



EVER GLORIOUS



vs **CLITHEROE**
13/04/24 - 3.00PM
NPL WEST
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

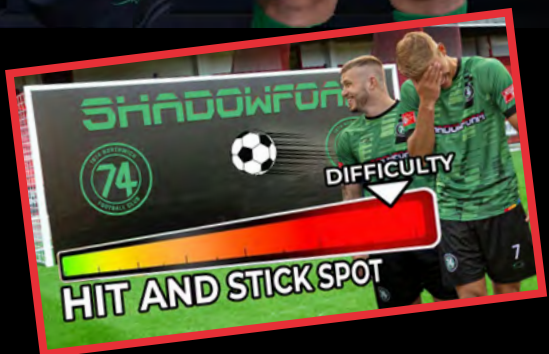
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COLOURS:

HOME: Green shirts, black shorts, green socks

AWAY: Orange shirts, grey shorts, grey socks

THIRD: Blue shirts, blue shorts, blue socks

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MID-CHESHIRE SENIOR CUP 2015-16, 2016-17

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **CLITHEROE**

SATURDAY 13TH APR 2024 | K.O. 3.00PM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Brian Edge

ACTING CHAIRMAN: Richard Stockton

FINANCE: John Coats

FOOTBALL: Vicki England

COMPANY: Maggie Coats

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: Peter Flaherty

ENGAGEMENT: Mark Kelly

ENGAGEMENT: Andrew Dignum

OTHER CONTACTS:

TREASURER: John Coats

FOOTBALL SECRETARY: Vicki England

WELFARE OFFICER: Maggie Coats

PROGRAMME EDITOR: Luke Bushnell-Wye

PROOF READERS: Richard Webb/Richard Bush

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

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

MATCH REPORTS: Jack Owen

WEBSITE: Mark Edgeley

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF:

FIRST TEAM MANAGER: Chris Herbert

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Katy Bagshaw

KIT MANAGER: Andy Williams

UNDER 21s MANAGER: Kyle Murray

**Commercial
Brochure**

NEW FIRST TEAM MANAGER

WELCOME - CHRIS HERBERT



1874 Northwich are delighted to announce that after a comprehensive recruitment process, Chris Herbert has agreed to become our new first team manager.

From the many impressive candidates, Chris stood out and we feel he is the perfect choice to take the club forward and bring back better times after a hard season for our supporters.

He enjoyed an extensive career as a player, having played for Chester City and Vauxhall Motors, as well as spells in Wales with Connah's Quay Nomads, Airbus and Welshpool.

A UEFA A qualified coach, his management roles include Conwy Borough, Cefn Druids and Flint Town United and more recently Runcorn Town, where he spent a successful four years building a very competitive side before leaving to take up a role as First team scout and analysis for League Two side, Salford City. Since then, he has worked for Premier League outfit Nottingham Forest.

Chris will be joined in his management team by an experienced assistant manager which will excite football fans in Northwich, further details will follow in the coming weeks.

We spoke to Chris about his appointment as our new manager: "The catchment and stature of the club is fantastic. I have a lot of respect for the club and so do players around the area.

"I think the pull of the club will attract the players that we are going to be after as they will want to be a part of what we are going to try and achieve here.

"With the club also being fan-owned it's exciting to have the opportunity to interact with the fans. I have worked under fan ownership before at Chester and understand what it is all about."

With the current season ending with relegation out of the Northern Premier League Division West, Herbert is looking forward to the rebuild next season at Step 5

and is hoping that his side's football will excite the fans.

"Nobody wants to finish bottom of the league and the current squad of players are a really hard-working bunch.

"There are some really good players that are going to be crucial to what I want to do next season and I want to keep them and build around them. Next season the side my assistant and I want to build will be very fit, open and attacking minded."

In a season of uncertainty, the club have sought support from senior players in Mark Jones and Matt Woolley. Herbert was quick to praise the efforts of the two 1874 stalwarts and spoke about his excitement in working with them both as the club strive for success next season.

"They're (Mark and Matt) both massive for this club and they've been around for a very long time. Their experience around these leagues will be invaluable next season for us."

Finally, ahead of his tenure, Chris had this message for the fans.

"This is going to be really exciting. There will be changes, but I am sure that the fans will buy into the direct attacking brand of football that we are aiming to play. We want the ball in the final third and we believe that we can get your club back to where it was."

Football Secretary Vicki England commented on the appointment: "We knew we needed someone with good experience and knowledge along with an understanding of what 1874 is about, and Chris demonstrated all of this. The Board is looking forward to working with Chris in the coming weeks to prepare us for the next chapter. I am sure all our supporters will welcome Chris to the club and will get behind him, his management team, and the squad."

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SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



Welcome back to Townfield for our penultimate home game of the season, as we take on our friends from Clitheroe this afternoon.

