who netted 19 times, closely followed by Tim Grice who scored 18 goals.

This will be the third time 1874 Northwich have played Leek Town, with both games last season ending in wins for the away side.

LEEK TOWN FACT FILE

<i>Formed</i>	1946
<i>Ground</i>	Harrison Park
<i>Colours</i>	Blue and White
<i>Change Colours</i>	Green and Black
<i>Nickname</i>	The Blues
<i>Manager</i>	Neil Baker
<i>2021/22</i>	3 rd NPL West

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2021/22	
7th September 2021	
NPL West - Home	
Lost 0-3	Attendance 252
Leek – Trickett-Smith, Saxton, Stevenson	

19th March 2022	
NPL West - Away	
Won 2-1	Attendance 524
1874 - J Woolley2	
Leek – Own Goal	

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3
Away	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1
Total	2	1	0	1	2	4	-2

The two teams also met in a pre season friendly on 21st July 2018 when 1874 travelled to Harrison Park only to suffer a 6-1 defeat, Matt Woolley scoring the Green's only goal.

NPL NEWSDESK

by GARRY CLARKE

PREMIER DIVISION REVIEW SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST 2022

Four teams were all tied on seven points at the summit of the Northern Premier League after Saturday's round of fixtures.

Newly-promoted Marske United lead the way following their entertaining 4-2 victory away at Radcliffe.

Elsewhere, Stafford Rangers and Warrington Town - the only two sides still boasting 100% winning starts prior to the weekend's action - both dropped points on the road. Rangers played out a goalless draw at Gainsborough Trinity, who also remain unbeaten, while the Yellows came from behind to rescue a point with a 1-1 draw at Belper Town. Town's slip-up saw them leapfrogged by Ashton United following their 3-1 victory at home to Warrington Rylands.

FC United of Manchester recorded their second successive win with a 2-0 triumph at winless Whitby Town, Guiseley edged Nantwich Town 1-0 with a stoppage time goal.

At Rossett Park, the 'Battle of the Mariners' ended level as South Shields rescued a late point against Marine in a 2-2 draw.

Hyde United clinched three points away at Atherton Collieries winning 1-0, while Liversedge came from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw at Bamber Bridge.

At Craik Park, Morpeth Town secured a 2-0 win against last season's beaten play-off semi finalists Matlock Town while Stalybridge Celtic beat Lancaster City 1-0.

PROGRAMME AWARDS 2021/22

During the 2021/22 season, 86% of NPL clubs produced printed programmes, compared with 14% opting for digital-only.

First introduced during Covid, NPL clubs are able to choose between producing digital or printed matchday programmes and it's entirely up to each club which option it chooses. 11 only produced digital programmes last season.

South Shields, Prescot Cables and Stockton Town came out on top of their respective divisions in the non-league programme awards, run by Soccer Club Swap Shop.

Stockton's effort put them third in the whole of non-league, behind winners National League North side Leamington and runners-up Portland United of the Wessex League.

CARLTON TOWN

Carlton Town's new 2022/23 away kit is supporting the work of Brain Tumour Research.

The new pink jersey has Brain Tumour Research's logo emblazoned across the front, and the club say a percentage of each shirt sale will go directly to the charity.

In another initiative, Carlton are offering a "Pay What You Want" option. The minimum amount will still be £36, the original price of the shirt, but supporters have the option to pay more than this, with 100% of any additional income going to Brain Tumour Research.

The club have decided to support this charity following Tom Claypole's diagnosis of a Stage 4 glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) Brain Tumour last summer. Tom is the 39-year-old son of Miller's director of football Darryl Claypole.

Club chairman Mick Garton added: "We are delighted to be able to support Darryl and Brain Tumour Research.

"We know how personal this is to him so anything we can do as a club to help we will do. Not only is it supporting a worthwhile cause, but it's also a fantastic looking kit and we are thankful to our partners EV2 Sportswear for designing and producing it."

TODDY'S MONEY FOR GOALS

Or, ANYTHING ELSE, FOR THAT MATTER!

Once again, we will be operating the scheme that Toddy set up, which brings in very welcome funds for the club. Our thanks go to Richard Webb, who has agreed to administer the scheme for us.

He will be supported by Guy and Vicki, who are not averse to twisting a few arms. All with a smile of course!

We hope those of you who have supported the scheme in the past, will do so again. Richard will make a note of your sponsorship choice and the amount you wish to pledge. He will also keep the record when you have paid.

If you haven't joined in before, then please consider this fantastic scheme, set up by the wonderful Toddy Barlow, as it really does help the club. You can sponsor goals, clean sheets, penalty saves.

Whatever takes your fancy! Unusual sponsorships are especially welcome! We do appreciate that the cost of living is increasing, so we would be grateful for any amount that is pledged.

For more information, or to join in, then please see Richard (he can usually be found behind the microphone), Guy or Vicki.

Thank you.

VEO CAMERA

THAT THING THAT LOOKS LIKE A TURTLE

Now the new season is upon us we are pleased to be able to once again offer supporters the chance to relive the team's performances both home and away via our VEO camera footage.

For a small subscription fee of only £20, you will receive full 90 minute coverage of all 1874 games throughout the season. All the goals, all the highlights, yours to be replayed time after time.

Your £20 subscription really helps the club provide this excellent coaching aid for our management team, and the support you provide is truly appreciated.

To subscribe to another season of 1874 game footage, every game from August onwards, just follow the link below:

<https://buy.stripe.com/cN2cPMaRHfvh5QAdQR>

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S MASCOTS

1874 NORTHWICH u11s

We are proud to announce that accompanying our players out onto the pitch today will be our under 11s side, fresh from reaching the final of the high level tournament at Adswold United. Not only that, but a little bird tells me they won the battle of the landlords and tenants last week when they beat Barnton 9-1. Well done, folks!

We are always delighted that one of our juniors sides is performing this role today, and are proud that we are taking steps to gradually improve and expand our youth football connections here at 1874.

Who knows, perhaps it won't be too long before some of them step out of the tunnel wearing the green of the first team! Here's hoping..

Welcome to Townfield, everyone - we hope you enjoy your day!



TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Bootle v City of Liverpool
Colne v Hanley Town
Glossop North End v Trafford
Macclesfield v Widnes
Newcastle Town v Kidsgrove Athletic
Ramsbottom United v Mossley
Runcorn Linnets v Witton Albion
Skelmersdale United v Prescot Cables
Workington AFC v Clitheroe



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Fenton Green
Ryan Hough
Jack Irlam
Mark Jones
Jeanny Le Blanc-Akpo
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MATCH REPORT

by JACK OWEN



KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC 3-3 1874 NORTHWICH

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

TUESDAY 16TH AUGUST 2021 | K.O. 7.45PM

In what can only be described as the perfect game for the neutral; 1874 Northwich had the epitome of a game of two halves performance.

