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Registration no.: 32017R

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Visit

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MEDIA: media@1874northwich.com

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 WORKINGTON AFC

SATURDAY 15th APR 2023 | K.O. 3.00PM



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Paul Bowyer & Wayne Goodison

GOALKEEPING COACH: Chris Appleton

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Katy Bagshaw

KIT MANAGER: Andy Williams

UNDER 21s MANAGER: Kyle Murray

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to everyone from Workington AFC to Townfield for what is our final home game of the season.

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Workington AFC Players, Management, Officials and Supporters. It is a long trip down the M6, hopefully you have had a good journey.

Having secured their position of a home game in the play-offs, Workington will be ambitious to move forward in their footballing journey. Everyone at 1874 Northwich wishes you well on that journey.

Unfortunately, despite a couple of sterling performances on the field over Easter, 1874 failed to record that elusive win that would have eased lingering worries over being dragged into the bottom four places in the league and we now find ourselves looking over our shoulders at what other teams around us are doing. Unfortunately in football what matters is putting the ball in the net and whilst the team have played some excellent football lately, actually finding the net has proved elusive these last few weeks. Let's hope that we can rectify that today.

Probably my most important job today is to say a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who enables our fans owned club to continue playing football week in, week out.

Without our volunteers this club would not exist, everyone plays a vital part and it would not be correct of me to highlight individuals. If you already volunteer for the club in any way, I thank you. If you think that you may be able to help in the future, please come forward. Every offer of help is appreciated, no matter how little you feel that may be. This is your club, and our volunteers do what they do for you.

As this is my last Chairman's notes this season, a couple of reminders of a few important events coming up in the next few weeks.

April 30th we will be hosting our Legends Day here at Townfield as we welcome back some old friends from our early seasons. Players from past years will once again be gracing the field in what will be an entertaining afternoon of football and we are all looking forward to welcoming the Ian Street Legends XI against a team managed by Bow and Goodie consisting of some of our more recent football heroes.

The afternoon will also consist of games involving our juniors and our Mens and Womens Walking Football teams. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

May 6th is our End of Season Presentation evening at Winnington Rec. Tickets are now on sale for the event which will include a 3 course meal alongside presentation of this year's Players Awards. Please see Richard Stockton for details or ask any Board member.

Lastly the club will be announcing a Fans Forum meeting in the next few weeks. This will be an opportunity for all supporters to have your say on the future direction of the club, to put forward your ideas of how we can best move the club forward and to offer your assistance in future events and projects.

Finally I have to say Thank You to your 1874 Northwich Board members. Voted for by our club members, the amount of work that they all put in is immense and mostly unseen and whilst we may be approaching this season's finale, for them the work never stops. Next season will be here before we know it and the preparation for it has already begun.

Please enjoy today's game. Be sure to make your support heard and give the boys your full support.

As always, be Loud and Proud!

All the best,

Steve



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FROM THE DUGOUT

PAUL & WAYNE



Welcome to our final home game of the season against Workington. We wish them all the best in the play offs as they bid to get promotion.

We've got a clear picture of what we need to do in the remaining two games to preserve our status at Step 4 and we feel unlucky not to come away with anything from the Easter Weekend, where we put in two good performances against Clitheroe and Witton Albion.

The statistics for the games showed our dominance but the most important statistic was that we came away with no points despite limiting both sides to few chances.

We stood up well to the physical threat of Clitheroe and it's inevitable that so many long throws and balls into our box that one or two will fall to them and so it proved. We had chances to go score in the second half, with Sam hitting the bar.

Similar on Monday where we had chances to score with their keeper getting Man of the Match and much of our play was positive and purposeful.

Frustrating times which I'm sure is felt by many of you but we have to keep going and if we can replicate those performances then I'm sure we'll pick up the required points.

Workington pose a tough test and have many strengths in their team so we need to concentrate and ensure we don't switch off. The first goal last week came from clearing our lines but not picking up as we came out and got caught out and this is something we have worked on in training this week.

There aren't any new injury concerns so the squad will be similar to last weekend. Sometimes in the past we've rotated the team a little more than we are currently doing but we've kept a smaller squad in the run-in and in the past where one or two would be asking for more playing time, there are a good core of players who have played in plenty of games and fully understand our expectations.

I feel like we mention it each week, but the support in the past couple of games has continued to be excellent and we'll do everything we can to get the three points today ahead of our final League game at Widnes next Saturday.

We've got the 10 Year Anniversary game planned for Sunday 30th April and many of our former players have committed to turning out so it promises to be a good day. Plus the end of season Presentation Evening on Sat 6th May where we hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Enjoy the game!

Up the '74 and get behind the lads!

Bows and Goody

SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Welcome back to Townfield, for another game against a top team hoping for play off success. Workington have consistently been up there and will want to find that extra ounce of effort to see them through to promotion.

They were the best team I saw last season and whilst I didn't make it to Cumbria early on this time, I know they have continued to be very strong. So, we have a challenge today, especially as we are on a bit of a tricky run just now, but let's see what happens. A warm welcome to everyone who has travelled down and a safe journey back later; the Workington folks are certainly a very good bunch.

It was tough last weekend and a bit hard to swallow to be honest. Just in terms of the results, but not the performances and effort from all the lads. We matched Clitheroe last Saturday and were well worth a point, sadly the big throw came in with a bullet header on the end of it that gave Shea no chance in goal, and coming in injury time too meant there was little chance to recover. The Clitheroe Officials were very sporting and even their manager said that he felt for 1874, as we didn't deserve that result.

We then came away from Wincham Park on Monday, wondering how we hadn't won. We were the better team, and their Man of the Match for me was the Keeper, who made some excellent saves and blocks. It just wasn't to be. When you are on a tricky run, nothing seems to go for you. The Albion claimed the bragging rights and history will show a win for them, but that doesn't tell the story of the game.

We know our problem has been scoring goals. The lads who have been out there, have so much spirit and have given so much effort and I commend them for this. Yes, I think a more natural finisher, with that instinct and quick pace, would have likely converted some of our fantastic build up play. For various reasons, that recruitment hasn't worked out the way we hoped, but it wasn't for the lack of trying. We have also lost good lads through injury, who I am sure would have pitched in with a goal or two.

However, on the flip side, we have had challenges from clubs putting notices in for our players and whilst we wouldn't provide any further information on this, please be assured that we have had good news stories about players remaining committed to us because they are happy and are looking forward to improving in the future. Let's see what happens next time...

After today's final home game, we head to Widnes to finish the season. Of course, we all hope that we don't need to go there needing something from the game. Widnes will no doubt want the same too. One thing I would urge, is that you continue your excellent support next Saturday and be loud and proud from the first minute. We have a terrific set of lads, who care a great deal. They have given us some fantastic times this season and deserve our full backing as we aim for another season in the NPL West. Let's do this!!!

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You'll be able to vote for your End of Season awards from today. Please watch out for online information on how to vote, we will also have voting slips available at today's game. The presentations will then be made on May 6th at our Annual Presentation evening which will also see us celebrate our 10th Anniversary. As you know, we have for some years presented the Paul Stockton Player of the Season trophy. However the three other awards have also been renamed and I know you will fully agree with the choices, when you see them. No, it's not the 'Vicki England who can shout the loudest' award, but I think you will all be a bit proud of these.

