



vs STALYBRIDGE CELTIC
29/09/26 - 7:45PM
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

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WEBSITE: www.1874northwich.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/1874Northwich

X/TWITTER: 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

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

PITCHING IN NPL WEST

VS STALYBRIDGE CELTIC

TUESDAY 29TH SEP 2026 | K.O. 7:45PM



FAN ENGAGEMENT: Mark Davies

COMMERCIAL & MARKETING: Andrew Dignum

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS: Jack Owen

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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

SECRETARIAL MUSINGS

VICKI ENGLAND



This evening, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone connected with Stalybridge Celtic for this NPL West game and included in their ranks are some familiar faces. A special welcome back to Jack Tinning, Mike Koral and of course, Jack Irlam. These guys were popular with 1874 supporters, and we are always pleased to see them.

Stalybridge currently sit mid table, but as we've all seen over the last few weeks, this is a strange league where teams are beating each other and there are only a few points between a number of clubs. I just know that Celtic are one of the favourites for the title, and I expect them to be there or thereabouts come the end of the season, so this game is always going to be a tough one.

We've had a tricky time, results wise, over the last few weeks. There have been games where you couldn't argue with a defeat but then how many times have we cursed our luck, and when you are at the wrong end of the table, you don't often get any!

We've seen some promising performances in a few games where we feel we should have got something. I couldn't make the Mossley game last week, but by all accounts, we were fair value for a draw, but a late winner scuppered that. How many late goals have we had scored against us!

We are a smaller fish in a bigger pond, the NPL West is a very decent step up but to be honest, I do believe

that if we had not suffered some of the player unavailability that we have, we would not be sitting in the bottom four and would have more points on the table. We've lost key, experienced players and that's had an impact, no doubt about it. That's football though and we must keep plugging away and backing the squad.

The games don't get any easier, and after tonight, we host Padiham at Townfield on Saturday. This is an opportunity to try and dish out revenge after our defeat earlier this month. We then face a trip to league leaders Bootle next Tuesday. They are firing on all cylinders and it's a difficult fixture for any team in the NPL West. There have been a number of fixture changes over the last few weeks, so check out our fixture list on [our website](#).

I can tell you that Rory and the management team continue to work hard for us. After needing a complete rebuild in the summer, well since the end of June in fact, they have worked tirelessly to recruit and then replace injured lads. It's not an easy process! I know we have registered a number of players so far, but we needed to start somewhere to bolster the squad and then review and try and improve. That will continue.

In other news, I appreciate that we are always asking for volunteers to do something for the club. We saw a number of our brilliant volunteers retire in the close season, and whilst they deserve to put their feet up, it

has left gaps that some of us are struggling to fill. If you can offer any support, however little that might be, it would be appreciated.

Talking of brilliant volunteers, it will be good to see Groundsman Mark Taylor back at Townfield this evening. Mark has had a period of ill health in recent weeks so I'm so glad to know he's on the mend. Mark does an amazing job on the pitch, especially after the

intense heat over the summer. I'd also like to thank those supporters who turned up last Sunday to help with some seeding and pitch maintenance. Great team work with our friends from Barnton.

Have you got your Beer Festival tickets yet? Make sure you see Mick, Mark Davies or any member of the Board. It's always a good social evening and it's an essential fundraiser for the club, so it would be good to see you there!

That's it for now, enjoy the game and thanks for your support.

"Come on you Green Boys!"



Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

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BIG GAME PREVIEW

GARRY CLARKE

1874 NORTHWICH vs STALYBRIDGE CELTIC

PITCHING IN NPL WEST

1874 Northwich host Stalybridge Celtic in an NPL West fixture at Townfield.

Last season Stalybridge Celtic finished 3rd in the NPL West with a record of:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Pos
SC	42	25	7	10	88	55	82	3

After last weekend's games Stalybridge have 11 points from 9 games. They are seven places and four points above 1874 who are in 20th. The two team's records after last weekend are:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Pos
1874	9	1	2	6	6	15	5	20
SC	9	3	2	4	15	16	11	13

Last Saturday Celtic lost 3-1 at Curzon Ashton in the FA Trophy 3rd qualifying round.

