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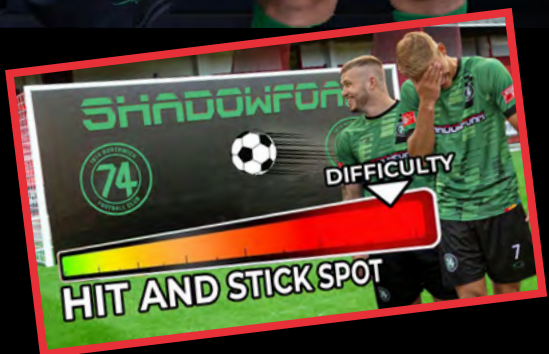
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PROGRAMME: programme@1874northwich.com

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vs **NORTHWICH VICTORIA**

TUESDAY 9TH DEC 2024 | K.O. 7.45PM



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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good evening everyone,

Tonight we welcome the Players, Officials and Supporters of Northwich Victoria FC to Townfield Lane for tonight's Mid Cheshire Senior Cup clash,

An anomaly of local football, The Mid Cheshire Senior Cup has a long and illustrious history within the locality of Northwich and its surrounds, and whilst some may feel it to be a minor local competition, to supporters of all the clubs involved its importance is clear to see.

Tonight's game will surely come as a welcome distraction from the rigours of each club's respective league campaigns and whilst at 1874 Northwich FC we await the return of a number of important players back from injury, it is yet another opportunity for manager Damian to continue to bed a number of additions into the 1874 Northwich team as his squad rebuild continues.

Please enjoy tonight's game, I am sure that both sets of supporters will be passionately behind their respective teams in what is sure to be an exciting and wholly competitive meeting.

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All the best,

Steve

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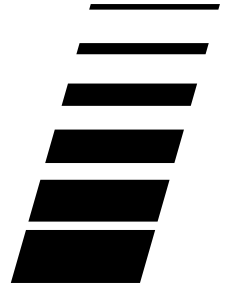
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MATCH CENTRE 23/24

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				Metcalf 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	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	1-2	0-1	1018	Marrow			Wyatt J
Jan 1	Nantwich Town	0-1	0-1	507				Kearney G
6	PRESCOT CABLES	0-1	0-1	353				Aldred R
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	-						

Online Match Centre

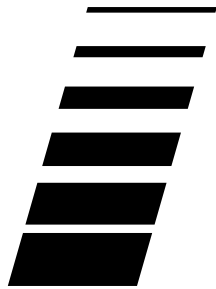
1874 NORTHWICH 2023/24 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 08/01/24

		2023/24 SEASON					ALL-TIME					Total Apps
		Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	
ADEKOYA	Daya	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	4	2	0	4
ADETILOYE	Sam	6	4	7	1	0	11	5	18	6	0	29
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
BIANGA	Andreas	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
BIRCHALL	Matty	10	1	3	1	1	10	1	3	1	1	13
BRADLEY	Lewis	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	1
BROE	Ollie	1	1	0	0	0	15	5	8	10	0	23
BYRNE	Eric	5	2	5	7	1	5	2	5	7	1	10
CHIMENES	Max	15	2	0	0	1	15	2	0	0	1	15
COSTA	Jordao	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	5	0	1
CRAWFORD	Jamal	14	8	4	0	1	21	14	15	3	1	36
ELLIS	Gabe	3	1	2	2	0	3	1	2	2	0	5
FAGAN	Tom	3	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	3
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	Joel	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
JONES	Mark	20	1	1	0	0	226	15	7	5	9	233
KIRWAN	Jacob	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
LE GRAND-AKPO	Jerry	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
MARROW	Jack	14	3	3	2	1	46	7	8	19	3	54
MCCANN	Chris	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2
MIALKOWSKI	Kacper	9	1	2	0	0	9	1	2	0	0	11
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	16	11	7	0	2	16	11	7	0	2	23
NOBLE	Isaac	7	4	7	0	0	15	12	22	17	2	37
OLIVER	Sam	3	2	2	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	5
OLLERENSHAW	Josh	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SHORTHOUSE	Mike	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
SIYAM	Mohammad	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	5	9	0	5
SODHI	Jonny	0	0	1	11	0	0	0	1	11	0	1
WEIR	Lucas	23	1	0	0	4	59	5	12	11	10	71
WILLIAMS	Elliot	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	3	0	2
WONNACOTT	Matt	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
WOOLLEY	Matt	22	5	1	0	1	359	55	31	28	45	390