Richard Stockton will be selling tickets today, so please catch up with him or speak to one of the Board members and they will help to sort for you. Let's celebrate our club and our lads.

I hope to see you all at Townfield for the legend's day on 30 April. We should have some of our Juniors with us from 1pm, then our Walking Footballers, moving on to the legends game at 2.30pm. The line ups are cracking, so get yourselves back to Townfield, the BBQ and bar will be open too.

Finally, I want to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has rolled their sleeves up to do something for 1874 this season. Whether that's before, during or after a match, your support is fantastic, and your efforts hugely appreciated. The team is followed incredibly well by passionate supporters, and I look forward to the same again today, next Saturday and going into next season.

For the last time this season...

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

"Come on you Green Boys!"

SIMMO'S NOTES

ANDREW SIMPSON

TAKE a deep breath.

There's not been enough of that lately, and tension can make you forget to do so.

I've reported on sport for long enough to know that having destiny in your own hands is most important at this stage of a campaign.

Believe me, there's nothing worse than having to rely on strangers doing you a favour.

After all, why should they? They've usually got their own troubles to worry about, anyway.

There are six points still up for grabs this season, and collecting as many of those as possible is where 1874 Northwich's focus should be.

I think it's entirely natural for those not on the field this afternoon to have given some thought to the permutations of results elsewhere going one way or another.

Journalists definitely do that; it comes with the job!

But I've often found athletes that get distracted if their task is made complicated. It's for others to worry about the numbers.

And I rather think that will have been the message from the management team to the players in the days since Easter.

I'm told the performances against Clitheroe and then Witton were much improved, and that's reason to be encouraged.

More of the same against Workington, and fortunes might just turn again in '74's favour.

A sequence of five successive defeats in the Northern Premier League's West Division has arrived at the wrong time, and that's frustrating for everybody involved.

Indeed, for a large part of the season, '74 appeared on course to surpass last season's points tally and finishing position.

By the way, that still remains possible with maximum points from the remaining games.

That would lighten the mood heading into the summer too.

Of far greater significance than any statistic though is securing the club's status at this level of the National League System for a third term.

And what of Workington's motivation?

The Cumbrian outfit arrive at Townfield occupying second spot in the standings, which would guarantee they play both rounds of the promotion play-offs on home turf – if they progress, of course.

Their grip on that place isn't entirely secure though even with a dip in form for closest rivals Leek that has seen the Staffordshire side lost three of their past five fixtures.

Danny Grainger's men have been more reliable, winning four of the past five games.

However, defeats without scoring at City of Liverpool and Widnes are proof of some frailty on their travels over the past month.

That cues this meeting up nicely.

Enjoy the game, folks.

Simmo



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NORTHERN
PREMIER
LEAGUE

BIG GAME PREVIEW

by GARRY CLARKE



1874 NORTHWICH V WORKINGTON AFC NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

1874 Northwich welcome Workington to Townfield for our final home NPL West fixture of the 2022/23 season.

Workington missed out on automatic promotion at the end of the 2021/22 season by the barest of margins, finishing a point behind champions Warrington Rylands before losing in the play offs to Marine.

With just two games to go it looks like Workington will again be taking the runners-up spot behind champions Macclesfield and will be hoping for better luck in the play offs this time around.

Workington are aiming to finish the league season with a flourish having won both of their Easter Fixtures, beating Witton Albion 5-0 and Kidsgrove Athletic 3-1.

After the Easter programme The Reds were 2nd in the NPL West table, while 1874 were 15th.

This season's NPL West record of today's Townfield combatants are:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Workington	36	22	6	8	64	35	+29	72
1874	36	11	9	16	40	46	-6	42

Away from their Borough Park home, Workington's league record is:

P	W	D	L
18	12	2	4

While 1874's home record at Townfield so far this season is:

P	W	D	L
17	6	6	6

Workington's top goal scorer this season is David Symington with 18, while Joe Woolley with 11 is 1874's leading goal scorer.

Workington have the second highest average home attendance in the NPL West behind Macclesfield, averaging 729 spectators per game.

WORKINGTON FACT FILE

Formed	1921
Ground	Borough Park
Colours	Red
Change Colours	Blue
Nickname	The Reds
Manager	Danny Grainger
2021/22	2nd NPL West

WE'VE MET BEFORE

Garry Clarke takes a look back at the five previous meetings between 1874 Northwich and Clitheroe.

2021/22

25th September 2021 - NPL West

Away - Drew 2-2 Attendance 644

1874 - M Woolley, Parker

Workington - Rigg, Gaul

15th January 2022 - NPL West

Home - Lost 2-4 Attendance 292

1874 - Reed 2

Workington - Jerome 2, Carroll, Smith

2022/23

26th November 2022 - NPL West

Away - Lost 1-2 Attendance 607

1874 - J Woolley

Workington - Reilly 2

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	1	0	0	1	2	4	-2
Away	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1
Total	3	0	1	2	5	8	-3

LAST SEASON**Vs WORKINGTON AT TOWNFIELD**

15th January 2022 Lost 2-4 Attendance 292

1874 started brightly and took the lead in the 13th minute when Jamie Reed deflected a cross into the visitors net.

Workington levelled five minutes later through Brad Carroll and took the lead in the 24th minute through Reuben Jerome.

Reed was on target again in the 27th minute before Jerome put the visitors in front again in the 34th minute.

Workington put the game to bed in the 86th minute when Sam Smith scored to put the game beyond 1874's reach.



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RESPECT

SETTING STANDARDS AT 1874

1874 Northwich is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment. As such, everyone at the Club, including managers, officials, players and spectators, have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game, both on and off the pitch.

As Club Welfare Officer, I have a responsibility to communicate our safeguarding arrangements and expected standards of behaviour. This is becoming more relevant, as we are seeing more and more of our junior players watching the senior team and also some of our first team squad are under the age of 18. This means that as adults we need to be conscious of the example we are setting.

We rightly pride ourselves on being a family club and all have a part to play in making the matchday experience safe and enjoyable for our younger fans / players.

We would hope that you respect ALL players and officials. No one sets out to make mistakes, but they happen. So please play your part and observe The Football Association's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

The following are extracts from the Club's spectator code of conduct as it applies to young people:

- Remember that young players are doing the best they can
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Lead by example, always respect the match official's decision
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

It is great to see so many youngsters at matches, both on and off the pitch, let's make them feel welcome.

Thanks,
Maggie Coats
Club Welfare Officer
cwo@1874northwich.com



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- Signed photo of presentation.

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Tony Aghayere
Ellis Allen
Harry Bower
Olie Broe
Liam Buckley
Ben Collins
Jamal Crawford
Matthew Fenton
Callum Gardner
Fenton Green
Jack Irlam
Mark Jones
Jack Marrow
Isaac Noble
Mackenzie O'Neill
Joseph Woolley
Matthew Woolley

Chris Appleton
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Paul Bowyer
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Andy Williams

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The Sunday Lunch Club



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Should you be interested in sponsorship then please contact Guy Jewell at trust@1874northwich.com for further details or to ask about particular players. Alternatively, please feel free to speak to Guy or Brian Edge at a match.

All your support is hugely appreciated, and this money goes directly to helping to support your club!

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.



