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VS LEEK TOWN
09/03/24 - 3.00PM
NPL WEST
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

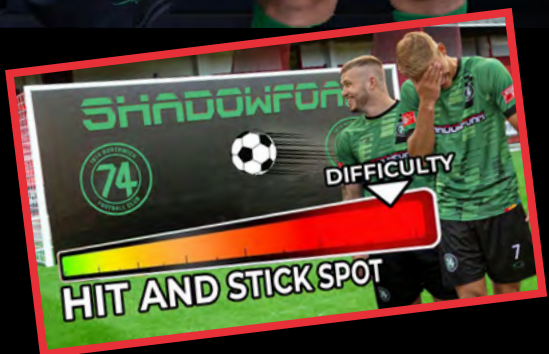
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Visit

CONTACT INFORMATION:

TELEPHONE: 07975 679624

GENERAL E-MAIL: trust@1874northwich.com

FOOTBALL: secretary@1874northwich.com

COMMUNITY: community@1874northwich.com

PROGRAMME: programme@1874northwich.com

MEDIA: media@1874northwich.com

WEBSITE: www.1874northwich.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/1874Northwich

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/1874Northwich

COLOURS:

HOME: Green shirts, black shorts, green socks

AWAY: Orange shirts, grey shorts, grey socks

THIRD: Blue shirts, blue shorts, blue socks

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **LEEK TOWN**

SATURDAY 9TH MAR 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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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

**Commercial
Brochure**

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

STEVE RICHARDSON



Good afternoon everyone,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to Townfield for today's game. On behalf of everyone at 1874 Northwich, it is my pleasure to welcome the good folks from Leek Town today.

Today's visitors are currently flying high at the top of the league and appear to be firm favourites for automatic promotion to the Premier division and on a personal note I wish them all the success that comes their way.

I'm sure that this afternoon supporters will be giving a warm welcome to a number of 1874 alumni who are now involved at Leek Town. It is always a pleasure to welcome old acquaintances back to 1874.

Despite current on field difficulties it was good to see such a number of you at Bombay Quay on Thursday night at the well-attended Curry Night, thank you to Richard Stockton for arranging the evening. It's at times like Thursday that you realise what 1874 is all about and why the club holds such a special place in our hearts. We should never forget that this club is our club.

Matt and Mark continue to work tirelessly to bring in new faces to the 1874 squad, but once again injury and illness in the squad continues to make their job difficult. More than ever your support for the lads cannot be overestimated.

A new initiative recently launched by Mark and Jane from our Commercial team is "Sponsor a Seed". 1874 alongside Barnton FC are constantly working to improve the condition of the pitch here at Townfield and the results are certainly becoming evident. Despite rainfall in excess of the normal annual amounts falling, the pitch at Townfield has consistently been playable and grass cover improves year on year.

As a club we appreciate the financial support that our supporters give to 1874 Northwich in numerous guises and we also know that for many times are hard, but every penny counts.

Please have a chat with Mark or Jane and if you can contribute in any small way, it would really be appreciated.

Please enjoy this afternoon's game, you are Matt and Mark's twelfth man and they and the rest of the lads really appreciate it.

As always BE LOUD AND PROUD.

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SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Good afternoon, folks, and welcome to Townfield for a tough encounter with top of the league opponents!!

I would like to offer a special warm welcome to our friends from Leek Town. Their Chairman, Jon, and Secretary, Tom, are two of the best people I have met in football, and it is always a pleasure to catch up with them. Of course, in the Leek ranks are some other familiar faces! Last season's 1874 player of the year, Liam Buckley, makes a return to his local stomping ground along with Fenton Green, who transferred to them a few months ago.

We also see Lucas Weir return, a few weeks after joining the blues. All these guys were favourites for 1874 and gave a lot of effort for us, however they are now very much on for promotion with Leek and it's no more than their talents deserve. We can say we played a part in their development, and I know their good feelings for 1874 remain.

