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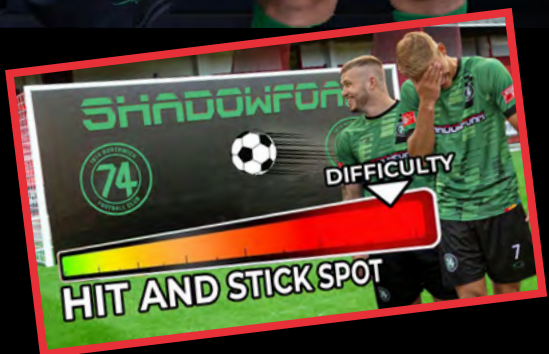
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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **CITY OF LIVERPOOL**

SATURDAY 17TH FEB 2024 | K.O. 3.00PM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Brian Edge

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FINANCE: John Coats

FOOTBALL: Vicki England

COMPANY: Maggie Coats

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ENGAGEMENT: Andrew Dignum

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FOOTBALL SECRETARY: Vicki England

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PROOF READERS: Richard Webb/Richard Bush

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Ben Davies

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

MATCH REPORTS: Jack Owen

WEBSITE: Mark Edgeley

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF:

FIRST TEAM INTERIM MANAGERS:

Mark Jones and Matthew Woolley

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Katy Bagshaw

KIT MANAGER: Andy Williams

UNDER 21s MANAGER: Kyle Murray

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to this afternoon's NPL Div One match against City of Liverpool FC. It is my pleasure to welcome their Officials, Management and Players to Townfield.

I have to admit that the last week has not been the easiest of times. Dismissing Damian was not a decision that was taken easily. However it was a decision that needed to be taken for the good of the football club and that ultimately is the overall priority of mine and the rest of your board members.

Damian worked tirelessly during his tenure as manager at 1874 Northwich FC. He brought energy and passion to the role and I would like to thank him for that, unfortunately it just did not work out for him.

The issues that bedeviled Damians tenure as manager were reminiscent of those faced by our previous managers, and because of this it is important that as a Board we identify and address those issues as part of our search for a long term management solution.

Hopefully you will agree that the long term sustainability of the club is more important than a short term knee jerk reaction.

As a club we are once again indebted to Mark and Matt who immediately agreed to take up the responsibility of managing the team for the foreseeable future, I know that you will all be giving them your full support.

I know that many of you will have concerns and questions at this moment in time and I and the rest of the board are always available to discuss these with you.

More than ever, your club needs your support.

We have so much to be proud of, but inevitably the road forward is never straight or easy.

Please enjoy this afternoon's game and as always:

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SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to Townfield, for a second home game on the bounce.

Today we welcome friends from City of Liverpool, a fellow fans run club and one that we have built a good rapport with over the years. Welcome to the officials, players and 'Purps' supporters who've travelled over; they all find themselves just below midway in the table after a steady season on the pitch. I know they are experiencing some issues off the pitch just now and I wish them the best in dealing with them.

We came to Townfield last Saturday with some optimism following a creditable draw at Mossley, and being able to choose an unchanged side we felt positive about taking on the challenge against Trafford. However, as we all know, it didn't pan out as we hoped, and we suffered a heavy defeat in a game that we really needed to do well in. It left everyone extremely disappointed, no-one more so than Damian, who was a little lost for words after a week of preparing the team correctly.

It is difficult for me to sum up all events at 1874 over the last seven days. You now know that Damian has been relieved of his duties and this came after a catch up with him and an honest but very amicable conversation. I know clubs will write 'amicable' in times like these, which can sometimes be a word to gloss over what's been said and help to put a situation to bed. However I can promise you that the relationship between Damian, the Board and the 'backroom' team was very, very good and amicable and respectful is exactly what it was.

There is no doubt that Damo worked incredibly hard for this football club. He was chosen after a very thorough recruitment process and his vision and enthusiasm shone through. Damian knew exactly what he was coming to, a club that needed to roll its sleeves up, one which didn't have the biggest budget or could offer the best facilities in the league, however that didn't faze him. He liked the

club; he got a good vibe when he visited, and he truly felt that he could make a difference.

Damian made an impact immediately by speaking to all players and letting those lads go whom he thought wouldn't play a part in the future to enable them to have the chance to play elsewhere. This meant that training would be a bit more focussed with those that he felt were truly in competition for places. Damo proved himself an excellent coach over the time he was with us, the players said the sessions were good and that he had lots of enthusiasm to improve our situation.