I have a soft spot for Clitheroe, mainly because our visits there have been positive in terms of the friendliness and hospitality shown towards us. Whatever the result, the standards are always the same and it's a cracking ground for an away day too. I really thought that Clitheroe would make the promotion spot this time, however I know they have had one or two 'difficulties' over their managerial situation this season but I am sure that they will recruit well in the summer and will be one to watch in the next campaign.

Their matchday Secretary Chris, was the very first person to offer support and guidance when we joined the NPL. It was our first away day and he met me with a spare team sheet book and some wise words and support, which set me on the way to understanding how the NPL ticks. This was appreciated and we have had a nice link since. Thanks Chris!

There's been quite a lot going on since I wrote for the Newcastle programme. A derby, confirmation of our relegation and a new gaffer!

Firstly, I would like to say a big welcome to Chris Herbert, who became the 1874 Manager last week. Chris comes to us with a good pedigree in football, and his appointment has been well received. I obviously knew Chris from his time at Runcorn Town, when they were at the top of the NWCFL table, and I always remember thinking that he conducted himself well. He's got valuable experience in management roles and has more recently worked at Salford City and Notts Forest in their development and scouting set ups.

Chris came over well when we chatted, and we saw and heard a lot from him which made us feel that he is the right guy to take us forward. Chris has contacts throughout the North West and Midlands and spoke well on how he felt he could help the club. He will be assisted by another experienced guy, and whilst we are unable to announce his appointment yet due to contractual obligations, I know that 1874 supporters will be delighted about this too! I know Chris has hit the ground running this week and we will do everything we can to support him.

This means that the reins have been passed from two of the best guys, that I have ever met. What more can be said about Matt Woolley and Mark Jones? Both guys have been there to pick the club up and it's true that their efforts deserved more on the pitch. They held the fort when Bow & Goodie left, and they were straight there to support everyone when Damian left. They have the respect of the players, the backroom team and the Board and I know, all our supporters. They did get a reaction from the players, even though results weren't favourable, and it's a mark of the regard that the lads have for them, which has meant that they have turned up for training and given such efforts in games. It would have been easier to walk away, but they didn't and that's down to Wools and Jonah.

To these two guys, along with Lee Jones, Katy Bagshaw, Andy Williams and Phil Lea, I send my heartfelt personal thanks for everything they have done this season. The word legend is bandied about too readily at times, but that's what both of them are.

Our relegation was confirmed on Bank Holiday Monday but to be fair, the damage was done over an extended period, and it was just a rubber-stamping exercise.

Despite some winding up from a few Albion supporters, which was absolutely fine, it was interesting to see the reaction from many supporters and officials from the club too. They know that it is a shame that the derby won't take place next season, which is quite a miss for local football, and it will also hit them financially too, as it will us. I would like to thank all the Northwichers who turned up at Wincham Park, the support was very much appreciated despite knowing what a defeat would mean. But you still turned up for the lads, and we will need that spirit next season.

Last weekend saw us play at Bootle. Again, another great club in the league and they deservedly occupy a play off place. I do think the score line flattered them a little, but they deserved the three points. Fair play to our lads for being well in the game and not making it easy for them. After today, we visit Avro next Saturday and then gather here for the visit of our Cheshire neighbours Runcorn Linnets on the final day. It's been a long season, with many bumps along the way but I hope that you will all turn out and thank the lads, as these guys have stuck with us through thick and thin.

Off the field, we held a members meeting last Thursday which was very well attended. The Board wanted to provide an opportunity to be incredibly open and honest about matters at the club and lots of questions were asked and answered. I must admit, it was great to feel an air of optimism and positivity afterwards and we will need to harness this and take it into next season. Whilst it is not rubber stamped, we do expect to be placed in the Midlands Division and there's no use moaning about it, we have got to plan and get on with it. And that's what we will do! However, we are not expecting it to be easy and we are going to have to work hard to keep up with everything and we need everyone onboard.

Don't forget that we are taking names for our Presentation evening on Friday 3 May. It's a chance for us to get together socially and for us to thank the lads for their efforts this season. They have all worn our badge and deserve our respect for remaining faithful to the club. Let's make this a nice night before we break into the summer. Please see Richard Stockton or another Board member for details. Details of how you can cast your vote for player of the season, will be announced shortly.

I just want to provide a quick update on Steve Richardson. He's doing well after his stroke; he is progressing nicely and is getting more used to a new way of life and a slower pace. He has asked me to thank everyone for their good wishes, he has appreciated them all. I also want to give a shout out to Alex Dickinson, who has had his own health scare. Alex is also recuperating at home and will be back next season too. Well, they'll do anything to get out of the washing up, I think!

