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NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE



# EVER GLORIOUS



*VS RUNCORN LINNETS*  
*27/04/24 - 3.00PM*  
*NPL WEST*  
*OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME*

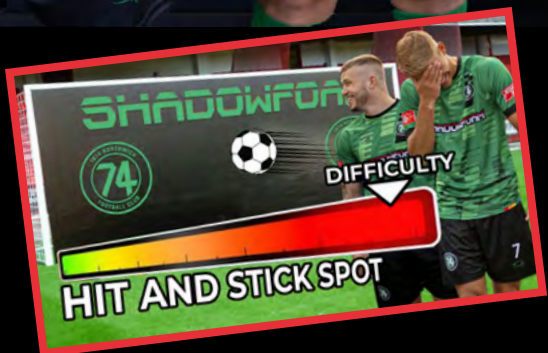
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## 1874 NORTHWICH FC



Northwich Community Football Club, trading as 1874 Northwich Football Club, operates under the model of a Community Benefit Society.

Registration no.: 32017R

20 Greenside Drive, Lostock Green, Northwich, CW9 7SR

**STADIUM:** The Creative Hut Stadium, Townfield Lane, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4LJ

**Visit**

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**TELEPHONE:** 07975 679624

**GENERAL E-MAIL:** [trust@1874northwich.com](mailto:trust@1874northwich.com)

**FOOTBALL:** [secretary@1874northwich.com](mailto:secretary@1874northwich.com)

**COMMUNITY:** [community@1874northwich.com](mailto:community@1874northwich.com)

**PROGRAMME:** [programme@1874northwich.com](mailto:programme@1874northwich.com)

**MEDIA:** [media@1874northwich.com](mailto:media@1874northwich.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.1874northwich.com](http://www.1874northwich.com)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/1874Northwich](http://www.facebook.com/1874Northwich)

**TWITTER:** [www.twitter.com/1874Northwich](http://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

### HONOURS:

**NWCFL CHALLENGE CUP** 2019, 2020

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

**SUPPORTERS DIRECT SHIELD** 2013

**EUROCOPA WALKING FOOTBALL BOWL TROPHY** 2019

# WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

vs **RUNCORN LINNETS**

SATURDAY 27TH 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**

# SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



**Well, we've made it to the end of another season and our final game sees us host our friends from Runcorn Linnets.**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone connected with Linnets this afternoon, especially some particularly good football friends that I have made over the years and to the fancy dress wearing supporters!

Runcorn have had another fantastic season of progress, and they go into our game, having cemented their play-off spot but needing to get another three points to finish runners up, thereby confirming home advantage in the games. Can we 'upset the applecart'? Well, we are bottom and haven't managed to beat them yet in 13 previous meetings, so I think the script is set for an historic win, don't you agree?!!

From our own perspective, we are at the other end of the spectrum to Linnets. It's been a tricky old season and despite some terrific effort, we've fallen short of what was required, and we see ourselves leave the Northern Premier League after today's game. It's been a memorable three years, but it has been difficult for us to remain competitive for various reasons. I have been asked as to where we will head next season, and all I can say is that it is not yet confirmed. However we are obviously planning for the Midland League, given the number of more northerly clubs in the mix for the North West Counties League and the fact that other local sides were sent that way. I have been heartened by the positivity coming from supporters over the last few weeks, we are not moaning and are going to make the best of it! Sometimes you need a bit of a reset, to start to build again.

I can tell you that our new gaffer Chris, has hit the ground running. I know he has been busy talking to players about next season and he's said that there's a lot of interest. He has also secured the services of two very good guys to support the squad. We will be joined by Coach Mark Reed, who made his name as an exceptionally good goal scorer in non-league and 1874 supporters will remember him from his time at Runcorn Town. We will also see goalkeeping coach Mark Corbett join; Mark is highly rated in the game having spent time with Blackburn Rovers. We look forward to both the guys being at the club next season.

It's usual for me in the last programme notes to thank everyone for their efforts this season. To our supporters, who have continued to back the lads despite the circumstances, the Managers and the squad have appreciated it. To keep turning up at away games and seeing a healthy following each time, has been so good. To our many volunteers, who have continued to do something every day of the week, you are the lifeblood of the club and 1874 could not function without you. There are so many people, and it is hard to name individuals but please know that you are appreciated beyond words.

I would like to thank our managers this season. Whilst it may not have panned out how each had hoped, they each gave an enormous amount of hard work and service to 1874 and they will be part of the club's DNA. So, to Paul Bowyer and Wayne Goodison, who stepped down earlier in the season after a lot of years, a lot of success and a lot of hard work, we give our grateful thanks. They remain supportive to this day.

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Damian Crossley, who was appointed as their successor, should be commended for his sheer effort and determination. He was quickly dealt a difficult hand, as a tweaking job became a rebuild and despite everything, he was very committed. It just didn't work out for various reasons, but we thank Damian for his hard work and for wanting to be part of the club.

We then relied on two of our greatest legends to steer the ship. How blessed are we to have Matt Woolley and Mark Jones at the club. They juggled playing in the team with guiding the squad and I couldn't be any prouder of them. They are both fantastic guys who have 1874 in their blood and deserve the accolades that come to them.

