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21/10/23 - 3.00PM
NPL WEST
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

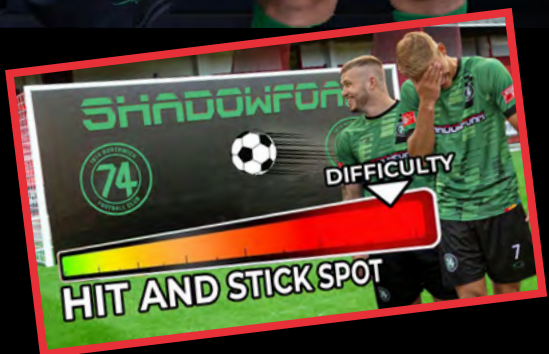
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MEDIA: media@1874northwich.com

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **WIDNES**

SATURDAY 21ST OCT 2023 | K.O. 3.00PM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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CHAIRMAN & COMMUNITY: Stephen Richardson

FINANCE: John Coats

FOOTBALL: Vicki England

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OTHER CONTACTS:

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FOOTBALL SECRETARY: Vicki England

WELFARE OFFICER: Maggie Coats

PROGRAMME EDITOR: Luke Bushnell-Wye

PROOF READERS: Richard Webb/Richard Bush

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

MATCHDAY PHOTOGRAPHY: Daniel Blunt/Daniel
Neilson/Frank Dakes/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 all,

This afternoon we welcome our friends from over the Mersey, in the form of Widnes FC. It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to their players, management, officials and supporters.

Following three wins from the previous four league games it was disappointing to come away from Hanley Town FC last weekend with nothing to show for it. However it shows how in this league it is vital to not let concentration drop at any time during the full ninety minutes. Those 15 minutes early in the second half put paid to all the hard work and good football undertaken in the first half and ultimately put paid to hopes of continuing the recent upturn in performances and results.

That upturn was evident the previous Tuesday evening when 1874 visited National League Altrincham FC in the Cheshire Senior Cup. It was good to see solid performances from a number of players who have yet to gain regular first team places, but who all showed that when required they are ready to step up. A creditable 1-1 during the ninety ensured that 1874 went into the penalty shoot out with hope, but ultimately bowed out of the competition.

At last Thursday's monthly Board meeting preparation for this year's AGM began in earnest.

The club's AGM is an important event in the calendar and I would encourage as many members as possible to attend. AGM packs will shortly be available for members, including full audited accounts.

The AGM is the perfect opportunity to ask questions of your nominated Board members and for members to influence the future direction of 1874 Northwich Community FC. Throughout the year your Board members work tirelessly to run 1874, not for any personal gain but for you, the club's membership and as a 100% members owned and operated club your membership is important.

Any members who have not yet renewed their membership, or any supporters who wish to become members but have not yet done so are encouraged to renew or become members via the club website or by talking to any current Board member.

Remember that the AGM is only open to Club members / owners, but we want as many of you to attend as possible so please consider joining or renewing before the AGM on the 7th December 2023.

Please enjoy this afternoon's game, your support is truly appreciated and really spurs on the lads to perform.

Hopefully another 3 points await by 5pm.

Up the '74!

Steve

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FROM THE DUGOUT

PAUL & WAYNE



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to this afternoons game against Widnes.

At the time of writing the weather forecast is looking interesting to say the least so hopefully the storm isn't too bad and the pitch holds up.

Last Saturday we saw both extremes - a decent first half where we were worthy of at least being level at half time but we were outbattled in the second half and didn't offer enough going forward.

Just to answer some of the queries at half time, we set the side out to go on and win the game. The team talk was about being solid in the second half and not getting ahead of the ball in wide areas but we weren't able to execute this. This is what happens in football, but again we're learning and need to respond to this and learn how to manage games in the relatively new formation.

Isaac missed out last week due to illness and injury but has trained well in the week and returns to the squad today. It says a lot for Isaac that he's been a reliable starter for us recently and has grasped the opportunity to become a more regular starter in a slightly unfamiliar position.

We've challenged the players to take each opportunity they get and force our hand to start them. Sam sits out the second of a three game ban and we're looking to get him to train more so we can get him fitter for when his suspension's over.

Similar to Vauxhall and Hanley, Widnes are likely to be a side in and around us come the end of the season so the challenge is to pick up another three points today before we head into a run of games against sides who are deemed by some to be more likely to be towards the top of the league.

We're away to Leek Town next week and we've done well there recently, before travelling to Clitheroe who have recently changed managers.

Enjoy today's game and get behind the lads.

Up the '74!

Bows and Goody

SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



As I sit here in front of the laptop, I'm listening to Storm Babet starting to do its thing, and I'm wondering if these notes for the visit of Widnes, will be in vain. We're moving to the 'Vicki gets her wellies out' season! Let's hope it passes and we can get the game on.

I would like to welcome everyone connected with Widnes to Townfield. Widnes have just perched themselves into the top ten, after a mixed bag of results. Their last outing was good, as they earned a draw against high flying Avro away from home, this followed a great home win against Chasetown.

I always find it difficult to call when the two teams play. We earned three points at Townfield last season, thanks to goals from Joe Woolley and Jack Marrow in a game that saw us end with nine men. However, the return fixture on the final day of the season, saw us fall to a one nil defeat in a disappointing game.

We didn't earn too much from our games the season before, so I hope that changes today!

A couple of weeks ago, we played Vauxhall Motors in another game against a team that are in our 'group'.

We earned a vital three points which were most welcome. I headed to the Beer Festival at Barnton Cricket Club with a spring in my step after that match and it was good to spend some time with other 74 fans there. A big thanks to everyone who made the festival happen and especially to our friends at the Cricket Club for hosting. Other results that weekend meant my 'football stars aligned' (which doesn't happen that often!).

It was good to visit Moss Lane again last Tuesday, for those of us longer standing greens, this was a ground that saw many a tough Cheshire derby. In fact, when I went into the Boardroom, there was a framed picture of a certain 'Johnny King' looking back at us. I've had a few good and bad times there! The last visit was one of the best, for the Macron Cup final and whilst the result last week was a shame (going out of the Cheshire Cup on penalties), the performance and experience was decent. Alty had a mix of first team and development squad on the pitch, and it was a very good workout for us.