Finally, I want to send my congratulations to everyone at Congleton Town on their Midland League Championship win. They are a good example of rolling their sleeves up and getting on with it and I know we will be able to learn from them. They will be a fantastic addition to the NPL West family.

That's it for now. Let's get behind the lads again today.

"Come on you Green Boys!"

FROM THE DUGOUT

CHRIS HERBERT



Callum Waters interviewed new manager Chris Herbert before his first game in charge...You can watch the video by clicking the button below, or read the transcript underneath.

Chris Herbert Interview

CW: Chris, welcome to 1874 Northwich your first sit down as manager; how pleased are you to be here and how pleased are you with the welcome over the week?

CH: Oh I'm made up. Made up the fans have bought into it straight away really, with the plans that we've got and what we talked about already. Yeah, it's been a really nice welcome and I'm glad to be here as well.

CW: Super. So, your background shows obviously you're vastly experienced in football; how excited are you by the challenge of next season?

CH: Yeah, it's going to be a challenge obviously. It's a new league and it's going to be new to virtually all of us really, so yeah, I'm really looking forward to it. The building starts now, really.

CW: So, talking about that building: moving on to Clitheroe this weekend, obviously, it's your first game in charge. What do you want to get out of that game and the remaining games this season?

CH: I want to see some pride out the lads, you know? Saturday they had a game and it didn't go to plan, but they worked hard and they were trying their best, they just didn't come off. They got tired at the end because it was a lot of pressure, and Bootle are a very good side – they've got them got really strong and right at it as well – and they'll probably get promoted the way they look. But, on Saturday is a different game, and we'll have a different game plan and, yeah, see where we go with it.

CW: So finally, ahead of taking charge, what is your message to the fans?

CH: You're going to enjoy what we see. We're going to be attacking, we are going to go for games, and hopefully we get the right lads in to go and get the results that we want to have

CW: Brilliant, thanks Chris. All the best for the weekend.

CH: Thanks very much.

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EURO 2024 SWEEPSTAKE

AN EXCUSE TO WATCH GEORGIA VS CZECHIA...



1874 is running its usual sweepstake for this summer's European Football Championship and tickets are now on sale at a cost of £2 each.

Format

The same as previous sweepstakes i.e. based on the various combinations of two competing teams on a ticket - there will be one winning ticket (prize £100), which will have the two teams that reach the final, and five further prize tickets (£25 each) for the other combinations of the teams that reach the semi-finals. Thus, if you have a card that contains two of the semi final teams then you win a prize.

In addition, there will also be a prize of £25 for the ticket containing the combination of the worst two performing countries from the group stage (based on points, goal difference and goals scored) – so if your ticket contains two unfancied teams then you may still win a prize! It is possible for more than two teams to qualify as 'the worst' and if so then the prize will be shared between the qualifying combinations.

There are 276 tickets available and 7 prizes so the odds of winning something are quite good!

Prizes must be claimed by producing the winning ticket within 30 days of the final match by contacting the Club by e-mail to trust@1874northwich.com, by telephone on 07975 679624 or by speaking to Guy Jewell or any other Club official.

How to Buy Tickets

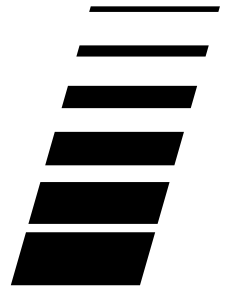
Tickets will be on sale at the ground for the final two home matches (Clitheroe and Runcorn Linnets) and at the Presentation Evening on 3 May.

For those not able to attend the matches then tickets can be obtained by contacting Guy Jewell in person, at trust@1874northwich.com or on 07496 109189 and arrangements will be made to supply tickets and collect money where possible. Payment can also be made directly to the bank account - Sort Code 08-92-99, Account Number 67298321.

The sweepstake will raise valuable funds for the Club, but as it comes at the end of the season it can be hard work to get all tickets sold in time. So, if you can sell a few extra tickets to family and friends then please let me know as per the details above.

END-OF-SEASON MEAL

PRESENTATION OF END OF SEASON AWARDS



We are pleased to announce the end of season doo has been arranged for the Friday the 3rd of May. The venue for the event will be at Winnington recreation Club. Start time will be around 7pm. The evening will consist of a three-course meal provided by the ladies who did it for us last year. As I'm sure you will agree they do an excellent job. Any special dietary requirements please let me know.

The players will be in attendance and this is your opportunity to thank them for their commitment after a challenging season. We shall also have our presentation of trophies to the players on the night.

The cost of the evening will be £28 per person, please support the event and support your club/players. My number is 07738 287356 if you want to send a message.
- Richard Stockton



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GROUND UPKEEP INITIATIVE

We are launching a new fundraising initiative – Sponsor a Seed. All funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the pitch: topsoil, grass seed & paint.

