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12/08/23 - 3.00PM
NPL WEST
OFFICIAL MATHDAY PROGRAMME



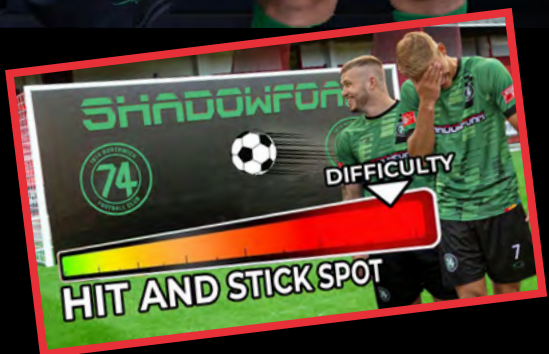
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trading as 1874 Northwich Football Club.
Registration no.: 32017R

20 Greenside Drive, Lostock Green,
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STADIUM: The Offside Trust Stadium,
Townfield Lane, Barnton, Northwich,
Cheshire, CW8 4LJ

Visit

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PROGRAMME: programme@1874northwich.com

MEDIA: media@1874northwich.com

WEBSITE: www.1874northwich.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/1874Northwich

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/1874Northwich

COLOURS:

HOME: Green shirts, black shorts, green socks

AWAY: Orange shirts, grey shorts, grey socks

THIRD: Blue shirts, blue shorts, blue socks

HONOURS:

NWCFL CHALLENGE CUP 2019, 2020

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SUPPORTERS DIRECT SHIELD 2013

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC**

SATURDAY 12TH AUG 2023 | K.O. 3.00PM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: Peter Foherty

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ENGAGEMENT: Luke Bushnell-Wye

OTHER CONTACTS:

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FOOTBALL SECRETARY: Vicki England

WELFARE OFFICER: Maggie Coats

PROGRAMME EDITOR: Luke Bushnell-Wye

PROOF READERS: Richard Webb/Richard Bush

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MATCHDAY PHOTOGRAPHY: Daniel Blunt/Daniel
Neilson/Frank Oakes/Xenia Simpson

MATCH REPORTS: Jack Owen

WEBSITE: Mark Edgeley

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF:

FIRST TEAM MANAGERS:

Paul Bowyer & Wayne Goodison

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Katy Bagshaw

KIT MANAGER: Andy Williams

UNDER 21s MANAGER: Kyle Murray

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Townfield for what is our inaugural game in this NPL West 2023/24 season.

This afternoon we offer a warm welcome to our good friends from Kidsgrove Athletic, their players, management, officials and especially their travelling supporters.

It does not seem two minutes since we were playing the final game of last season and for some of us it is as if the business of football has not stopped over the past few months. However it is good to be starting a fresh new season and welcoming you all back to 74.

This year we welcome our new shirt sponsors Shadowfoam to 1874 Northwich FC. A local company based in Anderton who produce innovative storage solutions. If you not sure how all this works, please take a look at <https://www.shadowfoam.com>.

As is normal at this time of year we welcome a number of new players to the 1874 family, players that will become familiar names to us all over the next few weeks. It will be interesting to see them bond and develop as the season progresses.

I think that it is important at this time of the season to reiterate the point that 1874 Northwich Community Football Club is wholly owned and operated by you, our supporters and I thank all those of you who have renewed your membership.

Membership renewal is easy via the link at <https://1874northwich.com/become-an-owner> and brings with it the opportunity to have your say on the future of your football club.

I also want to thank all the contributors to our 'Boost the Budget' scheme launched this year.

The response to the scheme has been extremely positive and all funds have been ring fenced to be made available to Wayne and Paul as they continue to assemble a competitive squad in what is an increasingly expensive market place. We look forward to distributing the Boost the Budget rewards to contributors in the near future.

Please enjoy today's game, make sure that you get behind the boys in green as they embark on this new season.

Some are old faces, many are new, but you can be sure that everyone who pulls on the green jersey of 1874 Northwich FC will be working as hard as possible to bring the club and its supporters as much success as possible during 2023/24.

As always, Be Loud and Proud.

We are 1874 Northwich FC. We are '74.

All the best,

Steve.

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FROM THE DUGOUT

PAUL & WAYNE



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to our first League game of the season against Kidsgrove Athletic.

Of course, this means a quick return for Joe Woolley. It will be good to see him again, and I'm sure he will be a success in his second stint with our visitors. Joe is highly thought of by everyone at the club and we wish him all the best.

We find ourselves in a similar situation to this time last season where we've had a turn over of players during the summer for one reason or another as the competition on and off the pitch strengthens, and we're happy with the new additions we've made to the squad.

That said we're always looking to strengthen further and this may happen over time when we feel it is necessary and we can get the right person in who fits in with our budget.

I missed the FA Cup loss at Ossett last week so I'll leave it to Goody to comment in the newsletter; but we will hope for more luck in the Trophy at City of Liverpool in September.

As our past shows we do value cup runs and it's disappointing to lose at the first attempt this season.

Our visitors are sure to be one of the favourites to be towards the top of the table come the end of the season, with a competitive budget and a number of signings to add to their squad from last season. It's important we stay focused and remain wary of their threat of pace in attacking positions and their dangers at set plays.

Enjoy the game today and it would be great to get off to a positive start. The following to Ossett was excellent by all accounts and it would be fantastic to see you travel to Stalybridge Celtic this Tuesday in our next fixture.

Enjoy the game

Up the '74!

Bows and Goody

SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Welcome to season 2023/2024!

It doesn't seem five minutes ago that we were playing our final game of the 22/23 season in April and now here we are again, after a lot of hard work in pre-season (on and off the field), heading into another NPL West campaign.

Firstly, may I extend a special welcome to the good folks from Kidsgrove Athletic this afternoon. They always reserve a warm welcome for us when we visit, and they are one of friendliest clubs in the league. We've had some cracking encounters when we've played and today will hopefully be another. Of course, we also welcome back 'Our Joe' Woolley. I know Joe now pulls on a 'Grove shirt, but sorry folks, he's always going to be part of the 74 family. Joe was outstanding last season for us, and when he decided to have a change of direction, he remained very honest with the Managers. He also showed how classy he is with messages to me and the Chairman, which is the mark of the lad. To watch Joe progress after his two horrendous injuries and go on to be one of our best players, was fantastic. I'll always think of him as one of 'my boys'; however, I hope he has a massive stinker today!!!

We come into this season having said goodbye to some really good lads. However, that left space and we have seen a few new players join us. All seem a good gang so far and I am also delighted to see Lucas Weir play in the green again. That's testament to how Lucas felt about '74, and whilst I only see him move up again in time, the fact that he feels comfortable and wanted by us is everything. We have another young squad, and I know that our supporters will get behind them as they develop.

