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vs **WITTON ALBION**
26/12/23 - 3.00PM
NPL WEST
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

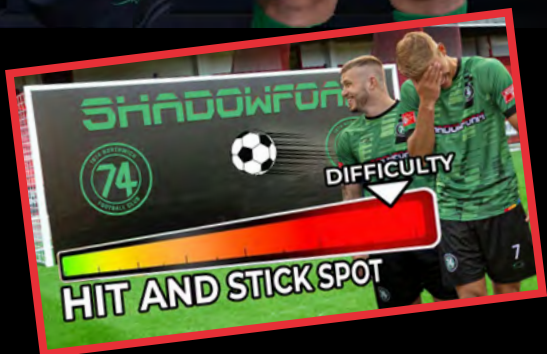
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Cheshire, CW8 4LJ

Visit

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MEDIA: media@1874northwich.com

WEBSITE: www.1874northwich.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/1874Northwich

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COLOURS:

HOME: Green shirts, black shorts, green socks

AWAY: Orange shirts, grey shorts, grey socks

THIRD: Blue shirts, blue shorts, blue socks

HONOURS:

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **WITTON ALBION**

TUESDAY 26TH DEC 2023 | K.O. 3.00PM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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FINANCE: John Coats

FOOTBALL: Vicki England

COMPANY: Maggie Coats

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ENGAGEMENT: Andrew Dignum

OTHER CONTACTS:

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FOOTBALL SECRETARY: Vicki England

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PROGRAMME EDITOR: Luke Bushnell-Wye

PROOF READERS: Richard Webb/Richard Bush

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

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

MATCH REPORTS: Jack Owen

WEBSITE: Mark Edgeley

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF:

FIRST TEAM MANAGER: Damian Crossley

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Katy Bagshaw

KIT MANAGER: Andy Williams

UNDER 21s MANAGER: Kyle Murray

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good afternoon everyone,

It is always a pleasure to welcome our football family to Townfield for the Boxing Day game against our friends from Witton Albion FC and once again we extend a warm welcome to their Officials, Players, Management and Supporters.

Boxing Day football is always a special time when historically teams are likely to be pitted against their nearest footballing neighbours, and whilst in the grand scheme of the season today is no more an important game than any other league game, we all know that local derbies are different.

The Boxing Day fixture also, in most cases, marks the halfway point in the season. A time to take stock and assess, but also a time to look forward to warmer and brighter days ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our club volunteers for the work that they put into 1874 Northwich FC. Without these individuals none of us would be in the position to enjoy afternoons such as today and whilst in many cases their work may go unnoticed, they are a vitally important part of the club, as are all non league volunteers without whom the game at our level would not exist.

On behalf of 1874 Northwich FC I extend best wishes to all, irrespective of whether you may favour green or red. May you have a happy and healthy New Year.

As always, let's get fully behind the boys in Green and Black.

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All the best,

Steve

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SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Season's greetings everyone!

I hope you had a lovely day yesterday, whatever you were able to do. Christmas can be a wonderful time when you have loved ones to share it with but for many people it may be a time for reflection, remembering those who are no longer with us or thinking about those who are experiencing loneliness or difficulties. As always, I send you best wishes on behalf of the 74 family, it's good to have you with us this afternoon.

It's derby day!

As a member of the green side for more years than I care to own up to, it doesn't come much bigger than a tussle with the red side. Although for me, given the passing years and some water under the bridge, the rivalry is somewhat 'watered down' now. It wasn't like that when I was a kid! But time has brought me certain experiences and has taught me to respect how others have gone about their business. I often say that I wish my club in a former life had had someone like a Tom Stelfox on the Board, who would have honestly kept us on the straight and narrow. But there you go, and here I am with 1874. Hoping for 3 points against the red stripeys! That has never changed!

I would like to welcome everyone connected with The Albs today, especially some very good friends and the contingent of ex 74 lads who now wear the red. These guys were part of some terrific times at our club, and they are still talked of fondly.

I'm writing these notes before the Kidsgrove game, but the previous couple of games have been pleasing from our point of view. Last weekend, we hosted promotion hopefuls Stalybridge Celtic and came away with a deserved draw. Although both keepers didn't have much to do, it was down to the Celtic keeper to make the save of the match, following a rasping shot from Jamie N.

We didn't start the day on the best footing, as Lucas and Kacper were missing through illness. We then saw Chris McCann get injured in the warm up, which gave a chance for Benji to play again after a few weeks out injured himself. Sam Oliver was also given his first start, after missing the whole of the season, and what a game he had. So, the point was even more special given the circumstances and well done to the guys who put massive effort in.

Whilst we do sit in the wrong position in the table, it feels like many of our performances this season have warranted more. But we must keep battling on and I know that our new gaffer, Damian, is working hard to instil this into the lads. Damian has worked hard over the last three weeks; it's been quite demanding on him as he has been getting to know everyone and has been busy reviewing how things work but it is clear that he is certainly up for it!



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& quote "1874 Fan" to strike a great deal

After today, we head over to East Cheshire for our game against Nantwich Town on New Year's Day. It would be fantastic to see another great following there to cheer the lads on. Our support base on the road is terrific, there's not many clubs in this league that are on the same level, and this is appreciated by the players.

As this is my last ramble of the year, I would like to thank all our amazing volunteers, who do something to keep 1874 ticking along. We have so many wonderful people who contribute and while singling individuals out is tricky, there are three people that I would like to say my own thanks to, as they have helped me personally with taking tasks off me to give me a bit of time back. So, a big thanks to Ben Davies, Julie Stockton and Maggie Coats, they know what for. Fantastic people.

I want to say a big thanks to all the players for entertaining us and for caring, whatever the result. And to our backroom team, all of whom are dedicated and support the playing side so admirably.

Finally, I would like to mention Bow & Goodie, for everything they did for 1874 over most of 2023 and for putting up with me in that time and now to Damo, for taking things on for us. I'm not pecking his head too much, yet...

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas party on Friday evening and then over in Nantwich on the first day of '24.

If you can't make those, then we are back here on January 6th when we host Prescot Cables and then NVFC on the 9th in the Mid Cheshire Cup.

That's it for now, please get behind Damian and the lads. If you are louder than me, the whole of Northwich will hear you!

"Come on you Green Boys!"



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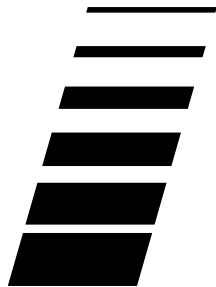


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FROM THE DUGOUT

DAMIAN CROSSLEY



Good afternoon everyone,

On behalf of the players and staff may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Welcome to the Creative Hut Stadium for today's game. A contest that everyone here today has been looking forward to all season. A fantastic local derby with, hopefully, a stadium record crowd.

We offer a warm welcome to John Macken and everyone associated with Witton Albion.

As I write these notes we are yet to go to Kidsgrove on Saturday, hopefully we will have done you all proud down in Staffordshire. I'd like to thank the fans who made the trip, the players and I really appreciate your support at this very expensive time of year.

I felt last week that the players acquitted themselves very well in our game against Stalybridge. We had a number of players playing through knocks and more than one playing longer than was ideal in their return from injury. Although we didn't have the amount of possession or territorial dominance that we would like, especially in the second half, we were resolute and fully deserved our point.

Finally, I'd like to place on record our thanks to Craig Mahon at Curzon Ashton for allowing us to have Josh Ollerenshaw for the game to cover Ellis' suspension.