Sadly for Damian, he was dealt quite a few blows with injuries to key players and other squad members moving on elsewhere. He was able to bring some players in to balance things up and despite his best efforts to recruit further, it became a tricky situation for him. It must be noted that some people, whom he thought would be 'up for the fight,' let him down. The Board had to make a difficult decision with the best interests of the club at heart but also with Damian's wellbeing in mind, before the situation became even more difficult.

I have a lot of respect for Damo. I applaud his extremely hard work, his passion to want to do well for our club, his integrity, for the endless hours he was on the phone talking to players and other managers. I felt for him, as each day it seemed there would be another problem to deal with and I joked with him about how he managed to keep sane. He was always mindful of the support that he and the players received, despite disappointing results. He was always appreciative that people paid to support them home and away and wanted to succeed for everyone. His tenure might have been shorter than we, and he, hoped, but he has left with our respect, admiration for his enthusiasm and our very best wishes and we truly hope it won't be long before he finds a good place in football. He deserves it.

We now look to move on, again with Matt and Mark



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helping to steer the ship. The squad is lighter in terms of numbers, since the last time they stepped up and we are all aware that the job in hand is a difficult one. But we know that these two well respected guys will do their absolute best for 1874, as they have always done. The Board's task now is to take stock of the situation at this present time, but with one eye on the future. I'll turn my attention to comments I have read over the last week. I completely appreciate that words and thoughts come from people who care about the club, and that's important. Supporters have their own ideas about what should have happened, and what should happen next. They have their own thoughts on individuals that have been involved, with much being said about "where they went wrong." I understand that this includes us as Board members too, as we have a greater responsibility to shape what happens. There's something I want to say about this.

Every person, past or present, who has done something for the club has a terrific affinity and affection for 1874. That is not in doubt. Quite often things don't work out as hoped, despite peoples' best efforts, but those efforts, or decisions made, come from the heart and with a great

will to do what is right. If plans don't materialise, then you must learn from them.

I've mentioned previously that things are not always black and white, and I totally understand that supporters don't always get to see the wider picture and difficulties that the club faces. 'Boost the Budget' money alone, won't fix everything. We have been blessed over our short life, to have had many brilliant times and have seen steady and exciting progress. There was always going to come a time when that slowed, and we would face some challenging times. This is now! But the only way to get back on track, is with everyone remembering what we've done, using what has gone right and wrong, rolling their sleeves up and looking to the future. I'm not going to elaborate further now, because I am running out of paper, but we will arrange a supporters meeting soon, and I/we will openly discuss everything to which I am alluding.

Anyway, time to get behind Wools and Jonah, Lee, Andy, Phil and Katy and the boys because they deserve it.

"Come on you Green Boys!"



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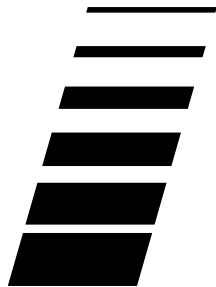


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FROM THE DUGOUT

MATTHEW WOOLLEY



Caretaker manager Matt Woolley is challenging his squad to “stand up and fight”, starting with this weekends game against City of Liverpool.

1874 are looking to respond after a 4-0 defeat to Trafford last weekend, and Woolley is demanding a high intensity and work ethic from his players on Saturday.

“It was a disappointing result (Trafford) , no hiding from that. We knew it was a game we had to perform in.”

“2 weeks ago we played Mossley. We were together, committed and everyone gave 100% – as a 74 fan that has to be the minimum you expect to see and we will make sure that’s the case come 3pm on Saturday.”

City of Liverpool visit Townfield this weekend and sit in 13th place ahead of kick off. Having already faced CoL twice this season, Woolley knows it will be a tough fixture for the Greens.

“They (CoL) are a very good side. I expect them to be hard working and committed, with some real attacking threat.”

“It will be important we look to make life difficult for them but at the same time using our strengths to cause them problems.”

“We are all aware its been a challenging season but its not over! It is in these situations you see who stands up and is willing to fight and see the true character of an individual.”

Ahead of kick off on Saturday, Woolley finally issued a rallying cry to the supporters

“The club needs everyone associated now more than ever pulling in the same direction; Supporting one another & getting behind the lads on the pitch. They will be giving 100% come Saturday on it and we need you to do the same on the terraces!”

BIG GAME PREVIEW

BY GARRY CLARKE

1874 NORTHWICH vs CITY OF LIVERPOOL NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

City of Liverpool ended last season 12th in the NPL West Division two places and one point above 1874 with a playing record of:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Trafford	38	13	7	18	50	59	-9	46	12

City of Liverpool have struggled for any kind of consistency this season, spending most of the season in the bottom half of the table, plus they have dropped into the relegation zone on a couple of times and also climbed into the top half on occasions.