I came away from Hanley last Saturday, not quite knowing what happened!

Well, we were beaten, I know that much but after a good first half which saw us sharing the spoils, we had a period in the second half of 15 minutes where we just dropped off and they caught us with two goals.

After that, we just couldn't pull it back. It was a shame, as we seemed to be gaining momentum with stronger performances over the previous few weeks. What do they say? 'We go again!'

After today, we have further tough games coming up at Leek Town and then up at Clitheroe. Both will be in the promotion race; I have no doubt about that, so please back the lads.

Have you booked on Rich Stockton's fun bus to Clitheroe yet? If not, why not?!



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& quote "1874 Fan" to strike a great deal

We are gearing ourselves up for the next AGM, and our 11th birthday. It soon comes around. Our very efficient Club Secretary Maggie has already given notice of the AGM and more information will follow.

This is a time when Members can really stand up and be counted. You can continue to shape how the club is run, hear what the challenges are and what the club wishes to achieve. So, if you haven't yet sorted your membership, now is definitely time to get organised and then be there on the night.

The club and team needs your support more than ever. That's it for now, enjoy the game.

"Come on you Green Boys!"

SIMMO'S NOTES

ANDREW SIMPSON

IT is raining heavily, and has been for a while, as I write these words.

However, for now let's remain optimistic we'll see a game. The past two Saturdays have provided a little bit of everything for 1874 Northwich.

Resilience, and a refusal to be swayed by the setback of Sam Adetiloye's dismissal, was the main reason they beat Vauxhall Motors here a fortnight ago.

They traded goals with Hanley Town during the first half last weekend, only to be floored by an inspired Luke Walsh's one-two blow during a five-minute spell after the interval.

The side managed by Paul Bowyer and Wayne Goodison had prevailed in three of their previous four Northern Premier League fixtures before that one, and so disappointment at the 4-2 result is a natural reaction. More broadly, counting the display at Altrincham in the Cheshire FA Senior Cup as well, the signs have been encouraging.

I read Goody's newsletter notes last week with interest, and I think he's right about patience being in short supply when it comes to football. It's true at every level.

I've shaken my head at the some of the reaction in Italy to that defeat at Wembley in midweek. A new coach, with a handful of training sessions to prepare a side already in transition before his appointment, was unlikely to deliver a victory against opponents simply fine tuning as one of the pre-tournament favourites for next summer's European Championships.

And even if the Azzurri had prevailed, they would still have much work to do. Context is too easily forgotten.

The management team at '74 made no secret of the fact that the playing squad would evolve – both in form as well as faces – as the season unfolded.

And the signings more recently of Max Chimenes,

Matty Birchall, and Kacper Mialkowski – not forgetting Michael Ibeto or Elliott Williams either – are evidence of that ongoing process.

Throw in the fact the West Division is simply impossible to fathom to date this season, and it's easy to understand why there has been some inconsistency in performances.

The ripple effect of managerial changes; Clitheroe took Trafford boss Danny Caldecott after sacking Dave Dempsey while Bootle persuaded Mick McGraa to leave the dugout at Vauxhall Motors, is being felt with squads at each of those clubs experiencing turnover.

It means even the timing of fixtures, playing a side figuring stuff out under a newly-appointed manager is a different prospect to meeting one that has been together months, is significant.

I reckon today's visitors, Widnes, are benefitting from having continuity. Of course, boss Michael Ellison has made signings since the end of last season but he also has a core of players in place he knows he can count on.

I saw Widnes suffer a narrow defeat at Witton last month, and it wouldn't surprise me if they told me they were still smarting from that.

Substitute MJ Monaghan appeared certain he was about to score the winner in added time with the score tied at 1-1.

Albion's goalkeeper made a miraculous save, and 60 seconds later Connor Hughes fired in a decisive goal at the other end of the field.

Widnes have beaten Chasetown and claimed a creditable draw at Avro since, which is exactly the response Ello will have wanted from his players.

Enjoy the game folks,

Simmo



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

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
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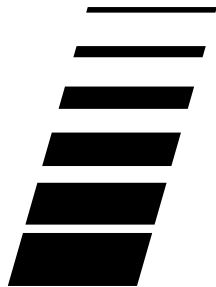
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NORTHERN
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LEAGUE

BIG GAME PREVIEW

BY GARRY CLARKE



1874 NORTHWICH vs WIDNES NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

1874 Northwich host Widnes in a Cheshire NPL West Division derby at Townfield.

Widnes ended last season 17th in the NPL West Division a point behind 1874 Northwich in 14th with a playing record of:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Widnes	38	12	8	18	40	66	-26	44	17

Widnes have experienced an up and down season so far this term dropping as low as 18th after the opening game and rising as high as 4th a few games later, before settling in a mid table position and after last weekend's game sit 8th in the table.

Last Saturday they drew 1-1 at Avro after taking an 8th minute lead through Jack McGowan.

How the two stand on the league ladder after heading into this weekend's game:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Widnes	10	4	1	5	11	9	2	13	9
1874	10	3	2	5	11	17	-6	11	16

Widnes reached the first qualifying round of the FA Cup beating Longridge Town and Trafford before losing to Emley, while in the FA Trophy they lost in the first qualifying rounds to Clitheroe.

Leading goal scorer for Widnes is James Steele who has bagged 8 goals so far this season; Matt Van Wyk has 4, while 6 other players have their names on the scoresheet.

FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Sam Adetiloye is one of three players to have played for 1874 Northwich this season who has previously played for Widnes, the other two are Jason Akiotu and Ollie Broe.

Others to have worn the shirts of both clubs are Danny Meadowcroft, who also had a brief spell as player manager of Widnes in 2016, and Corey Mason.

WIDNES FACT FILE

Formed	2003
Ground	Halton Stadium
Colours	Black & White
Change Colours	Yellow
Nickname	Whites
Manager	Michael Ellison
2022/23	17th NPL West

WE'VE MET BEFORE

Garry Clarke takes a look back at previous meetings between 1874 Northwich and Widnes.