1874 made only the one change from the side which opened the season with a 0-0 draw against Prescot Cables at the weekend. Ollie Broe came in for his first start for the club replacing Manuel Diop Parra at right fullback.

Northwich started as brightly as their orange away kit. Joe Woolley showing a clean pair of heels to the 'Grove fullback crossed to Jack Irlam, who finished with a low drive from inside the 6-yard box.

The lead was doubled moments later. Jamie Reed opening his account for the season, a neat corner routine caught Kidsgrove cold. Fenton Green pulled it back to Reed who flicked home with a great instinctive finish. 1874 went hunting for more, Mackenzie O'Neill had a shot blocked on the line by a home defender as they looked to hold on and weather the storm being thrown at them.

1874 got another goal just after the half hour mark. Fenton Green was another beneficiary of Joe Woolley as he thundered in a beauty of a finish from the edge of the box, the Kidsgrove keeper could only get a slight touch on it but he stood no chance.

After that first half showing, no one in attendance at the Novus Stadium would have seen what was to come.

Kidsgrove came out for the second half with the bit between their teeth, hurrying and pressing '74 at any opportunity. Their pressure paid 20 minutes in to the second half, a deep cross from their fullback found Aaron Bott

waiting in the middle who headed past Ellis Allen to get a goal back. 1874 needed to rally and stand strong against what was now unrelenting pressure from the home side who had their tails firmly up.

Another deep cross from the right caused problems, with Ellis Allen unable to get anything meaningful on it, Aaron Bott had an easy task of finishing in to what was an open net. 3-2.

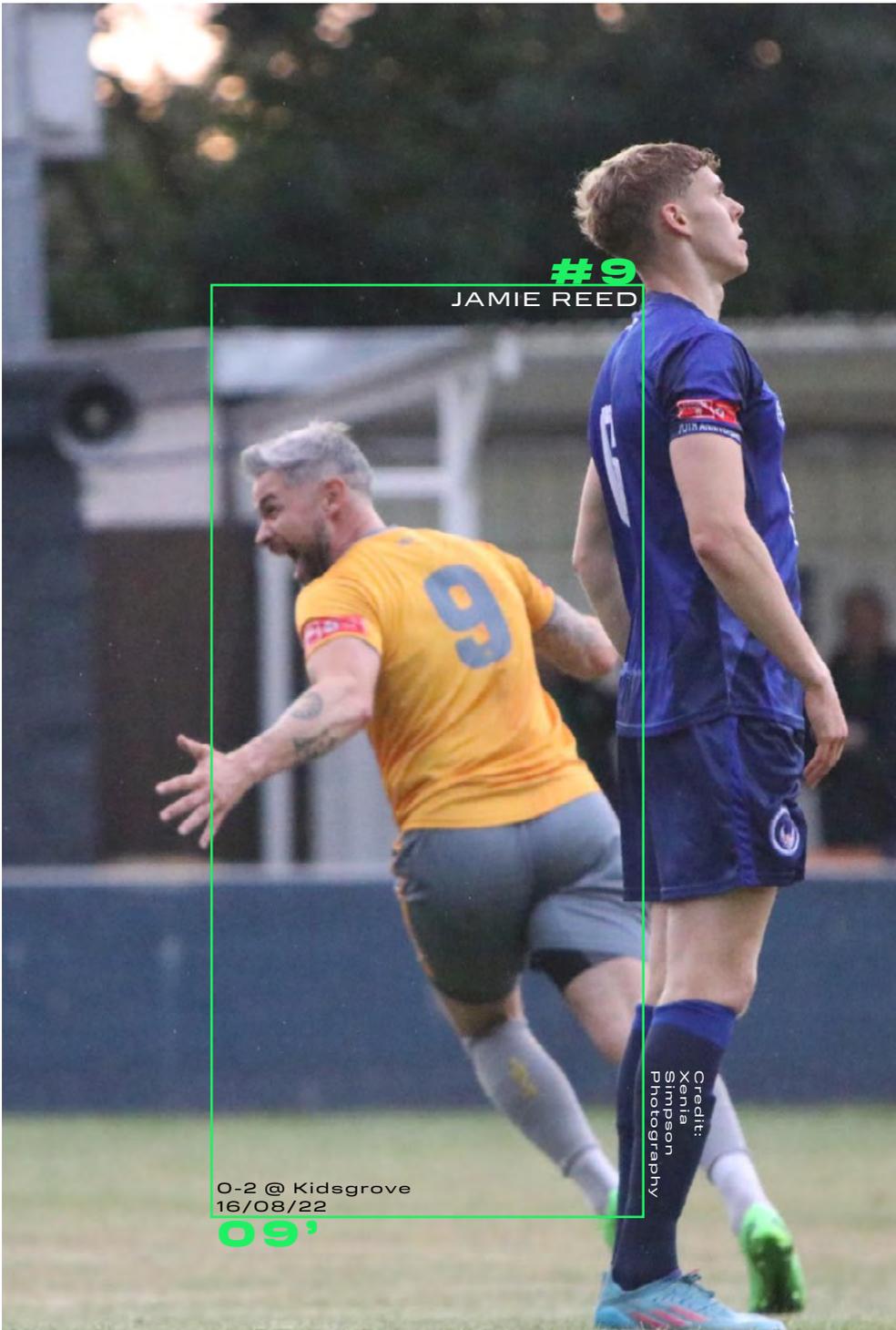
And almost straight from the restart, Kidsgrove drew level, substitute Kieran Knapper advanced in to space, he had time to take aim and drive a low bullet of a finish which found its way in to the net off the inside of the post.

1874 made some changes, Sam Adetiloye and Ash Woods were introduced from the bench to try to and swing the game back the way of '74. It nearly paid off as Fenton Green's corner flashed across the goal line with Ash Woods inches away from sliding in to finish at the back post.

Woods again was involved, his persistence saw him steal possession from the Kidsgrove keeper outside the area to the right, he cut the ball back aiming for Joe Woolley only for a defender to spare the blushes of the home GK.

Kidsgrove had the best chance to complete the most unlikely of comebacks, a loose pass was intercepted Kieran Knapper, he thumped an effort on goal but Ellis Allen was equal to it, producing a quality game saving stop to keep it level.