Last Saturday, we slipped to a cup defeat at Ossett United. The big guy up front for them did the damage and whilst we did have a few shots blocked and a fair amount of possession, it wasn't to be. I know our record of first game wins isn't the best over the last few years, and we've especially missed out on Cup money and momentum which is disappointing but it's

not for the want of trying. You can be sure of that. It's always difficult to start with the FA Cup, without having one or two competitive games under your belt, but it is what it is, as the timing of games needs to suit the FA calendar as the competition gets to the later rounds...

It's going to be an even tougher league this year I believe. As much as we no longer have Macclesfield in the League, they have been replaced by some good clubs who will be looking to bounce back, including our Cheshire neighbours Nantwich Town. Then you have the teams that always fancy making a go of the play-offs, and they will have strengthened in the hope of success.

There really is some money at this level, we are only too aware of that through conversations that the managers have had. It's a tough ask and it will need a strong effort from the lads and from everyone watching, to keep 1874 at this level.

This leads me on to thanking supporters for their contributions to our financial schemes this pre-season, including our 'Boost the Budget' appeal. I'm led to believe that supporters have been so generous, and it truly is appreciated. This scheme, along with purchasing season tickets, memberships, sponsorships really does have a positive impact on the club.

We're going to need to do more in terms of generating income and that will be through matchday fundraising, buying from the Café, participating in socials etc. If you have ideas, and can even roll your sleeves up to help, then it would be hugely welcomed.

Thanks also to our volunteers who have been up at the ground over the summer, working on the pitch and undertaking other tasks. It was a huge ask to try



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and keep the pitch watered and I applaud everyone's efforts. The same thanks goes out to many others, who have done something to help the club over the summer. This club never sleeps!

Our fantastic new home shirt has been launched and I love it. Not had it off my back! We are also blessed to have new shirt sponsors this season and I would like to thank Jonathan and the team at Shadow Foam Ltd for their support and faith they have shown in the Club.

That goes out to the back of the shirt sponsors "Fund my Pitch" too. Of course, we are grateful to Chemiteq for their continued support of our away shirt. We are very lucky to have such cracking companies, working with us.

Finally, I was completely thrilled that 1874 Northwich was named as the Pitching In Northern Premier League Club of the Season.

When you think about the other 80+ clubs that we were benchmarked against and to be told that we had

consistently maintained exceptional standards, was unbelievable. It just goes to show that however big or small you are, whatever the numbers in your fanbase and the money you generate, you can do things the right way.

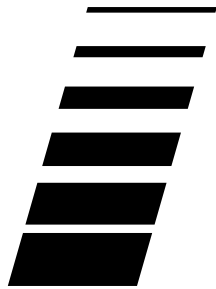
The people at this club, the Board, volunteers, the management and the lads, always do things correctly and that was recognised. Well done everyone!

That's it for now, enjoy the game and thanks for your support. And for the first time this season...

"Come on you Green Boys!"

SIMMO'S NOTES

ANDREW SIMPSON



So, it's that time again.

A new Northern Premier League season starts here, fashionably late of course, and on this first date everybody's main worry is what shade of optimism to wear.

'Dress to impress!' the saying goes.

What can we expect from the West Division this time around then?

Nobody will have received any awards for services to forecasting had they predicted that Macclesfield and Workington would be the two promoted teams last season. That task is trickier now.

Of those that made the play-offs in April, Clitheroe seem best placed to go one better. Dave Dempsey's appointment as manager in January, when Blues were eight points adrift of the top five, was the catalyst for a run that saw them end up fourth.

The loss of a popular character like goalkeeper Chris Thompson is a blow, but Hakan Burton – recruited from Colne – is an able replacement.

The remainder of the squad is unchanged, something that cannot be said for Runcorn Linnets.

They have lost key performers in every part of the pitch, and a serious injury to goal machine Jamie Rainford in their final pre-season friendly is a huge blow. Billy Paynter has persuaded Joe Lynch to return following a spell at Chester, but their prospects of reaching a third successive play-offs final feel more remote than previously.

Perennial challengers Leek have opted to rejuvenate a squad that perhaps had its last hurrah when falling short again in the play-offs after finishing as runners-up to Macc.

They would have preferred to keep hold of Billy Reeves, signed by Bootle who paid a fee, but moving on goalkeeper Danny Roberts is a big call.

Witton Albion and Mossley missed out on a play-offs place because of flaws; Jon Macken's men didn't keep enough clean sheets, while the Lilywhites' mysterious dip in form after Christmas simply went on too long.

'74's neighbours have had a quiet summer in the transfer market, save for recruiting Tom Pope from Congleton, and their hopes will rest in large part on Connor Hughes rediscovering the scintillating form he showed before sustaining a serious knee injury in February.

Similar to Runcorn, Mossley have seen pivotal players depart in several positions – headlined of course by the brilliant Mason Fawns. Dave Fish is a canny operator though, and between them newcomers Eden Bailey and Keaton Mulvey, signed from Altrincham and Glossop respectively, may compensate by sharing the scoring load.

Bootle are tipped by many to shine, and their transfer activity has certainly been ambitious, but a poor pre-season was compounded by a miserable FA Cup exit at lower-ranked Prestwich last week. Dave McNabb has work to do finding a formula that works.

Despite all of that, a new side to the division, relegated Nantwich, start as favourites to finish first – well, they do for me, anyway. The Dabbers' board has kept faith with Paul Carden, who in turn has held intact a side that he almost steered to safety following a brilliant late surge last term.

Striker Callum Saunders has returned and is a guarantee of goals, while Scott Maloney's arrival from Barrow to play in goal removes concerns in that position.

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's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
to find out more



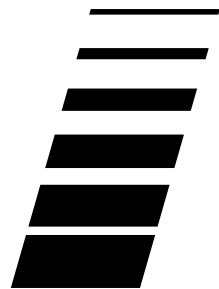
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NORTHERN
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NEW SEASON - NEW KIT

AND NEW PRIMARY SPONSOR, SHADOWFOAM



1874 Northwich FC are delighted to announce our new 2-year first-team kit sponsorship agreement with local business Shadow Foam Ltd.

Shadow Foam, based locally in Anderton supplies innovative and customisable foam for organising tools, tech and much more.

Shadow Foam are a hugely ambitious business with whom we are looking at building a strong relationship with over the next few years.

The newly designed first-team home shirt will also feature back-of-shirt sponsorship provided by Fundmypitch.com, an innovative business funding organisation.

1874 Chairman Stephen Richardson said "The club is immensely grateful to both Shadow Foam and Fundmypitch.com for the support and confidence that they have shown in 1874 Northwich FC and we look forward to working closely with both organisations in promoting their businesses to a wider audience within the North West footballing community".

Shadow Foam owner Jonathan Shone said of the partnership, "There seems to be a great synergy between ourselves and 1874. We're less than half a mile away from one another, and both celebrated our ten-year anniversaries back in November last year. I'm a big football fan, as are most of my staff, with most of us living locally too. Just like our own business, the club are vibrant and ambitious and are just the sort of community club we want to be aligned with".