Enjoy the game- it should be a terrific occasion,

Damo

BIG GAME PREVIEW

BY GARRY CLARKE

1874 NORTHWICH vs WITTON ALBION NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

Witton Albion ended last season 6th in the NPL West Division, missing out on the promotion play off by 1 place and 4 points with a playing record of:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Witton	38	16	11	11	61	50	11	59	6

Witton have experienced a mixed first half to the campaign, occupying a play off place in the opening weeks before dropping as low as 16th a couple of weeks ago. They enter the festive programme in 14th place.

While 1874 are bottom of the division's current form table with just 2 points from their last six games, Witton are 16th with 7 points from two wins, a draw and three defeats.

In their final game before the Christmas programme (ie. Saturday 16th December), they drew 1-1 at Mossley having led through a 56th minute Matt Lowton goal.

How the two teams stand on the league ladder heading into the festive programme:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Witton	18	6	5	8	28	41	-13	22	14
1874	18	4	4	10	15	33	-18	16	19

Albion exited the FA Cup at the 1st qualifying round stage losing 2-1 away at Lancaster City having beaten Congleton Town in the preliminary round. In the FA Trophy they beat Runcorn Linnets in the 1st qualifying round before losing 2-1 at City of Liverpool in the 2nd qualifying round.

Leading goal scorer for this season for Witton is Connor Hughes who has netted 9 goals so far, while Joe Duckworth is the second top scorer with 5 goals.

A further 12 players have been on target for Albion this season.

With 2 wins, 3 draws and 5 defeats from their 10 away league games Witton have the 17th best away record in the NPL West, while 1874 with 2, 2 draws and 5 defeats from their 9 home games have the 18th best home record.

Witton's eight home games have attracted an average crowd of 407 to Wincham Park this season. The highest attendance has been 502 for the visit of Trafford while the lowest is just 295 for the visit of Hanley Town.

WITTON ALBION FACT FILE

<i>Formed</i>	1887
<i>Ground</i>	Wincham Park
<i>Colours</i>	Red and White
<i>Change Colours</i>	Purple
<i>Manager</i>	Jon Macken
<i>2022/23</i>	6th NPL West

WE'VE MET BEFORE

2014/15

10th February 2015 - MCSC Semi-Final
 Away - Lost 2-3 Attendance 472
 1874 - Mitchell, Ward
 Witton - Goulding 2, Barnes

2015/16

18th April 2016 - MCSC Final
 Away - Won 3-0 Attendance 496
 1874 - Beadle 2, Farnworth

2016/17

16th March 2017 - MCSC Semi-Final
 Home - Won 4-1 Attendance 132
 1874 - Mitchell, Carey, Bove, Joe Woolley
 Witton - Noon

2019/20

22nd October 2019 - CSC 1st Round

Away - Drew 2-2 Attendance 342

(1874 won 4-3 on penalties)

1874 - McGowan, Own Goal

Witton - Monaghan, Baldwin

10th February 2020 - MCSC Semi-Final

Away - Lost 0-3 Attendance 322

Witton - Baldwin, Owens, Hooper

2022/23

8th October 2022 - MCSC 1st Round

Away - Lost 2-3 Attendance 476

1874 - O'Neill, Irlam

Witton - Duckworth, McGee, Riley

26th December 2023 - NPL West

Home - Lost 1-4 Attendance 836

1874 - M Woolley

Witton - Hughes 2, Rokka, McGee

10th April 2023 - NPL West

Away - Lost 0-1 Attendance 826

Witton - Rokka

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	2	1	0	1	5	5	0
Away	6	1	1	4	9	12	-3
Total	8	2	1	5	14	17	-3

A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Given the close proximity of the two clubs it is no surprise that the list of players who have played for both teams is a lengthy one, with former greens Harry Cain, Joe Duckworth, Lee Jackson, Taylor Kennerley and Mike Koral all having played for Witton this season.

Other names on the list include: Jamie Reed, Kyle Riley, Jack Tinning, Mark Jones and Matt Woolley.



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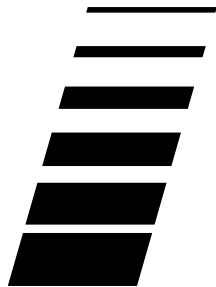
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NORTHERN
PREMIER
LEAGUE

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
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Graham Spencer
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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!

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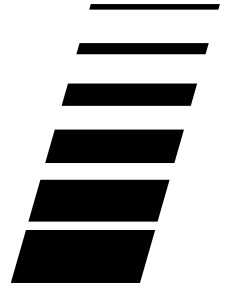
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MATCH CENTRE 23/24

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	Atrincham (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	1-0	0-0	210	Birchall			Hanson M
28	Leek Town	1-4	0-3	493	Green			Hussain A
Nov 4	Clitheroe	0-4	0-3	789				Harland T
11	BOOTLE	0-4	0-2	356				Bates M
18	Runcorn Linnets	0-1	0-0	707				Moosa B
25	AVRO	1-2	0-0	186	Weir			Kearney G
Dec 9	Hednesford Town	1-1	1-1	512	Nicholson			Lunn J
16	STALYBRIDGE CELTIC	0-0	0-0	319				Harland T
23	Kidsgrove Athletic	0-5	0-2	312				Biggin A
26	WITTON ALBION	-						
Jan 1	Nantwich Town	-						
6	PRESCOT CABLES	-						
6	NORTHWICH VICS (MCSC s/f)	-						
13	Chasetown	-						
20	LEEK TOWN	-						
27	Widnes	-						
Feb 3	Mossley	-						
10	TRAFFORD	-						
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	CLUTHEROE	-						
20	Avro	-						
27	RUNCORN LINNETS	-						

1874 NORTHWICH 2023/24 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 24/12/23

		2023/24 SEASON					ALL-TIME					
		Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Total Apps
ADEKOYA	Daya	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	4	2	0	4
ADETILOYE	Sam	6	4	6	2	0	11	5	17	7	0	28
AKIOTU	Jason	4	3	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	4
ALLEN	Ellis	21	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	2	0	29
BIRCHALL	Matty	10	0	2	0	1	10	0	2	0	1	12
BRADLEY	Lewis	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
BROE	Ollie	1	1	0	0	0	15	5	8	10	0	23
BYRNE	Eric	2	2	6	7	1	2	2	6	7	1	8
CHIMENES	Max	13	2	0	0	1	13	2	0	0	1	13
COSTA	Jordao	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	4	0	1
CRAWFORD	Jamal	12	8	4	0	1	19	14	15	3	1	34
ELLIS	Gabe	3	1	2	2	0	3	1	2	2	0	5
FENTON	Matty	22	1	0	0	1	73	3	0	3	9	73
GREEN	Fenton	14	2	0	0	3	42	8	2	3	6	44
IBETO	Mike	1	1	4	4	0	1	1	4	4	0	5
IRLAM	Jack	8	1	0	0	2	92	28	22	5	13	114
JONES	Mark	20	1	0	0	0	226	15	6	5	9	232
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	13	3	2	2	0	45	7	7	19	2	52
MCCANN	Chris	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2
MIALKOWSKI	Kacper	9	1	1	0	0	9	1	1	0	0	10
MOONEY MUNOZ	Gabriel	4	1	4	1	0	4	1	4	1	0	8
MULLARKEY	Benji	9	4	2	6	0	9	4	2	6	0	11
NICHOLSON	Jamie	15	11	6	0	2	15	11	6	0	2	21
NOBLE	Isaac	7	4	7	0	0	15	12	22	17	2	37
OLIVER	Sam	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	3
OLLERENSHAW	Josh	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SIYAM	Mohammad	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	5	9	0	5
SODHI	Jonny	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	1	10	0	1
WEIR	Lucas	21	1	0	0	4	57	5	12	11	10	69
WILLIAMS	Elliot	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	3	0	2
WOOLLEY	Matt	21	5	1	0	1	358	55	31	28	45	389

