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PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

# *EVER GLORIOUS*



vs NANTWICH TOWN

19/09/26 - 3PM

NPL WEST

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY

PROGRAMME



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Northwich Community Football Club, trading as 1874 Northwich Football Club, operates under the model of a Community Benefits Society. Registration no.: 32017R

14 Boundary Lane North, Cuddington, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2PL

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

**Visit**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**TELEPHONE:** 07975 679624

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**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)

**X/TWITTER:** [www.x.com/1874Northwich](http://www.x.com/1874Northwich)

**COLOURS:**

**HOME:** Green shirts, black shorts, green socks

**AWAY:** Violet shirts, violet shorts, violet socks

**HONOURS:**

**MFL PREMIER DIVISION PLAY-OFFS** 2026

**NWCFL CHALLENGE CUP** 2019, 2020

**MID-CHESHIRE DISTRICT FA CUP** 2015-16, 2016-17

**SUPPORTERS DIRECT SHIELD** 2013

**EUROCPA WALKING FOOTBALL BOWL TROPHY**  
2019

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Brian Edge

**CHAIR:** Jack Owen

**VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER:** John Coats

**SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING:** Mick Ward

**FOOTBALL PATHWAY:** Peter Flaherty

# WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

PITCHING IN NPL WEST

**VS NANTWICH TOWN**

**SATURDAY 19TH SEP 2026 | K.O. 3PM**



**FAN ENGAGEMENT:** Mark Davies

**COMMERCIAL & MARKETING:** Andrew Dignum

**MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS:** Jack Owen

**OTHER CONTACTS:**

**FOOTBALL SECRETARY:** Vicki England

**COMPANY SECRETARY:** Maggie Coats

**WELFARE OFFICER:** Maggie Coats

**COMMUNITY OFFICER:** Phil Burgess

**PROGRAMME DESIGN:** Phil Galloway

**PROGRAMME EDITOR:** Ben Davies

**PROOF READERS:** Richard Bush & Richard Webb

**MEDIA:** Mark Davies, Jack Owen & Callum Waters

**WEBSITE:** Mark Edgeley

**MANAGEMENT AND STAFF:**

**MANAGER:** Rory Fallon

**ASSISTANT MANAGER:** Danny Moss

**COACH:** James Stokes

**COACH:** Lee Jones

**GOALKEEPING COACH:** Tom Reed

**HEAD PHYSIO:** Phil Lea

**PHYSIO:** Harris Koon Hang Lee

**KIT MANAGER:** Andy Williams



# Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Northern Premier League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

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**[Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](http://Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)**  
to find out more



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LEAGUE

# DANNY'S DIALOGUE

## DANNY MOSS

The opening month of the season has certainly given us plenty to reflect on.

From a management point of view, the biggest frustration has been our consistency. We've shown in spells, and in certain games such as Chasetown, Vauxhall, large parts of the Atherton Colls game, the level of performance this group is capable of producing. However, we haven't always backed up a strong performance with another one, and that is something we know we need to improve.

We've not lost back to back league games, but we know we've left some points on the table that should have been ours. At this level, you can't afford to be good one week and then drop below those standards the next. Building that consistency is probably the biggest challenge for us at the moment. The encouraging thing is that the performances we've produced show the ability is there, it's now about producing those levels more regularly.

Like most clubs, injuries have also played their part during the opening weeks. We've lost some important players at different times, which has forced us to change personnel and combinations more often than we would have liked.

In particular, losing key players such as Mark Jones, Elliot Coleman and Tom Mitchell has affected us physically and we've been more susceptible from set pieces than we should be. That's an area we've identified and are continuing to work hard on in both training and recruitment.

We've then brought in some top players such as Noel Brindle from Chorley, John Clarke from Bury and



Evrard Yao from Lower Breck who have all found themselves on the side line within days of joining the group. Just on that, I'd like to wish John a really healthy recovery, he's had some serious injuries throughout his career and just as it looks like he's getting back to enjoying his football again he's torn his ACL and will miss the rest of the season.

That said, injuries are part of football and we won't use them as an excuse. They also create opportunities for other players to step up, take responsibility and show what they can bring to the team. There is a lot of football still to be played and we remain confident in this group. Our focus is on improving week by week, becoming harder to play against and turning good individual performances into consistent runs of form.

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us during the opening weeks. The backing we've received both at home and on the road has been fantastic and certainly doesn't go unnoticed by the players and staff. We know you give up your time and money to follow us, particularly away from home, and we genuinely appreciate it. Hopefully, over the coming weeks, we can reward that support with the performances and results we all want.

Thanks again for your continued support, and enjoy the game.

Danny

# BIG GAME PREVIEW

## GARRY CLARKE

### 1874 NORTHWICH vs NANTWICH TOWN

#### PITCHING IN NPL WEST

1874 Northwich host Nantwich Town in an NPL West Cheshire derby at Townfield.

Last Season, Nantwich finished 9th in the NPL West with a record of:

|    | P  | W  | D | L  | GF | GA | Pts | Pos |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| NT | 42 | 18 | 7 | 17 | 69 | 65 | 61  | 9   |

After Tuesday's evening games, when Nantwich overcame Congleton Town 4-0 and 1874 lost 3-0 at Hanley, Nantwich are up to 16th with 6 points from 7 games, whereas 74 are 20th with 5 points from 7 games.

Nantwich's previous points came from a drawn game at home against Chasetown and draws away at Mossley and Vauxhall Motors.

The two teams' current standings are:

|      | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts | Pos |
|------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1874 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 15 | 6   | 17  |
| NT   | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4  | 9  | 5   | 20  |

#### NANTWICH TOWN FACT FILE

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Formed         | 1884             |
| Ground         | Swansway Stadium |
| Colours        | Green            |
| Change colours | Red              |
| Nickname       | The Dabbers      |
| Manager        | Luke Goddard     |
| 2025/26        | 9th NPL West     |

#### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1874 Northwich and Nantwich Town have played each other on three previous occasions, twice in the NPL West and once in the Cheshire Senior Cup, Nantwich have won all three previous encounters.

|       | P | W | D | L | GF | GA |
|-------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Home  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  |
| Away  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1  | 5  |
| Total | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1  | 6  |

#### DID YOU KNOW

In 1995, in an FA Cup preliminary-round tie against Droylsden, Andy Locke scored the fastest ever FA Cup hat-trick, in 2 minutes 20 seconds.

#### A BIT ABOUT THE TOWN

Nantwich is a market town and civil parish in the unitary authority of Cheshire East and has one of the highest concentrations of listed buildings in England, with notably good examples of Tudor and Georgian architecture

The origins of the settlement date to Roman times when salt from Nantwich was used by the Roman garrisons as a preservative and a condiment.

In the Domesday Book of 1086, Nantwich is recorded as having eight salt houses.



# IF YOU SEE IT OR HEAR IT, REPORT IT

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# SPOT THE BALL

WHERE IS THE BALL HIDING?

*The answer to last edition's Spot the Ball was A!*



*Previously, we hosted Nantwich Town on the August Bank Holiday Monday of 2023, ending in a 1-0 defeat. But can you spot the ball as Sam Adetiloye challenges for a header?*



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# 300+ CLUB

## AUGUST 2026 DRAW

The monthly prize draw was carried out at Townfield on 31st August at half-time of the match against Vauxhall Motors, with the winning numbers being drawn out by officials from our visitors as follows:

The winners will be contacted to provide their bank details should they not already be held by the Treasurer.

Participating in the 300+ Club is a fantastic way of supporting the Club throughout the whole year and you get the chance to win a cash prize each month!

Thanks to all members of the 300+ Club – now more than ever, the money raised helps to keep the Football Club going forward.

| Prize | No. | Winner            |
|-------|-----|-------------------|
| £200  | 248 | Azariah Goodison  |
| £100  | 41  | Fred Shallcross   |
| £50   | 138 | Gary Bunby        |
| £50   | 307 | Debbie Richardson |
| £50   | 86  | Richard Webb      |
| £50   | 371 | Paul Gleave       |

**300+ Club**

# FIXTURE UPDATE

## CHANGES TO OUR CALENDAR

Due to Stafford Ranger playing in the FA Trophy on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, we will now travel to Stafford on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October.