I know Jon and Tom would be the first to say the season is not over, there is a long way to go and that they are not counting their chickens about being promoted, However they have had tremendous results against nearest rivals Runcorn Linnets and Prescot Cables recently, which have shown their intent. Leek have knocked on the door over the last few seasons and I will be pleased if they are promoted, they are an incredibly good and respectful club. I wonder if the form tables can be upset today though, eh?

Of course, we also see the return of Wayne Goodison. Now, this feels a bit strange! Wayne accepted a coaching role with Leek, a few weeks after leaving 1874 and I know it suits him and he is enjoying it. But after giving such loyalty, and over seven years of his life, to 1874, I know he hasn't switched off from the club and he keeps in good contact, even continuing to help us with certain things, which has been appreciated.

I'm so looking forward to seeing his wonderful wife back too, who was a huge supporter of everything 1874. If something needed sponsoring or supporting, Az would be there!

Onto us and we remain in a tricky situation although recent performances have been heartening. This is positive given the injuries, illness and departures we have had. Matt and Mark continue to work hard to bring in recruits and keep the ship going, they truly are two fantastic servants for 1874. If anyone deserves success, it is these two guys.

After today, we have another home match against Hednesford next Saturday. I don't need to explain how big that is. Your support, as always, is needed so much to spur the lads on. It will then be a quick turnaround to the Tuesday night, as we entertain Hanley Town on 19th, which was postponed last week. These games don't come any easier, it really is a difficult league.

We are working behind the scenes on a number of issues, including planning for the future. It is hoped that we will be able to have a supporter catch up as soon as possible, I would just ask you to bear with us a little longer. Not enough hours in the day at present!

That's it for now, please get behind Matt, Mark and the lads.

"Come on you Green Boys!"



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BIG GAME PREVIEW

BY GARRY CLARKE

1874 NORTHWICH vs LEEK TOWN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

Leek Town ended last season 2nd in the NPL West Division, 14 points behind champions Macclesfield but lost in the Play Off semi-final to Runcorn Linnets. Their league record last term was:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Leek	38	23	7	8	70	38	+32	76	2

A mixed start to the season saw Leek Town drop as low as 13th after game number 6 of the season which prompted a change of manager with Josh Brehaut replacing Neil Baker in the hot seat, a move which propelled the team up the table, hitting the top spot at the beginning of December where they have remained ever since.

Unbeaten since 14th November when they lost 5-0 at Runcorn Linnets, a run of 13 wins and 2 draws, Leek Town gained revenge on the Linnets winning their return game at Harrison Park 3-0 last Saturday.

Watched by 973 spectators, Julius Ndene gave Leek a 10th minute lead before late goals from Tom Carr and Tom Reilly sealed the win which increased their lead at the top of the table to 12 points.

After several near misses and being 12 points clear of 2nd placed Runcorn Linnets after last Saturday's games, Leek Town look likely to finally return to the NPL Premier Division from which they were relegated in 2008. Three times in the last five seasons they have competed in the end of season promotion plays offs, while in the two Covid aborted seasons they were top of the table when the seasons came to an end – sound familiar?

With five wins and a draw in their last six games, Leek sit on top of the division's current form table after last Saturday while 1874 with a draw and five defeats in their last six games are bottom.

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Leek	29	20	4	5	69	33	+36	64	1
1874	28	4	5	19	20	62	-42	17	20

Leading goal scorer for Leek Town is, the NPL West's top scorer, Rob Stevenson with 23 followed by Daniel Trickett-Smith with 17. 13 other players have found the target for Leek this season.

1874 Northwich and Leek Town have played each other on 5 previous occasions, 1874 have won once, Leek three times with one game being drawn.

Leek Town won this season's earlier clash at Harrison Park 4-1, having opened the scoring in the 13th minute through Julius Ndene. Thomas Carr made it 2-0 for Leek in the 24th minute and Daniel Trickett-Smith added a 3rd before half time. Trickett-Smith completed the home side's scoring in the 62nd minute before Fenton Green grabbed a consolation for 1874 in the 80th minute.

