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*vs NANTWICH TOWN*  
*28/08/23 - 3.00PM*  
*NPL WEST*  
*OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME*

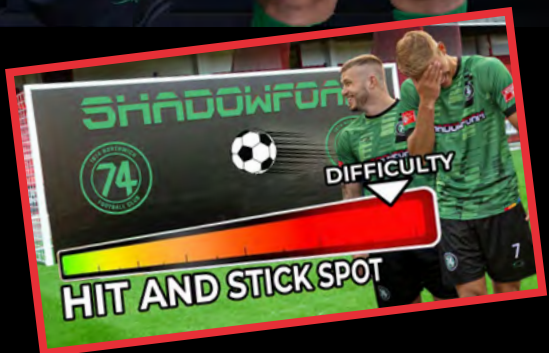
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### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**TELEPHONE:** 07975 679624

**GENERAL E-MAIL:** [trust@1874northwich.com](mailto:trust@1874northwich.com)

**FOOTBALL:** [secretary@1874northwich.com](mailto:secretary@1874northwich.com)

**COMMUNITY:** [community@1874northwich.com](mailto:community@1874northwich.com)

**PROGRAMME:** [programme@1874northwich.com](mailto:programme@1874northwich.com)

**MEDIA:** [media@1874northwich.com](mailto:media@1874northwich.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.1874northwich.com](http://www.1874northwich.com)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/1874Northwich](http://www.facebook.com/1874Northwich)

**TWITTER:** [www.twitter.com/1874Northwich](http://www.twitter.com/1874Northwich)

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**NWCFL CHALLENGE CUP** 2019, 2020

**MID-CHESHIRE SENIOR CUP** 2015-16, 2016-17

**SUPPORTERS DIRECT SHIELD** 2013

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# WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **NANTWICH TOWN**

MONDAY 28TH AUG 2023 | K.O. 3.00PM



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**PRESIDENT:** Brian Edge

**CHAIRMAN & COMMUNITY:** Stephen Richardson

**FINANCE:** John Coats

**FOOTBALL:** Vicki England

**COMPANY:** Maggie Coats

**SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING:** Richard Stockton

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:** Alex Dickinson

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:** Peter Foherty

**ENGAGEMENT:** Mark Kelly

**ENGAGEMENT:** Luke Bushnell-Wye

### OTHER CONTACTS:

**TREASURER:** John Coats

**FOOTBALL SECRETARY:** Vicki England

**WELFARE OFFICER:** Maggie Coats

**PROGRAMME EDITOR:** Luke Bushnell-Wye

**PROOF READERS:** Richard Webb/Richard Bush

**MEDIA:** Ashley Dobell/Jade Kelly/Xenia Simpson/  
Ben Davies

**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, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone associated with today's game in the NPL West Division One, and especially to our guests from this afternoon's opponents Nantwich Town FC.**

I don't think that I am speaking out of turn in expressing my pride in that today we meet a team that I consider to be one of the "Big Boys" of Cheshire football, and the fact that we find ourselves competing on level terms with them, just 10 years on from the formation of our football club speaks to me of the progress that our Fan Owned and Operated club has made over the last decade.

1874 go into today's game on the back of a run of games that have been both rewarding and challenging at the same time.

Rewarding in that there have certainly been positive signs regarding the potential in the squad to compete shown by performances in recent games against Stalybridge and Chasetown, both strong sides who will no doubt be aiming for spots high in the league this season. Challenging in that so far the chances to seal that first win have been agonisingly lacking.

We always knew that with a number of new additions to this year's squad it was going to take time for the squad to settle and for players to adapt to the challenge facing them this season.

Prior to today's game a tally of 2 points from 4 games may be disappointing to some, but considering that 3 of those first 4 games have been against the current top 3 sides in the league I believe that we have to put these early results into perspective.

We have a long season ahead of us and your support for the team will no doubt play an enormous role in how future results pan out.

Over the past few months 1874 legend James Wood has been working hard writing a book celebrating the first 10 years of 1874 Northwich FC. From our first game at Lostock Gralam FC up to current times, James has chronicled the ups and downs of how a group of football supporters decided to set up their own football club and run it in the manner that they felt appropriate.

Due for publication very shortly the book is available for pre order via the web shop or via James himself. I'm sure that James will be happy to discuss its contents with supporters and more importantly take your orders.

Titled "The First Club In England" James has taken inspiration from the annual FA list of clubs entering the FA Challenge Cup, a tongue in cheek reflection that appears to have been lost on some of the more vocal aficionados of Northwich football.

Please enjoy today's game, your support is really important to the boys.

**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 League game against Nantwich Town.**

They're one of the favourites to be up there at the end of the season and I'm sure they'll be keen to get back to winning ways after Saturdays result.

Today's game gives us an opportunity to put right some of the things from Saturday's game at Prescot. We were disappointed with our lack of quality on the ball at Prescot and kept inviting them on by giving the ball away rather than linking up passes and progressing up the pitch.

In the main we defended well but it was maybe inevitable that we were going to make a mistake at some point and it was unfortunate that it was right at the death, having looked as though we may end up with a point.

The challenge for all clubs over Bank Holiday weekends is to ensure players are ready to play again after just two days rest. Jamie Nicholson misses out today as we need to manage his knee. He's felt it for a couple of weeks and came off in the last few mins on Saturday so we want to give him the best chance of resting and being right for the upcoming games. Jack Irlam's been suffering with a tight groin so will have a late fitness test and Sam Adetiloye is back in contention today after a few days away.