2013/14

23rd November 2013 - NWCFL 1st Division Cup

Home - Won 5-0 Attendance 225

1874 - Brandon 2, Woods, Bailey, Wellstead

28th December 2013 - NWCFL 1st Division

Away - Won 3-0 Attendance 345

1874 - Wellstead 2, Brandon

21st April 2014 - NWCFL 1st Division

Home - Won 4-0 Attendance 368

1874 - Brandon 2, Bailey, Abdullah

2017/18

14th October 2017 - NWCFL Premier
 Home - Drew 2-2 *Attendance 155*
 1874 - Hind, Waite-Jackson
 Widnes - Pollard, Webb

26th April 2018 - NWCFL Premier
 Home - Lost 0-1 *Attendance 154*
 Widnes - Towey

2021/22

27th November 2021 - NPL West
 Home - Lost 0-3 *Attendance 259*
 Widnes - McMillen, McGrath, McCulloch

26th March 2022 - NPL West
 Away - Drew 1-1 *Attendance 230*
 1874 - M Woolley
 Widnes - Payne

2022/23

19th November 2022 - NPL West
 Home - Won 2-0 *Attendance 281*
 1874 - J Woolley, Marrow

25th March 2023 - NPL West
 Away - Lost 0-1 *Attendance 355*
 Widnes - Smith

LAST SEASON AT TOWNFIELD

19th November 2022 - NPL West
 Home - Won 2-0 *Attendance 281*
 1874 - J Woolley, Marrow

1874 celebrated 10 years since their formation with a comfortable win over their Cheshire neighbours, although they did end the game with nine men.

Joe Woolley opened the scoring in the 2nd minute, smashing the ball home as 1874 dominated the first half and added a second goal in the 33rd minute through Jack Marrow.

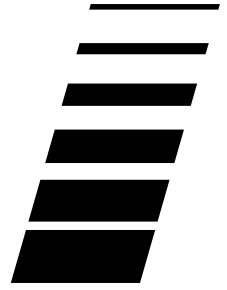
1874 continued to have the better of the second half but were reduced to ten men in the 72nd minute when Mark Jones was red carded; Jack Irlam followed him off the pitch in the 87th minute having picked up a second booking.

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	5	3	0	2	11	4	+7
Away	4	1	2	1	6	4	+2
Total	9	4	2	3	17	8	+9

1874 BOOK ON SALE

'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 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.



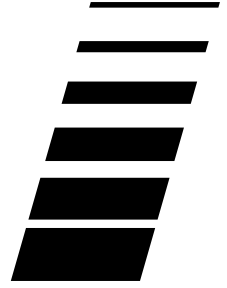
**THE FIRST CLUB
IN ENGLAND**

**THE STORY OF
1874 NORTHWICH FC**

JAMES WOOD

AGM NOTICE

CALLING ALL MEMBERS - OLD AND NEW!



The Annual General meeting of 1874 Northwich FC is planned for Thursday 7th December 2023. This is a chance for you to have a say in how the Club is run and an opportunity to get more involved by standing for a place on the Club's Board. If you are already a member / owner of the Club, you should have received an email outlining the process for putting forward resolutions for consideration by the members and a nomination form, if you want to apply to be on the Board.

If you aren't currently a member, don't worry it's not too late! Anyone who joins the Club as an owner before 16th November has the opportunity to stand

for the Board or put forward a resolution. Only members can attend and vote at the AGM, and as it's one member, one vote, your view carries the same weight as anyone else's.

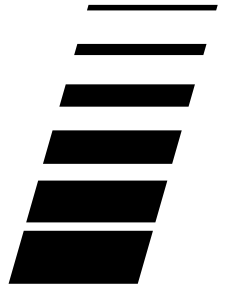
You can become a member at: [Become An Owner | 1874 Northwich F.C.](#), or click the button below.

Please consider joining. 1874 is proud to be "run by the fans for the fans" and the more fans that are owners of the Club, the better. If you don't want to join online, please speak to one of the Board members or see Maggie in the Club shop and complete a membership form.

[Become an Owner](#)

300+ CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2023 WINNERS!



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

Prize Value	Number	Winner
£200	242	Dorothy Dickinson
£100	56	Gavin Coyle
£50	55	David Mano
£50	40	Andy Dickinson
£50	121	Lynn Crowther
£50	100	Phil Burgess

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, or by clicking the link below.

[300 Club](#)

JUNIORS NEWS

AN UPDATE FROM AROUND THE CLUB!

1874 Northwich U9s...

have been promoted to the MidCheshire Youth Football League - Amber Division, after an excellent start to the season.

This week they are playing at home against Grappenhall Dragons on Saturday, location - Rudheath Academy, start time for first match 9.30am.

1874 Northwich U12s...

both teams are in league action on Sunday. **Oranges** are playing AFC Alsager U12 Fire at 11.15am at Sandbach United 3G. **Greens** are at Alsager Sports Hub 3G, playing AFC Alsager U13 Hammers, kick off 12.30pm.

1874 Northwich U13s...

Greens are in the second round of the Mid Cheshire Youth Football U13 League Cup, playing away at Hartford on Sunday, kick off - 10.30am. They had a bye in the first round.

On the same day, **Jets** are at home to Grappenhall Sports FC U13 Dortmund in the second round of the Presidents Cup, having beaten Holmes Chapel Hurricanes U13 Blue, 7-0 in the first round. Their match kicks off at 10.30am at Rudheath Academy.

1874 Northwich U15s...

are in action in the second round of the Mid-Cheshire Youth U15 League Cup, when they take on Middlewich Town Youth U15 Black on pitch 1 at Moss Farm on Sunday at 10.30am. They beat Davenham Junior Football Club U15 Rangers - 3-2 in the first round.

Good luck to all the teams, and have fun!

VEO CAMERA

MATCH VIDEOS STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

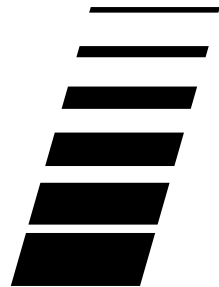
We are once again offering fans the opportunity to receive full match video and highlights. The price has been held at £20 for the season.