The final whistle brought a close to a breath-taking contest. Many positives to take and also many lessons to learn.



#9

JAMIE REED

O-2 @ Kidsgrove
16/08/22

09'

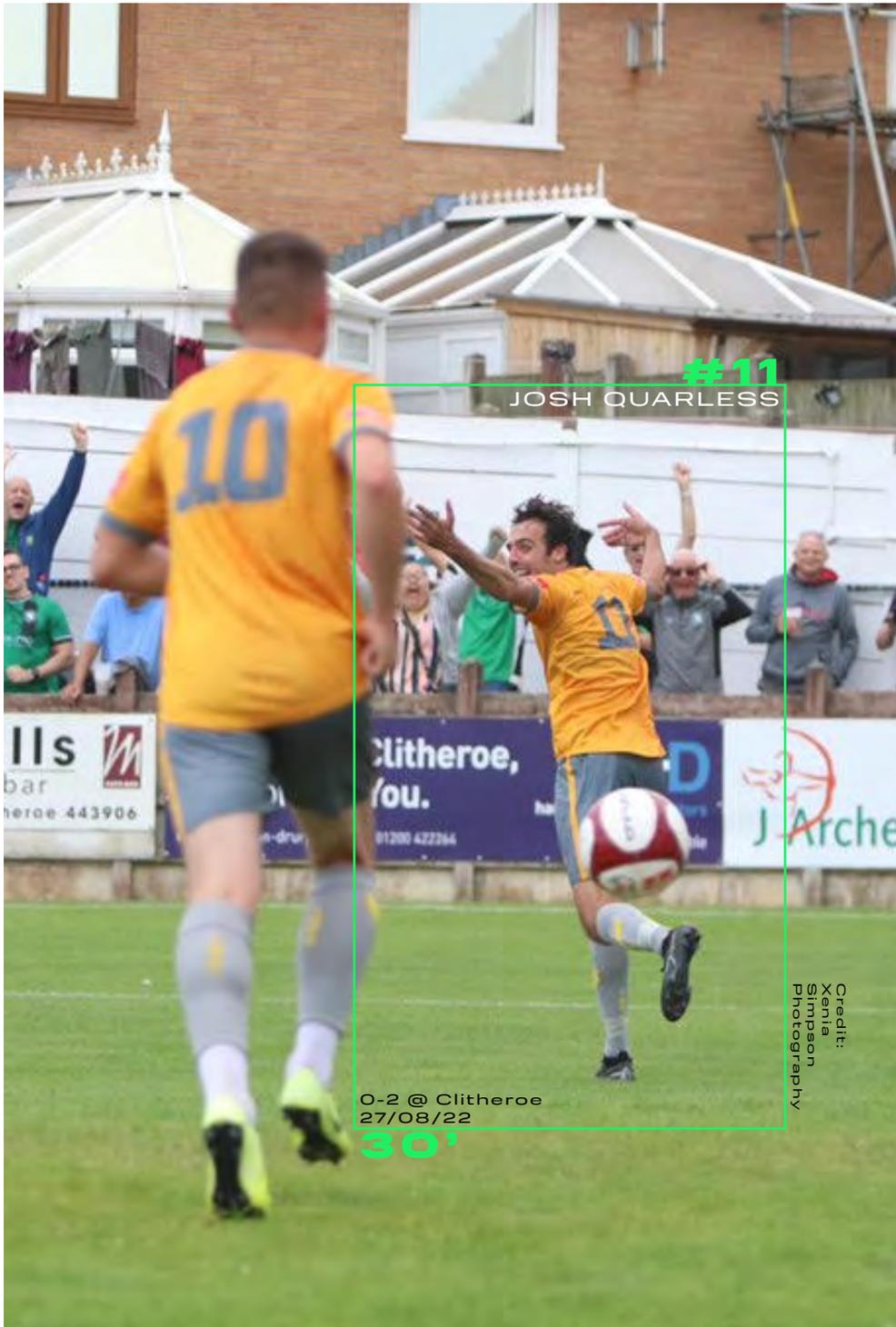
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Photography

1874 NORTHWICH SEASON 2022/23

MATCH CENTRE by PETE GRIMES - correct as of 12/08/22

DATE	OPPOSITION	FT	HT	Att	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
AUG 6	Colne (FAC Exp)	1-2	0-1	238	Aghayere	Diop Parra*	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green	Woolley J(1)
13	PRESCOT	0-0	0-0	283	Allen	Diop Parra*	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green	Woolley J
16	Kidsgrove	3-3	3-0	235	Allen	Broe*	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green(1)	Woolley J
27	Clitheroe	3-1	3-0	516	Allen	Broe*	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green	Woolley J(2)
29	LEEK	-									
SEP 3	RAMSBOTTOM										
6	Newcastle	-									
10	Clitheroe (FAT)	-									
17	Colne	-									
OCT 1	SKELMERSDALE	-									
8	Runcorn L	-									
15	TRAFFORD	-									
22	Macclesfield	-									
29	GLOSSOP	-									
NOV 5	Mossley	-									
12	HANLEY	-									
19	WIDNES	-									
26	Workington	-									
DEC 3	Bootle	-									
10	COLNE	-									
17	Prescot	-									
26	WITTON	-									
JAN 2	Leek	-									
7	KIDSGROVE	-									
14	City of Liverpool	-									
21	Ramsbottom	-									
28	BOOTLE	-									
FEB 4	Skelmersdale	-									
7	NEWCASTLE	-									
18	Trafford	-									
25	RUNCORN L	-									
MAR 4	MACCLESFIELD	-									
18	Glossop	-									
25	MOSSLEY	-									
APR 1	Hanley	-									
8	CLITHEROE	-									
10	Witton	-									
15	WORKINGTON	-									
22	Widnes	-									
TBC	C OF LIVERPOOL										

Online Match Centre



#11

JOSH QUARLESS

Credit:
Xenia
Simpson
Photography

0-2 @ Clitheroe
27/08/22

30'

MATCH REPORT

by JACK OWEN



CLITHEROE 1-3 1874 NORTHWICH

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST
SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2021 | K.O. 3.00PM

Wayne and Paul made one change from the side which drew 3-3 at Kidsgrove. Josh Quarless made his debut starting upfront replacing Jamie Reed who was unavailable.