NPL-WEST 2023/24 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 24/12/23

		HOME			AWAY			GF	GA	Pts	
		Pld	W	D	L	W	D	L			
1	Leek Town	19	8	0	2	4	2	3	47	29	38
2	Prescot Cables	18	6	1	2	4	3	2	33	18	34
3	Runcorn Linnets	19	5	1	3	5	2	3	32	23	33
4	Stalybridge Celtic	20	6	3	2	3	3	3	33	28	33
5	Avro	19	3	5	2	5	3	1	24	18	32
6	Kidsgrove Athletic	19	5	2	3	4	2	3	39	29	31
7	Bootle	18	4	2	3	5	2	2	27	20	31
8	Clitheroe	18	4	1	4	4	2	3	34	26	27
9	Vauxhall Motors	19	4	2	3	4	0	6	24	33	26
10	Widnes	19	5	1	3	2	3	5	21	16	25
11	Chasetown	18	5	2	3	2	2	4	23	25	25
12	City of Liverpool FC	17	4	2	3	3	1	4	30	28	24
13	Mossley	18	4	1	3	3	2	5	26	31	24
14	Hanley Town	19	3	1	5	4	2	4	18	25	24
15	Witton Albion	19	4	1	4	2	3	5	29	43	22
16	Nantwich Town	18	3	3	3	3	0	6	26	26	21
17	Newcastle Town	18	2	1	6	4	2	3	21	25	21
18	Trafford	19	2	4	4	2	3	4	21	27	19
19	1874 NORTHWICH	19	2	2	5	2	2	6	15	38	16
20	Hednesford Town	21	1	5	4	2	1	8	24	39	15

NPL-WEST 2023/24 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 24/12/23

	1874 Northwich	Avro	Bootle	Chasetown	City of Liverpool	Clitheroe	Hanley Town	Hednesford Town	Kidsgrove Athletic	Leek Town	Mossley	Nantwich Town	Newcastle Town	Prescot Cables	Runcorn Linnets	Stalybridge Celtic	Trafford	Vauxhall Motors	Widnes	Witton Albion
1874 Northwich		1-2	0-4	1-1					2-6	1-3	0-1				0-0		2-0	1-0		
Avro					0-1		0-0	1-1	1-1	0-0	1-0		2-0	1-2	3-2			1-1		
Bootle		1-0					1-3	2-0	2-1			2-1	0-0	1-3			1-2	2-1	1-1	
Chasetown		0-1	3-2			3-3			2-1			1-1	1-2	0-1	1-0		1-0			3-2
City of Liverpool	1-2			1-0		2-1	2-1	2-2	4-1	2-3					2-3		2-2			
Clitheroe	4-0	2-2			2-0				1-4	6-3	2-1				0-1	0-1		0-1		
Hanley Town	4-2		0-2			2-0		0-0	0-2	1-0	1-3	0-3		1-2						
Hednesford Town	1-1			1-1	0-4	1-2		2-3				3-0	0-2	1-1	1-1	1-1				
Kidsgrove Athletic	5-0			2-1	0-3		4-1			1-1		1-2			3-0	2-2		2-1		1-3
Leek Town	4-1	3-4		4-1		2-1	3-0	2-4			2-0					3-0				4-1
Mossley			1-2				1-0		1-3					2-1		1-0		1-0	1-0	1-1
Nantwich Town		1-1	2-2			1-2		3-1				0-1	1-1	3-1				3-0	0-2	
Newcastle Town	0-1	0-1	0-2				0-1			2-1						3-4	2-2	1-0		1-2
Prescot Cables	1-0	0-1			2-1	0-1		2-1	5-3							5-1		1-1	4-1	
Runcorn Linnets	1-0			1-2	1-2		0-1		5-0			1-1			1-0			2-0		4-2
Stalybridge Celtic	0-0		1-1		4-2	2-1	3-2		1-5		3-2		1-1			1-0	1-2			4-0
Trafford			0-1	1-2		2-2	0-0	1-0	1-2		2-1				2-2			0-1	1-1	
Vauxhall Motors					3-2	2-1	0-2	3-2		3-3	0-3	3-1		0-3						2-2
Widnes			2-0	1-0	1-1		0-1	5-1	2-0	0-1		0-2		2-0						
Witton Albion		2-2				1-2	2-0	3-2		2-1	1-4						0-4	1-2	2-1	

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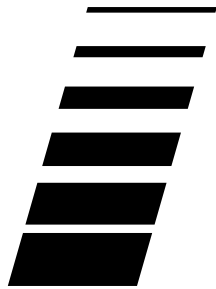
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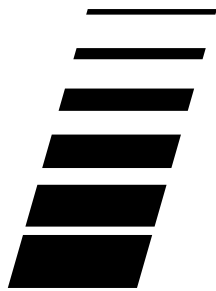
We are once again offering fans the opportunity to sponsor our squad and see their names in the programme every single week!

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Lucas WEIR	1874 Car School
Matt WOOLLEY	The Sunday Lunch Club

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

A FESTIVE GET-TOGETHER FOR THE CLUB



Richard Stockton is organising a festive get together on Friday 29th December.

This will include some food and live entertainment. The entertainment will be from the Merzees a 60's tribute duo from Liverpool.

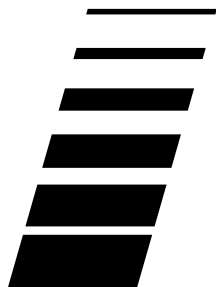
The venue will be at the Crows Nest (Moulton village hall). The start time will be around 7.30pm. The cost of the evening will be £15 per head.

There will be that all important raffle with some fabulous prizes.

Richard wants to get it out early, so you can get it booked in with your friends and family. If you have any questions please let him know at coming games.

VEO CAMERA

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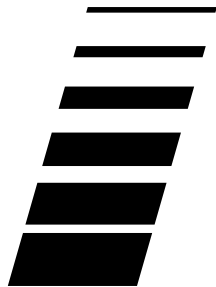
We are once again offering fans the opportunity to receive full match video and highlights. The price has been held at £20 for the season.

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

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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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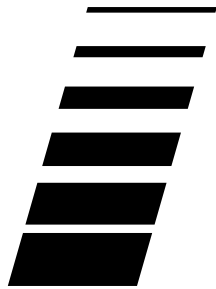
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

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

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1874 NORTHWICH - PROFILES 2023/2024**Damian Crossley (Manager) –**

Damian was appointed 1874 Manager at the beginning of December 2023, following an extensive recruitment process. Damian has proven experience at NPL level, having previously been assistant manager at Buxton FC, helping them to secure promotion to the Vanarama National League North. His previous clubs also include Warrington Rylands, Curzon Ashton and Colne. A UEFA licence coach, he has spent time working with the successful academies at Manchester City and Rochdale.

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.

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.

Matty Birchall –

Signed from Whitchurch Alport in early October 2023, local striker Matty was previously with Runcorn Linnets and Northwich Victoria. He started his career with Crewe Alex and has a proven goalscoring track record.