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

[VEO Subscribe](#)

BUDGET BOOSTERS

ROLL OF HONOUR



A huge thank you also to the follower members for their support in backing the club's Boost the Budget scheme this year:

Steve Allen-Gurr
Ken Bailey
Andrew Barclay
Emma Brinksman
Lee Broughton
Phil Burgess
Richard Bush
Keith Campion
Karl Clarke
John Coats
Gavin Coyle
Phil Crimes
Andy Dickinson
Andy Dignum
Ashley Dobell
David Edgeley
Vicki England
Stuart Evans
Stuart Evans
Frank Fallows
Tony Fallows
Graham Fenton
Paul Fletcher
Paul Gleave
Martin Griffiths
Tony Hassall
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John Stiles
Richard Stockton
Mark Taylor
Richard Ward
Bob Watkins
Christopher Williams
Richard Webb
Dan Wilkins

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](#)

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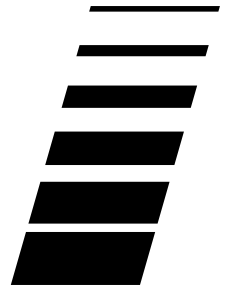
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MATCH CENTRE 23/24

BY PETE GRIMES



DATE	OPPOSITION	FT	HT	Att				Referee
Aug 5	Ossett United (FAC ExP)	0-2	0-2	392				Everard C
12	KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC	2-6	1-4	252	Irlam			Graham J
15	Stalybridge Celtic	0-0	0-0	627				Hanson M
22	CHASETOWN	1-1	0-0	229				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				Moosa B
10	City of Liverpool (FAT 1P)	1-3	0-1	324				Metcalfe T
30	City of Liverpool	2-1	1-0	288	Byrne			Hurn K
Oct 3	MOSSLEY	1-3	1-0	198	Woolley			Hitchell D
7	VAUXHALL MOTORS	2-0	0-0	234	Weir	Fenton		Lamb B
10	Altrincham (CSC) (L 2-4 Pens)	1-1	0-1	381	Weir			Philbin A
14	Hanley Town	2-4	2-2	195	Crawford	Green		Rolfe A
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	NEWCASTLETOWN	-						
Apr 1	Witton Albion	-						
6	Bootle	-						
13	CLITHEROE	-						
20	Avro	-						
27	RUNCORN LINNETS	-						

1874 NORTHWICH 2023/24 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 20/10/23

		2023/24 SEASON					ALL-TIME					
		Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Total Apps
ADEKOYA	Daya	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	3
ADETILOYE	Sam	5	3	4	1	0	10	4	15	6	0	25
AKIOTU	Jason	4	3	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	4
ALLEN	Ellis	13	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	2	0	21
BIRCHALL	Matty	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
BROE	Ollie	1	1	0	0	0	15	5	8	10	0	23
BYRNE	Eric	2	2	3	6	1	2	2	3	6	1	5
CHIMENES	Max	6	1	0	0	1	6	1	0	0	1	0
COSTA	Jordao	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
CRAWFORD	Jamal	6	4	2	0	1	13	10	13	3	1	26
ELLIS	Gabe	3	1	2	2	0	3	1	2	2	0	5
FENTON	Matty	13	1	0	0	1	64	3	0	3	9	64
GREEN	Fenton	11	1	0	0	2	39	7	2	3	5	41
IBETO	Mike	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	0	3	0	0
IRLAM	Jack	8	1	0	0	2	92	28	22	5	13	114
JONES	Mark	11	0	0	0	0	217	14	6	5	9	223
KIRWAN	Jacob	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
LE GRAND-AKPO	Jerry	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
MARROW	Jack	6	1	1	1	0	38	5	6	18	2	44
MIALKOWSKI	Kacper	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
MOONEY-MUNOZ	Gabriel	4	1	3	0	0	4	1	3	0	0	7
MULLARKEY	Benji	5	2	2	4	0	5	2	2	4	0	7
NICHOLSON	Jamie	8	7	4	0	1	8	7	4	0	1	12
NOBLE	Isaac	6	3	6	0	0	14	11	21	17	2	35
SIYAM	Mohammad	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	4	8	0	4
SODHI	Jonny	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
WEIR	Lucas	13	0	0	0	3	49	4	12	11	9	61
WILLIAMS	Elliot	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
WOOLLEY	Matt	13	3	0	0	1	350	53	30	28	45	380

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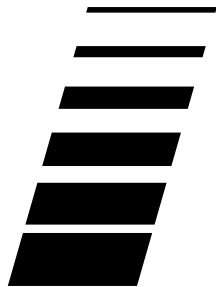
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RESPECT INITIATIVE

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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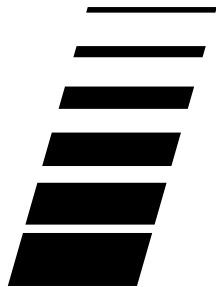
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Dayo ADEKOYA	
Sam ADETILOYE	Preston 74 Fan Club
Jason AKIOTU	
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

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 Maddening Crowd' but it also witnessed the birth of the literary giants GK Chesterton and Somerset Maugham, whilst a certain Winston Churchill also came into the world that year!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Applying to join the North West Counties Football League
- Appointing our first 'Gaffer', Ian Street
- Signing our first ground sharing agreement with Winsford United

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

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

The 2015/16 season proved to be a steady campaign in the league with an eventual finishing spot of 4th, but it ended in a truly memorable manner when Ian Street's side outclassed local rivals and Step 3 outfit Witton Albion by a 3-0 score-line on their own turf to lift the Mid Cheshire District Cup for the first time.

This trophy was retained the following campaign with a 1-0 win over rivals Northwich Vics, but by this time the management of the club had passed into the hands of Paul Bowyer and Wayne Goodison – both of whom had been part of Ian Street's back-room team.

The impact of the new management team was truly remarkable, as the 2017/18 season proved to be an

exciting and memorable one, during which the 'Bo-Go' Green Army.