A £5 minimum donation will get your name on the custom made sponsor board until the end of the 24/25 season.

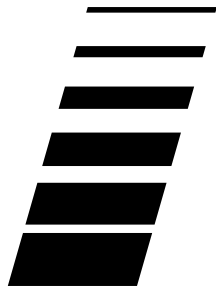
Feel free to grab Jane or myself at any game to discuss, or e-mail us [here](#).

£20 has been raised from the football card at the Curry Night, which takes the total to almost £150. So please contribute to this great cause if you are able to.

- Mark Davies

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
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Frank Fallows
Tony Fallows
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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!

[Boost the Budget](#)



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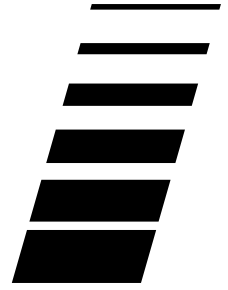


These clubs have chosen Macron



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				Metcalf 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	248					Brooks J
24	Vauxhall Motors	1-3	1-1	277	Nicholson Jo				Corrigan L
Mar 9	LEEK TOWN	0-3	0-0	347					Moose B
16	HEDNESFORD TOWN	0-1	0-1	268					Metcalf T
19	HANLEY TOWN	0-1	0-1	170					Moss M
23	Trafford	2-2	1-2	417	Noble	Partington			Kearney G
30	NEWCASTLE TOWN	0-0	0-1	244					Reeves M
Apr 1	Witton Albion	0-3	0-1	902					Lamb B
6	Bootle	1-5	0-1	367	Noble				Hussain A
13	CLTHEROE	-							
20	Avro	-							
27	RUNCORN LINNETS	-							

Online Match Centre

1874 NORTHWICH 2023/24 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 11/04/24

		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	6	4	5	0	0	6	4	5	0	0	11
CHIMENES	Max	17	2	0	0	2	17	2	0	0	2	17
COSTA	Jordao	0	0	2	13	0	0	0	2	13	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	9	3	5	2	0	9	3	5	2	0	14
FENTON	Matty	31	1	0	0	1	82	3	0	3	9	82
GREEN	Fenton	14	2	0	0	3	42	8	2	3	6	44
IBETO	Mike	10	3	5	5	0	10	3	5	5	0	15
IRLAM	Jack	8	1	0	0	2	92	28	22	5	13	114
JESUS	Anisio	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	4
JONES	Joel	11	4	3	1	1	11	4	3	1	1	14
JONES	Mark	31	2	1	1	0	237	16	7	6	9	244
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	10	3	0	3	0	10	3	0	3	0	10
MCFADYEN	Oli	9	2	1	0	1	9	2	1	0	1	10
MCGEADY	Ewan	7	1	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	7
MCNAIR	Kamoy	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
MIALKOWSKI	Kacper	16	2	3	0	0	16	2	3	0	0	19
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	19	14	13	1	2	19	14	13	1	2	32
NICHOLSON	Josh	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
NOBLE	Isaac	15	8	9	1	2	23	16	24	18	4	47
OLIVER	Sam	9	3	5	3	0	9	3	5	3	0	14
OLLERENSHAW	Josh	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
PARTINGTON	Ole	6	0	1	0	1	6	0	1	0	1	7
SHORTHOUSE	Mike	1	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	8	0	1
SIYAM	Mohammad	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	5	9	0	5
SODHI	Jonny	6	5	4	16	0	6	5	4	16	0	10
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	14	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	14
WOOLLEY	Matt	34	6	1	2	1	371	56	31	30	45	402

NPL-WEST 2023/24 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 11/04/24

		Pld	HOME			AWAY			GF	GA	Pts
			W	D	L	W	D	L			
1	Leek Town	35	14	1	2	10	4	4	82	37	77
2	Runcorn Linnets	35	11	3	4	7	4	6	55	37	61
3	Prescot Cables	35	10	5	3	7	5	5	54	37	61
4	Bootle	34	7	5	6	10	3	3	55	42	59
5	Witton Albion	35	11	2	5	6	3	8	57	57	56
6	Nantwich Town	35	11	3	4	5	3	9	58	43	54
7	City of Liverpool FC	34	7	5	4	8	3	7	59	45	53
8	Widnes	34	10	2	5	5	4	8	50	36	51
9	Avro	35	5	6	7	8	6	3	44	43	51
10	Stalybridge Celtic	35	9	5	3	4	6	8	54	55	50
11	Clitheroe	35	6	5	7	7	5	5	59	53	49
12	Chasetown	35	9	5	4	4	3	10	47	49	47
13	Mossley	35	8	4	5	4	4	10	42	52	44
14	Hanley Town	35	5	4	8	6	6	6	33	43	43
15	Newcastle Town	35	5	4	8	7	2	9	41	46	42
16	Kidsgrove Athletic	34	6	5	6	4	4	9	54	62	39
17	Vauxhall Motors	35	7	2	9	4	3	10	46	67	38
18	Trafford	35	3	8	6	4	7	7	38	51	36
19	Hednesford Town	35	4	7	6	3	4	11	43	61	32
20	1874 Northwich	35	2	2	13	2	4	12	23	78	18