With 8 wins, 3 draws and 3 defeats from their 14 away league games Leek have the best away record in the NPL West, while 1874 with 2 wins, 2 draws and 9 defeats from their 13 home games have the worst home record. Leek's 17 home games have attracted an average crowd of 550 to Harrison Park this season. The highest attendance has been 973 for the visit of Runcorn Linnets, while the lowest is 303 for a FA Cup tie against Grimsby Borough.

FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Four former 1874 Northwich players – Liam Buckley, Fenton Green, Ollie Heywood and Lucas Weir - could be returning to Townfield in the colours of Leek Town and former 1874 manager Wayne Goodison returns as a member of the Leek coaching staff.

LEEK TOWN FACT FILE

<i>Formed</i>	1946
<i>Ground</i>	Harrison Park
<i>Colours</i>	Blue and White
<i>Change Colours</i>	Green/Orange
<i>Manager</i>	Josh Brehaut
<i>2022/23</i>	2nd NPL West

DID YOU KNOW?

The club's crest features a garb and a Staffordshire knot, both of which are elements of the town's coat of arms, which is in the shape of a saltire shield bearing the motto *Arte favente nil desperandum* which translates to: Our skill assisting us, we have no cause for despair. The club badge also features a caduceus, a symbol which appeared on token coins issued in Leek in the 18th century.

LAST SEASON AT TOWNFIELD

29th August 2022
 Drew, 0-0 *Attendance 318*

Both sides had plenty of chances to break the deadlock but neither could make the breakthrough. Leek started the stronger and had several opportunities in the early stages, and although 1874 grew into the game they could not find a way past their opponent's resolute defence, while having to be careful not to concede themselves.

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3
Away	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3
Total	5	1	1	3	4	10	-4

The two teams also met in a pre-season friendly on 21st July 2018 when 1874 travelled to Harrison Park only to suffer a 6-1 defeat, Matt Woolley scoring the green's only goal.

WE'VE MET BEFORE

Garry Clarke takes a look at the previous meetings between 1874 Northwich and Leek Town.

2021/22

7th September 2021 - NPL West
 Home - Lost 0-3 *Attendance 252*
 Leek - Trickett-Smith, Saxton, Stevenson

19th March 2022 - NPL West

Away - Won 2-1 *Attendance 524*
 1874 - J Woolley 2
 Leek - Own Goal

2022/23

29th August 2022 - NPL West
 Home - Drew 0-0 *Attendance 318*

2nd January 2023 - NPL West

Away - Lost 1-2 *Attendance 605*
 1874 - O'Neill
 Leek - Carr, Grice

2023/24

28th October 2023 - NPL West
 Away - Lost 1-4 *Attendance 493*
 1874 - Green
 Leek - Trickett-Smith 2, Carr, Ndene

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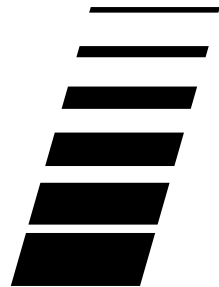
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NORTHERN
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BUDGET BOOSTERS

ROLL OF HONOUR



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

Steve Allen-Gurr
Ken Bailey
Andrew Barclay
Emma Brinksman
Lee Broughton
Phil Burgess
Richard Bush
Keith Campion
Karl Clarke
John Coats
Gavin Coyle
Phil Crimes
Andy Dickinson
Andy Dignum
Ashley Dobell
David Edgeley
Vicki England
Stuart Evans
Stuart Evans
Frank Fallows
Tony Fallows
Graham Fenton
Paul Fletcher
Paul Gleave
Martin Griffiths
Tony Hassall
Jon Hegerty
Will Hughes
Simon Johnson
David Jones
Phil Knapper
Christopher Latham
Anthony Marshall
Tony McCormick
Jeff Nield
Andy Oakes
Malcom Plant
Paul Plant
Michael Redrup
Steve Richardson
Craig Richmond
Fred Shallcross
Christopher Shuff
Tom Smith

Graham Spencer
Nik Stanley
John Stiles
Richard Stockton
Mark Taylor
Richard Ward
Bob Watkins
Christopher Williams
Richard Webb
Dan Wilkins

With rewards on offer ranging from entry into the Budget Booster prize draw through to an exclusive evening meal with the managers hopefully there is something for everyone and your support for the club will be truly appreciated.

