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NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

PITCHING-IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE WEST

PRESCOT CABLES

v

CLITHEROE

TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2023 - KO 7.45pm

Welcome to The Walloper in an all-new digital and interactive format. You can use the buttons on this page to quickly jump to articles and features.

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BOARDLINES

RICHARDTIGWELL

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Joseph Russell Stadium for tonight's Pitching In Northern Premier League West fixture against Clitheroe FC. I'd also like to take this opportunity to offer an especially warm welcome to the players, officials and of course the fans who have made the trip down the M6 from Lancashire to be with us this evening. We hope you enjoy your time with us tonight.

Cables vs Clitheroe, mid-week under the lights at the Joseph Russell Stadium, these are the games we live for. The games that make the hairs stand on end. Always entertaining. Always full-throated. The smell of the burger van, the murmur of the crowd, the floodlights taking over from the late summer sunset...these things are what make NPL football the best. In case you can't tell..I'm buzzing for this one.

To be honest it's nice to be back in league action for a change. After back to back Cup games, we return to our 'bread and butter' tonight and I am sure that Ste and the team will be focused on continuing our good recent form.

8 goals in the last two games, 5 clean sheets in our last 6. "Are you not entertained?"

As you may have seen on social media, we will now play City of Liverpool on Tuesday October 3rd. After last year's corresponding fixture we plan on making a number of changes in anticipation of another big crowd.

Tickets will be available online in advance to ease congestion at the turnstiles (YOU CAN PAY ON THE TURNSTILES, DO NOT PANIC!). Bag checks will also be in operation as well as additional security on hand.

We are not doing these things to be difficult or because we don't want people to enjoy their time at the game, we are actually doing it to ensure EVERYONE that comes to the game, gets in, gets fed, gets a drink, enjoys the game and goes home talking about events on the pitch, not about anything that happens off it.

Right, that's enough from me, enjoy tonight's game it should be a cracker!

RICH

P.S. look forward to seeing Whitby full of Bulls fans this weekend. Let's go and achieve something special together.

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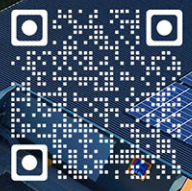
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THE DUGOUT

STEDALEY



On Saturday we showed again that we are continuing to improve, cutting out the mistakes but more importantly picking up another clean sheet, which I am really pleased with. I am also pleased with the fitness levels which really showed given the conditions in sweltering heat.

We are working hard in training and in fairness to the lads they are getting what we are trying to do and they are taking it out there onto the pitch and picking up a momentum that we need and something we want to build on.

That said, you know, the cup runs mean we are playing extra midweek games, like tonight, which are coming thick and fast so we are having to manage a few little niggles with some of the lads and it means we are having to make late changes to make sure we can get the most out of these lads in the big games that are coming up.

Tonight we host Clitheroe, a side that has been one of the strongest and most consistent in our division over the last few years and made the play-offs last season. They are good side with a good manager and very experienced players but at home with our 12th man behind us and that wall of noise they have been making we don't fear anyone and I am really looking forward to the game tonight.

STE

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Club History

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

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

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

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

Around the same time, a team called Clitheroe Amateurs had started up in 1909 and whilst records are almost non-existent from this point until after the 1914-18 Great War, records show that they sought permission from the FA to use the name Clitheroe FC in 1921. This was granted and in 1924-25 they won the North East Lancashire Combination. After a well-attended public meeting, the club decided to apply to join the Lancashire Combination. A supporters' club sought 1,000 members to fund developments and on 29 August 1925, the mayor opened the stand and dressing rooms at the newly enlarged Shawbridge ground. Darwen were the visiting club for the opening game.

The Lancashire Combination Cup in 1934-5 and the League Championship in 1979-80 was all that the club had to show for its efforts before the creation of the North West Counties league in 1982. That was soon to change. Although Clitheroe were put into the Third Division of the NWCFL at its inception in 1982 due to the state of the ground, there followed the most successful period in the club's long history under the stewardship of Eric Whalley, subsequently manager and Chairman of Accrington Stanley FC. He assembled one of the best non-league sides in the North of England and won back to back Championships in the Third, Second and First divisions, as well as securing the Lancashire Cup for the first time in 50 years, thanks to a solitary strike from local lad Eric Geldard.

This was all the more impressive when one considers that the Division 1 was effectively Level 3 in the non-league pyramid. Captained by Mick Ashcroft and containing extravagant talents such as John Taylor and Steve Mullen, possibly the best player ever to play for the Blues, Clitheroe regularly attracted bumper gates, with the championship winning season seeing three crowds over 1,000. Cracks started to appear when Whalley took over the manager's seat at Accrington. To compound matters, the new Northern Premier Division 1 was formed, but a lack of floodlights meant the Blues could not take their rightful place and they found teams effectively leapfrogging them.

