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vs WITTON ALBION
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CHESHIRE SENIOR CUP
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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MEDIA: media@1874northwich.com

WEBSITE: www.1874northwich.com

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

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WELCOME TO TOWNFIELD

CHESHIRE COUNTY FA CUP

VS WITTON ALBION

TUESDAY 20TH OCT 2026 | K.O. 7:45PM



FAN ENGAGEMENT: Mark Davies

COMMERCIAL & MARKETING: Andrew Dignum

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS: Jack Owen

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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



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BIG GAME PREVIEW

GARRY CLARKE

1874 NORTHWICH vs WITTON ALBION

CHESHIRE FA COUNTY CUP

1874 Northwich host Witton Albion at Townfield in a Cheshire Senior Cup first round tie.

Last Season, Witton finished 8th in the NPL West, with a record of:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Pos
WA	42	17	10	15	76	67	61	8

After last Saturday's games, Witton are 7th in the NPL West table:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Pos
1874	15	1	5	9	15	33	8	21
WA	12	7	2	3	27	12	23	7

While 1874 were losing 4-0 at Runcorn Linnets on Saturday, Witton had a day off. Their last game being a league game at Shifnal Town the previous Wednesday, which they won 4-0.

WITTON ALBION FACT FILE

Formed	1887
Ground	Wincham Park
Colours	Red, white & black
Change colours	Purple
Nickname	Albs
Manager	Ben Harrison
2025/26	8th NPL West

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1874 have played Witton Albion on ten previous occasions with the red and whites holding a 7-3 advantage.

HEAD TO HEAD

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Home	3	1	0	2	6	7
Away	7	2	0	5	9	15
Total	10	3*	0	7	15	22

*one won on penalties.

FAMILIAR FACE

Only one former 1874 player has played for Witton Albion this season, Jacob Hamman.

DID YOU KNOW?

Witton Albion were formed in the late 19th century by a group of Northwich Victoria players, officials and supporters who chose to break away from the Vics in protest of the clubs' decision to become a 'professional' side.

A BIT ABOUT WINCHAM

Wincham is a village in the unitary authority of Cheshire West and Chester in the ceremonial county of Cheshire, about 3 miles north of Northwich.

The whole area around Wincham was the site of salt mining for many years, before the industry finally

ceased in the village in 2005. In 2015 the Lion Salt Works re-opened to provide a museum on the history of salt production in Cheshire.



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300+ CLUB

AUGUST 2026 DRAW

The monthly prize draw was carried out on 13th October at half time of the match against Congleton at Townfield, 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	304	Stewart Woolley
£100	258	Simon Barton
£50	208	Les Esling
£50	188	Matthew Allen-Gurr
£50	199	Chris Stockton
£50	238	Phil Crimes

300+ Club

CARD OF THE WEEK

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The 'Card of the Week' for our Cheshire Cup fixture against Witton Albion is the Lionel Messi 2024-25 Panini FIFA Donruss Pitch King's card, numbered 02/25.

The card is one of only 25 in the world and a genuine piece of memorabilia for any collection. Priced at £100, it is a great, high end card for any collector. This would take pride of place in most collections.

Recently retired from international football, there will only be historic player cards released from here on out.

Come into our shop at the Witton game to see, and maybe purchase, this rare footballing legend's card.



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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.

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.

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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:

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Phil Lea	Tony Fallows
Harris Lee	1874 Forum
Andy Williams	Farral Cleaners
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Ben Crane	Elite Palates Studio, Blakemere Village
Courtney Duffus	1874 Walking Footballers In memory of Roger Oxley and Tommy Ward
Niall Fallon	Howard Leonard, James Leonard and Col Robbins
Mike Ibeto	Richard Webb
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Kevin Spinelli	Northwich Mastiff
Matt Woolley	Sunday Lunch Club
Evra Yao	Preston 74 Fan 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 17/10/26

		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	19	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	19
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	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	4
CLARKE	John	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2
CRANE	Ben	7	5	6	0	2	6	5	6	0	2	13
COLEMAN	Elliott	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
DUFFUS	Courtney	3	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	3
EDWARDS	Lucas	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2
FALLON	Niall	13	4	1	1	0	13	4	1	1	0	14
FARMER	Lewis	6	6	10	1	0	6	6	10	1	0	16
FRIARS	Alfie	5	2	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	5
IBETO	Mike	12	0	2	0	0	26	6	7	5	0	33
IBRAHIM	Ola	4	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	6
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
MANN	Sam	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
MCGRATH	John	7	6	2	1	1	37	21	10	1	8	48
MITCHELL	Tom	13	1	0	0	0	29	2	1	1	1	30
MUNDY	Brad	1	1	8	0	0	1	1	8	0	0	9
MWALITETA	Kenny	17	9	2	0	1	17	9	2	0	1	19
NJARIA	Simon	7	6	3	0	0	7	6	3	0	0	10
OSBORNE	Niall	18	1	0	0	0	95	9	2	0	1	97
ROBINSON	Blake	14	4	1	1	0	14	4	1	1	0	15
SIMMS	Jim	7	0	1	0	7	7	0	1	0	7	8
SPINELLI	Kevin	12	10	5	0	2	12	10	5	0	2	17
WOOD	Josh	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	4	1	1	4
WOOLLEY	Jack	0	0	6	0	0	19	14	54	28	3	73
WOOLLEY	Matt	7	7	3	5	1	425	88	51	39	52	476
YAO	Evra	8	7	6	0	2	8	7	6	0	2	14