How does it work?

We are looking for supporters to either make a one off donation of £25 or to make a monthly contribution of £5, £10, £15, £20, £25, £30 or £50 by standing order over a 10 month period from July 2023 to April 2024.

In return for your support we are offering a range of rewards, depending upon the amount pledged.

So what are the rewards? Depending on the amount pledged, they range from being listed in future programmes as part of a Roll of Honour, entry to the 'Booster Draw', a limited edition shirt, matchball sponsorship package, a signed home shirt, a mascot or kit man package, pre-match and half-time hospitality, or an evening meal with the board and management.

For further details on the rewards available and how to sign up please use the button below!

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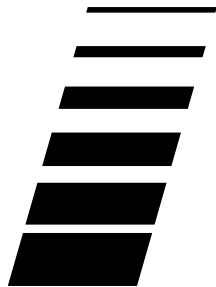
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MATCH CENTRE 23/24

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 Ja	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	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	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 Ja				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 s/f)	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	0-2	0-0						Brooks J
24	Vauxhall Motors	1-3	1-1		Nicholson Jo				Corrigan L
Mar 9	LEEK TOWN	-							
16	HEDNESFORD TOWN	-							
19	HANLEY TOWN	-							
23	Trafford	-							
30	NEWCASTLETOWN	-							
Apr 1	Witton Albion	-							
6	Boote	-							
13	CLUTHEROE	-							
20	Avro	-							
27	RUNCORN LINNETS	-							

Online Match Centre

1874 NORTHWICH 2023/24 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 08/03/24

		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	4	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	4
BIRCHALL	Matty	11	2	3	1	1	11	2	3	1	1	14
BOWDEN	Ezikiah	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
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	5	4	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	5
CHIMENES	Max	17	2	0	0	2	17	2	0	0	2	17
COSTA	Jordao	0	0	2	10	0	0	0	2	10	0	2
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	6	3	3	0	0	6	3	3	0	0	9
FENTON	Matty	24	1	0	0	1	75	3	0	3	9	75
GREEN	Fenton	14	2	0	0	3	42	8	2	3	6	44
IBETO	Mike	3	2	5	5	0	3	2	5	5	0	8
IRLAM	Jack	8	1	0	0	2	92	28	22	5	13	114
JONES	Joel	4	1	3	1	1	4	1	3	1	1	7
JONES	Mark	26	1	1	0	0	232	15	7	5	9	239
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	17	3	3	2	2	49	7	8	19	4	57
MCCANN	Chris	7	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	1	0	7
MCFADYEN	Oli	5	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	5
MCAIR	Kamoy	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
MIALKOWSKI	Kacper	14	1	3	0	0	14	1	3	0	0	17
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	10	0	2	17	12	10	0	2	27
NICHOLSON	Josh	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
NOBLE	Isaac	9	5	9	0	0	17	13	24	17	2	41
OLIVER	Sam	8	3	3	1	0	8	3	3	1	0	11
OLLERENSHAW	Josh	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SHORTHOUSE	Mike	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
SIYAM	Mohammad	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	5	9	0	5
SODHI	Jonny	4	4	3	12	0	4	4	3	12	0	7
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	8	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8
WOOLLEY	Matt	28	5	1	1	1	365	55	31	29	45	396