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NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST 2022/23

League Table

as of 13/04/23

	Pld	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1 Macclesfield	36	15	1	2	56	13	12	4	2	34	11	+66	86
2 Workington AFC	36	10	4	4	32	14	12	2	4	32	21	+29	72
3 Leek Town	36	9	3	6	32	23	12	4	2	34	14	+29	70
4 Clitheroe	36	11	3	4	44	24	7	4	7	23	22	+21	61
5 Runcorn Linnets	36	9	4	5	26	17	8	4	6	27	21	+15	59
6 Witton Albion	36	11	2	5	37	23	5	7	6	24	27	+11	57
7 Mossley	36	9	5	4	28	19	7	4	7	29	27	+11	57
8 Trafford	36	7	4	7	25	25	7	3	8	26	29	-3	49
9 Skelmersdale United	36	5	0	13	21	37	11	0	7	34	30	-12	48
10 Kidsgrove Athletic	36	7	4	7	22	23	5	7	6	23	30	-8	47
11 Prescott Cables	36	7	6	5	21	20	5	4	9	23	29	-5	46
12 City of Liverpool	36	8	3	7	24	23	5	2	11	26	36	-9	44
13 Hanley Town	36	3	8	7	23	25	8	2	8	27	32	-7	43
14 Bootle	36	6	3	9	24	32	5	7	6	22	25	-11	43
15 1874 NORTHWICH	36	6	6	6	20	17	5	3	10	20	29	-6	42
16 Newcastle Town	36	4	5	9	16	31	7	4	7	22	34	-27	42
17 Widnes	36	7	4	7	23	28	4	3	11	15	37	-27	40
18 Colne	36	6	4	8	23	25	3	6	9	15	27	-14	37
19 Glossop North End	36	4	6	8	21	28	5	3	10	20	28	-15	36
20 Ramsbottom United	36	4	2	12	23	43	2	4	12	14	32	-38	24

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST 2022/23

Results Grid

as of 13/04/23

	1874	Bootle	City of Liverpool	Clitheroe	Colne	Glossop NE	Hanley Town	Kidsgrove Ath	Leek Town	Macclesfield	Mossley	Newcastle Town	Prescott Cables	Ramsbottom Utd	Runcorn Linnets	Skelmersdale Utd	Trafford	Widnes	Witton Albion	Workington
1874	X	1-1	2-0	1-2	4-1	0-2	0-1	2-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	2-0	0-0	1-1	0-1	2-1	2-0	2-0	1-4	-
Bootle	2-0	X	2-1	0-4	1-2	-	1-4	1-1	0-4	1-2	1-1	1-2	3-1	1-2	2-3	2-1	2-0	2-2	2-1	0-1
City of Liverpool	1-2	1-1	X	2-0	1-0	0-3	1-0	2-1	0-5	0-1	-	1-2	0-1	2-1	1-1	1-2	3-2	4-0	1-1	3-0
Clitheroe	1-3	4-0	3-2	X	4-1	3-2	4-3	-	1-0	1-1	2-1	7-1	2-2	2-0	0-1	0-1	1-2	4-2	4-1	1-1
Colne	1-0	1-1	2-1	2-1	X	3-0	1-2	0-2	-	1-1	2-3	1-2	0-2	2-1	1-0	1-2	2-2	0-1	1-1	2-3
Glossop NE	0-1	0-3	1-0	-	0-1	X	2-4	2-1	1-1	1-2	2-3	4-1	1-1	2-1	1-1	1-2	0-0	1-1	2-2	0-3
Hanley Town	4-0	2-0	2-3	1-1	2-2	1-0	X	2-2	0-0	1-1	1-1	1-2	0-1	0-0	2-2	2-4	1-2	0-2	-	1-2
Kidsgrove Ath	3-3	2-1	2-0	2-1	2-1	1-0	1-2	X	0-1	0-3	2-2	0-0	2-0	2-1	0-1	1-2	0-1	-	1-1	1-3
Leek Town	2-1	3-2	4-1	3-2	1-0	3-1	4-1	1-1	X	1-3	1-1	0-1	4-1	1-1	0-2	-	1-3	3-0	0-1	0-1
Macclesfield	0-1	1-2	5-0	3-0	4-2	2-0	4-0	5-0	4-0	X	4-3	3-0	-	4-0	3-2	1-0	3-1	5-0	1-1	4-1
Mossley	3-0	1-0	2-1	1-1	1-1	3-0	2-1	1-2	0-2	-	X	1-1	2-1	1-0	1-0	1-2	2-2	4-1	1-1	1-3
Newcastle Town	2-2	1-0	1-6	1-0	0-1	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-2	0-2	1-5	X	3-2	0-2	0-2	0-1	-	2-1	1-1	0-1
Prescott Cables	2-1	2-2	1-1	0-2	0-0	2-0	-	0-0	1-4	1-2	2-1	0-0	X	3-1	1-0	2-1	1-2	0-1	2-1	1-1
Ramsbottom Utd	2-1	0-1	1-2	2-3	0-0	1-4	1-3	2-3	2-3	0-5	3-1	-	2-1	X	1-3	3-5	3-2	0-0	0-3	0-3
Runcorn Linnets	2-2	1-1	0-2	1-2	2-0	0-0	0-0	2-0	0-1	2-1	1-2	3-1	2-0	-	X	3-0	2-1	3-1	1-0	1-3
Skelmersdale Utd	0-2	-	2-4	0-1	2-1	0-2	1-2	1-2	2-4	1-4	1-0	1-3	3-2	1-0	1-4	X	2-3	2-0	0-1	1-2
Trafford	1-0	2-3	3-2	2-1	1-1	2-2	0-2	1-1	0-2	0-1	2-0	2-2	1-2	1-0	-	2-3	X	2-0	2-1	1-2
Widnes	-	1-1	3-0	0-0	1-1	3-2	1-0	1-2	0-2	0-4	2-1	1-3	0-3	3-1	1-1	1-3	2-1	X	2-3	1-0
Witton Albion	1-0	2-2	-	1-1	1-0	0-1	5-1	3-2	1-2	1-0	0-2	3-1	1-0	5-1	4-2	5-3	0-1	1-2	X	3-2
Workington	2-1	0-1	0-0	0-1	-	3-0	3-0	3-0	1-1	0-1	0-1	3-0	3-3	1-1	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1	5-0	X