Last Saturday their scheduled game at Hanley Town was postponed, their last outing being a 4-1 home defeat against Prescot Cables at Widnes on 3rd February.

13th in the NPL West table after last Saturday's games, City of Liverpool have won two, drawn two and lost two of their last six games to sit 12th in the division's current form table, while 1874 remain bottom of both tables.

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
CoL	24	10	4	10	44	36	8	34	13
1874	26	4	5	17	19	57	-36	17	20

This will be the 13th game to be played between 1874 and City of Liverpool, with 1874 having won five times, Liverpool four times and three games have ended in draws.

City of Liverpool exited the FA Cup in the extra preliminary round losing a replay at Pennistone Church 3-1 after drawing 2-2 at home. In the FA Trophy they reached the 3rd round losing 5-1 at home to

Hartlepool United after beating 1874, Witton Albion, Lancaster City, Stamford and Buxton in earlier rounds.

Leading goal scorer for City of Liverpool is former 1874 player Josh Quarless who has netted 15 goals so far this season while Callum Schorah has 14. A further 10 players have been on target for City of Liverpool.

City of Liverpool's 18 home games have attracted an average crowd of 332 this season. The highest attendance has been 678 for their FA Trophy tie against Hartlepool United while the lowest is just 149 for a Liverpool Senior Cup tie against Lower Breck.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL FACT FILE

<i>Formed</i>	2015
<i>Ground</i>	TBC
<i>Colours</i>	Purple
<i>Change Colours</i>	Yellow
<i>Manager</i>	Paul McNally
<i>2022/23</i>	12th NPL West

LAST SEASON AT TOWNFIELD

20th September 2022
Won, 2-0

1874 returned to winning ways netting a goal in each half, plus striking the woodwork on more than one occasion. Joe Woolley started the ball rolling in the 5th minute, diverting a free kick into the City net. Mackenzie O'Neill netted the second in the 62nd minute capitalising on a defensive error. City put 1874 under intense pressure in the last quarter but the green defence held firm.

WE'VE MET BEFORE

2017/18

19th September 2017 - NWCFL Premier
Home - Drew 1-1 Attendance 294
1874 - McGowan
CoL - Noon

26th March 2018 - NWCFL Premier
Away - Lost 0-2 Attendance 557
CoL - Forbes, Hazelhurst

2018/19

4th August 2018 - NWCFL Premier
Home - Lost 3-6 Attendance 433
1874 - Mitchell, Gardner, Beadle
CoL - Cairns 3, Clair, McGrath, Forbes

1st December 2018 - NWCFL Premier
Away - Drew 1-1 Attendance 463
1874 - McGowan
CoL - Cairns

4th May 2019 - NWCFL Cup Final
Neutral - Won 1-0 Attendance 1051
1874 - Smith

2019/20

27th July 2019 - NWCFL Champions Cup
Away - Lost 1-2 Attendance 312
1874 - Koral
CoL - Jefferies, McGrath

2021/22

12th October 2021 - NPL West
Away - Won 1-0 Attendance 291
1874 - JWoolley

22nd February 2022 - NPL West
Home - Drew 2-2 Attendance 230
1874 - Reed, Knight
CoL - Hazelhurst, Quarless

2022/23

20th September 2022 - NPL West
Home - Won 2-0 Attendance 296
1874 - JWoolley, O'Neill

14th January 2023 - NPL West
Away - Won 2-1 Attendance 302
1874 - JWoolley, M Woolley
CoL - Mitchley

2023/24

10th September 2023 - FA Trophy 1QR
Away - Lost 1-3 Attendance 324
1874 - Chimenes
CoL - Cannon-Noren, Quarless, Schorah

30th September 2023 - NPL West
Away - Won 2-1 Attendance 288
1874 - Weir, Byrne
CoL - Jebrin

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	4	1	2	1	8	9	-1
Away	7	3	1	3	8	10	-2
Neutral	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1
Total	12	5	3	4	17	19	-2

A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

1874 legend Ryan Mitchell split his time in green & black with a short spell with City of Liverpool at the start of the 2017/18 season, while former 1874 players Jack Lever and Josh Quarless also number City of Liverpool amongst the clubs they have played for.

