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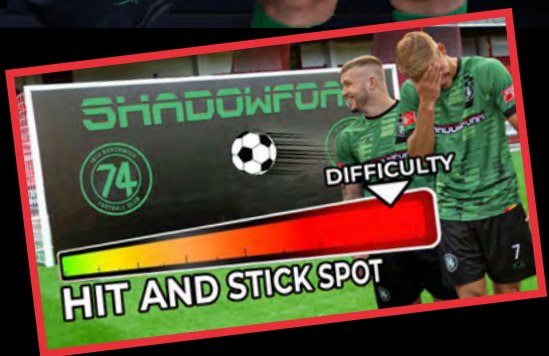
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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GENERAL E-MAIL: trust@1874northwich.com

FOOTBALL: secretary@1874northwich.com

COMMUNITY: community@1874northwich.com

PROGRAMME: programme@1874northwich.com

MEDIA: media@1874northwich.com

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **MOSSLEY**

TUESDAY 3RD OCT 2023 | K.O. 7.45PM



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KIT MANAGER: Andy Williams

UNDER 21s MANAGER: Kyle Murray

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good evening everyone and welcome to Townfield for tonight's NPL West game against our friends from Mossley FC.

It is my pleasure to welcome all their Players, Management, Officials and supporters for Tuesday night football under the lights.

Football matches have been few and far between during September and it was good to get back to league action last Saturday away at City of Liverpool, and back to winning ways.

With a number of absences due to holidays, injuries and suspensions it was a patched up team that took to the pitch on Saturday and with a number of players playing out of position it was always going to be a tough call to get anything against a team that were on somewhat of a mini revival in form, but no one should have doubted the commitment and desire to win that every player on that pitch gave. Three points at the end of the game were well deserved and very welcome.

With two upcoming home games before a trip to Atrincham in the Cheshire Senior Cup, hopefully we can accumulate a few points to kick start this season's campaign.

I would like to offer supporters an update on this season's 1874 Northwich FC Boost the Budget scheme.

Firstly I want to say thank you to all our supporters who have contributed to the Boost the Budget scheme for season 2023/24. Throughout this season your support will provide the management with important extra financial resources as the club navigates this season.

Contributions and pledges to the scheme are expected to raise an amount approaching a five figure sum.

Each season the demands on the club to maintain a competitive player budget increase and as a supporters owned club the Board appreciate that the financial demands fall directly onto our supporters.

Your support is vital to the club in whatever way you are able to help and that support can come in many ways.

Every penny that we raise is important, every cup of tea sold, 50/50 or Golden Goal purchased and every 300 club membership all adds to the club's income, which ultimately feeds into the finances available for the club.

As always any supporter who has any questions or comments regarding the Boost the Budget scheme or any other aspect of the club, please come and have a chat at a game.

Please enjoy tonight's game, and as always, the lads massively appreciate your support.

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Steve.

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FROM THE DUGOUT

PAUL & WAYNE



Good evening all and welcome to this evenings game against Mossley. As expected they've made a good start and seem to improve season on season.

We're coming into tonight's game on the back of two wins in the league and it's been interesting to see people's reactions following our league wins at Newcastle Town and City of Liverpool, and our defeat in the FA Trophy at CoL in between them. I read comments on the forum each week and it's always interesting to see people's take on the game. Whilst it doesn't affect how we go about team selection etc, as Steve pointed out with his post - 56 comments after a defeat and 12 (at the time of writing!) after Saturday's win. I guess that's the way football is - just look at Maguire at Man United and the comments made about victories compared to defeat.

Safe to say we both know where we are in terms of progress as a squad and performances. We changed the formation on Saturday in the hope of posing more of an attacking threat (not too many comments on this change, playing two up front) and credit the players who took to this well, especially in the first half.

Isaac Noble played particularly well, and we've been on the receiving end results like that in the past where we could have got a point or three and haven't, so sometimes these things even themselves out.

What we did have on Saturday was a great character about us and a determination to work hard and defend for our lives and for that alone it was great to come away with the win. As with them all, Eric has a brilliant attitude around the place - first to training, getting the train or a lift from Liverpool, always keen to improve and learn from the others in the squad and he's certainly a player for the future. No doubt he'll play higher in years to come.

As always, we're not going to get carried away after a victory just as we don't after a defeat. Tonight's game is going to be really tough and we need to concentrate and defend as well as we can to give us a platform

to build from. Jack Marrow is suspended tonight and misses Saturday's game as he's unavailable, Benji is unavailable tonight, Siyam misses out with a slight injury he picked up from the bench on Saturday but we have Mark Jones back from holiday and Mike Ibeto comes into the squad having trained well over the past few weeks. We need to look after players with slight knocks as having a few weeks without a game and then three in the space of a week doesn't make it easy. It'll certainly keep Katy and Phil busy.

This is the first opportunity to mention Jack Irlam, who decided to move on to Stalybridge Celtic. They'd been onto him in the Summer and offered him a good deal to join them. To his credit, Jack's been loyal since he joined us and stuck with us but when they came back in for him he felt the offer was too good to turn down. Nothing to do with the position Jack had been playing in and he knew Max was brought in as the Centre Forward to allow Jack to challenge for a place in midfield. Time will tell whether Stalybridge will challenge as they promised him as it's still very early in the season and as in previous years, any team can beat anyone on their day, but we wish him all the best.