NPL-WEST 2023/24 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 11/04/24

	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 0-1	0-1	0-1	2-6 0-3	1-3 0-1	0-1 0-1	0-1 0-1	0-0 0-4	2-0 1-0	1-0 1-2							
Avro			1-3 0-2	1-2 0-1	0-0	1-1	1-1 2-1	0-0 1-0	0-3 2-0	1-2 3-2	1-1 1-0	1-1 0-1	0-1							
Bootle	1-5 1-0			3-1 1-2	0-2	1-3 1-1	2-0 1-1	3-1 2-1	0-0	1-3 0-4	1-1 1-2	2-1 1-1								
Chasetown	4-2 0-1	3-2			3-3 6-4	0-0	2-0 2-1	0-3 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 3-4	1-1 1-4	6-3 0-0	2-1 1-1	1-1 0-1	0-1 2-0	0-1 0-3								
Clitheroe	1-2 1-1		1-0 2-1			0-0 2-1		2-2 4-1	2-3 3-1	1-4 2-3	1-1 2-2	5-0 2-0								
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		0-1 2-1								
Hednesford Town	1-1		1-1 0-4	1-5 1-2			2-3 1-1	0-1 3-2	3-0 0-2	1-1 1-1	1-1 1-1	3-0 3-0								
Kidsgrove Athletic	5-0 2-2	0-2 2-1	2-1 0-3	4-1 1-1			0-5 1-1	1-4 1-2	1-1 3-0	2-2 2-1		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	3-0 2-2	1-0 4-1									
Mossley	1-1	1-2 2-1	1-1 0-1	2-1 1-0	3-2 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	4-3 3-1	1-3 2-1		0-1 1-1	3-1 4-2	4-0 3-0	0-2 1-0										
Newcastle Town	0-1 0-1	0-2 1-1	1-1 1-1	0-0 0-1	3-1 1-2	2-1		3-0 1-0	3-4 2-2	1-0 1-3	1-2									
Prescot Cables	1-0 0-1	2-0 1-0	0-2 2-1	1-1 1-1	2-1 0-1	5-3 1-0	1-0		2-2 5-1	1-1 1-1	4-1									
Runcorn Linnets	1-0 2-1	0-1 1-2	5-1 1-2	0-1 3-0	1-0 5-0	2-0 0-0	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	1-0 3-2	2-1 1-1		0-1 1-0	1-2 4-3	4-0										
Trafford	2-2 2-4	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	3-1 1-2		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	2-0 2-1		1-3									
Witton Albion	3-0 2-2	2-2 2-0	1-2 1-0	2-0 3-2	3-1 2-1	1-4 1-0	2-3	1-0 3-0	0-4 1-2	2-1										

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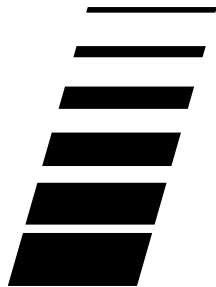
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Tom FAGAN	John Coats
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Mike IBETO	1874 Car School
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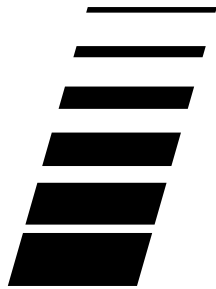
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RESPECT INITIATIVE

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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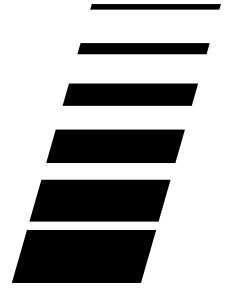
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

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.
- ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.
- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

OUR MISSION

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

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

Find out more

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 contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

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

1874 NORTHWICH - PROFILES 2023/2024

TINASHÉ 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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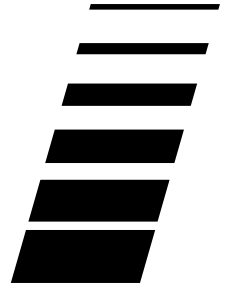
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HISTORIES AND PROFILES

TODAY'S VISITORS: CLITHEROE FC



HISTORY

The club starts its 20th season at Level 4 of the non league pyramid in the Northern Premier League Division 1 (West). Having narrowly missed out on promotion last season, having finished fourth and gone down 0-2 in the play off semi final against eventual winners, Workington, the drive for promotion is even stronger. With season ticket sales nearing 600 and a new ground improvement initiative, Shawbridge 100 launched at the start of the season, the club's ambition is clear for all to see.