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# THE *DIRECT* ADVANTAGE

AN INSIDE LOOK AT HOW OUR  
DIRECT-TO-CLUB SALES MODEL MAXIMIZES  
VALUE FOR CLUBS AT EVERY LEVEL

## SAVINGS

Clubs save by buying directly from the brand, making custom kits and one unified brand affordable for every team in the club.

## ONLINE TEAM SHOP

Custom team shop with easy ordering, reliable reorders, and seamless in-house printing of crests, numbers, and custom details.

## DESIGN

Our in-house design team partners with each club to build the perfect kit, offering custom designs, color customization, or printed in-stock styles.

## SERVICE

Hands-on sales and design support, co-branded marketing assets, promotional content, and on-field branding opportunities.



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# VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT 1874

### Catering

As we approach the new season, we are looking for people to help out in the Cafe at home matches. There is no requirement for you to commit to every home match, but it would be good to get a few people on a rota to serve food and drinks. Typically this involves being at the ground at least 1.5 hours before kick off to set up, but most of the work is complete just after half time. For more information or to volunteer, please speak to Maggie Coats or any of the Board Members.

### Stewards

We hope that playing in the NPL-West Division will see larger away followings and greater crowds at home matches. This brings additional challenges, not least managing parking around the ground. We are looking

for car parking stewards to monitor parking on Townfield and the surrounding streets before and just after kick off. If you don't mind helping out occasionally, that would be a great help. For further information, or to volunteer, please speak to John Coats.

### Photographer

We are looking to recruit a voluntary club photographer. Please contact the club at [society@1874northwich.com](mailto:society@1874northwich.com) or [media@1874northwich.com](mailto:media@1874northwich.com) if you are interested in this position.

If anyone can help or you need further details, please contact Maggie Coats (07808765110), [society@1874northwich.com](mailto:society@1874northwich.com) or you can contact us via the website at: [Volunteering at 1874 | 1874 Northwich F.C.](#)

# THERE'S AN EASIER WAY TO PLAY SAFE



**Simply take our free online Safeguarding Awareness course  
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**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

# BUDGET BOOSTERS

## ROLL OF HONOUR

The Boost the Budget scheme for the 2026/27 season opened on 1 July 2026, and we are asking as many supporters as possible to get involved. You can make a one-off donation of £10 or more, or you can commit to a monthly contribution of £5, £10, £15, £20, £25 or £50 by standing order over a 10-month period from July 2026 through to April 2027.

Everyone who contributes will be recognised in our Boost the Budget Roll of Honour, featured in the match day programme and weekly newsletter unless anonymity is preferred.

If you would like to get involved, making a contribution is straightforward. One-off donations can be made via online banking using the reference BTB2627. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for ten

monthly payments (July 2026 to April 2027) to the following account:

**Account Name: Northwich Community Football Club Limited**

**Sort Code: 08-92-99**

**Account Number: 67298321**

If you would prefer to discuss the scheme or find out more, please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Dignum on 07747 872 241 or via email at [commercialdirector@1874northwich.com](mailto:commercialdirector@1874northwich.com).

We have earned our place back at Step 4. Now it is time to attack it—together.

Let's back Rory. Let's back the lads. Let's back the club.

And most importantly, let's make this our biggest Boost the Budget yet.

**Boost the Budget**

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# PLAYER SPONSORS

## OUR PLAYER AND MANAGEMENT TEAM SPONSORS

A huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored a player or a member of our management team this season:

|                 |                                                                  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phil Lea        | Tony Fallows                                                     |
| Harris Lee      | 1874 Forum                                                       |
| Andy Williams   | Farral Cleaners                                                  |
| Alfie Atherton  | Preston '74 Fan Club                                             |
| Elliott Coleman | <a href="#">'Ever Glorious' Programme</a>                        |
| Ben Crane       | Elite Palates Studio, Blakemere Village                          |
| Mark Jones      | Elite Riff Raff In memory of Gary Halvorsen                      |
| John McGrath    | 1874 Walking Footballers In memory of Roger Oxley and Tommy Ward |
| Tom Mitchell    | Wilson Family                                                    |
| Kenny Mwaliteta | Owen Family                                                      |
| Niall Osborne   | Jack Hazeldine                                                   |
| Blake Robinson  | Shadow Society                                                   |
| Kevin Spinelli  | Northwich Mastiff                                                |
| Matt Woolley    | Sunday Lunch Club                                                |

There are still players available to sponsor, for more details please email John Costs ([treasurer@1874northwich.com](mailto:treasurer@1874northwich.com))

| Gender | Percentage |
|--------|------------|
| Male   | 85%        |
| Female | 15%        |

[illegible]

## 1874 NORTHWICH 2026/27 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 15/09/26

|           |         | 2026/27 SEASON |        |        |        |       | ALL-TIME |        |        |        |       |            |
|-----------|---------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|------------|
|           |         | Starts         | Subbed | Sub On | Unused | Goals | Starts   | Subbed | Sub On | Unused | Goals | Total Apps |
| ALLEN     | Ellis   | 30             | 0      | 0      | 1      | 0     | 30       | 0      | 0      | 3      | 0     | 30         |
| AMOS      | David   | 1              | 1      | 3      | 3      | 0     | 1        | 1      | 3      | 3      | 0     | 4          |
| ATHERTON  | Alfie   | 2              | 1      | 2      | 0      | 0     | 2        | 1      | 2      | 0      | 0     | 4          |
| BEDDOW    | Max     | 11             | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 11       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 11         |
| BELL      | Cameron | 0              | 0      | 2      | 0      | 0     | 0        | 0      | 2      | 0      | 0     | 2          |
| BLAKE     | Joe     | 3              | 0      | 4      | 0      | 0     | 3        | 0      | 4      | 0      | 0     | 7          |
| BRINDLE   | Noel    | 0              | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 0        | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 1          |
| CLARKE    | John    | 2              | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 2        | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 2          |
| CRANE     | Ben     | 4              | 2      | 4      | 0      | 2     | 4        | 2      | 4      | 0      | 2     | 8          |
| COLEMAN   | Elliott | 5              | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 5        | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 5          |
| EDWARDS   | Lucas   | 2              | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 2        | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 2          |
| FALLON    | Niall   | 10             | 3      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 10       | 3      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 11         |
| FARMER    | Lewis   | 3              | 3      | 6      | 0      | 0     | 3        | 3      | 6      | 0      | 0     | 9          |
| IBETO     | Mike    | 4              | 0      | 2      | 0      | 0     | 18       | 6      | 7      | 5      | 0     | 25         |
| IGOE      | Will    | 0              | 0      | 1      | 1      | 0     | 0        | 0      | 1      | 1      | 0     | 1          |
| JONES     | Mark    | 8              | 3      | 0      | 0      | 1     | 326      | 30     | 6      | 6      | 14    | 332        |
| LYNN      | Harry   | 3              | 3      | 4      | 3      | 1     | 3        | 3      | 4      | 3      | 1     | 7          |
| MCGRATH   | John    | 7              | 6      | 2      | 0      | 1     | 37       | 21     | 10     | 0      | 8     | 48         |
| MITCHELL  | Tom     | 6              | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 22       | 2      | 1      | 1      | 1     | 23         |
| MUNDY     | Brad    | 0              | 0      | 3      | 0      | 0     | 0        | 0      | 3      | 0      | 0     | 3          |
| MWALITETA | Kenny   | 10             | 5      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 10       | 5      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 11         |
| NJARIA    | Simon   | 2              | 2      | 2      | 0      | 0     | 2        | 2      | 2      | 0      | 0     | 4          |
| OSBORNE   | Niall   | 10             | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 87       | 9      | 2      | 0      | 1     | 89         |
| ROBINSON  | Blake   | 10             | 2      | 0      | 1      | 0     | 10       | 2      | 0      | 1      | 0     | 10         |
| SIMMS     | Jim     | 0              | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 0        | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0     | 1          |
| SPINELLI  | Kevin   | 10             | 8      | 1      | 0      | 2     | 10       | 8      | 1      | 0      | 2     | 11         |
| WOOLLEY   | Jack    | 0              | 0      | 5      | 0      | 0     | 19       | 14     | 53     | 28     | 3     | 72         |
| WOOLLEY   | Matt    | 4              | 4      | 1      | 3      | 0     | 422      | 85     | 49     | 37     | 51    | 471        |
| YAO       | Evra    | 4              | 3      | 2      | 0      | 1     | 4        | 3      | 2      | 0      | 1     | 6          |