CELTIC FACT FILE

Formed	1909
Ground	Bower Fold
Colours	Blue and White
Change colours	Green
Manager	Jon Macken
2025/26	3rd NPL West

FAMILIAR FACES

Familiar faces in the Stalybridge Celtic squad are former 1874 players Jack Irlam, Mike Koral and Jack Tinning.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1874 Northwich and Stalybridge Celtic have played each other on two previous occasions in the 2023/24 season, with both games ending in 0-0 draws.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Home	1	0	1	0	0	0
Away	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	2	0	2	0	0	0

DID YOU KNOW?

Stalybridge Celtic were founder members of the Football League Division Three North in 1921 having previously played in the Southern League. In 1982 they became founder members of the North West Counties League having previously played in the Cheshire County League.

A BIT ABOUT THE TOWN

Stalybridge is a town in Tameside, Greater Manchester historically divided between Cheshire and Lancashire.

The settlement was originally called Stavelegh, which derives from the Old English stæf leah, meaning "wood where the staves are got". The medieval Lords of the

manor took de Stavelegh as their name, later becoming Stayley or Staley. After the construction of a bridge in 1707, the settlement was commonly

referred to as Stalybridge, meaning the bridge at Stayley.

Stalybridge has the public house with the longest name in Britain – The Old Thirteenth Cheshire Astley Volunteer Rifleman Corps Inn and also the one with the shortest, Q.



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ON THIS DAY...

A LOOK BACK ON THIS DATE OVER THE SEASONS

“Regular scribe James Wood recalls the matches that 1874 have played on today’s date in years gone by....”

With the Autumn Equinox now behind us, the season in which the Townfield floodlights will be switched on well before kick-off time for evening matches is now well and truly upon us.

Unfortunately, many sectors of the retail industry believe that this astronomical event provides them with the justification to start putting out their Christmas stock and placing seasonal advertising both outside and within their premises - actions which leave old curmudgeons bloody irritated and annoyed!

But if you are the type of person who likes to receive gifts in late September, then so far 1874 have been extremely obliging as they’ve won both of the games that they’ve played on this date.

The first was in 2015, when ‘74’s Cheshire rivals Runcorn Town made the short trip from The Pavilions to the Barton Stadium for a North West Counties Premier Division fixture.

Having gained an excellent point from a 3-3 draw at Bootle 3 days earlier, a brace of goals from Ryan Jackson helped ‘74 to end their five-match run without a league win. He netted his first on the stroke of half-time when he slotted the ball under Town’s ‘keeper and 6 minutes after the break he doubled the advantage by reacting first to stab the ball home after the ‘Corn No. 1 had spilled a powerful Matt Beadle drive.

The visitors did force their way back into the game when they pulled a goal back with 17 minutes left, but The Green’s defence held firm to claim all three points,

much to the delight of the majority of the 241 fans present.

1874: Conkie, Mason, Stewart, Thomas, Lomas, Matt Woolley, Wellstead, McNichol, Beadle (Haughton), Brandon, Ryan Jackson.

Unused Subs: Tulloch, Ledwards, Stadnicki Ward

Fast forward three years and on this occasion, it was Bootle who paid a visit to the BS.

The Greens had experienced a far from impressive start to the campaign, their 2-1 win at West Didsbury 7 days earlier being just their 2nd league win of the season.

But just like buses, whenever you’ve waited ages for one to arrive, a second almost always turns up soon after!

And this adage again proved to be correct as ‘74 claimed all 3 points from their Merseyside based opponents.

1874 actually dominated the game from the off, but only had Taylor Kennerley’s 37th minute goal to show for their efforts at the break. Frustratingly ‘The Bucks’ levelled the match 6 minutes into the second period but justice was done with 11 minutes left on the clock when Scott McGowan – whom else? – turned in a peach of a cross from that man Kennerley.