The challenge and frustration at the moment is inconsistencies in performance. We were good value for a point at worst against Chasetown last Tuesday. A number of saves from their keeper kept them in the game and we responded well to them going ahead.

It's important we work just as hard today and offer more going forwards. The strength of the squad at the moment is the options we have on the wings and in midfield so we need to get the right balance.

So, today we have another challenging game where we're going to have to defend resolutely and it's pleasing to see we've managed this in the last few games.

Nantwich have a number of threats and experience so it's key we take opportunities when they come our way.

Enjoy the game and we'll see you on Saturday when we make the trip to Newcastle Town, before an important FA Trophy game at City of Liverpool.

Up the '74!

**Bows and Goody**

# SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

## VICKI ENGLAND



**Good afternoon everyone and welcome to our first Bank Holiday fixture of the season.**

I am delighted to welcome everyone connected with Nantwich Town to mid Cheshire. Our fellow greens visit after having a mixed bag of results at the start of the season.

However, I think that once they find their stride, I expect them to be challenging to go straight back up, although I hope that they don't find it during today's game!

We have played Nantwich previously, back in February 2017. Our squad contained Matt Woolley and Mark Jones and they found themselves on the wrong side of a 3-1 defeat in the Cheshire Cup. At that time Nantwich were the highest-ranking team we had played in our short history, and it was a comfortable win for them. Since that time, I have kept in regular contact with the then Secretary Carl, he has become a good football mate and it will be good to see him again today.

Last Tuesday saw us continue where we left off at Stalybridge, with another positive performance against Chasetown. A one all draw was fair; however, we could have nicked it. Fenton Green scored our equaliser and gave a man of the match performance, although the whole squad did well.

Before the game at Prescott, the table showed Kidsgrove, Chasetown and Stalybridge in the top three. Whilst of course it is very early days, it shows the task that we have faced but, there again, no games in this league are going to be easy.

On Saturday at Prescott, we did find ourselves a little 'under the cosh'. To concede right at the death was a killer blow; however we couldn't say that they didn't deserve the three points. Our team defended hard throughout the game and I want to commend their effort.

Special mention for Ellis in goal, he pulled off a superb save to deny them and followed up with a very strong and timely block. This lad has bounced back from a tough time, and we've seen his confidence and strength grow in each game. Well done kiddo!

After today, we head down to Newcastle Town next Saturday and then follow up with the FA Trophy game away at City of Liverpool. I'm sure you have seen, but by way of a reminder, this game will take place on SUNDAY 10th September as their landlords Bootle have also been drawn at home. Forget the Sunday lunch, get yourselves over and back the boys!

Last week, the Board announced that Peter Flaherty had been co-opted onto the Board. Pete is a really good guy who is fully committed to help our growing junior section flourish further. He's taking over from Alex Dickinson, who has fulfilled that role since we started, and has put a lot of hard work into establishing the U21s and juniors and leaves the role in a good place.

Alex and Pete have been working on some exciting plans for the future development of our club and if it all comes to fruition, it will be very good. I'm looking forward to working with Pete and of course, Alex is not walking away completely, he is still fully committed to supporting 1874. Thanks gents!

In other news, I'm thrilled to say that James Wood has now finished the 10th anniversary book called "The first team in England". It chronicles our history, it highlights great times, great players, great people and great images. James will be taking orders at today's game with the book hopefully being available at our home game against Mossley on 16th September. So don't delay, get your name down and enjoy!





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& quote "1874 Fan" to strike a great deal

I'm also delighted that the club has announced that, in conjunction with our friends at Barnton Cricket Club, we will be holding a Beer Festival. It will be a bit different than previous festivals; it will start on Wednesday 4th October and will keep going until Tuesday 10th! What, Moonshine for a week?!! How will I cope?!

On Thursday evening, Alan Riding is hosting a football quiz, so this will be a good night. The club is looking for sponsors at £80 per barrel so if you can help, please get in touch with Alex Dickinson at [youthdev@1874northwich.com](mailto:youthdev@1874northwich.com) or 07767 613604.

More information will come out about the festival in the coming weeks. The Cricket Club is a really good facility, and we are pleased to be working with the guys there.

Back to today and what I would say is that our managers, our 'backroom' team and our players continue to work incredibly hard for the club.

Sometimes results may not be as we hope, especially in this tough league, but it's at those times when they need our patience and backing more than ever. Be loud and proud!

**Anyway, that's it for now, enjoy the game and thanks for your support.**

**"Come on you Green Boys!"**

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# 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.

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to find out more



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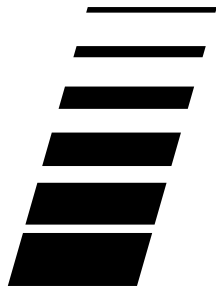


NORTHERN  
PREMIER  
LEAGUE

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# 1874 BOOK ANNOUNCED

## 'THE FIRST CLUB IN ENGLAND', COMING SOON



As many of you will know, over the past 10 months or so, our very own James Wood has been beavering away producing the history of our great club.

Well, the great news is that it is all the hard work has now been done and it's been handed over to Willow Printers who are putting the finishing touches to the design and layout with a view to printing the 250 copies that the club has ordered.

These will hopefully be available for sale at the home match against Mossley on Saturday 16th September and also via the on-line shop on the club web-site shortly afterwards.