This new sponsorship arrangement will see the closure of our excellent partnership with Chemiteq Ltd who have been our first-team shirt sponsors since 2020 and we would like to thank them for their support over the years.

However, the Chemiteq Ltd name will continue to be used on our away shirt for the upcoming season before its renewal in season 2024/25.

Designed internally and supplied once again by SK Kits, our new kit is now available.

An initial stock order has been placed and will be available at the club shop on a matchday.

The online shop is also ready for taking orders.

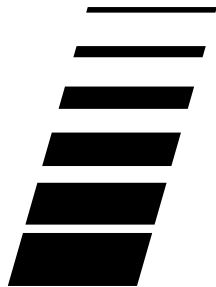


Kit Store



BIG GAME PREVIEW

BY GARRY CLARKE



1874 NORTHWICH vs KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

1874 Northwich kick off their 2023/24 NPL West season with a home game against Kidsgrove Athletic.

Kidsgrove Athletic kicked off their 2023/24 campaign on Saturday 5th August with a 0-0 draw at home to Lye Town (NPL Midlands) in the FA Cup extra preliminary round.

On Tuesday they travelled to Lye winning the replay 2-1. Lewis Bergin gave them the lead in the 36th minute from the penalty spot, Jake Lovatt doubled the advantage in the 42nd minute before Ryan Bridgewater pulled a goal back for the home side in the 75th.

Kidsgrove Athletic ended the 2022/23 season in 8th place, six points and places above 1874 in the NPL West table.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Kidsgrove	38	13	12	13	49	55	-6	51	8
1874	38	12	9	17	44	50	-6	45	14

FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Joe Woolley makes a quick return to Townfield having rejoined Kidsgrove Athletic during the summer. He is not the only Woolley brother to have played for both clubs with Jack also turning out in the colours of today's two teams.

Other players to have worn the blue of Kidsgrove and the green of 1874 include Simon Everall and Elliot Ledwards, while wearing a blue 1874 goalkeeper's shirt and a green Kidsgrove one has been Matt Conkie.

KIDSGROVE FACT FILE

Formed	1952
Ground	The Autonet Insurance Stadium
Colours	Blue & White
Change Colours	Green & White
Nickname	The Grove
Manager	Scott Dundas
2022/23	8th NPL West

WE'VE MET BEFORE

Garry Clarke takes a look back at the three previous meetings between 1874 Northwich and Kidsgrove Athletic.

Both of last season's games ended in away victories, while earlier this season the game at Kidsgrove ended all square.

2021/22

17th August 2021 - NPL West

Home - Lost 0-3

Attendance 272

Kidsgrove - Brown 2, J Lovett

11th December 2021 - NPL West

Away - Won 3-1

Attendance 265

1874 - O'Neill, Gardner, Reed

Kidsgrove - Brown

2022/23

16th August 2022 - NPL West

Away - Drew 3-3

Attendance 235

1874 - Irlam, Reed, Green

Kidsgrove - Bott 2, Knapper

21st February 2022 - NPL West

Home - Drew 2-2

Attendance 216

1874 - Fenton, Irlam

Kidsgrove - Leigh, Garlick

JOE WOOLLEY
- Now in blue



HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	2	0	1	1	2	5	-3
Away	2	1	1	0	6	4	+2
Total	4	1	2	1	8	9	-1

LAST SEASON AT TOWNFIELD

21st February 2022 - NPL West

Home - Drew 2-2

Attendance 216

1874 shared the points with Kidsgrove Athletic at Townfield. Matty Fenton headed the greens into a 15th minute league during a strong first half performance.

Kidsgrove grew into the game and took the lead with goals from Callum Leigh (56) and Jimmy Garlick (66). 1874 drew level in the 70th minute through a stunning strike from Jack Irlam.

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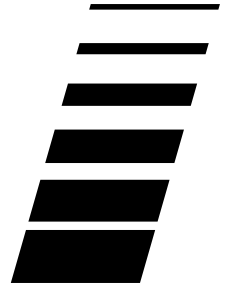
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Find us on



RESPECT INITIATIVE

SETTING STANDARDS AT 1874 NORTHWICH



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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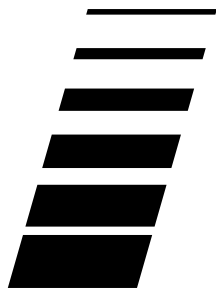
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MATCH CENTRE 23/24

BY PETE GRIMES



DATE	OPPOSITION	FT	HT	Att	Goals					REFEREE
Aug 5	Ossett United (FAC ExP)	0-2	0-2	392						Everard C
12	KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC	-								
15	Stalybridge Celtic	-								
22	CHASETOWN	-								
26	Prescot Cables	-								
28	NANTWICH TOWN	-								
Sep 2	Newcastle Town	-								
10	City of Liverpool (FAT 1P)	-								
16	MOSSLEY	-								
30	City of Liverpool	-								
Oct 7	VAUXHALL MOTORS	-								
14	Hanley Town	-								
21	WIDNES	-								
28	Leek Town	-								
Nov 4	Clitheroe	-								
11	BOOTLE	-								
18	Runcorn Linnets	-								
25	AVRO	-								
Dec 2	TRAFFORD	-								
9	Hednesford Town	-								
16	STALYBRIDGE CELTIC	-								
23	Kidsgrove	-								
26	WITTON ALBION	-								
Jan 1	Nantwich Town	-								
6	PRESCOT CABLES	-								
13	Chasetown	-								
20	LEEK TOWN	-								
27	Widnes	-								
Feb 3	Mossley	-								
17	CITY OF LIVERPOOL	-								
24	Vauxhall Motors	-								
Mar 2	HANLEY TOWN	-								
16	HEDNESFORD TOWN	-								
23	Trafford	-								
30	NEWCASTLE TOWN	-								
Apr 1	Witton Albion	-								
6	Bootle	-								
13	CLITHEROE	-								
20	Avro	-								
27	RUNCORN LINNETS	-								

LEAGUE FIXTURES 2023/24

2023 AUGUST

SAT 12 v KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC
TUE 15 @ STALYBRIDGE CELTIC
TUE 22 v CHASETOWN
SAT 26 @ PRESCOT CABLES
MON 28 v NANTWICH TOWN

SEPTEMBER

SAT 02 @ NEWCASTLE TOWN
SAT 16 v MOSSLEY
SAT 30 @ CITY OF LIVERPOOL

OCTOBER

SAT 07 v VAUXHALL MOTORS
SAT 14 @ HANLEY TOWN
SAT 21 v WIDNES
SAT 28 @ LEEK TOWN

NOVEMBER

SAT 04 @ CLITHEROE
SAT 11 v BOOTLE
SAT 18 @ RUNCORN LINNETS
SAT 25 v AVRO

DECEMBER

SAT 02 v TRAFFORD
SAT 09 @ HEDNESFORD TOWN
SAT 16 v STALYBRIDGE CELTIC
SAT 23 @ KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC
MON 26 v WITTON ALBION