It was not until the mid-nineties that the Club recovered from this setback and started to fulfil its potential. It became a force in the NWCFL Division 1 again and also made itself known on the national FA Vase stage. Having been pipped to the title in 1994-95 by Bradford PA in controversial circumstances, the following season saw possibly the highlight of the club's history when the Blues reached the Vase Final under the joint management of Dennis Underwood and Gary Butcher after an epic two-legged semi-final win against Mangotsfield United of Bristol. 2,000 people were on Shawbridge for the second leg when a deflected goal saw the Blues home with seven minutes of extra time remaining. The final pitted the Blues against a powerful Brigg side and a 3-0 reverse in front of 7,500 fans was a fair reflection of the play. In the close season, Clitheroe also received their record transfer fee, £45,000, from Crystal Palace for goalkeeper Carlo Nash.

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

High hopes accompanied Clitheroe's first foray into the Unibond League in 2004/05, but the club never fully recovered from manager Lee Sculpher resigning after a handful of games into the new season. He was succeeded by Paul Byrom who then quit in the close season. Tommy Lawson was appointed manager for the 2005/06 season but he was relieved of his duties in early 2006, to be replaced on a temporary basis by Mark Smitheringale. He too left before the 2006/07 season started and his assistant Chris Stammers stepped up to the plate before resigning after a 10-1 thumping away to Conference North Kettering in the FA Trophy in November 2006. The then chairman Carl Garner offered the job to Neil Reynolds and Pete Smith at the turn of 2007, before the latter took on the role in his own right at the end of the 2008/09 season.

2009/10 and 2010/11 saw Clitheroe finishing in eighth and sixth respectively, the highest league placings in the club's history. The end of the 10/11 season also had a unique twist with Carl Garner stepping down as chairman after four years to replace Pete Smith as manager, in the process going unbeaten throughout April and taking the manager of the month prize. Garner was replaced in the role of chair by his long-standing deputy Anne Barker.

Despite the great end to the previous campaign, the 2011/12 season under Garner's leadership was ultimately disappointing, although it had started so brightly with another manager of the month award. Form quickly tailed off and huge player turnover ensued, before Garner resigned and the managerial Vase duo of Burgess and Sculpher ensured survival on a temporary basis, having taken over with less than 10 games to go. Paul Moore, the ex-Leek Town and Warrington Town manager, took over the reins in 2012/13 and led Clitheroe to their record points total in Division 1 in finishing eighth, with the play-off push only ending over the final games of the season. However, the loss of key players in the close season led to a woeful start in 2013/14 and to an early exit from the FA Cup and Trophy, and the committee replaced Moore mid-season with ex-Blue Simon Garner.

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

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

Pen Pics

David Dempsey: Manager. Former Clitheroe player returned to the club as manager after several seasons as manager of Widnes FC. Successfully steered the club into the play offs last year and will be looking to go one better this season.

Chris Stammers: Assistant manager - hugely respected coach, who also had a spell as manager of the club.

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

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

Lee Pugh: 31 year old left back/midfielder, returns for his second spell at the club. Already with 60 Blues appearances under his belt, the pugnacious competitor will be keen to help with Clitheroe's play off push.

Billy Priestley: 34 year old centre Back. Started his career at Ramsbottom where he won the league before he followed Messrs Johnson and Morley to Salford, where he stayed for three years. He has since played for Southport and Bradford PA

Darren Holden: 29 year old left back recently signed from Consett. Previously he had played for Hartlepool and Guiseley and was part of the Consett FA Vase winning side. With his surging runs and sweet left foot, he is already a huge hit.

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

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

Richie Baker: 35 year old midfielder signed from Ramsbottom United. Has more than 100 games on his CV with Bury in the league, as well as higher level non league experience with FC United, AFC Fylde and Stockport County. Now a member of the coaching staff here at Shawbridge.

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

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

Ethan Kershaw: tenacious midfielder who previously played for Atherton Collieries. A product of the Burnley academy, he will be looking to secure a place in the engine room.

Scott Sephton: industrious and experienced midfielder who can also provide a defensive option. Previously with Atherton Collieries, he also spent time as skipper of Stalybridge.

Mark Howarth: 24 year old attacking midfielder, he won the league with Marine after joining from Salford City.

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

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MATCHREPORT

RICHARD TIGWELL



Prescot Cables 4-0 Bridlington Town
Saturday 9th September 2023
The Isuzu FA Trophy - 1st Qualifying Round

Cables' progressed to the next round upon the back of another convincing win to set up another tie against a team from Yorkshire.

After last weeks win against North Ferriby in the other FA cup competition, Cables ran out comfortable 4-0 winners against their near(ish)-neighbours Bridlington Town 4-0 to setup a fascinating tie against North Ferriby.

For the second week running a team from the east coast would travel the length of the M62 to Knowsley for cup football to find themselves 3-0 down at half time and thinking about the long journey back, in more ways than one.