The cost of the book will be £13.50 (plus £4.25 First Class postage and packing) and for this you will receive a professionally 'perfect' bound book with a full colour, gloss-laminate front and back cover (as a taster, the front cover is reproduced below), which will be circa 204 pages in length and will contain the following articles / features:

- The First Club in England? – An explanation as to the title of the book
- In the Beginning – The story behind the formation of 1874
- Season by Season Records - Summary narratives of each season along with match details (opposition, venue, result, half and full-time score, scorers, attendance and competition), end of season table and selected B&W photos
- The Great Games – reviews of the most memorable games in 74's history (again including selected B&W photos)
- The Pick of the Bunch – biographies of 32 of 74's most influential players, some with accompanying B&W photos
- Heritage numbers – a list of all the players who have played a competitive game for '74 in chronological order
- The Legends Reprise – A recollection of 'The Legends' Day held in April 2023
- The Men at the Top -- Commentaries from Ian Street, Paul Bowyer and Wayne Goodison regarding their tenure(s) in the '74 hot-seat

- Captains Log - Matt Woolley thoughts on his 10 years with '74
- An 8 page colour photo section- featuring match action, pictorial memories from the last decade and a few faces that we may recognise!
- 1874 stats including:
  1. A list of all the clubs 74 have faced in competitive fixtures in chronological order
  2. A whole host of other statistics and records, including full details of all league and cup matches, attendances, appearances, goals, first own goals (for and against!) etc...
- Andy's Angle – A 10 year retrospective by Andy Simpson
- Stop Press
- Last Words - A final few words from me
- Acknowledgements / Credits

You can reserve your copy at today's game by simply completing the form that James will have available at the game, situated close to where Guy and Phil sell the Golden Goal / 50-50 tickets prior to the game and at half time).

Alternatively, send an e-mail to [1874history@btinternet.com](mailto:1874history@btinternet.com) with your name, address and telephone number.

Those fans who intend to collect their book personally at the Mossley game, payment will be due on the day via the usual methods.

For those fans who wish to reserve their copy electronically, your copy will be retained until full payment (including postage and packing) is received, either personally at a game, or by paying for it via the on-line shop, at which time your copy will be posted to you.

Any reservations will only be held open until Saturday 11th November 2023. We look forward to seeing you all form a long and orderly queue. Well done, James!



**THE FIRST CLUB  
IN ENGLAND**

**THE STORY OF  
1874 NORTHWICH FC**

**JAMES WOOD**

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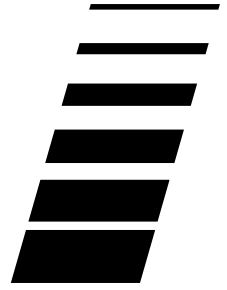
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# RESPECT INITIATIVE

## 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](mailto:cwo@1874northwich.com)



## LARGELEE CREATIVE

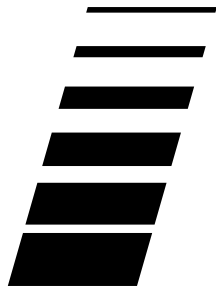
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# MATCH CENTRE 23/24

BY PETE GRIMES



DATE	OPPOSITION	FT	HT	Att	Goals				
Aug 5	Ossett United (FAC ExP)	0-2	0-2	392					
12	KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC	2-6	1-4	252	Nicholson	Irlam			
15	Stalybridge Celtic	0-0	0-0	627					
22	CHASETOWN	1-1	0-0	229	Green				
26	Prescot Cables	0-1	0-0	501					
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	-							



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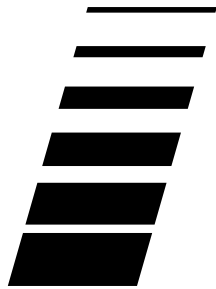
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# SPONSOR A PLAYER

## 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!

Details will be finalised in the coming week so get in touch with a board member today to find out how to get involved!

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Wayne GOODISON	Nicki Sutton & Terry Roberts
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Katy BAGSHAW	1874 Forum
Phil LEA	
Callum SUTCLIFFE	
Dayo ADEKOYA	
Sam ADETILOYE	Preston 74 Fan Club
Jason AKIOTU	James Wood
Ellis ALLEN	David & Anthea Barker
Ollie BROE	Vidipack Group Ltd
Eric BYRNE	
Jamal CRAWFORD	
Gabe ELLIS	
Matty FENTON	74 Elite Riff Raff
Fenton GREEN	Davies family
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Mark JONES	Gary & Karen Halvorsen
Jack MARROW	The Playground Company
Gabriel MOONEY-MUNOZ	Richard Webb
Benji MULLARKEY	
Jamie NICHOLSON	Azariah Goodison
Isaac NOBLE	1874 Ultras
Muhammad SIYAM	
Lucas WEIR	1874 Car School
Matt WOOLLEY	The Sunday Lunch Club

# BARNTON CRICKET CLUB BEER FESTIVAL



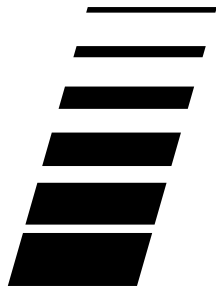
**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> -  
TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER 2023**

**BARNTON CRICKET CLUB,  
TOWNFIELD LANE,  
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NORTHWICH,  
CW8 4QL**

**6.00PM - 11.00PM  
FREE ENTRY**

# 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.

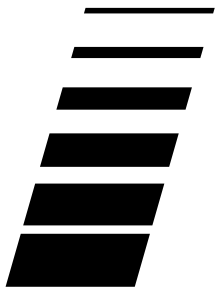
Buying a share in 1874 Northwich is not an investment and there is no return on or of the money you put in. Please note that owner benefits, beyond voting, may vary from year to year.