1874: Green, Connor, Russell (Meadowcroft), Pritchard, Thomas, Weir, Joe Woolley (Riley), Irlam, McGowan, Waite-Jackson, Kennerley

Unused Subs: Lever, Winthrop

Att: 222

SPOT THE BALL

WHERE IS THE BALL HIDING?

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



FACE MERGE

WHO MAKES UP THIS PLAYER?

Four members of our current squad have been merged into this image, can you name them all?



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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

CARD OF THE WEEK

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Our 'Card of the Week' for our NPL West fixture against Stalybridge Celtic is the 2022 Leaf Continuum Erling Haaland autograph, numbered 51 of 63.

The card, an instant collector's item with there only being 63 in the world, is from Haaland's debut season for Manchester City. This card represents one of Haaland's first authenticated autographs as a Manchester City player.

Priced at £200, it is perfect addition to collections for autograph hunters and Manchester City fans alike.

Come into our shop at the Stalybridge Celtic game to see, and maybe purchase, this rare gem of a card!



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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 or 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 or you can contact us via the website at: [Volunteering at 1874 | 1874 Northwich F.C.](#)

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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.

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

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

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Harris Lee	1874 Forum
Andy Williams	Farral Cleaners
Max Beddow	Elite Riff Raff
Elliott Coleman	'Ever Glorious' Programme
Ben Crane	Elite Palates Studio, Blakemere Village
Niall Fallon	Howard Leonard, James Leonard and Col Robbins
Mark Jones	Elite Riff Raff In memory of Gary Halvorsen
John McGrath	1874 Walking Footballers In memory of Roger Oxley and Tommy Ward
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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)

MATCH CENTRE 26/27

[illegible]

1874 NORTHWICH 2026/27 PLAYER STATS

AS OF 22/09/26

		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	13	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	13
BELL	Cameron	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
BLAKE	Joe	4	0	4	1	0	4	0	4	1	0	8
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	6	4	4	0	2	6	4	4	0	2	10
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	12	3	1	0	0	12	3	1	0	0	13
FARMER	Lewis	4	4	7	0	0	4	4	7	0	0	11
IBETO	Mike	6	0	2	0	0	20	6	7	5	0	27
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	1	1	37	21	10	1	8	48
MITCHELL	Tom	7	1	0	0	0	23	2	1	1	1	24
MUNDY	Brad	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	5
MWALITETA	Kenny	11	6	2	0	0	11	6	2	0	0	13
NJARIA	Simon	2	2	3	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	5
OSBORNE	Niall	12	1	0	0	0	89	9	2	0	1	91
ROBINSON	Blake	12	2	0	1	0	12	2	0	1	0	12
SIMMS	Jim	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	2	3
SPINELLI	Kevin	11	9	2	0	2	11	9	2	0	2	13
WOOLLEY	Jack	0	0	6	0	0	19	14	54	28	3	73
WOOLLEY	Matt	5	5	2	3	0	423	86	50	37	51	473
YAO	Evra	5	4	3	0	1	5	4	3	0	1	8

NPL-WEST 2026/27 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 26/09/26

		HOME				AWAY			GF	GA	Pts
		P	W	D	L	W	D	L			
1	Bootle	7	2	0	0	5	0	0	20	4	21
2	Prescot Cables	8	2	3	0	3	0	0	15	4	18
3	Stafford Rangers	7	3	0	1	3	0	0	17	7	18
4	Wythenshawe	10	4	0	0	1	3	2	15	12	18
5	Witton Albion	9	3	1	2	2	0	1	21	11	16
6	Hanley Town	8	4	0	1	1	1	1	19	9	16
7	Shifnal Town	8	2	0	2	3	0	1	18	14	15
8	Clitheroe	7	2	0	1	3	0	1	11	8	15
9	Mossley	10	2	1	2	2	1	2	15	13	14
10	Chasetown	10	2	1	1	1	3	2	18	16	13
11	Runcorn Linnets	9	2	1	2	1	2	1	13	13	12
12	Kidsgrove Athletic	9	2	0	1	2	0	4	11	12	12
13	Stalybridge Celtic	9	1	1	2	2	1	2	15	16	11
14	Newcastle Town	7	1	1	0	2	0	3	19	13	10
15	Nantwich Town	10	1	2	2	1	2	2	19	20	10
16	Atherton Collieries	7	1	1	2	2	0	1	11	13	10
17	Lower Breck	6	2	0	1	1	0	2	13	11	9
18	Padiham	10	1	2	3	1	1	2	8	20	9
19	Vauxhall Motors	8	1	1	3	0	3	0	10	17	7
20	1874 Northwich	9	1	1	2	0	1	4	6	15	5
21	Lichfield City	11	0	0	6	1	0	4	10	44	3
22	Congleton Town	9	0	2	3	0	0	4	3	15	2