1874 NORTHWICH PLAYER STATISTICS

- correct as of 13/04/23

		2022/23 SEASON					ALL-TIME					Total Apps
		Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	
ADEILOYE	Sam	3	1	11	5	0	3	1	11	5	0	14
AGHAYERE	Tony	26	0	0	1	0	135	0	0	1	0	135
ALLEN	Ellis	8	0	0	2	0	8	0	0	2	0	8
BAKER	Nathan	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	1	6	0	1
BROE	Ollie	14	4	8	10	0	14	4	8	10	0	22
BOWER	Harry	12	7	3	1	1	12	7	3	1	1	15
BUCKLEY	Liam	38	1	0	0	0	38	1	0	0	0	38
CALLISTER	Shay	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
COLLINS	Ben	7	1	1	0	0	7	1	1	0	0	8
CRAWFORD	Jamal	7	6	11	3	0	7	6	11	3	0	18
CUCOS	Matty	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
DALY	Reece	3	1	3	2	0	3	1	3	2	0	6
DAVIDSON	Max	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
DIOP PARRA	Manuel	2	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	2
ELLINGTON	Raece	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	2
ELLIS	Nyle	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	2	0	0
FENTON	Matty	39	1	0	1	4	39	1	0	1	4	39
GARDNER	Callum	15	11	15	3	0	82	47	63	28	20	145
GREEN	Fenton	28	6	2	2	3	28	6	2	2	3	30
HAMMAN	Jacob	4	4	2	3	0	5	5	3	8	0	8
HENDERSON	Alfie	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
HEYWOOD	Ollie	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
IRLAM	Jack	29	8	4	3	5	82	27	22	5	9	104
KIRONGOZI	Jean-Jacques	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
LIPTROTT	Matthew	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
JONES	Mark	25	1	0	1	1	204	14	6	5	9	210
LE BLANC-AKPO	Jeanny	0	0	6	7	0	0	0	6	7	0	6
LIMPITSHI	Henry	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
MARROW	Jack	24	2	4	10	1	24	2	4	10	1	28
NOBLE	Isaac	8	8	12	16	2	8	8	12	16	2	20
O'NEILL	Mackenzie	28	8	0	0	8	28	8	0	0	8	28
PARTINGTON	Luca	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
QUARLESS	Josh	24	4	0	0	3	24	4	0	0	3	24
REED	Jamie	3	3	1	3	1	3	3	1	3	1	4
SIYAM	Muhammad	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
WALKER	Harry	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
WOODS	Ashley	0	0	7	2	0	15	6	15	7	7	30
WOODS	Ben	6	4	1	4	0	29	14	18	28	0	47
WOOLLEY	Joe	38	4	1	1	10	101	46	22	15	21	123
WOOLLEY	Matt	37	11	1	1	5	335	50	30	28	44	365

1874 NORTHWICH SEASON 2022/23

MATCH CENTRE by PETE GRIMES - correct as of 13/04/23

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	0-0	0-0	318	Aghayere	Broe*	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green*	Woolley J*
SEP 3	RAMSBOTTOM	1-1	1-0	240	Allen	Broe	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green	Woolley J(1)
6	Newcastle	2-2	1-0	120	Allen	Broe	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green	Noble (1)*
10	Clitheroe (FAT)	1-2	1-1	272	Aghayere	Broe	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green	Noble*
17	Colne	0-1	0-0	226	Aghayere	Broe*	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green	Woolley J*
14	CITY OF LIVERPOOL	2-0	1-0	296	Aghayere	Broe	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green	Woolley J(1)*
OCT 1	SKELMERSDALE	2-1	2-0	337	Allen	Buckley	Heywood	Fenton	Marrow	Green(1)	Woolley J
8	Witton Albion (MCSC)	2-3	1-1	476	Allen	Broe*	Woods B	Fenton	Jones	Green*	Gardner*
15	TRAFFORD	2-0	1-0	272	Allen	Buckley	Heywood	Fenton	Jones(1)	Green	Woolley J*
22	Macclesfield	1-0	1-0	3597	Aghayere	Buckley	Heywood	Fenton	Jones	Green	Woolley J
29	GLOSSOP	0-2	0-2	310	Aghayere	Buckley	Woods	Fenton	Jones	Green	Woolley J
31	Stockport Town (CSC)	3-4	1-3	84	Aghayere	Buckley	Woods B*	Fenton(1)	Marrow	Green	Irlam
NOV 5	Mossley	0-3	0-1	474	Aghayere	Buckley	Woods B*	Marrow	Fenton	Green	Woolley J
8	Runcorn L	2-2	1-1	662	Aghayere	Marrow	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green*	Woolley J
12	HANLEY	0-1	0-1	248	Aghayere	Marrow	Buckley	Fenton	Jones*	Green	Woolley J
19	WIDNES	2-0	2-0	281	Aghayere	Marrow(1)	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Irlam	Crawford*
26	Workington	1-2	1-2	607	Aghayere	Broe	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green	Crawford*
DEC 3	Boode (1pm KO)	0-2	0-1	487	Aghayere	Broe*	Buckley	Fenton	Marrow	Green	Woolley J
26	WITTON	1-4	0-3	836	Aghayere	Buckley	Woods B*	Fenton	Marrow	Green*	Crawford
JAN 2	Leek	1-2	0-1	615	Aghayere	Broe	Buckley	Fenton*	Jones	Hamman*	Crawford*
14	City of Liverpool	2-1	1-1	302	Aghayere	Broe	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Hamman*	Bower*
24	Prescot	1-2	1-1	565	Aghayere	Marrow*	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Hamman*	Bower
28	BOOTLE	1-1	0-1	312	Aghayere	Broe	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green	Bower*
FEB 4	Skelmersdale	2-0	1-0	161	Aghayere	Marrow	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green	Crawford*
7	NEWCASTLE	2-0	2-0	221	Aghayere	Marrow	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green(1)*	Bower
10	COLNE	4-1	1-0	255	Aghayere	Buckley	Henderson	Fenton(1)	Marrow	Green*	Crawford*
18	Trafford	0-1	0-0	448	Aghayere	Broe	Buckley	Marrow	Jones	Hamman*	Bower*
21	KIDSGROVE	2-2	1-0	216	Aghayere	Buckley	Fenton(1)	Jones	Marrow	Green	Bower
25	RUNCORN L	0-1	0-1	440	Aghayere	Marrow*	Buckley	Fenton	Jones	Green	Noble*
MAR 4	MACCLESFIELD	0-0	0-0	883	Aghayere	Buckley	Collins	Fenton	Jones	Green	Noble*
18	Glossop	1-0	0-0	307	Callister	Buckley	Collins	Fenton(1)	Jones	Daly	Noble*
25	MOSSLEY	0-1	0-1	296	Callister	Buckley	Collins	Fenton	Jones	Daly	Bower*
APR 1	Hanley	0-4	0-2	163	Callister	Liptrott*	Collins	Fenton	Marrow	Daly*	Bower*
4	Ramsbottom	1-2	0-1	234	Callister	Buckley	Collins	Fenton	Marrow(1)	Adetiloye*	Noble*
8	CLITHEROE	1-2	1-0	268	Callister	Buckley	Collins	Fenton	Jones	Adetiloye	Woolley J
10	Witton	0-1	0-1	826	Callister	Buckley	Collins*	Fenton	Jones	Adetiloye	Woolley J
15	WORKINGTON	-									
22	Widnes	-									

1874 Northwich Matchday Programme

Competition key: all fixtures Northern Premier League West unless otherwise stated
 FAC = FA Cup | FAT = FA Trophy | MAC = Macron League Cup
 CSC = Cheshire Senior Cup | MCSC= Mid-Cheshire Senior Cup