We're back at home on Saturday against Vauxhall Motors before our Cheshire Cup game at Altrincham next Tuesday. Another chance for us to rise to the challenge of producing some positive results.

Enjoy the game.

Up the '74!

Bows and Goody

SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Good evening everyone and welcome back to Townfield, our first home game since August Bank Holiday Monday.

It has been a strange period, having a three-week break in September with three away games around it. The work has carried on though, and the lads have trained to be ready to 'go again'.

I would like to welcome our friends from Mossley this evening, and their noisy band of supporters! It's always a good craic when they visit. Mossley have had a decent start to life in the NPL this time, winning four out of six games and they currently sit in fifth position. This shows again that they are setting their stall out to be contenders for promotion, and mix that in with a fantastic away win at higher ranking Bamber Bridge in the FA Cup, then it will be a tough game. To be fair, it always is against Mossley, and I will go as far as to say that out of all the games and teams I saw last season, I thought their win and performance against us at Seel Park was the strongest. They did impress me that day. We'll see, this evening!

Since the Nantwich game at home, we have been on the road for a couple of league games (100% win record, eh?!) and the FA Trophy game. Earlier in September, we headed to Newcastle in a game we needed to do well in. A Jack Irlam penalty in the first half was enough to bring three welcome points back to Cheshire.

Mentioning Jack Irlam, I would like to wish the lad well, as he subsequently went on to join Stalybridge Celtic mid-September. Jack is another who found it a tricky decision to leave and was open and honest with the Managers. He then sent a lovely message to me explaining his decision. It's hard to lose great players, especially lads who get what 1874 is about; but when done in the right way, they will always receive a warm welcome back and an open door.

We met City of Liverpool in the FA Trophy on Sunday 10 September and in truth, we didn't do ourselves justice, and of course it was disappointing to exit the

competition at the first hurdle. A bright headline was the goal on his debut for Max Chimenes, who had transferred from Newcastle Town a few days earlier. The fixture calendar then threw up our break because of the cup fixtures, before a return to Bootle to meet CoL again at the weekend, this time in the NPL.

Football throws up so many emotions. Thankfully on Saturday, I left the ground ten feet tall but with raised blood pressure! A 'Fergie time' winner from Eric Byrne (Mr Cool and composed in front of goal) noted at 90 + 10 (ten) minutes sent the travelling faithful into raptures. But that was after a good first half, a strong defensive display in the second half, and a penalty save from Ellis. Make no mistake, this was a very good result, given we were away against a team that had recently beaten us and given that players were either unavailable, carrying injuries or were playing out of position.

Every player was terrific, they were asked to go out there and do a job and, by god, didn't they just. Some say it was smash and grab, and yes it felt like that given CoL were pushing in the last 20 minutes and we left it late. However, we worked hard for it and there's no doubt in my mind that we deserved some luck ourselves for a change. So big up to the 74 boys, our managers and our backroom team, I'm proud of them all.

We've recently set dates for our two cup games; we will head to Altrincham for the Cheshire Senior Cup next Tuesday (10th) and then the Mid Cheshire Senior Cup against NVFC will be played on Tuesday 7 November at Townfield. Put the dates in your diaries.

I would like to give a huge shout out to James Wood, who is responsible for writing and publishing our tenth anniversary book "The first club in England" (that



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title has upset a few folks, don't they realise it's an alphabetical reference?!). It's fabulous, it's factual, it has so many memories and references to many amazing people in our history and it contains some lovely images. It is a wonderful book to read and have in the collection for future reference and it is available in the Club Shop or the online shop. Well done to Willows Printers too, beautifully done. I sent a copy up to Ian Street last week and he is enjoying looking back at some amazing times. Thanks James!

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Beer Festival, which starts on Wednesday and runs on until next Tuesday at Barnton Cricket Club. On Thursday, Alan Riding will be hosting a football quiz so why not get a team together and head up there for some footy talk and a beer. What a combination! A big thanks to our friends at the Cricket Club for joining up with us.

Finally, I do understand that at times, football can disappoint. The result and performance can make or break your weekend and I know it is because it's that people care. But remember that we have the most

honest, hardworking folks at our club who only want the very best for it. They give an enormous amount of time and care deeply, so perhaps when you feel a little 'downbeat' when we don't pick the points up, maybe take a deep breath and think about the wider/bigger picture of where we are and how far we have come. I learned a while ago from Paul and Wayne, not to get too carried away by a win or by a loss. Although I know they will forgive me for jumping up and down at 90 + 10 on Saturday!

Anyway, that's it for now, enjoy the game and thanks for your support and see you on Saturday for our home game against Vauxhall Motors before... Moonshine at the Beer Festival!

"Come on you Green Boys!"

SIMMO'S NOTES

ANDREW SIMPSON

Can you really measure success by the end of September?

It's not a question I expected to ask but the decision by Clitheroe to sack manager Dave Dempsey has raised more than a single eyebrow.

First, a bit of context.

The Blues sit fourth in the Northern Premier League West Division standings with a dozen points collected from eight matches.

The most recent of those, at Chasetown on Saturday, was grabbed after a comeback from 3-0 down at the interval.

More broadly Dempsey, appointed in January when Clitheroe were seventh and with an eight-point gap to the promotion play-offs places to close, steered the side from Shawbridge to a top-five finish before they succumbed to Workington in the post-season game.