In the last three weeks, Chris has been appointed and is already making a positive impact around the place. He's obviously used the last few games to review things and speak to people about his plans for next season. I know we are all looking forward to working more closely with Chris in the future.

All these guys were supported admirably by the 'backroom team.' Again, these folks have worked hard, they have stuck with the club, picked up additional tasks at times and have supported the managers so well. So, to Katy Bagshaw, Andy Williams, Lee Jones and of course Phil Lea – you have been amazing, and we can't thank you enough!

I would also like to give a shout out to the rest of the Board. It's been quite trying at times, and we've come in for a little criticism, and when you put yourself in the position then it comes with the territory. But I know members realise that the club is in the hands of people who care, and we will continue to work hard to progress 1874. I send a special mention to Steve Richardson, who was a driving force for everything at the club and who in recent weeks has had to step back through health issues, I'm glad to see that he is doing well and will be back on the terraces next season. If you haven't put your name down for next Friday's Presentation Evening, why noy?! Please see Richard Stockton or another Board member today as the deadline is looming on us booking numbers with the venue. Let's make this a nice night before we break into the summer.

That's it for now. Let's get behind the lads for the final time today, then have a break and restful summer before we gather back for new adventures.

**"Come on you Green Boys!"**

Introducing the Spectral Intent Elite  
Exclusive Northern Premier League Match Ball :

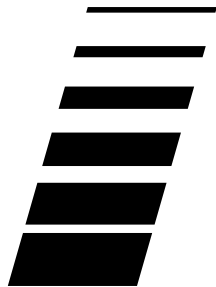
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# BIG GAME PREVIEW

BY GARRY CLARKE



## 1874 NORTHWICH vs RUNCORN LINNETS NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - WEST

Runcorn Linnets ended last season 5th in the NPL West Division with a playing record of:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Linnets	38	18	9	11	58	38	20	63	5

Beating Leek Town 2-1 in the semi-final, they lost the play off final 2-1 at Workington despite taking a 5th minute lead. Runcorn also lost the previous season's final 2-1 against Marine.

Runcorn Linnets struggled for consistency in the bottom half of the table in the first part of the season, but since December have been very consistent occupying a top five spot and confirming their place in the play offs last Saturday.

Last Saturday they beat Widnes 3-2 at home in front of a crowd of 982, with goals from Anthony Kay, Joe Thompson and Adam Moseley.

2nd in the NPL West table after last Saturday's game, Runcorn Linnets have won two and drawn four of their last six games to sit 7th in the division's current form table, while 1874 with a draw and five defeats, although bottom of the league table, have moved off the bottom of the form guide into 19th place leap-frogging over Mossley who have lost all six.

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Pos
Linnets	37	19	8	10	58	39	-19	65	2
1874	37	4	6	27	24	84	-60	18	20

Away from their Apex Taxis Stadium home Runcorn have won 7 of their 18 league games this season, drawing 5 and losing 6 giving them the 7th best away record in the division, while 1874 have won just two and drawn two of their 18 homes games, the worst record in the division.

This will be the 14th game to be played between 1874 and Runcorn Linnets with 1874 still looking for their first victory against their Cheshire rivals. The closest 1874 have come to claiming the three points are three drawn games, Runcorn have

won the other ten, the latest of which was earlier this season on 18th November when a Will Saxon goal settled the game.

Runcorn Linnets reached the second qualifying round of the FA Cup where they lost in a replay to Chorley, after beating Stalybridge Celtic and Charnock Richard in earlier rounds.

In the FA Trophy they lost to Witton Albion in the first qualifying round on penalties.

In their respective county cups Linnets lost 2-1 to Congleton Town in the 2nd round of the Cheshire Senior Cup and 2-0 to AFC Liverpool in the quarter final of the Liverpool Senior Cup.

Leading goal scorer for Runcorn Linnets is Oliver Molloy who has netted 16 goals so far this season, while a further 15 players have been on target for Runcorn Linnets.

Runcorn Linnet's 26 home games have attracted an average crowd of 653 to the Apex Taxis Stadium. The highest attendance has been 1,001 for the Boxing Day game against Prescott Cables while the lowest is 264 for a Liverpool Senior Cup tie against Southport.

### RUNCORN LINNETS FACT FILE

<i>Formed</i>	2006
<i>Ground</i>	Apex Taxis Stadium
<i>Colours</i>	Green & Yellow
<i>Change Colours</i>	Orange & Black
<i>Nickname</i>	Linnets
<i>Manager</i>	Billy Paynter
<i>2022/23</i>	5th NPL West

### DID YOU KNOW?

Although not mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book, Runcorn was founded by Aethelflaed of Mercia in 915 AD as a fortification to guard against Viking invasion at a narrowing of the River Mersey. The earliest written reference to the town is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, where it is spelled "Rumcofan", literally meaning "a wide cove or bay". This word is derived from the Old English words "rúm" ("wide" or "broad") and "cofa" ("cave" or "cove"). Other historical spellings of Runcorn include "Rumcoven", "Ronchestorn", "Runckhorne", and "Runcorne".



**FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS**

Despite the closeness of the two clubs there have not been that many players who have played for both, those to do so include Steve Foster, Taylor Kennerley, Josh Quarless, Stuart Wellstead, Eric Byrne and Mackenzie O'Neill.

**WE'VE MET BEFORE**

*Garry Clarke takes a look back at previous meetings between 1874 Northwich and Runcorn Linnets.*

*It is safe to say Linnets have enjoyed the better fortunes in the previous 13 meetings between the two clubs, especially as 1874 are still looking for their first win.*

**2014/15**

29th September 2014 - NWCFL Premier  
Home - Drew 0-0 Attendance 563

28th February 2015 - NWCFL Premier  
Away - Lost 2-3 Attendance 665  
1874 - Brandon 2  
Runcorn - Towey, White, Potter

**2015/16**

5th September 2015 - NWCFL Premier  
Home - Lost 0-1 Attendance 435  
Runcorn - White

23rd April 2016 - NWCFL Premier  
Away - Lost 1-2 Attendance 456  
1874 - Chappell  
Runcorn - White, Hickey

**2016/17**

13th September 2016 - NWCFL Premier  
Away - Drew 1-1 Attendance 439  
1874 - Bailey  
Runcorn - Foster

11th March 2017 - NWCFL Premier  
Home - Lost 1-4 Attendance 352  
1874 - Carey  
Runcorn - Wellstead, Aley, Potter, Holt

**2017/18**

7th October 2017 - NWCFL Premier  
Home - Lost 2-4 Attendance 426  
1874 - Hind, M Woolley  
Runcorn - Houghton 2, Shanley, Hamid

2nd February 2018 - NWCFL Premier  
Away - Lost 1-2 Attendance 428  
1874 - R Jackson  
Runcorn - Houghton, Wellstead

**2021/22**

14th September 2021 - NPL West  
Away - Lost 0-1 Attendance 729  
Runcorn - Smith

1st January 2022 - NPL West  
Home - Lost 1-2 Attendance 645  
1874 - Parker  
Runcorn - Marsh-Hughes, Murray

**2022/23**

8th November 2022 - NPL West  
Away - Drew 2-2 Attendance 662  
1874 - O'Neill, Irlam  
Runcorn - Short, Brooke

25th February 2023 - NPL West  
Home - Lost 0-1 Attendance 440  
Runcorn - Birchall

**2023/24**

18th November 2023 - NPL West  
Away - Lost 0-1 Attendance 707  
Runcorn - Saxon

**HEAD TO HEAD**

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	6	0	1	5	4	12	-8
Away	7	0	2	5	7	12	-5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-13</b>

**LAST SEASON AT TOWNFIELD**

**25th February lost 0-1 Attendance 440**

1874 Northwich's wait for a first win against Runcorn Linnets continued as a single goal in the first half of a drab affair at Townfield was enough for the visitors to collect all three points. Substitute Matt Birchall finished from 12 yards out after a lucky break fell his way inside the 1874 penalty area four minutes before half time. 1874 tried to get back into the game but were thwarted by a strong Linnets defence, while Tony Aghayere pulled off the game's only noteworthy save, tipping a James Short free kick over the bar in the second half.

**ANNUAL SEASON REVIEW**

It's that time of the year when thoughts turn to the Annual Season Review.

As you will have probably noticed last year's ASR was not published due to circumstances beyond our control, so this year's ASR will cover both 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons.

Valued regular contributors will be contacted shortly for their input into this double issue.

# 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](mailto:trust@1874northwich.com), by telephone on 07975 679624 or by speaking to Guy Jewell or any other Club official.

### How to Buy Tickets

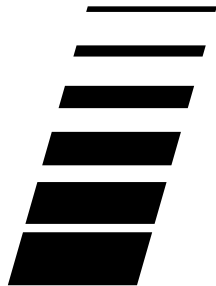
Tickets will be on sale at the ground for the final two home matches (Clitheroe and Runcorn Linnets) and at the Presentation Evening on 3 May.

For those not able to attend the matches then tickets can be obtained by contacting Guy Jewell in person, at [trust@1874northwich.com](mailto: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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& quote "1874 Fan" to strike a great deal

# SPONSOR A SEED!

## 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.

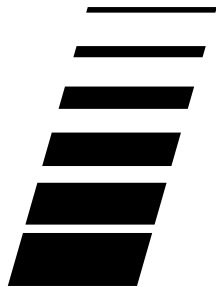
Feel free to grab Jane or myself at any game to discuss, or e-mail us [here](#).

£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  
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!