NPL-WEST 2026/27 LEAGUE TABLE

AS OF 17/10/26

		HOME				AWAY					Pts
		P	W	D	L	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1	Bootle	13	6	0	0	6	0	1	36	9	36
2	Hanley Town	13	6	0	1	2	1	3	31	16	25
3	Prescot Cables	13	2	4	0	5	0	2	26	15	25
4	Clitheroe	12	3	1	2	5	0	1	21	14	25
5	Stafford Rangers	10	4	0	1	4	0	1	23	10	24
6	Shifnal Town	14	3	0	3	5	0	3	24	25	24
7	Witton Albion	12	4	2	2	3	0	1	27	12	23
8	Mossley	15	4	1	2	3	1	4	23	23	23
9	Wythenshawe	14	4	0	2	2	4	2	22	21	22
10	Stalybridge Celtic	14	4	1	2	2	2	3	27	25	21
11	Runcorn Linnetts	15	4	2	2	1	3	3	24	24	20
12	Nantwich Town	15	2	2	3	2	3	3	28	27	17
13	Padiham	15	2	2	3	2	3	3	20	31	17
14	Lower Breck	12	4	0	3	1	1	3	19	21	16
15	Kids Grove Athletic	14	3	1	3	2	0	5	16	22	16
16	Newcastle Town	12	2	2	2	2	0	4	23	19	14
17	Chasetown	15	2	1	4	1	4	3	27	31	14
18	Vauxhall Motors	13	2	2	4	1	3	1	16	24	14
19	Atherton Collieries	9	1	1	3	3	0	1	14	16	13
20	Congleton Town	14	1	2	4	1	2	4	14	23	10
21	1874 Northwich	15	1	4	2	0	1	7	15	33	8
22	Lichfield City	15	0	0	7	2	0	6	15	50	6

NPL-WEST 2026/27 RESULTS GRID

AS OF 17/10/26

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



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WITTON HISTORY

A HISTORY OF WITTON ALBION

Formation and Grounds

In the 1880's the district of Witton, centrally situated in the mid-Cheshire salt town of Northwich, had several different teams using the name 'Witton' as a prefix. The name Witton Albion itself can be traced back to a match played on October 26th 1887. No record of any matches has been found for 1889 and as such 1890 can be regarded as the year when the current club was actually formed.

Albion's first ground was adjacent to the Parish Church Vicarage. In 1897 they moved to Magdala Place near the Station Bridge. 1910 saw them move, paying the princely sum of £15 per annum, to a new ground adjacent to the Victoria Saw Mills just off Witton Street. July 1920 saw the club buy the ground outright for £750. Renamed appropriately the Central Ground, this was to be their home until 1989, when a Sainsbury's Supermarket was developed on the site. The club then bought a 14 acre site off Chapel Street, Wincham and so their current Wincham Park stadium was constructed. To secure the club's future, much of the surrounding land was later sold off.

The ground and facilities have been most welcome to local clubs Nantwich Town, Runcorn Linnets and Northwich Victoria, whilst awaiting moves into their own new grounds, indeed the latter are now in their second spell with us. We have also seen Football League Division Two Barrow use Wincham Park as their training base.

Leagues and Honours

Witton Albion, after winning the Crewe FA Junior Cup, encountered their first league opponents in 1894 when part of the Cheshire Junior League. They then had a season in the Crewe & District Junior League, whilst

having their Reserve Team replace them and actually win the 1896/97 campaign. From 1897-1901 the team then competed in the Cheshire League before spreading their wings as they joined The Combination where the opposition consisted of the likes of Bangor, Burslem Port Vale, Chester, Tranmere Rovers, Wellington (now Telford) and Wrexham. A move to the Manchester League was made for 1904/05 where they played Altrincham, Macclesfield, Hyde, Buxton and Northwich Victoria on a regular basis. As leagues became stronger and stronger Witton decided to join the Lancashire Combination in 1912 and the decision was rewarded the following season when they carried off the 2nd Division championship. Unfortunately, with the outbreak of World War One, Albion only had one season in the top flight, finishing a respectable 10th.

Following the war Witton Albion became one of the founder members of the Cheshire County League. It was not though until after the Second World War that championship honours were achieved. The following ten years saw them arguably become one of the best non-league sides in the country. They won the league three times with the league and cup double attained in 1953/54. They were also League and Cup runners-up during this period as well as a long spell of consecutive appearances in the Proper Rounds of the F.A. Cup.

Witton were denied founder membership of the Northern Premier League due to the entry qualification relating to the season two prior to the formation and so had to battle on before eventually gaining promotion, when finishing Cheshire County League runners-up in 1978/79. They almost won the NPL at the first attempt but were pipped by Mossley by just one point. The second season after moving to

Wincham Park saw them as runaway champions with a sixteen point margin over Stalybridge Celtic.