Those of you that follow me on social media will have seen that I posted a statistic that showed no manager in this division had put more points on the board for their team since he was appointed.

And, yet, he's been fired and becomes the latest manager to leave his post after Neil Baker (Leek), Dave McNabb (Bootle) and Mick McGraa (Vauxhall Motors) to date.

To be clear, this is not intended to be a defence of the former Widnes and Ashton Town boss.

However, a statement published on Monday by Clitheroe chairman David Frost pointed to 'concern the club wouldn't hit pre-arranged targets' as one of the motivations to make a change.

It is obvious from his other comments there are off-field issues, most strikingly to do with the club spending more on player wages than was budgeted for, that remain unresolved too.

A defeat against higher-ranked opposition in the FA Cup, which preceded an FA Trophy exit after a penalty shoot-out at Brighouse, was cited as problematic too.

What's going on here?

I'm curious to know where Clitheroe expected to be the table entering October, more so given nobody – not even their own supporters – would have expected fast-starting Kidsgrove to have won seven of eight matches to occupy first place.

Of course, all outcomes are still possible and Dempsey's successor may steer the side to the Premier Division for the first time. He'll certainly be expected to.

Anyway, onto tonight's encounter.

Visitors Mossley are among the best teams I've seen so far in the flesh this season in the West Division, and climbed the table following their third 1-0 win of the campaign – the latest arriving against Hednesford – at the weekend.

That's three wins from four league outings since I watched them lose narrowly at Witton Albion – a contest they ought to have led by at least two goals by the break.

Only Nantwich, largely because the Dabbers have only completed five fixtures, have conceded fewer goals than the Lilywhites so far.

They will be greeted by an 1874 Northwich side buoyed by a brilliant late smash-and-grab raid at City of Liverpool on Saturday.

Wins like that one, scoring with the last kick after digging deep and riding luck a little, can be a catalyst for better things.

Let's find out, eh. Enjoy the game folks,

Simmo



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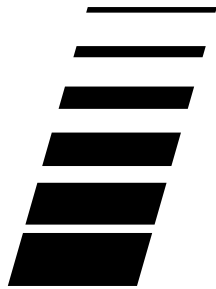
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1874 BOOK ANNOUNCED

'THE FIRST CLUB IN ENGLAND', OUT NOW



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.

The cost of the book is £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; circa 204 pages in length and containing 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

The ordering and collection process is now well underway, and you may well see a queue of various orders forming before the game today!

If you haven't already enquired about how to obtain your very own copy of this slice of history, James Wood is the man to ask.

Alternatively, ask a board member or in the shop for further details.



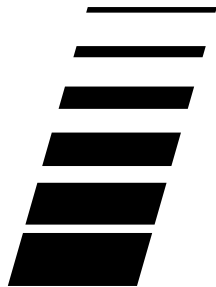
**THE FIRST CLUB
IN ENGLAND**

**THE STORY OF
1874 NORTHWICH FC**

JAMES WOOD

BIG GAME PREVIEW

BY GARRY CLARKE



1874 NORTHWICH vs MOSSLEY NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

1874 Northwich return to Townfield for the first time since August, hosting Mossley in a NPL West Division fixture.

Mossley ended the 2022/23 season in 7th place in the NPL West Division with a record of:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Mossley	38	16	10	12	58	49	9	58	7

Having won 1-0 at home against Hednesford Town on Saturday, Mossley arrived at Townfield occupying 5th place on the league ladder.

How the two stand on the league ladder after last weekend's games:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Kids Grove	6	4	0	2	7	5	2	12	5
1874	7	2	2	3	6	10	-4	8	14

Mossley knocked both Ramsbottom United and Bamber Bridge out of the FA Cup before falling to Emley in the second qualifying round while they exited the FA Trophy a round earlier losing to Vauxhall Motors.

Their leading goal scorer is Oumar Camara who has netted 4 times this season including Saturday's winner against Hednesford. Jack Bannister has scored 3 times, Keaton Mulvey twice and five players have scored a single goal this season.

FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Two goalkeepers, Tony Aghayere and Callum Spencer, have played for both 1874 and Mossley, whilst outfield players who have played for both clubs include Sam Hind, Callum Gardner, Mike Aston, Jack Pritchard, Steve Foster and Lee Duckworth.

MOSSLEY FACT FILE

Formed	1903
Ground	Seel Park
Colours	Black & White
Change Colours	Orange
Nickname	The Lilywhites
Manager	David Fish
2022/23	7th NPL West

WE'VE MET BEFORE

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

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

2017/18

2nd September 2017 - FA Cup 1st QR

Away - Drew 2-2 *Attendance 355*

1874 - Hind 2

Mossley - Tuohy, Ellis

5th September 2017 - FA Cup 1st QR Replay

Home - Won 2-0 *Attendance 348*

1874 - McGowan 2

2021/22

4th December 2021 - NPL West

Home - Won 7-3 *Attendance 225*

1874 - O'Neill 2, Parker 2, Weir, Koral, M Woolley

Mossley - Bannister, Pratt, Matthews

23rd April 2022 - NPL West

Away - Lost 0-1 *Attendance 517*

Mossley - Potts

2022/23

5th November 2022 - NPL West

Away - Lost 0-3

Attendance 474

Mossley - Fawns 2, Butterworth

25th March 2023 - NPL West

Home - Lost 0-1

Attendance 296

Mossley - Payne

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	3	2	0	1	9	4	+5
Away	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4
Total	6	2	1	3	11	10	+1

LAST SEASON AT TOWNFIELD

25th March 2023 - NPL West

Home - Lost 0-1

Attendance 296

A first half goal was enough to sink 1874 in a scrappy game which they finished with nine players with Mark Jones and Liam Buckley both being red carded. Jones was first to go in the 66th minute shown a straight red for a tackle from behind, while Buckley picked up his second yellow 20 minutes later.