2024 JANUARY

MON 01 @ NANTWICH TOWN
SAT 06 v PRESCOT CABLES
SAT 13 @ CHASETOWN
SAT 20 v LEEK TOWN
SAT 27 @ WIDNES

FEBRUARY

SAT 03 @ MOSSLEY
SAT 17 v CITY OF LIVERPOOL
SAT 24 @ VAUXHALL MOTORS

MARCH

SAT 02 v HANLEY TOWN
SAT 16 v HEDNESFORD TOWN
SAT 23 @ TRAFFORD
SAT 30 v NEWCASTLE TOWN

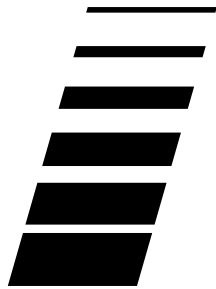
APRIL

MON 01 @ WITTON ALBION
SAT 06 @ BOOTLE
SAT 13 v CLITHEROE
SAT 20 @ AVRO
SAT 27 v RUNCORN LINNETS



BECOME AN OWNER

NEW MEMBERSHIP SCHEME LAUNCHED



New membership plans are ACTIVE!

At our last AGM, the membership voted through changes to the clubs membership structure on the back of a lengthy review and consultation process.

It was confirmed that we would introduce two membership options that will supersede all existing membership options.

1874 Northwich F.C. operate under a cooperative model as an Industrial and Provident Society.

This means we are truly a members owned football club. We use a 'one member one share' principle giving everybody an equal voting right.

The **Owner** package gets you one share and one vote, access to the weekly newsletter, and a digital membership pack, and is priced at £20/year.

The **Owner+** package grants you all of the above, plus an additional exclusive scarf, an annual 'thank you' gift, and includes the match highlights to your inbox every week.

This is available at £180/year or £15/month. Owner packages are also available to be bought as gifts for the 1874 fan in your life.

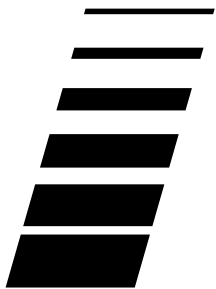
Buying a share in 1874 Northwich is not an investment and there is no return on or of the money you put in. Please note that owner benefits, beyond voting, may vary from year to year.

You can access the page to purchase your membership on the link below, or talk to a board member today!

[Become an Owner](#)

SEASON TICKETS

STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



Our season tickets are now available to purchase. The tickets are valid for all 19 home league games for the price of 15 matches, so there's still time to act now and get free games for your money!

Adult & Concession (65+) tickets also include two "Bring a Mate" tokens.

Juniors are 12-16 year olds with under 12s gaining free admission.

Click below to purchase, or ask at today's game.

[Season Tickets](#)

ON THIS DAY...

BY JAMES WOOD

James Wood recalls the previous games that '74 have played on 12th August.

Grouse may see it slightly differently than some humans do, but so far in the short history of 1874, the twelfth day of the eighth month has certainly proved to be fairly glorious as in the two games that have been played on this date, '74 have yet to taste defeat.

The first match was in the August of 2014 and having chalked up impressive wins at AFC Blackpool and at home to Barnoldswick Town, it hadn't take Ian Street's men much time to find their feet in the Premier Division. However, Alsager Town proved to be a tougher nut to crack.

"The Bullets" went ahead after just 7 minutes through former Vics midfielder Michael Carr. Despite dominating much of the game, it took until the 70th minute for '74 to square the tie. As he was trying to clear the ball, Matt Beadle dispossessed the opposition keeper before teeing up substitute Dave Short who had the simple task of sliding the ball into the empty net.

The home side did have a glorious chance to take all 3 points when they were awarded a last minute penalty, but fortunately for '74 he blasted his effort over the bar!

CHESHIRE CUP DRAW

A TRIP TO ALTRINCHAM IS ON THE WAY

The draw for the Cheshire Senior Cup was released today - we have been picked to play Altrincham FC.

Team: Conkie, Mitchell, Duckworth, Farnworth, Aston, Thomas, Connor, Ward, Brandon. (Short), Beadle, Bailey (Abdullah)

Att: 264

Three years later and having seen off the Vics in a replayed FA Cup tie 4 days earlier, '74 travelled to Lancashire to take on another team in Green, Burscough.

On a bumpy pitch and a gusty wind not helping matters, it was a game of few chances and it took a somewhat fortunate goal for '74 to win the game; Adam Whitlock's 63rd minute floated corner kick evaded everyone in the highly congested goalmouth and nestled in the back of the net!

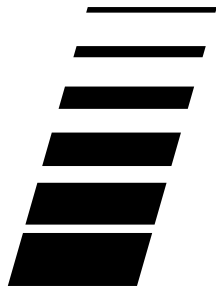
Team: Hall, Lever, L Jackson, Pritchard, Meadowcroft, Waite-Jackson (Riley, Whitlock, M Woolley, McGowan, Hind, Kennerley)

Att: 175

The tie will take place at the J Davidson Stadium. Date of fixture to be confirmed so watch this space!

BOOST THE BUDGET

SUPPORT THE PLAYING BUDGET DIRECTLY



Thank you to everyone who has pledged donations to our Boost the Budget scheme.

As we hit the start of the new season we will shortly be able to let our management team of Wayne and Paul know the final figure that has been pledged and ring fenced to be added to the playing budget available to them.

We will also begin collating and starting to distribute the range of rewards available to the scheme's contributors.

The Boost the Budget scheme will directly influence the ability of our managers to offer competitive terms to players in what is an ever increasingly competitive marketplace.

It's not too late to join in if you feel able to, and whilst a donation of £5 per month over the next 10 months may seem insignificant they will all add up. In fact a pledge of just £5 a month from each of our members during the season would add around £10,000 to the playing budget available.

With rewards on offer ranging from entry into the Budget Booster prize draw through to an exclusive evening meal with the managers hopefully there is something for everyone and your support for the club will be truly appreciated.

How does it work?

We are looking for supporters to either make a one off donation of £25 or to make a monthly contribution of £5, £10, £15, £20, £25, £30 or £50 by standing order over a 10 month period from July 2023 to April 2024.

In return for your support we are offering a range of rewards, depending upon the amount pledged.

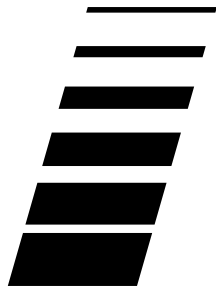
So what are the rewards? Depending on the amount pledged, they range from being listed in future programmes as part of a Roll of Honour, entry to the 'Booster Draw', a limited edition shirt, matchball sponsorship package, a signed home shirt, a mascot or kit man package, pre-match and half-time hospitality, or an evening meal with the board and management.