The forward was making his presence known from the off. He had a hooked effort towards goal held simply enough by Thompson in the Blues goal. Joe Woolley was next to take aim for Northwich, his effort inside the box, teed up by Green was blocked bravely by Clitheroe manager Billy Priestley. The hosts had their first effort on goal with the imposing Sefton Gonzales hitting a strong effort straight at Ellis Allen for a simple first save of the game.

1874 took the lead and deservedly so. Joe Woolley was on hand in the middle of the penalty area to sweep home a cross from the left wing in off the post, a fine finish to cap off a flowing 74 move.

The lead was doubled shortly after. Josh Quarless opened his account for the club; Fenton Green played a perfectly weighted ball to set the striker through on goal who composed himself to stroke the ball underneath Thompson and in to the bottom right corner of the goal.

1874 were taking the game to Clitheroe now with the hosts having to hold on and keep the score line at bay. Jack Irlam with the aid of a deflection curled an effort which skimmed the cross bar with Thompson beaten.

With the half drawing to a close, there was time for Northwich to grab a third goal and it was Joe Woolley again doubling his tally for the day. Josh Quarless forced a great save from Thompson which was only turned in to the path of Joe Woolley who slammed home from 6 yards. Dreamland for 74.

For the second time this season, we went in to the half leading 3-0 away from home. The objective this time, was to not see a repeat of 11 days earlier.

The Blues came out flying and attempting to claw their way back in to the game. The back line of 74 had to stand firm, brave blocks from the duo of Matthew Fenton and Mark Jones were putting their bodies on the line with some fine blocks.

Clitheroe had a goal back with a spectacular effort from Max Cane who struck a thunderous volley from the edge of the 18 yard box in to the top left corner leaving Allen with no chance at full stretch.

1874 still held their threat. Captain Matt Woolley thumped a sweetly hit volley which kissed the crossbar as it went over.

Ellis Allen produced a double save as good as a goal for 74. His first stop to deny Gonzales was reminiscent of Peter Schmeichel as a strong arm denied the forward, the rebound from Danny Wilkins was saved strongly to maintain the 2-goal cushion. The '74 keeper gained applause from the 516 in attendance at Shawbridge.

As the game entered its last minutes, 1874 looked to run down the clock. Cal Gardner, back from his suspension picked up back in April at Mossley away, used his experience to hold the ball up in the corner and draw a number of freekicks.

The final whistle sounded and brought to a close a impressive 3 points on the road for the 74's first league victory of the season. We hope to now be taking momentum in to Monday's game against Leek Town at Townfield which will be another huge test for the lads.

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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

THE '74

During the coming 12 months, the old adage that will be used most regularly by supporters of 1874 will be "doesn't time fly". The explanation for this is simple. You see, on 15 November this year, our smashing little club will celebrate its 10th anniversary!

Now, fans of clubs with longer and supposedly more illustrious past histories may scoff at our relatively brief existence and achievements. But despite being relative 'new kids on the block' it has been a decade packed with remarkable stories, amazing feats, successes, and some sadness – oh, and with the odd bit of football thrown in for good measure!

So, when it comes to summing up our history, it really is a case of where do we start and what do we include or leave out?

Some might say - and we would find it difficult to argue against this point - that the principal landmark occurred on that day in November 2012 when disillusioned members of the Northwich Victoria Supporters Trust voted overwhelmingly to create a new club. However, others might make the case for the evening of Wednesday 10 July 2013, for this was when '74 played their first ever game against local side Lostock Gram.

On that warm, balmy evening, just short of 400 fans turned out to see the first game of a club that they had decided to create, was something different, new and, most importantly, something that they had a direct say in. In short, a true fans' run club

Prior to that night a massive amount of hard work had been put in to ensure that the club could kick-off, as planned at the start of the 2013/14 season. This included

- Our successful application to join the North West Counties Football League
- The appointment of our first 'Gaffer', Ian Street
- The signing our first ground sharing agreement with Winsford United

The level of support shown for the new club wasn't a flash in the pan either as during our first season 1874's average home league attendance was 320 – which put the club in the top 100 best supported clubs in non-league football.

As it happened, '74 finished one place outside the two promotion spots, but due to the sudden and unfortunate demise of second-placed Formby, the club were asked whether we would like to accept the vacant spot in the Premier Division – an offer that was readily accepted!

So, season two presented '74 with the opportunity to create even more records – and did we take this chance with both hands! Along the way several new milestones were achieved, including our first ever appearance in the FA Cup and our highest league placing of third in the NWCFL Premier Division.

The 2015/16 season proved to be a steady campaign in the league with an eventual finishing spot of fourth, but it ended in a truly memorable manner when Ian Street's side outclassed local rivals and Step 3 outfit Witton Albion by a 3-0 score-line on their own turf to lift the Mid Cheshire District Cup for the first time. This trophy was retained the following campaign with a 1-0 win over rivals Northwich Vics, but by this time the management of the club had passed into the hands of Paul Bowyer and Wayne Goodison – both of whom had been part of Ian Street's back-room team.

The impact of the new management team was truly remarkable, as the 2017/18 season proved to be by far the most exciting and memorable in the short history of 1874, during which the 'Go-Bo' Green Army.

- Defeated National League North and former FA Trophy winners North Ferriby in the FA Cup
- Finally exited the competition on penalties in a Third Qualifying Round replay
- Reached the Semi-Finals of the FA Vase, only for eventual winners Thatcham Town to deny '74 a trip to Wembley by triumphing 4-2 on aggregate.
- Took hundreds of fans to away ties at Leighton

- and Thatcham
- Recorded a record home attendance of 1.674 in the second leg of the semi-final against the Wiltshire outfit
- Ended the season by playing a mammoth 26 games in just 57 days and 69 games overall

Given the successes of the '17/18 campaign, it would have been astonishing if '74 had been able to equal the achievements of the previous season. After all, even the top clubs in the country struggle to repeat their immediate past triumphs – so why should this not be true for '74?

So, a final position of tenth – the lowest that the club had finished in since being promoted to the Premier Division– did seem to suggest a decline in the clubs' fortunes. But that would be completely wrong, as 1874's final standing was hugely influenced by a difficult start to the season in which the loss of key players from the 1'7/18 campaign - allied to a cruel run of injuries to many of the clubs' key creative and attacking players - resulted in a somewhat disjointed first few months of the season and early exits in both the FA Cup and Vase.