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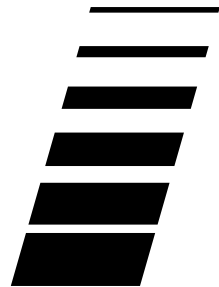
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NORTHERN
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Bob Watkins
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With rewards on offer ranging from entry into the Budget Booster prize draw through to an exclusive evening meal with the 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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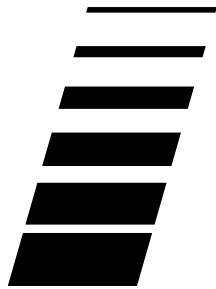
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MATCH CENTRE 23/24

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	Nicholson	Irlam			Graham J
15	Stalybridge Celtic	0-0	0-0	627					Hanson M
22	CHASETOWN	1-1	0-0	229	Green				Hussain A
26	Prescot Cables	0-1	0-0	501					Scaife B
28	NANTWICH TOWN	0-1	0-0	325					Sibley F
Sep 2	Newcastle Town	1-0	1-0	157	Irlam				Moosa B
10	City of Liverpool (FAT 1P)	1-3	0-1	324	Chimenes				Metcalfe T
30	City of Liverpool	2-1	1-0	288	Weir	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	Clietheroe	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	0-2	0-1	507					Kearney G
6	PRESCOT CABLES	0-1	0-1	353					Aldred R
6	NORTHWICH VICS (MCSC sf)	1-3	0-0	315	Jones J.				Swift T
13	Chasetown	2-4	1-1	749	Chimenes	Marrow			Pattison D
27	Widnes	0-5	0-1	201					Eaton G
Feb 3	Mossley	1-1	0-1	481	McFadyen				Mustafa Z
10	TRAFFORD	0-4	0-2	248					Roots P
17	CITY OF LIVERPOOL	-							
24	Vauxhall Motors	-							
Mar 2	HANLEY TOWN	-							
9	LEEK 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 19/01/24

		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	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
BIRCHALL	Matty	11	2	3	1	1	11	2	3	1	1	14
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	6	3	5	8	1	6	3	5	8	1	11
CHAKWANA	Tinashe	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
CHIMENES	Max	17	2	0	0	2	17	2	0	0	2	17
COSTA	Jordao	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	1	7	0	1
CRAWFORD	Jamal	15	8	4	0	1	22	14	15	3	1	37
ELLIS	Gabe	3	1	2	2	0	3	1	2	2	0	5
FAGAN	Tom	4	3	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	4
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	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	3
JONES	Mark	21	1	1	0	0	227	15	7	5	9	234
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	16	3	3	2	2	48	7	8	19	4	56
MCCANN	Chris	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2
MIALKOWSKI	Kacper	10	1	3	0	0	10	1	3	0	0	13
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	17	12	8	0	2	17	12	8	0	2	25
NOBLE	Isaac	7	4	7	0	0	15	12	22	17	2	37
OLIVER	Sam	4	2	2	1	0	4	2	2	1	0	6
OLLERENSHAW	Josh	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SHORTHOUSE	Mike	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
SIYAM	Mohammad	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	5	9	0	5
SODHI	Jonny	1	1	2	11	0	1	1	2	11	0	3
WEIR	Lucas	25	1	0	0	4	61	5	12	11	10	73
WILLIAMS	Elliot	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	3	0	2
WONNACOTT	Matt	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
WOOLLEY	Matt	24	5	1	0	1	361	55	31	28	45	392

NPL-WEST 2023/24 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 16/02/24

		Pld	HOME			AWAY			GF	GA	Pts
			W	D	L	W	D	L			
1	Leek Town	26	11	0	2	7	3	3	61	30	57
2	Prescot Cables	26	8	2	3	6	3	4	43	26	47
3	Runcorn Linnets	26	8	2	3	6	2	5	44	29	46
4	Witton Albion	27	8	2	4	4	3	6	42	48	41
5	Stalybridge Celtic	27	6	5	2	4	5	5	43	39	40
6	Chasetown	27	8	3	3	3	3	7	37	34	39
7	Bootle	25	5	3	5	6	3	3	36	34	39
8	Widnes	26	7	2	4	4	3	6	38	25	38
9	Avro	26	3	6	5	6	5	1	30	28	38
10	Clitheroe	25	4	3	4	6	4	4	43	37	37
11	Nantwich Town	27	7	3	4	3	2	8	36	33	35
12	Newcastle Town	26	4	3	7	6	2	4	32	33	35
13	City of Liverpool FC	24	5	3	4	5	1	6	44	36	34
14	Kidsgrove Athletic	26	5	3	4	4	4	6	43	43	34
15	Mossley	26	6	3	4	3	3	7	33	41	33
16	Hanley Town	25	4	3	6	4	3	5	23	32	30
17	Trafford	27	2	7	4	3	6	5	29	35	28
18	Vauxhall Motors	25	4	2	7	4	1	7	31	50	27
19	Hednesford Town	27	3	5	5	2	3	9	33	50	23
20	1874 NORTHWICH	26	2	2	8	2	3	9	19	57	17