- Defeated National League North and former FA Trophy winners North Ferriby in the FA Cup
- Finally exited the competition on penalties in a 3rd Qualifying Round replay
- Reached the semi-finals of the FA Vase, only for eventual winners Thatcham Town to deny '74 a trip to Wembley by triumphing 4-2 on aggregate.
- Took hundreds of fans to away ties at Leighton and Thatcham
- Recorded a record home attendance of 1674 in the second leg of the semi-final against the Wiltshire outfit
- Ended the season by playing a mammoth 26 games in just 57 days and 69 games overall

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

So, a final position of 10th – the lowest that the club had finished in since being promoted to the Premier Division– did seem to suggest a decline in the clubs' fortunes. But that would be completely wrong, as 1874's final standing was hugely influenced by a difficult start to the season in which the loss of key players from the 17/18 campaign - allied to a cruel run of injuries to many of the clubs' key creative and attacking players - resulted in a somewhat disjointed first few months of the season and early exits in both the FA Cup and Vase.

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

This cup win proved to be a springboard for the club as from the very outset of the 2019/20 season it was clear that '74 would be one of the main contenders for the NWCFL title. Another good FA Cup run – which was halted at the 2nd Qualifying Round by an admittedly fortunate Whitby Town side – was the precursor to an astonishing league campaign that included a 15-game unbeaten league run – another club record.

But it wasn't just the results that were impressive, it was the swash-buckling, stylish passing and pressing style of play in which '74 played the game that brought them so many plaudits and admiration from other clubs and commentators from all quarters. But in addition to their verve and panache, the side also possessed a steely, never-say-die, attitude that that gained them several precious points from seemingly difficult positions. This left '74 in the box seat at the head of the league with 9 games left and 8 points ahead of second placed Warrington Rylands with a game in hand.

So, if there was ever a bunch of players and back-room staff that deserved to end a season celebrating a league title, then it ought to have been those fantastic bunch of players. But as you will know, the Covid 19 outbreak resulted in a sudden cessation to grassroots football and, heartbreakingly, players, officials and fans alike were denied seeing the league trophy being paraded around Townfield.

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

Life during our first campaign as a Step 4 club was inevitably challenging at times. As a small fish in a much bigger pool, almost each week we faced by clubs with far greater resources than we have at our disposal. So, a final finishing spot of 12th out of 20 was a highly satisfying end result. It might have been even more impressive had our home form had been a little more consistent!

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

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

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

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

The 2014/15 season also saw the club run an U21 side and since then, several of their number have now progressed to the First-team squad and beyond. More recently, 1874 have fielded sides at junior level and the establishment of these teams has acted as a stepping stone towards the creation of other sides covering all age groups, genders, and abilities.

Mention of which reminds us that, along with the Cheshire FA, '74 have also played a major role in establishing local 'walking football' sessions each week which have proved to be hugely popular with the 'more mature' gentlemen of Mid-Cheshire, most of

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

2019 was also a landmark year off the field as for the first time the club finally played within the boundary of the town of Northwich following the signing of a 2 year agreement to share Barnton's Townfield Lane stadium. A huge amount of work was undertaken to improve the facilities for players, officials, and supporters alike as well as meeting the ground-grading requirements that were necessary for promotion to Step 4. The agreement was extended for a further 5 years last season and both clubs are now working to develop a longer-term vision for the ground.

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

But any progress that we may make will be achieved in a responsible and sustainable manner. Indeed, one of our main principles is that we will not jeopardise the long-term interests of the club by spending money just in order to ensure success on the pitch. At times, such a policy makes matters difficult and frustrating, but given the memories and experiences we all shared as fans the club we once followed, it is a path that we will not deviate from.



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



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

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

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

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

OUR MISSION

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

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

Find out more

 @dannywilks5

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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.

Dayo Adekoya – Born in the Netherlands, 23 year old Dayo recently teamed up with '74 having previously played for Welsh Premier League side Airbus UK. Now based in Manchester, he can play as a right-sided attacker or as a more traditional centre-forward.

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.

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.

Maxwell Chimenos – One of the newest recruits to the '74 cause, 22 year-old Max arrived at Townfield from fellow NPL Division 1 West side Newcastle Town in September. A former Port Vale academy graduate, Max had played 17 games for the Staffordshire club – mainly as an attacking midfielder or striker - before heading up the M6 to Cheshire. During his earlier career Max has also spent short spells with Glossop and Midland League side Shifnal Town

Jamal Crawford – A pacy and direct winger, Jamal originally joined 74 midway through last season, but opted to join Runcorn Linnets after making 18 appearances, 11 of which were from the bench. 24-year old Jamal started his career as a junior with Burnley and after a short stop playing in Wales for Llandudno, he returned to England and went onto appear for a number of clubs including FC United, Chester, Hyde United, Curzon Ashton, Bamber Bridge, Glossop, Trafford and Widnes.

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, Ashton Athletic and Litherland REMYCA.

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.

Michael Ibeto - A strong, athletic and quick central defender Michael played over 30 games at Abbey Hey last season and went out on trials at Wycombe Wanderers and Stoke City in the summer before teaming up with '74 in early September

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.

Jack Marrow – After completing his scholarship with Crewe Alexandra, 21 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.

Benji Mullarkey - A new face to the club, Warrington-based Benji joined up during the summer 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 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.

Lucas Weir – After initially featuring for our U21 side, 23 year old Lucas broke in to '74's first-team in 2018 and quickly became an important part of the side, developing into an all-round midfield player who could also play in defence when the need arose. 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!



Elliott Williams – This one-time Glossop player signed forms for '74 early in the season after impressing in a friendly against local side Knutsford. Aged 21, Elliott – who usually operates in one of the full-back positions -has also spent some time with Exeter City.

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 having had prior spells at Congleton Town, Alsager, Witton Albion and FC Halifax Town. Unsurprisingly he's now chalked up over 350 games for the club, netting approaching 50 goals in the process.



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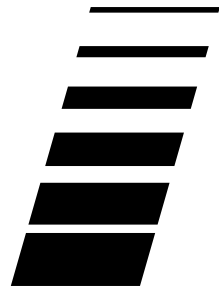
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: WIDNES



HISTORY

Widnes FC's origins can be traced back to 2003 when the club was originally formed as a youth football club.

In 2012, the groundwork was laid for the club to make the set up into senior football as in March of that year, a consultation process began with Widnes Vikings RLFC to become part of the Vikings Sports brand, a partnership that would enhance the clubs community status.

A First Team was formed with the initial short-term goal of gaining admission into the North West Counties Football League under the guise of 'Widnes Vikings FC.'