Another factor that we probably didn't fully appreciate at the time was the impact that the untimely death in December 2017 of our inspirational and dearly loved Chairman Paul Stockton had on the club. It was therefore perhaps a fitting tribute to this wonderful man when, on the afternoon of Saturday 4 May 2019, his name was chanted aloud by the 500 or so '74 fans who had just witnessed their side lift its first major piece of silverware, an 88th minute goal by the Greens gave a deserved 1-0 victory over league champions City of Liverpool FC in the Final of the NWCFL League Cup.

This cup win proved to be a springboard for the club as from the very outset of the 2019/20 season it was clear that '74 would be one of the main contenders for the NWCFL title. Another good FA Cup run – which was halted at the Second Qualifying Round by an admittedly fortunate Whitby Town side – was

the precursor to an astonishing league campaign that included a 15-game unbeaten league run – another club record.

But it wasn't just the results that were impressive, it was the swash-buckling, stylish passing and pressing style of play in which '74 played the game that brought them so many plaudits and admiration from other clubs and commentators from all quarters. But in addition to their verve and panache, the side also possessed a steely, never-say-die, attitude that that gained them several precious points from seemingly difficult positions. This left '74 in the box seat at the head of the league with nine games left and 8 points ahead of second placed Rylands with a game in hand.

So, if there was ever a bunch of players and back-room staff that deserved to end a season celebrating a league title win, then it ought to have been our fabulous, wonderful team who represent our brilliant little club.

But alas, and for entirely understandable reasons, this was not to be. For as we all now know, the Covid 19 outbreak resulted in a sudden cessation to grassroots football and, heartbreakingly, the players, officials and fans alike were denied seeing the league trophy being paraded around Townfield.

Although we didn't know it at the time, '74's elevation to Step 4 was to be eventually delayed by 12 months as due to the re-organisation of the National League Pyramid, '74 became eligible for promotion to the newly created Northern Premier League West! And to celebrate this elevation, on 24 July 2021 the Greens became the first club in the 40+ year history of the competition to retain the NWCFL League Cup by convincingly defeating Runcorn Town 6-3 in the much delayed 2019/20 Final.

Life during our first campaign as a Step 4 club was inevitably challenging at times. As a small fish in a much bigger pool, almost each week we faced by clubs with far greater resources than we have at our disposal.

So, a final finishing spot of twelfth out of twenty was

highly satisfying end result. It might have been even more impressive had our home form had been a little more consistent!

But it's not all about what happens on the 6,000 square metres of turf that might set the club apart from many others. Being a democratically owned and operated community focussed club from the get-go, the partnerships we have forged with the local voluntary and business sectors are yet another example of how 1874 is demonstrating its commitment to be a 'community' club in terms of actions rather than words.

So, over the past decade not only have we forged beneficial partnerships with many well-respected local companies including Britannia Carpets and Oxy-Pro, but we've also forged excellent relationships with our chosen charity partners, which have included the Mid-Cheshire based Neuromuscular Centre, St Luke's Hospice, and the children's hospice 'The Joshua Tree'. In addition, regular collections have also taken place for local food banks, homeless people shelters, The Samaritans, Armed Services veterans, and a myriad of other deserving causes as well as attendance at community events.

The 2014/15 season also saw the club run an U21 side and since then, several of their number have now progressed to the First-team squad. More recently, 1874 have fielded sides at junior level and our plan is build on the establishment of this team as a stepping stone towards the creation of other sides covering all age groups, gender, and abilities.

Mention of all age groups and abilities reminds us that, along with the Cheshire FA, '74 have also played a major role in establishing local 'walking football' sessions each week which have proved to be hugely popular with the 'more mature' folks of Mid-Cheshire, most of whom might had thought that their playing days were well behind them!

2019 was also a landmark year off the field as, for the first time, 1874 finally played within the boundary of the town of Northwich having signed a 2-year agreement to share Barnton's Townfield Lane stadium.

A huge amount of work has been undertaken since this deal was signed to further improve the facilities for players, officials, and supporters alike and by doing so to enhance the match-day experience for all - as well as meeting the ground-grading requirements that were necessary for promotion to Step 4. The original agreement was extended last year and both clubs are

now working to develop a longer-term vision for the ground.

So, overall, 1874 is a club that is most definitely on the up!

But any progress that we may make will be achieved in a responsible and sustainable manner. Indeed, one of our main principles is that we will not jeopardise the long-term interests of the club by spending money just in order to ensure success on the pitch.

So, you could say that Inclusivity, Openness, Community and Sustainability is our USP.

But allied to this we also want to have success on and off the pitch and – as importantly - lots of fun!

And in our first decade, we think that we've achieved all of these aims beyond our wildest dreams!

PROFILES 22/23

The Management Team – Since April 2017 1874 have been guided by the managerial duo of Paul Bowyer and Wayne Goodison. Telford born Paul – who is a teacher by profession – joined '74 at its inception and played in the clubs' historic first game against Lostock Gralam. Paul's playing career was spent in the National game system and included spells with Congleton Town, Telford United and Alsager Town.

In comparison, Wayne spent the majority of his career in the Football League, firstly with Barnsley as an apprentice and then Crewe and Rochdale, chalking up a total of 209 league games. Since his playing days ended, he's held a number of management posts, including at Buxton, Trafford, Salford City and Chorley. In addition to obtaining a degree in Football Coaching & Management from UCFB, he followed this up by gaining a postgraduate Masters in Football Coaching & Practice.

Sam Adetiloye – Another newcomer to the '74 cause, Sam arrived at Townfield from Widnes after earlier stints Ramsbottom United and Padiham, having spent the earlier part of his career with Salford City.

Tony Aghayere – 'Big T' as he is affectionately known was well known to '74 fans before signing for the club in January 2019 as he'd previously been a key member of the Colne side that won the NWCFL title with Colne. His career has also included stops at Padiham,

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Mossley and Salford. Since joining '74 he's become a firm fans favourite, thanks to his consistent levels of performance during his 100+ games.

Ellis Allen – 20 year old Ellis was a trainee with Oldham Athletic and since leaving Boundary Park in the summer of 2020 has had spells between the sticks at Cypriot club APEA Akrotiri, Holywell Town as well as NWCFL outfit Whitchurch Alport.

Ollie Broe – A teammate of MacKenzie O'Neill at Wigan Athletic, Liverpool born Ollie is a versatile lad who can play on the right side of defence or midfield. Originally part of the Academy set up at Anfield, the 20 year old has also represented City of Liverpool, Litherland REMYCA, Farsley Celtic and Widnes.

Liam Buckley – A defender who plays right or left back and came through the youth ranks at Chester FC, 19 year old Liam spent last season with Welsh Premier Division outfit Cefn Druids.