Lewis Bradley –

Lewis was Damian's first signing in early December 2023. An attacking midfielder who made his debut for Rochdale in 2019. Further clubs include Colne, Bradford Park Avenue and Glossop NE.

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 Chimenes –

One of the newest recruits to the '74 cause, 22 year-old Max arrived at Townfield from fellow NPL Division I 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

Jordao Costa –

Portuguese winger Jordao, signed in early October. Formerly with Ilkeston Town, Macclesfield and Huddersfield 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.

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!

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.

Chris McCann –

Midfielder Chris joined 1874 in November 2023, after having an extensive football league career making over 450 appearances, most notably with Burnley along with Wigan Athletic, Coventry City and Oldham Athletic. He subsequently spent time abroad, at DC United in the USA and Shamrock Rovers before returning to sign for Burton Albion. A very calm and gifted footballer, who has immediately made a good impact at the club.

Kacper Mialkowski –

Signed from Glossop North End in early October. Polish born defender Kacper, started his career at Rochdale.

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.

Sam Oliver –

Full-back Sam 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, before having a short spell in senior football with Droylsden. He has also spent time in the US, representing Arizona Western College.

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!



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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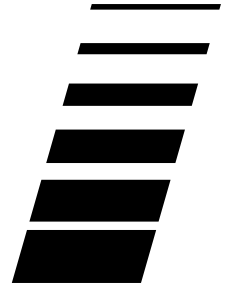
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: WITTON ALBION



HISTORY

Formation and Grounds

In the 1880's the district of Witton, centrally situated in the mid-Cheshire salt town of Northwich, had several different teams using the name 'Witton' as a prefix. The name Witton Albion itself can be traced back to a match played on October 26th 1887. No record of any matches has been found for 1889 and as such 1890 can be regarded as the year when the current club was actually formed.

Albion's first ground was adjacent to the Parish Church Vicarage. In 1897 they moved to Magdala Place near the Station Bridge. 1910 saw them move, paying the princely sum of £15 per annum, to a new ground adjacent to the Victoria Saw Mills just off Witton Street. July 1920 saw the club buy the ground outright for £750. Renamed appropriately the Central Ground, this was to be their home until 1989, when a Sainsbury's Supermarket was developed on the site. The club then bought a 14 acre site off Chapel Street, Wincham and so their current Wincham Park stadium was constructed. To secure the club's future, much of the surrounding land was later sold off.

The ground and facilities have been most welcome to local clubs Nantwich Town, Runcorn Linnets and Northwich Victoria, whilst awaiting moves into their own new grounds, indeed the latter are now in their second spell with us. We have also seen Football League Division Two Barrow use Wincham Park as their training base

Leagues and Honours

Witton Albion, after winning the Crewe FA Junior Cup, encountered their first league opponents in 1894 when part of the Cheshire Junior League. They then had a season in the Crewe & District Junior League, whilst having their Reserve Team replace them and actually win the 1896/97 campaign. From 1897-1901 the team then competed in the Cheshire League before spreading their wings as they joined The Combination where the opposition consisted of the likes of Bangor, Burslem Port Vale, Chester, Tranmere

Rovers, Wellington (now Telford) and Wrexham.

A move to the Manchester League was made for 1904/05 where they played Altrincham, Macclesfield, Hyde, Buxton and Northwich Victoria on a regular basis. As leagues became stronger and stronger Witton decided to join the Lancashire Combination in 1912 and the decision was rewarded the following season when they carried off the 2nd Division championship. Unfortunately, with the outbreak of World War One, Albion only had one season in the top flight, finishing a respectable 10th.

Following the war Witton Albion became one of the founder members of the Cheshire County League. It was not though until after the Second World War that championship honours were achieved. The following ten years saw them arguably become one of the best non-league sides in the country. They won the league three times with the league and cup double attained in 1953/54. They were also League and Cup runners-up during this period as well as a long spell of consecutive appearances in the Proper Rounds of the FA Cup.

Witton were denied founder membership of the Northern Premier League due to the entry qualification relating to the season two prior to the formation and so had to battle on before eventually gaining promotion, when finishing Cheshire County League runners-up in 1978/79. They almost won the NPL at the first attempt but were pipped by Mossley by just one point. The second season after moving to Wincham Park saw them as runaway champions with a sixteen point margin over Stalybridge Celtic.

Season 1991/92 therefore saw them compete with the cream of the non-league world in the Football Conference. Cheltenham Town, Colchester United, Dagenham & Redbridge, Macclesfield Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Yeovil Town, future Football League clubs, were amongst their opponents in the three year spell as members. The end of the 1993/94 season saw the club relegated, for the first time in their history. With the club's much publicised financial problems the end of the 1996/97 season brought a further relegation to the NPL First Division. Finding eventual

stability the club finished comfortably in the top half in the succeeding seasons. In 1999/2000 Witton were only denied promotion on goal difference when they finished level on points with both Accrington Stanley and Burscough, along the way only suffering four defeats!

A 5th place finish in 2003/04 ultimately, under the re-construction of the non-league pyramid, earned Albion a place back in the NPL Premier Division. 2007 saw the tightest ever finish in the NPL's 39 year history with Albion missing automatic promotion by just one goal and then losing to AFC Telford in the play-off final in front of a Wincham Park crowd of 2,281. Albion suffered a similar fate the following season, with the title seemingly won, a tremendous run from Fleetwood dashed hopes of automatic promotion before Witton this time lost at the play-off semi-final stage. After finishing runners-up for two consecutive seasons in the Premier Division, the failure to secure promotion saw a mass exodus of management and players.

Nigel Deeley, previously the popular assistant, was the unanimous choice as the new Manager with the task of rebuilding the playing squad. After 7 points from an opening 9 the Manager's fortunes changed and after a run of nine consecutive defeats the Board decided to appoint former manager Gary Finley in his place. Finley and assistant Lee Coathup (a member of the Wembley FA Trophy squad in 1992) looked to have steered Albion away from relegation, however only 3 points from the final 8 games saw Witton slump to 3rd from bottom that relegated them to the NPL Division One South.

The 2009/10 season saw Witton travel more than 3,000 miles in a mixed league campaign. Ever present in the top half of the table Witton touched the summit and appeared to be putting together a side capable of returning, at the first time of asking, to the Premier Division. Lack of consistency, injuries and a high turnover of players ultimately lead to the club missing out on the play-offs by six points and finishing 7th in the league. Manager Gary Finley departed on the final day of the season.

In May 2010 Witton appointed the experienced Paul Ogden as Manager. With more than 40 years management experience his appointment was part of an overall restructure of the club's football activities by Chairman Mark Harris and the Board. Former fan's favourite Dave MacPherson returned to the club as Assistant Player/Manager, moving up later in the season when Paul Ogden relinquished his role, whilst Brian Pritchard stepped up to the position of Assistant Player/Manager following a record breaking previous season when he increased his number of games for the club to well over the 700 mark!

At the end of the 2010/11 season and with Dave MacPherson's departed, Brian Pritchard was appointed Manager with Mike Moseley his Assistant and Nigel Deeley added onto the coaching team. These full members saw their just rewards along with the rest of the "Witton Family" when their charges won both their Play Off semi and final 3-0 to earn their place back in the NPL Premier Division for season 2012/13. With virtually the same squad the following season saw the team achieve a marvellous fourth position only to be beaten at FC United of Manchester in the Play-Off semi-final. 2013/14 however saw a very different scenario as the team skirted around the relegation positions for a good while until early March when a good set of results saw them eventually finish in sixteenth spot.