Steve Hill was appointed First Team manager in September 2012 and steered the Club to a 4th placed finish in its inaugural and so far, only season in the West Cheshire League Third Division. During this season, the Club also submitted its application to join the North West Counties Football League for the 2013/14 campaign.

Prior to the new season, Widnes' application was successful, and the Club began life in the North West Counties Football League Third Division with a 3-1 home defeat to Cheadle Town before winning their first game in the NWCFL with an emphatic 5-1 away win over Northwich Flixton Villa.

Hill eventually guided his side to a 14th placed finish in their inaugural season in the First Division with 36 points from 36 games.

Off the pitch, the Club would be re-named as Widnes Football Club after ending their partnership with Widnes Vikings.

The 2014/15 season saw the Club make significant progress in cup competitions. Widnes reached the last 16 of the League Cup before falling to eventual League Champions Glossop North End and reached the quarter-final of the Liverpool Senior Cup, beating

Prescot Cables before being knocked out in the last eight by eventual winners Skelmersdale United.

The season also oversaw the Club's first foray in the FA Vase. Widnes were knocked out in the Second Qualifying Round following a 2-0 defeat at AFC Emley.

Following the season's conclusion, winger Ben Tollitt became the first former Widnes player to play for a Football League club as he signed a one-year deal with 2008 FA Cup winners Portsmouth, after impressing on trial with Paul Cook's side during pre-season. Tollitt's performances earned the former Widnes man a one-year extension after scoring once in 16 games in all competitions for the EFL League Two club.

Tollitt has since gone on to achieve two promotions with Tranmere Rovers, and is now on the books at Blackpool in League One.

The following season saw the Club again reach the quarter-final of the Liverpool Senior Cup, coming up against an Everton XI managed by David Unsworth. The young Toffees excelled in the game and beat Widnes 8-0 despite an admirable performance from the home side.

After a 13th placed finish, Chairman David Day and Manager Steve Hill stepped down from their roles, allowing a new Board of Directors and management team to be appointed to bring some much-needed new stimulus to the club.

Mr Day remained on the newly established Board of Directors, headed by incoming Chairman Ian Ross that bring the necessary expertise and drive to enable the Club to progress over the coming seasons.

Danny Meadowcroft and Brian Pritchard were appointed as joint managers heading into the 2016/17 season but later left the Club by mutual consent following an indifferent start to the season in September. Danny Salt was appointed interim manager, leading the side to a win and a draw in his two games in charge.

Former Burscough, Warrington Town and Runcorn Linnets manager Joey Dunn was appointed as new First Team Manager later that month.

Dunn's appointment led to a massive turnaround in results, with Widnes putting together a run of just two league defeats in their final 32 league games as the Whites surged to the North West Counties First Division title.

The title and promotion was secured with a game to spare after a 5-1 win at AFC Blackpool, with Widnes winning 14 straight games to finish at the top of the pile. The Whites also performed admirably in cup competitions that season, reaching the last eight of both the League Cup and Liverpool Senior Cup, and the semi-final of the First Division Cup before losing out to eventual winners City of Liverpool.

During the season, Kevin Towey became the Club's new record goalscorer following a brace at Skelmersdale United in November – a record that still stands to this day at 72 goals.

The summer of 2017 oversaw the Club's attempts to re-establish a junior setup with two youth teams at Under-7s and Under-9s, and the section has thrived ever-since become a pillar of the local community.

The 2017-18 season started with Widnes' first-ever FA Cup game which ended in a heavy 5-0 defeat at home to Handsworth Parramore at the Halton Stadium.

Widnes would endure an inconsistent start to life in the North West Counties Premier Division (level 9 of the National League system) – the highest level in the Club's short history.

Ultimately, manager Dunn would depart in early October, resigning from his position as manager. Senior players Kevin Towey and Steve Akrigg were installed as player/joint-managers and would go on to enjoy a massively successful first foray into management.

The duo began their stint with three successive 2-2 draws, with Widnes scoring late equalisers in each of those games to rescue a point. Their first win would come with an emphatic 5-1 win over Maine Road at the Halton Stadium as Sam Sheen netted twice.

Inconsistency would continue to plague the Whites

in the following weeks, emphasised by a 3-3 draw at Padiham late in October that went viral after Widnes conceded twice in the last two minutes in a bizarre stoppage time period that was reported by various National Media outlets including the Guardian, the BBC and a feature on Soccer AM, while Champions League and World Cup winning goalkeeper Iker Casillas would tweet about the game on his Twitter account.

This would eventually have a positive effect on the side as Widnes never really looked back. A 3-0 home defeat to Charnock Richard in November would be the last time Widnes would taste defeat in the league until March as the Whites won 23 of their 25 remaining games to seal a second successive promotion to the Northern Premier League, beating out local rivals Runcorn Town on the final day.

In truth, Widnes' form from November onwards was remarkable, only tasting defeat twice against Marine (Liverpool Senior Cup semi-final) and Barnoldswick Town – a run that included a 5-1 home win over Southport in the Liverpool Senior Cup, and league double over neighbours Runcorn Linnets.

The form would continue in the League Cup, as Widnes would end the season with a trophy after beating Burscough in the final at Fleetwood Town's Highbury Stadium, with the Whites coming from behind to win with goals from Ben Hodgkinson and a late Sheen winner.

The summer of 2018 saw Widnes' preparation for a first-ever season in the Northern Premier League Division One West (level 8 of the National League system) disrupted by pitch problems at the Halton Stadium, which had failed its FIFA artificial pitch test. With the surface due to be relaid after the conclusion of the Rugby League season, Widnes were forced to begin the season at Barnton's Townfield Lane.

Once again, the Club continued to make significant strides as one of Halton's best junior football clubs. The 2018-19 season saw the junior section expand to 14 teams across eight age groups, including two girls' teams at Under 12s and Under 14s.

Promotion to the Northern Premier League also allowed the Cub to enter a team into the NPL Football Academy, forming the Widnes FC 'Education



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The Club's first season at Step 4 proved to be an inconsistent one, with co-bosses Akrigg and Towe ultimately guiding the side to a consolidatory 12th placed finish. Widnes would again advance to the Liverpool Senior Cup semi-final, losing to Prescot Cables on penalties.