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

[Become an Owner](#)

# 300+ CLUB

## AUGUST 2023 WINNERS!



This month's draw was carried out at half time of the match against Chasetown with the winning numbers being drawn out by officials from our visitors as follows:

Prize Value	Number	Winner
£200	302	Steve Richardson
£100	163	Amy Martin
£50	10	Andy Lowe Sr
£50	77	Steve Smith
£50	191	Les Esling
£50	70	Simon Johnson

Participating in the 300+ Club is a fantastic way of supporting the Club throughout the whole year and you get the chance to win a cash prize each month!

Details of how to join the 300+ Club can be obtained by sending an e-mail to Guy Jewell at [trust@1874northwich.com](mailto:trust@1874northwich.com), or by clicking the link below.

[300 Club](#)

# ON THIS DAY...

BY JAMES WOOD

*James Wood recalls the previous games that '74 have played on 28th August.*

## **Saturday 28 August 2021**

Northern Premier League Division 1 West

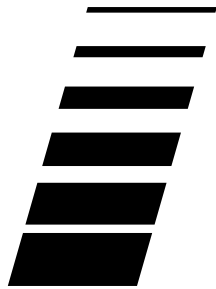
1874 - 4 (Irlam, Koral, Parker, McGowan)

Kendal Town -1 (Yahaya)

**HT 3-0**

After edging out Market Drayton in Shropshire 1-0 to record their first ever win the NPL '74 recorded back-to-back wins by seeing off 'The Mintcakes' by a comfortable margin.

The turning point of the game came as early as the 3rd minute when Kendal's 'keeper was sent off for handling the ball outside the box. From that point on the ten men rarely troubled the '74 defence and it was not until the last minute when they grabbed a consolation through Eric Yahaya.



But long before this point 74 had the points wrapped up as they went in at the break 3 goals to the good. Jack Irlam broke the deadlock after 13 minutes with a smart drive and Mike Koral followed suit shortly after and Jake Parker volleyed home in the 28th minute.

A humdrum second period in which the men in green struggled to find any sort of fluency was finally enlivened when Scott McGowan netted his second of the season

**Team:** Aghayere, Koral( M Woolley), Russell, Marrow, Jones, Parker, R Jackson, Irlam (Ormrod), McGowan (Woods), Hare, Knight  
**Unused Subs:** Gardener, J Woolley

**Att:** 242

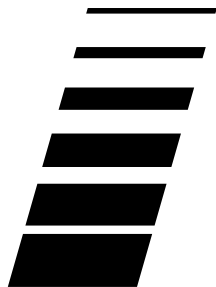
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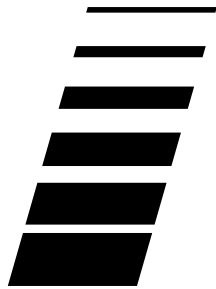
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# BOOST THE BUDGET

## 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.

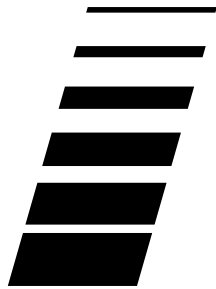
So what are the rewards? Depending on the amount pledged, they range from being listed in future programmes as part of a Roll of Honour, entry to the 'Booster Draw', a limited edition shirt, matchball sponsorship package, a signed home shirt, a mascot or kit man package, pre-match and half-time hospitality,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

# 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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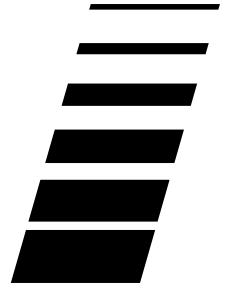
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# HISTORIES AND PROFILES

## 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

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-  thedanielwilkinsonfoundation
-  dwfoundation5
-  [contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org](mailto:contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org)
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**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.

**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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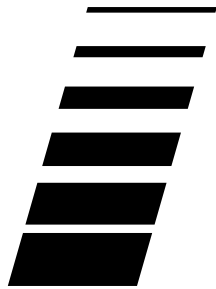
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# HISTORIES AND PROFILES

## TODAY'S VISITORS: NANTWICH TOWN



### Early Years

Nantwich Town Football Club were founded back in 1884. The club took up residence at the football pitch off London Road with the Leopard Inn as its headquarters and changing rooms. The club's early years were spent playing friendly and cup matches but in 1891 the club joined the Shropshire & District League, finishing as runners-up in their first season. Nantwich moved into the stronger Combination League the following season. On 15th October 1892 hosted Liverpool in the Merseysiders' first ever FA Cup match (Liverpool won 4-0).

After the First World War, the club became founder members of the Cheshire County League in which they were perennial strugglers. In 1921, a record home attendance of 5,121 watched the Dabbers play Winsford in the Cheshire Senior Cup at the club's temporary home at the old cricket ground at Kingsley Fields. Ironically, this is the location of the new club's new Weaver Stadium.

The club gave Freddie Worrall his first chance in senior football in April 1927. The youngster going to become a pre-war England international as well as playing in two FA Cup finals for Portsmouth.

Success for Nantwich though came in the Cheshire Senior Cup in 1933 when the Dabbers lifted the trophy. They beat ICI (Alkali) 1-0 in the final. After the Second World War, the Dabbers joined the newly founded Mid-Cheshire League and in 1952, the club entered the inaugural FA Youth Cup competition.

Drawn against Manchester United in the second round, the young Dabbers crashed 23-0 on a November evening at the Cliff training ground. United's youth line up including names such as Duncan Edwards, David Pegg, Albert Scanlon and Ron Cope.