The game's only moment of quality saw Mossley's Kai Payne volley into the 1874 net via the underside of the crossbar from the edge of the area in the 41st minute. 1874 bundled the ball into Mossley's net in stoppage time but the referee spotted a foul on the goalkeeper.

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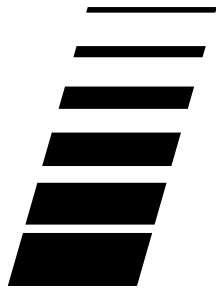
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MATCH CENTRE 23/24

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	2-6	1-4	252	Nicholson	Irlam			Graham J
15	Stalybridge Celtic	0-0	0-0	627					Hanson M
22	CHASETOWN	1-1	0-0	229	Green				Hussain A
26	Prescot Cables	0-1	0-0	501					Scaife B
28	NANTWICH TOWN	0-1	0-0	325					Sibley F
Sep 2	Newcastle Town	1-0	1-0	157	Irlam				Moosa B
10	City of Liverpool (FAT IP)	1-3	0-1	324	Chimenes				Metcalfe T
30	City of Liverpool	2-1	1-0	288	Weir	Byrne			Hurn K
Oct 3	MOSSLEY								
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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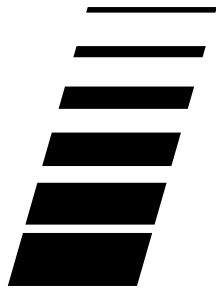
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RESPECT INITIATIVE

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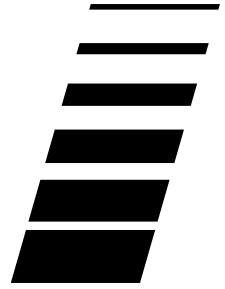
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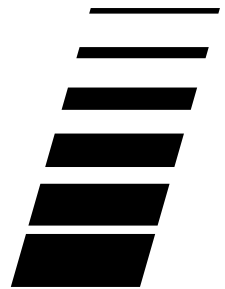
We are once again offering fans the opportunity to sponsor our squad and see their names in the programme every single week!

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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Isaac NOBLE	1874 Ultras
Muhammad SIYAM	
Lucas WEIR	1874 Car School
Elliott WILLIAMS	
Matt WOOLLEY	The Sunday Lunch Club

REGIONAL CUP MATCHES

IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM!



Some dates for your diary in case you missed them:

Our Cheshire Senior Cup game, away at Altrincham, will take place on Tuesday 10th October 7.45pm at the J Davidson Stadium.

And, our Mid Cheshire District Senior Cup semi-final tie against Northwich Victoria will take place on Tuesday 7th November 7.45pm at Townfield.

BARNTON CRICKET CLUB BEER FESTIVAL



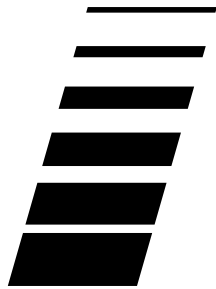
**WEDNESDAY 4TH -
TUESDAY 10TH
OCTOBER 2023**

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**6.00^{PM} - 11.00^{PM}
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](#)

VEO CAMERA

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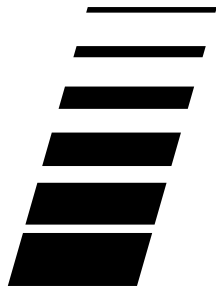
We are once again offering fans the opportunity to receive full match video and highlights. The price has been held at £20 for the season.

Holders of an Owner Plus membership are automatically subscribed to the service. To sign up please click here!

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ON THIS DAY...

BY JAMES WOOD



James Wood recalls the previous games that '74 have played on 3rd October...

The first match that '74 played on today's date occurred in 2015 when Padiham visited the Barton Stadium in what was the first meeting between the two clubs, 'The Storks' having been relegated back into the NWCFL during the summer after just two years in the NPL.

And boy, what a cracker it turned out to be!

Having just won once in their previous six league games, Ian Street's men were determined to relaunch their stuttering title credentials and they got off to the best possible start when Matt Beadle opened the scoring after 15 minutes by diverting a Ryan Jackson cross into the opposition net. But Padiham were level within 9 minutes when Kieron Pickup rounded Matt Conkie before shooting home.

Ryan Jackson restored '74's lead almost immediately only for Alex Ralph's 39th minute effort to send the two sides in at the break level-pegging.

In a game between two sides that were clearly committed to attack rather than defence, the second half started where the first left off when that man Beadle netted his second just 4 minutes after the re-start. But back came Padiham at it was 3-3 when Curtis scored for the Lancashire side just before the hour mark, but their delight was short lived as Ryan Jackson curled in a sumptuous long-range effort on 63 minutes to make the score 4-3 to '74.