Widnes did add another trophy to the cabinet though with a 3-0 win at Runcorn Linnets to lift the North West Counties Champions Cup.

It was a significant season for a number of players, with Kev Pollard, Mike Burke and Chris and George Lomax reaching a century of Widnes appearances, while Accrington Stanley loanee Niall Watson would become the Whites' youngest ever player and goalscorer in a 2-2 draw against Colwyn Bay in January aged 18 years and 211 days.

Widnes would once again consolidate their position in the NPL Division One North/West in 2019-20, sitting comfortably in mid-table when the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed the campaign early.

The Club did however reach the first qualifying round of the FA Cup for the first time following an extraordinary replay win at Mossley in the preliminary round, in which Conor Ready netted a 93rd minute winner after the nine-man hosts had come from behind to equalise in the 90th minute.

Despite the pandemic, the club have continued to grow with its burgeoning junior section now overseeing 26 teams including a new Under-17s side and the popular Wildcats initiative.

After the pandemic brought an early halt to the 2020-21 season, the Whites began the 2021-22 campaign with fresh optimism, but a poor start led to the departure of co-bosses Akrigg and Towe after a hugely successful three-and-a-half-year spell in charge.

Dave Dempsey was appointed new manager in September 2021 and would steer the club away from relegation danger to a comfortable mid-table position – a run which included a highly impressive set of results and to date, the club's best ever run in the FA Trophy.

The Club's junior section continued to expand, with the total number of teams now standing at over 30 ahead of the 2022-23 season.

After a poor start to the campaign, Dempsey was relieved of his position as manager and was replaced by Michael Ellison.

Despite being seven points from safety at the foot of the table with 14 games to play, Ellison led a remarkable turnaround and Widnes secured their Step 4 status on the final day of the season with Laurence Smith scoring the only goal in a win over 1874 Northwich.

PROFILES

Cameron Terry – Goalkeeper

Shot-stopper Cameron returned to the club in October 2022 after spending the early part of the campaign at Port Vale. A commanding and decisive goalkeeper, Terry's talents far exceed his tender age.

Owen Beamon – Defender

18-year-old Owen joins the club from Newcastle Town. The defender is an exciting talent who will spend time on dual registration at Sandbach United this season.

Will Bell – Defender

Centre-half Will arrives with an impressive pedigree. The 28-year-old finished last season with Skelmersdale United having featured for both Macclesfield and Bootle earlier in the campaign. Will began his career at Morecambe before spending seven years playing in Wales for Aberystwyth, Bala, Colwyn Bay and Rhyl.

Sam Bhatti – Defender

Sam is an exciting prospect who has signed for the club after leaving Crewe Alexandra. The 18-year-old is a pacey, athletic, ball-playing centre-half who started a number of games for Crewe's Under-23s last season.

Jack Byrne – Defender

Young centre-half Jack arrived on a season long-loan from AFC Fylde in January. A tall and athletic player, the 21-year-old has also enjoyed loan spells at Barnoldswick Town, Bromsgrove Sporting and Lancaster City. Signed on a permanent deal in the summer of 2023.

Louis Isherwood – Defender

Centre-half Louis was one of Michael Ellison's first signings following his appointment as manager. The 20-year-old played under Ello at City of Liverpool and arrives with impressive pedigree having spent time with both Wigan Athletic and Chorley as a youngster.

Matty Rain – Defender

Left-back Matty has been a virtual ever-present since joining from Bootle in October. The 21-year-old possesses a wand of a left foot and lists Burnley, FC United of Manchester and Curzon Ashton amongst his former clubs.

Jay Roberts – Defender

Right-back Jay returned to the club for a second spell in November 2022. He played 137 times for Widnes over a four-year stint from 2017 to 2021 before leaving for Bootle. A modern day full-back with a tendency to get forward, Jay has won three trophies and two promotions in a White shirt.

Kai Shorrock – Defender

21-year-old right-back Kai re-united with boss Ellison in October 2022 have spent time on loan at City of Liverpool from Chorley last season. An exciting talent with a bright future, Kai spent eight years as a youth player at Burnley before moving on to AFC Fylde in 2018.

Jack Walls – Defender

Right-back Jack arrives at the DCBL Stadium after spending the tail end of last season at Prescot Cables. He played under manager Ellison at City of Liverpool having progressed through to the Under-23 squad at Liverpool as a trainee.

George Hassall – Midfielder

Versatile George arrived at the DCBL Stadium in October 2022 to re-join manager Ellison after working together at City of Liverpool. The 23-year-old came through the youth ranks at Shrewsbury Town, and has previously represented AFC Fylde, Marine and Prescot Cables.

Kris Holt – Midfielder

Kris is an athletic central midfielder who joined the club this summer. The 28-year-old has spent the previous three seasons at Bury AFC, scoring seven goals in 77 games. He has previously played for both Atherton Collieries and Runcorn Linnets in the Northern Premier League.

Steven Irwin – Midfielder

The signing of Ste represented a real coup for Widnes when he arrived in November 2022. The 32-year-old won the NPL West with Warrington Rylands last season and the FA Youth Cup with Liverpool as a trainee in 2007. Ste has enjoyed spells abroad in Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands. He also lists FC United of Manchester, Marine, Skelmersdale United and Stalybridge Celtic amongst his former clubs. Appointed club captain in the summer of 2023.

Sean Miller – Midfielder

Versatile wide man Sean arrived at the DCBL Stadium in September 2022 to add vast experience to a young squad. The 27-year-old has National League experience at Altrincham, Chester and Curzon Ashton. In a spell at Connah's Quay Nomads in 2015, Miller was named Welsh Premier Young Player of the Season.

Laurence Smith – Midfielder

Combative central midfielder Laurence joined the club in December 2022. He spent his formative years as a player largely at Bolton Wanderers before spending two seasons at Fleetwood Town. Loz has also played for Runcorn Linnets and scored against Widnes in a Halton Derby.

James Steele – Midfielder

Steele returned to the club for a second spell in March 2023. An electric wide man, James has over 100 appearances in the Northern Premier League to his name with stints at Newcastle Town, Runcorn Linnets and City of Liverpool.