NPL-WEST 2026/27 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 16/09/26

|    |                     | HOME |   |   |   | AWAY |   |   | GF | GA | Pts |
|----|---------------------|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|----|----|-----|
|    |                     | P    | W | D | L | W    | D | L |    |    |     |
| 1  | Bootle              | 6    | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4    | 0 | 0 | 19 | 4  | 18  |
| 2  | Stafford Rangers    | 6    | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3    | 0 | 0 | 14 | 6  | 15  |
| 3  | Prescot Cables      | 7    | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3    | 0 | 0 | 10 | 4  | 15  |
| 4  | Wythenshawe         | 7    | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1    | 2 | 1 | 9  | 7  | 14  |
| 5  | Hanley Town         | 6    | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1    | 1 | 1 | 15 | 5  | 13  |
| 6  | Witton Albion       | 8    | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2    | 0 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 13  |
| 7  | Shifnal Town        | 6    | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3    | 0 | 0 | 15 | 9  | 12  |
| 8  | Clitheroe           | 6    | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2    | 0 | 1 | 8  | 6  | 12  |
| 9  | Newcastle Town      | 7    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2    | 0 | 3 | 19 | 13 | 10  |
| 10 | Atherton Collieries | 6    | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2    | 0 | 0 | 10 | 7  | 10  |
| 11 | Stalybridge Celtic  | 8    | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2    | 0 | 2 | 13 | 14 | 10  |
| 12 | Padiham             | 8    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1    | 1 | 0 | 8  | 17 | 9   |
| 13 | Chasetown           | 7    | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1    | 2 | 2 | 13 | 13 | 8   |
| 14 | Runcorn Linnetts    | 7    | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0    | 2 | 1 | 11 | 12 | 8   |
| 15 | Mossley             | 7    | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1    | 1 | 2 | 8  | 9  | 8   |
| 16 | Vauxhall Motors     | 7    | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0    | 3 | 0 | 8  | 13 | 7   |
| 17 | Nantwich Town       | 7    | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0    | 2 | 1 | 12 | 15 | 6   |
| 18 | Lower Breck         | 5    | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1    | 0 | 2 | 7  | 10 | 6   |
| 19 | Kidsgrove Athletic  | 6    | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1    | 0 | 3 | 5  | 8  | 6   |
| 20 | 1874 Northwich      | 7    | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0    | 1 | 3 | 4  | 9  | 5   |
| 21 | Congleton Town      | 6    | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0    | 0 | 3 | 2  | 10 | 2   |
| 22 | Lichfield City      | 8    | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0    | 0 | 3 | 8  | 35 | 0   |

NPL-WEST 2026/27 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 16/09/26

|                    | 1874 Northwich | Atherton Colls | Bootle | Chasetown | Clitheroe | Congleton Town | Hanley Town | Kidsgrove Athletic | Lichfield City | Lower Breck | Mossley | Nantwich Town | Newcastle Town | Padiham | Prescot Cables | Runcorn Linnetts | Shifnal Town | Stafford Rangers | Stalybridge Celtic | Vauxhall Motors | Witton Albion | Wythenshawe |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|---------------|----------------|---------|----------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1874 Northwich     | x              |                |        | 2-0       |           |                |             |                    |                |             |         |               |                |         | 0-1            |                  |              |                  |                    | 1-1             |               |             |
| Atherton Colls     | 1-1            | x              |        |           |           |                | 1-0         |                    |                |             | 2-4     |               |                | 0-1     |                |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Bootle             |                |                | x      |           |           |                |             | 1-0                |                |             |         |               | 4-2            |         |                |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Chasetown          |                |                |        | x         |           |                |             | 1-2                | 3-2            |             |         |               |                |         |                |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Clitheroe          |                |                |        |           | 3-2       | x              |             |                    |                | 0-1         |         |               |                |         |                |                  |              | 2-1              |                    |                 |               |             |
| Congleton Town     |                |                |        |           |           | x              |             |                    |                |             |         |               |                |         | 0-2            |                  |              |                  |                    | 1-1             |               | 0-0         |
| Hanley Town        | 3-0            |                |        |           |           |                | x           |                    |                |             |         | 3-2           |                |         |                |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               | 3-0         |
| Kidsgrove Athletic |                |                |        |           |           |                | 2-1         | x                  |                |             |         |               |                |         |                |                  | 0-1          |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Lichfield City     |                |                |        |           |           |                | 1-5         |                    | x              |             |         |               | 1-5            |         |                |                  |              | 0-3              | 0-5                |                 | 1-6           |             |
| Lower Breck        |                |                |        | 0-4       |           |                |             |                    | 4-1            | x           |         |               |                |         |                |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Mossley            |                |                |        |           | 0-1       |                |             |                    |                |             | x       | 1-1           |                |         |                |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               | 1-0         |
| Nantwich Town      |                |                |        | 2-2       |           | 4-0            |             |                    |                |             |         | x             |                |         | 1-3            |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               | 0-3         |
| Newcastle Town     | 1-0            |                |        | 1-1       |           |                |             |                    |                |             |         |               | x              |         |                |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Padiham            | 2-0            |                |        |           |           |                |             |                    |                |             | 1-1     | 0-5           | x              |         | 2-2            | 1-4              | 0-4          |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Prescot Cables     |                |                |        |           | 1-0       |                |             |                    |                |             |         |               | 1-1            | x       | 1-1            |                  |              |                  |                    | 1-1             |               |             |
| Runcorn Linnetts   |                | 1-2            | 0-2    |           |           |                |             |                    |                | 3-2         |         |               |                |         |                | x                |              |                  | 4-2                |                 |               |             |
| Shifnal Town       |                |                |        | 1-4       | 1-2       |                |             |                    | 4-2            |             |         |               |                |         |                |                  | x            |                  |                    |                 |               |             |
| Stafford Rangers   |                |                |        |           |           |                |             | 2-1                |                |             |         | 3-1           |                |         |                |                  | 0-4          | x                |                    |                 |               |             |
| Stalybridge Celtic |                | 0-4            |        |           |           | 1-0            | 1-1         |                    |                |             |         |               |                |         |                |                  |              |                  | x                  |                 |               | 0-1         |
| Vauxhall Motors    |                |                |        | 0-4       |           |                |             |                    |                |             | 2-1     | 3-3           |                |         |                |                  |              | 0-2              |                    | x               |               |             |
| Witton Albion      |                |                |        | 2-4       |           |                |             | 2-0                | 2-0            |             |         |               |                |         |                |                  |              |                  | 2-3                |                 | x             | 1-1         |
| Wythenshawe        |                |                |        |           |           |                |             |                    |                | 2-0         |         | 4-3           |                |         | 1-0            |                  |              |                  |                    |                 |               | x           |

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# NANTWICH HISTORY

## A HISTORY OF NANTWICH TOWN

### Early years

Nantwich Town Football Club were founded back in 1884. The club took up residence at the football pitch off London Road with the Leopard Inn as its headquarters and changing rooms. The club's early years were spent playing friendly and cup matches but in 1891 the club joined the Shropshire & District League, finishing as runners-up in their first season.

Nantwich moved into the stronger Combination League the following season. On 15th October 1892 hosted Liverpool in the Merseysiders' first ever FA Cup match (Liverpool won 4-0).

After the First World War, the club became founder members of the Cheshire County League in which they were perennial strugglers. In 1921, a record home attendance of 5,121 watched the Dabbers play Winsford in the Cheshire Senior Cup at the club's temporary home at the old cricket ground at Kingsley Fields. Ironically, this is the location of the new club's new Weaver Stadium.

The club gave Freddie Worrall his first chance in senior football in April 1927. The youngster going to become a pre-war England international as well as playing in two FA Cup finals for Portsmouth.

Success for Nantwich though came in the Cheshire Senior Cup in 1933 when the Dabbers lifted the trophy. They beat ICI (Alkali) 1-0 in the final. After the Second World War, the Dabbers joined the newly founded Mid-Cheshire League and in 1952, the club entered the inaugural FA Youth Cup competition. Drawn against Manchester United in the second round, the young Dabbers crashed 23-0 on a November evening at the Cliff training ground. United's

youth line up including names such as Duncan Edwards, David Pegg, Albert Scanlon and Ron Cope.