NPL-WEST 2026/27 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 26/09/26

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

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CELTIC HISTORY

A HISTORY OF STALYBRIDGE CELTIC

Stalybridge Celtic's history has been the subject of many debates for the greater part of the century. Although an outfit calling itself 'Celtic' appears in the archives from 1906, this side seemingly only played friendlies on a ground at North-End. This seed of a club was probably the basis for the club we know today, which was formed in 1909 by Herber Rhodes, a local businessman and philanthropist.

Mr Rhodes spent a chunk of his fortune on developing Bower Fold. He also played for the team and designed the kit (basing it on the colours used by his racehorses).

Celtic played for two seasons in the Lancashire & Cheshire Amateur League, before turning professional and joining the Lancashire Combination, becoming Second Division champions at the first attempt. Due to some local bureaucracy, Celtic's ambition to join the Football League meant that they had to join the Southern League, and travel by train to every away match. Fortunately, finishing runners up (to Stoke) meant promotion.

There followed a short pause that most people know as the First World War. In the aftermath (1920-21 to be exact) Celtic re-joined the Central League. At the end of the 1921 season, Celtic became one of the founder members of the Third Division (North).

The club's first game in the Third Division was against Chesterfield, a home game that Celtic won 6-0. However, winning this league was to prove too difficult, finishing 7th and 11th in the first two years. Lacking the support of local people, the funds were not available to press for a third campaign, forcing Celtic to voluntarily resign from the Football League. Celtic re-joined the

Cheshire County League (replacing the reserve squad) and stayed there for 60 years until the formation of the Bass NW Counties League. Peter Wragg took the helm and steered Celtic to Championship victory in 1980, eventually winning the Bass NW Championship in 1984 and 1987, and runners up in the NPL First division. During this time of league progress, there was a lot of work at Bower Fold, culminating in the ground gaining League grading.

Phil Wilson took over the reins in 1989 when relegation threatened, eventually finishing second in the NPL. He followed this escaping act with promotion into the Conference in 1992. The club's first season was a success, finishing 12th, but it was followed by disaster and relegation loomed again. Peter Wragg returned and saved the sinking ship by winning nine of the last 12 games. Peter Wragg resigned at the start of the 1996/97 season, replaced by Brian Kettle, but it was not enough, and Celtic were relegated in 1998 back to the NPL after finishing bottom.

It was troubling times for the club, and there was a succession of managers including Stirling and Keelan before Phil Wilson came back. Phil Wilson was to prove an inspirational manager. Firstly in 1999 he brought us the League Cup, then, in 2001, Celtic won the Cheshire Senior Cup (something the club had not won for nearly 50 years). Demolishing a strong Stockport County team 5-1 at Ewen Fields. In the same season, Celtic went on to beat Blyth Spartans in the President's Cup, before going on to win the league title after an impressive victory against closest rivals Emley at their ground.

The title was won away at local side Droylsden thanks to an injury time Stuart Locke penalty. Celtic finished

with over 100 points and scored nearly 100 goals. The foray into the Conference was short lived though. Phil Wilson joined Southport, taking several of the squad with him, and the assistant coach. With scant time before the start of the new season, Paul FUTCHER took over the reigns. With a series of disastrous runs, Celtic replaced Paul with Dave Miller. He almost, but not quite, kept us in the Conference before sensationally sacking nearly the entire team. Miller won the President's Cup at the first attempt, and the club finished fourth in the NPL.