The early years of Clitheroe FC are shrouded in mystery, although it is clear that we do not have an unbroken lineage all the way back to 1877. That said, in that time, a number of teams could claim to be the town team and several of them plied their trade at Shawbridge. However, it took over 40 years for the confusion to be settled, with matters not being helped by the Clitheroe Advertiser not being around in the very early years.

What is clear is that in 1877 the first town team, called Clitheroe FC, took to the field for the first time. As legend has it, they did indeed play against Blackburn Rovers at Swan Meadows (off Kirkmoor Road) and carried on for several years before closing down. They then reformed in 1890 and went on to win the Lancashire Cup in 1892 and took their place in the North East Lancashire League. Not long after, they disappeared but this was not the end of football in Clitheroe. Far from it – indeed several teams could lay claim to being the intermediate predecessor to our current club, before a Clitheroe FC team stepped out at Shawbridge in the Lancashire Combination in 1925-26.

In 1899, Market Place Rovers came into being and played their football at Shawbridge, before becoming Clitheroe Congregationalists the following season. This was always assumed to provide a religious fig leaf to allow them to take their place in the Blackburn Sunday League. In 1902 they became Clitheroe Central, playing in the Lancashire Combination, before going bust in 1910, as a result of their goalkeeper breaking his leg and suing the club. As the club had neither insurance nor assets, they declared themselves bankrupt, a fact which was reported in The Times.

Around the same time, a team called Clitheroe Amateurs had started up in 1909 and whilst records are almost non-existent from this point until after the 1914-18 Great War, records show that they sought permission from the FA

to use the name Clitheroe FC in 1921. This was granted and in 1924-25 they won the North East Lancashire Combination. After a well attended public meeting, the club decided to apply to join the Lancashire Combination. A supporters' club sought 1,000 members to fund developments and on 29 August 1925, the mayor opened the stand and dressing rooms at the newly enlarged Shawbridge ground. Darwen were the visiting club for the opening game.

The Lancashire Combination Cup in 1934-5 and the League Championship in 1979-80 was all that the club had to show for its efforts before the creation of the North West Counties league in 1982. That was soon to change. Although Clitheroe were put into the Third Division of the NWCFL at its inception in 1982 due to the state of the ground, there followed the most successful period in the club's long history under the stewardship of Eric Whalley, subsequently manager and Chairman of Accrington Stanley FC. He assembled one of the best non-league sides in the North of England and won back to back Championships in the Third, Second and First divisions, as well as securing the Lancashire Cup for the first time in 50 years, thanks to a solitary strike from local lad Eric Geldard. This was all the more impressive when one considers that the Division 1 was effectively Level 3 in the non-league pyramid. Captained by Mick Ashcroft and containing extravagant talents such as John Taylor and Steve Mullen, possibly the best player ever to play for the Blues, Clitheroe regularly attracted bumper gates, with the championship winning season seeing three crowds over 1,000. Cracks started to appear when Whalley took over the manager's seat at Accrington. To compound matters, the new Northern Premier Division 1 was formed, but a lack of floodlights meant the Blues could not take their rightful place and they found teams effectively leapfrogging them.

It was not until the mid nineties that the Club recovered from this setback and started to fulfil its potential. It became a force in the NWCFL Division 1 again and also made itself known on the national FA Vase stage. Having been pipped to the title in 1994-95 by Bradford PA in controversial circumstances, the following season saw possibly the highlight of the club's history when the Blues reached the Vase Final under the joint management of Dennis Underwood and Gary Butcher after an epic

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two legged semi Final win against Mangotsfield United of Bristol. 2,000 people were on Shawbridge for the second leg when a deflected goal saw the Blues home with seven minutes of extra time remaining. The Final pitted the Blues against a powerful Brigg side and a 3-0 reverse in front of 7,500 fans was a fair reflection of the play. In the close season, Clitheroe also received their record transfer fee, £45,000, from Crystal Palace for goalkeeper Carlo Nash.

The Wembley experience turned the Blues into a Vase side and a Quarter Final defeat against Tiverton in 1998/99 and a two leg reverse against Taunton in the 2000/01 semi-final gave the Blues national prominence. Dave Burgess stood down at the end of the season and central defender Lee Sculpher took over as player manager. In 2002/3, Clitheroe again finished as league runners up and lost to Mossley at Gigg Lane in the League Cup Final. Early cup exits the following season enabled the Blues to concentrate on the league and superb away form saw the Blues capture the 2003/04 league title on the final day of the season at Nantwich where Blues legend Neil Reynolds sparked bedlam when he thumped a 25 yarder into the top corner with six minutes of the season remaining.