On the 2014 August Bank Holiday, Manager Brian Pritchard made the shock announcement that he was leaving the club after a total of 19 years with Witton. A massive decision for him but with his work commitments, together with his personal life to consider, then the club very reluctantly accepted his resignation. Anthony Sheehan stepped up from his role of Player Coach to manage the club and initially results went his way but a disastrous run of defeats saw him leave. Tony Sullivan was brought in from Cammell Laird at the beginning of October charged with ensuring Premier Division status was maintained. It took over four months to finally establish a run of good results and by the end of March the team were finally out of the drop zone. April though brought just a single point

from six matches the final one being at Stamford when 2-0 up at half-time against fellow relegation candidate an awful second period consigned the team to the First Division.

Tony Sullivan duly stepped away but the club was able to take advantage of NPL First Division South Norton United's sad demise to recruit their manager Scott Dundas along with almost his total backroom staff and a sizable contingent of players. However just two months into the campaign and following a poor set of results Dundas and his staff were relieved of their duties leaving Paul Ogden to step in once more along with stalwart Terry Murphy, who sadly has now passed away, to take temporary charge of team affairs prior to the appointment of former player Carl Macauley who along with his assistant Gary Martindale were the management team at Conference North Vauxhall Motors until the club's resignation. They thankfully succeeded in steadying the ship and despite the club, once again being forced to change regional divisions set about recruiting their own team, both on and off the field.

Their dedication certainly paid off in 2016/17 when, in practically any other scenario picking up nigh on 100 points and scoring 100 goals along the way would secure automatic promotion, the team won their Play-off games against AFC Rushden & Diamonds and Spalding United to regain their place back in the NPL's top flight. The first season back exceeded expectations as it was only in the final month that Albion missed out on a play-off position whilst in 2018/19, playing catch-up, the team finished in the top ten. 2020/21 saw them well placed, with games in hand, before the season was curtailed but the following season, with so many players being unavailable through injuries and Covid issues, the team struggled to get any sort of run together and ultimately finishing second bottom were relegated.

The management were subsequently relieved of their duties, the whole playing squad, many of whom had been with the club four years or so, sought pastures new and Jon Macken was duly appointed to firstly busy himself constructing a whole new team. Not surprisingly therefore it took a wee while for the squad to settle down and three months in were flirting near the relegation zone. The final 25 league games though saw just four losses and the climb up the table ended with them just shy of a play-off spot finishing in

sixth place. With virtually all the squad re-signing for this campaign coupled with a really good pre-season then all at the club are hoping for the good times to return.

F.A. Competitions

Witton Albion first made it into the Proper Rounds of the F.A. Cup in 1948. Since then they have figured in the First Round draw a further twelve times. On three occasions further progress to Round Two has been made, 1951, 1953 and 1991. The latter being as a result of Witton defeating Football League opposition for the one and only time – Halifax Town in a replay at the Shay. When Albion met Bolton Wanderers in 1990 it was to be the main BBC TV's Match of the Day. Barry Davies was in attendance and despite atrocious weather and pitch conditions the crowd of 3,784 plus the millions who tuned in saw Witton not be overawed. The soon to be promoted Wanderers, their then manager Phil Neal together with the 800 visiting fans departed much relieved with their 2-1 victory.

In the 2011/12 season's FA Cup Albion won through four rounds, accounting for higher ranked Marine and Altrincham along the way before giving Conference outfit Barrow the fright of their lives in a pulsating encounter in front of a 860 home crowd. The next six seasons though saw the team only register five wins in total although in 2016/17 they defeated higher level team Buxton 3-0 and ran Conference North Stalybridge Celtic to a replay. 18/19 season's FA Cup run saw Witton defeat both National League North clubs Spennymoor and FC United of Manchester before succumbing to the then National League highfliers Solihull Borough.

In the F.A. Trophy the three seasons of 1990/91, 91/92, 92/93 truly stand out as Witton became the first team to make three successive semi-final appearances. 1992 culminated in them making it to Wembley Stadium, where they encountered a powerful Colchester United who had already secured promotion back into the Football League. The crowd that day, in excess of 32,000, were joined by a massive T.V. audience when Sky TV relayed the whole of the Final, for the very first time. Witton had defeated Colchester the previous season at Layer Road and so revenge was very much the order of the day. Mike Lutkevitch gave the 5,000 strong following hope with his looping header, after Albion had trailed 0-2, but a late goal won the game for the Essex side.

The 16/17 season saw the team's best performance in a decade that included notching up very impressive wins over higher ranked Kettering Town and Boston United before losing out in very controversial circumstances to National League Chester FC after a replayed First Round tie. 20/21 peculiar circumstances saw Albion get to make Round 2, even though they only won one tie!

The Cheshire County F.A. Senior Cup has been won by Witton eleven times since 1902 and they have been beaten finalists on ten occasions. The 90's decade saw them carry off the trophy in 1995 & 1996 together with three further appearances in the Final. 2004 saw us again contest the Final with World media coverage and exposure following a certain "sending-off" incident. The 2006 Final saw Albion, with several Reserve team players drafted in defeat odds on favourites Stalybridge Celtic 2-0. Since then though we have only been able to make it as far as the semi-final stage three times.

Former Players

A number of former Witton Albion players have also appeared in the Football League; Geoff Horsfield (Scunthorpe, Leeds, Leicester, Sheffield Utd, West Bromwich Albion, Wigan, Fulham & Birmingham City), Andy Oakes (Darlington, Swansea, Walsall, Bolton, Derby, Port Vale and Hull), John Doolan (Rochdale, Blackpool, Doncaster, Barnet and Mansfield) and Shaun Whalley (Accrington Stanley, Wrexham, Luton, Shrewsbury). One of non-league's top goalscorers and one time the holder of the most expensive non-league transfer fee, Carl Alford (Macclesfield Town, Kettering Town, Rushden & Diamonds, Stevenage Borough, Doncaster Rovers, Yeovil Town, Nuneaton Borough) also gave his career a massive boost when he moved on from Wincham Park, having played for us in that Wembley F.A. Trophy Final. In 2005/06 Crewe's Nicky Maynard had a seven week spell on loan to us, upon his return he quickly earned a 1st team place and began scoring freely for the Alex before a £2m plus fee took him to Bristol City before signing for Premiership bound West Ham United. Later he overcame a long term injury before helping to take Cardiff City into the Premiership before joining MK Dons in 2015. Shaun Miller, three seasons ago at Bolton via Wigan Athletic, Sheffield United, Coventry City, Morecambe & Carlisle United, also returned to Crewe following a loan spell early in 2007 and completed the end of that season as a 1st team player and goalscorer. Other Crewe players loaned to Witton have gone on to make first

team appearances, namely Luke Offord, Travis Johnson & Regan Griffiths. Our 2011/12 season's "Player of the Season" Alex Titchiner was snapped up by then the new Football League outfit Fleetwood Town during the 2012 summer and spent quite some time on loan at FC Halifax Town helping them secure promotion.