For further details on the rewards available and how to sign up please use the button below!

[Boost the Budget](#)

SPONSOR A PLAYER

PLAYER SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW

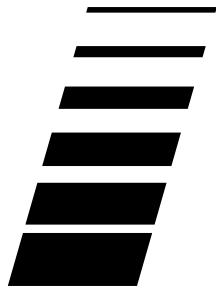


We are once again offering fans the opportunity to sponsor our squad and see their names in the programme every single week!

With other perks as well, details will be finalised in the coming week so get in touch with a board member today to find out who's still available and get ahead of the curve!

TODDY'S GOALS SCHEME

MONEY FOR GOALS, CLEAN SHEETS, & MORE



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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Proprietor

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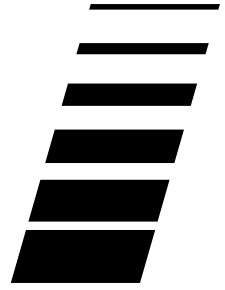
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

1874 NORTHWICH



Each and every year has its notable events and occurrences that become part of history and in this respect 1874 is no different from any other.

For instance, not only did this 12-month period see the publication of Hardy's masterpiece 'Far From the Madding Crowd' but it also witnessed the birth of the literary giants GK Chesterton and Somerset Maugham, whilst a certain Winston Churchill also came into the world that year!

At a more prosaic level, the game of Lawn Tennis was patented by the wonderfully named Walter Clopton Wingfield and the nation's post-boxes were re-painted from their original Bronze-Green colour to the familiar red ones we see today. Meanwhile, in the game of football Aston Villa, Bolton Wanderers and Heart of Midlothian were all formed.

So, if you are an opposition fan reading this piece for the first time or simply someone who isn't aware of the history of 1874 Northwich, you may be under the impression that our club was created at the same time as 'The Villains', 'The Trotters' and 'The Jam Tarts'. But actually nothing could be further than the truth!

You see, 1874 was formed as recently as November 2012 when disaffected members of the Northwich Victoria Supporters Trust voted to create a new club.

Well, if you wish to fully acquaint yourself with the events that led up to the historic vote, you can do no better than turn to Mark Bevan's book 'Twenty Years of Madness' that was published in 2013. This excellent tome sets out the history of the Vics from 1992 – which is where Ken Edwards's earlier history of the Vics 'A Team For All Seasons' ended - to mid-2013, six months or so after the date that '74 was formed.

Suffice to say that by late 2012, the state of affairs at the club were such, that many Vics fans were utterly heartbroken, sick and tired of the manner in which their club had been 'managed' over the previous decade or more by successive regimes. In short, supporters had been belittled, demeaned and lied to by

those who had chosen to take on the task of running the oldest football club in Cheshire.

So the fans decided to take things into their own hands and create a truly democratic, open, inclusive fan's run club in which they had a direct say in. The name they chose for the new club – 1874 Northwich - was a nod to the distinguished history of the club that they had supported, followed and loved.

Following the vote a massive amount of hard work was put in by the fans to ensure that the club could commence playing at the start of the 2013/14 season. This included:

- Applying to join the North West Counties Football League
- Appointing our first 'Gaffer', Ian Street
- 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.

That first season ended with the club being promoted to the Premier Division and the second proved to be equally successful with the club finishing in third place.

The 2015/16 season proved to be a steady campaign in the league with an eventual finishing spot of 4th, 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 an

exciting and memorable one, during which the 'Bo-Go' 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 3rd 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 1674 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 10th – 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 17/18 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 Macron 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 2nd 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 9 games left and 8 points ahead of second placed Warrington 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, then it ought to have been those fantastic bunch of players. But as you will know, the Covid 19 outbreak resulted in a sudden cessation to grassroots football and, heartbreakingly, 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 only to be 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 12th out of 20 was a highly satisfying end result. It might have been even more impressive had our home form had been a little more consistent!

At one stage in our second season, it seemed as if we'd comfortably better the previous season's showing, but a lacklustre end to the season eventually saw '74 slip to 14th place. The undoubted highlight on the pitch was the deserved 1-0 away win at eventual champions Macclesfield, a game that was witnessed by over 3500 fans.

At the end of the 2022/23 season, The Pitching In Northern Premier League bestowed the Club of the Season award to 1874, for maintaining exceptional standards on and off the pitch. Suffice to say that everyone at the club was hugely proud of this prestigious award and this was more evidence if needed that our club always aims to do things correctly.

But when it comes to '74 it's not all about what happens on the 6000 square metres of turf. You see, as a democratically owned and operated community focussed club, from the get-go, we made it a key priority to forge positive links and partnerships with the local voluntary and business sectors

So, over the past decade not only have we forged beneficial partnerships with many well-respected local companies including Britannia Carpets, OxyL-Pro and our newest sponsors Shadow Foam, but we've also developed 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 and beyond. More recently, 1874 have fielded sides at junior level and the establishment of these teams has acted as a stepping stone towards the creation of other sides covering all age groups, genders, and abilities.

Mention of which 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' gentlemen of Mid-Cheshire, most of

whom had probably thought that their playing days were well behind them! So successful has this initiative been that we're now operating a popular session for women aged over 40, the majority of whom never had the opportunity to play the game.

2019 was also a landmark year off the field as for the first time the club finally played within the boundary of the town of Northwich following the signing of a 2 year agreement to share Barnton's Townfield Lane stadium. A huge amount of work was undertaken to improve the facilities for players, officials, and supporters alike as well as meeting the ground-grading requirements that were necessary for promotion to Step 4. The agreement was extended for a further 5 years last season 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. At times, such a policy makes matters difficult and frustrating, but given the memories and experiences we all shared as fans the club we once followed, it is a path that we will not deviate from.



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

1874 NORTHWICH - PROFILES 2023/2024

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 club's 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 with Market Drayton and the Cheshire trio of Nantwich, Congleton and Alsager Town but also included a short spell in Wales with The New Saints.

In comparison, Wayne spent the majority of his career in the Football League, firstly with Barnsley – where he served his apprenticeship – 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, Wakefield born Wayne followed this up by gaining a postgraduate Masters in Football Coaching & Practice.

Sam Adetiloye – Having spent the 22/23 pre-season with '74, Sam returned to Townfield towards the end of the campaign and impressed many '74 fans with his powerful performances in the midfield. Having spent the earlier part of his career with Salford City, Sam has also appeared in the colours of Widnes, Ramsbottom United and Padiham.

Jason Akiota – A former Crystal Palace academy player at U18 and U23 levels, Jason also represented Nigeria at U17 level. More recently he has featured in the Irish League with Portadown as well as having spells at NPL Premier outfits Hyde United and Farsley Celtic and our fellow NPL West clubs Widnes and Clitheroe. A strong and committed full-back, Jason will bring a solid presence to the defence ahead of the new season.