8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	REFEREE	OPPO
Woolley M	Reed*	Irlam	O'Neill	Limpitshi*	Broe	Noble	Marrow*	Walker	Allen	Bamber Z	Colne
Woolley M*	Reed*	Irlam	O'Neill	Woods A*	Adetiloye*	Noble	Broe*	Marrow		Brown P	PRES
Woolley M	Reed(1)*	Irlam(1)*	O'Neill	Woods A*	Adetiloye*	Noble	Diop Parra	Marrow*		Bruce D	Kids
Woolley M	O'Neill*	Irlam	Quarless(1)*	Woods A*	Adetiloye	Noble	Gardner*	Marrow*		Wood C	Clith
Woolley M	Quarless*	Irlam	O'Neill	Woods A*	Adetiloye*	Noble*	Gardner	Le Blanc-Akpo		Hussein A	LEEK
Woolley M*	Quarless	Gardner*	O'Neill	Woods A*	Reed	Noble*	Le Blanc-Akpo	Aghayere		Kearney G	RAMS
Woolley M	O'Neill (1)	Gardner*	Quarless*	Woods A*	Reed*	Woolley M	Le Blanc-Akpo*	Davidson		Robinson S	Newc
Woolley M*	Quarless	Woolley J	O'Neill	Woods A*	Reed	Davidson	Le Blanc-Akpo*	Kirangazi*	Allen	Williams A	Clith
Woolley M*	Quarless	Irlam	O'Neill	Woods A*	Reed	Woods B*	Le Blanc-Akpo*	Noble		Trevelthan M	Colne
Woolley M	Quarless	Irlam	O'Neill(1)	Woods A	Gardner*	Woods B	Le Blanc-Akpo	Noble		Abson R	COL
Woolley M(1)*	Quarless	Irlam	O'Neill*	Broe	Gardner*	Woods B	Le Blanc-Akpo	Noble*		Carney E	SKEM
Woolley M	Quarless	Irlam(1)	O'Neill(1)	Woolley J*	Marrow*	Crawford*	Ellington	Noble		Owen J	Witt
Woolley M(1)	Quarless	Irlam	O'Neill*	Broe	Marrow	Crawford*	Gardner*	Noble		Critchlow D	TRAF
Woolley M	Quarless	Irlam*	O'Neill(1)	Woods B	Marrow	Crawford	Gardner*	Noble		Wall T	Macc
Woolley M*	Quarless	Irlam*	O'Neill*	Broe	Marrow	Crawford*	Gardner*	Noble*		Corrigan L	GLOS
Woolley M	Quarless(2)	Gardner	O'Neill	Broe*	Green	Le Blanc-Akpo*	Woolley J	Noble*		Eaton G	StockT
Woolley M*	Quarless	Irlam*	O'Neill	Broe*	Jones	Gardner*	Crawford*	Noble		Bell E	Moss
Woolley M	Quarless	O'Neill(1)	Noble*	Broe	Irlam(1)*	Gardner	Crawford*	Le Blanc-Akpo		Aldred R	Runc
Woolley M*	Quarless	O'Neill	Noble*	Broe*	Irlam*	Gardner	Crawford*	Le Blanc-Akpo		Sibley F	HAN
Woolley M	Quarless	Woolley J(1)*	O'Neill*	Broe*	Noble*	Gardner*	Le Blanc-Akpo			Critchlow D	WID
Woolley M	Quarless	Woolley J(1)	O'Neill*	Woods B	Noble	Gardner*	Le Blanc-Akpo*			Ross S	Work
Woolley M	Quarless	Irlam	O'Neill*	Broe	Partington*	Le Blanc-Akpo*	Crawford			Chadwick J	Boot
Woolley M(1)	Quarless	Woolley J	O'Neill	Irlam*	Broe*	Le Blanc-Akpo	Cucos	Hamman		Brooks J	WITT
Woolley M	Quarless	Woolley J	O'Neill(1)	Irlam	Adetiloye*	Bower*	Cucos	Gardner*		Allsop J	Leek
Woolley M(1)*	Quarless	Woolley J(1)	O'Neill	Irlam	Marrow	Crawford*	Green*	Gardner*		Eaton G	CoL
Woolley M*	Quarless	Woolley J(1)	O'Neill	Irlam	Broe*	Crawford	Green*	Gardner*		Bennett A	Pres
Irlam*	Quarless*	Woolley J	O'Neill(1)	Marrow	Adetiloye*	Crawford*	Noble	Gardner*		Bates M	BOOT
Irlam	O'Neill(1)*	Woolley J(1)	Gardner*	Woolley M*	Adetiloye	Hamman	Noble*	Bower*		Brown P	Skem
Woolley M	Irlam*	Woolley J(1)	Gardner*	Crawford*	Adetiloye*	Hamman*	Noble	Henderson		Cunningham J	NEWC
Woolley M(1)	Irlam	Woolley J(1)	Bower*	Broe	Adetiloye	Hamman*	Noble(1)*	Gardner*		Wyatt J	COLNE
Woolley M	Irlam	Woolley J	Gardner*	Crawford*	Adetiloye*	Green	Noble*	Fenton		Aldred R	Traff
Woolley M	Irlam(1)*	Woolley J	Gardner*	Broe	Adetiloye*	Hamman	Noble	Crawford*		Roots P	KIDS
Woolley M*	Irlam	Woolley J	Bower	Broe	Adetiloye	Gardner*	Collins*	Daly*		Critchlow D	RUNC
Woolley M	Irlam	Woolley J	Gardner	Broe	Adetiloye	Marrow	Baker	Daly*		Noonan O	MACC
Woolley M	Irlam*	Woolley J	Gardner*	Marrow	Adetiloye*	Bower*	Baker	Ellis*		Kearney G	Gloss
Woolley M	Irlam	Woolley J	Gardner*	Marrow	Adetiloye*	Noble*	Baker	Ellis		Mustafa Z	MOSS
Woolley M	Irlam	Woolley J	Gardner	Broe*	Adetiloye*	Noble	Baker	Ellis*		Bates M	Hanl
Woolley M	Ellis*	Gardner	Woolley J	Irlam*	Baker*	Bower	Daly	Siyam*		Reeves M	Ramb
Woolley M	Irlam	Gardner*	Bower(1)	Ellis	Baker	Noble*	Daly	Siyam		Davies A	CLITH
Woolley M	Irlam	Gardner	Bower*	Marrow	Baker	Noble*	Daly*	Siyam		Graham J	Witt
											WORK
											Wid

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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 Oxy1-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!



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!

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

- SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with NO SYMPTOMS or family history.
- ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.
- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

OUR MISSION

The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation has been set up to raise awareness of SCD and to provide funding towards heart screening, defibrillators and CPR/defibrillator training primarily for grass-roots sporting teams.

Tragedies can be prevented through cardiac screening. It is vital that young people are identified and treated.

Find out more

 @dannywilks5

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

 dwfoundation5

 contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

To donate: mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

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. After initially playing in the youth teams of West Brom and Shrewsbury, the rest of Paul's playing career was spent in the National game system and included spells with TNS, Market Drayton and the Cheshire trio of Nantwich, Congleton 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.

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 in 2016. His career has also included stops at Padiham, Mossley and Salford. Since joining '74 he's become a firm fans favourite, thanks to his consistent levels of performance during his 120+ games.

Sam Adetiloye – Having spent pre-season with '74 Sam has recently returned to Townfield. Having spent the earlier part of his career with Salford City, Sam spent much of last season with Widnes having had earlier stints Ramsbottom United and Padiham.

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.

Nathan Baker – Spotted by the '74 management team playing in university football, Nathan has a strong pedigree having been with Oxford United as a scholar and young professional before moving North to study in Manchester.