Kyle Sambor struck early after combining with John Murphy to give Cables the lead. That combination linked up again to extend the lead, this time it was Murphy who finished the move with a deft header. Jack Goodwin effectively killed the tie as a contest when he headed home Matthew Hamilton's cross just before the interval.

The second half was comfortable affair for the home side with neither team looking to exert themselves in the heat. Hamilton would then get the goal his performance deserved as he tapped home Sambor's cross.

Cables now face Yorkshire opposition in both FA cup competition with the Pesky Bulls going in the opposite direction for both ties!

Star man: Kyle Sambor



PESKYPROFILE



Age	28
Position	<i>Centre Midfield</i>
Hometown	<i>Liverpool</i>
Previous clubs	<i>City of Liverpool, Liverpool Nalgo, Home Bargains FC</i>
Club supported as a child	<i>Liverpool</i>
Favourite professional player when you were young	<i>Lionel Messi or Steven Gerrard</i>
Favourite professional player now	<i>Hard to name just one. I enjoy watching Kevin de Bruyne, Phil Foden & Thiago</i>
Which professional player do you consider yourself most similar to?	<i>James Ward-Prowse, decent from set pieces and chips in with the odd goal or two</i>
All-time favourite sportsperson	<i>It's got to be Messi for me</i>
Biggest idol	<i>Steven Gerrard was my idol growing up, as I'm sure he was for most other lads my age</i>
Dream holiday destination	<i>I've never been to Dubai so that's next on my list to visit</i>
Current Netflix binge	<i>The new series of Top Boy has just come out so that's me sorted</i>
Favourite movie	<i>Dumb & Dumber, the funniest film ever or A Bronx Tale, which is full of life lessons</i>
If you could have one superpower, what would it be?	<i>Time travel</i>
Favourite watering hole or eaterie in Prescot	<i>The Spanish Caravan, I've had some great nights there after games</i>
Best moment in a Cables shirt	<i>My goal last season against City of Liverpool which turned out to be the winner, with my left foot and it won goal of the season!</i>

FIXTURES&RESULTS

2023/24 SEASON

Sat 5 Aug	H	Eccleshill United - season tickets not valid	FA Cup EP	2-0
Sat 12 Aug	A	Mossley	NPL West	1-2
Tue 15 Aug	H	Avro	NPL West	0-1
Tue 22 Aug	A	Vauxhall Motors	NPL West	3-0
Sat 19 Aug	A	West Didsbury & Chorlton	FA Cup P	3-0
Sat 26 Aug	H	1874 Northwich	NPL West	1-0
Mon 28 Aug	A	Bootle	NPL West	0-0
Sat 2 Sep	H	North Ferriby	FA Cup 1Q	4-2
Sat 9 Sep	H	Bridlington Town	FA Trophy 1Q	4-0
Tue 12 Sep	H	Clitheroe (rescheduled fixture)	NPL West	7.45pm
Sat 16 Sep	A	Whitby Town	FA Cup 2Q	3pm
Sat 23 Sep	A	North Ferriby	FA Trophy 2Q	3pm
Sat 30 Sep	A	Hanley Town	NPL West	3pm
Tue 3 Oct	H	City of Liverpool (rescheduled fixture)	NPL West	7.45pm
Sat 7 Oct	H	Witton Albion	NPL West	3pm
Sat 14 Oct	A	Chasetown	NPL West	3pm
Sat 21 Oct	A	Nantwich Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 28 Oct	H	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL West	3pm
Sat 4 Nov	H	Widnes	NPL West	3pm
Sat 11 Nov	A	Hednesford Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 18 Nov	H	Trafford	NPL West	3pm
Sat 25 Nov	A	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL West	3pm
Sat 2 Dec	A	Newcastle Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 9 Dec	H	Leek Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 16 Dec	A	Avro	NPL West	3pm
Sat 23 Dec	H	Mossley	NPL West	3pm
Tue 26 Dec	A	Runcorn Linnets	NPL West	3pm
Mon 1 Jan	H	Bootle	NPL West	3pm
Sat 6 Jan	A	1874 Northwich	NPL West	3pm
Sat 13 Jan	H	Vauxhall Motors	NPL West	3pm
Sat 20 Jan	A	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL West	3pm
Sat 27 Jan	H	Nantwich Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 3 Feb	A	City of Liverpool	NPL West	3pm
Sat 17 Feb	H	Hanley Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 24 Feb	A	Witton Albion	NPL West	3pm
Sat 2 Mar	H	Chasetown	NPL West	3pm
Sat 16 Mar	A	Leek Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 23 Mar	H	Newcastle Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 30 Mar	A	Clitheroe	NPL West	3pm
Mon 1 Apr	H	Runcorn Linnets	NPL West	3pm
Sat 6 Apr	H	Hednesford Town	NPL West	3pm
Sat 13 Apr	A	Widnes	NPL West	3pm
Sat 20 Apr	H	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL West	3pm
Sat 27 Apr	A	Trafford	NPL West	3pm

ALL FIXTURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE
FOR UP-TO-THE MINUTE UPDATES CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



YOU can't beat a good feel-good story and Alex Fletcher's return to playing football certainly is one.