Stuart Wellstead appeared to have given the home side some much needed breathing space when he headed home a Ryan Stewart free-kick but Pickup then became the third player to claim a brace of goals when he netted his second and 'The Storks' fourth with 10 minutes left on the clock. But thankfully the home side managed to tighten things up at the back to claim the three points!

Breathless stuff....

Team: *Conkie, Connor, Stewart, Thomas, Lomas, McNichol, Wellstead, M Woolley Beadle, Brandon, R Jackson: Unused Subs - Haughton, Ward, Mason, James, Tulloch*

Att: 254

Fast-forward 24 months and '74's next and so far final match on today's date was the heart-breaking penalty shoot-out defeat at Ossett in the FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round Replay.

Having peeled off a run of fifteen unbeaten games since the season's start – which included the 2-2 draw in the initial tie at the Barton Stadium – the boys in Green arrived in West Yorkshire in excellent form and determined to give their hosts a really stern test.

With an away tie at National League Premier side Solihull Moors awaiting the winners and backed by a vociferous and numerous following that had travelled over the Pennines to cheer on their heroes, '74 certainly put up a magnificent battle. Goal-less after normal and extra-time, the tie went to spot-kicks. But unfortunately it was the Yorkshire side that were to prevail by a 5-4 margin.

Team: *Hall, Connor, L Jackson, Pritchard, Meadowcroft, Parker (Waite -Jackson), Whitlock (Beadle), Lever, McGowan, M Jones, Kennerley: Unused Subs – Riley, B Woods, Beadle, Spencer*

Att: 342

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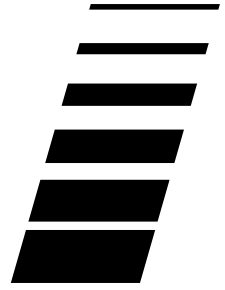
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

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.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.

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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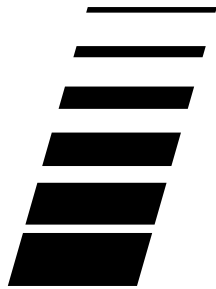
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: MOSSLEY



The Early Days

Mossley were formed in 1903 as Park Villa, initially competing in local competitions but, after just one season the club's name was changed to Mossley Juniors. In 1909 they became Mossley AFC and moved to their present ground Seel Park in 1912 from their previous site at Luzley.

The early years of Mossley AFC were spent in the Ashton & District League culminating in a superb season in 1914-15 when Mossley won the League, Manchester Junior Cup and the Lady Aitken Cup, progressing to the South East Lancs League in 1915, the Manchester Amateur League in 1916 and the Lancashire Combination in 1918.

In 1919 Mossley became founder members of the Cheshire County League, finishing runners up in the first season in both League and League Cup, returning to win the League Cup the following season beating Sandbach Ramblers in the final.

Apart from many successes in the Ashton Challenge Cup and various Manchester Cup wins Mossley had many lean years in the League, rarely finishing in the top half of the table, although, in 1961 they won the Cheshire League Cup for only the second time when they beat a strong Tranmere Rovers Reserve side 6-3 at Hyde United's ground under the guidance of former Blackburn Rovers star Eddie Quigley.

Mossley's most successful season in their Cheshire League days was in 1969-70 when Don Wilson's side finished runners-up in the League, reached the 1st Round Proper of the FA Cup for the first time in 20 years, losing narrowly in a replay to Stockport County and, made it to the quarter finals of the inaugural F.A. Challenge Trophy going out to then Southern League giants Barnet.

The Glory Years and 'Mossley Goes To Wembley'

After more than fifty years in the Cheshire League, the Lilywhites were elected to the Northern Premier League in 1972.

During the late 70's, Mossley grew into a formidable force in non-league football. They won successive League titles in 1978-79 and 1979-80 and finished runners-up in each of the next three seasons.

With influential manager Bob Murphy at the helm the club also saw it's greatest moment. May 1980 saw the Lilywhites at Wembley in the Final of the F.A. Challenge Trophy.

After defeating supposedly bigger clubs like Altrincham, Blyth Spartans and Boston United on the way, Mossley unluckily lost 2-1 in the final to Dagenham, their first defeat in 31 games.

A crowd of 26,000 were at Wembley, and a memorable day for the Club and town was captured for posterity by Granada TV in their documentary "Mossley Goes To Wembley." At this time Mossley had the most formidable strike force in non-league football with the legendary Leo Skeete, Dave Moore and Ian Smith alongside first Eamonn O'Keefe (sold to Everton for a club record £25,000 fee), and then Kevan Keelan.

The following season saw Mossley take their only Football League scalp in the FA Cup when they beat Crewe Alexandra at Seel Park. Other League clubs faced in the FA Cup during the glory years were Rotherham United, York City, Mansfield Town, Stockport County, Huddersfield Town and Darlington.

Problems and Solutions

The great run of success ended abruptly in 1984 when following financial upheavals the Lilywhites finished bottom of the then one division NPL and had to seek re-election.

A gradual recovery took place through the 80's with 1988-89 being the most successful since the glory days. Under the guidance of Bryan Griffiths and the later Football League manager Dave Jones, Mossley won the NPL Cup, Manchester FA Premier Cup, Reporter Floodlit Cup and at the start of the following season, the NPL Challenge Shield.

After this, fortunes faded again following further financial problems with the Club narrowly avoiding relegation in 1992. The following year, after a calamitous series of results not even the return of the legendary Bob Murphy could save the Club from the drop.