Harry Bower – A natural right-side attacking player, 21 year old Harry initially arrived on loan from '74's county and NPL West rivals Macclesfield. A 'Shropshire Lad', he counts Telford, TNS, Barwell and Alvechurch among his previous ports of call.

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 and has impressed many '74 fans this season with a string of fine performances.

Ben Collins – Having trained with '74 for part of last season, Ben went onto sign professional forms for Salford City during the summer. A left-back, Ben has now returned to Townfield on loan for the remainder of the season

Reece Daly – A midfield player who is a first year professional with Chester, 19 year old Reece is highly thought of by the management team and has agreed to spend the rest of the season with '74.

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 131 appearances and 20 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 midfielder player who was at Crewe Alexandra's academy, the 20 year old impressed 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.

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. Recently passed the 200 game mark for '74.

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.

Isaac 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.

Luca Partington – Just 17, Luca made his full debut for '74 in late 2022 when he came on as substitute in the 2-0 defeat at Bootle. An exciting prospect, he's also played for the clubs' U21 side and local club Lostock Gralham.

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 Prescot Cables against 1874 in October 2021. Unfortunately he is now out for the season having fractured his leg in '74's win at Skelmersdale in early 2023.

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 over 350 games for the club netting approaching 50 goals.



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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: WORKINGTON AFC

Formed in 1884, Workington played competitive football in the Cumberland Association, Cumberland Senior, Lancashire, Lancashire Combination and the North Eastern leagues before disbanding in 1911, going into voluntary liquidation.

The club was reformed in 1921 and, since then, has operated from the North Eastern League (25 seasons), Football League (26 seasons), Northern Premier League (35 seasons), North West Counties League (1 season) and National North (9 seasons).

North Eastern League

When the club was reformed in 1921, they became members of the North Eastern League remaining there for thirty years.

They finished in the top half of the table more often than not – 5th on five occasions, 4th five times and runners-up after one memorable season. Goals were plentiful in those days, with the team netting over a century on eight occasions – including 147 at the end of the 1933-34 campaign. Billy Charlton was the leading scorer during the early thirties, netting 131 NEL goals in just three seasons.

The Club record victory (16-1 v. Chopwell Institute) was obtained in May, 1934 having overcome the same team 7-4, away, earlier in the season.

On two occasions, they lifted the NEL Challenge Cup overcoming Middlesbrough Reserves in 1936 and Blyth Spartans two years later. They were beaten finalists in 1938.

The Football League

Elected to the Third Division North in 1951, their first Football League fixture was against Halifax Town but ended in a 3-1 defeat. A few days later, Chesterfield arrived as the first visitors to Borough Park with Reds emerging 3-1 victors. It was a tough baptism, though, and Workington finished 24th, 23rd and 20th in their first three seasons with a record FL defeat (0-8 at Wrexham) inflicted upon them during the '53-54 campaign.

Matters slowly began to improve under the management of Bill Shankly and his two year tenure saw the club better positioned when he left than they were on his arrival. Two other prominent managers, Joe Harvey, who was in charge for five seasons, and Ken Furphy, in the hot seat for just over two years, did so much to enhance the club's reputation throughout the late fifties/early sixties.

Promotion from the Fourth Division in 1964 led to three seasons in the Third and, whilst there, Workington attained their highest FL placing – 5th position at the end of the '65-66 campaign. Sadly, though, relegation was experienced twelve months later.

It had been a golden period in the club's history and included a notable league double over Swansea Town (7-0 at home, 6-1 away), during the 1965-66 campaign.

They became famed League Cup fighters in the sixties, reaching the quarter finals in both 1964 and 1965 only to lose to West Ham United and Chelsea respectively. The run in '64-65 competition began with a 9-1 victory over Barrow and included a sensational 5-1 replay success over, then, top flight outfit Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park – arguably the club's finest ever result. Other cup heroics were recorded in the FA Cup – a narrow 1-0 defeat against Liverpool (51-52) and a 1-3 reverse v. Manchester United (57-58) – both memorable occasions.

Messrs Shankly, Harvey and Furphy were revered during their time in the Borough Park hot-seat but the stability was not quite the same thereafter and managers came and went on a regular basis. Brian Doyle and former player, George Aitken, did stay longer than most but once they left the club the future looked bleak.

The decline set in during the mid-seventies and Workington's final four seasons saw them finish 23rd, 23rd, 24th and 24th. It ended in demotion from the Football League in 1977, voted out and replaced by Wimbledon.

The Non-League Era

They became members of the Northern Premier League on the 18th June, 1977 but life remained a struggle. Indeed, they were left to reflect on 19th, 14th and 21st final placings in the first three campaigns and didn't manage a top half finish (7th) until the end of their sixth season.

Winning a first trophy in forty seven years was welcome respite when they lifted the President's Cup in 1984 but matters deteriorated on the league front culminating in relegation at the end of the 1987-88 season. Many unwanted records were established including an all-time heaviest loss, 0-9 at Chorley, and a painful, embarrassing home defeat, 0-8 v. Rhyl.

Ten mediocre seasons in the NPL First Division followed, before another relegation saw them demoted to the North West Counties League in 1998.

After years of struggle and decline, what happened in the NWCL was truly remarkable. They won their final fourteen league games to pip Mossley for the '98-99 title on the final day of a dramatic season – a first senior championship in the club's history.

It prompted fifteen years of moderate success and a nine season stint in Conference North, ending in April, 2014. They twice reached the Conference North play-offs, and enjoyed several good FA Trophy runs, with a few Cumberland Cup successes thrown in for good measure.

They finished runners-up in Evo-Stik Premier in 2015 recording more victories (27) than any other team in the division. Unfortunately, though, they lost in the play-offs to Ilkeston, a team they had beaten twice in the regular campaign. A fifth place finish in 2016 again culminated in play-off heartache, beaten in the final at Salford City. Workington made it a hat-trick of top five finishes, fourth in fact, but again suffered

disappointment in 2017 when they fell at the first hurdle, albeit a thrilling 3-2 defeat at Stourbridge.

It was a mid-table finish at the end of the 2017-18 campaign when an injury crises over the second half of the season saw them slump from a position of second at the turn of the year to a final standing of eleventh.

And the decline continued throughout the 2018-19 season with only eight league wins recorded, culminating in relegation. During the last three months of a depressing season, Workington lost nine consecutive league games at home – another unwanted club record!

Under new management, the Reds bounced back in style during the 19-20 campaign but, the intervention of a world-wide pandemic prevented a highly probable promotion and immediate return to Step 3 football. They were ten points clear at the top of the North West Division when the season was declared 'concluded' and recorded as null and void.

A second uncompleted season compounded the frustration ahead of a third bid to gain promotion last term. Despite just four defeats and an excellent defensive record (only 27 goals conceded) they ended their NPL West Division campaign as runners-up to Warrington Rylands. Had they won on the final day, instead of being held to a damaging 1-1 draw, they would have clinched a maiden NPL title.

There was hardly time to recover from the disappointment with Workington knocked out of the play-offs by Marine a few days later.