During this time, a new stand was built, upping the seated capacity to over 1200. With the formation of the Conference North in 2004/05, Celtic had to finish 2003/04 in 13th or higher - Celtic only just did it. A sensational win at champions Hucknall Town saw us finish 13th. Celtic's first season in the Conference North was almost the last, and with half the season gone, Miller was sacked and replaced by John Reed. John pulled off the great escape, clawing back an 18-point deficit to finish a place above the relegation zone, following it up by missing out on the play offs on the last day of the 2005/06 season. A poor couple of seasons saw John Reed replaced with Steve Burr, who took Celtic to the play-off final at his first attempt in the 2007/08 season, losing by one goal to Barrow. Steve Burr's second season saw him come within a whisker of the play offs, and after a storming start to his third season in charge, he left to join Kidderminster in the Conference National, and was replaced first by Benny Phillips and then by Jim Harvey. With the finances at Celtic unable to allow them to compete with the top sides in the division, Celtic took the brave option of going full time with a youth set up to allow them to compete in a different way. After a good first season, finishing sixth just outside the play offs, Harvey's second full season was less successful, finishing midtable. A bad start to season 13/14 saw Harvey replaced by former player Keith Briggs.

Keith continued the full time experiment, but he resigned in December 2015 with Celtic looking doomed to relegation. Liam Watson came in and oversaw a turnaround in Celtic's form that saw them

safe on the last day of the season with a thrilling 4-4 draw with Gainsborough Trinity. 2016 was to prove a disastrous season, Liam Watson was replaced by co-managers Steve Halford and Paul Phillips, but Celtic looked certain relegation candidates, so the club replaced them with Steve Burr who was unable to save Celtic from relegation, sending one of the last remaining founders of the Conference North into the Northern Premier League. 2017 was also a poor season, with Celtic finishing in the bottom four, though due to a league restructuring, with only one going down, Celtic remained in the division for the 2018 season. Simon Haworth came in. During in his first full season, Celtic finished in the bottom five, but then the season after Covid hit, curtailing both that season and the next. When football finally came home, Celtic remained in the Northern Premier League Premier Division but for the 2022/23 season, local manager Chris Willcock stepped into the manager hotseat.

Half-way through the season, Celtic's Chairman and Majority Shareholder Rob Gorski put the club up for sale. With a lack of money, ownership and direction off the pitch, the club struggled on it. A season full of turmoil culminated in relegation from the Northern Premier League Premier Division with relegation confirmed in a 4-2 loss away to Marske.

In the summer of 2023, the club was taken over by Nigel Jones and Paul Bowden, giving the club fresh hope and a new start. Chris Willcock departed and was replaced by James Kinsey. A summer of change ensued with Celtic starting the 2023-24 Northern Premier League season with new owners in Nigel Jones and Paul Bowden, a new executive committee leading the Club, a new manager and a new squad. After a sixth placed finish in 2024-25 under Jon Macken, there is hope of further progression this season.

PLAYER PROFILES

STALYBRIDGE CELTIC PLAYER PROFILES

Kyle Brownhill – Kyle joined Stalybridge Celtic from Lancaster City in June 2024, having been named in the 2023-24 NPL Premier Division Team of the Season. Starting his career with Stockport County, Kyle has played for Burnley, Workington, Hyde, Telford, Altrincham and Ramsbottom. A move to Lancaster City saw him become a fan favourite before he arrived at Stalybridge Celtic 12 months ago, making 44 appearances at full-back in his first season.

Jordan Butterworth – Former Manchester United academy player, Jordan, joined Celtic from Bury in March 2024, following in his father's footsteps, Gary Butterworth, who played 148 games for Stalybridge Celtic. Jordan spent three seasons with Mossley where he excelled and earned a move to Bamber Bridge. He joined Bury mid-way through the 2023-24 season, where he played 20 times. Since moving to Celtic, he has shown his versatility at both full-back and central midfield, clocking up 54 appearances and eight assists.