NPL-WEST 2023/24 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 08/03/24

	Pld	HOME			AWAY			GF	GA	Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L			
1 Leek Town	29	12	1	2	8	3	3	69	33	64
2 Runcorn Linnets	29	9	2	3	7	2	6	48	32	52
3 Prescot Cables	28	8	3	3	7	3	4	47	29	51
4 Bootle	29	6	4	5	8	3	3	45	38	49
5 Witton Albion	30	8	2	5	6	3	6	50	52	47
6 City of Liverpool FC	29	6	4	4	7	2	6	51	38	45
7 Widnes	29	8	2	5	4	4	6	42	29	42
8 Nantwich Town	30	8	3	4	4	2	9	45	37	41
9 Clitheroe	29	5	3	6	6	5	4	49	44	41
10 Stalybridge Celtic	29	6	5	3	4	6	5	44	41	41
11 Avro	29	3	6	6	7	5	2	34	34	41
12 Chasetown	29	8	4	3	3	3	8	39	39	40
13 Newcastle Town	29	5	3	7	6	2	6	37	39	38
14 Mossley	29	6	4	4	4	4	7	36	43	38
15 Kidsgrove Athletic	28	5	3	5	4	4	7	45	50	34
16 Hanley Town	28	4	4	7	4	4	5	25	36	32
17 Trafford	30	3	7	5	3	6	6	31	41	31
18 Vauxhall Motors	28	5	2	8	4	2	7	37	56	31
19 Hednesford Town	29	3	5	6	2	3	10	33	54	23
20 1874 NORTHWICH	28	2	2	9	2	3	10	20	62	17

NPL-WEST 2023/24 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 08/03/24

	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	0-2				2-6	1-3 0-1	0-1	0-0 0-4	2-0 1-0	1-2							
Avro			1-3	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	0-1								
Bootle		1-0		3-1	0-2	1-3 1-1	2-0 1-1	3-1 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 1-4	6-3 0-0	2-1	1-1 1-2	0-1 1-0	4-0 1-0	1-1 3-2							
City of Liverpool	4-0 2-2	1-2 4-1	2-0			2-1	1-1 1-4	6-3 0-0	2-1		0-1 0-1	0-1 0-3								
Clitheroe	1-2 1-1	1-0 2-1				2-1	2-2 4-1	2-3 3-1	1-4	2-3 1-1	2-2 5-0									
Hanley Town	4-2 0-1	0-2 1-1	2-0 0-0			3-1 0-0	1-3 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	0-1 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	1-4 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	3-0	3-0 2-2	1-0 4-1									
Mossley	1-1	1-2 2-1	1-1			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	4-0 3-0	0-2 1-0									
Newcastle Town	0-1 0-1	0-2 1-1	0-0 0-1	3-1 2-1		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	1-1 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	3-0 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 2-0	1-0 1-0	1-0 1-2	0-1 0-1	3-2 1-5	3-2	1-1 0-1	1-0 1-2	4-0										
Trafford		0-1 1-2	2-2 0-1	0-0 1-0	1-2 0-0	1-1 2-1	2-1	2-2 1-1	0-1 1-1											
Vauxhall Motors	3-1 1-3	2-3 0-1	2-1 3-2	0-2 3-2	3-2 3-3	0-3 3-1		0-3 2-4	2-3 2-2											
Widnes	5-0 2-0	2-0 1-0	1-2 1-1	0-1 5-1	2-0 0-1	4-0 0-2		2-0 1-1	1-3											
Witton Albion	2-2 2-2	1-2 1-0	2-0 3-2	3-1 2-1	1-4 2-3	1-0 3-0	0-4 1-2	2-1												

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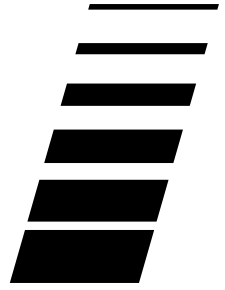
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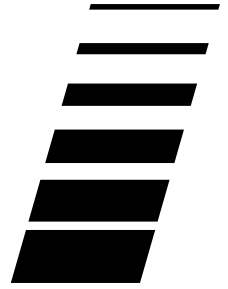
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Matty FENTON	74 Elite Riff Raff
Mike IBETO	1874 Car School
Joel JONES	Diane Tongue
Mark JONES	Gary & Karen Halvorsen
Chris MCCANN	The Davies Family
Oli MCFADYEN	Preston 74 Fan Club
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Matt WOOLLEY	The Sunday Lunch Club

A DATE FOR THE DIARY

REARRANGED FIXTURE - HANLEY TOWN



The game against Hanley Town - postponed last weekend - has been rearranged for Tuesday 19th March at Townfield.