In the 1963/64 season the club completed a treble, winning the Mid-Cheshire League, League Cup and Cheshire Amateur Cup. This was under manager Alan Ball (senior) and Nantwich re-joined the Cheshire League for the 1968/69 campaign. In 1976 the

Dabbers beat NPL champions Runcorn 5-4 in the Cheshire Senior Cup final at Crewe in front of 2,237 supporters. Five years later in May 1981, a crowd of 1,078 saw Nantwich clinch the Cheshire League title by beating eventual runners up Hyde United in the penultimate game of the season 2-1.

The previous season had seen Nantwich blood a lanky 19-year-old who had been signed from Whitchurch Alport. His name was Jimmy Quinn and he went on to play football at the highest level with Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United. He went on to gain 48 caps for Northern Ireland, becoming the fourth highest scorer in his country's international history.

### A New Era in the North-West Counties Football League

1982 saw Nantwich become founder members of the North West Counties Football League. Unfortunately, Nantwich had the unenviable honour of finishing bottom in the league's first season and were relegated to Division Two. They remained there (except for one season in Division 3) until 1989 when they were promoted to Division One. Ex-Stoke City midfielder

Nigel Gleghorn was appointed manager in November 2001 and the club also attained the prestigious FA Charter Standard Community Club award. Gleghorn left the club in the 2004 close season and former Crewe, Burnley and Barnsley defender Steve Davis was appointed as head coach.

### Success in the FA Vase

Davis led Nantwich to FA Vase glory in 2006 when the Dabbers beat Hillingdon Borough 3-1 in the final at Birmingham City's St Andrews Stadium. Andy Kinsey hit two goals in the final – and hit the headlines when he dislocated his shoulder celebrating the second!

John Scarlett, the club's post-war leading scorer with 161 goals, made a cameo appearance as a substitute in the same game. The following season (2006/07) saw the club finished third in the North West Counties League and were promoted to the Northern Premier League First Division South as a result. That season

was also the last at the club's 123-year old Jackson Avenue home. Promotion was a fitting send off to the historic stadium and a crowd of 1,071 saw the club win 5-2 against Squires Gate in the last ever game at the stadium.

The club moved in the summer of 2007 into its new home, the Weaver Stadium, ahead of the 2007/08 season. Progress continued on the pitch that season, with the club winning their first Cheshire Senior Cup in 32 years. In the final, the Dabbers played Conference Premier side Altrincham and won 4-3 on penalties. The season got even better as the Dabbers won back-to-back promotions, finishing third in the league and again entering the play-offs. They beat Grantham 2-1 in the semi-finals and then beat Sheffield FC in the final, winning 4-1 on penalties after the game finished 2-2.

The 2008/09 season was another successful year as the Dabbers finished third in the NPL Premier Division, their third successive third placed finish. However, they were beaten in the play offs, losing 2-1 to Ilkeston Town in the final and narrowly missing out on three successive promotions. They also reached the Cheshire Senior Cup final again, but Altrincham got their revenge. They beat the Dabbers 3-0 and shortly afterwards, Steve Davis left the club and was appointed as assistant manager at Crewe Alexandra.

Davis' assistant Peter Hall, a former Nantwich and Macclesfield striker, stepped up to take over as head coach for the 2009/10 season. But after briefly topping the table, he parted company with the club in March 2010 after the Dabbers slipped to 15th in the league. Senior players Kevin Street and Darren Tinson took over the reins, lifting the club to 10th place and they were confirmed as joint managers during the close season. The 2009/10 was a particularly special season for the Dabbers as it was the 125th anniversary of their founding. The club even released a special badge to commemorate the occasion.

Jimmy Quinn the former Reading, Bournemouth, West Ham and Northern Ireland striker was appointed manager in March 2011.

The 2011/12 season saw the club embark on its most successful run in the FA Cup, reaching the First Round Proper for the first time in the club's history. Victories over Ramsbottom United, Northwich Victoria, Kendal Town and Nuneaton Town gave Nantwich an enticing

tie at MK Dons. Although the Dabbers went down 6-0 on the day, their brave performance earned many plaudits. The club also won their second Cheshire Senior Cup in four years, beating Stalybridge Celtic to pick up their fourth honour in the competition.

When the club parted company with Quinn in March 2013, Darren Moss had a spell as caretaker manager as the Dabbers finished the season in 14th place in the 2012/13 season. Danny Johnson was appointed manager ahead of the 2013/14 campaign and the former Ashton United boss quickly named Earl Davis as player/assistant manager. They finished 19th that year.

For the 2014/15 campaign, former Stalybridge Celtic striker Phil Eastwood stepped up from his role as coach to replace Earl Davis as assistant manager. But following a poor run of results and with the club fighting relegation, Danny Johnson was relieved of his duties in early February 2015. Former player Phil Parkinson was appointed the new manager on 4th February 2015. Parkinson had become a club hero during his time as a player. He was part of the side Nantwich Town to FA Vase victory in 2006 and had been an integral player of the team as they won back-to-back promotions only a few years earlier.

### **FA Trophy Adventure & Play-Off Heartache**

Parkinson appointed Neil Sorvel as assistant manager, Danny Griggs as first team coach and Chris Parkes as goalkeeping coach. The management team turned things around in the second half of 2014/15 season. They gained enough points to remain in the NPL Premier Division relatively comfortably with a few games remaining.

Parkinson and his management team were able to develop and build upon the strong end to the 14/15 season with an excellent 2015/16 season. They started the season in terrific form, scoring an incredible 41 goals in their first 12 games. They also picked up 24 from a possible 36 points from the first two months of the season. They carried their good league form over into the cup competitions, progressing to the FA Trophy first round with wins over Salford, Kings Lynn and Stockport.