Jack Byrne – NPL West title winner Jack joined Stalybridge Celtic in July 2025 after leaving last season's champions Widnes. The central defender left Widnes after making 71 appearances for the club, having also featured for the likes of Hyde United, Lancaster City in the NPL Premier Division.

Charlie Doyle – Charlie was a key part of the 2021/22 Rylands team that won the 2021-22 NPL Division One West and 2021 FA Vase trophy, being named the club's player of the season for their double winning campaign. Starting his career at Bury, Charlie has also played for FC United and Irlam before he joined Rylands in 2020. He also spent time on loan with Avro as they secured promotion to the NPL

Division One West. Charlie is into his second spell with Stalybridge after a brief stint away at Bootle and Bury.

Conor Harte – U21 keeper who stepped up to the first team this summer having impressed during pre-season.

Ellis Horan – A former Preston North End youth graduate, Ellis joined Celtic mid-way through the 2024-25 season and starred for the club's U21's side. He then progressed through to the Celtic first team and is now a regular member of the first team squad.

Jack Irlam – Jack joined Celtic in September 2023 after making 113 appearances for 1874 Northwich, becoming a key part of their squad. The versatile midfielder has now reached 72 appearances for Celtic, scoring 19 goals, the bulk of which have come under Jon Macken.

Ruben Jerome – Striker Ruben Jerome signed for Celtic ahead of the 2025-26 season having won three promotions in a row with Workington, Emley and Bury. He scored 39 goals as Emley won the NCEL title and scored 38 in 66 games for Workington when gaining promotion from the NPL West.

Mike Koral – Winner of Witton Albion's 2024-25 Player of the Season award, Mike made the move over to Celtic to link back up with his former manager Jon Macken. The experienced defender made 127 appearances for Witton before deciding to embark on a new challenge this summer. Starting his career at Crewe Alexandra Mike has also played for the likes of

Congleton, Nantwich Town and 1874 Northwich where he is a popular figure.

Max Leonard – Max started his career at Huddersfield Town before spells in non-league with Frickley Athletic, Glossop North End, Curzon Ashton, Telford United, Mossley and Wythenshawe Town. The versatile player joined us in 2023 and has gone on to play 77 times for the Club scoring 15 goals including our 2024-25 goal of the season away at Avro.

Charlie Monks – Charlie began his career at Blackpool and enjoyed several years coming through their academy ranks. His first venture into non-league saw him gain plaudits at both Colne and Burscough before stepping up to join Stalybridge Celtic 12 months ago. In his debut season at Step 4, he recorded 45 apps in all competitions, keeping 13 clean sheets.

Brandon Newell – Brandon is a highly rated midfielder who originally joined Celtic from Macclesfield in July 2023. Brandon has dual nationality with England and Finland and he became the youngest-ever recipient of the North West Counties First Division South Player of the Year award in 2022 after a stellar season making 32 appearances for Abbey Hulton. This saw him make the move to Macclesfield in the summer of 2022 where whilst on dual registration with Wythenshawe Town, he suffered an ACL injury that ended his season early. He went on to make 19 appearances for Celtic, before joining Witton Albion in November 2023. He couldn't stay away and returned to Bower Fold in November 2024 and has now reached 43 appearances.

Elliot Rokka – 28-year-old winger Elliot signed for Stalybridge Celtic last December after spending three seasons at Witton Albion, making 101 appearances. He links back up with Jon Macken. He has had spells with Macclesfield, Portuguese side Riomaier, Atherton, Tranmere and Radcliffe.

Andy Scarisbrick – Andy signed for Stalybridge Celtic in July 2025 after spending the second half of last season at Marine, helping them to secure their

NLN status. Having won promotion and the FA Vase with Warrington Rylands, Andy has also played for Prescot Cables, Bootle and Bury and has become a standout player in non-league football.

Dylan Scott – 19-year-old Dylan Scott arrives at Bower Fold this summer following six years at Burton Albion. Dylan has 39 senior appearances to his name already and is familiar with the NPL, having scored six goals while on loan at Hanley. Further loan spells with Mickleover and Leek Town have aided Dylan's development.