Some previous players, since the mid 1960's, include Chris Nicholl (Aston Villa, Southampton, Northern Ireland), Peter Mellor (Burnley and Fulham - their goalkeeper in the FA Cup Final), Neil Parsley (Huddersfield and West Brom), Peter Henderson (Chester and Gillingham), Mark McCarrick (Birmingham and Tranmere), Phil Power (Crewe and Macclesfield), Dave Carrick (Preston, Port Vale, Wrexham), Mark Leonard (Everton, Stockport, Wigan, Rochdale, Crewe), Grenville Millington (Chester and Wales) and local talented player Mike Whitlow (Leeds, Leicester, Bolton Wanderers and Sheffield United).

Another locally born and bred midfield player, Colin Rose won caps in 1996 when called into the England semi-pro International squad whilst Andy Lee, John Davison and David Constantine retained their places in the England team, after moving to Witton from their previous clubs. In 2007/08 Liam Brownhill was chosen as the only non-league player below the Conference to feature in the England "C" team in their two European Championship matches.

In no particular order other familiar names to appear in Albion's colours over the past thirty years or so, include Nigel Gleghorn (Ipswich, Man City, Stoke, Birmingham), Kevin Langley (Everton, Wigan), Ray Wallace (Southampton, Leeds Utd.), Ray Ranson (Man. City, Everton, Newcastle), Goalkeeper John Burridge, Arthur Albiston (Man. Utd.), Nicky Reid (Man. City, West Brom.), Tony Henry (Man. City), Neil McNab (Tottenham, Bolton, Man. City), Billy Garton (Man. Utd.), Scott McGarvey (Man. Utd.), Mark Lillis (Aston Villa, Man. City), Brendan Batson (Arsenal, Cambridge, West Brom.), Frank Carrodus (Man. City, Aston Villa), Drew Brand (Everton) and Micky Mellon (Tranmere, Blackpool, Burnley, Bristol City). Ken Barnes (Man. City), ex Busby Babe Denis Violet and England and Lancashire fast bowler Ken Higgs plus the star local comedian John Bishop are amongst others that appeared over the years.

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PROFILES

MANAGERIAL STAFF

JON MACKEN – Manager, Manchester born 7/9/77 who began his career with Manchester United in 1995, joining Preston North End two years later, notching up 74 goals in his 229 (188 starts) matches until his departure to Manchester City in February 2002. Scored 12 goals in 59 (31 starts) appearances during his three years with City notably scoring in a 2004 Manchester derby! He signed for Crystal Palace (16+14-2 goals) in 2005 and while there, was loaned to Ipswich Town (13+1-3). In 2007, he moved to Derby County (6+9) but was loaned out to Barnsley (11-3 goals). Joined Barnsley (85+15-19 goals) permanently in January 2008 before signing for Walsall (75+8-17 goals) two years later. Released by the Saddlers at the end of the 2011–12 season he signed for Northwich Victoria (7-2 goals), before joining Stockport County (5+8-1) in 2013. Appeared for Bamber Bridge in 2015 before turning to management with Radcliffe Borough (Sep 2017-Jan 2020) and then the second half of last season at Colne. Jon gained an international cap for the Republic of Ireland in 2004 plus an England Under 20's cap in 1997.

STEVE ATKINSON – Coach, born in Manchester who has previously worked with Jon at both Radcliffe and Colne. A UEFA "A" license holder, he has also worked at football academies such as Bury and Manchester City.

CHRIS APPLETON - Goalkeeping coach who has moved to us from neighbours 1874 Northwich for this season. Amongst his other sports coaching roles Chris is also involved with the fitness regime at Northwich Cricket Club. =

NIGEL DEELEY – Coach who is vastly experienced, possesses a UEFA "A" Licence who has had previous spells at Witton, as a player and Manager. Made his Albion debut at just turned 15 years of age! He then played for Runcorn, Winsford and Congleton. As player manager he's been with Nantwich and Leek. Coached the Academies at Stockport County and Manchester Metro University and in 2011 he was in Mexico with the England Under 17's squad.

PAUL HOUGHTON – Title of Kit Manager but does far more than that and having come from Norton United, with a previous managerial team at the beginning of the 2015-16 season, remained loyal to us and has proved himself truly invaluable throughout the club. Known affectionately as "Square"

CURRENT PLAYING SQUAD

HARRY BRAZEL - Salford born on 31/7/91 Harry has joined us after two and a bit seasons with Bury for whom he made 99 appearances (77 starts) and netted 21 goals. Last season saw him pick up four trophies at the end of season awards, including Goal of the Season and Fans Player of the Season. Season 16/17 saw him not too far away playing 30 times, scoring twice, for Winsford United. He was signed by Stockport County in January 2017 and got to appear 7 times for the then National League North outfit until departing in summer 2018. Having had a loan spell previously that year he joined Runcorn Town permanently knocking in 16 goals in his 39 games. Played 3 times for Leek Town, on dual registration, before signing for Widnes in February 2019. After making 23 appearances (18 starts) he was released as part of Widnes's cost cutting measures in the October. February 2020 thus saw him at Welsh Premier side Cefn Druids, for whom he made 20 appearances (13 starts) before signing for the Shakers for the 21/22 campaign.

CAMERON FOGERTY – Midfielder, Manchester born on 27/8/03 who progressed through the Academy at Hyde United and got to play in 34 matches for the Tigers in the 21/22 season with only 3 of his appearances coming on as a substitute. Had a great first season with us last campaign making 36 appearances, 31 starts and finding the net in a couple of his games.

BEN HARRISON - Central Defender, Warrington born on 29/10/90 who is now in his 3rd spell with Witton after returning last mid-September and at the end of last season had clocked up 271 appearances scoring 16 goals. He commenced his football with local sides Barnton, Lostock Gralam and Mid-Cheshire College, joining us from the latter and debuting on 30/8/2010. Ben, Albion's Player of the Year 12/13, chose to leave us for Nantwich at the end of December 2014. Making 20 appearances (1 goal), at the end of the season he briefly joined Telford United but re-joined the Dabbers, making a further 99 appearances (5 goals) by the end of the 16/17 campaign. He then followed his Manager to Altrincham recording 54 appearances (2 goals). 18/19 saw him firstly on loan to Trafford before coming to us and notching 4 goals in 5 matches. Ben returned to Nantwich for the 18/19 season and racked up 50 more appearances before succumbing to injury in October 2021.

OLLIE HITCHCOX – Central Defender born 28/10/2003 in Chester who joined us at the beginning of last season following his release from Wrexham AFC where for the previous two seasons he has featured in both their Youth & Reserve team set-ups. Had a really

impressive first season here making 38 starts in his 42 appearances and scoring the season's opening goal at Newcastle Town.

TOM HOYLE - Manchester born on 4/9/2003 central defender Tom has joined us on a 3 month loan deal from Fleetwood Town. He has been part of the Cod Army's Under 18's and U 21's since joining from Bury. Spent previous loan spells last season at Bamber Bridge (3 appearances) and Colne (18 appearances, 3 goals) that included playing against us in the 1-1 draw last December

CONNOR HUGHES – Striker born 6/5/93 in Bolton who joined us in mid-November from NWCL side Daisy Hill for whom he'd netted 43 times in his 54 matches. Equalled a 75 year old Witton record when scoring 4 times on his home debut. Commenced his career with four seasons at Oldham Athletic making 8 1st team appearances since when, amongst his clubs, have been Hyde, Halifax, Worcester, Stalybridge, Curzon Ashton, Ashton and Widnes. Having netted 11 times in 13 appearances an injury sustained at Macclesfield in early February put paid to him improving on this impressive record last campaign.