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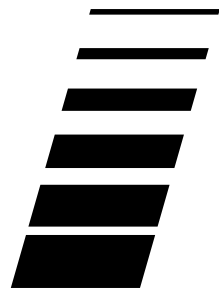
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Mike IBETO	
Mark JONES	Gary & Karen Halvorsen
Jack MARROW	Frank Kirkham
Chris MCCANN	The Davies Family
Kacper MIALKOWSKI	Shadow Society
Benji MULLARKEY	Phil Knapper
Jamie NICHOLSON	Azariah Goodison
Isaac NOBLE	1874 Ultras
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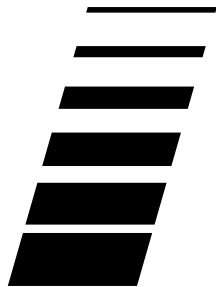
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RESPECT INITIATIVE

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
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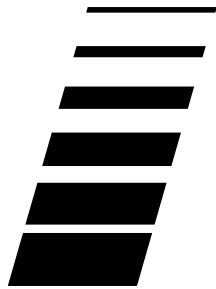
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

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.



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(Tracksuit/Polo)

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Includes any additional detail, all bespoke to your club.

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.

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 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

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 NWCFI 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 –

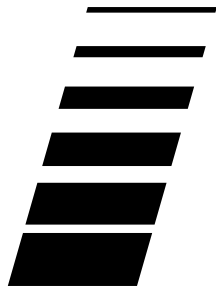
After initially featuring for our U21 side,, 23 year old Lucas broke in to 74's first-team in 2018 and quickly became an important part of the side, developing into an all-round midfield player who could also play in defence when the need arose. After taking a break away from the club to play and study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



HISTORIES

TODAY'S VISITORS: NORTHWICH VICTORIA



HISTORY

The Early Days

Northwich Victoria was formed in 1874 and named in honour of the reigning monarch, Queen Victoria. The following year the club established themselves at the Drill Field, so named, as it was the former Drilling Ground of the 22nd Company of the 3rd battalion of the Cheshire Rifle Volunteers.

Vics' initially played only friendly matches but graduated to a loose association of clubs called the Combination. A giant step forward was taken in 1892 when Northwich became founder members of the 2nd division of the Football League. Two seasons were spent in the league but the financial burden of professionalism saw the club resigning league status at the end of the second year. During Vics' final season in the league, they acquired the services of the legendary Billy Meredith, the peerless Welsh wizard of the wing.

The club returned to the Combination until 1898 when it joined the newly formed Cheshire League where it stayed for two years. A spell in the Manchester league followed before the club became members of the Lancashire Combination in 1912/13. Organised football came to a halt at the outbreak of the Great War but when hostilities ceased, the Vics' joined the newly formed Cheshire League. Although a top ranking club, the title was captured just once in a memorable 1956/57 campaign.

The Glory Years

Vics' again became founder members of a new league when they accepted an invitation from the Northern Premier League in 1968, remaining there until they signalled their ambition by joining the new Nationwide Alliance Premier League in 1979. Last season was the club's 25th continuous season among the elite of non-league football.

Before joining the national elite however, Vics' name had been on the tips of the nation's tongues following the remarkable FA Cup run in 1976/77. The team defeating three football league sides en route to the fourth round – Rochdale, Peterborough and Watford (the latter being watched by a crowd of 8,989 at the Drill Field including at that time their chairman Sir Elton John), before finally bowing out to Oldham Athletic in a game seen by nearly 30,000 at Maine Road.

In 1982/83 the Club reached its finest hour when they won through to the final of the FA Trophy but lost 2-1 to Telford United at Wembley. The Vics' faithful had only to wait twelve months before returning to the twin towers, where they drew 1-1 with Bangor City. To the delight of their fans the Greens won the replay 2-1 at Stoke's aptly named Victoria Ground.

After a short spell in the doldrums the 1990's saw Vics' begin to reassert themselves as a leading force in semi-professional football. Most notably, when defeating Martin O'Neill's Wycombe Wanderers on their home turf in April 1993 to lift the Drinkwise Cup.

In 1995/96 Vics' continued their progress, recording a best finish of eighth in the league and another trip to Wembley in the FA Trophy, a fantastic achievement considering they were drawn away from home in each round. Alas, it was not a successful one as Cheshire rivals Macclesfield Town proved too strong on the day, winning 3-1.

Five years on, Vics' sampled further FA Cup glory under the management of Keith Alexander. The club claimed their first league scalp for 17 years defeating Bury at the Drill Field in a first round replay, before turning a 2-0 deficit against Leyton Orient into a 3-2 lead before a late equaliser earned the Londoners a replay at Brisbane Road, a game which they in turn won 3-2 after extra time having trailed the Vics' 2-0, a thrilling match screened live on Sky TV.