You may remember the 24-year-old was involved in a shocking incident last November while playing for the Romans against Dulwich Hamlet.

Fletcher collided with a perimeter wall during the game and had to be rushed to hospital where he spent five days in a coma.

Recovery has been long and arduous. He even had to learn how to walk again.

But there were plenty of people in his corner with messages of support from across the game, including England manager Gareth Southgate and new Fulham signing Raul Jimenez, who himself suffered a serious head injury.

For us on the outside it's almost impossible to imagine what a tough period it has been for Fletcher.

We all read about the incident at the time, then heard of his recovery, but the hours away from the spotlight getting ready to come back with the support of his club must have gruelling. That's why it's so nice to see.

In last week's NLP, Fletcher told Bath City reporter — and NLP Step 2 results guru — Mark Stillman about his road back to the pitch, one he was determined to make.

And he did just that a fortnight ago, coming on as an 85th-minute substitute for good friend Cody Cooke.

It was a poignant moment for Fletcher, his family and all at the National League South club.

"It was a bit emotional getting back out there," said Fletcher. "I can't really describe the words to say how it felt. It was goosebumps.

"I've played the situation so many times over in my head, just being here again. For it to finally happen felt surreal.

"The reception I got from everyone in the ground, including the Hampton players, meant so much to me.

"I've got over that hurdle. It's a massive milestone reached for me and now it's about building my minutes up but not rushing it, it's important for my body that I don't do that."

Jerry Gill's side have started the season well as they look for a return to Non-League's top flight.

Fletcher, who now wears a protective headband, added: "Hopefully I can start putting myself in contention for what's been a great start to the season though it might be tough as we've got such good attacking players, which can only be good for the team."

Good for Bath but also good for Alex. It's great to see him back doing what he loves.

Matt Badcock

CABLES YOUTH

JON MARSTON



WELCOME TO PRESCOT CABLES JFC

The junior section currently has 21 teams. We have over 170 kids registered and are always looking to bring kids into the club and develop them into teams. All our teams are set up through MCSS and MCSS are the clubs training partner.



INTRODUCING

Prescot Cables U8s

We started out in September 2021 as babies in the Knowsley Junior Football Development League based at Prescot Soccer Centre. Since that time we have come on in leaps and bounds. The players individually have improved massively but also grown to be great friends off the pitch too. We will this season return to the KJFDL at Prescot Soccer Centre of a Saturday and we will fly the Cables flag in the Burscough league of a Sunday.

We are proudly sponsored by Red Mortgages for our home kit. Hayley and Jen have been great in sponsoring us over the last 2 season & we're really grateful for the support.

We are proudly sponsored by Paradise Travel for our away kit. Mick has been superb and is always checking up on the lads to see how they're getting on.

The Coaching Team

Chris Wood - Saturday Manager

Chris is an avid football fan with a wealth of knowledge in the grassroots game and loves collecting old retro kits especially Liverpool kits. Chris has been the manager of the team since it was formed in September 2021. Three of the kids have been there from day one and the rest of the kids just over a year and this is because the kids and parents like and respect him. He is a fair coach who is not too tough on them and every match the kids get praised and he does an amazing write up about each child individually about their performance that match. The kids have learnt so much from him and he always makes their training sessions fun. Every match he tells them it doesn't matter if you win lose or draw just go out on that pitch and give it your all and enjoy the game. I as a parent couldn't ask for a better coach to coach my child.



Jonathan Marston - Sunday Manager

Jonathan is a massive Evertonian and a firm believer that Lionel Messi is the greatest player to ever play football. Jonathan's commitment to grassroots football could be described as absolute. Whilst he started off as an enthusiastic parent he quickly assumed responsibility for finances, player recruitment, sponsorship, training, arranging fixtures and organising tournaments to become Cables U8s very own 'sporting director.' He has also begun his coaching badges and has started to train the Sunday team. Underpinning all of this is Jonathan's central philosophy that football should be fun and that our kids should be nurtured in the most encouraging and supportive environment possible. He is at the forefront of moulding our team, but he is also responsible for shaping their characters and he has forged a brilliant community which means that each and every one of them is proud to play for Cables. All the parents recognise how lucky we are to have him.



Harley

Harley joined Cables in June 2022. Harley is a massive Evertonian and his favourite player is Lionel Messi. Harley is a superb shot stopper, he has become very vocal in helping his team the last 3 months and this has made a massive difference to the way the team defends. Harley regularly keeps us in games with fantastic saves. He's really brave and takes into his matches what he learns in training.



Joseph P

Joined Cables in June 2022. Joey is a massive Liverpool fan and he loves Steven Gerrard. Joey plays in defence, over the last few months Joey's confidence has grown massively and this shows on the pitch with his positioning, listening and passing which has improved 10 fold in the last few months. Joey has become a real leader in the team, quiet off the pitch but one of the most vocal on it.