In the 1963/64 season the club completed a treble, winning the Mid-Cheshire League, League Cup and Cheshire Amateur Cup. This was under manager Alan Ball (senior) and Nantwich re-joined the Cheshire League for the 1968/69 campaign. In 1976 the Dabbers beat NPL champions Runcorn 5-4 in the Cheshire Senior Cup final at Crewe in front of 2,237 supporters. Five years later in May 1981, a crowd of 1,078 saw Nantwich clinch the Cheshire League title by beating eventual runners up Hyde United in the penultimate game of the season 2-1.

The previous season had seen Nantwich blood a lanky 19-year-old who had been signed from Whitchurch Alport. His name was Jimmy Quinn and he went on to play football at the highest level with Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United. He went on to gain 48 caps for Northern Ireland, becoming the fourth highest scorer in his country's international history.

### A new era in the North-West Counties Football League

1982 saw Nantwich become founder members of the North West Counties Football League. Unfortunately, Nantwich had the unenviable honour of finishing bottom in the league's first season and were relegated to Division Two. They remained there (except for one season in Division 3) until 1989 when they were promoted to Division One. Ex-Stoke City midfielder Nigel Gleghorn was appointed manager in November 2001 and the club also attained the prestigious FA Charter Standard Community Club award. Gleghorn left the club in the 2004 close season and former

Crewe, Burnley and Barnsley defender Steve Davis was appointed as head coach.

### Success in the FA Vase

Davis led Nantwich to FA Vase glory in 2006 when the Dabbers beat Hillingdon Borough 3-1 in the final at Birmingham City's St Andrews Stadium. Andy Kinsey hit two goals in the final – and hit the headlines when he dislocated his shoulder celebrating the second! John Scarlett, the club's post-war leading scorer with 161 goals, made a cameo appearance as a substitute in the same game. The following season (2006/07) saw the club finished third in the North West Counties League and were promoted to the Northern Premier League First Division South as a result. That season was also the last at the club's 123-year old Jackson Avenue home. Promotion was a fitting send off to the historic stadium and a crowd of 1,071 saw the club win 5-2 against Squires Gate in the last ever game at the stadium.

The club moved in the summer of 2007 into its new home, the Weaver Stadium, ahead of the 2007/08 season. Progress continued on the pitch that season, with the club winning their first Cheshire Senior Cup in 32 years. In the final, the Dabbers played Conference Premier side Altrincham and won 4-3 on penalties. The season got even better as the Dabbers won back-to-back promotions, finishing third in the league and again entering the play-offs. They beat Grantham 2-1 in the semi-finals and then beat Sheffield FC in the final, winning 4-1 on penalties after the game finished 2-2.

The 2008/09 season was another successful year as the Dabbers finished third in the NPL Premier Division, their third successive third placed finish. However, they were beaten in the play offs, losing 2-1 to Ilkeston Town in the final and narrowly missing out on three successive promotions. They also reached the Cheshire Senior Cup final again, but Altrincham got their revenge. They beat the Dabbers 3-0 and shortly afterwards, Steve Davis left the club and was appointed as assistant manager at Crewe Alexandra.

Davis' assistant Peter Hall, a former Nantwich and Macclesfield striker, stepped up to take over as head coach for the 2009/10 season. But after briefly topping the table, he parted company with the club in March 2010 after the Dabbers slipped to 15th in the league. Senior players Kevin Street and Darren Tinson took over the reins, lifting the club to 10th place and they were confirmed as joint managers during the close season. The 2009/10 was a particularly special season for the Dabbers as it was the 125th anniversary of their founding. The club even released a special badge to commemorate the occasion.

Jimmy Quinn the former Reading, Bournemouth, West Ham and Northern Ireland striker was appointed manager in March 2011.

The 2011/12 season saw the club embark on its most successful run in the FA Cup, reaching the First Round Proper for the first time in the club's history. Victories over Ramsbottom United, Northwich Victoria, Kendal Town and Nuneaton Town gave Nantwich an enticing tie at MK Dons. Although the Dabbers went down 6-0 on the day, their brave performance earned many plaudits. The club also won their second Cheshire Senior Cup in four years, beating Stalybridge Celtic to pick up their fourth honour in the competition.

When the club parted company with Quinn in March 2013, Darren Moss had a spell as caretaker manager as the Dabbers finished the season in 14th place in the 2012/13 season. Danny Johnson was appointed manager ahead of the 2013/14 campaign and the former Ashton United boss quickly named Earl Davis as player/assistant manager. They finished 19th that year.

For the 2014/15 campaign, former Stalybridge Celtic striker Phil Eastwood stepped up from his role as coach to replace Earl Davis as assistant manager. But following a poor run of results and with the club fighting relegation, Danny Johnson was relieved of his duties in early February 2015. Former player Phil Parkinson was appointed the new manager on 4th February 2015. Parkinson had become a club hero

during his time as a player. He was part of the side Nantwich Town to FA Vase victory in 2006 and had been an integral player of the team as they won back-to-back promotions only a few years earlier.

### **FA Trophy adventure & play-off heartache**

Parkinson appointed Neil Sorvel as assistant manager, Danny Griggs as first team coach and Chris Parkes as goalkeeping coach. The management team turned things around in the second half of 2014/15 season. They gained enough points to remain in the NPL Premier Division relatively comfortably with a few games remaining.

Parkinson and his management team were able to develop and build upon the strong end to the 14/15 season with an excellent 2015/16 season. They started the season in terrific form, scoring an incredible 41 goals in their first 12 games. They also picked up 24 from a possible 36 points from the first two months of the season. They carried their good league form over into the cup competitions, progressing to the FA Trophy first round with wins over Salford, Kings Lynn and Stockport.

The Dabbers league form took a slight dip in January and February, but their FA Trophy run kept going. They progressed past Ashton, Matlock and Stourbridge to reach the quarter-finals of the competition for the first time in their history. In front of a crowd of 892 at the Weaver Stadium, the Dabbers beat Conference Premier side Dover 2-1 with a late winner from Liam Shotton to progress to the semi-finals. This meant they were sitting just two games away from a trip to Wembley.

In the semi-final, they faced FC Halifax over two legs and gave it their all, but came up short, losing 6-4 on aggregate. The first leg at home attracted a bumper crowd of 2,078, a record for the club at the Weaver Stadium. It was a fantastic effort and run from Parky's side and one they can feel immensely proud of. The team finished the league season strongly, losing just three of their last 14 games, but were unable to make up the ground on the play offs, finishing a more than

respectable eighth with 75 points. They also scored an incredible 94 goals, the second highest total in the league behind only league champion's 1883 Darlington.

The club enjoyed a fantastic 2016/17 season. In the cup competitions, they reached the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup for just the 3rd time in their history. They also made it to the first Round of the FA Trophy but lost to Lincoln City. Meanwhile in the Cheshire Senior Cup, they made it all the way to the final and finished as runners-up to Crewe Alexandra, losing 3-2 at Gresty Road.

In the league, they had an excellent run which led to them finishing 5th on 81 points, their highest finish in 8 years. They made the play offs, but went on to lose 2-0 to Spennymoor Town in the final. They nevertheless had an outstanding campaign and looked to build upon that going into the 2017/18 season, though there was hurdles to overcome before they reached the new campaign.

The summer of 2017 saw manager Phil Parkinson depart the club to join Altrincham, as well as a number of the key core to the squad moving on to pastures new. The board appointed Dave Cooke ahead of the 2017/18 campaign, who was quick to bring in plenty of additions to replenish the first-team.

### **New era under Dave Cooke**

While the Dabbers' league form was inconsistent throughout the season, Cooke brought plenty of success in cup competition, guiding the club to the First Round Proper of the FA Cup for only the second time in their history, where they fell to Stevenage in a 5-0 defeat at the Lamex Stadium, a result that observers believed was very harsh on the men in green. Additionally, the Dabbers won the Cheshire Senior Cup for the first time since 2012 with a 3-0 defeat of Stockport Town.