Season 1991/92 therefore saw them compete with the cream of the non-league world in the Football Conference. Cheltenham Town, Colchester United, Dagenham & Redbridge, Macclesfield Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Yeovil Town, future Football League clubs, were amongst their opponents in the three year spell as members. The end of the 1993/94 season saw the club relegated, for the first time in their history. With the club's much publicised financial problems the end of the 1996/97 season brought a further relegation to the NPL First Division. Finding eventual stability the club finished comfortably in the top half in the succeeding seasons. In 1999/2000 Witton were only denied promotion on goal difference when they finished level on points with both Accrington Stanley and Burscough, along the way only suffering four defeats!

A 5th place finish in 2003/04 ultimately, under the reconstruction of the non-league pyramid, earned Albion a place back in the NPL Premier Division. 2007 saw the tightest ever finish in the NPL's 39 year history with Albion missing automatic promotion by just one goal and then losing to AFC Telford in the play-off final in front of a Wincham Park crowd of 2,281. Albion suffered a similar fate the following season, with the title seemingly won, a tremendous run from Fleetwood dashed hopes of automatic promotion before Witton this time lost at the play-off semi-final stage. After finishing runners-up for two consecutive seasons in the Premier Division, the failure to secure promotion saw a mass exodus of management and players.

Nigel Deeley, previously the popular assistant, was the unanimous choice as the new Manager with the task of rebuilding the playing squad. After 7 points from an opening 9 the Manager's fortunes changed and after a run of nine consecutive defeats the Board decided to appoint former manager Gary Finley in his place. Finley and assistant Lee Coathup (a member of the Wembley FA Trophy squad in 1992) looked to have steered Albion away from relegation, however only 3 points

from the final 8 games saw Witton slump to 3rd from bottom that relegated them to the NPL Division 1 South.

The 2009/10 season saw Witton travel more than 3,000 miles in a mixed league campaign. Ever present in the top half of the table Witton touched the summit and appeared to be putting together a side capable of returning, at the first time of asking, to the Premier Division. Lack of consistency, injuries and a high turnover of players ultimately lead to the club missing out on the play-offs by six points and finishing 7th in the league. Manager Gary Finley departed on the final day of the season.

In May 2010 Witton appointed the experienced Paul Ogden as Manager. With more than 40 years management experience his appointment was part of an overall restructure of the club's football activities by Chairman Mark Harris and the Board. Former fan's favourite Dave MacPherson returned to the club as Assistant Player/Manager, moving up later in the season when Paul Ogden relinquished his role, whilst Brian Pritchard stepped up to the position of Assistant Player/Manager following a record breaking previous season when he increased his number of games for the club to well over the 700 mark!

At the end of the 2010/11 season and with Dave MacPherson's departed, Brian Pritchard was appointed Manager with Mike Moseley his Assistant and Nigel Deeley added onto the coaching team. These full members saw their just rewards along with the rest of the "Witton Family" when their charges won both their Play Off semi and final 3-0 to earn their place back in the NPL Premier Division for season 2012/13.

With virtually the same squad the following season saw the team achieve a marvellous 4th position only to be beaten at FC United of Manchester in the Play-Off semi-final. 2013/14 however saw a very different scenario as the team skirted around the relegation positions for a good while until early March when a good set of results saw them eventually finish in 16th spot.

On the 2014 August Bank Holiday, Manager Brian Pritchard made the shock announcement that he was leaving the club after a total of 19 years with Witton. A massive decision for him but with his work commitments, together with his personal life to consider, then the club very reluctantly accepted his resignation. Anthony Sheehan stepped up from his role of Player Coach to manage the club and initially results went his way but a disastrous run of defeats saw him leave. Tony Sullivan was brought in from Cammell Laird at the beginning of October charged with ensuring Premier Division status was maintained. It took over four months to finally establish a run of good results and by the end of March the team were finally out of the drop zone. April though brought just a single point from six matches the final one being at Stamford when 2-0 up at half-time against fellow relegation candidate an awful second period consigned the team to the First Division.

Tony Sullivan duly stepped away but the club was able to take advantage of NPL First Division South Norton United's sad demise to recruit their manager Scott Dundas along with almost his total backroom staff and a sizable contingent of players. However just two months into the campaign and following a poor set of results Dundas and his staff were relieved of their duties leaving Paul Ogden to step in once more along with stalwart Terry Murphy, who sadly has now passed away, to take temporary charge of team affairs prior to the appointment of former player Carl Macauley who along with his assistant Gary Martindale were the management team at Conference North Vauxhall Motors until the club's resignation. They thankfully succeeded in steadying the ship and despite the club, once again being forced to change regional divisions set about recruiting their own team, both on and off the field.

Their dedication certainly paid off in 16/17 when, in practically any other scenario picking up nigh on 100 points and scoring 100 goals along the way would secure automatic promotion, the team won their Play-off games against AFC Rushden & Diamonds and Spalding United to regain their place back in the NPL's

top flight. The first season back exceeded expectations as it was only in the final month that Albion missed out on a play-off position whilst in 18/19, playing catch-up, the team finished in the top ten. 20/21 saw them well placed, with games in hand, before the season was curtailed but the following season, with so many players being unavailable through injuries and Covid issues, the team struggled to get any sort of run together and ultimately finishing second bottom were relegated.