LEE JACKSON – Defender Bolton born on 31/10/90 who joined us for last season from Macclesfield FC for whom he made 11 appearances in their previous season's championship team between October and April. Prior to then he made 96 appearances for 1874 Northwich whom he joined in August 2017 after spending three seasons at Congleton Town, making 92 appearances for the Bears. Lee had previously been on the books of Manchester United and Stockport County from whom he was loaned to Mossley making 5 appearances in March 2009. Woodley Sports, Ashton United (10 appearances in early 2011), Prescot Cables, Trafford FC in October 2012 and Knutsford have also been his ports of call. Played 33 times for us last season with 29 starts and netted once.

DORIAN JEDRZEJCZYK – Right side Midfielder, Polish born on 22/10/2004, Dorian having impressed pre-season in an unfamiliar right wing back role, has been signed for this campaign. Season 20/21 saw him with the Reserve team at Crewe FC scoring 6 times in his 7 matches (4 starts). He then was on the books at Macclesfield FC in their "C" team and last season in their U19's competing in the National Football Youth League. Last season also saw him playing Youth football for Nantwich Town

TAYLOR KENNERLEY – Left sided wing back, born in Crewe 14/12/97 who joined us for last season after playing, since February 2017, for 1874 Northwich for whom he made 178 appearances and scored 36 goals.

Prior to then he came through the youth team ranks at Runcorn Linnets to make their 2015 & 2016 first-team squads appearing 14 times, scoring once. Made 33 Albion appearances, 29 starts and scored once last campaign.

MIKE KORAL – Defensive wing-back born in Manchester on 6/10/92 Mike initially joined us as a striker for the 2014/15 season, when he made a two-step jump up from playing North West Counties football. Mike was part of the Crewe Alexandra Academy set-up and in February 2012 went on loan to Congleton Town where he scored 8 goals in his 9 appearances. He signed permanently for them the following season and in his two seasons made a further 104 appearances scoring 33 times. Unfortunately, a broken toe curtailed his start to his Albion career and after making just 6 starts in his 15 appearances (2 goals) he left to join Runcorn Town in January 2015. The 16/17 campaign saw him back at Congleton Town (42 appearances, 6 goals). The next season Winsford United gained his services and by the time he left in mid-September 2018 he'd made 44 appearances, 11 goals. 1874 Northwich was his next club for whom he made 64 appearances, 9 goals before joining Nantwich Town (11 appearances) in mid-September 2020. Mike then returned to 1874 Northwich for the 21/22 season and made 40 appearances, 4 goals. Last season saw him start in all of his 43 appearances and get on the score-sheet 5 times.

JAMES LAWRIE - Attacking Midfielder born in Dundonald, County Down on 18/12/1990 but brought up in Middlewich, who initially joined us in October 2021 from Nantwich Town. Came through the youth ranks at Port Vale to make 8 starts in his 30 appearances scoring twice, loaned to Kidderminster (3+7-1) before signing for AFC Telford United (25-4) for the 2010-11 campaign. Following an initial loan Jimmy signed permanently for Altrincham (2011-17) and made 231+43 appearances scoring 51 times for the Robins. Signed for Hednesford Town (37+10-7) for the 17/18 season before joining Nantwich Town for whom he'd made 101 appearances netting 16 times. James as well as making 23 Under 17-21 Youth International appearances, scoring 8 goals, earned himself 3 full Northern Ireland international caps in 09/10. Made 28 appearances, 3 goals before opting to join Hanley Town in August but after 26 appearances, 5 goals re-signed in early January and took his Albion appearances up to 44 and goals tally to 5.

MATT LOWTON - Defender born 9/6/89 in Chesterfield who was signed early November following his release, after 8 seasons, from Burnley. Joined Sheffield United's academy in 2004. After spending a spell on loan at Sheffield FC went out

on loan Hungarian club Ferencváros, making 20 appearances before making the break into United's first team in 2010. After making 89 appearances (76 starts) & 10 goals he was sold to Aston Villa in 2012. After three seasons and 82 games, 72 in the Premier League, Matt joined Burnley in 2015. Racked up 193 appearances (188 starts). The final 3 months of last season saw him on loan to Huddersfield Town playing in 9 matches for the Terriers.

OLLIE MARTIN – Goalkeeper born 4/10/95 in Stockport who finished the 21/22 season making 12 appearances, 3 clean sheets with City of Liverpool. A graduate of the Manchester City academy, as well as completing a two year scholarship with Fleetwood Town, captaining the Youth team in his second year. As a first year scholar he was heavily involved with the first team, before subsequently making his first team squad debut making the bench in early 2013. He then joined Stalybridge Celtic for the 14/15 campaign. After a brief spell in Sweden with Ange IF Ollie then had a couple of spells at New Mills sandwiched between being 39 matches for Mossley in 17/18. Joining Radcliffe he kept 30 clean sheets in his 90 appearances up until leaving them in mid-March 2020. He was then on the books of FC United of Manchester but appeared for both Ramsbottom United and Ashton United prior to his move to City of Liverpool in January 2022. An ever present for the Albion last season keeping 9 clean sheets in 45 games.

JOE MWASILE – Attacking wide midfielder, Zambian born 6/7/93 Joe joined us initially from Nantwich Town in mid-February 2022 making 14 appearances and scoring twice. He's now re-joined for this campaign having played for Nantwich, Prescot Cables, City of Liverpool, AFC Liverpool and finally 21 times for Ashton Athletic last season. Having come through the Academy at Morecambe he made 30 appearances for the Shrimpers. Had loan spells with Workington, Altrincham & Barrow before joining Workington in 2014. There then followed spells with Burscough, Salford City and Marine prior to commencing his initial period with Nantwich Town in October 2016. After starting the following season at Warrington Joe rejoined the Dabbers in October 2017 and accumulated 182 appearances scoring 23 goals through his 3 spells.

BRANDON NEWELL – Midfielder, Stoke-on-Trent born 14/8/04 who joined from Stalybridge Celtic, after making 19 appearances, in mid-November. Commenced his career with Rotherham moving after 6 games to Abbey Hulton where he became the youngest-ever recipient of the North West Counties First Division South Player of the Year award in 2022. Macclesfield signed him for last season whilst dual

registering him at Wythenshawe Town. Unfortunately he suffered an ACL injury pre-season and didn't play again until March when having re-joined on dual registration he took his total appearances for Abbey Hulton up to 35.

TOM POPE – Striker born 27/8/85 in Stoke-on-Trent who has been signed for this season after scoring 38 times for Congleton Town in 99 outings over the previous two campaigns. Having graduated previously at their Academy, Tom signed professional terms for Crewe Alexandra in 2005 after a spell playing for Biddulph Victoria. Following loan spells at Lancaster, Stafford and Barrow he got to make his 1st team debut for the Alex on 10/3/07. By the end of the 08/09 season he'd made 64 appearances (38+26-16 goals). £150k then saw him at Rotherham (41+18-6) where he was also loaned to Port Vale (10+3-3) for 3 months at the beginning of 2011, the Valiants signing him permanently for the next campaign. 168 starts, 15 subs and 66 goals later he was at Bury (61+19-14) for the 15/16 & 16/17 seasons. A second 4 season stint at Port Vale (104+35-49) then ensued and with it his rightful place amongst the Vale's greatest ever players, second highest ever scorer and the best post-war!