[Boost the Budget](#)



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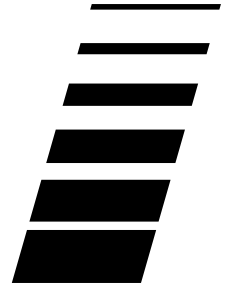
These clubs have chosen Macron





# 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	CLUTHEROE	1-4	1-1	233	Jones J				Moosa B
20	Avro	0-2	0-0	250					Williams A
27	RUNCORN LINNETS	-							

## Online Match Centre

## 1874 NORTHWICH 2023/24 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 26/04/24

		2023/24 SEASON					ALL-TIME					
		Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Starts	Subbed	Sub On	Unused	Goals	Total Apps
ADEKOYA	Daya	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	4	2	0	4
ADETILOYE	Sam	6	4	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	7	5	5	0	0	7	5	5	0	0	12
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	6	2	0	9	3	6	2	0	15
FENTON	Matty	33	1	0	0	1	84	3	0	3	9	84
GREEN	Fenton	14	2	0	0	3	42	8	2	3	6	44
IBETO	Mike	12	4	5	5	0	12	4	5	5	0	17
IRLAM	Jack	8	1	0	0	2	92	28	22	5	13	114
JESUS	Anisio	2	0	3	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	5
JONES	Joel	12	4	3	2	2	12	4	3	2	2	15
JONES	Mark	33	2	1	1	0	239	16	7	6	9	246
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	12	3	0	3	0	12	3	0	3	0	12
MCFADYEN	Oli	10	3	2	0	1	10	3	2	0	1	12
MCGEADY	Ewan	8	1	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	8
MCNAIR	Kamoy	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
MIALKOWSKI	Kacper	18	2	3	0	0	18	2	3	0	0	21
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	17	9	9	1	2	25	17	24	18	4	49
OLIVER	Sam	9	3	7	3	0	9	3	7	3	0	16
OLLERENSHAW	Josh	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
PARTINGTON	Ole	7	1	2	0	1	7	1	2	0	1	9
SHORTHOUSE	Mike	3	0	0	8	0	3	0	0	8	0	3
SIYAM	Mohammad	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	5	9	0	5
SODHI	Jonny	6	5	5	17	0	6	5	5	17	0	11
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	1	0	14	0	0	1	0	14
WOOLLEY	Matt	36	7	1	2	1	373	57	31	30	45	404

# NPL-WEST 2023/24 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 26/04/24

		HOME			AWAY			GF	GA	Pts	
		Pld	W	D	L	W	D	L			
1	Leek Town	37	14	2	2	10	4	5	84	41	78
2	Runcorn Linnets	37	12	3	4	7	5	6	58	39	65
3	Prescot Cables	37	11	5	3	7	5	6	58	41	64
4	City of Liverpool	37	9	5	4	9	3	7	68	46	62
5	Bootle	37	8	5	6	10	4	4	59	45	62
6	Witton Albion	37	12	2	5	7	3	8	64	58	62
7	Widnes	37	11	2	5	6	4	9	59	41	57
8	Avro	37	6	6	7	9	6	3	49	43	57
9	Clitheroe FC	37	7	5	7	8	5	5	66	55	55
10	Nantwich	37	11	3	5	5	3	10	59	46	54
11	Chasetown	37	10	5	4	5	3	10	50	49	53
12	Stalybridge	37	9	5	4	4	6	9	54	58	50
13	Newcastle Town	37	6	4	8	7	2	10	43	49	45
14	Mossley	37	8	4	6	4	4	11	43	56	44
15	Hanley Town	37	5	5	8	6	6	7	33	46	44
16	Vauxhall Motors	37	8	2	9	5	3	10	51	69	44
17	Trafford FC	37	3	8	7	5	7	7	40	56	39
18	Kidsgrove Athletic	37	6	5	8	4	4	10	55	72	39
19	Hednesford	37	4	7	7	3	4	12	44	67	32
20	1874 Northwich	37	2	2	14	2	4	13	24	84	18

# NPL-WEST 2023/24 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 26/04/24

	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	1-4	0-2	0-1	0-1	2-6	0-3	1-3	0-1	0-1	0-1		0-0	0-4	2-0	1-0	1-2
Avro	2-0		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
Bootle	5-1	1-0		3-1	1-2	0-2	3-0	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	0-0	2-0	2-1	2-0	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	3-1	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	2-0	1-0	2-1		0-0	2-1	5-0	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	0-0	1-2	1-1		0-1	2-1
Hednesford Town	1-1	0-3		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	1-2	2-1	0-3	1-3
Leek Town	4-1	3-4	1-0	4-1	1-0	2-1	3-0	2-4		1-0	2-0	3-0	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	1-2	1-0	1-1
Nantwich Town	2-0	1-1	2-2	1-0	1-2	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	0-0	0-1	3-1	1-2	2-1	1-0		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	2-0	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	3-2	4-2
Stalybridge Celtic	0-0	2-2	1-1	0-1	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	0-4
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	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	4-2	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	3-1	2-1	1-4	1-0	2-3	1-0	3-0	0-4	1-2	2-1	

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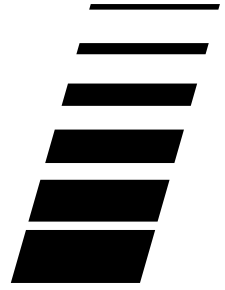
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Tom FAGAN	John Coats
Matty FENTON	74 Elite Riff Raff
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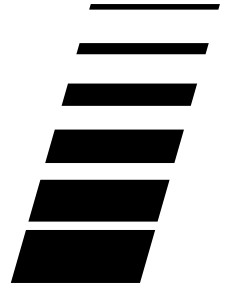
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# RESPECT INITIATIVE

## 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](mailto:cwo@1874northwich.com)



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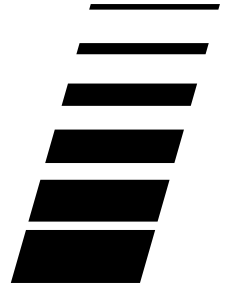
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# HISTORIES AND PROFILES

## 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)

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- 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.