Jamal Crawford – One of several summer recruits to the '74 cause, 24-year old Jamal started his career as a junior with Burnley. After a short stop playing in Wales for Llandudno, he returned to England and went onto appear for a number of clubs including FC United, Chester, Hyde United, Curzon Ashton, Bamber Bridge, Glossop, Trafford and most latterly Widnes.

Max Davidson – One of several new faces to have joined the '74 squad this summer, 19 year old Max hails from Northern Ireland. Normally found at left-back, he started off his career with the youth set up at Ballymena United before joining fellow Irish outfit Bangor. Subsequently he made the short hop over to Wales where he spent last season with Cefn Druids.

Markell Foulds – A strong and commanding figure at the heart of the '74 defence, this will be 21 year-old Markell's 2nd season with '74 having signed in the dotted line in August 2021. In addition to playing in the colours of Clitheroe and Barnoldswick, Markell has a wealth of youth football behind him including a scholarship with Salford City and for the UCFB Academy.

Matt Fenton – Matt's assurance and calmness on the ball certainly belies his tender years. Originally part of Crewe's youth system, it was as part of '74's highly regarded Under 21 side that he really began to shine. Pitched into the First XI towards the end of last season, 22 year old Matt acquitted himself magnificently in his ten outings which included three bullet-headed goals.

Callum Gardner – Cal was snapped up from local rivals Winsford United in the summer of 2018 after having made a number of impressive performances for 'The Blues' against 'us. Now with 115 appearances and 19 goals to his credit, the 31 year old has also played for the full England FUTSAL side. He cites Mossley, FC United, Abbey Hey and Congleton as amongst his previous clubs.

Fenton Green – A central midfield player who was at Crewe Alexandra's academy, the 19 year old has already taken the eye of many '74 fans during the pre-season build up with his measured, calm performances. During the 21/22 campaign he had stints at Hyde United and Stockport Town.

Ryan Hough – A left full-back, Ryan was signed from NWCFL outfit Alsager Town in March 2022.

Ahmed Ibrahim – A natural right-sided defender, Ahmed was originally part of the youth set up at Tranmere Rovers. After leaving Prenton Park in the summer of 2016, the Somalian born 24-year old first turned out for NWCFL side St Helens Town but has since played in the colours of Macclesfield, Radcliffe, Marine and Glossop.

Jack Irlam – Having missed the truncated 2019/20 season with an ankle injury, 25 year old Jack came back well to feature in 29 league games for '74 in their debut season as a Step 4 club. Signed from Runcorn Town for whom he played over 100 Games, he's also been on the books of Ashton Town, Barnton and City of Liverpool.

Mark Jones – 1874's Mr Reliable, Mark is an unflappable, cultured player who has played a major role in our success over recent years since arriving in the summer of 2016. A versatile operator who can play equally well in midfield or the centre of defence, 36 year old Mark counts Witton, Nantwich and Radcliffe amongst his earlier ports of call. Is fast closing in on 150 appearances for '74.

Jenny Le Blanc-Akpo – Snapped up this summer from Welsh League Champions TNS, this 20-year old Manchester based striker also counts Wigan Athletic, Altrincham and Bury FC among his former ports of call.

Henry Limpitishi Bongwanga – Currently studying for a Degree in Football Business and Finance at the University Campus of Football Business (UCFB), Henry was once on the books of Coventry City and Cheltenham Town. A natural striker who has also

appeared for the 'Towns' of Kettering, Cheadle and Stockport, Henry was selected to play for the British Universities squad last year along with former '74 player Ben Woods.

Jack Marrow – After completing his scholarship with Crewe Alexandra, 19 Year old Jack joined '74 in the summer of 2021 but made just 2 appearances before injury put paid to his season with the club. A loan spell at Alsager aided him in his recovery and he's now back at Townfield keen to make up for lost time.

Issac Noble – An exciting and pacy left winger of whom much is expected, 20-year old Isaac is one of many young lads who have made the step up from the U21 side to the first team.

Mackenzie O'Neill - A former member of the Wigan Athletic academy and a Northern Ireland U17 international, 20 year old Mackenzie signed for the club shortly after impressing when scoring for Prescott Cables against 1874 in October 2021.

Manuel Diop Parra – One of a number of summer additions to the '74 squad, 26 year old Manuel can play in a number of positions across the back. Originally from Spain, he counts Kendal Town, Longridge Town and Manchester League side Old Altrinchamians amongst his former clubs.

Josh Quarless – A graduate of the Liverpool Sunday football scene, 6'7" tall Josh will certainly add a different dimension to the '74 front line. Described by a previous manager as being "big, strong, good in the air with great feet and an eye for goal", he made the short trip from Runcorn Linnets in August having scored 22 goals for Burscough and City of Liverpool last season.

Jamie Reed - Appointed as player-coach in July 2022, Chester-born Jamie started his career with neighbouring Wrexham. Since then his career has been a proverbial 'Cook's Tour' with stops at such diverse clubs as Glentoran, Dandenong Thunder (Australia), Bangor City, Rhyl, Tamworth, Cambridge United, South Melbourne, Chester and, most notably, York City for whom he won F.A. Trophy and Conference National Play-off winners medals. Jamie teamed up 1874 from Prestatyn Town towards the end of 2021, scoring on his debut at Kidsgrove. All told, he's now made 352 appearances netting 151 goals.

Harry Walker – Capable of playing in midfield or defence Harry joined the club in the summer of 2021.

Joe Woolley – The younger brother of the club captain, Joe is actually one of three Woolley brothers who have played for '74, the other being Jack. Snapped up from Market Drayton in 2015, his early career with '74 was blighted by injury, a fact underlined by the fact that he made less than 50 outings in his first 6 years with the club. Happily he's now back firing on all cylinders, as his 6 goals in 38 appearances for '74 last season testifies.

Matt Woolley – The club captain, Matty is also '74's longest serving player having made his debut as a substitute in the 2014 Christmas-time tussle with Widnes. A Northwich lad, he was signed from Cheshire League side Knutsford FC. Matt has had spells at Congleton Town and Alsager, Witton Albion and FC Halifax Town and he's now chalked up 327 games for the club netting 40 goals.

Ash Woods - Ash joined the club in October 2020 having had a wealth of experience with the likes of Atherton Collieries, Trafford, Colwyn Bay, Northwich Vics and West Didsbury and Chorlton. A real goal-poacher, Ash will no doubt be looking to increase the potency of the '74 attack in what will be his first full season with '74.