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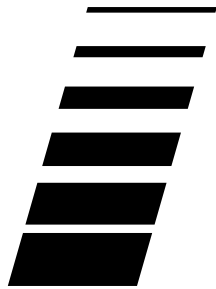
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RESPECT INITIATIVE

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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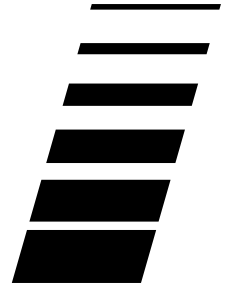
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

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!

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

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

OUR MISSION

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

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

Find out more

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 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

To donate: mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

1874 NORTHWICH - PROFILES 2023/2024

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 Joel 9 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.

EWAN MCGEADY – Defender, signed on dual registration with Altrincham at the end of February.

KACPER MIALKOWSKI – This left-sided defender joined '74 on dual-registration from Glossop North End. A product of the Rochdale academy, Kacper has also represented Poland at U17 level.

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.

JAMIE NICHOLSON - A forward who can play anywhere along the front line, Jamie's game will bring flair to the club and could prove a shrewd signing by the management team. A former youth player with Morecambe, 19 year old Jamie impressed 'The Shrimps' Senior Team management to the point that he was in the match day squad when the Lancashire club played at Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup in January 2022.

Last season Jamie played for Ashton Athletic in the NWCFL and prior to that he also had short spells in the NPL West with Clitheroe and his home town club Skelmersdale United.

JOSH NICHOLSON – experienced forward Josh, signed on a dual registration agreement with Ashton Athletic in February 2024. Josh started his career with Skelmersdale United

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 Droydsden. He has also spent time in the US, representing Arizona Western College.

OLE PARTINGTON – Midfielder, signed on dual registration with Altrincham at the end of February.

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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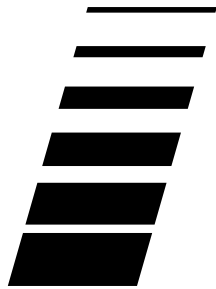
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: LEEK TOWN



Although some say the origins of Leek Town go back as far as 1876, the history of the club as we now know it begins in 1946. Starting out as Leek Lowe Hamil in the Leek and Moorlands League and progressing to the Staffordshire County League, where they still hold the record of being the only team to win the championship without the loss of a match in 1949/50. On moving into the Manchester League in 1951/52, they became Leek Town and won the championship at the first attempt. After a brief flirtation with the Birmingham League in 1954/55, they moved back to the Manchester League and eventually back to the Staffordshire County League.

It was 1968 when Leek Town started to become the club it is now. The ground was improved adding a clubhouse, small stand and floodlights. Manager Paul Ogden led the team to success in the Staffordshire County League and the Manchester League before joining the Cheshire League in the 1973/74 season and winning that championship at the second attempt. The chairman at the time was the late Geoff Harrison, after whom Harrison Park is named. Leek became founder members of the North West Counties League in 1982 but had little success.

When the Northern Premier League First Division was added in 1987/88, Leek were founder members. After two seasons finishing third, they were promoted to the Premier Division on topping the First Division in 1989/90. This season also saw them reach the FA Trophy Final at Wembley, where they lost 3-0 to Barrow. This was a historic achievement, as no other side from that level of the pyramid had ever done so previously. The success, all under the guidance of manager, Neil Baker, continued in the following season in the form of an FA Cup run where they defeated Scarborough in the First Round Proper and forced a replay against Chester City in the Second Round.

Leek's second place finish in 1993/94 should have been enough to see them promoted to the Vauxhall Conference. Instead, they were rewarded by being shunted sideways to the Southern League, as they were denied a place for financial reasons. They enjoyed

a fairly successful campaign, finishing in 7th place, but due to the crippling financial commitment, requested a move back to the Northern Premier League. Success followed shortly as they won the championship in the 1996/97 season and were promoted to the Conference. The club managed to retain its Conference status at the end of the first season, a feat that required them to play six matches in the final eight days of the season. The following season proved one too many and relegation back to the UniBond NPL Premier Division resulted.