Freddie

Joined Cables in May 2022. Freddie is a big Liverpool fan and his favourite player is Lionel Messi. Freddie is a very own Mr Versatile. He will happily play in defence, midfield & up front. Not only will he play there but he also excels. Freddie has improved massively and now breezes past players as well as being very strong in his tackles. Freddie is a team joker, but one of the best listeners in the team.



George H

One of the original 3 players left in the team from when we started. George is a massive Liverpool fan, his footballing ideal is Trent Alexander Arnold. George this year has become a totally different player. He's very energetic, never stops working for his team constantly talking to his team mates. George has really focused on his passing and this has created so many opportunities for his team mates to score. George's performances have also caught the eyes of Everton's scouts & he has been invited to Finch Farm.

Harrison

Another 1 of the original 3 players to play for Cables. Harrison is a big Liverpool fan and his footballing ideal is Ronaldinho. Harrison's work rate is instrumental to the way the team plays. He gets all over the pitch, often seen throwing in superb last man tackles or blocks. He's not scared of anything and would run through a brick wall for his team. His whole game is improving and has won our club's goal of the week twice.



Noah

The last of the 3 original players for Cables. Noah is a massive Evertonian and his favourite Everton player is Amadou Onana. Noah has really cemented his spot as our number 9. Last season scoring 49 goals in the league and tournaments. Noah has also really improved his work rate and helping out defensively. He also has an eye for a pass to his team mates and loves seeing his team mates score just as much as he loves scoring himself.

James

Joined Cables June 2023. James is a massive Liverpool fan and his favourite player is Neymar Jr. James has really gelled into the team. His ability speaks for itself, James has the ability to win us games and he's shown that on numerous occasions. Very quick, strong on the ball and a fantastic eye for goal. James has massively improved on his defensive work rate and his passing, which feasted chance after chance for the team. James has also won the club's goal of the week competition.

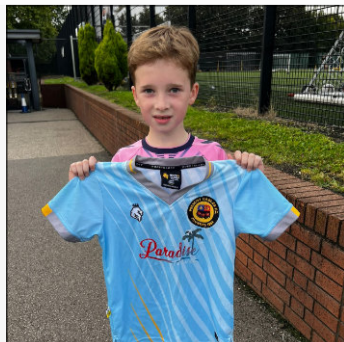


George R

Joined Cables in September 2022. George is a big Evertonian and his favourite player is Jordan Pickford. George brings so much pace to the team, once he gets going it's hard for anybody to keep up with him. His confidence and his strength has come on so much in recent months, that despite his small size it's very hard to knock him off the ball. George has added a load of goals to his game lately too, scoring over 15 goals in our summer league, which helped us pick up the trophy.

Ethan

Ethan is a massive Everton fan and his favourite player is Dwight McNeil. Ethan is the latest addition to join us at Prescott Cables u8. Ethan has played a few training matches for us and really impressed, his ability on the ball is brilliant, constantly looking up for passes when players are in a better position. Ethan also works really hard when defensive duty calls also. We're really happy Ethan has signed and can't wait for the season ahead.



Youth contacts

Club Chairman - Michael Corless
Club Secretary - Jonathan Marston
Club Welfare Officer - Andy O'Hare
FA Liaison Officer - Joe Gilibiru
Club Treasurer- Jonathan Marston
Girls Football Lead - Michael Seed



CABLES YOUTH



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

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

HOUSE RULES

GROUND REGULATIONS

Welcome to the Joseph Russell Stadium

We hope you enjoy the match and your experience with us today. Prescott Cables is committed to ensuring attendance at our grounds is safe and friendly for everyone. Your entry to the ground shall constitute acceptance of these Ground Regulations. CCTV is in operation for your security and safety.

All persons entering the Ground must have paid the relevant admission charge or be in possession of a valid season ticket or match ticket. Proof of age, where an age concession is claimed, and proof of identity may be required and must be supplied on demand.

All spectators must respect and comply with any lawful instruction given by a steward or an officer of the club. Failure to do so will result in ejection from the ground. Stewards can and will take photos and/or video for purposes of security, safety and crime prevention which may be passed to the police.

The following are **arrestable offences** under the Football (Offences & Disorder) Act 1999

- Throwing of any object within the ground without lawful authority or excuse
- Chanting or shouting anything that is considered indecent, racist or homophobic
- Entry to the playing area
- Entry to any areas to which spectators are not generally admitted

Conviction could result in a football banning order affecting entry to all grounds in the country and surrendering of your passport whenever England are playing abroad. You will in the first instance be ejected from the ground and where appropriate a season ticket will be suspended.

The Club reserves the right to make changes to any of these Ground Regulations from time to time. The full Rules and Regulations can be found on our website.