Over the next two years Mossley saw no fewer than six managerial changes and the Lilywhites run of 23 years in the Northern Premier League came to an end in 1995 when the Lilywhites were relegated to the North West Counties League.

1995-96 saw Mossley make a highly promising NWCL debut, involved in the promotion race for most of the season they eventually finished 4th, reaching the final of the NWCL Floodlit Trophy into the bargain.

The following season, after a bright start, the team failed to stay the pace with the leaders and finally finished in 7th position, but did have a great run in the FA Vase, reaching the quarter finals.

In 1997 the Club parted company with manager Kevan Keelan and installed another former Lilywhites player, Benny Phillips as his replacement. Season 1998-99 then saw Mossley more than unfortunate not to win the title, losing out in controversial circumstances to Workington on the last day of the season. It was a bitter pill to swallow after leading the table for the last three months which included a club record 12 successive wins.

The Millennium season saw Mossley again reach the quarter finals of the FA Vase, going down 3-1 at eventual winners Deal Town and slip from the title race after that blow to finish 4th. They did though reach the final of the Manchester Premier Cup, unluckily losing by a last minute goal to Droylsden at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park.

In November 2001 Benny Phillips was replaced as manager by former Coventry City and Stoke City star Ally Pickering and Mossley finished in 8th position and Mossley finished their Centenary Season 2002-03 in 3rd place, reached the quarter finals of the FA Vase for the third time and won their first silverware in over a decade when beating Clitheroe 2-1 to win the NWCL Trophy at Gigg Lane, Bury.

The 2003-04 season saw Jason Beckford replace Pickering as manager just prior to the season and the club fought tooth and nail to win promotion to the UniBond League, going on a 21 match unbeaten run up to the new year. They were then hit by a 3 point deduction due to an administrative error and form took a nosedive as the team quickly crashed out of four cups and lost poll position in the League. The drama continued to the end as Mossley were just pipped to the title by Clitheroe on the last day of the season.

Climbing Back

Promoted in second place, 2004-05 season saw Mossley consolidate back in the Northern Premier League, being unfortunate to miss out on a place in the promotion play offs after finishing in 7th place.

In the 2005/06 season Mossley excelled by becoming Division One Champions on the last day of the season, finishing two points above Fleetwood Town. This despite losing their last two games earned promotion to the Premier Division where they had last competed in 1993.

Unfortunately, the joy was short-lived as the Lilywhites were relegated at the end of the season, returning to a newly reconstituted Division One they were placed in the North Division. Beckford resigned followed quickly by the retirement of the clubs Directors and main sponsors, the Rigby family after a ten year period in control of club affairs.

A new Board of Directors made up of club supporters was appointed in the summer and former Emley, Altrincham and Ashton United boss Gerry Quinn was named as manager in what was a hugely transitional time for the club.

Summer 2008 saw Quinn replaced by former Mossley player Chris Willcock as club manager and the team finished in a creditable 10th position also reaching the final of the Manchester FA Premier Cup, unluckily losing 2-1 to Droylsden in the final at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park.

In late December 2009 severe weather caused two of the 39 year old floodlights to collapse and the remaining six pylons were condemned meaning midweek home games were played at Ashton United's Hurst Cross for the remainder of the season. A new



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floodlight system was installed in the close season of 2010.

Chris Willcock resigned in January 2010 to be replaced by his former assistant John Flanagan and the team enjoyed a great run climbing to 7th position. Unfortunately the popular Flanagan resigned at the end of the season and he was replaced by former Stalybridge Celtic reserve boss Shaun Higgins.

Despite a good FA Cup run to the final qualifying round Higgins reign only lasted until March 2011 when following a poor run of results and form he was replaced by former Woodley Sports boss Gareth McClelland, initially on a caretaker basis. McClelland impressed enough to be given the job for the 2011/12 season Mossley's 100th year at Seel Park.

McClelland resigned in January 2012 and former Accrington and Droylsden defender Steve Halford was appointed player manager and lifted the team to a comfortable mid-table finish. Mossley also reached the final of the Manchester FA Premier Cup but the final was never played as scheduled opponents Droylsden couldn't raise an eligible team and so the Lilywhites were awarded the trophy by default.

The 2012/13 season saw Mossley competing at the top end of Division One North throughout the campaign, finally achieving a play off position on the final day of the season. However, the team were then desperately unlucky to lose to an injury time goal at Cammell Laird in the play-off semi final. The Lilywhites did, however, retain the Manchester FA Premier Cup beating Salford City on penalties in the final at Stockport County's Edgeley Park ground following a 2-2 draw.

Manager Halford departed to Ashton United just prior to pre season and Mossley appointed his former assistant Peter Band and ex Winsford United boss Lloyd Morrison as joint managers for the 2013/14 season and with a completely rebuilt team finished just below mid-table.

The 2014/15 season saw Mossley competing all season for a play off place only losing out in the last week of the campaign. That disappointment was waylaid by success in the Manchester FA Premier Cup as the Lilywhites beat Curzon Ashton on penalties in the final at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park to win the trophy for the third time in four seasons.

2015/16 saw the Lilywhites on the fringes of the play offs throughout the season but injuries and suspensions took their toll on League form and the team had to settle for a mid table finish. However, Mossley retained the Manchester FA Premier Cup beating National League North neighbours Stalybridge Celtic 3-1 in the final at Hyde United's Ewen Fields Stadium to win the trophy for the fourth time in five years.