The 2018-19 season saw Nantwich present their ambitions from the get-go, as they put together a strong run of form in the first half of the campaign, topping the table over the Christmas period. However,

there were several clubs with games in hand on Dave Cooke's side, and the Dabbers couldn't hold onto their top spot.

The club eventually finished fourth, their highest finish since 2007-08. However, they fell in the play-off semi-final to Warrington Town at Cantilever Park.

Despite the league season ending in disappointment, the Dabbers did get their hands on some silverware, as they claimed their second consecutive Cheshire Senior Cup with a 5-2 victory over Cammell Laird. The run consisted of impressive victories against Crewe Alex at Gresty Road and wins at home against Chester FC and National League North champions Stockport County.

In the 2019-20 season, Nantwich Town once again made the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, beating 2 sides from a higher level in the National League North. Nantwich finally had a home tie for the first time ever in the First Round against old rivals AFC Fylde, in a tightly contested game Nantwich were very unfortunate to lose the match 1-0 in front of a crowd of 1,544. Unfortunately, the season was null and voided in March 2019 with the Dabbers in a health league position and looking set to make it to the playoffs for the 2nd season in succession.

The 2020-21 season was once again affected by Covid-19, however Nantwich had a good run in the FA Trophy reaching the Third Round before narrowly losing 0-1 to finalists Hereford FC.

The 2021-22 season finally had some normality with the season finally being completed. Nantwich had a poor start in the league and found themselves in the relegation places by Christmas, The FA Trophy once again provided light relief to the league campaign, with a decent run to the Third Round before losing 1-2 away to National League side King's Lynn Town. A 5-1 win at Stalybridge in February kick started a huge revival in Nantwich's fortunes after signing a number of loan players. Nantwich finished strongly and finished in a respectable 13th.

The 2022-23 season was a grim one for The Dabbers, after a poor start and losing to Congleton Town at home in the FA Cup, long time manager Dave Cooke and his management team left the club. They were replaced by Ritchie Sutton and Gary Taylor-Fletcher, despite their efforts Nantwich never really put together a run of results and found themselves in the relegation positions in the New Year. After another managerial change with the vastly experienced Paul Carden as Manager coming in late in the season, despite a very good end to the season, the Dabbers were relegated by just one point, heartbreaking for everyone connected with the club after such a long spell in the Premier Division.

After signing a 2 year deal in the summer, Paul Carden is planning and building a promotion push for the 2023-24 season in the NPL Division One West, with the sole aim of bouncing back at the first time of asking. The Dabbers ended up a mid table finish, with the toll of playing 14 cup games, with a couple of decent cup runs in the FA Cup and the FA Trophy, injuries along with the number of extra games affected the league form. Despite a late flourish where Nantwich won 7 from 10 matches they just couldn't quite sneak into the playoffs.

The 2024-25 season started sluggish for Nantwich Town with early exits out the FA Cup and poor early form in the early league campaign. An approach from Warrington Town meant that Paul Carden left and headed back to the club where he has had the most success for a manager. Jon Moran took over initially in an interim capacity but after a good start to his first foray into management the board decided to make his position permanent becoming one of the youngest managers in Nantwich Town's history. His good start continued and before Christmas fired Nantwich up to 2nd in the league. Unfortunately the squad suffered a couple of major injuries and the form dropped off to a point Nantwich found themselves languishing into mid-table in the early months of 2025. Nantwich recovered with a decent finished but could only manage an 8th place finish. Jon will be putting his own stamp on the squad in preparations for the 2025-26 season.

# PLAYER PROFILES

## NANTWICH TOWN PLAYER PROFILES

**CIAN O'SHEA** – Young goalkeeper who joined Nantwich Town in time for the Wellingborough Town FA Trophy match where he made his debut. Last season Cian had a loan spell with Avro last season as cover for Cameron Mason and played against Nantwich Town in both the FA Cup ties.

**HARRY DAVIS** – Harry is of course best known for his spell at Crewe Alex, where he made over 200 appearances between 2009/10 and 2016/2017 and won the League 2 play-offs and Football League Trophy. Very early in that spell, he had a brief youth loan at the Dabbers in 2010, making 2 appearances. After Crewe, his other clubs have included St. Mirren, Grimsby, Morecambe, Scunthorpe and AFC Fylde. Harry was named as club captain ahead of the 26/27 season.

**AIDAN ROXBURGH** – Aidy had a previous spell at the club in the 2022/23 season, where after an initial loan from Altrincham he came back again towards the end of that season, making 9 appearances in total. Since then, he played for Workington, Bury, Bootle and Irlam, for whom he played and scored in their Manchester Premier Cup final victory in 2024/25. Reached double figures in assists in an impressive first season back at Nantwich in 25/26.

**PERRY BIRCUMSHAW** – Equally capable at centre back or full back, Perry joined the Dabbers early on in the 22/23 season, initially on dual registration terms from Winsford United. But such was the manner he impressed the staff at Nantwich with his performances, he was quickly signed up permanently in September 2022 and has become a fixture in defence since. He's a previous winner of the Player's Player of the Year and has now passed 100 appearances for the club.

**PADDY KENNEDY** – The 22-year-old played for the Dabbers as a trialist in the pre-season of 2024 but saw that period cut short by injury, before joining later in the summer. Kennedy was at Litherland REMYCA in the North West Counties Premier for the two seasons before that and captained them in 23/24.

**TROY BOURNE** – Troy returned to the Dabbers in 2026/27 after a season at Warrington Town in the NPL Premier. The 28-year-old needs no introduction, with 304 appearances over a 10-year period previously at the club after making his senior debut back in November 2015 at just 17 years old. He went on to become club captain as well as scoring numerous important goals in historic fixtures for the Dabbers, claiming almost every award available at the end of season awards over his time.

**TOM GRAVES** – The young defender Graves is an up and coming talent in the Alex academy, playing a part in the side that won both the U17 PDL Cup and the Cheshire Senior Cup for Crewe last season and has captained both their U17s and U18s. His progress was recognised by the club when he took home the Harold Finch Scholar of the Year award for the 2025/26 season.

**AJ KANDEKE** – AJ, 22 years old, featured throughout the 2026 pre-season whilst on trial following a successful season with Northwich Victoria and impressed Dabbers supporters with his tenacity and attitude. After progressing through the non-league pyramid over the past few seasons, the move to the Swansway Stadium becomes the next challenge for the defender.

**JAMES BAILLIE** – Baillie was first at the club on loan in the 2015/16 season, where he made 11 appearances. That was back when he was a Crewe Alex player, and it was at the Alex that he made his footballing start, coming through the academy there and breaking into the first team. He left Crewe in 2016 for Curzon Ashton and made over 100 appearances for them in National League North. Also in non-league, he has turned out for Warrington Town, Ashton United, Warrington Rylands and most recently Witton Albion.

**LIAM FITZPATRICK** – Fitzpatrick, 25 years old, made 77 appearances for 1874 Northwich who he joined in 2024, scoring 13 goals and playing in numerous positions in that time, ending with promotion back to the NPL West after their playoff final victory against rivals Northwich Victoria. He has proved a fan's favourite at all his previous clubs, which have included Sandbach United, with his directness, versatility and all-round game.

**JOE PIGGOTT** – Piggott, 27 years old, returned to the Dabbers for his second spell for the final month of last season after leaving Bury FC and made an immediate impact in his second stint with the club. His presence and quality in his now preferred midfield role was there for all to see, proving a popular character in the dressing room with his leadership qualities, which saw him named as one of the vice captains ahead of 2026/27.

**FENTON GREEN** – Green was most recently at Wythenshawe Town, making 32 appearances in 2024/25. He scored once, and it just happened to be a superb strike against the Dabbers. The 23-year-old started out in the Crewe Alex academy and was with them up to under 18 level. After being released, he went to Hyde United and made 11 appearances in the 21/22 season. He scored 6 goals for 1874 Northwich in his spell there before being signed by Leek Town for their NPL West title winning season part of the way into 2023/24, making 28 appearances.