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## 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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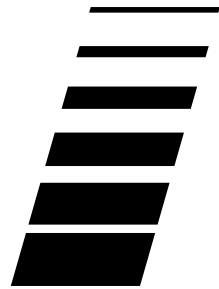
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# HISTORIES AND PROFILES

## TODAY'S VISITORS: RUNCORN LINNETS



### HISTORY

Runcorn Linnets were again pipped to promotion from Pitching In Northern Premier League West Division in 2023, narrowly losing its Play-off Final for a second successive year.

Linnets could indeed be described as the 'nearly men' of 2022-23 as they were runners-up in the Liverpool Senior Cup (reaching the final at the first attempt) and beaten semi-finalists in the Cheshire Senior Cup, as they had been in the previous season.

It was an eventful end to the campaign in many ways with Billy Paynter taking over as manager for its last six weeks. Billy was appointed boss in March 2023, stepping up from first-team coach upon the dismissal of Dave Wild, who had only taken charge in the summer 2022 having managed Mossley and been assistant at Matlock Town.

Things could easily have spiralled out of control with major disruption at such a crucial time but Billy called on all his professional-game experience to swiftly put things back on track.

After falling to Vanarama National League club Altrincham in the Cheshire Cup, Linnets also found themselves up against higher-grade opposition in Liverpool FA final.

Backed by a magnificent following of 1,500 fans, Runcorn were beaten on penalties by NPL Premier outfit Marine at Widnes (after a 0-0 scoreline over 90 minutes). The Crosby club had already edged out Linnets in the 2021-22 promotion race by winning the Play-off Final 2-1 at Runcorn's APEC Taxis Stadium.

The 2022-23 Play-off Final followed a similar pattern, although Linnets were this time the away side. They took an early lead at Workington, just as they had against the Mariners 12 months earlier, before again succumbing by the odd goal in three.

But this time it took extra-time to separate the teams in only the eighth match in charge for Billy Paynter.

Prior to joining Linnets backroom team for 2022-23, Billy had worked in the Academy set-ups at Everton and Port Vale, also representing the latter as a player. He had hung up his boots with close to 500 EFL appearances to his

credit, serving clubs also including Swindon Town and Brighton & Hove Albion.

He now has the job of preparing for the 2023-24 season with interest in the club at a new high. The amazing response to the Liverpool Cup final followed a 1,080 crowd for the November 2022 defeat of eventual champions, Macclesfield - the biggest attendance for a league match on the Runcorn ground.

Billy has as his deputy Jamie Rainford, who continues in the position of player-assistant manager to which he was appointed ahead of the 2022-23 campaign.

At the end of 2021-22, the club had said fond farewells to manager Calum McIntyre as he left to take command at Chester FC. His final match in charge of Runcorn had been the Play-Off Final against Marine, which took the aggregate attendance in 12 years at Linnets' stadium past 100,000. Tickets for the 1,600 sell-out final, this a club and stadium best attendance, were the hottest in town.

It was also a delight just to be able complete the season after two Covid-curtailed campaigns. In his 22 months at the club, Calum had forged a strong bond with Linnets. A key element in his management/coaching strategy and playing style had been the club's state-of-the-art pitch, which presents Linnets with an outstanding surface.

It was installed in summer of 2020, Linnets having been chosen to take part in the second phase of Sport England's hybrid carpet pilot programme. The project, also in conjunction with the Football Foundation, Premier League, The Football Association and Cheshire FA, involved the laying of the durable international-standard pitch, comprising 95% natural grass, growing through and intertwined with the grass fibre carpet.

Its unveiling was the culmination of two years of hard work. The pitch benefits all sections of the club – being utilised for matches by the first team, Development and Academy teams plus the Linnets Ladies (playing in the North West Regional League) while Akidemy and junior players, managers and coaches can use it for training.

The pitch is also available for hire by community clubs and organisations.



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Another significant happening in the 2020 close season had involved the departures of Linnets' long-serving management team of boss Michael Ellison and assistant Matt Cross plus the retirement through injury of influential player and club captain, Kyle Hamid.

Only Matt Atherton (313) has made more appearances than Kyle's 261 with Ellison, Mark Houghton and Rob Whyte the only other double century makers. (Our appearance figures include games played in the seasons abandoned because of the coronavirus pandemic, although playing records for these two campaigns have been officially expunged).

Ello and Crossy had been in charge since summer 2016 after both playing for the club and were assured of legendary status at Linnets on account of their on-field service and managerial achievement in bringing the club its first championship success.

They had also overseen Runcorn's first two seasons in the NPL after promotion as North West Counties League Premier Division title winners of 2017-18 - Linnets putting the disappointment of multiple near misses firmly behind them.

After three runners-up finishes in the previous four seasons, promotion was finally clinched on April 28th 2018 on the 12th anniversary of the club's foundation. The title was secured on May 3rd 2018 with a 5-0 home victory over Blackpool-based Squires Gate. This long-awaited league crown was captured with two matches to spare and 100 points – a club record 122 league goals being scored over the 44 games with 36 conceded.