NPL-WEST 2023/24 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 16/02/24

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

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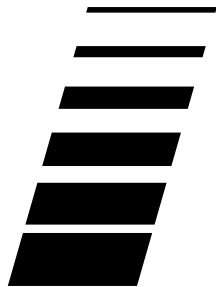
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RESPECT INITIATIVE

SETTING STANDARDS AT 1874 NORTHWICH



1874 Northwich is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment. As such, everyone at the Club, including managers, officials, players and spectators, have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game, both on and off the pitch.

As Club Welfare Officer, I have a responsibility to communicate our safeguarding arrangements and expected standards of behaviour. This is becoming more relevant, as we are seeing more and more of our junior players watching the senior team and also some of our first team squad are under the age of 18. This means that as adults we need to be conscious of the example we are setting.

We rightly pride ourselves on being a family club and all have a part to play in making the matchday experience safe and enjoyable for our younger fans / players.

We would hope that you respect ALL players and officials. No one sets out to make mistakes, but they happen. So please play your part and observe The Football Association's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

The following are extracts from the Club's spectator code of conduct as it applies to young people:

- Remember that young players are doing the best they can
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Lead by example, always respect the match official's decision
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

It is great to see so many youngsters at matches, both on and off the pitch, let's make them feel welcome.

Thanks,
Maggie Coats
Club Welfare Officer
cwo@1874northwich.com



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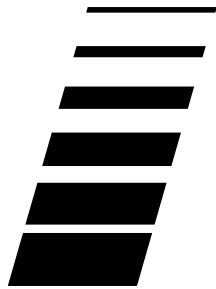
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

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!

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- 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

Ezikhiah Bowen – signed on loan from Salford City, 17 year old defender Ezikhiah made an impressive debut for the greens at Mossley in early February '24.

Lewis Bradley – Damian Crossley's first signing for the club, 22 year old Lewis arrived in early December. An attacking midfielder who made his debut for Rochdale in 2019, his other clubs have included Colne, Bradford Park Avenue and Glossop North End.

Tinashe Chakwana – 25 year old forward, signed in January 2024. Tinashe came through the Burnley academy and represented the clarets up until Under 23 level. He left Burnley in 2017, joining Sunderland for a short spell, then on to City of Liverpool and Stalybridge Celtic in the NPL.

Jordao Costa - Born and raised in Portugal, 21 year old Jordao signed for '74 in October 23 and made his debut on the left wing in the Cheshire Senior Cup defeat at Altrincham. His former clubs number Ilkeston Town, Macclesfield and Huddersfield Town.

Tom Fagan – One of Damian Crossley's first recruits, 24 year old Tom arrived from '74's fellow NPL West rivals City of Liverpool and made his debut in the 2-1 Boxing Day loss to town rivals Witton Albion. A natural right-back, he started out with Southport in 2018 and since then his career has encompassed stops at Workington, Kendal, and Colne

Matt Fenton – Originally part of Crewe's youth system and a graduate of '74's well-regarded U21 side, 23 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. Unfortunately since joining the club a series of injuries have limited his game time.

Joel Jones – A product of '74's highly successful U21 set up, 19 year old Joel made his debut for the club in the 2-0 defeat at Nantwich on New Year's Day. An out-and-out striker, he's also appeared in the colours of Cheshire League side Helsby and Burscough

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 38, Mark counts Witton, Nantwich and Radcliffe amongst his earlier ports of call.

Chris McCann - After having a long and extensive football league career during which he made 450 appearances for Burnley, Wigan Athletic, Coventry City, Oldham Athletic and Burton Albion, 36 year old Chris teamed up with '74 in November after more recent spells with DC United in the USA and Shamrock Rovers in his native Ireland. A very calm and gifted footballer, Chris has made an immediate and positive impact at the club.

Oliver McFadyen – exciting forward signed in January 2024, after featuring for Cheadle Town. Oliver started out at Fleetwood Town, moving then to Stockport County where he featured regularly in their youth sides. He made the step in to senior football at Stockport Georgians where his stand out performances saw him make the jump to Runcorn Linnets in the NPL West last season. He quickly became a fan favourite with his performances catching the eye. He has also represented Fiji and is currently an active member of their under 20's squad.

Benji Mullarkey - Warrington-based Benji joined up during the summer having fitted in well through pre-season, appearing in both defence and midfield. The 24-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.