**BYRON MOORE** – Moore is best known for his long spell at hometown club Crewe Alex, where across

7 years he made nearly 300 appearances and scored over 30 goals, the most famous of which being the game clinching goal in 2012's League 2 play-off final win over Cheltenham. After Crewe, he had spells at Port Vale, Bristol Rovers, Bury and Plymouth in the EFL between 2014 and 2021. He dropped into non-league with Torquay, before signing for AFC Telford under former Dabbers manager Paul Carden. Moore made over 100 appearances for Telford, the final one being another play-off win against Kettering at the end of 2024/25.

**JOE COLLINS** – Joe joined the club in September 2025 after a brief period out of the game due to an injury and has barely missed a squad since, making 30 appearances in 2025/26. Despite having to remain patient he got opportunities to show his quality, never more so than when he picked up Nantwich's Goal of the Season after a fantastic strike away at Runcorn Linnets, as voted for by the fans. A product of the Crewe academy, it's fair to say he has a big future and even more to come for 2026/27.

**ETHAN HARTSHORN** – Hartshorn, 24 years old, is a former Crewe Alex youth player, leaving at 18 years old before joining his local side Congleton Town in 2021 after a spell at Kids Grove. He went on to make over 200 appearances for The Bears, winning a promotion as well as three trophies in his time, captaining the club on numerous occasions.

**WILL SMITH** – Smith began his career with Stoke City progressing through the club's academy, making his professional debut on 27 August 2024 in a 5–0 EFL Cup victory away at Middlesbrough. Smith made a further two appearances in the EFL Cup in 2025–26. On 12 March 2026, Smith joined Northern Premier League Division One Midlands side Mickleover on a one-month loan. Smith left Stoke at the end of the 2025–26 season after not having his contract renewed.

**CALLUM SAUNDERS** – Currently in his third spell at the club, Saunders has been a consistent goalscorer for several years. He was the Dabbers' top scorer in the 2018/19 season and curtailed 2020/21 season.

Callum was most recently at Stafford, where he spent the 2022/23 campaign. The season before, he was joint third highest goalscorer in the NPL Premier with 18 goals. Outside of the NPL, Saunders made 27 senior appearances for Crewe Alexandra where he began his footballing career at a young age. Now at nearly 200 appearances for Nantwich with over 50 goals.

**MASON MCKAY** – McKay, just 18 years old, joined on dual registration at the end of last season and made 4 appearances, after spending most of the year with National League North champions AFC Fylde who he had been part of over the past few seasons through their U18s before progressing into their first team squad. In just the few appearances he made since joining the Swansway Stadium for the final month he quickly highlighted the potential he has, including the standout assist he provided in a goal against Darlaston at home.

**IWAN ROBERTS** – Roberts, 21 years old, is a graduate of Liverpool's academy, where he departed in 2023 before joining Bala Town. He finished last season with Newtown in the Cymru Alliance North after joining in January from Gresford.

**BRUNO CINA** – Cina, 19 years old, joined Stockport in 2024 after leaving Colchester United. In April 2026 he signed his first professional contract at Edgeley Park. The 6ft 4 forward has shown proven athleticism and pace with continuous improvement in his time so far with County. On an initial 3-month loan with the Dabbers.

**JOSH HANCOCK** – Hancock, a local lad who played in our youth teams until the age of 17, made his first team Nantwich debut aged just 16 away at Salford City in 2007. He returned a few years later to play for the first team between 2015 and 2017, scoring 22 goals in 103 games in total for the Dabbers before leaving for Altrincham shortly after manager Phil Parkinson. He went on to enjoy huge success with Alty, Curzon Ashton and Radcliffe, spending most of these years in the National League and National League North.

**OLLIE POPE** – Pope, 22 years old, returned to the Swansway Stadium in summer 2026 after making his senior debut here at just 16 years old before leaving in 2022 after 3 first team appearances. Since then, he has gained lots of experience with local sides such as Whitchurch Alport, Alsager Town and most recently Winsford United. He has scored 21 & 24 goals in his last two campaigns, playing a huge part in Winsford's recent progression.

**LUKE ENRIGHT** – Enright, 19 years old and who now lives locally in Nantwich, started his career with Aston Villa before joining Stoke City where he gained a formidable record in their U18s and U21s. Following an ACL injury he departed the Potters last summer, briefly spending time training with AFC Bournemouth and Harrogate Town following his rehabilitation. He then joined Rushall Olympic in the Southern Central Premier Division (Step 3) last December where he has remained since. The lively attacking player now joins the Swansway Stadium hoping to gain further opportunities to progress back up the pyramid.

**COLLINS KAGAME** – Born in Austria with Rwandan heritage is a winger/forward. Recently signed from Flixton, Collins came through the ranks at Oldham Athletic before signing for Hyde United in the 2024/25. Last season Collins played for Stockport Town.

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**By Matt Badcock**  
**Editor, The Non-League Paper**

Heard the one about the manager who will have to go on the booze run before his side take on a Step 2 big hitter in the FA Cup this weekend?

Or the gaffer who has emerged from recent cancer treatment aiming to reach the first round proper with his third Step 3 team?

How about the north-east town with a double second round qualifying date?

Every season the early rounds of this fine competition throw up great storylines.

Frankly there are too many to cover in The NLP each week and we could have done more.

But it was nice to shine a light on Lower Breck, Rushall Olympic and both Redcar Athletic and Redcar Town ahead of some huge ties this weekend.

Andy Simpson spoke to Breck boss Gary Moore for us ahead of the NPL West outfit's clash with Chester.

A sell-out crowd is expected to squeeze into their ground that's a short walk from the home of Premier League titans Liverpool.

Moore said: "We've hosted Macc here, Bury too. We'll be ready. There's added pressure on me because I still do the booze run to get the bar stocked for home games! It's a big ask for volunteers on occasions like this, but it's exciting too.

"To cause an upset, you must believe it's possible. You've also got to get the basics right, and we'll probably need most of our lads to put in an 8/10 performance.

"Home advantage definitely helps – teams don't love coming here, which is in our favour – but we also have to be realistic at the same time.

"The lads Chester have are a different calibre of player to anything we've come up against in the past, and it would be a massive achievement to knock them out."

Ian Long insists his Christmas cancer fight has not stopped him playing the panto villain – especially when Rushall Olympic's players make his naughty list.

Having been diagnosed with testicular cancer, the Pics boss underwent surgery two days before Christmas yet was still on the touchline for a 5-1 Boxing Day bashing at Ilkeston Town "that didn't make me feel any better".

That was followed by a bout of chemotherapy with Long now on a five-year assessment plan and test results due back later this month but the ordeal has done nothing to alter his front-foot style on the sidelines.

"I am still as stupid and passionate as ever on the sideline," Long told our regular writer Andy Mitchell.

"I must be one of the most hated managers in Non-League and anyone who knows me will know I certainly don't want that to change.

"I feel fine, I am getting down to the gym and nothing has changed – I am still having sleepless nights over the football, which is crazy."

It will be some day in Redcar. With Town taking on Darlington at lunchtime for the BBC cameras, the afternoon will see Athletic host last year's giantkillers Macclesfield.

Town were competing in the North Riding Senior League as recently as 2022, so to be going head-to-head with a former EFL team that are managed by a former Premier League star Steve Watson is a truly historic moment.

"This is only our fifth season in the Northern League and now we are in the second qualifying round of the FA Cup and facing Darlington," explained joint-manager Mitchell Morris to Mark Carruthers.

"We didn't really expect to beat Bridlington or Blyth Spartans and now we want to try and knock Darlington out if we can.

"Steve Watson had an unbelievable career with the likes of Newcastle and Everton and it's just surreal that we will be going up against their side. It will be a tough day for us but one we will enjoy."

As for Athletic boss Carl Jarrett, whose side were promoted to NPL Premier in style last season, said:

"They are second in their division, favourites to go up, they beat Palace last year, a massive club, before getting knocked out by Brentford.

"To get them is a massive draw for the club, we are hoping we get a big crowd and I am sure the fans are on cloud nine at the moment."