The Dabbers league form took a slight dip in January and February, but their FA Trophy run kept going. They progressed past Ashton, Matlock and Stourbridge to



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reach the quarter-finals of the competition for the first time in their history. In front of a crowd of 892 at the Weaver Stadium, the Dabbers beat Conference Premier side Dover 2-1 with a late winner from Liam Shotton to progress to the semi-finals. This meant they were sitting just two games away from a trip to Wembley.

In the semi-final, they faced FC Halifax over two legs and gave it their all, but came up short, losing 6-4 on aggregate. The first leg at home attracted a bumper crowd of 2,078, a record for the club at the Weaver Stadium. It was a fantastic effort and run from Parky's side and one they can feel immensely proud of. The team finished the league season strongly, losing just three of their last 14 games, but were unable to make up the ground on the play offs, finishing a more than respectable eighth with 75 points.

They also scored an incredible 94 goals, the second highest total in the league behind only league champion's 1883 Darlington.

The club enjoyed a fantastic 2016/17 season. In the cup competitions, they reached the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup for just the 3rd time in their history. They also made it to the first Round of the FA Trophy but lost to Lincoln City. Meanwhile in the Cheshire Senior Cup, they made it all the way to the final and finished as runners-up to Crewe Alexandra, losing 3-2 at Gresty Road.

In the league, they had an excellent run which led to them finishing 5th on 81 points, their highest finish in 8 years. They made the play offs, but went on to lose 2-0 to Spennymoor Town in the final. They nevertheless had an outstanding campaign and looked to build upon that going into the 2017/18 season, though there was hurdles to overcome before they reached the new campaign.

The summer of 2017 saw manager Phil Parkinson depart the club to join Altrincham, as well as a number of the key core to the squad moving on to pastures new. The board appointed Dave Cooke ahead of the 2017/18 campaign, who was quick to bring in plenty of additions to replenish the first-team.

### **New Era under Dave Cooke**

While the Dabbers' league form was inconsistent throughout the season, Cooke brought plenty of success in cup competition, guiding the club to the First Round Proper of the FA Cup for only the second time in their history, where they fell to Stevenage in a 5-0 defeat at the Lamex Stadium, a result that observers believed was very harsh on the men in green. Additionally, the Dabbers won the Cheshire Senior Cup for the first time since 2012 with a 3-0 defeat of Stockport Town.

The 2018-19 season saw Nantwich present their ambitions from the get-go, as they put together a strong run of form in the first half of the campaign, topping the table over the Christmas period. However, there were several clubs with games in hand on Dave Cooke's side, and the Dabbers couldn't hold onto their top spot.

The club eventually finished fourth, their highest finish since 2007-08. However, they fell in the play-off semi-final to Warrington Town at Cantilever Park.

Despite the league season ending in disappointment, the Dabbers did get their hands on some silverware, as they claimed their second consecutive Cheshire Senior Cup with a 5-2 victory over Cammell Laird. The run consisted of impressive victories against Crewe Alex at Gresty Road and wins at home against Chester FC and National League North champions Stockport County.

In the 2019-20 season, Nantwich Town once again made the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, beating 2 sides from a higher level in the National League North. Nantwich finally had a home tie for the first time ever in the First Round against old rivals AFC Fylde, in a tightly contested game Nantwich were very unfortunate to lose the match 1-0 in front of a crowd of 1,544. Unfortunately, the season was null and voided in March 2019 with the Dabbers in a health league position and looking set to make it to the playoffs for the 2nd season in succession.

The 2020-21 season was once again affected by Covid-19, however Nantwich had a good run in the FA Trophy reaching the Third Round before narrowly losing 0-1 to finalists Hereford FC.

The 2021-22 season finally had some normality with the season finally being completed. Nantwich had a poor start in the league and found themselves in the relegation places by Christmas, The FA Trophy once again provided light relief to the league campaign, with a decent run to the Third Round before losing 1-2 away to National League side King's Lynn Town. A 5-1 win at Stalybridge in February kick started a huge revival in Nantwich's fortunes after signing a number of loan players. Nantwich finished strongly and finished in a respectable 13th.

The 2022-23 season was a grim one for The Dabbers, after a poor start and losing to Congleton Town at home in the FA Cup, long time manager Dave Cooke and his management team left the club. They were replaced by Ritchie Sutton and Gary Taylor-Fletcher, despite their efforts Nantwich never really put together a run of results and found themselves in the relegation positions in the New Year.

After another managerial change with the vastly experienced Paul Carden as Manager coming in late in the season, despite a very good end to the season, the Dabbers were relegated by just one point, heartbreaking for everyone connected with the club after such a long spell in the Premier Division.

After signing a 2 year deal in the summer, Paul Carden is planning and building a promotion push for the 2023-24 season in the NPL Division One West, with the sole aim of bouncing back at the first time of asking.

## PROFILES

### SCOTT MALONEY

**Goalkeeper**      **05 FEBRUARY 2001**

The 23-year-old shot stopper joined The Dabbers in the summer from League Two side Barrow. Maloney spent his youth career at Hartlepool and Bury before making the move to Barrow where he made four first team appearances for The Bluebirds.

### TROY BOURNE

**Defender**      **13 JANUARY 1998**

Troy is a graduate from the Dabbers' youth team, having impressed former manager Phil Parkinson in 2015/16 pre-season training. He spent much of the 16/17 campaign on a dual registration at Alsager Town but did make a couple of first-team appearances for

the Dabbers. Troy is now the club captain and picked up four awards at the 2022/23 end of year awards night, including players' player of the season and managers player of the season.