Managers

Darren Edmondson was appointed in September, 2007 and became the longest serving manager in the club's history before stepping down in December 2013. He had been in the hot seat for six years and

three months. Some of his predecessors include Bill Shankly, Joe Harvey, Ken Furphy, Keith Burkinshaw, Alan Ashman, John McNamee, Bobby Johnstone, Barry Endean, Les O'Neill, Mick Heaton, Peter Hampton and Tommy Cassidy.

Gavin Skelton took over as player manager in 2014 and guided the club to a second place finish, just two points behind champions, FC United of Manchester. His success attracted the interest of Queen of the South who enticed him over the border to become their assistant manager.

Derek Townsley was appointed his successor and he can reflect on a fine career, in England and Scotland, as well as a previous playing spell with Workington. When Townsley stepped down, two more former players, Lee Andrews and David Hewson, took over, enjoying moderate success at first.

Danny Grainger was in charge for two seasons but resigned in June 2021 to take up a post in Scotland and Chris Willcock became his successor following his appointment in July, 2021.

Willcock had an excellent one season in charge but he left in May and Danny Grainger was re-appointed for a second stint in the hot seat in May, 2022.

Stadium

Borough Park has been Workington's home for eighty five years and the record attendance for the ground was set in 1958 when 21,000 fans witnessed the visit of Manchester United (FA Cup 3rd Round). The Fourth Division Boxing Day derby v. Carlisle United in 1963 attracted a record league crowd of 18,628.

Plans for a new 8,000 capacity stadium, which would have housed Workington AFC and Workington Town RLFC and hosted three World Cup matches in 2021, were abandoned in June, 2019.

The subject is under constant review, though, with a scaled down version now the preferred option. Should that progress as planned, next seasons might be the club's last at Borough Park in its present guise

Their previous home was Lonsdale Park, adjacent to the current site, where they played from 1921 until 1937. The ground staged Workington's only ever appearance in the 4th Round of the FA Cup when Preston North End emerged 2-1 winners before a 16,730 attendance back in 1934.

Famous 'old boys'

John Burridge, Glenn Murray, Grant Holt and Adam Collin are some of Workington's best known, home grown players with the likes of Alan Suddick, Paul Stewart, Derek Fazackerley, Derek Mountfield and Will Vaulks also spending brief periods with the club. George Best, Bobby Charlton and Brian Clough have also worn the WAFC shirt in 'one-off', friendly matches.

Honours

Cumberland Cup Winners: 26 times.
Cumberland Cup Runners-up: 12 times

North Eastern League Runners-up: 1939

North Eastern League Challenge Cup Winners: 1935, 1937

North Eastern League Challenge Cup Runners-up: 1938

Promotion from Division Four (Football League): 1964 (3rd position)

Best season in Football League: 5th position in Division Three 1965-66

Football League Cup Quarter-finalists: 1964, 1965

North West Counties League Champions: 1999

Northern Premier League President's Cup winners: 1984

Runners-up: 2004

Best season in Northern Premier League: 2nd position in 2004-05, 2015-16

Northern Premier League Play-off winners: 2004-05

Best season in Conference North: 3rd position in 2006-07

Best season in FA Cup: 4th Round proper in 1933-34

Best season in FA Trophy: Quarter-final in 2009-10

Best season in FA Vase: 6th Round in 1998-99

PROFILES

DANNY GRAINGER (manager)

Returned to the club in May, after a year away, starting a second spell in the Borough Park hot seat.

The bulk of an illustrious playing career was spent north of the border after making the breakthrough with Gretna. He subsequently played for Brechin City, Dundee United, St. Johnstone, Heart of Midlothian, St. Mirren and Dunfermline Athletic and whilst at Hearts had the satisfaction of scoring in the 2012 Scottish Cup Final against Edinburgh rivals, Hibernian.

In 2014, Danny joined the team he supported as a boy – Carlisle United. Spending five seasons at Brunton Park, he made close to 200 appearances for the Cumbrians, many as skipper, scoring 34 goals in the process.

He retired from the professional ranks in 2019, taking his first step into management with Workington. After two interrupted seasons because of the pandemic, Danny was tempted to Falkirk as an assistant and later caretaker manager; an adventure which lasted for a little over six months.

The Workington supporters were disappointed to see him leave in 2021 but delighted to welcome him back twelve months later.

TERRY MITCHELL (assistant manager)

Has recently managed Blyth Spartans and Consett with most of his football coaching career spent in the north east of England. Joined Workington in September and quickly settled into his role with the first team.

Gained his experience working with Newcastle Blue Star, West Allotment Celtic, Hartlepool, Stockport County and Gateshead and was also director of youth development at Newcastle United.

SCOTT ALLISON (forward)

Goal scoring talent recruited from Northern League side Penrith in the summer of 2013 and now into his tenth season at Borough Park. Scored a handful of goals in National North and matured into a prolific marksman during the '15-16 campaign, netting 32 in league and cup – a tally which included a four goal blast against Matlock Town. Now has six hat-tricks and 140 plus goals to his credit in his 300 appearances for the club.

Top scorer on four occasions and third in the all-time list of marksmen for the club.

JIM ATKINSON (goalkeeper)

Joined the club in 2019 quickly establishing himself as the first choice 'keeper, recording sixteen clean sheets in an impressive debut season.

Was with Lowland League club Gretna 2008 previously and played for Queen of the South earlier in his career. Made the headlines in 2021 when he scored a goal and saved a penalty in a match against Morpeth Town, becoming the first Workington 'keeper to do so. The goal he scored was timed at 10 seconds – the quickest in the club's history.



Back row (left to right): Matty Clarke, Lewis Reilly, Steven Rigg, Danny Eccles, Jim Atkinson, Ekow Coker, Reuben Jerome, Niall Moran Middle row (left to right): Phil Grisdale (kitman), Charlie Birch, Bobby Carroll, Jordan Palmer, James Hooper, Robbie Hebson, Greg McCaragher, Liam Lightfoot, Keelan Leslie, Ceiran Casson, Ronan Irving (physiotherapist) Front row (left to right): Ben Hughes, Scott Allison, Dan Wordsworth, Danny Grainger (manager), Conor Tinnion (captain), Steven Rudd (assistant manager), Sam Smith, David Symington, Tom Mahone

Kept nineteen clean sheets last season and named in the NPL West 'team of the year'.

CHARLIE BIRCH (defender) Progressed through the ranks at Carlisle United, eventually making his first team debut for his hometown club. Has since been associated with Kendal Town, Annan Athletic and Penrith before his arrival at Borough Park in the summer.

BOBBY CARROLL (midfield)

A summer recruit who enjoyed a good pre-season before making his league debut for the club on the opening day of the campaign. Had spent several years in the Leeds United Academy before spending three seasons at Everton. Been in great form recently.

CEIRAN CASSON (midfield)

Another talented player who joined his hometown club after spending his career progressing through the Carlisle United Academy. Versatile player who displays maturity wherever he plays.

Made his NPL debut on his 18th birthday, marking the occasion by scoring his first league goal, on the opening day of the 19-20 campaign.

Was a league ever-present in his first season but injury has hampered his progress recently.

MATTY CLARKE (midfield)

Twenty-two years old who joined the club in 2019 from Bradford Park Avenue. Previously with Kendal Town and Penrith, he enjoyed a good first season with the club operating in an attacking right back role.

An ever-present in the squad last season, his stunning strike v.Warrington Rylands earned him the club's 'goal of the season' award.