The management were subsequently relieved of their duties, the whole playing squad, many of whom had been with the club four years or so, sought pastures new and Jon Macken was duly appointed to firstly busy himself constructing a whole new team. Not surprisingly therefore it took a wee while for the squad to settle down and three months in were flirting near the relegation zone. The final 25 league games though saw just 4 losses and the climb up the table ended with them just shy of a play-off spot finishing in 6th place. With virtually the same squad the 23/24 season was virtually a repeat, just being pipped for a play-off spot on the final day. 2024/25 though saw half the squad departing with new players being asked to step up from mainly North West Counties football. This, coupled with the sacking of the management duo, after a disastrous pre-season, meant a back to the drawing board approach and after a temporary role senior player Ben Harrison took charge and he along with Jim Lawrie, Mike Alcock & Paul Houghton ensured Witton finished the season still in the Northern Premier League. Last season was a bit of a "yo-yo" one, however once Ben had established a regular squad Albion finished the season in 8th spot. With virtually all the players remaining along with a handful on new recruits it is hoped all goes well in 26/27.

F.A. Competitions

Witton Albion first made it into the Proper Rounds of the F.A. Cup in 1948. Since then they have figured in the First Round draw a further twelve times. On three occasions further progress to Round Two has been made, 1951, 1953 and 1991. The latter being as a result of Witton defeating Football League opposition for the

one and only time – Halifax Town in a replay at the Shay. When Albion met Bolton Wanderers in 1990 it was to be the main BBC TV's Match of the Day. Barry Davies was in attendance and despite atrocious weather and pitch conditions the crowd of 3,784 plus the millions who tuned in saw Witton not be overawed. The soon to be promoted Wanderers, their then manager Phil Neal together with the 800 visiting fans departed much relieved with their 2-1 victory.

In the 2011/12 season's FA Cup Albion won through four rounds, accounting for higher ranked Marine and Altrincham along the way before giving Conference outfit Barrow the fright of their lives in a pulsating encounter in front of a 860 home crowd. The next six seasons though saw the team only register five wins in total although in 2016/17 they defeated higher level team Buxton 3-0 and ran Conference North Stalybridge Celtic to a replay. 18/19 season's FA Cup run saw Witton defeat both National League North clubs Spennymoor and FC United of Manchester before succumbing to the then National League highfliers Solihull Borough.

In the F.A. Trophy the three seasons of 1990/91, 91/92, 92/93 truly stand out as Witton became the first team to make three successive semi-final appearances. 1992 culminated in them making it to Wembley Stadium, where they encountered a powerful Colchester United who had already secured promotion back into the Football League. The crowd that day, in excess of 32,000, were joined by a massive T.V. audience when Sky TV relayed the whole of the Final, for the very first time. Witton had defeated Colchester the previous season at Layer Road and so revenge was very much the order of the day. Mike Lutkevitch gave the 5,000 strong following hope with his looping header, after Albion had trailed 0-2, but a late goal won the game for the Essex side.

The 16/17 season saw the team's best performance in a decade that included notching up very impressive wins over higher ranked Kettering Town and Boston United before losing out in very controversial circumstances to National League Chester FC after a

replayed First Round tie. 20/21 peculiar circumstances saw Albion get to make Round 2, even though they only won one tie!

The Cheshire County F.A. Senior Cup has been won by Witton eleven times since 1902 and they have been beaten finalists on ten occasions. The 90's decade saw them carry off the trophy in 1995 & 1996 together with three further appearances in the Final. 2004 saw us again contest the Final with World media coverage and exposure following a certain "sending-off" incident. The 2006 Final saw Albion, with several Reserve team players drafted in defeat odds on favourites Stalybridge Celtic 2-0. Since then though we have only been able to make it as far as the semi-final stage three times.

Former Players

A number of former Witton Albion players have also appeared in the Football League; Geoff Horsfield (Scunthorpe, Leeds, Leicester, Sheffield Utd, West Bromwich Albion, Wigan, Fulham & Birmingham City), Andy Oakes (Darlington, Swansea, Walsall, Bolton, Derby, Port Vale and Hull), John Doolan (Rochdale, Blackpool, Doncaster, Barnet and Mansfield) and Shaun Whalley (Accrington Stanley, Wrexham, Luton, Shrewsbury). One of non-league's top goalscorers and one time the holder of the most expensive non-league transfer fee, Carl Alford (Macclesfield Town, Kettering Town, Rushden & Diamonds, Stevenage Borough, Doncaster Rovers, Yeovil Town, Nuneaton Borough) also gave his career a massive boost when he moved on from Wincham Park, having played for us in that Wembley F.A. Trophy Final. In 2005/06 Crewe's Nicky Maynard had a seven week spell on loan to us, upon his return he quickly earned a 1st team place and began scoring freely for the Alex before a £2m plus fee took him to Bristol City before signing for Premiership bound West Ham United. Later he overcame a long term injury before helping to take Cardiff City into the Premiership before joining MK Dons in 2015. Shaun Miller ex Bolton Wanderers via Wigan Athletic, Sheffield United, Coventry City, Morecambe & Carlisle United, also returned to Crewe following a loan spell early in 2007 and completed the end of that season as a 1st team player and goalscorer. Other Crewe players

loaned to Witton went on to make first team appearances, namely Owen Dale, Luke Offord, Travis Johnson & Regan Griffiths. Our 2011/12 season's "Player of the Season" Alex Titchiner was snapped up by then the new Football League outfit Fleetwood Town during the 2012 summer and spent quite some time on loan at FC Halifax Town helping them secure promotion.