Ellis Allen – Originally a trainee with Oldham Athletic, Ellis left Boundary Park in the summer of 2020 and had spells between the sticks at Cypriot club APEA Akrotiri, Holywell Town in Wales and Whitchurch Alport before joining '74 in the summer of 2022. Unfortunately a freak accident whilst he was on holiday curtailed his season after just 8 appearances.

Happily now fully recovered, Ellis will no doubt be looking to make up for lost time this season.

Ollie Broe – Liverpool born Ollie is a versatile lad who can play on the right or left side of defence or midfield, and made 22 appearances for the club during the 2022/23 campaign. Originally part of the Academy set up at Anfield, the 21 year old has also represented City of Liverpool, Litherland REMYCA, Farsley Celtic, Mossley and Widnes.

Eric Byrne – Aged just 17, Eric made a big impression in his first year in senior football last season whilst playing for Runcorn Town. Merseyside-based and formerly with the Tranmere Rovers youth academy, Eric has demonstrated a great work ethic and maturity in possession during the pre-season build up – which will no doubt go down well with the fans here at 1874.

Sam Cryer – 20-year-old full-back Sam recently returned from the US having played for Frostburg State University. Prior to that Sam had been part of the Runcorn Linnets U21's side

Gabe Ellis – A natural centre forward, 19 year old Gabe came through the youth ranks at Accrington Stanley before moving into senior football with Skelmersdale United, Ashton Athletic and Litherland REMYCA. Gabe has certainly made an impressive start to his '74 career netting in the pre-season games against Rhyl, Bury and Wythenshawe.

Matt Fenton – Originally part of Crewe's youth system and a graduate of '74's well-regarded U21 side, 22 year old Matt was pitched into the First XI towards the end of the 21/22 season and acquitted himself extremely well in his ten outings, which included three bullet-headed goals. Assured, calm and strong in possession, Matt went onto establish himself as a regular last season, chalking up 41 games in which he netted a total of 5 goals – an impressive tally for a central defender!

Fenton Green – A central midfield player who was at Crewe Alexandra's academy, the 20 year old impressed many '74 fans during the 22/23 pre-season build up with his measured, calm performances and went onto play 30 times scoring 3 goals. During his last season with Crewe, Fenton had stints at Hyde United and Stockport Town.

Joe Hurst – The club's first new recruit ahead of the 2023/24 season, the full-back arrived from '74's NPL West rivals Newcastle Town for whom he made 17 appearances last season. As a youth player, Joe progressed through the academies of Manchester United, Rochdale and Morecambe. Described as being calm on the ball and solid defensively, 20 year old Joe also likes to support the attack

Jack Irlam – Having arrived at Townfield during the 2018/19 season, 25 year old Jack is now our third longest serving player having chalked up 106 appearances in '74 colours scoring 11 times. His tally would have been higher, but he missed much of the truncated 2019/20 season with an ankle injury. Signed from Runcorn Town for whom he played over 100 games, Jack has also been on the books of Ashton Town, Barnton and City of Liverpool. Towards the end of last season he demonstrated his versatility by playing as a 'traditional' target man and even claimed the club's 'Goal of the Season' award.

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. Now with over 200 games for the club under his belt, he is versatile operator who can play equally well in midfield or the centre of defence. Now aged 37, Mark counts Witton, Nantwich and Radcliffe amongst his earlier ports of call.

Jerry Le Grand-Akpo – In common teammates Fenton Green and Jack Marrow, Jerry was formerly a member of the Under-18 team at Crewe Alexandra and has also played in goal for our U21s last season

Josh Maris – A summer 2023 recruit, Northwich based Josh joined '74 after spending time with Chester's well-regarded academy. Having tasted senior football with Winsford United last season, 19 year old Josh – who is predominantly a striker - can hopefully mirror the form of other former Chester players who have featured for '74 over the last couple of years.

Jack Marrow – After completing his scholarship with Crewe Alexandra, 20 year old Jack joined '74 in the summer of 2021 but made just 2 appearances before injury put paid to his season. A loan spell at Alsager aided him in his recovery, so much so that he went onto play a total of 35 games for '74 last season, scoring twice.

Gabriel Mooney-Munoz – A pacy, exciting and skilful left sided player, who is one of a number of new faces who have joined the '74 cause this summer, Spanish born Gabriel was snapped up from our near neighbours Winsford United for whom he played 52 times last season. Prior to joining 'The Blues', Gabriel had featured for Madrid-based club CD Canillas - for whom both of Zinedane Zidane sons have played for - before spending a season with Wythenshawe Town where he was voted as Player of the season in 2021/22. He's currently a Sports and Exercise Science Student at Manchester Metropolitan University

Siyam Muhammad – This pacy and skilful 23-year-old winger joined '74 towards the back end of last season from Northwich Victoria. Prior to that had represented Manchester League outfit Gorton.van in the Manchester League.

Benji Mullarkey – A new face to welcome to the club – Warrington-based Benji joins up having fitted in well through pre-season, appearing in both defence and midfield. The 23-year-old had been on the books of Crewe Alexandra as a junior before a period away from the game. He had recently represented the team of Leeds University whilst studying for a Degree in Economics.

Jamie Nicholson – A forward who can play anywhere along the front line, Jamie's game will bring flair to the club and could prove a shrewd signing by the management team. A former youth player with Morecambe, 19 year old Jamie impressed 'The Shrimps' Senior Team management to the point that he was in the match day squad when the Lancashire club played at Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup in January 2022.

Last season Jamie played for Ashton Athletic in the NWCFL and prior to that he also had short spells in the NPL West with Clitheroe and his home town club Skelmersdale United.

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 and has so far made 23 appearances for the club, scoring twice.



Sam Oliver - Full-back Sam has teamed up with '74 from Stockport Georgians, having been a teammate of several former 1874 players. Sam's youth team playing days saw him with the academies of Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and Sheffield Wednesday. Aged 21, Sam had a short spell in senior football with Droylsden. He has also spent time in the US, representing Arizona Western College.

Matt Woolley – The club captain, Matt is also '74's longest serving player having made his debut as a substitute in the 2014 Boxing Day game at Widnes. A Northwich lad, he was signed from Cheshire League side Knutsford FC. Matt has had spells at Congleton Town, Alsager, Witton Albion and FC Halifax Town and he's now chalked up over 350 games for the club, netting approaching 50 goals.

Jonny Sodhi – Just 18, Jonny – who usually operates in midfield - joined us during the summer from Connah's Quay Nomads Academy side. Has shown promise in pre-season games and certainly will be one to keep an eye on.