2016/17 and 2017/18 were largely disappointing seasons culminating in the departure of the popular Band and Morrison in April 2018 after almost five years in charge. Former Stockport Town boss Dave Wild and ex Glossop and Cheadle Town coach Terry Hincks were appointed as successors.

The 2018/19 season saw the new look Lilywhites challenging for a play off place throughout the season but in the end finished in 8th place also reaching the Manchester Premier Cup Final losing 3-1 to Curzon Ashton. Terry Hincks departed to become manager of Abbey Hey at the end of the season leaving Dave Wild in sole charge.

Wild resigned in February 2020 with team captain Andy Keogh taking over as caretaker manager. However, four games later the season was halted due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak.

Into the future

Former Chadderton FC Manager David Fish was appointed team manager in June 2020 and he finally completed his first full season in charge in 2021/22. A season that witnessed a promising 8th place finish and a strong desire to improve on that in the coming season.

Off the pitch a forward thinking chairman and board of directors have overseen a gradual upgrade of the facilities at Seel Park amidst greater community involvement which has seen the Lilywhites enjoy their best attendances since the glory days of the late 1970's. With the new improvements to the floodlighting system completed the future looks bright and sustainable for the Lilywhites.

PROFILES

MANAGEMENT

David Fish - Manager

David was appointed Mossley manager in June 2020 after spending the three previous seasons in charge at North West Counties Leaguers Chadderton. As a player Fish was a goalkeeper who played at Manchester United as a junior before joining Stockport County. Following his release by Stockport, David joined Woodley Sports and was an integral part of the team that won the NWCFL Second Division title. His performances caught the eye of several teams and he moved to Stalybridge Celtic where he was part of the side that won the Northern Premier League, League Cup and Cheshire Cup treble and the side that played in the Conference the following season. He then moved to Witton Albion, Hyde United and finished his semi-pro career with a long stint at Curzon Ashton. Following a break from the game he returned initially as a player, then player-manager and head coach at Lancashire Amateur League side Rochdale St Clements, before joining Chadderton as manager in October 2017.

Alex Craddock – Assistant Manager

Alex Craddock joined Mossley in June 2020 from North-West Counties side Shelley FC who finished the previous season firmly in the promotion places. He was appointed as assistant manager in December 2021.

Scott Thompson - Coach

Scott joined Mossley in May 2021 after coaching under Peter Band's management at Glossop North End. He was previously 1st Team Coach at Tintwistle Athletic and worked across the youth teams at Uppermill FC. Scott has also previously worked at Manchester United Soccer Schools and Oldham Athletic and is working towards his UEFA B Licence.

Phil McGrath – Coach

Phil, previously represented Oldham Athletic as a player and has plenty of coaching experience having worked in the academies at both Oldham Athletic and Stockport County. Recently he was first team coach at recently promoted North West Counties Premier Division side Chadderton before joining Mossley in the summer.

Jonny Kyle – Goalkeeping Coach

Jonny has joined as our new goalkeeping coach. Previously goalkeeping coach at Padiham he brings an impressive track record and enthusiasm to the role.

Chloe Hampson – Sports Rehabilitator

Chloe joined Mossley during in the 2021/22 season. She has since graduated from the University of Bolton with a First Class Degree in Sports Rehabilitation.

PLAYERS

Eden Bailey – forward

(dob 04/02/2004)

Following Eden's release from Altrincham, he was quickly snapped up in the summer after making a huge impact on loan last season. A key member of the team and a regular on the scoresheet.

Jack Banister – wide attacking midfield

(dob 28/08/1995)

Talented attacking wide midfielder Jack Banister was signed from Widnes in September 2021. Jack began his non-league career with Widnes helping them to promotion to the Northern Premier League in the 2017/18 season. He then spent the 2018/19 season with FC United of Manchester in National League North before signing for Curzon Ashton in July 2019. Jack has also had spells with Warrington Town and Atherton Collieries before re-joining Widnes for a third time in late 2020.

Luke Barlow – Defender

(dob 22/03/2000)

Having appeared 10 times last season for Stalybridge Celtic, Luke joined us in the summer. He was a professional at Kilmarnock FC and played for Ramsbottom United. He has impressed at both full back and centre back.

Oumar Camara – striker

(dob 22/04/1998)

Oumar was signed in July 2022 after impressing in pre-season trials. He began his playing career with Curzon Ashton, progressing through their youth set up before stepping into adult football with Chadderton. A successful spell with Avro followed before moving on to his last club Prestwich Heys.

Nicky Clee — midfielder

(dob 30/08/1983)

Vastly experienced midfielder Nicky was David Fish's first new arrival at Seel Park for the 2022/23 season. Nicky had spent five seasons in National League North with Bradford Park Avenue where he made over 150 appearances.

The left sided midfielder or full back began his non league playing career with Ossett Albion, before moving onto Ashton United in 2004s. A lengthy spell with Hyde United followed before he joined Altrincham in 2009.

In the 2016./17 season, Nicky had brief spells with Guiseley and Harrogate Town preceding a return to Altrincham. He then transferred to Bradford PA in the closed season of 2017. He re-signed for Ashton United in August 2019 but returned in Bradford for a second time in December 2019.