Some previous players, since the mid 1960's, include Chris Nicholl (Aston Villa, Southampton, Northern Ireland), Peter Mellor (Burnley and Fulham - their goalkeeper in the FA Cup Final), Neil Parsley (Huddersfield and West Brom), Peter Henderson (Chester and Gillingham), Mark McCarrick (Birmingham and Tranmere), Phil Power (Crewe and Macclesfield), Dave Carrick (Preston, Port Vale, Wrexham), Mark Leonard (Everton, Stockport, Wigan, Rochdale, Crewe), Grenville Millington (Chester and Wales) and local talented player Mike Whitlow (Leeds, Leicester, Bolton Wanderers and Sheffield United).

Another locally born and bred midfield player, Colin Rose won caps in 1996 when called into the England semi-pro International squad whilst Andy Lee, John Davison and David Constantine retained their places in

the England team, after moving to Witton from their previous clubs. In 2007/08 Liam Brownhill was chosen as the only non-league player below the Conference to feature in the England "C" team in their two European Championship matches.

In no particular order other familiar names to appear in Albion's colours over the past forty years or so, include Nigel Gleghorn (Ipswich, Man City, Stoke, Birmingham), Kevin Langley (Everton, Manchester City, Birmingham, Wigan), Ray Wallace (Southampton, Leeds Utd.), Ray Ranson (Man. City, Everton, Newcastle), Goalkeeper John Burridge, Arthur Albiston (Man. Utd.), Nicky Reid (Man. City, West Brom.), Tony Henry (Man. City), Neil McNab (Tottenham, Bolton, Man. City), Billy Garton (Man. Utd.), Scott McGarvey (Man. Utd.), Mark Lillis (Aston Villa, Man. City), Brendan Batson (Arsenal, Cambridge, West Brom.), Frank Carrodus (Man. City, Aston Villa), Drew Brand (Everton), Micky Mellon (Tranmere, Blackpool, Burnley, Bristol City) and a couple of seasons back; Matt Lowton (Sheffield United, Aston Villa, Burnley & Huddersfield Town) & Tom Pope (Crewe, Port Vale, Rotherham United & Bury). Ken Barnes (Man. City), ex Busby Babe Denis Violett and England and Lancashire fast bowler Ken Higgs plus the star local comedian John Bishop are amongst others that appeared over the years.

PLAYER PROFILES

WITTON ALBION PLAYER PROFILES

JOEL BEMBO-LETA – Central Defender born in Kinshasa on 15/2/92, a Congolese U20 International, who signed for us initially at Christmas 2017. An approach from Bangor City saw him leave us, after just 2 games, making 13 appearances and scoring twice for the Citizens. Initially at Oldham Athletic's Academy he then made 151 appearances for Stalybridge Celtic by the end of the 13/14 season. Spells then at Curzon Ashton, Colwyn Bay, Marine, Buxton, Droylsden & Shaw Lane before signing for Altrincham. From 17/18 he'd been with Glossop North End, Ramsbottom, Ashton United, Wythenshawe Town and Northwich Victoria before spending the whole of the 22/23 campaign at Abbey Hey (37 apps.). Re-joined the Vics in October 2023 making 4 appearances. Sustained an injury in only his third game back, forcing him out of action until early February 2025 and ended up taking his Albion appearance total up to 60 (51 starts, 3 goals) come May 2026.

MATT COOK - Right back, Manchester born on 21/9/95 who joined us in late February from Cheadle Town for whom he made 82 appearances netting twice. Commenced his career on Burnley's books before a two year stint with Wrexham making 16 appearances in their Youth/Reserve set-up. Joined Abbey Hey in 2016 playing 71 times prior to a 7 match spell with Winsford United. Was also briefly with Northwich Victoria before enjoying a successful four season spell with West Didsbury & Chorlton for whom he made 166 appearances scoring 3 times. Will be looking to add to his 10 match (7 starts) tally this campaign.

LEWIS CRANE – Striker born 29/12/06 in Whiston who has been signed over the summer from Runcorn

Linnets where, over the previous two seasons, as well as netting near on 60 goals for their Under 21's team, he converted 9 first team goals in his 41 appearances (11 starts) that included a hat-trick against champions Bury FC. Son of former player Peter he is also the nephew of Albion legend Mike Moseley.

REECE DAVIES – Defender, Manchester born on 23/10/1993 who joined us in early October after playing 10 times for Kidsgrove Athletic this season. A prolific forward earlier netting 30 times in his 89 matches in 3 seasons at Winsford United, prior to joining Kidsgrove, that included the Blues goal of the season two years back. Sandwiched in his time at Winsford he made 9 appearances for Alsager Town at the start of the 24/25 campaign netting twice and played for Wythenshawe Town on New Year's Day 2026 achieving the Man of the Match award.

GEFFRY EBHOTE – Central Defender born in Verona, Italy on 12/12/93 who joined us last season after being a colossus at the heart of the Avro defence the previous three seasons, the last two of which making 70 appearances (62 starts) scoring a couple of goals. He spent the 21/22 campaign with Stockport Town, whilst back in his native country he has played with AC Sambonifacese and ASD GC Castelnuovo Sandrà. 41 starting appearances for the Albion and scoring once last term.