Isaac Noble – An exciting and pacy left winger of whom much is expected, 22 -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 – Recommended to the club by a couple of former 1874 players who were playing with him at Stockport Georgians, full-back Sam was a youth player 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.

Michael Shorthouse – young Goalkeeper Mike, signed for 1874 in January 2024 after playing for Connahs Quay Nomads. Mike is a real talent and has a bright future in the game.

Jonny Sodhi – Just 18, Jonny – who usually operates in midfield - joined us during the summer from Connah's Quay Nomads Academy side. He showed promise in pre-season games and certainly will be one to keep an eye on.

Matthew Wonnacott – highly regarded Goalkeeper signed on loan for the remainder of the season, in early January 2024 from Wigan Athletic. Matty joined The Latics after a very successful spell at Torquay United.

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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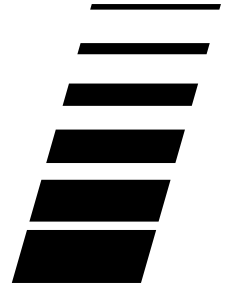
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: CITY OF LIVERPOOL



Formation and league application (2015–2016)

The first meeting that led to the formation of the club was proposed in October 2014 by Paul Manning; also present at that first meeting were Peter Furmedge, Martin Jones, Kevin Morland, and Nicky Allt. Names including "Liverpool City FC" and "Merseyside FC" were considered before the club was officially established in May 2015 as "City of Liverpool FC". The club chose to play in the colour purple due to its reputation as the "civic colour" of the city, owing to the fact that the city's two most famous football teams are Everton FC, whose colour is blue, and Liverpool FC, whose colour is red.

Due to work commitments and other issues, Allt and Morland had left the venture by December 2014, and Stuart Fitzgerald joined the remaining three committee members in February 2015. The club held an open public meeting in September 2015, by which time Jones had also left the organisation. The community voted to form the club as a community benefit society on socialist principles and the club held its first members' meeting at Jack Jones House in Liverpool city centre in February 2016.

Simon Burton, formerly of Runcorn Town, was appointed as the first manager of the club in March 2016. The club applied to join the North West Counties Football League in early 2016, but their application was rejected by the Football Association in May and they were instead placed in the Liverpool County Premier League. They chose to take up their option to appeal against the decision, particularly in light of the league being left with a vacancy following the resignation of Northwich Manchester Villa, and attended an appeal hearing at Wembley Stadium on 8 June 2016, also attended by the two remaining directors Manning and Furmedge as Fitzgerald had left the board in April 2016. The appeal was successful, allowing the club to join the First Division of the North West Counties Football League for the 2016–17 season.

Season 2016–17: Debut season, two cup wins, and play-off winners

The club played their first game away to Prestatyn Town of the Cymru Alliance on 9 July 2016 in a pre-season friendly, which resulted in a 3–2 win. An unbeaten start throughout August in the NWCFL inaugural season bode well for the season, until a 2–1 defeat at Daisy Hill in early September. However, a 2–1 win away to Whitchurch Alport in November saw the team reach the top of the league and they remained in the promotion race until late into the season. The club missed out on automatic promotion in the end, but secured a place in the playoffs after finishing 4th. In December 2016, the club secured a 2.5-year sponsorship agreement with local social housing provider Regenda Homes.

The club reached two cup finals in their first campaign, defeating Widnes 4–0 on aggregate to reach the final of the NWCFL First Division Challenge Cup, and then overturning a twogoal deficit against Chadderton before eventually winning a penalty shoot-out to reach the final of the NWCFL League Challenge Cup. They faced Sandbach United in the First Division Challenge Cup final on 1 May 2017 in Runcorn; Jamie McDonald scored the only goal of the match, which led the club to win its first ever trophy. They defeated Whitchurch Alport 1–0 in the playoff semi-final and beat neighbours Litherland REMYCA 3–0 in the final, also facing Premier Division side Barnoldswick Town in the final of the League Challenge Cup and winning the game 3–2 on penalties, despite being reduced to 10 men and subsequently 9 men after Matthew Williams was sent off in the 1st half and Kevin McEllin was sent off in the 1st period of extra time. The match finished 1–1 aet. City of Liverpool FC became only the 2nd team in the history of the North West Counties League to win the historic Cup double after Cammell Laird did the same in season 2004–05.