Supporters must not:

- enter the playing area **at any time** unless invited to do so by a **club official**
- enter the tunnel area around the changing rooms
- sit on the pitch-side perimeter fencing during games

Any supporter wanting a photo with a player must wait outside the changing rooms after the game.





Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

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

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

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
to find out more



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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Prescot Cables FC have a range of sponsorship opportunities to suit all budgets.

If you or your business have a special occasion or would like to entertain some clients, then why not sponsor a game here at the Joseph Russell Stadium?

MatchDay Sponsorship £200

Entry for up to 5 people

Access to the newly refurbished Sponsors Lounge with private bar

Pre-match, half-time and full-time drink for each member of your party

Half-time buffet

Your party details, corporate logo or slogan included in The Walloper*

Your message or sponsorship added to the match-day script

Opportunity to meet players and management post-match

MatchBall Sponsorship £75

Entry for 2 people

Access to the newly refurbished Sponsors Lounge with private bar

Half-time buffet

Your party details, corporate logo or slogan included in The Walloper*

Opportunity to meet players and management post-match

Perimeter advertising boards £500 *price includes manufacture and fitting*

We are currently filling the pitch perimeter with our new high-quality, long-lasting metal advertising boards at the larger size of 8ft x 3ft, so clearly visible. These are just £500 for the entire 2023/24 season and the price includes production, delivery and fitting. The season is nearly underway so don't miss out on a unique opportunity for local, regional and national exposure. Monthly payment plans can also be arranged. Please get in touch for more details.

Other Opportunities

These include kit, stands and even the whole stadium. All are currently taken for the 23/24 season, but we can always register your interest.

**Subject to booking prior to programme publication deadline*



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'It' is discrimination, in all its forms.
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Its European football Jim, but not as we know it

Given that this season, Liverpool fans like myself are facing the prospect of a first Champions League free season since 2016/17 (First World problems, I know!), it is perhaps understandable that I jumped at the chance when a friend asked if I was interested in attending a Champions League game this season.

The game in question was the UEFA Champions League first qualification round second leg clash between The New Saints (TNS); winners of consecutive Cymru - That's Welsh for Wales for those uninitiated with the Welsh medium - Premier Division titles and 15 times Welsh champions) and Sweden's BK Hacken, who had won their very first Allsvenskan - Swedish Premier Division - title in 2022. A 4-0 crushing of their historically more renowned city neighbours, IFK Gothenburg enabled Hacken to wrap up the title with a game to spare.

The seismic events of the pandemic and the implementation of an unprecedented winter World Cup during last season have seen considerable alterations to the 'traditional' football calendar in recent seasons. Liverpool were crowned Premier League Champions in late June 2020 due to COVID-19 and last season they defeated Manchester City in the traditional 'curtain raiser' (Charity/Community Shield) on the final day of July. However, when TNS and Hacken faced off in the second leg of their tie, it was **18th July**. Remarkably early for a game of such jeopardy, particularly when TNS were playing a side whose league season runs each year from late March to November.

In an attempt to combat this and to ensure optimum match sharpness, TNS embarked on an ambitious and strenuous pre-season campaign. This began with a training camp in Ireland, which also featured three games. The first of which ended in an entertaining 4-4 draw with Bohemians in Dublin. Hopping across the border into Northern Ireland, TNS played two matches in Belfast, firstly defeating Irish Cup Winners Crusaders 4-1 before renewing acquaintances with Linfield, whom they had played in the Champions League qualifying round last season. The scoreline (2-0 to Linfield) was the same as on TNS's previous visit to Windsor Park. The pre-season tour next moved onto Scotland with an 85th minute winner settling a close game with Scottish League One side, Hamilton Academical 2-1 in favour of the Accies. Next up, an all-Welsh affair as TNS travelled to Ninian Park to take on Championship side, Cardiff City. A late deflected goal gave a somewhat unbalanced look to the final score of 3-1 to Cardiff in what had been another tight affair. Crossing another border (into England this time) to take on last season's Northern Premier League Division One West Champions, Macclesfield FC. Another tight game ensued and on this occasion, a single goal was enough to settle the contest 1-0 in TNS's favour.

Following this intense pre-season campaign, TNS travelled over to Gothenburg for the first leg on **12th July** at the Hisingen Arena. In spite of TNS's extensive preparations, there appeared to be a marked gulf in class in the early exchanges with the Swedes racing into a two-goal lead within fifteen minutes thanks to goals from Ibrahim Sadiq and Mikkel Rygaard. In his programme notes ahead of the second leg, TNS boss, Craig Harrison admitted Hacken were "every bit as good as we expected them to be, if not better" expressing that he was "extremely disappointed to [...] fall two goals behind so early on. However, TNS rallied and pulled a goal back through Scottish striker, Declan McManus. Unfortunately, for TNS, Hacken restored a two-goal advantage moments later when Evan Holland turned the ball in from a free kick. At this point, an avalanche appeared a real prospect, but TNS gritted their teeth and got through to half time. In the second half the contest was a much more even one with Harrison commenting that he was proud "of the shift that the lads put in" and how their "tough and demanding pre-season campaign" had ensured that TNS "were able to dig in" and keep the tie alive ahead of the second leg.