The club enjoyed a very creditable introduction to Northern Premier League life in 2018-19 as members of its West Division. Until the 2021-22 season, this was the only NPL programme, which Linnets had been able to complete because of coronavirus. They eventually missed out on a play-off spot on goals difference.

For the two aborted seasons, Linnets had competed in the North West Division after geographical reorganisation. But as more far-reaching changes saw the creation of a third NPL division at Step 4 for 2021-22, they reverted to membership of the West Division.

Linnets have come a long way since being founded in 2006 by supporters of former national non-league champions, Runcorn AFC after a traumatic end for the old club. The initial aims had been to bring the successor Linnets back to Runcorn and establish the club as one of which the community could be proud.

Both these ambitions were achieved with the club still in its infancy. The stadium in the Murdishaw area of Runcorn, opened in 2010 with the project having been supported by Halton Borough Council, the FA and Football Foundation as well as the club and its fans.

Winter 2017 saw the completion of a replacement £1.4 million clubhouse as part of wider redevelopment of surrounding land with retail and leisure facilities. At the same time, pitches outside the stadium were fenced in for use by the Linnets' numerous junior teams with the club also signing a new long-term lease for the extended site with Halton Council.

Runcorn Linnets Football Club was born after Runcorn AFC had intimated it would not be in a position to field a team beyond the end of 2005-06 season. Upon leaving town in 2001, the now defunct club had suffered a troubled and nomadic existence.

Fans met at their spiritual home in Canal Street – at the then Quayside Bar and Function Rooms, next to the Linnets Park housing estate on which Runcorn AFC's ground had once stood.

An existing Supporters Trust was remodelled to run Runcorn Linnets, whose identity was derived from Runcorn AFC's nickname. The new club spent its first four years playing home games as tenants of Witton Albion FC at Wincham Park, Northwich - gaining promotion at the first attempt to the top division of the North West Counties League under the management of Steve Carragher, who had been the predecessor club's last team boss.

Victory against Formby in the NWCL Challenge Cup final in 2012-13 brought a first winners' trophy for the first team. Former Runcorn AFC player, Joey Dunn was the then manager.

Paul McNally is another "old boy" of the original club to have managed the new with Steve Wilkes at the time of his appointment being the only manager not to have had any previous Linnets connections. Calum McIntyre, Dave Wild and now Billy Paynter have since joined that particular "club".

Wilkes had in 2009 led the Linnets to their first ever final, only to be beaten to the League Cup by New Mills at Tameside Stadium, which would be the scene for the club's triumph in the same competition four years later.

The 2019-20 season saw Linnets make their debut in the NPL Academy League. This was rebranded in 2020-21 as the ESPFA, Linnets reaching the national finals as winners of the Northern section - a feat repeated in 2021-22.

## PROFILES

### James Short (Club captain)

Prior to switching to the Linnets for the 2020-21 season, James had been a regular at Witton Albion in NPL Premier Division and he has enjoyed a similar level of involvement in a Runcorn shirt. James's first appearance of 2023-24, at City of Liverpool, was his 100th in Linnets colours.

The left back was promoted to the captaincy in summer 2022, after serving as deputy.

James had joined Witton in summer 2019, after five years at Marine. His other previous clubs include Morecambe, Warrington Town, Skelmersdale United and Burscough.

### Sean O'Mahony (vice-captain)

A commanding centre half from Ireland, Sean was named Manager's Player of the Season in 2021-22, after making more appearances than any other Linnets player during that campaign. He has continued to be a defensive mainstay.

Signed in September 2020, Sean took over the vice-captaincy ahead of the 2022-23 season and has more than a century of Runcorn appearances under his belt.

Sean previously played for League of Ireland Premier Division club Cork City, having begun his senior club career at Division One outfit Cobh Ramblers, where he broke into the first team in 2013-14.

### Godwin Abadaki

Godwin is a seasoned campaigner, who in 2022-23 featured prominently for Stalybridge in NPL Premier Division.

Nigeria-born Godwin was in the senior ranks at Rochdale from 2011-14, loan spells during that period including a stint at Hyde as they won the Conference North title.

The front man has also represented Northwich Victoria, Mossley, Shaw Lane, Ashton United, Nantwich Town, Buxton and Ramsbottom United.

### Sam Barratt

Right back Sam is looking to put an injury-wrecked 2022-23 season firmly behind him on joining Linnets.

He damaged a shoulder almost immediately after switching from Glossop North End to Hanley Town in October.

The ill-fated move had taken him back to his native Potteries, where he'd begun his youth career with Stoke City prior to a two-year spell in the Academy at Fleetwood Town.

### Ryan Brooke

Ryan made a very popular October 2022 return to APEC Taxis Stadium, after a brief stint at Warrington Rylands. His spectacular free-kick in the home victory against Macclesfield in 2022-23 was voted Linnets' Goal of the Season by fans.

He had top scored with 34 goals in all competitions for Linnets in 2021-22, 25 in the league earning him the NPL West's Golden Boot award and a place in the division's All Star Select XI.