The relegation saw a complete change in the playing staff, with a side of mainly local players. The team struggled and was relegated again at the end of the 2000/01 season to the UniBond NPL First Division. Following the league restructuring at the end of the 2003/04 season, Leek returned to the Premier Division where they finished in 7th position. In the following three seasons Blues struggled against relegation and after two great escapes they succumbed in the 2007/08 season.

Relegation saw a complete rebuilding of the side, but under manager Wayne Johnson and then Neil Cox they failed to reach the promotion Play-offs. Neil Baker took the reins briefly in 2011 before returning to Crewe Alexandra, his assistant Lee Casswell took charge and led the Blues to the promotion Play-offs three times in four seasons, losing twice in the Final against Ilkeston FC in 2012 and Sutton Coldfield Town in 2015. Lee remained in charge until April 2016 when Anthony Danylyk stepped in as player/manager and continued in the 2016/17 season.

Neil Baker returned at the start of 2017/18 and in his first season narrowly missed out on a Play-off spot. The following season 2018/19 Leek Town finished 3rd, and after beating Colne in the Semi-Final, they narrowly lost to Radcliffe FC in the Final after beating their opponents twice in the league campaign.

In 2019/20 Leek Town were riding high and were top of the table from December 2019 - with 10 games to go the covid pandemic curtailed the season - they

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were cruelly denied promotion when the season was declared null & void. In 2020/21 Leek continued where they left off and where top of the table again after 8 games, where once again COVID campaign curtailed the season.

In 2021/22 the Club was moved from the NPL East to the NPL West with the re-organisation at Step 4, they also changed their playing surface to 3G which saw a revamp of the already impressive stadium, despite having to play away from home until mid-October Neil Bakers side finished 3rd and progressed to the Play-offs. They then lost at home in the Semi-Final to Runcorn Linnets who in turn beaten by Marine in the Final.

2022/23 saw further success as Blues finished runners-up to Macclesfield Town. However, the curse of the play-offs struck again, as once more Runcorn Linnets killed off the promotion hopes.

PROFILES

Ben Adey-Weston – Defender

Full-back Ben has been drafted into the first team squad from our successful Development side, where he had been the management player of the year last season.

Mo Akandji – Defender

Mo is a former member of the Stoke City Under 18 and Under 21 squads, having started out in France at Amiens SC Under 19s. Mo is a much-travelled footballer having also played for Czech side SK Rakovnik, in Sweden for Osterlen FF and for German side Dynamo Schwerin.

Max Asplin-Rowley – Defender

Young defender who signed in November 2023. Max made numerous appearances for the Stoke City U18's as part of their youth setup.

Liam Buckley – Defender

Signed for the current campaign from 1874 Northwich, Liam is an attacking right-back, who at only 20 looks an exciting prospect. He previously played for Welsh Premier Division side, Cefn Druids after coming through the youth ranks at Chester.

Tom Carr - Forward

Tom joined Leek Town from Stafford Rangers at the start of the 2022/23 season, having previously played for Wythenshawe Amateurs & Avro. Tom is young, pacey and equally comfortable playing in midfield or across the forward line.

Fenton Green – Midfielder

Signed in November 2023, Fenton is a central midfield player, who was at Crewe Alex's academy before joining 1874 Northwich in the summer of 2022. The 20 year old had an impressive first season, showing measure and calm in his 30 appearances, in which he scored three goals. Has also had loan spells with Hyde United and Stockport Town during his time at Crewe Alex.

Tim Grice - Forward

Prolific striker signed in September 2011 from North West Counties League side Eccleshall. Tim started out at the Stoke City Academy and was also on the books of Aston Villa before going on to play for Wolstanton United and Alsager Town. Our longest serving player "Gricey" is the club's record goal scorer with over 240 goals for Leek in less than 460 games, and is affectionately known as Mr Leek Town.

Marc Grocott - Midfielder

Combative midfield player signed in June 2017 from Kidsgrove Athletic. Marc began his career on the books of Stoke City where he spent several seasons and gained experience with loan spells at Alfreton Town and Stafford Rangers, before taking a break from football. This is Marc's seventh season with Leek, where he is a firm favourite with fans and was again picked for the League team of the year.