When Alexander was offered the post of Director of Coaching at Lincoln City in the summer of 2001, he was replaced for two seasons at Northwich by former Northern Ireland international Jimmy Quinn. After Quinn departed for Shrewsbury Town, Vic's unsuccessfully suffered three more managers before finishing bottom of the Conference in 2003/04, only to survive relegation on ground technicalities at other clubs.

Following the sale of the famous Drill Field ground, Vics undertook ground sharing with neighbours Witton Albion which lasted a further 3 seasons.

2004-2009

In September 2004 the club went into administration and suffered a 10 point deduction. However, against all the odds current manager Steve Burr and his team produced some fantastic performances, eventually finishing outside the bottom three, culminating in the team being voted "Non-League club of the year" by the Non-League paper.

However due to a technicality in the club administration Vics suffered their first relegation since the foundation of the conference league & started the 2005/2006 season in the conference north.

The club under the ownership of Mike Connett commenced the season at the newly built Victoria Stadium & their form matched their superb new facilities as they went fifteen games undefeated before emphasis shifted to a tremendous F.A Cup run.

After victories against Frickley, North Ferraby, Barrow, Morecambe & Woking the run culminated in the Vics' playing their first ever game against a Premiership side, and a great day out against Sunderland at the Stadium Of Light in front of 19,323 fans & cheered on by over 3,500 Vics' supporters, the team produced a battling display, finally losing the game 3-0. After slipping to 3rd in the league during January & February the team embarked on a record breaking run of 15 consecutive victories & were eventually crowned champions after defeating closest rivals Stafford Rangers by a 3-1 scoreline on the penultimate Saturday of the season this time cheered on by a record 3,154 at the Victoria Stadium.

Vics' didn't find it easy going back into the conference national and at times were too close to the bottom four for comfort. However, a superb run of five victories at the end of March when they defeated the likes of Oxford United, Dagenham & Redbridge, Kidderminster, Crawley Town and Tamworth saw them finish in a comfortable 13th place position in the league. They also had a successful FA Trophy run which saw them reach the semi finals stage before being defeated 4-3 on aggregate to Kidderminster Harriers. At the end of a long hard season the club was rocked by the sudden resignation of manager Steve Burr and his move to Stalybridge Celtic.

Neil Redfearn took over the manager's job at the start of the 2007/2008 season. But his reign only lasted until mid October after only picking up one point from the first nine games of the season. Paul Warhurst stepped in for just two games before he too resigned.

Dino Maamaria, one of the senior professionals at the club took over in a caretaker role until the position could be advertised, but he impressed the club officials & supporters so much that he was soon given the job on a full-time basis.

It took until 24th November 2008 for Vics' to register their first league win of the campaign against Rushden & Diamonds. The second half of the season saw a massive improvement in results and against all odds

they secured safety from relegation with a tremendous 2-1 victory at Stevenage Borough in the penultimate game of the season.

Under the new ownership of Jim Rushe with the backing of the main sponsors Encia the club look forward to a bright future.

2009 - 2015

On 19 May 2009 the club went into administration for the second time in five years following their relegation from the Conference National; they were threatened with a double relegation to the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League as a result of this, but ultimately won an appeal to be placed into the Conference North for the 2009-10 season.

On 24 October 2009, under the management of Andy Preece and Andy Morrison - Northwich played FC United of Manchester in the FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round. Northwich won the game 3-0. In the First Round proper, Northwich were drawn against former Premier League side Charlton Athletic, which was televised live on ITV1, providing much needed revenue for the club. Northwich won the game 1-0. Northwich were then drawn against Lincoln City, a match which was again televised on ITV1. The game was played on 28 November, with Lincoln winning the game 3-1.

The 2009-10 season saw Northwich achieve a mid-table finish, but due to the ongoing financial problems, the club were expelled from the league and placed in the Northern Premier Division.

During the season, Northwich won the Cheshire Senior Cup for the first time in 15 years, beating Woodley Sports on penalties. This was their first piece of silverware since they won the Conference North in 2006. They remain unbeaten in the competition under the management of Andy Preece and have reached the final for the 2010-11 season for the second successive year.

By the start of the new season, only 3 players from the previous season remained in the squad. The reserve feeder team, Woodley F.C., became Northwich Villa - who play in Division One of the Cheshire Football League. Many of the squad for that season came through the new structure into the first teams squad.

The 2011 / 2012 campaign saw the team relegated from the Evo - Stik Premier League, even though the team finished 2nd. The season saw Andy Preece leave for Airbus UK, and two other managers in the hot seat namely Paul Simpson and Martin Foyle.

Andy Mutch and Alan Wright took the helm for the following campaign which the team will contest in the Evo Stik Division One South. After an up and down beginning to the season Mutch resigned and was replaced by the then Kendal Town manager Lee Ashcroft with former Wigan Athletic legend Ian Kilford appointed as his right hand man. Lee guided the Trickies to a very respectable 8th placed-finish, narrowly missing out on a play-off place taking the season right to the end groundsharing with Stafford Rangers.