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# RESPECT THE STANDARD

## SETTING STANDARDS AT 1874 NORTHWICH

1874 Northwich has supported The FA's Respect programme for a number of years. The programme has had a refresh in 2024, rebranded as "Respect the Standard". The FA have set out five standards of behaviour which aim to ensure that all football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment, whether youth, open age or walking. These standards are:

1874 Northwich has supported The FA's Respect programme for a number of years. The programme has had a refresh in 2024, rebranded as "Respect the Standard". The FA have set out five standards of behaviour which aim to ensure that all football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment, whether youth, open age or walking. These standards are:

- Enjoy the Game - we're here to enjoy ourselves. win, lose or draw.
- Give Respect - we always treat others as we'd like to be treated.
- Be Inclusive - we embrace differences, football is for everyone
- Work Together - we're a team, on and off the pitch
- Play Safe - we all have a role in safeguarding children

Three grassroots codes have been published, aimed at youth players, adult football (players, coaches, officials) and at adults involved in junior football (including coaches, spectators and parents). These Respect the Standard codes have been adopted by the Midland League.

As supporters of 1874, you too can influence the atmosphere at matches. We have tried to define acceptable behaviour in our Code for Spectators. A copy of this code can be found using this link.

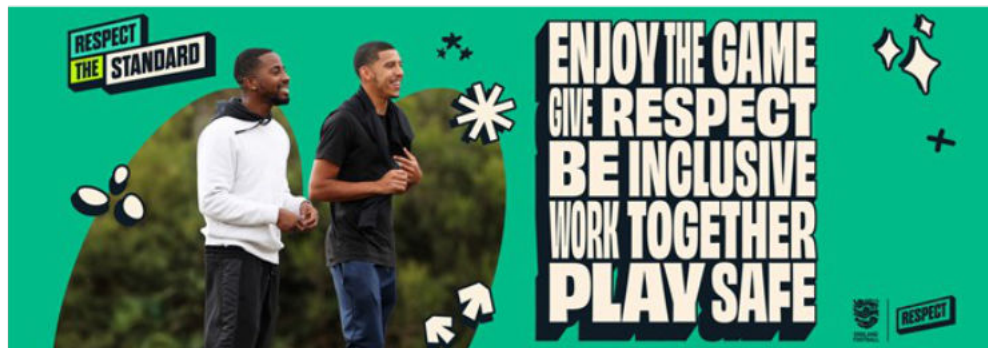
We would hope that you respect ALL players, officials and fans (whether ours or the opposition). We are proud to be a family club and we all have a part to play in ensuring that everyone attending our matches feels welcome and safe, not just the youngsters.

Thanks

Maggie Coats

Club Welfare Officer

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





# ANDYSMANCLUB



#ITSOKAYTOTALK

## WHAT IS ANDYSMANCLUB?

ANDYSMANCLUB is a free peer-to-peer group that provides a place for men to come together in a safe and open environment to talk about the issues or problems that they have faced or are currently facing.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The process is about bringing men together who have been in similar situations, to help each other on a peer to peer basis, sharing how they have dealt with various situations through lived experiences. No matter how big or small your problem feels, we are here to support each other. The 5 questions that are asked each week are designed not only to encourage men to talk, but to start to focus on the positives and on strategies to keep moving forward. There is no pressure to answer any of the questions and it is not uncommon for men to just listen for the first few sessions. The clubs all run on the same format and adhere to the same guidelines. A key principle of ANDYSMANCLUB is anything that is said in the club, stays within the club.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

The club is open to any man 18 or over, who is going through a storm, been through a storm or just wants to meet a good group of people with the aim of improving one another.

## WHEN IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB meet every Monday at 7pm (excluding Bank Holiday Mondays).

## WHERE IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB has clubs in many locations across the UK. Check our website below for a full list.

## HOW DO I JOIN?

Just turn up on the night. No registration or referral is required, all we ask is that you arrive before 7pm. The full list of our locations is available on our website.

## CONTACT US

 @andysmanclub

 @andysmanclubuk

 @andysmanclubuk

 andysmanclub.co.uk

 info@andysmanclub.co.uk

 andysmanclub

# OUR HISTORY

## A HISTORY OF 1874 NORTHWICH

Unless a major event in your life occurred on this day – for instance, the birth of a baby, the passing of a family member or very close friend, maybe even you moving house or starting a new job, then I very much suspect you will have little or no recollection of what you were doing on the evening of 15 November 2012.

But for a number of former and current residents of the small Cheshire market town of Northwich - all of whom had been long-standing, ardent and loyal supporters of the town's oldest, most famous and successful football club - Northwich Victoria - that day was a truly significant. For on that dark, cold, and wet autumn night, disaffected members of the Vics Supporters Trust voted 141 to 4 to collectively turn their backs on the Vics and create an entirely new club!

But exactly what had happened to bring people together to even discuss this radical proposal? After all, the vast majority of football fans would never even countenance the thought of ditching their club. Much like your dog, your football club is supposed to be for life: isn't it?

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.

In short, by late 2011 such were the state of affairs within the club that many Vics fans were utterly sick and tired of the manner in which their club had been 'managed' over the previous decade or more by

successive regimes. In short, they 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, but frankly had collectively made a complete and utter pig's ear of things.

The straw that finally broke the camel's back had occurred on Thursday January 19th January 2012 when the club were evicted from club's home of just 7 years, The Victoria Stadium. It transpired that it had been purchased by a neighbouring company and, quite understandably, they now wished to push ahead with the plans they had for the site which oddly didn't include having a football stadium on their newly acquired land!

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. Whilst this might not have been the member's intention, by doing so the fledgling club actually became the only one in Europe whose name starts with wholly numeric characters!

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 by far the most exciting and memorable in the short history of 1874, during which the 'Go-Bo' 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 League Cup.

Having agreed what was initially a 2 year groundshare deal with Barnton, during the summer of 2019 the club moved loc-stock and barrel from Winsford to their new home at Townfield and thereby kicked off the 2019/20 season playing within the boundary of the town that bears the club's name. Both clubs are now



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**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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- 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

 @dannywilks5

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

 dwfoundation5

 [contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org](mailto:contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org)

 [thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org](http://thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org)

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working to develop a longer-term vision for the ground that will improve facilities for fans, players and officials alike.

The NWCFL Macron Cup win proved to be a springboard for the club as from the very outset of the 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 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 Macron 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 this showing, but a lacklustre end to the season eventually saw '74 slip to 14th place. The undoubted highlight was the deserved 1-0 away win at eventual champions Macclesfield, a game that was witnessed by over 3500 fans – which remains the biggest crowd to have witnessed a game involving '74.

Unfortunately, our third season at Step 4 proved to be a difficult and at many times dispiriting watch with just 4 league wins being recorded – which was double the number of managerial changes!

Towards the end of the season the club appointed former Runcorn Town, Conwy Borough, Cefn Druids and Flint Town United manager Chris Herbert and he was given the task of almost building a side from scratch which would be capable of competing the Premier Division of the Midland Football League.

And Chris – who was ably assisted in this task by non-league 'legend' Steve Burr – almost got '74 back into Step 4 at the first time of asking as they made it through to the play-off final against Shifnal Town. However, the Shropshire side proved to be the better side on the day and so '74 were consigned to play at Step 5 for another year.

Fast forward exactly 12 months and '74 again found themselves facing the same task – needing to beat the Premier League runners up in the play-off final at their 'home' ground to secure a spot back in Step 4.

But unlike the tussle with Shifnal a year earlier, this game had some real extra spice as '74's opponents were none other than a certain Northwich Victoria!

Well over 1200 fans poured through the turnstiles of Vics' home ground in Runcorn to watch the showdown between the two Northwich clubs.

Unsurprisingly given both intense rivalry between the two and the prizes on offer – a place at Step 4 and local bragging rights - the match was a tight, cagey affair with few goalmouth chances. In fact, it was settled by the only true piece of quality play during the game when '74's Mike Hayes turned the ball into the net from an acute angle having been fed by a delicious through ball from Craig Pritchard.

When the final whistle sounded the players in Green fell to their knees in despair – an emotion that was no doubt shared by the Vics fans present that afternoon. In contrast, those clad in violet started a celebration with the hordes of ecstatic '74 fans that went on well into the night!

But things in life – and particularly football – are never simple and just weeks after this triumph its architect Chris Herbert announced that he had agreed to join Vauxhall Motors as their new manager and he was quickly followed by the majority of the squad that had secured '74 their spot back at Step 4.

Faced by this huge and unexpected exodus, '74's Board acted quickly to secure the services of Rory Fallon who led Wythenshawe to promotion from the NWCFL in 2025. Having managed to retain several key and experienced members of the promotion winning squad Rory has already started to add to this number by making several astute signings.