At the NWCFL AGM held at the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool on 17 June 2017, Simon Burton was awarded the title of "1st Division Manager of the Year" and Stephen Longrigg was awarded the title of "1st

Division Goalkeeper of the Year". On 10 May 2017, the club was awarded the title of "Non-League Team of the Season" by bookmaker Coral. The club held its first annual AGM in July 2017, at which the existing board of directors was voted to remain in place for a period of three years. The existing board of directors consisting of Paul Manning and Peter Furmedge had been augmented during the season by Peter Manning as club secretary and Gary Johansen as media director. At the AGM, Cathy Long was also voted onto the board. Subsequently, a member's council was formed and voted Sarah Comber as its chairman, with initially Francis Stanton and latterly Andrew Lavin elected as secretary. Upon her election, Comber took up an automatic place on the board of directors as chair of the member's council.

Season 2017–18: Another cup win and first FA Cup journey

The 2017–18 started with another trophy, beating Atherton Collieries 4–3 on penalties after a 3–3 draw in 90 minutes, in the annual Champions Cup game between the Premier Division Champions and Challenge Cup winners. On 5 August, the club travelled away to fellow Premier Division side Padiham for its first-ever game in the FA Cup, which City of Liverpool won. In the second preliminary round, they played Northern Premier League side Prescot Cables. After a 2–2 draw at Prescot in the first match, a new record home crowd attendance of 956 witnessed the club set the highest scoring game of the round as they defeated their opponents 8–2 to secure their place in the first qualifying round, and a home tie against Nantwich Town. On 1 September, the first FA Cup run came to an end with a deflected 95th minute winner handing Nantwich Town a 2–1 victory in front of a record crowd of 1,022. In the FA Vase, the club progressed to the 3rd round before being beaten by Stockton Town of the Northern League, who themselves went all the way to the final at Wembley Stadium.

Season 2017–18 concluded with a creditable 4th place finish in the Hallmark Security league Premier Division. In June 2018, Comber resigned her position

as chair of the member's council and was subsequently replaced by Paul McGrady, who was co-opted onto the main board of directors on an interim basis pending a full meeting of the supporter's council; however, following a nomination process, no other member was nominated for the role and McGrady was elected unopposed. In July 2018, the club announced that it had parted ways with manager Simon Burton by mutual consent after two years in charge. Two days later, the club announced that it had appointed veteran centre-half Craig Robinson as manager.

Season 2018–19: Another title win

On 14 July, the club travelled to Merthyr Town of the Southern League to play for the prestigious Supporter's Direct Shield, losing 3–1 in what was new manager Craig Robinson's first full game in charge. After an excellent debut season, Robinson led the team to its first title success, winning the North West Counties Football League Premier Division with 91 points. At various points of the season, the title seemed to be a formality, but with rivals (and landlords) Bootle FC going on an unprecedented 20-game winning run in the league, culminating in a 1–0 victory over COLFC in front of a record crowd of 1,344, the team were relegated into 2nd place in the table with just 1 game to play (having been in 1st place since 27 September 2018).

A 2–0 away victory at Irlam on the last day of the season, as Bootle drew 1–1 at home with Northwich Victoria, saw the lead change hands again and City of Liverpool crowned champions. In the FA Cup, the team reached the 2nd qualifying round before losing to Chester FC of the Conference North in front of the club's record crowd of 1,834. In the FA Vase, a disappointing 0–4 away loss at Hebburn Town in front of yet another record crowd, this time 1,304, ended the club's hopes in the 1st round.

Having beaten Avro FC 6–2 on aggregate in the Macron Cup Semi Finals, City of Liverpool FC met 1874 Northwich in the final on 4 May at Altrincham FC, with the club looking to become only the 4th team

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in NWCFL history to win the Double and separately to become also one of four teams to have won the Challenge Cup twice; however, in a dour affair, 1874 scored an 88th-minute winner. At the NWCFL AGM on 15 June, Robinson was named as Premier Division Manager of the Year. On the same day, the club was officially accepted into the Northern Premier League for the 2019–20 season.

Season 2019–20: Null and void

The club's inaugural season in the Northern Premier League was largely disappointing as the club adapted to life in Step 4 of the National League Pyramid. At the club's annual AGM, Sean Lindblad had been appointed to a place on the board of directors for "Community" and Mike Caulfield appointed as "Club Welfare Office" having been co-opted during the previous season. The NPL North West Division was considered particularly difficult as due to a realignment in the FA's ongoing re-structure; the makeup of the division was to include teams from the North East, making average travelling distances much greater.