JOE EDWARDS – Attacking Midfielder born in Manchester on 21/3/2004 who earned a scholarship with Oldham Athletic after playing for Manchester Schoolboys. After starring for the Latics' Youth Team he earned a contract for the 22/23 season and in their matchday squads a number of times. Played 3 times on

loan for Mossley at the beginning of 2023 and upon his release joined Stalybridge Celtic for whom he appeared 24 times (5 starts) netting 3 times.

November 2024 he joined Atherton Collieries playing 24 times for them (14 starts). In his first Witton season he knocked in an impressive 10 goals in his 42 appearances (31 starts)

TOM FARRALL – Defender, Liverpool born on 31/10/2006 who was signed after showing, despite his young age, tremendous ability during the 25/26 pre-season. 24/25 saw him turning out for West Cheshire Division 3 outfit Christleton. A tall player looking to increase on his 19 appearances (14 starts) and furthering his career at the Albion. Early 2026 saw him also have a couple of games for NWCL Barnton under dual-registration terms as he is this term with newly promoted Midland League Runcorn Town.

FREDDY GARBUTT – Striker, Sale born on 9/9/03 who joined us in summer 2025 from NWCL Pilkington FC, for whom the previous season he scored 13 times in his 24 games (21 starts), Freddy came through the ranks at Pilkington and scored 23 goals for their U23's during the 2023/24 season. He has also played for Runcorn Linnets Under 21's, scored 6 times in 10-0 win over 1874 Northwich!, Barnton & Runcorn Town (5 appearances in 2022/23). His early season form prompted the club to place Freddie on a contract that was fully justified when he returned 22 goals from his 48 appearances (34 starts) come the end of the campaign.

JACOB HAMMAN – Central Midfielder, Crewe born on 27/2/2005 who joined us last August following three seasons at Salford City for whom he got to make an EFL 1st team appearance. Commenced his career at hometown outfit 1874 Northwich making 3 appearances towards the end of the 21/22 season, prior to signing for Salford. He had a 6 match loan spell back at 1874 in early 2023 as well as brief spells, loaned to Nantwich Town in February 2024 and then Leek Town in October 2024. An injury in early October saw him out of action for over 3 months and

he'll be looking to seriously increase his 30 match appearance total during 26/27

JACK HILL – Forward born 21/4/2008 in Crewe who gained a first team squad berth after impressive displays in our Under 18's team and got to make his debut in mid-October 2025 and come the end of the season had made 8 appearances off the bench.

BEN HOLMES – Central Midfielder born 18/1/1994 in Birkenhead who has been signed for this season after eight seasons with Vauxhall Motors making 265 appearances (216 starts) and scoring an impressive 59 goals, while also achieving a couple of promotions along with the Cheshire Senior Cup for the Motormen. Commenced his career with Cammell Laird, initially in their Reserve team in 13/14 but when promoted to first team duties scored 17 times in his 46 matches (37 starts). The January 2016 transfer window saw him join Conwy Borough for a spell.

TOM HOYLE – Striker Manchester born on 4/9/2003 Tom joined us initially as a Central Defender in mid-October 2023, making 10 appearances in a 3 month loan deal from Fleetwood Town. He had been part of the Cod Army's Under 18's and U 21's since joining from Bury. Spent previous loan spells in 22/23 at Bamber Bridge (3 appearances) and Colne (18 appearances, 3 goals) that included playing against us in the 1-1 draw in the December. The 24/25 season saw him as a scoring sensation at Ramsbottom United with 23 goals in his 52 appearances (49 starts) knocking in a couple of hat-tricks. The scoring knack continued last season when he racked up 14 goals when playing in all but one of Albion's 50 matches.

BILLY JONES – Right wing back, Liverpool born on 14/2/2005 who has joined us after having 4 years on the books of Fleetwood Town. A former Liverpool Schools XI representative he was at Everton as a Junior. Played regularly at Under 18's and then Under 21's level for the Cod Army and was also on their 1st team bench a number of times. Loaned to National League South King's Lynn Town in October 2023 but unfortunately after making 10 appearances sustained

an hamstring injury. Lightning struck again for Billy when he sustained an injury in late September that has kept him out of the Albion side since.

DANNY KERR - Defensive Midfielder born 31/3/1988 in Crewe who originally signed for us on dual registration from neighbours Winsford United last season making 3 appearances and scoring once. Made 184 appearances for the Blues netting 11 times, after joining them in August 2019. As a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy Danny won every soccer trophy available to him within Service and UK Armed Forces football. 2024 saw him honoured by winning the Royal Navy Sportsman of the Year Award. As skipper he'd led the Royal Navy to becoming Inter Services champions for the first time since 2016.

JIM LAWRIE - Attacking Midfielder born in Dundonald, County Down on 18/12/1990 but brought up in Middlewich, who initially joined us in October 2021 from Nantwich Town. Came through the youth ranks at Port Vale to make 8 starts in his 30 appearances scoring twice, loaned to Kidderminster (3+7-1) before signing for AFC Telford United (25-4) for the 2010-11 campaign. Following an initial loan Jimmy signed permanently for Altrincham (2011-17) and made 231+43 appearances scoring 51 times for the Robins. Signed for Hednesford Town (37+10-7) for the 17/18 season before joining Nantwich Town for whom he'd made 101 appearances netting 16 times. Jim as well as making 23 Under 17-21 Youth International appearances, scoring 8 goals, earned himself 3 full Northern Ireland international caps in 09/10. Made 28 appearances, 3 goals before opting to join Hanley Town in August 2022 but after 26 appearances, 5 goals re-signed in early January 2023 and by the end of last season had made 151 appearances and taken his goals tally to 11. Jim is also heavily involved within the Albion's managerial structure.