Myself and my friend (Ian) were pleased that the score from the first leg ensured there was something to play for when the sides met again seven days later at TNS's Park Hall Stadium. Although this was my first visit to their ground, I had seen TNS play once before, at this exact stage of the 2005/06 Champions League when in one of their previous guises as Total Network Solutions (TNS, you see) they had been drawn to face defending European Champions, Liverpool.

Having won their fifth Champions League title in 'The Miracle of Istanbul, it initially had looked as though The Reds would be unable to defend their crown, as they had only finished 5th in the 2004/05 Premier League with neighbours, Everton finishing above them and claiming the final CL place. Over the course of that summer, rumours were once again rife that talismanic skipper, Steven Gerrard would be leaving Liverpool for Chelsea. This coupled with uncertainty over whether The Reds would be able to defend their title had led to a turbulent summer at Anfield. Eventually, UEFA relented and changed the rules to allow Liverpool to compete in the 05/06 competition. However, they would be required to enter the competition in the preliminary stages. After furious speculation surrounding his future, Gerrard had also announced that he was staying with Liverpool and produced an inspired performance scoring a hat trick to give Liverpool a healthy advantage ahead of the second leg. This tie was moved to Wrexham's Racecourse Ground to accommodate UEFA regulations and once again, Liverpool won by the same scoreline (3-0) with Gerrard once again taking centre stage bagging a brace after coming on as a second half substitute for Xabi Alonso.

In the intervening years, TNS have undergone another makeover changing their name to The New Saints in 2006. The club itself is the result of a merger between Llansantffraid FC and Oswestry Town, hence the fact that despite their standing as Wales's most successful club, they play in England with Oswestry being situated five miles from the Welsh border despite the town's mixed English-Welsh heritage.



As we arrived at Park Hall, the ground emerged suddenly and is situated in an extremely rural location. Upon being met by 'stewards' (volunteers from the local Rotary Club) we enquired as to whether there was a pub nearby, "No" was the slightly blunt response. With this in mind, we headed back into Oswestry for a pre-match pint before heading back to find a parking space (in a spacious makeshift car park) ahead of the 7 pm kick off.

Park Hall is a smart little ground situated on the outskirts of Oswestry, it has one main stand and another currently under construction. There were a healthy number of visitors from Sweden in attendance and they made a loud racket throughout. UEFA regulations stipulated that alcohol was unavailable at the ground (they evidently haven't got the memo the further the competition progresses) and sadly (from my perspective, anyway), the Champions League anthem wasn't played before kick-off. When the match got underway, it quickly became apparent that TNS had opted to try and play a containing game. Their regular striker Declan McManus had been injured in the first leg and in his absence, TNS appeared to be devoid of a focal point up front. Hacken appeared the more assured in possession and buoyed by their vocal travelling support, they took the lead on 19 minutes. That man, Sadiq once again finishing smartly from around 10 yards out. For the remainder of the game, it was an even contest. TNS rallied and fashioned a few half chances, but never truly looked like scoring in the absence of McManus. In stoppage time, Hacken scored again when Momodou Sonko fired home following an incisive break. The final score on the night was 2-0, sealing a 5-1 win for Hacken on aggregate. They progressed through to the next round, whereas TNS had the consolation of dropping into the Europa Conference League Qualifiers.



The trip however had whetted my appetite and so seven days later, myself and another friend (Steve) returned to Park Hall to watch TNS's Europa Conference League Second Round qualifier against FC Swift Hesperange of Luxembourg. In the 2022/23 season, they too had won their domestic title for the first time. In their first qualifying round tie, they had fallen to Slovakian champions, Slovan Bratislava by 3-1 on aggregate, losing the first leg at home by 2-0 before drawing the second leg 1-1. The game was played on a lovely summer evening and again a healthy crowd was in attendance, albeit there was not as much away support as against Hacken.

The Luxembourgers made the better start, again as with Hacken, appearing the more comfortable in possession and after fashioning a number of early chances took the lead thanks to a smart finish from Portuguese defender, Simao Martins. For the remainder of the first half, the sides continued to trade chances with Hesperange probably in the ascendancy. Once again, in the absence of McManus, TNS appeared to lack a point of reference up front.

Into the second half, multiple changes were made with McManus and Daniel Williams entering the fray for TNS. Almost immediately, TNS had a focal point to their attacking play and became more purposeful in their approach. However, Swift Hesperange had the chance to double their advantage from the penalty spot when a foul from Josh Pask saw referee Jasper Vergoote point to the spot. Up stepped Dominik Stolz and TNS keeper Connor Roberts kept his side in the tie with a superb save (expertly captured on a camera by Steve). Buoyed by this save, TNS continued to push for equalisation and 12 minutes from time, they gained their reward when signing Rory Holden fired them level with a strike from range. Blankson Anoff thought he had restored the visitor's lead in the 82nd minute, but his curling strike bounced agonisingly off the far post. Therefore, the tie remained delicately poised at 1-1 ahead of the second leg in Luxembourg.

