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PITCHING-IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE WEST  
**PRESCOT CABLES**  
v  
**STALYBRIDGE CELTIC**  
SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 - KO 3.00pm

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# BOARDLINES

RICHARD TIGWELL

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Joseph Russell Stadium for the final Pitching In Northern Premier League West fixture of the season against Stalybridge Celtic. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome the players, officials and of course the fans of Stalybridge who have made the trip over from Greater Manchester to be with us today. We hope you enjoy your afternoon in Knowsley.

Right, final one of the regular season, lots to get through here, so here goes:

Playoffs - hopefully a result today gets the job done. Season tickets are NOT valid for any home playoff game. Don't blame us, the gate has to be split. Sorry.

New kit - the new Hope & Glory away shirt will launch hopefully at the end of May. Trust me, you'll love it. The current home kit remains for next season.

Alan Cross - after 30 years at this level, club physio Alan Cross has decided to hang up his physio table. He started with us in 1994 and has worked at several other NPL clubs during a 30 year career. We wish Alan nothing but the best for his retirement. He is welcome back to the JRS any time as a friend. Best of luck mate.

Vera, the bringer of teas and coffees and all things refreshing is hanging up her apron at the end of the season. Vera and her husband Brian have been a part of the club since forever. She will be deeply missed on matchday by me and everyone who's ever had the pleasure of seeing her smiling face on matchdays

Sue Derbyshire - Sue, wife of Ken and mother of Lynda Derbyshire sadly passed away earlier this week. The Derbyshire family are interwoven into the fabric of this great club and Sue's loss is felt by us all who knew her. There will be a minutes applause ahead of today's game in Sue's memory and I know everyone will join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to Lynda and Ken at this time.

Thanks - I want to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to the club throughout this season. No matter how big or small their contribution may have been. At a time when so many clubs complain that they are struggling to attract willing volunteers to perform roles, it gives me immense pride to know we are bucking that trend.

We haven't got everything right and I will take my fair share of the blame for that but we have an amazing team who give up their free time to make sure everyone enjoys themselves on matchday. We are a community run club, for the benefit of that community, not for the profit of a rich owner or group of shareholders wanting a dividend. I'm proud of that. Long may it continue. You guys make a difference to your community. Thank you all. See you next season hopefully.

PS - big thank you also to David Raven for producing the programme this season. We made the \*controversial decision to switch to digital only programmes this season and it has proven to be an enormous success. I won't bore you with numbers but the data shows we are reaching more people in more areas than we ever had before....for free!! Welcome to the digital revolution. That's all down to you David, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Also, you're pretty good with putting out ordnance, I hear? 😊

Right, that's enough from me. Enjoy the game. By 5pm we should know what the next ten days will bring. Let's go Bulls!!

**RICH**

*\*it wasn't controversial, two people complained for a about a fortnight and then got bored and everyone moved on with their lives.*



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# THE DUGOUT

STEDALEY



For everyone in the ground on Tuesday night it was a disappointing result against a really good side from a higher level but we can't dwell on that now as we have two massive games for this football club. It's in all of our hands to get one of those play-off places and it starts today and we need you, our brilliant supporters, more than ever, to help us to what would be a huge win for this football club.

I would like to thank Crossy for the great work he has done. Crossy has been an unbelievable servant to the footballing community. His reputation is second to none and he will be a massive miss, not only as a physio but also an integral part of this current squad. I have known Crossy for as far back as I can remember and what I can say is his professionalism is outstanding but he is a great man. I would personally love him to stay on but he's earned his retirement and we all wish him the best in retirement.

Thanks for everything Crossy you are a legend.

**STE**

# 30 YEARS OVER & OUT



## CLUB CAPTAIN LIAM HOLLETT PAYS TRIBUTE TO CABLES' LEGENDARY PHYSIO

As the curtain falls on another football season, there's a bittersweet moment looming over Prescot Cables. This season marks the end of an era as we bid farewell to a cherished member of our team, Alan Cross, affectionately known as "Crossy." For years, Crossy has been the heartbeat of our club, tirelessly tending to the needs of our players, both on and off the pitch. As he embarks on a well-deserved retirement, it's time to celebrate his incredible contributions and the indelible mark he's left on Prescot Cables players and others throughout his career.