Benni Smales-Braithwaite – Benni joined Stalybridge in January 2025. He is a former Manchester City and Southampton academy graduate who joined Celtic from Danish side Vendsyssel. Benni came through the ranks at Manchester City and then Southampton, turning professional in 2019. He's had spells at the likes of Barrow, Curzon Ashton and Guiseley where he scored four goals in six games in 2023. A move to Vendsyssel followed with loans to Faroese club 07 Vestur and Skive.

Jack Tinning – Jack arrived at Celtic in September 2023 from Bury FC, where he was a key figure at Gigg Lane. The experienced defender is a two time promotion winner with Warrington Rylands, having won promotion from the North West Counties Premier Division and NPL West whilst also winning the FA Vase with Rylands. Jack has now made 54 appearances for Stalybridge and enters his third season with the Club.

Liam Tongue – Liam re-joined Celtic in May 2024 and became our club captain. He joined Stalybridge after leaving Guiseley where he was also captain and had been interim manager twice. Spells with Stockport Georgians, Cheadle Town and Mossley saw Liam first join Celtic in 2017. 49 appearances followed before he signed for Hyde United. Liam scored 27 goals in 129 games in a three year spell. After a spell at Guiseley, becoming their captain and later interim manager, Tongue returned to Celtic in the summer of 2024. He was ever present for Stalybridge during the 2024-25

season, playing every single game, taking him to over 100 Celtic appearances.

Sean Tse – Hong Kong international defender Sean Tse joined Celtic 12 months ago helping Radcliffe to secure the Northern Premier League title in the 2023-24 season. He started his career at Manchester City academy where he won academy player of the month in November 2009. After graduating the academy, he joined Hong Kong first division side South China in 2012 where he made 57 appearances and scored five goals in a five year spell there, before having spells at Tai Po, R&F and Kitchee before returning to England in

2023 to join Hyde United. Sean has made eight appearances for Hong Kong.

Greg Wilkinson – Greg is currently our longest serving player, having joined Celtic at the start of the 2008 season aged just 19. He made his debut coming on as a substitute in a 4-0 win over Moor Green. In December 2013, after a good start to the season, he joined Cheshire neighbours, Altrincham, where he spent two seasons and scored the goal that put them in the Vanarama National League. He had a spell at Stockport on loan in 2015 and has also featured for FC United of Manchester and Telford. Greg returned to Celtic at the start of the 17/18 season. After two more seasons, in which he brought his total up to 237 games, he departed, but joined up with James Kinsey at the start of the 23/24 season as player/coach and has remained with the Club since. He now has 283 Celtic appearances to his name and is well on his way to 300.

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THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

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By Matt Badcock

JUST the mere mention of the upcoming international break sends colleagues from our sister title The Football League Paper into a cold sweat.

The thought of two Saturdays without any Championship football along with less than half of the scheduled League One programme is enough to induce sleepless nights as they contemplate quite how to fill all their pages.

To make it worse, even some League Two games have been postponed because of call-ups, so how much longer will it be before National League games are under threat too?

The good news is The FLP team will produce great papers worth reading in the new reality of two international breaks – September and October – squashed together.

The move was approved in March 2023 with the later than usual 2026 World Cup finish because the tournament expanded – remember that bright idea – to reduce the number of journeys around the world so many players have to take.

It means England and Wales will be playing four games in this window rather than the usual two and the shutters come down on the top two divisions in England effectively for three weeks.

Step into the limelight. Non-League football. We all know about the rip-roaring success of Non-League Day, founded by James Doe to encourage fans to their

local Non-League club when both the Premier League and Championship are on hold.

This upcoming break is a great opportunity to get out the Non-League Day textbook and entice fans through the turnstiles.

A lot of match-going fans will be starved of their usual fix but still keen to see some live action.

It has to be said, watching Non-League football – particularly in the National League – is becoming more expensive in some cases.

Many Step 1 clubs charge north of £20 now – and car parking fees seem to be on the rise too!

You have to go a bit further down to Pyramid fulfil the clichéd twenty quid gets you in the ground with change for a burger and a pint.