Josh Dickin - defender

(dob 21/11/2000)

Central defender Josh Dickin was signed in the 2022 pre season from Prestwich Heys. Previously with Abbey Hey.

Jack Grundy – defender

(dob 05/09/2001)

Versatile defender Jack initially signed for Mossley on work experience from Oldham Athletic in December 2019. He then joined the Lilywhites on a permanent basis following his release from the Latics in June 2020.

Matty Hamnett – goalkeeper

(dob 27/08/1991)

Having represented Australia Rockingham City and Mandirah City in Australia and Central United in New Zealand before moving to England. He has been playing for Padiham. Having featured in several pre-season games, he has now signed for the club.

Kane Hickman - midfielder

(dob 21/07/1997)

Kane is a talented and industrious midfielder who was signed in August 2020 from Droylsden FC. Previously Kane came through youth football with Avro and Rochdale before spells with Abbey Hey, Hyde United, Prestwich Heys, Glossop North End and Buxton.

Joel Igwenwanne – defender

(dob 06/03/2005)

Born in Germany but moved to England when he was 10. After joining Sheffield United's academy, the young full back joined a football college in Hyde before joining the team the following season. He was dual registered to Abbey Hulton last year. He has featured throughout pre-season and has now joined the club.

Andy Keogh – versatile team captain

(dob 26/12/1987)

Andy is a highly versatile player able to play in defence, midfield or attack and who re-signed for his third spell with Mossley in February 2018 having returned from a year with Trafford.

He began his playing career as a youth teamer at Altrincham and then had spells with Wythenshawe Town and Flixton before joining Winsford United in 2012 and Mossley in August 2013, departing for Nantwich Town in December 2013.

Andy returned to Mossley in August 2014 before transferring to Trafford in February 2017.

He has now made over 300 appearances for the club.

Shane Killock — defender

(dob 12/03/89)

Experienced central defender Shane Killock joined Mossley in July 2022 following a season with Stalybridge Celtic.

Shane started his career with Ossett Albion before he signed for Huddersfield Town making 2 first team appearances for the Terriers. A brief spell with Oxford United followed before he joined AFC Telford United where he made 132 appearances before signing for Harrogate Town in 2012.

A spell with Hyde United in 2015/16 was followed by a successful move to Bradford Park Avenue. In the two covid affected seasons he played for Alfreton Town and Buxton before joining Stalybridge Celtic.

Mark Lees – midfielder

(dob 23/07/1988)

Rejoined the club in the summer. Mark developed in Mossley juniors before moving into non-league football where he presented Hyde, Altrincham, Stalybridge and Matlock. He played for the Lilywhites in the curtailed 2019/20 season but made a huge impact during his previous time.

Callum Leigh – midfielder

(dob 08/05/2002)

Joined the club in the summer having spent time at Clitheroe & Kids Grove. The exciting midfielder was once on the books at Oldham and Rochdale. Comfortable on the ball with an eye for goal.

Bailey Marsden - midfielder

(dob 12/10/2002) Hard working attacking midfielder player Bailey was signed in the 2021 closed season following his release by Crewe Alexandra. He was previously a junior player at Manchester United.

Fin Madigan – goalkeeper

(dob 27/11/2000)

Starting his football journey at Leeds United academy before moving to Bradford City's academy. Fin has been playing regularly in the Huddersfield district league winning 3 Barlow Cups and a league title. Having impressed in pre-season, he has now joined the club.

Dani Miranda – winger/forward

(dob 13/05/1988)

Born and raised in Portugal, he joined the Sporting Lisbon academy aged 8 before moving to England aged 14. Playing as a winger or striker, he joined the club late last season.

Keaton Mulvey – forward

(dob 03/10/2001)

Signed from Glossop North End, where he spent the last 2 seasons. Previously played for the club on loan whilst on Rochdale books. Exciting player with an eye for goal.

Joe Richards – defender

(dob 16/05/1999)

Left back, Joe, has joined us from Chadderton FC after 4 years, where he helped them to play-off glory last season.

Adam Sherratt – Defender

(dob 18/05/2002)

Originally joined towards the end of last season, he will again be pulling a Mossley shirt. The Australian born defender started his footballing career with Newcastle Jets before moving to Cooks Hill United. He also featured for New South Wales Elite and has been called up to u16 Australia Squad. After relocating to England, he is now part of our squad.

Will Shepherd – midfielder

(dob 29/11/2001)

Will is a midfielder who originally signed from Warrington Town in September 2021. He departed for Colne midway through last season but returned to Mossley in the 2022 closed season.

Chris Thompson – goalkeeper

(dob 26/02/1990)

Experienced goalkeeper signed from Clitheroe, for whom he made over 200 appearances. He had a pivotal role in helping them to the play-off semi-finals last season. Chris has also featured for several other clubs around the north-west



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*Shane KILLOCK				
*Mark LEES				
*Callum LEIGH				
Finley MADIGAN				
Bailey MARSDEN				
Dani MIRANDA				
*Keaton MULVEY				
*Joe RICHARDS				
*Adam SHERRATT				
*Will SHEPHERD				
*Chris THOMPSON				

*Asterisks indicate present in last/predicted matchday squad

Live Information

MATCH OFFICIALS

REF: Daniel HITCHELL
AST 1: Lee BUDWORTH
AST 2: Martyn KENT

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