High hopes accompanied Clitheroe's first foray into the Unibond League in 2004/05, but the club never fully recovered from manager Lee Sculpher resigning after a handful of games into the new season. He was succeeded by Paul Byrom who then quit in the close season. Tommy Lawson was appointed manager for the 2005/06 season but he was relieved of his duties in early 2006, to be replaced on a temporary basis by Mark Smitheringale. He too left before the 2006/07 season started and his assistant Chris Stammers stepped up to the plate before resigning after a 10-1 thumping away to Conference North Kettering in the FA Trophy in November 2006. The then chairman Carl Garner offered the job to Neil Reynolds and Pete Smith at the turn of 2007, before the latter took on the role in his own right at the end of the 2008/09 season. 2009/10 and 2010/11 saw Clitheroe finishing in eight and sixth respectively, the highest league placings in the club's history. The end of the 10/11 season also had a unique twist with Carl Garner stepping down as chairman after four years to replace Pete Smith as manager, in the process going unbeaten throughout April and taking the manager of the month prize. Garner was replaced in the role of chair by his long-standing deputy Anne Barker.

Despite the great end to the previous campaign, the 2011/12 season under Garner's leadership was ultimately disappointing, although it had started so brightly with another manager of the month award. Form quickly tailed off and huge player turnover ensued, before Garner resigned and the managerial Vase duo of Burgess and Sculpher ensured survival on a temporary basis, having taken over with less than 10 games to go. Paul Moore, the ex Leek Town and Warrington Town manager, took over

the reins in 2012/13 and led Clitheroe to their record points total in Division 1 in finishing eighth, with the play-off push only ending over the final games of the season. However, the loss of key players in the close season led to a woeful start in 2013/14 and to an early exit from the FA Cup and Trophy, and the committee replaced Moore mid season with ex Blue Simon Garner.

Garner steadied the ship and Clitheroe finished the season in 17th position, with Garner setting his stall out in 2014-15 to create a more east Lancashire focussed team. A 13th place finish and an appearance at the Reebok in the Lancashire Trophy against Chorley represented good progress, whilst the 7th place in 2015-16 continued the good work, and the push for the play-offs only faltered in the final weeks. Following Garner's resignation, the club moved quickly to appoint ex Wales international Simon Haworth to the manager's role. He moulded a team from scratch into genuine play off contenders, only faltering in the penultimate game of the season to a 90th minute goal at rivals Colne. 2017-18 could not quite recapture these heights although both Kurt Willoughby and Alex Newby featured prominently in the league goal-scoring charts. When Howarth announced he was leaving, the club appointed former Warrington Town manager, Stuart Mellish. After an unhappy, short tenure, his assistant, former Ossett Town manager Lee Ashforth, was handed the role six games into the season. Unfortunately, Clitheroe endured their worst season at this level and Ashforth's tenure was brought to an end. Former Lancaster manager Phil Brown steadied the ship in the truncated 2019-20 season, with crowds averaging back over 350 and the Blues hovering around the play off places. He left for personal reasons at the end of the season and the club appointed former Blue David Lynch as player manager for the 2020-21 season, who in turn left after a promising truncated season.

Billy Priestley led the club in the 2021-22 season as player manager to its joint highest placing and points total in the NPL, before he was replaced by former Blue David Dempsey after stepping down around New Year of the 22-23 season. Dempsey inspired a superb run in and led the club to fourth place and to the play offs. Hopes are high for another stirring campaign.

PROFILES

Hakan Burton: Highly regarded and vastly experienced goalkeeper. Previously kept goal for Colne for several seasons after starting his career at Liverpool and Shrewsbury. Won the NPL Premier league with Curzon Ashton and had two seasons with them in the Conference North.

Jacob Hanson: 25 year old right back signed on loan from Macclesfield. Originally a striker, the pacy defender played for Bradford City and FC Halifax Town before joining the Silkmen.

Lee Pugh: 31 year old left back/midfielder, returns for his second spell at the club. Already with 100+ Blues' appearances under his belt, the pugnacious competitor will be keen to help with Clitheroe's play off push.

Cameron Lancaster: young centre back who moved up from the u23s and became a fixture in defence at the end of the season. Composed operator, he scooped the pool in the club's awards last season.

Will Hall: Imposing 22 year old central defender who signed from Trafford. Previously on Altrincham's books and played most of last season for Ramsbottom United, where he captained the side.

Waqas Azam: 26 year old full back, previously on Burnley's youth books before playing for Chorley, Colne and Ashton United. Injury curtailed his season last term and he will be looking to get back to full fitness.

Andy Teague: Legendary 37 year old central defender signed from Lancaster City.