Lucas Weir – Now aged 23, Lucas first broke in to '74's first-team in 2018, after initially featuring for our U21s side. He quickly became an important part of the side, developing in to an all-round midfielder who also played in defensive positions. After taking a break away from the club to play and study in the US in early 2019, Lucas returned in 2020, and after a spell of real consistency he was snapped up by NPL Premier Division side Marine AFC and went on to feature over 30 times for the Crosby based club. We couldn't be happier to welcome back a player of Lucas's talent and personality to the '74 fold!



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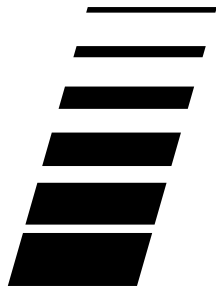
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC



HISTORY

Athletic were formed in December 1952 after a meeting in the Blue Bell public house ten minutes walk from the present ground. It was formed as a breakaway club from Kidsgrove United when it was thought the club were bringing in too many 'outsiders' from the potteries instead of local players. The main instigator, Ernie Langford, endured a sixty year tenure with the club as chairman then president and served many years on the Staffs FA until his passing a few years ago. The main stand is named after him.

Eric Hibbitt and Frank Timmis, who both attended that first meeting, still support the club today.

The club started life in the now defunct Burslem and Tunstall League playing on the Vickers and Goodwin pitch on the A50 just down the road. In 1961 the present ground was acquired from a local farmer and the club took a year out to develop the pitch.

After success in cup and league in the Burslem and Tunstall league the club joined the Staffordshire County league in 1963 where again they had success winning the league and Staffs Challenge cup. In search of more success the club joined the Mid Cheshire league, a move not entirely liked by the Staffs FA but eventually they did allow a Kidsgrove reserve side back into the County league.

The Seventies and Eighties saw the club have huge successes winning the Mid Cheshire league four times and the challenge cup three times, and they also lifted the Staffs FA Vase and the challenge cup once more. They also lifted the prestigious Sentinel Cup three times.

The Eighties saw the club grow more and more and the clubhouse and ground started developing further and further with the aid of a strong committee, supporters, and local tradesmen. In 1986 the club applied for membership of the North West Counties league but this was rejected twice until facilities were improved. The club were accepted in 1989, the same year they became the first team to win

the Staffs FA Vase twice. Three years later Kidsgrove were promoted to the first division after finishing tenth in the second division, the result of the league introducing strict ground criteria. Part of this was the installation of floodlights, (acquired free off the council from run down tennis courts at a local park) and on the 29th October 1991 Lou Macari brought his Stoke City team to officially switch on the floodlights.

Within the next ten years the South and West stands were completed but the club struggled financially on and off the field but after the demise of Eastwood Hanley in 1997 the playing side were strengthened when their manager Jimmy Wallace took over with Chris Hagan as his assistant and Neil Dundas as coach.

The team of 97-98 had unparalleled success winning the league and challenge cup and narrowly missing out in an FA Vase final at Wembley losing 3-2 to Tiverton in the semi-final in front of Kidsgrove's official record crowd of 1903. This was surpassed in a friendly last season when 2365 watched a friendly against Port Vale.

Promotion to the NPL was not forthcoming because of facilities but in 2002 after winning the league promotion was gained. The team struggled on and off the field and two years later they faced relegation for the first time in their history after finishing bottom of the league. The restructuring of the league however saved this from happening and to celebrate the club won the Staffs Senior cup for the first time beating Stafford Rangers 1-0 at the Britannia Stadium, a feat they have won four times since. The club have only picked up one piece of silverware in the league winning the Chairman's Cup 7-6 on aggregate against Woodley Sports and reached the play-offs once, losing 1-0 to Glapwell in 2010.

Struggles have ensued and re-election twice saved relegation and despite reaching the FA Trophy quarter finals losing 2-0 to Ilkeston, and the FA Cup 4th qualifying round losing 2-0 to Bradford PA, Kidsgrove have had to settle for fair play awards.

Mick Fitzjohn's takeover of the club in 2015 has certainly stabilised the club as has Ian Cooper's directorship. Ian's company has transformed the pitch into one of the best in the league receiving compliments from all quarters.

The club reached the FA Cup 4th qualifier again in 2018 under the managership of Ryan Austin and faced the long journey to Conference side Hartlepool United and were unlucky in losing 1-0.

The following season club did well on the pitch at first before going out in the third qualifier of the FA Cup 1-0 to Gateshead. The Grove slipped slightly in the league though were still in with a chance of the play-offs before the season was halted.

The club parted company with manager Ryan Austin and former player Scott Dundas was appointed as the new manager. A decent run in the FA Trophy was halted by Stamford behind closed doors before the season ended with Grove 4th after eight games.

With plans approved for new floodlights, clubhouse, and other facilities, the club and supporters remain very optimistic about the future on and off the field though Covid and the ongoing economic uncertainty have put plans behind. The present aim is to establish ourselves as a force in the NPL and aim for a playoff place.

Last season the team finished in eighth position, the third highest since we have been in the NPL.

This season has seen another hospitality box erected and the installation of toilets next to the Swinton Insurance Stand and extra standing room behind the goal. The old office and hospitality block on the left as you enter the ground has been demolished to make way for extra parking.

It is hoped as the season progresses the bottom left side of the ground will have a stand erected when the ground will be 90% under cover.

PROFILES

Goalkeepers;

Ryan Brown; Young local lad who improves every season now into his third year at the Grove.

Kieran Harrison; Experienced keeper who has returned to the club this season after leaving to have spells at Hanley Town and Boldmere St Michaels.

Defenders;

Kyle Stubbs; Young full back who has worked his way into the team since being at the club. Now into his third season.

Oliver Jepson; Experienced centre back who is also the club captain. Signed two seasons ago from Congleton Town after previously playing for the Grove earlier in his career. Capable of netting from dead ball situations.

Joshua Thorpe; Centre half signed from Hanley Town three seasons ago. Missed a full season with an ACL injury but has come back as strong as ever. Fearless at the back he can also play a No 9 role if need be. Managers player of the year last season.

Declan O'Riordan; Young centre half who has come back to the club after 12 months sabbatical through University work. Originally signed from Sandbach United. Calm and assured for such a young lad, his brother plays for Crewe Alex and had a loan spell at Kidsgrove.

Lewis Bergin; No nonsense player happy at full back or in midfield. Has over 200 appearances for the club and can score from distance. Longest serving continuous player at the club.

Jack Bromfield; Energetic terrier like player also at home in midfield. A ninety minute player who has hardly missed a game in the two seasons he's been here.

Tom Merrill; Comfortable looking full back who is in his first season at the Grove. Signed from local side Wolstanton United.

Scott Leycett; Another energetic player in his second season at Kidsgrove. Happy in the middle of the park as well.

Midfield;

Jimmy Garlick; Bided his time to get into the team but is as enthusiastic as anyone. Likes to get forward and knows where the back of the net is.

Tyrone Cadeau; Young player who was on the books at Port Vale. Previously played in the Cmyru League. Signed from Matlock Town during the close season having made four appearances for them. One to watch.