Crossy's journey with Prescot Cables is one defined by unwavering dedication and selflessness. From the early days of taping ankles to the late-night treatments after grueling matches, Crossy's commitment to the well-being of our players has been unmatched. His expertise, paired with his genuine care and compassion, has been a cornerstone of our team's success.

But Crossy has been more than just a physio; he's been a mentor, confidant, and friend to everyone at the club. His infectious positivity and calming presence have been a source of comfort during the highs and lows of each season. Whether it's offering words of encouragement or sharing a laugh in the treatment room, Crossy's impact extends far beyond his professional duties.

As we prepare to say goodbye to Crossy, it's impossible to quantify the impact he's had on Prescot Cables. His legacy will endure in the memories of players past and present, and in the countless victories and challenges overcome with his support. Though he may be retiring from his official role, Crossy will forever remain an integral part of the Prescot Cables family.

As we bid farewell to Crossy, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and admiration for all he's given to our club. While his absence will be felt on the sidelines, his spirit will continue to inspire us in every match and every triumph. Here's to Crossy, a true legend of Prescot Cables, and a friend for life.

As we turn the pages of another matchday program, let us take a moment to honor Crossy's remarkable career and the profound impact he's had on Prescot Cables. Though his time with us may be ending, his legacy will live on in the annals of our club's history. Thank you, Crossy, for everything. You'll always have a special place in our hearts.

**LIAM**



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# THE LOWDOWN

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

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

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

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

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

The club's first game in the Third Division was against Chesterfield, a home game that Celtic won 6-0. However, winning this league was to prove too difficult, finishing 7th and 11th in the first two years. Lacking the support of local people, the funds were not available to press for a third campaign, forcing Celtic to voluntarily resign from the Football League. Celtic re-joined the Cheshire County League (replacing the reserve squad) and stayed there for 60 years until the formation of the Bass NW Counties League. Peter Wragg took the helm and steered Celtic to Championship victory in 1980, eventually winning the Bass NW Championship in 1984 and 1987, and runners up in the NPL First division. During this time of league progress, there was a lot of work at Bower Fold, culminating in the ground gaining League grading.

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

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

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

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

Keith continued the full time experiment, but he resigned in December 2015 with Celtic looking doomed to relegation. Liam Watson came in and oversaw a turnaround in Celtic's form that saw them safe on the last day of the season with a thrilling 4-4 draw with Gainsborough Trinity. 2016 was to prove a disastrous season, Liam Watson was replaced by co-managers Steve Halford and Paul Phillips, but Celtic looked certain relegation candidates, so the club replaced them with Steve Burr who was unable to save Celtic from relegation, sending one of the last remaining founders of the Conference North into the Northern Premier League. 2017 was also a poor season, with Celtic finishing in the bottom four, though due to a league restructuring, with only one going down, Celtic remained in the division for the 2018 season. Simon Haworth came in. During his first full season, Celtic finished in the bottom five, but then the season after Covid hit, curtailing both that season and the next. When football finally came home, Celtic remained in the Northern Premier League Premier Division but for the 2022/23 season, local manager Chris Willcock stepped into the manager hotseat.

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

In the summer of 2023, the club was taken over by Nigel Jones and Paul Bowden, giving the club fresh hope and a new start. Chris Willcock departed and was replaced by James Kinsey. A summer of change ensued with Celtic starting the 2023-24 Northern Premier League season with new owners, a new committee, a new manager and new squad.

Celtic have made numerous appearances in the FA cup beyond the qualifying stages, starting in 1922, when Celtic forced a replay from West Brom, at West Brom. Since then, there have been 12 other appearances. Celtic have even been to the second round twice: 1993, when Carlisle beat us 3-1 at Brunton Park, and again in 1999, when Chester got the rub of the referee and beat us 2-1 at home.