Ryan is an experienced non-league campaigner, whose former clubs include Curzon Ashton, Altrincham and Mossley. He had started out at Oldham Athletic, chalking up 29 EFL appearances.

### Kenny Brow

Striker Kenny is a globetrotting footballer, now back on his native Merseyside.

The 24-year-old from Liverpool is fresh from University in the USA, where he successfully combined 'soccer' with his academic studies in civil engineering.

Kenny is a former youth team player at Prescot Cables, who prior to arriving at Hope Street had been at Chester and Crewe and also in the Academies at both Everton and Liverpool.

### Levi Chiduku

A tricky winger who can attack at pace, Levi gained Pitching In Northern Premier League Premier Division experience with Nantwich Town last season.

Levi had joined the Dabbers from Ellesmere Port Town, having previously been part of the Development squad at EFL club Morecambe.

He has also served Runcorn Town and Kendal Town and joined us in summer 2023 after a successful pre-season trial, scoring against Ashton United.

### Lewis Doyle

Holding midfielder Lewis is best known for his diligent work to protect the defence.

However, 2022-23 saw him take on more of an attacking influence and he scored in the semi-final and final of the Play-offs. His performances were recognised with the Players' Player of the Year award.

Seven years a Preston North End junior, Lewis arrived at the APEC Taxis Stadium from Atherton Collieries, where he had previously spent time on loan from Southport before being picked up by EFL club Accrington Stanley.



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### **Ryan Gibson**

Frontman Ryan returned to Linnets at the start of October 2023, more than three years after leaving the club for Widnes FC but promptly suffered a serious injury.

He originally joined Runcorn from Helsby and quickly made himself a favourite of the fans with his speed and energy, completing a half century of appearances for his hometown club.

In between Linnets stints, Ryan also starred for City of Liverpool and netted against us in a 3-3 draw on their September 2021 visit to Murdishaw.

### **Eden Gumbs**

A powerhouse hometown midfielder, Eden in summer 2021 became the first player to graduate to the Linnets first team from the Development side.

As well as representing the U21s with distinction, Eden in 2021-22 sampled senior football with North West Counties League side, Barnton - setting himself up for progression in the Runcorn ranks.

He quickly established himself at APEC Taxis Stadium, proving very tough to knock off the ball. The season before last, Eden briefly played alongside elder brother Evan when the latter was loaned to Linnets by Warrington Town.

### **James Hooper**

Attacking midfielder/striker James rejoined Linnets at the end of October 2023 after a spell playing in Australia with Moreland City in National Premier League Victoria.

He had originally joined Runcorn in late September 2022 from Workington, making 13 appearances with three goals.

James made two Football League appearances for Rochdale and one for Carlisle United before moving into non-league with a former loan club, FC United of Manchester.

### **Alex Jones**

Another local lad, Alex returned to APEC Taxis Stadium in October 2023 from Runcorn Town, having joined the Weston Point outfit in January of the same year.

A 6ft 3in central defender, Alex had impressed when previously serving our Under-21s side. He initially gained North West Counties experience with Barnton prior to switching to Pavilions. He made a handful of appearances for Town this season before rejoining Linnets.

### **Antony Kay**

One of football's most enduring characters and a veteran of 595 English Football League games (with 49 goals to his credit), Antony was recruited in the summer from Welsh Cup finalists Bala Town.

He turned 41 in October 2023, but had featured regularly in JD Cymru Premier last season after playing in the EFL until the age of 36.

Operating in midfield and defence, Antony won promotions from League One with home town club Barnsley, Huddersfield Town and Milton Keynes Dons. He also starred for Tranmere Rovers, Bury and Port Vale before moving into the National League with Chorley.

### **Kieran Knapper**

Kieran arrived at APEC Taxis Stadium in January 2024 from Kidsgrove Athletic, where he scored 12 goals in 57 appearances.

He spent a few seasons in North West Counties League, firstly at Division One side Sandbach United, establishing himself as a great favourite, and then in the Premier Division with Vauxhall Motors.

Kieran is renowned for his fast and direct play on either flank.

### **Mwiya Malumo**

Mwiya arrived at Linnets in October 2023, making his debut as a substitute in the NPL West game at Nantwich Town, one of his ex clubs.

He holds joint nationality, as a citizen of Great Britain and Zambia, and has represented the African nation at youth level.

Mwiya was an Academy player at Wigan Athletic and Oldham Athletic and signed for Linnets from Atherton Collieries. Other previous clubs include Farsley Celtic, FC United of Manchester and Radcliffe.

### **Olly Molloy**

Olly signed from Charnock Richard after appearing against us in both this season's Emirates FA Cup ties between the clubs.

He had joined Charnock in the summer from Fulwood Amateurs, having last season won a place in the West Lancashire League's Premier Division 'Team of the Year', chosen by clubs and managers.

A bustling centre forward, Olly has quickly established himself as a fans' favourite at APEC Taxis Stadium.

### **Adam Moseley**

Adam made history in September 2023 by becoming the youngest ever contract player at Runcorn Linnets. The now 18-year-old's dad Mike was playing first-team football for the predecessor Linnets, Runcorn AFC at a similar age.