Of course, costs have gone up across the board. All businesses are feeling the pinch and it's never been more expensive to run a football club.

But great value days out still reign supreme in Non-League.

So let's see top special offers, the 'kids go free with an adult' deals, the extra events around the game that draw supporters in.

Forward-thinking clubs are working out how to get fans to their grounds earlier and keep them there longer.

While Wales' weekend games are on Sundays, England do play on Saturdays but, crucially, at 7.45pm and 5pm – ideal to get people in the ground for a 3pm game,

then keep them on for a couple of pints and some evening football on the box (starting with England v Spain tonight), while bringing in valuable revenue before the winter months.

And also keep showing what a great level of the game this is.

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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.

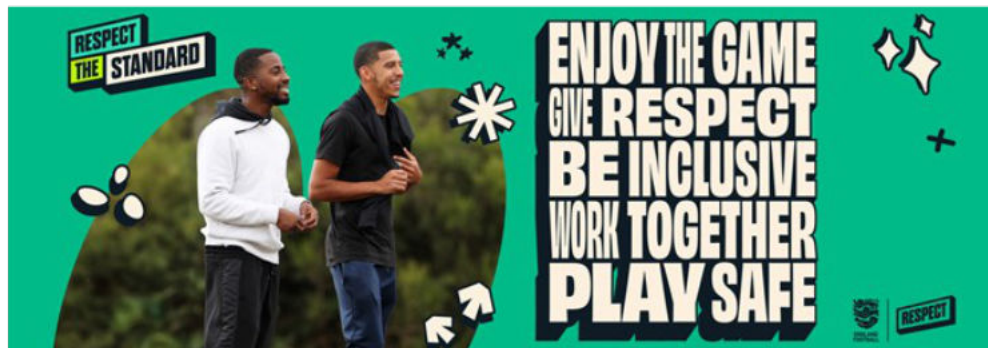
We would hope that you respect ALL players, officials and fans (whether ours or the opposition). We are proud to be a family club and we all have a part to play in ensuring that everyone attending our matches feels welcome and safe, not just the youngsters.

Thanks

Maggie Coats

Club Welfare Officer

cwo@1874northwich.com





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

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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



The
Daniel Wilkinson
Foundation

*Providing Screening and Defibrillators to
prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in the young*

The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Daniel Wilkinson who died in 2016 aged 24, while playing the game he loved, from an underlying heart condition called Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC).



Dan played football from an early age and joined Hull City AFC when he was 10, earning a professional contract aged 18. Loughborough University followed where he completed a degree in Accounting and Financial Management while playing non-league football. He was an athlete who enjoyed the gym and took his health and nutrition very seriously. He lived life to the full and had so much ahead of him.

Other than feeling light-headed on a few occasions in the month before he died, he had no symptoms!

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

- SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with **NO SYMPTOMS** or family history.
- ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - **IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.**
- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

OUR MISSION

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

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

Find out more

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 dwfoundation5

 contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

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

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.

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, Ranger 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 Prescot 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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Rory FALLON



Ellis ALLEN				
Max BEDDOW*				
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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

Jon MACKEN



Kyle BROWNHILL*				
Rohan BUTLER*				
Jordan BUTTERWORTH				
Jack BYRNE*				
Charlie DOYLE*				
Cam FOGERTY*				
Josh GRANITE*				
Conor HARTE				
Ellis HORAN*				
Jack IRLAM*				
Ruben JEROME*				
Mike KORAL*				
Max LEONARD				
Fortune MAPHOSA*				
Charlie MONKS*				
Obua MUGALULA*				
Brandon NEWELL				
Lewis RAWSTHORN*				
Elliot ROKKA				
Andy SCARISBRICK*				
Dylan SCOTT				
Benni SMALES-BRAITHWAITE				
Jack TINNING				
Liam TONGUE*				
Sean TSE				
Greg WILKINSON				

MATCH OFFICIALS

REF: James NAISBETT
AST 1: Alistair BELL
AST 2: Calum JOHNSTON

NEXT FIXTURE VS PADIHAM

03/10/26 - 3PM
PITCHING IN NPL WEST