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The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Daniel Wilkinson who died in 2016 aged 24, while playing the game he loved, from an underlying heart condition called Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC).



Dan played football from an early age and joined Hull City AFC when he was 10, earning a professional contract aged 18. Loughborough University followed where he completed a degree in Accounting and Financial Management while playing non-league football. He was an athlete who enjoyed the gym and took his health and nutrition very seriously. He lived life to the full and had so much ahead of him.

Other than feeling light-headed on a few occasions in the month before he died, he had no symptoms!

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TODAY'S COVER STAR

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

After Saturday's game, we were hit with a stat from our resident bean counters that blew us at Ever Glorious away.

As you might have read elsewhere in the programme, club captain Matt Woolley has now captained the the Greens on 250 separate occasions. Once we knew this, there was really only one person we could envisage gracing this edition.

It feels like only yesterday that the man himself was celebrating his 300th appearance for the club. Some going, so to be captain for almost 5/6 of your total appearances is truly something to be celebrated.

I know a programme cover is scarcely scratches the surface of what an appropriate celebration would be, but we hope it does its part nonetheless.

Congratulations, Matt!



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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: LEEK TOWN

Although some say the origins of Leek Town go back as far as 1876, the history of the club as we now know it begins in 1946. Starting out as Leek Lowe Hamil in the Leek and Moorlands League and progressing to the Staffordshire County League, where they still hold the record of being the only team to win the championship without the loss of a match in 1949/50.

On moving into the Manchester League in 1951/52, they became Leek Town and won the championship at the first attempt. After a brief flirtation with the Birmingham League in 1954/55, they moved back to the Manchester League and eventually back to the Staffordshire County League.

It was 1968 when Leek Town started to become the club it is now. The ground was improved adding a clubhouse, small stand and floodlights. Manager Paul Ogden led the team to success in the Staffordshire County League and the Manchester League before joining the Cheshire League in the 1973/74 season and winning that championship at the second attempt. The chairman at the time was the late Geoff Harrison, after whom Harrison Park is named. Leek became founder members of the North West Counties League in 1982 but had little success.

When the Northern Premier League First Division was added in 1987/88, Leek were founder members. After two seasons finishing third, they were promoted to the Premier Division on topping the First Division in 1989/90. This season also saw them reach the FA Trophy Final at Wembley, where they lost 3-0 to Barrow. This was a historic achievement, as no other side from that level of the pyramid had ever done so previously.

The success, all under the guidance of manager, Neil Baker, continued in the following season in the form of an FA Cup run where they defeated Scarborough in the First Round Proper and forced a replay against Chester City in the Second Round.

Leek's second place finish in 1993/94 should have been enough to see them promoted to the Vauxhall

Conference. Instead, they were rewarded by being shunted sideways to the Southern League, as they were denied a place for financial reasons. They enjoyed a fairly successful campaign, finishing in 7th place, but due to the crippling financial commitment, requested a move back to the Northern Premier League.

Success followed shortly as they won the championship in the 1996/97 season and were promoted to the Conference. The club managed to retain its Conference status at the end of the first season, a feat that required them to play six matches in the final eight days of the season. The following season proved one too many and relegation back to the UniBond NPL Premier Division resulted.

The relegation saw a complete change in the playing staff, with a side of mainly local players. The team struggled and was relegated again at the end of the 2000/01 season to the UniBond NPL First Division. Following the league restructuring at the end of the 2003/04 season, Leek returned to the Premier Division where they finished in 7th position. In the following three seasons Blues struggled against relegation and after two great escapes they succumbed in the 2007/08 season.

Relegation saw a complete rebuilding of the side, but under manager Wayne Johnson and then Neil Cox they failed to reach the promotion Play-offs. Neil Baker took the reins briefly in 2011 before returning to Crewe Alexandra, his assistant Lee Casswell took charge and led the Blues to the promotion Play-offs three times in four seasons, losing twice in the Final against Ilkeston FC in 2012 and Sutton Coldfield Town in 2015. Lee remained in charge until April 2016 when Anthony Danylyk stepped in as player/manager and continued in the 2016/17 season.

Neil Baker returned at the start of 2017/18 and in his first season narrowly missed out on a Play-off spot. The following season 2018/19 Leek Town finished 3rd, and after beating Colne in the Semi-Final, they narrowly lost to Radcliffe FC in the Final after beating their opponents twice in the league campaign.

In 2019/20 Leek Town were riding high and were top of the table from December 2019 - with 10 games to go the covid pandemic curtailed the season - they were cruelly denied promotion when the season was declared null & void. In 2020/21 Leek continued where they left off and were top of the table again after 8 games, where once again COVID campaign curtailed the season.

In 2021/22 the Club was moved from the NPL East to the NPL West with the re-organisation at Step 4, they also changed their playing surface to 3G which saw a revamp of the already impressive stadium, despite having to play away from home until mid-October Neil Bakers side finished 3rd and progressed to the Play-offs. They then lost at home in the Semi-Final to Runcorn Linnets who were in turn beaten by Marine in the Final.

PROFILES

Sam Booth – Goalkeeper

A talented young goalkeeper who joined the Club in 2021/22 whilst also playing for Crewe Alexandra in the U23 squad. Sam made his debut against in August 2021 against Gresley Rovers in the FA Cup.

Danny Roberts – Goalkeeper

Re-joined the club for a second spell in January 2018 from Belper Town. Danny originally joined Leek during the 2010/11 season and has since also played for Norton United and Witton Albion. A strong, dominant keeper who has made over 200 appearances for Leek Town. Danny was a member of the NPL team of the year in 2018/19.

Jessy Bavanganga - Defender

Comfortable as a full back or central defender. Jessy made his first team debut in April 2018 and became the first graduate from the Blues NPLFA Academy side

to make it into the first team squad, he cemented his place at right back in the 2021/22 season. Formerly on the books of Stoke City as a youngster.

Regan Brown – Defender

Regan joins the Blues this season after impressing in several pre-season games and training. A very young prospect who is quick and physically imposing, previously he has played for Ashton Athletic.

Olly Harrison – Defender

An imposing strong defender who had previously been a scholar at Crewe Alexandra. After a stint in Sweden for IKF Ostersund he returned to the UK and signed for Leek Town at the tail end of 2018/19 season, making his debut against Glossop NE. Virtually ever-present in 2021/22 and an integral part of the meanest defences in the NPL. Selected as a player in the West Division Team of the Season.