Moseley Jnr had enjoyed a spectacular entrance on the Linnets first-team scene with a stunning goal and an assist at Stockport Georgians to seal Linnets' first win of the 2022-23 pre-season. His competitive senior debut followed, as a late substitute, in October 2022's FA Trophy defeat of Ossett United.

Adam has been part of the club's junior set-up since Under 11s and has starred with the Linnets Under 18s, U21s and for our ESPFA Academy team.

### **Mackenzie O'Neill**

A graduate of the Wigan Athletic Academy, Mackenzie joined at the start of February 2024 from NPL Premier Division outfit Bamber Bridge.

The former Northern Ireland Under 17s player made 11 appearances for the Lancastrians, scoring twice, after joining them in the summer.

A wide player, who can also operate in the No.10 role, he played 52 games for 1874 Northwich over two seasons, netting 12 goals.

### **Bayleigh Passant**

A summer 2023 signing, Bayleigh is in his second spell at Linnets, his first being a four-month loan from Tranmere Rovers at the start of 2019-20, when the ink was barely dry on his first professional deal at Prenton Park.

He has since gone on to make a name for himself at Marine, famously appearing in the Emirates FA Cup third round against Tottenham Hotspur after triumphing at Runcorn on spot kicks along the way.

Liverpool-born Bayleigh also returned to haunt Linnets in the 2021-22 Play-off Final at APEC Taxis Stadium and was again our nemesis in last season's Liverpool Senior Cup final at Widnes, starring in the penalty shootout.

### **Harvey Passant**

Harvey is the younger brother of Bayleigh and covered for his injured sibling in our penultimate home league game of 2023-24, a 2-0 victory against Mossley.

Harvey has also featured during the season for North West Counties League clubs FC St Helens and Litherland REMYCA, earning the rare distinction of scoring after being sent upfield to contest a last-gasp corner in REMY's 1-1 draw against Irlam.

In 2022-23, Harvey appeared eight times for Prescot Cables, keeping a clean sheet on debut in their 1-0 victory over Runcorn Linnets. He is also in the squad of Liverpool Business Houses outfit Home Bargains, who have reached the FA National Sunday Cup final.



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### **Jamie Rainford**

Jamie returned to the club in the summer of 2022 as player/assistant manager, the much-travelled striker having had a brief stint with Linnets in 2019.

This is a first managerial appointment for Jamie, who was another player to have been hampered by injury in 2022-23. Despite this, he topped the Linnets' scoring charts with 20 goals only to sustain knee damage in a pre-season match, ruling him out of the 23-24 campaign.

Jamie is a prolific marksman, whose career history includes top-level non-League football with FC Halifax Town and spells with Marine, Chester and AFC Fylde.

### **Josh Roberts**

Goalkeeper Josh, at 17 years old, became one of Linnets' youngest senior signings, when he joined the first-team ranks in September 2022 after impressing with the club's Under 21s.

He has been with his hometown club since the age of nine, also having spells with Heath Rangers JFC in Runcorn and Everton. Josh has represented Runcorn FA in Inter-District matches at county level.

### **Will Saxton**

Will was Runcorn Linnets manager Billy Paynter's first new signing ahead of the 2023-24 season.

The 25-year-old joined from Kids Grove Athletic, having returned for his second spell with the Staffordshire club in September 2022 after two years at Leek Town.

An eye-catching player, Will's 30 appearances for The Grove last season featured an impressive home outing against Runcorn on April 1st, as we memorably triumphed 1-0 in Billy's first game in charge.

### **Joe Thompson**

This former National League North midfielder signed for Runcorn Linnets from Hednesford Town in March 2024, having joined the Pitmen in early season from Newcastle Town.

He made 29 appearances for Hednesford, scoring six goals, to add to his five 2023-24 outings with one goal for Newcastle.

Joe previously served AFC Telford United, gaining plenty of Srep 2 experience, and Shifnal Town.

### **Che Trapasso**

A midfielder/wide player Che joined the Yellow & Greens in summer 2023 from EFL League One club, Port Vale.

Last season Che played a key part, alongside his brother Alessandro, in Port Vale Under 18s' trailblazing run in the FA Youth Cup, the siblings having graduated from junior football on Merseyside.

The Burslem club reached the FA Youth fourth round for the first time in 10 years, eventually losing 1-0 to Liverpool in front of an 1,800 home crowd at Vale Park with Che scoring twice along the way.

### **Jacques Welsh**

Jacques rejoined Linnets in late July 2023, 10 months after departing for Bootle, having been a regular in the Runcorn team, which reached the Pitching In Play-off final in 2022.

Holding midfielder Jacques, who can also play in central defence, first joined the club in summer 2020 from Flint Town United.

He had previously been on the books of Tranmere Rovers and Bolton Wanderers.

### **Peter Wylie**

Former club captain Peter came home to Linnets in summer 2023, after a year away with City of Liverpool.

A key figure in Linnets' defence over four NPL seasons, ex-Blackburn Rovers Youth defender Peter skipped the 2021-22 West Division Play-off Final squad.

Resuming on 114 Linnets appearances (106 starts) with three goals, he originally joined us from Marine for our second game of 2018-19 - our first NPL home fixture after promotion. Peter has played in National League North for Stalybridge.



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