### PERRY BIRCUMSHAW

**Defender**

Equally capable at centre back or full back, Perry joined the Dabbers early on in the 22/23 season, initially on dual registration terms from Winsford United. But such was the manner he impressed the staff at Nantwich with his performances, he was quickly signed up permanently in September 2022 and has become a fixture in defence since.

### JOEL CONNOLLY

**Defender**      **19 NOVEMBER 2002**

The 20-year-old right-back is a product of the Burnley youth academy, making it to their under 21s before being released last summer.

In October, he joined Prescot and made 14 appearances for them before joining Paul Carden here at the Dabbers for the run-in to the end of the 2022/23 season.

### NATHAN OKOME

**Defender**      **11 MAY 2001**

The versatile midfielder started his career at Macclesfield Town, and has also played for other Cheshire clubs Sandbach, Knutsford, 1874 Northwich and Witton. The 21-year-old has made 6 appearances for Chorley this season, as well as having a loan spell at Glossop North End, where he made 12 appearances in all competitions up to the end of February. After impressing in the final few weeks of last season Nathan was signed by the club in the summer.

### MUHAMUD ALI

**Defender**      **08 JUNE 1994**

He began his footballing career at ADO Den Haag in Holland where he played alongside Nathan Ake in their academy. He moved to England in 2014 where he represented Northwich Victoria in the First Round of the FA Cup against Northampton. Ali has since played for various non-league sides like Curzon Ashton and Southport before joining The Dabbers, with his brother Ahmed in 2023. Muhamud has represented Somalia eight times. He was awarded man of the match in their own FIFA World Cup qualifying win against Zimbabwe in 2019.

**SCOTT BUTLER****ON LOAN FROM WREXHAM AFC****Defender 30 DECEMBER 2002**

Wrexham-born Butler, who can play at full-back and centre-back, moved south to join Swansea in 2019 and represented them at Under-18s and Under-23 level before leaving in the summer.

The 20-year-old was on trial with Wrexham but was given a deal in October 2022 after impressing during his time at the club.

He has been a key feature in the Reserve team, impressing at the heart of the defence, and was handed the number 24 shirt in Phil Parkinson's squad.

Scott has joined Nantwich on loan until January 2024 to gain valuable experience.

**LEWIS SINNOTT****Defender 04 MARCH 2004**

Sinnott has joined the Dabbers on loan from National League North side Warrington Town. He began his career at Tranmere Rovers before leaving them to join the Yellows where he has been sent out on loan to gain some valuable experience.

**CASPAR HUGHES****Midfielder 09 JUNE 1993**

Caspar re-joined the Dabbers from AFC Fylde at the start of the 2017-18 season, before being named captain in January 2018 after the departure of Sam Hall. While Caspar is an excellent ball-winner in midfield, and can also play at full-back. The midfielder was a highly rated prospect in the famed Crewe Alexandra youth academy before joining Nantwich, where he spent two solid seasons before moving on to Fylde. The midfielder helped Fylde gain promotion from both the Northern Premier League and the National League North and is regarded one of the better midfielders in the league.

**STEVEN HEWITT****Midfielder 05 DECEMBER 1993**

Starting out at Burnley as a youth player, he made a few league appearances for the Clarets before moving on to Chester and Southport. A spell at Accrington followed, before some time in Wales with both Bangor City and Aberystwyth either side of Hume City in Melbourne, Australia. Most recently, the 29-year-old has been at Wythenshawe Town, where this season he's scored 3 times in 23 appearances in all competitions.

**SEAN COOKE****Midfielder 03 SEPTEMBER 1992**

A productive attacking midfielder, A danger from set-pieces – especially free-kicks – Sean has a keen eye for goal and has proved that not only with Nantwich but at other clubs higher up the non-league pyramid. Sean, along with Caspar Hughes, was part of the AFC Fylde side that won promotion from the Northern Premier Division and has also played for FC United of Manchester. Cooke broke through into the Nantwich side at a young age and is the only player to start in all 3 Dabbers' FA Cup First Round appearances. He has also won the Northern Premier League's Young Player of the Season as well as making three Team of the Season appearances.

**PADDY KAY****Midfielder**

The Young midfielder impressed in the handful of games he played for Nantwich In pre-season. However, after joining Warrington Town in the summer, he joined the Dabbers on loan to pick up some minutes in men's football.

**AHMED ALI****Midfielder 23 OCTOBER 1990**

Brother of Dabbers defender Muhamud, Ahmed was born in Somalia before moving to The Netherlands where he began his footballing career. In 2013 he moved to England where he continued to play football for Redditch, Bromsgrove Sporting & Halesowen before signing for Nantwich in 2023. Ali has also represented Somalia 8 times, He captained his country to their first ever FIFA World Cup victory when they beat Zimbabwe 1-0 in September 2019.

**KAI EVANS****Forward 27 JANAUARY 2004**

After impressing in pre-season of the 2023/24 season, Evans was signed by The Dabbers after being released by Wrexham in the summer. Evans signed his first pro contract at the Welsh side in the COVID hit 2020 season and showcased his talents over the course of the following season when he topped the scoring charts in the National League Youth Alliance from midfield. In 2023 he left Wrexham to join Nantwich Town.

**BYRON HARRISON**

**Forward 15 JUNE 1987**

The 6ft3, vastly experienced striker has nearly 150 Football League appearances, the majority of which were during a successful spell at Cheltenham Town where he scored 20 goals in 94 games between 2012 and 2015.