Will Jones – Forward

32-year-old striker Will is a vastly experienced frontman in the Northern Premier League. A four-year spell with Witton Albion ended in the summer which preceded a short stint at City of Liverpool under Michael Ellison. The target man also lists Bootle, Colwyn Bay, Marine, Nantwich Town and Warrington Town amongst his former clubs.

Connor McCarthy – Forward

Connor has scored goals at every level of senior non-league football. The 27-year-old arguably played his best football under manager Ellison at Runcorn Linnets at Step 4 and re-united with the boss in January 2023 at Widnes. Deadly in front of goal, Connor has played in the National League for Southport and has also represented AFC Telford United, City of Liverpool, FC United of Manchester and Warrington Town.

MJ Monaghan – Forward

MJ penned terms in the summer to reunite with boss Elio, who he played under at City of Liverpool. The 29-year-old is well-known on the local non-League scene and arrives boasting a wealth of experience combined with creativity and an eye for goal. MJ lists Bury, Prescot Cables, Runcorn Linnets and Witton Albion amongst his former clubs.

Eddie Servuts – Forward

Eddie established himself as one of the most prolific forwards in the North West Counties Premier Division last season, scoring 25 goals in 39 games for a Burscough side that finished the campaign in a relegation position. He made his senior debut for Southport aged just 16 in 2020 and has also featured for Ashton Athletic and Skelmersdale United.

Matt Van Wyk – Forward

Striker Matt is a talented striker with bags of potential. He arrives after a second spell at FC United of Manchester. The 22-year-old scored twice in 13 games in the league above last season.

Michael Ellison - Manager

Elio was appointed Widnes boss in September 2022. He has now managed over 100 games in the Northern Premier League despite having just six managerial seasons under his belt. After retiring with 200 Runcorn Linnets games under his belt, he became manager in 2016 and would steer Linnets to promotion to the NPL in 2018, finishing narrowly ahead of Widnes. He would then go on to manage City of Liverpool from 2020-2022.

Paul Bowes – First Team Coach

Bowser joined up with Michael Ellison's staff in September 2022. A defender during his playing days, Paul managed Burscough for a stint during the 2021-22 season, and has also coached at Maghull, Litherland REMYCA and Pilkington.

Chris Lawton – First Team Coach

Lawty is another to have served under Elio at three different clubs. His retirement from playing in 2018 saw his promotion to first team coach at Runcorn Linnets, before moving to City of Liverpool alongside Elio in 2020. Chris was a centre-half during his playing days, representing Linnets, Runcorn Town, Trafford and Atherton Collieries.

Ryan Brookfield – Goalkeeper Coach

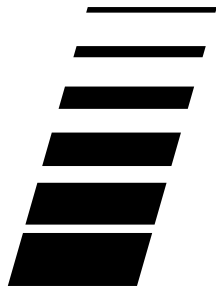
Goalkeeper Coach Ryan is another valued member of Michael Ellison's backroom staff. He previously worked under Elio at City of Liverpool. As a player, Ryan played in the Football League for Chester City.

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By Matt Badcock

IS the 'new' season already two months in? The FA Cup first round draw has been made, the Isuzu FA Trophy and FA Vase are through a few rounds and the weather is taking a turn. It feels like another Non-League season is flying by. Here are a few things that have caught our eye over the last week

CUP KINGS

The FA Cup fourth round qualifying served up some big shocks last Saturday, with eight National League teams tumbling out and more facing midweek replays.

Bracknell Town started the day off with a 1-0 lunchtime win over Dagenham & Redbridge. The Step 3 Robins took on Ipswich Town last season in front of the live TV cameras. For the first round this year they're off to League One Cambridge United.

Horsham also face League One opposition following their 2-0 upset of Dorking Wanderers — the Isthmian Premier side have been drawn against Barnsley.

Step 4 Cray Valley PM have got a great draw away at Charlton Athletic. Kyrell Lisbie scored twice in their 5-2 win over Enfield Town last week — he's the son of former Addicks striker Kevin, who also played for the Millers when they reached the FA Vase final at Wembley in 2019.

Other interesting first round ties include Chesterfield at home to Portsmouth — former club of Spireites boss Paul Cook — while Bromley host Blackpool. Step 4 Ramsgate host the winners of Woking's replay with Hemel Hempstead Town.

END OF AN ERA

It seems keeping a manager's job for five years is a long time these days. How about more than 25? That's how long Dave Diaper has been at the helm of Sholing. In that time he's overseen their rise — both on and off the pitch — from the Hampshire League to Step 3 via an FA Vase win at Wembley. This weekend is his last game, however, as he takes on a new head of football role at the south-coast club with former Sutton United boss Paul Doswell set to take over in the dug-out.

"It's a great fit," Diaper said. "We're on the same page moving forward and it's quite exciting. We've got some big plans for the club. This year is about consolidation more than anything, but it's about working together and seeing what we can bring to the club in the future."

OLDHAM TWIST FOR MELLON

When Oldham Athletic announced they were parting ways with manager David Unsworth, you can be sure a lot of managers quickly brushed up their CV. The chance to manage the Latics is a huge draw for many.

We so often talk about the importance of National League experience when it comes to steadying a recently relegated EFL club after they have crash landed in Non-League. When someone like Micky Mellon is available it becomes a much easier decision.

The former Shrewsbury and Northampton boss has won promotion into the Football League twice — first as a champion with Fleetwood Town in 2012.

He later returned to Non-League with the task of taking Tranmere Rovers back into the EFL — which he duly did in 2018 through the play-offs. That feat was immediately followed by promotion to League One.

Mellon knows the division inside out and understands what it takes to be in the mix. He also had a certain James Norwood leading his Tranmere attack — their reunion at Oldham will excite fans too.

TEALE-Y GOOD SHOW

We also caught up with former Aston Villa defender Shaun Teale for last week's NLP. The rugged centre-half has recently published a book about his career titled: Here, There and Everywhere.

In 2003 he lifted the FA Trophy with Burscough by beating Tamworth 2-1 with the final, fittingly, at his old stomping ground Villa Park.

"If you ever watch a replay of the game, I think I spend the whole 90 minutes with a smile on my face."



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*Tom STEPHENS				
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Matt VAN WYK				
Jack WALLS				

*Asterisks indicate present in last/predicted matchday squad

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