OLLIE MCDONOUGH – Attacking Midfielder, Crewe born on 20/6/2002 signed during the summer from Winsford United for whom he'd made 87 appearances (66 starts) and scored 13 times in his two

spells having joined them initially in 2021. Spent part of the 23/24 season with Sandbach Town (21 appearances, 17 starts and 3 goals being his record there.

OGHENERO ORHENOMARE – Defensive wing back born in Jos, Nigeria on 30/3/2004 who was signed during the summer having completed last season playing 4 times for Atherton LR. At Cheadle Heath Nomads in 21/22 and had one game for Barnton and five at Irlam before playing 8 times for Wythenshawe FC in their 23/24 promotion season, he also played 13 times, on dual registration, for Cheshire League Vulcan FC coincidentally helping them gain promotion! "Ghen" played 12 times for Cheadle Town in 24/25 before rejoining Wythenshawe and made 15 appearances (8 starts) in their NPL team. Last season saw him commence at FC St Helens before a third Wythenshawe spell in January.

WADE RUTHERFORD – Central Defender, Liverpool born on 20/9/94 who has joined us for this campaign from Vauxhall Motors, for whom he made 20 appearances last season. At Ashton Athletic back in 2015 before playing 111 times in his four and a bit seasons with Pilkington prior to signing for Ashton United in summer 2025.

DAMOLA SOTONA - Attacking wing back born 25/11/2000 in Nigeria who was signed from Trafford FC in mid-December 2024. Made 52 appearances for them netting 5 times since he joined in late October 2023. Played for Altrincham Reserves in 2019 and had a 29 match spell with our ground sharers at the time, Northwich Victoria, in 22/23. From then he was briefly with Ramsbottom, Bury & Squires Gate at the start of the 23/24 season. 21 appearances (16 starts) and a couple of goals was his Albion record come the end of his first season. Injured pre-season Dammy didn't start playing in the last campaign until early November and come the season's end had taken his appearance total up to 44 (34 starts with 3 goals).

DEJI SOTONA – Midfielder born 7/12/2002 in Waterford, younger brother of Dammy, who is eligible to represent the Republic of Ireland, Nigeria and

England. At Manchester United in 19/20 making an U23's appearance, joining Nice the following season but when Patrick Vieira left and with COVID-19 disrupting the footballing schedule, he returned to England to get game time with the Brentford B team. For 22/23 he signed for Kilmarnock on a season-long loan before returning to Nice. The following season saw him join and have 10 matches for Doncaster Rovers together with a 22 match loan spell at Boston United. 24/25 he signed for National League side Eastleigh for an undisclosed fee only on his debut to suffer an Anterior cruciate ligament injury. In late November 2025 he returned to Boston on a short-term deal and came to us on dual terms in December to help him regain match fitness. After playing 10 times joined Conference North King's Lynn Town making 3 appearances.

JAMES STEELE – Forward born 14/1/2000 in Whiston who's signed over the summer from Runcorn Linnets having scored 4 times in his 21 match (15 starts) second spell there. He spent his early career at Port Vale's Academy. Originally a midfielder he made 24 appearances in 18/19 for Newcastle Town before signing for Widnes scoring 12 times in his 61 matches (53 starts) before his first 10 game spell at Runcorn in late 2021. Then spent a year with City of Liverpool (9 goals in 45 matches, 34 starts). His second spell at Widnes saw him netting 35 times in 89 games helping them secure the 24/25 title. He commenced last season with Prescot Cables making 23 appearances before re-joining Runcorn in mid-December.

CAMERON TERRY – Goalkeeper born in Manchester 21/8/2000 who was signed for last season from Widnes but was with us back in 2018, as part of our Development Squad. Signed by Clitheroe in the November and made 14 appearances before a first 16 match spell at Widnes. The start of the 21/22 campaign saw him playing 13 times for Nantwich Town before rejoining Widnes mid-January and making 74 appearances keeping 22 clean sheets come the end of October 2024. Virtually an ever present for us last season he kept his goal intact 11 times in his 48 matches.

JACK WALLS - Defender born in Liverpool 16/10/2001 who joined us in mid-December 2025 from Bala Town whom he signed for after two seasons with Widnes, his 29 appearances helping the now defunct team clinch the 24/25 title. A product of Liverpool FC's Academy he has since been with City of Liverpool (37 matches), Lower Breck (9 matches), AFC Liverpool (6 games) together with a 14 match loan spell at Litherland REMYCA. Made 12 appearances and scored once for us last season.

HARRY WOODS - Midfielder born 21/1/2008 in Torquay who has progressed through the Albion Academy and signed in October 2024 after impressing in our Under 18's team. The son of ex professional Steve and grandson of Tony who played a couple of time for us in 1966 but more familiar known as Barnton's manager for many years. Harry got to make a couple of appearances from the bench in his first season with a further nine last term with his one goal being our final goal of the season.