In more recent years, he also performed strongly for Barrow in the National League, scoring 32 times in 67 appearances in 2 seasons that ended in 2018, before he returned in 2019/20 to help them gain promotion to the EFL.

Starting his career in non-league with clubs like Havant and Waterlooville and Boreham Wood, he earned a move to League 2 Stevenage in 2010, before spending time at AFC Wimbledon and Chesterfield as well as that run with Cheltenham.

In 2018, he returned to non-league, and has played for teams such as Sutton, Barnet and most recently Altrincham.

**AJ LEITCH-SMITH**

**Forward 06 MARCH 1990**

Currently in his second spell at The Dabbers. Leitch-Smith brings a wide array of talent of experience to our forward line, he has made a living of scoring goals in the EFL and has represented teams like Port Vale, Crewe Alexandra, Shrewsbury Town and Morecambe. AJ is a local lad and is a great addition to the Dabbers side.

**CALLUM SAUNDERS**

**Forward 26 SEPTEMBER 1995**

Currently in his second spell at the club. Saunders has been a consistent goalscorer for several years. He scored 29 goals in 75 appearances across his previous time at the Dabbers. He was the Dabbers' top scorer in the 2018/19 season and curtailed 2020/21 season. Callum was most recently at Stafford, where he spent the 2022/23 campaign. The season before, he was joint third highest goalscorer in the NPL Premier with 18 goals. Outside of the NPL Saunders made 27 senior appearances for Crewe Alexandra where he began his footballing career at a young age.



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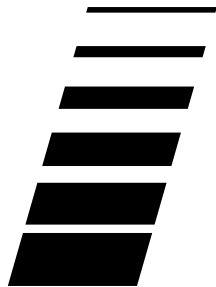
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**By Matt Badcock, Editor-at-large**

A SUNNY weekday morning, a little before 9.30am and a corner kick away from Wembley Stadium, Hanwell Town are opening up their ground for assessment.

It's part of the intensive drive to look in depth at all Step 3-6 grounds in the National League System by the end of October, with National League clubs to get the same treatment later in the season.

The NLP has been invited along to see what we'd traditionally know as a ground grading in action.

Launched at the end of July, the FA and Premier League have joined forces to launch the Stadium Accreditation Programme. For the first time since ground grading was introduced over 15 years ago, the process has been digitalised with a new tool called StadiumPower.

Think of this process as a giant audit of Non-League grounds to essentially answer the questions: What have we got? Where are the challenges and areas of need? And, crucially, how can funding be best utilised?

"Up until now, although many will be surprised at this, there has been no central database capturing not just facility information but also the nuances around it," Mark Harris, chairman of The FA's Stadium Accreditation sub-committee, tells The NLP.

"So digitalisation will give us a central database of facilities. It will allow us to identify areas of non-compliance but, more importantly, look at common areas of non-compliance.

"It's about identifying big issues that can then be linked to funding. I don't want to set any hares running but, as an example, if we found there were high numbers of perimeter fencing not compliant for whatever reason, that enables a business case to be put together to talk to funding partners like the Premier League Stadium Fund and say: There is a common need here. Let's look at whether we should focus some funding on the bigger problems club face.

"It is not there as a bigger stick to beat clubs with. It's to bring transparency and also ensure impartiality:"

That and consistency are key. Previously, grading at Steps 1-4 was handled centrally by The FA, with Steps 5 and 6 overseen by leagues themselves. Naturally, and understandably, that has led to a variation across the country.

Stadium Accreditation assessors – 25 of them all trained together – are now undertaking the mammoth task to visit around 820 individual National League System grounds. As part of this year one assessment, at least 400 individual items at each stadium are being recorded — of those, 160 linked to the ground grading criteria for 2023-24.

There are nine sections to be filled in by the assessor, accompanied by a league observer. It starts with general information like ground details and who uses the pitch. Then entrances and exits, clubhouse details, how big is the clubhouse and how many can it hold. Spectator information and capacities, standing and seating. Others areas include Medical & Safety, Pitch & Floodlights, Transport & Parking, Media & Broadcast. With the app, photos and videos can now be taken and instantly uploaded to give a literal picture of what each ground has.

A key part of this fact-finding information will link into those extras. The FA can get an idea of suitable ground stock for England youth games as well as to aid the exploding growth of women's football to help clubs get permanent bases. Likewise, it will help the FA Competitions team at Wembley HQ with their planning. Women's Super League games require an anti-doping room. Is there one available? It all goes into the app.

An important note, nothing in respect to the actual grading criteria has changed. But the in-depth collection of data will be reviewed by The FA's now monthly-meeting Stadium Accreditation Sub Committee.

"It may well be that arising from this first round of inspections that it actually highlights some changes we may need to think about making to criteria going forward," Harris says.

StadiumPower will allow clubs to keep tabs on their own improvements, give transparency on other clubs and there will be a public-facing element so the everyday fan can see what facilities they may attend. Another feature of the app will be a stadium simulation tool where a club can, at the click of a button, see what work is required should they be promoted to the level above.

"This is about trying to move the mindset from compliance to opportunity," Harris says.

Nearly three hours on and there are still areas to be looked at, measured and photographed. But it's another one ticked off the list with the vision for a stronger Non-League game at the end of it.

For the full version of this article, please click [here](#).



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*AJ LEITCH-SMITH				
*Scott MALONEY				
*Nathan OKOME				
*Callum SAUNDERS				
*Lewis SINNOTT				
*Dylan THOMPSON				

\*Asterisks indicate present in last/predicted matchday squad

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