At the Stade de Luxembourg, TNS's European journey sadly came to end as they were on the wrong end of a narrow 3-2 defeat. McManus was restored to lead the line and despite scoring twice from the penalty spot, goals from Dominik Stolz, Rachid Alioui and Simao Martins gave Swift Hesperange a first European win in their history. For TNS, the wait for progression to European group stage football goes on. In 26 European campaigns (totalling 74 matches), they have never progressed beyond the qualification phases. A quick glance over the sides they've faced in this period shows some of European football's most storied names (Anderlecht, CSKA Sofia, Legia Warsaw, Liverpool and Manchester City) and probably goes some way to explaining this.

So, I hear you ask, what became of TNS's respective conquerors in the Champions League (Hacken) and Europa Conference (Swift Hesperange)? Well, Hacken surprisingly fell at the next hurdle in the Champions League qualifiers losing on penalties to Faroese champions, Klaksvíkar Ítróttarfelag (KI) who then in turn lost to Molde of Norway who faced Galatasaray in the final play-off with the Turkish giants reaching the group stages, winning 5-3 on aggregate. Hacken meanwhile dropped into the Europa League where they crushed Latvia's champions, FK Žalgiris 8-1 on aggregate facing Aberdeen in the final play-off round, beating the Scottish side 5-3 on aggregate. Swift Hesperange on the other hand progressed to face FC Struga Trim-Lum, the champions of North Macedonia. The Macedonians prevailed 4-3 on aggregate before losing both legs of the play-off to Iceland's champions, Breiðablik.

Attending these games and researching this article has introduced me to a host of unfamiliar clubs and has evoked an interest in a number, which will no doubt be built upon in future. It was indeed European football, but not as we know it.



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Richard Tigwell
Lee Fisher

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Football Operations Team

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Assistant Manager: Peter Cumiskey
Coaches: Tony Sullivan & Lee Dowding
Physio: Alan Cross

Operations Support

Vicky Tigwell
Richard Tigwell
James Tigwell

Matchday & Hospitality Team

Hospitality Manager: Lynda Derbyshire
Board Room Hospitality: Jess Goodwin
Club Shop: Billy and Yvonne Maund

Our stadium and grounds are managed
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Club Operations Team

Chairman: Tony Zeverona
Vice-Chairman: Joe Gibiliru
Welfare Officer: Tony Zeverona
General Manager: Ken Derbyshire
Club Secretary: Paul Goodwin
Treasurer:
Operations Manager: Lynda Derbyshire

Media Team

Our website, programme, match
commentary, PA, photography & social
media are managed by:

Jeff Connally, Paul Goodwin, John
Middleton, David Raven, Sam Rawnsley,
Richard Tigwell, Ben Yoxall, Lee Fisher

The programme is edited and produced
by David Raven using media from
multiple sources including the excellent
Freepik.com. Our programme focus
group is Stan Kostrzewski, Jon Rawnsley
and Chris Bayes. Today's cover photo
was taken by Lilly Coates

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A business of Marsh McLennan

SHEDS&FENCES

As Prescott Cables Football Club is a Community Interest Club, we rely on local people helping out with many areas to keep things running smoothly on Matchdays. We have the basic building blocks in place to take our club to the next step.

However, it's only going to happen if we can grow the pool & skill-set of volunteers!

We're looking for help with the following activities:

Prescot Cables Media Team

Our match day media requirements include tannoy and PA announcements which are an important aspect of stadium safety commitments. We need help with radio commentary for matches for our senior teams as well as pre- and post-match interviews.

Social Media & Website

Help us promote the club and our matches and events via our social media channels. Experience isn't necessary for this varied role and plenty of support is available. We also need help with the writing of articles & match reports which can be used for the match day magazine and website

Club Merchandise

We need help selling our broad range of official Cables merchandise on match-days as well as help to fulfil orders received via our online shopping portal

Facilities

Help us keep the stadium in tip-top shape! If you've got carpentry, welding, mechanical or electrical skills please let us know! Some of our general maintenance jobs during the close-season will also include painting, tiling and plastering.

Match Day Stewarding

An important role on match-days! Stewards are the friendly face of the club, assisting visitors and supporters when and where needed, performing vital stadium safety tasks, responding to security issues and helping to ensure every visitor to the ground has a safe and enjoyable experience.

If you'd like to join our club's team of volunteers or can help out with any of the above, please speak to any member of the board or contact us via email at

media@prescotcables.com



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Today's match officials are

referee **Richard Holmes** and assistants **Jamie Law & Nigel Anderson**