2013/2014 and 2014/15 saw Vics' switch leagues to the Northern section of the Northern Premier League First Division, hosting games at Valley Road in Flixton.

The 2014/15 season saw Vics' finish in fourth spot in the Evo-Stik NPL Division One North table, losing 2-1 away to Bamber Bridge in the promotion play-off semi-final after extra time. A 16th Mid-Cheshire Senior Challenge Cup title was added to the honours list, defeating Witton Albion 4-0 in the final at the Help For Heroes Stadium in Northwich. The Club narrowly missed out on a 20th Cheshire FA Senior Cup title, losing to Vanarama Conference Premier giants - and old foes Macclesfield Town by the odd goal in three; by 3-2. Vics' had hauled themselves back into the game to draw level at 2-2; from a parlous position at 0-2 down early in the piece.

2015 – 2017

Season 2015/16 saw the Vics' back in their home town of Northwich, having agreed a three-year groundshare with Evo-Stik Premier Division One North neighbours Witton Albion F.C. Despite the departure of manager Jim Gannon to his beloved Stockport County, a third place finish was achieved in the Evo-Stik NPL Division One North League campaign and the season ended with a heartbreaking promotion play-off final defeat 2-0 away to Spennymoor Town. The second round of the FA Cup was incredibly reached and was cruelly (and most observers said undeservedly) ended at eventual runaway league two title winners,

Northampton Town by 3-2 after establishing a 2-0 lead just past the hour mark. The run to the second round took in notable victories against higher-league opposition; away at National League Club, Boreham Wood in the first round and National League North Club, Chorley F.C, again away from home in the fourth qualifying round.

The 2016/17 season was a tough one for the Club and supporters of the Green and Whites. With off-field developments overshadowing the hard work of players and management, the new-look team struggled at the lower end of the table for much of the season. The resignation of manager Adam Lakeland was followed swiftly by the departure of his assistant and caretaker boss Dave Wild, and new manager Paul Moore certainly had his work cut out from the start. Sadly, the writing was on the wall for Vics and despite some last-gasp heroics and potential lifelines at the end of the season, the announcement came that the Club was to enter administration yet again (along with the inevitable 10-point deduction) and relegation to Step 5 was confirmed.

2017 - 2023

June 2017 brought probably one of the most important developments in the history of this grand old institution, as an agreement was reached for the Northwich Victoria Supporters Association to take full control of the Club. This, coupled with a ground-share agreement with Barnton FC, ensured that the Club would remain in Northwich. September also saw the arrival of former Wigan Athletic and Preston professional Steve Wilkes. With a management career that began in 1997 and peaked with NWCPL league win in 2012-13 with Padiham he brought in long-term assistant Steve Pickup and coach Andy Payton with stability being the immediate target. A season of recruitment and rebuilding saw Vics finish 16th.

Season 2018/19 saw the Trickies finish in a credible 4th place and enjoy a long run in the FA Vase where a defeat by penalties in the semi-final against Chertsey Town dashed Wembley dreams. Some silverware was regained as the Victorians won the Mid-Cheshire Senior Cup running out 4-3 winners on penalties against Winsford United. Two seasons followed, affected by Covid before normality returned, Vic

narrowly missed out on the promotion spots finishing 5th in both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons. Another Mid-Cheshire Senior Cup was added to the honours board before Steve Wilkes announced his departure from the club and the seasons end.

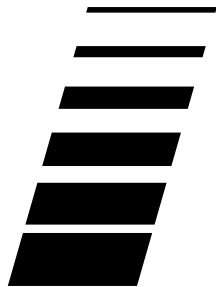
By Order of the Peaky Blinders

The departure of Wilkes was not the only bad news the Northwich faithful had to face as the rumours of possible lateral transfer to the Midlands League were confirmed in May and despite an appeal to the FA the club found itself with a logistical and financial mountain to climb. The situation was further exasperated when the whole playing staff expressed the wish to move on citing the extra travelling as reason behind the decision. On the cusp of the new season the club had not one first team player registered. Newly appointed manager Steve Pickup stepped up from the assistant role and with his staff a call to arms was sent out and trials were hastily put in place.

Season 2023/24 has seen some mixed results as the new team begins to gel however all the signs are positive and the fact the club is able to fulfil every fixture can be seen as an achievement. Going forwards Northwich Victoria can look forward to celebrating 2 significant anniversaries with the 40 years since the FA Trophy win and the magnificent accomplishment of 150 years as a football club.

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:

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Lee Broughton
Phil Burgess
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Mark Taylor
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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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