Ernest Ofofu; Talented Ghanaian who was player of the season last year. Full of energy, can use both feet and gets up well to a ball. Covers most of the pitch during a match.

Callum Lovatt; Came back to Kidsgrove late last season after having a spell at Newcastle Town. Elder brother of forward Jake.

Forwards;

Kieran Knapper; Had an impressive season last year after signing from Vauxhall Motors. Happy to play on either wing.

Kingsley Adu Gyamfi; Tenacious little winger who is a great crowd pleaser. In his third season at Grove after signing from Silverdale United.

Aaron Bott; Last seasons top scorer is a proper opportunist in the box and another player who covers a lot of ground. Signed from Congleton town.

Joe Woolley; Signed in the close season from 1874 Northwich after having played for Kidsgrove previously.

Jake Lovatt; Brother of Callum, he left Kidsgrove for Newcastle Town at the beginning of last season. Injuries shortened his season but he's back to full fitness now. Both Brothers were previously at Chasetown.

Kyle Diskin; More appearances than any other player, Kyle has been at the club on and off since 2015. Superb crosser of the ball and a dead ball specialist. His father was a centre half at Kidsgrove.

Nathan Morley; Winger signed from Newcastle Town during the close season. Another player who knows where the net is.

Jake Alcock; A step up this season for Jake who was signed from a local Sunday side Greenhoffs United. Getting back to fitness after cracking some ribs in the first friendly of the season.

Manager;

Scott Dundas; Played for Kidsgrove when he was a teenager and once scored 53 goals from midfield in the 1997/98 season when Kidsgrove reached the FA Vase semi finals and won the NWCL title. Moved on to Ilkeston after leaving Kidsgrove before going into management with Norton United taking them to the first round of the FA Cup. Also managed at Newcastle Town, Chasetown and Witton Albion.

Assistant;

Tom Urwin; Tom took on the role after he was dogged by injuries after stepping up a level to play for Kidsgrove.

Goalkeeping Coach;

Scott Bentley; Played in the same successful Kidsgrove side as Scott Dundas. Was a hugely popular keeper who once saved eight penalties on the trot in different matches.

Physio;

Amy Buckle; Took over last season when John Cooper moved on. Qualified through a degree course at Keel University.

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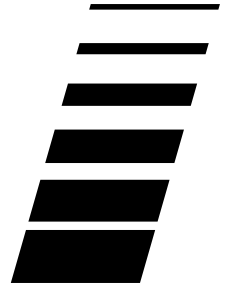
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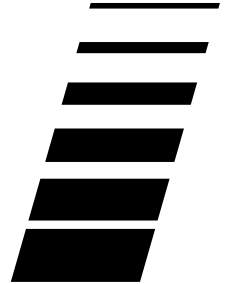
We are once again offering fans the opportunity to receive full match video and highlights. The price has been held at £20 for the season.

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CLUB OF THE YEAR

1874 WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



1874 Northwich Football Club are proud to announce that at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Northern Premier League, the club was presented with the NPL Club of the Year award by the league management committee.

Chosen from a short list that also included Cambridge City FC and Stocksbridge Park Steels FC this award is not won on the pitch, but is awarded as recognition of the overall standards upheld by the club, both on and off the pitch in terms of respect and compliance.

Commenting upon the award, Chairman Stephen Richardson stated;

"In only our second season playing in the Northern Premier League we are highly honoured and immensely proud to have received this award.

"As a club we have always strived to maintain the highest of standards in professionalism and respect towards others and whilst we may not be the biggest or noisiest football club in Northwich, we do aim to uphold our founding beliefs of openness, integrity and transparency in the manner that we believe a football club should be run.

"I would like to pay personal tribute to our Football Secretary Vicki England, whose energy, enthusiasm and commitment ensures that we continue to maintain the standards to which we adhere.

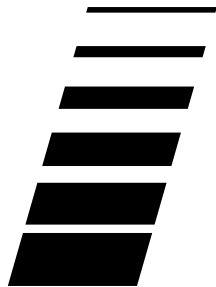
"This award is also a credit to our joint managers Wayne Goodison and Paul Bowyer, our players and supporters for their conduct both on and off the field, and lastly to my fellow board members for their support in maintaining the standards at 1874 Northwich Football Club."

1874 Northwich FC is wholly owned, funded and run by its supporters, and is only one of a few true community owned football clubs recognised by the Football Supporters Association.

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By Matt Badcock, Editor-at-large

THE SUMMER at NLP Towers brings a mix of emotions.

Like for many, the end of a season brings time for reflection and recuperation - and wondering quite where the previous nine months vanished.

But, to borrow a phrase of nearly every Non-League manager we speak to in the close season, it just never stops.

We may not be trying to assemble our squads to kick off in late July/early August, but there's not time to put the feet up.

Club allocations, appeals, managerial comings and goings, player signings - and then the chance to put together some nice features we don't usually have the space to include when the campaign is at full tilt.

Pre-season soon comes along but there's nothing quite like the real stuff that has swung into action over the last few weeks.

The first ball seems to be kicked earlier every year with some Step 5 and 6 leagues getting under way at the end of July to squeeze some competitive minutes in the legs before the FA Cup.

Then it's the turn of the National League - along with Southern Step 3 divisions - before this weekend when everyone is back under way.

By the time you read this, some clubs will have already played five games if they've had an FA Cup replay.

There was a unique FA Cup record set in the extra preliminary round, a stat that comes courtesy of the brilliant Phil Annets with his @FACupFactfile account on Twitter, or X as it is apparently now called!

At 7.48pm on Friday, August 4, Bishops Cleeve's Jay Malshanskyj became the earliest ever goalscorer in an FA Cup season. How's that for a piece of history and one he will no doubt roll out in the pub with mates when Manchester City, or whoever it may be, lift the trophy at Wembley next year.

The FA Cup does feel like the starter's gun for the new season across Non-League football. Many dreams are already dashed but over the coming months more clubs will join with the belief this could be their year.

This is the time of year for hope. Where a long season is still ahead of everyone, where opening day drubbings can be put down to a bad day at the office, big wins can be savoured and it's OK to dream.

The summer was nice. But it's so much better when competitive football is back. Enjoy the season!



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Paul BOWYER
Wayne GOODISON

MANAGER

Scott DUNDAS



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*Kieran KNAPPER				
*Scott LYCETT				
*Callum LOVATT				
*Jake LOVATT				
Tom MERRILL				
*Nathan MORLEY				
*Ernest OFOSU				
*Declan O'RIORDAN				
Kyle STUBBS				
*Joshua THORPE				
*Joe WOOLLEY				

*Asterisks indicate present in last/predicted matchday squad

Live Information

MATCH OFFICIALS

REF: Jacob GRAHAM
AST 1: Samuel FLETCHER
AST 2: Andrew COTTRELL

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