Louis Keenan – Defender

An experienced defender who joined Blues from Loughborough Dynamo at the start of the 2019/20 season, where he had played under Assistant Manager Peter Ward. In the last three seasons 'Keeno' has made 95 appearances in a possible 96 games. A no-nonsense defender with a touch of class.

Alex Morris - Defender

Alex has returned to Leek after successful spells at Kidsgrove Athletic and Mickleover Sports. Equally comfortable in the left of defence or midfield. He first joined the Blues in after being released by Port Vale and already has 56 appearances and over 100 for other NPL teams.

Scott Wara - Defender

An imposing, versatile defender who has recently joined the Club from Stoke City U23s following his release in 2020. Scott was born in Fiji and received

his first call up to the Fijian senior national team in March 2018, making his debut in September 2018. Comfortable at right back or in the centre of defence.

Josh Ryder - Defender

Josh joins Leek Town from near neighbours Congleton Town. A classy defender who has impressed for the last two years playing in the North West Counties Premier Division. Prior to this Josh was a scholar at Port Vale and on the books of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Lewis Short – Midfielder

Joined the Blues in September 2018 after a short spell with Chorley. Lewis was on the books of Crewe Alexandra and then went on to play for Northwich Victoria, Airbus UK, Nantwich Town, Connahs Quay and Bala Town. Comfortable as a left back or higher up the pitch, with an eye for spectacular goals.

Ross Davidson - Midfield

Ross re-joined Leek Town in 2022 ten years after his debut in 2012. He was a former professional at Port Vale and is vastly experienced and respected after spells at Witton Albion, Kidsgrove Athletic and Trafford FC. An imposing versatile figure in midfield who can also cover in defence.

Marc Grocott – Midfield

Combative midfield player signed in June 2017 from Kidsgrove Athletic where he was Manager's and Player's player of the Season in 2016/17. Marc began his career on the books of Stoke City where he spent several seasons and gained experience with loan spells

at Alfreton Town and Stafford Rangers. 'Groctuso' is a firm fan favourite now in his 6th season with the Club.

Tom Hinton - Midfield

Tom is a Leek lad and is highly rated in the local football community having played for the youth teams of Stafford Rangers and Newcastle Town. A central midfielder who is comfortable on the ball and an eye for a pass.

Billy Reeves – Midfield

Classy midfield player who arrived at Harrison Park in September 2018 after a spell with Stafford Rangers. Billy was previously on the books of Port Vale where he made a number of first team appearances. A popular player with his peers and fans, winning Players Player and Managements Player at the end of season awards in 2021/22. Selected in the NPL Media Team of Season in 2021/22.

Jack Wakefield - Midfield

Jack joined Leek Town at the start of the 2020/21 season, his impact was immediate with 2 goals in 4 games. He was released from Port Vale as a scholar earlier that year. Jack is an energetic, technical midfielder with an eye for goal who can also play higher up the pitch.

Lucas Baker - Striker

Lucas joined the Club in 2021/22 and made his debut against Kidsgrove Athletic in December 2021. He has trained with the Club throughout this period and also been on dual registration with Stone Old Alleynians



and Alsager AFC. A pacy winger who loves to run at defenders.

Tom Carr – Striker

Tom joins Leek Town from Stafford Rangers and has previously played for Wythenshawe Amateurs and Avro. Tom is young, pacey and equally comfortable playing in midfield or across the forward line.

Tim Grice – Striker

Prolific striker signed in September 2011 from North West Counties League side Eccleshall. Tim started out at the Stoke City Academy and was also on the books of Aston Villa before going on to play for Wolstanton United and Alsager Town. Our longest serving player 'Gricey' is the club's record goal scorer with 227 goals for Leek in just over 420 games for Leek and is affectionately known as Mr Leek Town.

Rob Stevenson -Striker

Attacking player who previously had a spell at Harrison Park under Lee Casswell in the 2012/13 season. Since then Rob has played for Market Drayton Town, Belper Town and Stafford Rangers before returning to Leek in October 2016. 'Stevie' is talented player renowned for individual goals and mazy runs with over 200 appearances for the Blues.

Will Saxon – Striker

A winger who can also play as a striker. Will joined us from Step 3 neighbours Nantwich Town. Will has experience in the Northern Premier League after a successful spell with neighbours Kidsgrove Athletic in

2018/19. He is an exciting player to watch and has a good goal scoring ratio.

Jack Tomlinson – Striker

Jack joins Leek Town from near neighbours Stone Old Alleynians. A young and imposing forward who can hold the ball up well and has an impressive goals to game ratio at Step 5. The Blues fought off many local suitors to bring Jack to the Club.

Dan Trickett-Smith - Striker

Dan returned to Leek Town for his second spell after being released by Port Vale in 2021. Dan started out on the books of Crewe Alexandra before securing a move to Liverpool aged just 16, he then moved to America following his release from Anfield playing for Sacramento Republic. He initially joined in September 2018 with many impressive performances which earned him an offer of a professional contract at Port Vale in March 2019. Selected as a player in the West Division Team of the Season and third highest goal scorer in the league.



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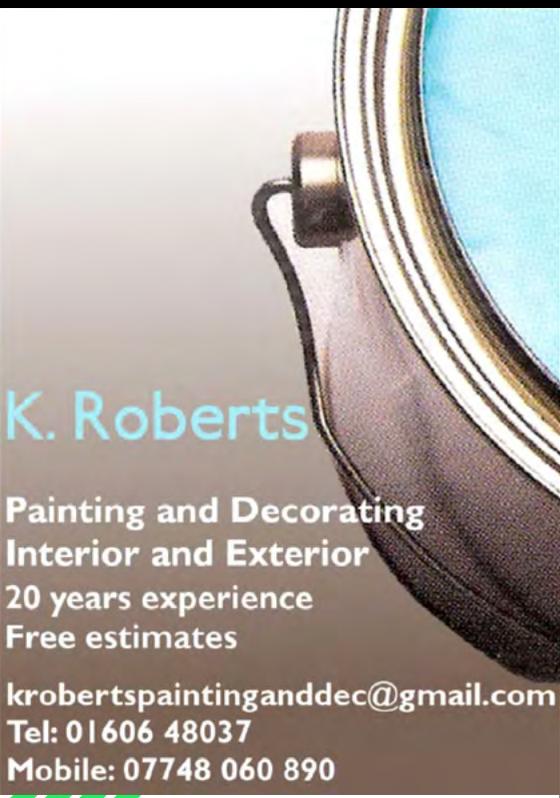
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