In the pre-season, the club once again won the NWCFL Champions Cup, inflicting revenge on 1874 Northwich with a 2–1 home win. This trophy was the club's sixth in its three seasons in the NWCFL and equalled the trophy haul of Warrington Town and thus making the club the joint most successful club in NWCFL history based on trophies won, although the six wins came in only three seasons, whereas Warrington's came in twelve seasons. In the FA Cup, wins over Champion FC and Skelmersdale Utd set up a first qualifying round game away at Warrington Town FC. The game saw a crowd of over 600 enjoy a 2–2 draw, with City of Liverpool leading 2-1 due to two strikes from Jack Hazlehurst into injury time, before intense pressure from the hosts got them a very late equaliser and sent the tie to a replay the following Tuesday. In front of a record home crowd of 1099, the

match was a disaster and ended 0–4 to the Yellows, with the opening goal coming in the first minute after defender Danny Dalton suffered a season-ending achilles tendon injury.

Both the FA trophy and NPL League Cup campaigns ended in first round defeats to Tadcaster Albion and Mossley respectively. The club fared better in the Liverpool Senior Cup with a 5–1 home win (its first ever home tie in the LSC) over divisional rivals Widnes and a 2–0 win over Everton U23's securing a home semi-final draw with Landlords Bootle. In the league, a seven-match unbeaten run saw the club head the form table early in the season, but a series of heavy defeats to Ramsbottom, Tadcaster and Marine were soon to follow as the club hovered around lower mid table. A notable 3–0 win at home over Prescott Cables was a highlight in what was largely a dour and uninspired campaign as the squad struggled to find its feet at the level. A discrepancy in a loan signing subsequently saw the club deducted six points in February, just before the entire season was scrapped due to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequently declared null and void.

Season 2020–21: Curtailed

Season 2020–21 started off very brightly with a 0–3 away win at Glossop North End in the FA Cup preliminary round, but quickly turned bad with successive home defeats to Marske in the league (2–4) and Morpeth in the FA Cup 2nd Preliminary round (0–3), before two further defeats away from home at Kendal Town (0–1) and Workington (2–5) brought about the end of Robinson's reign as manager of the club, with the club sitting bottom of the league with no points. The club installed Michael Ellison (formerly of Runcorn Linnets) and despite him taking over too late for any training sessions to be undertaken, the team put on an outstanding performance to win away at Brighouse Town 5–2. Still with no training sessions, the team turned in an excellent performance to draw 2–2

with Prescott Cables (away) on the following Tuesday.

Trafford at home came next and the excellent start under Ellison's tutelage continued with a hard-fought 1–0 home win to make it 7 points gained from 3 matches. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only three more league games were able to be played which saw a depleted squad lose away at title contenders Colne and a 2-1 Boxing Day home derby defeat to Marine, interspersed by a 4–1 home win against Pontefract Collieries and a creditable 10th position as the season was officially curtailed by the FA. The club had an excellent run in the FA Trophy, beating Atherton Collieries (NPL Prem) 3–0 away before repeating the feat and going away to beat Buxton also of the NPL Premier Division 2-1 and losing 0–2 in a highly creditable performance away at National League North side Darlington. At the club's AGM, both Cathy Long and Gary Walthew stood down as directors. Earl Jenkins was elected unopposed.

Season 2021–22: Stability

The season was one of mid-table stability with club's lowest position being 15th and highest being 8th, with a final league position a creditable 9th. This was the club's first fully completed season in the NPL.

The season was affected by a spate of season ending injuries to key players; Kelly, Burke, Potter, Johnston, Sharrock and serious shorter term injuries to various other key players, culminating in the club signing 55 players throughout the season which was by far a divisional high.

The club achieved its highest ever FA cup run, reaching the 3rd qualifying round before going out to eventual NPL Premier Division title winners Buxton, but beating Vanarama National League North side Farsley Celtic 3-0 in an early cup upset. The club's 1 season playing at Vauxhall Motors ended and The Purps will kick

off Season 2022/23 back at the Berry Street Garage Stadium, the home of Bootle FC.

Season 2022-23

On the back of 4 straight league defeats at the start of the season, the club decided a change was needed before they were cut adrift at the bottom of the table. Manager Michael Ellison's services were dispensed with, and a week later Paul McNally made the move from Skelmersdale United. Two further defeats meant the Purps were pointless after 6 games. As with any managerial change, players come and go, and by the end of the season the squad was very different from what it was at the start. Safety was mathematically achieved in the penultimate game of the season, though with a far superior goal difference to the clubs around them, the Purps finished 12th position.

Season 2023-24

Paul McNally has brought in a few new faces, but has kept the backbone of the squad that finished last season. After a quite good pre-season, everyone at the club is looking forward to pushing on, and at the very least, achieve a comfortable top half table finish



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