JOHN PRITCHARD - Manchester born on 29/9/95 John who is on joint registration with Glossop North End joined us in mid October having been on Stalybridge Celtic's books. Commenced his career as a trainee at Manchester United before signing for Oldham Athletic getting to make a FL appearance on 21/12/13. 14/15 saw him with FC United followed by spells at Trafford & New Mills prior to joining Ramsbottom United in November 2015. Having made 16 appearances the next season saw him with Northwich Victoria before his first spell at Ashton United for whom he scored 10 times in his 34 appearances. Briefly on loan to West Didsbury & Chorlton he then was signed by Chester FC scoring 4 times in his 10 appearances prior to going on loan for the rest of the 18/19 campaign to Buxton (21 apps, 4 goals). Returned to Ashton for the 19/20 season (18 apps) and then joined Wythenshawe Town (21 apps). January 2022 and Radcliffe (11 apps.) was his next club. Last season saw him at Cheadle Town.

OLI ROBERTS – Defensive or Central Midfield player, born in Ashton-under-Lyne on 23/9/96 who has joined us this season after playing for Wythenshawe Town (11 matches) at the end of 22/23. Started his youth career at Stockport County before moving to Stoke City in 2012. During his time there he had a 6 match loan spell at Conference North Tamworth in October 2015 before joining Fleetwood Town for the 16/17 campaign, getting to make one 1st team appearance (9/11/16) for the Cods. At Stalybridge and making 54 appearances

(46+8-4 goals) in 17/18. Then played in the U.S. for New Orleans Jesters before returning to play for both Mickleover and Buxton (4+1) prior to a first spell at Atherton Collieries (24+5-2). Then spent a year at Trafford (21+5-1). 20/21 saw him in a first spell at Colne (40+4-3) rejoining Colls (2+3) beginning of last season and then Colne again (19+1-3) before signing for Wythenshawe.

ELLIOT ROKKA – Forward born in Stockport 16/3/96 who joined us for last season after playing the previous two seasons at Atherton Collieries (24 starts in 44 matches scoring 6 times). He began his football career in the academy at Manchester United, spent a season at Riomaioir in Portugal before moving to Macclesfield Town in 2014 and progressing to feature in the Silkmen's first team. Then signed by Radcliffe Borough where he was their Young Player of the Year in 2016-17 having scored 16 goals. His performances earned him a move to Tranmere Rovers, going on loan to Colwyn Bay in December 2017 and Hyde United (9 matches, 2 goals). Played in Tranmere's final match of the season but was released and re-signed for Radcliffe in August 2018 making 43 appearances and scoring 4 times in his 23 starts prior to moving to Atherton Collieries in March 2020. Signed a four-week loan deal at the end of November 2021 with phoenix club Macclesfield FC and further loan with Colne (6 matches, 1 goal) in February 2022. Last campaign saw him make 38 appearances, 29 starts and find the net 8 times.

JACK SHERRATT – Midfielder born 27/9/93 in Winchester who has joined after spending last season at Nantwich Town (30 appearances). Was with Witton Albion previously for 1 match in August 2014. Commenced his career with 8 years at Port Vale then at Alsager Town (35 apps., 4 goals), Stone Dominoes in 2010/11 (13 apps), Manchester Metropolitan University and Kidsgrove Athletic. He then beat more than 5,500 others to win the Samsung 'Win A Pro Contract' that took him to Leyton Orient in 2013-14, with loan spells at Cray Wanderers and Stalybridge Celtic. Left Witton to join Northwich Victoria (3 goals), moving to Ashton United (4 apps.) before spending the 15/16 campaign back at Kidsgrove. Four seasons with Stafford Rangers followed (169 apps, 16 goals) then a couple at Hyde United (21 apps, 1 goal). His main Honours have been England Schoolboys (U 18 level in 2011 and the Evo-Stik League First Division South Young Player of the Year in 2012-13).

AARON SINGH GREWAL – Midfielder, born 30/11/2001 in Crewe who has joined this season after an impressive pre-season trial. A product of the Curzon Ashton Academy before joining West Didsbury & Chorlton for whom he made 30 appearances netting 3 times. He was snapped up by Stalybridge Celtic in

January 2022, making 19 appearances, albeit mainly from the bench, the last being on March 4th 2023.

KINGSLEY WILLIAMS – Midfielder born 10/8/92 in Bolton who followed Jon Macken from Colne where he made 17 appearances at the start of 2022. His career began playing in Sheffield United's youth set up before appearing for Northwich Victoria in 2010/11, Bacup Borough (90 matches, 14 goals) and Alfreton Town. In January 2013 he moved out to Australia playing for Sydney Olympic before joining Cultural Deportiva Leonesa in the Spanish Segunda División in September 2014. In January 2015, a move to AC Monza fell through and he made his way back to England training with Crawley Town prior to signing for Ilkeston FC in July 2015. Following trials with Hartlepool United and Kidderminster Harriers he signed for Trafford making 60 appearances in his 16 month spell there. December 2017 saw him at Radcliffe where he remained, having captained the team, until January 2020. The remainder of 2020 saw him play in 20 matches for Widnes scoring 3 goals. Before joining Colne 21/22 saw him also have brief spells at Prestwich Heys, Ashton United, Radcliffe and Widnes. Appointed Albion's team captain he featured in 34 matches, 28 starts and netted once come the end of last season.

HARRY WRIGHT – Goalkeeper, born in Ipswich 3/11/98 the son of ex England, Ipswich Town, Arsenal and Everton goalkeeper Richard Wright. After starting out with Manchester City's youth academy, he joined the Tractor Boys in 2015 signing professional in July 2017. Had a loan spell with Chelmsford City in March 2019, and with Swedish second-tier side GAIS in 2020. Featured for Ipswich's senior side in a pre-season friendly match against Colchester United ahead of the 2020/21 season. In June 2021, Harry left Portman Road permanently, joining Fleetwood Town on a two-year deal. Spent a month on loan at Farsley Celtic in the October and come the end of the season, by mutual agreement terminated the contract to allow him to explore other opportunities. Has signed dual registration forms with NWCL side Bury FC.

DAN YATES – Midfielder born in Crewe on 13/10/2003 Dan a locally based player who made a few pre-season appearances has been signed up for this season. Was part of Albion's Academy set-up in 2020 having played previously for local club Davenham Juniors. Dan has also signed dual terms with Winsford United.



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Damian CROSSLEY

MANAGER

Jon MACKEN



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Eric BYRNE*				
Max CHIMENES*				
Jordao COSTA				
Jamal CRAWFORD*				
Matthew FENTON*				
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Chris MCCANN				
Jack MARROW*				
Kacper MIALKOWSKI*				
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Jonny SODHI*				
Lucas WEIR*				
Matt WOOLLEY*				

Harry BRAZEL				
*Cameron FOGERTY				
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*Ollie HITCHCOX				
*Connor HUGHES				
*Lee JACKSON				
*Taylor KENNERLEY				
*Michael KORAL				
James LAWRIE				
*Matt LOWTON				
*Ollie MARTIN				
*Brandon NEWELL				
Tom POPE				
John PRITCHARD				
*Oli ROBERTS				
*Elliot ROKKA				
Jack SHERRATT				
*Kingsley WILLIAMS				

*Asterisks indicate present in last/predicted matchday squad

Live Information

MATCH OFFICIALS

REF: Jonathan WYATT
AST 1: Ali RAHJO
AST 2: Albert GENT

NEXT FIXTURE

@ NANTWICH TOWN
01/01/24 - 3.00PM
NPL - WEST