Ollie Harrison - Defender

An imposing strong defender who had previously been a scholar at Crewe Alexandra. After a stint in Sweden for IKF Ostersund he returned to the UK and signed for Leek Town at the tail end of 2018/19 season, making his debut against Glossop NE. Virtually ever-present in 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons and an integral part of the meanest defences in the NPL. Selected as a player in the West Division Team of the Season for the second year running.

Louis Keenan - Defender

An experienced defender who joined Blues from Loughborough Dynamo at the start of the 2019/20 season, where he had played under Assistant Manager Peter Ward. Keeno has hardly missed a game in his time at the club, clocking up almost 150 appearances. A no-nonsense defender with a touch of class. Louis was chosen for the West Division team of the year last season.

George Lewis – Midfielder

Released by Stoke City at the end of the 2022/23 season, where he played in both the Under 18 and Under 21 squads, George signed at the start of the 2023/24 season.

Julius Ndene – Defender

Previously a member of the Stoke City U18 squad, centre-half, Julius joined from Rocester at the start of the 2023/24 season.

Aaron Opoku - Forward

Aaron is a strong and aggressive striker with an eye for goal. A fantastic servant to Carlton Town since 2017 he moved to Matlock Town at the start of the 2022/23 season, before joining the Blues in 2023.

Xander Parke – Goalkeeper

Young keeper who signed in September 2023 after being released by Shrewsbury Town. Was also part of the Stoke City youth setup, representing their U18's. Xander has also been called up to represent the St. Kitts & Nevis national side.

Mason Pickering – Midfielder

Another product of the Leek Town youth setup, Mason was a member of the first team squad on a number of occasions last season.

Tom Reilly – Midfielder

Battling midfielder signed from Cefn Druids at the start of the 2023/24 season. He has also represented Prestatyn and Bangor City in the Welsh League, as well as a spell in Sweden playing for Eskilstuna City FK. He started out his career as part of the Accrington youth setup.

Josh Ryder - Defender

Josh joined Leek Town from near neighbours Congleton Town in the summer of 2021. A classy defender who has impressed for the two years playing in the North West Counties Premier. Prior to this Josh was a scholar at Port Vale and on the books of Wolverhampton Wanderers. He missed most of the 2022/23 season through injury.

Tom Scully – Midfielder

Tom started out at Everton before moving to Norwich City in the summer of 2018. He moved back to the North West after spending two years in Norfolk, signing for Accrington Stanley. He made a few first-team appearances then went out on loan to Northern Irish Premiership side, Carrick Rangers. Injury cut short the loan spell and after he recovered he was loaned to Nantwich Town, where he later signed on a permanent basis.

Rob Stevenson - Forward

Attacking player who previously had a spell at Harrison Park under Lee Casswell in the 2012/13 season. Since then Rob has played for Market Drayton Town, Belper Town and Stafford Rangers before returning to Leek in October 2016. "Stevo" is talented player renowned for individual goals and mazy runs with over 250 appearances for the Blues.

Dan Trickett-Smith - Midfielder

Dan returned to Leek Town for his second spell after being released by Port Vale in 2021. Dan started out on the books of Crewe Alexandra, securing a move to Liverpool aged just 16, before moving to America following his release from Anfield playing for Sacramento Republic. He initially joined in September 2018 with many impressive performances which earned him an offer of a professional contract at Port Vale in March 2019.

Dino Visser – Goalkeeper

Began his career with Platinum Stars in his native South Africa, making his Premier Soccer League debut in March 2011. Also played for Bloemfontein Celtic, Black Leopards and Polokwane City. He was the regular first-team 'keeper at Santos during 2016-17. He returned to Platinum Stars the following season as the regular first-choice goalkeeper. In June 2019, Dino moved to England and signed a short-term deal with Exeter City. He has also played for Crewe Alex and Port Vale. In September 2022, he signed for Hereford and became the club's first-choice 'keeper after Christmas. He made 22 appearance before being released at the end of the 2022-23 season.

Paddy Watts – Defender

Paddy is a local lad from Macclesfield, who joined in September 2023, after being released by Rochdale. He is a young, strong central defender, who can also provide

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