So, whilst it's certainly been a summer of unexpected upheaval at Townfield, everyone associated with '74 is anticipating that Rory will be able to assemble a squad of sufficient quality that will ensure our 4th season at this level will be significantly more successful than the last one!

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# PLAYER PROFILES

## 1874 NORTHWICH PLAYER PROFILES

**Ellis Allen** – Goalkeeper who rejoined the club in the summer of 2026 from Flixton. Previous clubs include Oldham Athletic, APEA Akrotiri, Hollywell Town, Whitchurch Alport, Droylsden, Glossop North End, Abbey Hey, Alsager Town and Witton Albion.

**Alfie Atherton** – Forward who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Matlock Town. Previous clubs include Oldham Athletic, Sheffield United and Peterborough Sports.

**Max Beddow** – Goalkeeper who joined the club in the summer of 2026 on loan from Altrincham. Previously loaned to our landlords Barnton.

**Cameron Bell** – Defender who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Avro. Previous club include Everton, Ronger and Clitheroe. Cameron is also a former Scottish youth international.

**Joe Blake** – Right-back who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Preston North End.

**Noel Brindle** – Central midfielder who joined the club in September 2026 on loan from Chorley. Previous clubs include Wythenshawe.

**John Clarke** – Left-back who joined the club in the summer of 2026 on loan from Bury. Previous clubs include Stockport Town, Port Vale, Reading and Slough Town.

**Elliott Coleman** – Left-back, central defender or forward who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Winsford United. Previous clubs include Alsager Town.

**Ben Crane** – Forward who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Northwich Victoria. Previous clubs include Witton Albion.

**Niall Fallon** – Central defender who joined the club in the summer of 2026 and is the younger brother of manager, Rory Fallon. Previous clubs include Squires Gate, Northwich Victoria, Maine Road and Wythenshawe Town.

**Lewis Farmer** – Attacking midfielder who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Barnoldswick Town. Previous clubs include Sheffield Wednesday, Workington, Northwich Victoria and Hednesford Town.

**Mike Ibeto** – Central defender who rejoined the club in the summer of 2026 from FC St Helens. Previous clubs include Abbey Hey, Wythenshawe and Chadderton.

**Will Igoe** – Forward who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Northwich Victoria. Previous clubs include Witton Albion, Hanley Town, Wythenshawe and Barnton.

**Mark Jones** – Club captain who plays as a central defender or midfielder and joined the club in the summer of 2016 from Nantwich Town. Previous clubs include Liverpool, Witton Albion and Radcliffe.

**Harry Lynn** – Forward who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Stockport Georgians. Previous clubs include Radcliffe, Witton Albion, Ossett United and Chadderton.

**John McGrath** – Winger or attacking midfielder who joined the club in January 2025 from Burscough. Previous clubs include City of Liverpool, Widnes, Clitheroe and Prescott Cables.

**Tom Mitchell** – Central defender who joined the club in November 2025 from Lower Breck. Previous clubs include Atherton Collieries, Widnes, Skelmersdale United and Vauxhall Motors.

**Brad Mundy** – Central midfielder who joined the club in September 2026. Previous club include Manchester City, Blackburn Rovers, Fleetwood Town and Salford City.

**Kenny Mwaliteta** – Winger or attacking midfielder who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from West Didsbury and Chorlton. Previous clubs include Atletico Madrid, Witton Albion, Barnton and Helsby.

**Simon Njaria** – Central midfielder who joined the club in the summer of 2026. Previous clubs include Leeds United, Bradford Park Avenue, Halifax Town, Harrogate Town, Alfreton Town, Frickley Athletic, Rotherham United, Warrington Town, Altrincham, Shaw Lane, Glossop North End, Guiseley, Mossley, Buxton, Radcliffe, Telford United, Matlock Town, Basford United, Cheadle Town, Stafford Rangers and Clitheroe.

**Niall Osborne** – Right-back who joined the club in the summer of 2024 from Liverpool. Previous clubs include Newcastle Town.

**Blake Robinson** – Central midfielder who joined the club the summer of 2026 from Winsford United. Previous clubs include Colwyn Bay, Airbus UK Broughton, Whitchurch Alport and Eccleshall.

**Jim Simms** – Forward who joined the club in September 2026 on loan from Avro. Previous clubs include Oldham Athletic, Hull City, Buxton, Darlington, Ashton United, Wythenshawe Town, Southport and West Didsbury and Chorlton.

**Kevin Spinelli** – Forward who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Chasetown. Previous clubs include Ashton United, Avro, Runcorn Linnets, Witton Albion and Trafford.

**Jack Woolley** – Forward who rejoined the club in the summer of 2025 from Winsford United and is the younger brother of club legend, Matt Woolley. Previous clubs include Barnton, Stockport Georgians and Alsager Town.

**Matt Woolley** – Central midfielder, who is capable of playing almost anywhere on the pitch, joined the club in the winter of 2013 from Knutsford and is the club record appearance holder with over 450 appearances. Previous clubs include Witton Albion.

**Evra Yao** – Forward who joined the club in the summer of 2026 from Lower Breck. Previous clubs include Southport and Bootle.





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## MANAGER

Rory FALLON



|                  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Ellis ALLEN      |  |  |  |  |
| Alfie ATHERTON   |  |  |  |  |
| Max BEDDOW*      |  |  |  |  |
| Cameron BELL*    |  |  |  |  |
| Joe BLAKE*       |  |  |  |  |
| Noel BRINDLE     |  |  |  |  |
| John CLARKE      |  |  |  |  |
| Elliott COLEMAN  |  |  |  |  |
| Ben CRANE*       |  |  |  |  |
| Niall FALLON*    |  |  |  |  |
| Lewis FARMER*    |  |  |  |  |
| Mike IBETO*      |  |  |  |  |
| Will IGOE        |  |  |  |  |
| Mark JONES       |  |  |  |  |
| Harry LYNN       |  |  |  |  |
| John MCGRATH*    |  |  |  |  |
| Tom MITCHELL     |  |  |  |  |
| Brad MUNDY*      |  |  |  |  |
| Kenny MWALITETA* |  |  |  |  |
| Simon NJARIA     |  |  |  |  |
| Niall OSBORNE*   |  |  |  |  |
| Blake ROBINSON*  |  |  |  |  |
| Jim SIMMS*       |  |  |  |  |
| Kevin SPINELLI*  |  |  |  |  |
| Jack WOOLLEY*    |  |  |  |  |
| Matt WOOLLEY*    |  |  |  |  |
| Evra YAO         |  |  |  |  |

## MANAGER

Luke GODDARD



|                   |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| James BAILLIE     |  |  |  |  |
| Perry BIRCUMSHAW* |  |  |  |  |
| Troy BOURNE       |  |  |  |  |
| Bruno CINA        |  |  |  |  |
| Joe COLLINS*      |  |  |  |  |
| Harry DAVIS*      |  |  |  |  |
| Joe DAVIS         |  |  |  |  |
| Luke ENRIGHT*     |  |  |  |  |
| Liam FITZPATRICK  |  |  |  |  |
| Tom GRAVES*       |  |  |  |  |
| Fenton GREEN      |  |  |  |  |
| Josh HANCOCK*     |  |  |  |  |
| Ethan HARTSHORN*  |  |  |  |  |
| Collins KAGAME*   |  |  |  |  |
| AJ KANDEKE*       |  |  |  |  |
| Patrick KENNEDY*  |  |  |  |  |
| Mason MCKAY       |  |  |  |  |
| Byron MOORE       |  |  |  |  |
| Cian O'SHEA*      |  |  |  |  |
| Joe PIGGOTT*      |  |  |  |  |
| Ollie POPE*       |  |  |  |  |
| Iwan ROBERTS      |  |  |  |  |
| Aidan ROXBURGH*   |  |  |  |  |
| Callum SAUNDERS*  |  |  |  |  |
| Will SMITH*       |  |  |  |  |

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REF: Tazlim ALLI  
AST 1: James SCERRI  
AST 2: Richard BOOTH

## NEXT FIXTURE

@ MOSSLEY

22/09/26 - 7:45PM  
PITCHING IN NPL WEST