JAMES WRIGHT - Goalkeeper, Warrington born on 12/10/2007 who has been signed in early August after being with Salford City.

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**By Matthew Badock,
Editor, The Non-League Paper**

ONE GAME – possibly two if it goes to a replay – away from the dream draw.

This week, 64 Non-League teams will fight it out for a place in the FA Cup first round.

Leicester City at home? Sheffield Wednesday away? It won't happen if you're not in Monday's draw.

In many ways, the fourth round qualifying has the feel of the first round proper these days, with so many ex-Football League club names scattered throughout Non-League's top two tiers.

And it promises to be an action-packed Saturday.

Step 4 AFC Rushden & Diamonds are, of course, the next guise of the former Football League club and they take on Morecambe this weekend after knocking out National League South Braintree.

"The club are absolutely buzzing," boss Elliot Sandy said. "It's a fan-owned club so there are so many volunteers working tirelessly to make the club run like it runs.

"I get the easy bit. We work hard but we've just got to concentrate on the football. Without all the people behind us, it would be impossible to do what we're doing on the pitch.

"I thank all the volunteers regularly because without them we couldn't do what we're doing at the minute."

Stafford Rangers are also a Step 4 side dreaming big – they've already seen off Hereford and Halesowen to set-up a trip to struggling Gateshead.

Boss Graham Deakin said: "I am so confident in our group. Regardless of the troubles (Gateshead) have off the pitch it will be very difficult but we go there full of confidence – we have to with the start we have had.

"We can only control what we can control. If we are on it then we will give anyone a game, I really believe that. Hopefully we can cause another shock."

For some it's about avoiding a shock. Chorley boss Andy Preece will take on his boyhood club Worcester City, the place his career began and a club he managed in the FA Cup second round against Huddersfield.

"Without Worcester City I wouldn't have had the career I have," Preece said.

"I was 17 when I made my debut against Scarborough at home from the bench. I could not breathe! The game was so fast. I probably touched the ball four times."

Leatherhead host Yeovil Town in another eye-catching tie, FC United are making the short trip to Altrincham.

Then there are the two remaining Step 5 sides. SE Dons, who beat Weymouth to reach this stage, are off to Sholing and Tadley Calleva make the short trip to Aldershot Town.

"Tadley is a small village," manager Joe Lawler said. "We continue to be underdogs. But it's all about the magic

of the FA Cup and trying to dream big. We've done that this year and we've had a superb run. We'll go to Aldershot full of confidence, and we'll give it our best shot.

"We've beaten the odds in the last two years, and being in the first round draw would just be another magical thing for the club."

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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

 @andysmanclub

 @andysmanclubuk

 info@andysmanclub.co.uk

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 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



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



@dannywilks5



thedanielwilkinsonfoundation



dwfoundation5



contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org



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.

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

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.

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.

Courtney Duffus – Forward who joined the club in October 2026 from Kidsgrove Athletic. Previous clubs include Cheltenham Town, Everton, Bury, Oldham Athletic, Waterford, Yeovil Town, Bromley, Morecambe, Stockport County, Barrow, Hartlepool United, Macclesfield and Bootle.

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.

Alfie Friars – Central defender who joined the club in October 2026 on loan from Derby County. Previous clubs include Derry City, Coleraine and Leek 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.

Ola Ibrahim – Central midfielder who joined the club in September 2026. Previous clubs include Manchester United, Derby County, Hednesford Town, NK Kety Emmi & Impol Bistrica, FC Legnago Salus, Portogruaro Calcio and Bala Town.

Will Igoo – 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.

Sam Mann – Forward who joined the club in October 2026 on loan from Tranmere Rovers.

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.

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.

Josh Wood – forward who joined the club in September 2026 from Flixton. Previous clubs include 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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Max BEDDOW*				
Joe BLAKE				
Noel BRINDLE*				
Elliott COLEMAN				
Ben CRANE*				
Courtney DUFFUS				
Niall FALLON*				
Lewis FARMER*				
Alfie FRIARS*				
Mike IBETO*				
Ola IBRAHIM*				
Will IGOE				
Mark JONES				
Harry LYNN				
Sam MANN*				
Tom MITCHELL*				
Brad MUNDY				
Kenny MWALITETA*				
Simon NJARIA				
Niall OSBORNE*				
Kevin SPINELLI*				
Josh WOOD*				
Jack WOOLLEY				
Matt WOOLLEY*				
Evra YAO*				

MANAGER

Ben HARRISON



Joel BEMBO LETA				
Matt COOK				
Lewis CRANE				
Reece DAVIES*				
Geffry EBHOTE*				
Joe EDWARDS*				
Freddy GARBUTT*				
Jacob HAMMAN*				
Jack HILL				
Ben HOLMES*				
Tom HOYLE*				
Billy JONES				
Danny KERR*				
James LAWRIE*				
Ollie MCDONOUGH				
Ghen ORHENOMARE*				
Wade RUTHERFORD*				
Ayodeji SOTONA*				
Damola SOTONA*				
James STEELE				
Cameron TERRY*				
Jack WALLS*				
Harry WOODS				
James WRIGHT*				

MATCH OFFICIALS

REF: Ewan PATRICK
AST 1: Joshua CLIFFE
AST 2: Bradley THOMPSON

NEXT FIXTURE

VS KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC

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