Michael Davies: 19 year old left back. Highly rated loan signing from Tranmere Rovers

Matthew Clarke: 24 year old defender signed from Lancaster City. Already has a league winners medal under his belt with Workington after spending four years at the club..

Richie Baker – 36 year old midfielder signed from Ramsbottom United. Has more than 100 games on his CV with Bury in the league, as well as higher level non league experience with FC United, AFC Fylde and Stockport County.

Ross Dent: Midfielder. A Clitheroe lad. Still only 29, he already has over 250 Clitheroe appearances to his name and is a member of the club's Team of the Decade. Having spent two seasons with former manager Simon Haworth at Stalybridge, Ross cemented his reputation as one of the hardest working and most fearless midfielders around.

Simon Njaria: much travelled 29 year old midfielder. Started his career at Leeds United before early moves to Halifax Town and Harrogate. Recently signed from Stafford and scored on his debut

Emmerich Poilly: athletic 19 year old French midfielder. On loan from Accrington Stanley.

Danny Wilkins – 30 year old signed at the end of 2019-20 season from Droylsden and returned to the club for a second spell. Can play anywhere across the front line and midfield and offers a rare mix of talent.

Sefton Gonzales – striker who has spent much of his career at the higher level. Has twice been a member of the league's Team of the Season and on his day is virtually unplayable.

Domaine Rouse – much travelled striker who has spent much of his career at the higher level. His all action style will provide an extra dimension to the Blues' forward line.

Veron Parry – 19 year old French student currently studying in Manchester. Hugely exciting talent on the flanks and is already catching the eye of clubs much higher up the pyramid.

Matty Barlow: Young attacking midfielder recently signed from Trafford, able to play higher up the pitch

Jack Massey: 19 year old loan signing from Accrington Stanley. Young striker keen to cement a place in the team and to continue his impressive goal scoring record.

Amaar Hussein: highly rated 19 year old striker who can play anywhere across the front line. Recently signed a pro contract with Altrincham and comes to Shawbridge on loan.

Louis Potts: Bustling centre forward who spent his formative career on Preston's books. Since leaving, he has played for Ashton United, Mossley and Avro, and is looking to add to his burgeoning reputation.

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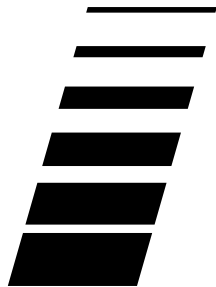
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FOOTBALLERS are often accused of forgetting their roots but that's not necessarily a fair reflection of the reality.

Even this week, Aston Villa striker – and England Euro 2024 hopeful – Ollie Watkins took time out of his end of season run-in schedule to watch Truro City take on Torquay United in the National League South.

Watkins' mate Connor Riley-Lowe is Truro captain and the 28-year-old went along to show his support.

The pair played together at Exeter City but Watkins is no stranger to Non-League football following a loan spell at Weston-super-Mare a few years back before his career really took off in the EFL and, these days, beyond.

Of course, Non-League is a haven for former top flight footballers, FA Cup winners and ex-internationals – many enjoy winding down their careers on the pitch or go into management at the level. Some even enjoy great success.

Others choose to focus on getting involved with a club off the pitch too. It will be interesting to see how many look to go that route in the future.

Former Crystal Palace winger Wilf Zaha is now involved with AFC Croydon Athletic – alongside British rap star Stormzy – and watched their Combined Counties League game at Camberley Town on Tuesday night.

In last week's NLP, Tony Incenzo wrote a revealing piece with QPR defender Steve Cook and his involvement with Sussex-based outfit Westfield.

The Mid Sussex League side are dreaming of climbing the Pyramid over the coming seasons with Cook happy to be helping out.

"Hastings is my home town," the former Bournemouth man told Tony. "My mum and dad still live there. Westfield is only five minutes down the road and it is a lovely little village. Hopefully I can raise the club's profile to push them forward.

"I decided to get involved because my close friend Jack Stapley and his family have been running Westfield for a while. I'd often spoken to Jack about the club and a lot of my friends play Non-League. So I said to Jack: 'Oh, if you ever need a hand or want me to help out then just let me know.' And he replied: 'Yeah!'

"I've always taken an interest in life below the EFL. When I was a young Brighton player, I went out on loan to Non-League clubs at Havant & Waterlooville, Eastleigh, Eastbourne Borough and Mansfield Town (who were then in the Conference).

"It benefitted me a great deal. I came up against tough adult opponents rather than other youth players. It was a major influence on my early development and even the way I play football nowadays."

And Cook recognises the important role Non-League football plays in the English game.

He added: "It is rewarding for me to give something back to the game. Yes I am playing for Queens Park Rangers but I regularly chat to other Westfield officials via Zoom meetings which keep me in the loop.

"I firmly believe our Non-League ranks play a huge part for any aspiring footballers who want to go far."

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