DANNY ECCLES (goalkeeper)

Given his debut in the FA Cup having arrived at the club in 2021. Most recently with Squires Gate, Danny has also played for Ashton United, Chorley, Ramsbottom United, Kendal Town and Congleton Town.

LEWIS FARMER (midfield)

Made his debut in February following a trial period with the club. Came through the system at Sheffield Wednesday and was captain of their Youth team whilst at Hillsborough. Has also been associated with Redditch United.

BRAD HUBBOLD (midfield)

Midfield playmaker who returned to the club for a second spell in November having started the season with Lancaster City. Spent four seasons at Borough Park after starting his career with Holker Old Boys.

BEN HUGHES (midfield)

Arrived at the club during the summer having played, and scored, against Workington for rivals Marine last season. Began his career with Sheffield Wednesday and has also spent time with Gainsborough Trinity.

Can operate in midfield or up front.

Yet to make his league debut for the club because of a non-related football injury.

REUBEN JEROME (forward) The club's major summer signing in 2020 when he joined from title rivals, Ramsbottom United. Scored against Workington on a couple of occasions in recent seasons then had the misfortune of missing two penalties on his Reds debut in a pre-season game but marked his Borough Park bow with a hat-trick a few days later.

Previous clubs include Brighouse Town and Warrington Town.

Netted three goals in four minutes in a County Cup tie – believed to be the quickest hat-trick in club history and finished as top scorer (15) last term.

KEELAN LESLIE (midfield)

Handed his debut for the club last season during a loan spell from Carlisle United. The talented teenager registered for the club following his release from Brunton Park, becoming a Workington player on a permanent basis.

Can operated in midfield or defence.

GREG McCARAGHER (midfield) Created an immediate impression in pre-season but, after scoring on his debut in the first friendly, sustained a foot injury which has hampered progress. Has also played for Penrith, Kendal Town and Widnes as well as a brief spell in Sweden.

KAI NUGENT (midfield) Talented teenager who joined the club on loan from Carlisle United, making his NPL debut in February.

LEWIS REILLY (forward) Became the first signing of the summer after an impressive, scoring performance against us for Marine. Made his Football League debut as a teenager at Crewe Alexandra and subsequently scored goals in successful loan spells at Halesowen Town, Curzon Ashton and AFC Telford United. Was with Chorley prior to his stint at Marine.

STEVEN RIGG (forward) Returned to Borough Park last year having previously spent time with the club in 2018 when he scored a winning goal on his debut.

After a wonderful scoring record with Penrith, he got his chance with Carlisle United and netted for them on his Football League debut. Has since represented Queen of the South, Barrow, Chorley, Gateshead and Dover Athletic as well as spending a period in America.

SAM SMITH (defender) The only member of the squad who has made a century of appearances for both Reserves and the first team. Made his debut for the seniors during the '13-14 season and would have made considerably more than his 200 starts had it not been for several frustrating injuries. Was rewarded for an exceptional personal season by lifting a hat-trick of 'player of the year' accolades at the club's presentation evening in May.

DAVID SYMINGTON (midfield)

Workington born but launched his career with Carlisle United where he spent three seasons in the first team. His first goal in senior football was against Ipswich Town in a League Cup tie and he later scored Carlisle United's 'goal of the season' during his time at Brunton Park.

Joined Workington on loan during the 2014-15 season, but was injured on his debut then subsequently signed for Barrow. Re-signed in 2016 and finished his first season as top scorer and netted 14 league goals last term. Recently made his 200th appearance for the club.

CONORTINNION (midfield) Team captain and longest serving player in the squad with nearly 400 appearances to his credit. Skilful individual who has developed into an outstanding player and recognised by his team mates with a hat-trick of Players' Player of the Year awards in the past. Named in the NPL Premier Division 'Team of the Year' for 2016.

Originally a winger, he now operates everywhere from centre midfield and still scores his share of spectacular goals.

Was originally with Carlisle United and has also sampled football in New Zealand but now in his thirteenth season at Borough Park.

DAN WORDSWORTH (defender)

Originally with Carlisle United, he then had a brief stay with Kendal Town before signing for Workington, initially in 2011, and now embarking on his eleventh season at the club.

Skipped the team in the past, and recently completed his 300th appearances for the club, marking the occasion with a goal.

Had a gap year during which he sampled football in Australia, playing for a club in the Brisbane area.



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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

By Mat Badcock

WHERE did this season go? It doesn't feel all that long ago the new campaign was kicking off. Suddenly we're on the final straight and some are already through the finish line.

On Good Friday, National League South Ebbsfleet United joined the Non-League champions' list following in the footsteps of Worksop Town, Macclesfield and Berkhamsted when it comes to Steps 1-4.

On Easter Monday it was the turn of South Shields, who were on course for the NPL Premier title back in 2020 before covid hit, and NPL Division One Midlands outfit Stamford.

If you're reading this on Saturday, April 15 there will no doubt be more this afternoon, with the likes of Hashtag United and Ramsgate as well as AFC Totton closing in.

Easter Monday also saw the National League biggie. The showdown between Wrexham and Notts County, that has been marked on the calendar for some time. The pair showed up in north Wales having set the bar at new heights – both on 100 points, both with more than 100 goals and both miles ahead of the rest of the division.

But, as we know, only one is guaranteed to go up with just one automatic promotion spot into the EFL. While there is a growing sense that could become two in the near future, and that is surely the way to go, it has brought the drama to this year's promotion race.

And this game didn't disappoint. In case you missed it, former England keeper Ben Foster made a stoppage-time penalty save to help Wrexham to a 3-2 win and put them firmly in the driving seat for the title seeing as they also boast a game in hand.

Time for any more twists? We shall soon see but the two sides have produced incredible seasons and it does feel harsh one may not go up.

That's because the play-offs are a lottery. It would be a cliché if it wasn't so true. Anything can seemingly happen.

And while the bubbly is popped around the country to toast titles, it's the post-season play-offs that squeeze a season's worth of drama into a one-off tie. They are unscripted, unadulterated, adrenaline-fuelled, action-packed games.

From next season they will also be introduced at Step 5. The overwhelming positive reaction to the FA's announcement shows the people are largely getting what they want. They keep seasons alive for so many teams. And that brings fans through the turnstiles.

There are so many dynamics to the games. Often a team has been in the mix all season, pushing for the title and then they have to deal with the disappointment of missing out late on. At the other end of the scale are the teams who didn't necessarily expect to be there but they've been in the groove and gatecrash the qualifying places on a hot streak. Nobody wants to play this team.

And that's the thing about the play-offs. A team may have finished 20-odd points ahead of an opponent, but that doesn't always mean a whole lot in a one-off game where the stakes are at their highest.

If you've ever experienced your team in the play-offs you may well also subscribe to the view they are probably the worst way to lose. A season's work up in smoke in the blink of an eye.

The nature of football – sport in general, really – and the promotion system means there are far more disappointed teams at the end of the season than there are happy ones.

But my mind is taken to a quote from Notts County boss Luke Williams in the build-up to their huge clash with Wrexham.

"I don't think there has ever been a player on an open-top bus sulking because they didn't win the title," Williams said.

Worst way to lose, but certainly an exciting way to win. Here's to the play-offs, when they roll around.