Celtic's best FA Trophy performance was in 2001, when the club lost to Stevenage Borough.

## **Stalybridge Celtic - Pen Pics**

### **Kinsey - First Team Manager**

James joined Celtic in May 2023 after a successful five-year spell in charge of Wythenshawe Town, where he took the club from the Cheshire Premier Division to two third place finishes in the North West Counties Premier Division. James departed Wythenshawe Town with a league win record of 61%, having managed 153 league games, scoring an impressive 384 goals. James' first taste as a manager in senior football came in May 2017 when he became the manager of East Manchester FC. A successful 10 months led him to Wythenshawe Town where he spent five successful years, before moving to Bower Fold in the Summer.

### **Dan Whiteside - Assistant Manager**

Dan joined Celtic alongside James Kinsey in May 2023, with the duo having worked together since their time at East Manchester FC.

### **Nick Farrington - First Team Coach**

Nick is a new face to James Kinsey's management staff, joining the club after two years at Leek Town as First Team Coach. Last season at Leek, Farrington helped the club to a second-place finish in the NPL Division One West and in the 2021/22 season where he was also first team coach, Leek finished fourth.

### **Tom Conroy - First Team Coach**

Experienced coach Tom joined the Club in September as part of James Kinsey's team. Tom is a UEFA A Licence coach and is also the academy manager at FC United of Manchester.

### **Reece Bogart - Goalkeeping Coach**

Reece joins the club having gained non-League experience with both Mossley AFC and Stockport Town in previous seasons, whilst he also has his own goalkeeper coaching business.

### **Luke Hewitson**

Luke joins the club on loan from Premier League side Liverpool, having progressed through the ranks after signing from Sunderland in 2019. Now part of the Reds U21's side, Luke has already gained impressive experience playing 12 games in the U18 Premier League and also playing in the UEFA Youth League, making his debut in the Quarter-Final against Juventus in Italy.

### **Connor Leach**

Connor is a Celtic Under 18's and Under 21's graduate who is now into his second season with the Celtic First Team, having made four first team appearances last season.

### **Connor O'Grady**

Connor is no stranger to Bower Fold, having made 32 appearances for the club during the 2021-22 season. The 25-year-old scored twice in games against AFC Colne and Ashton United before suffering an injury in March 2022 that saw his season ended early. Just over a year on, Connor now returns to Celtic after finishing the 2022-23 season with NPL East winners Worksop Town, helping The Tigers secure promotion to the NPL Premier Division.

### **Greg Wilkinson**

Greg is into his third spell at Stalybridge Celtic, having first joined the Club in 2008. 237 appearances during 2008-2013 and 2017-2019, Greg returns as Player/Coach under James Kinsey. Greg lists FC United of Manchester, Telford, and Wythenshawe Town as Clubs he's featured for, returning to Celtic in June 2023.

### **Jack Tinning**

25-year-old defender Jack arrives at Celtic from Bury FC, where he was a key figure at Gigg Lane, having made 47 appearances for the club since October 2022, with 10 of those coming at the start of this season. The experienced defender is a two time promotion winner with Warrington Rylands, having won promotion from the North West Counties Premier Division and NPL West whilst also winning the FA Vase with Rylands.

### **Jai Curran-Nicholls**

Jai has recently moved to the UK from Australia and is a talented 19-year-old defender. He's also an Australian youth international and arrives at Bower Fold making his first step into English football.

### **Lucas Cook**

Lucas joined the Club in August from Perth Glory. The 19-year-old had been playing his football in Australia for Perth Glory in the National Premier League Western Australia, having also featured for Bayswater City.

### **Scott Wara**

24-year-old defender Scott joined the club in September from Irish side Finn Harps. Prior to his spell in Ireland, Scott spent the last two seasons with Leek Town where he was a key part of the Leek defence as they finished 3rd and 2nd in the Northern Premier League West, making 61 appearances for the club.

### **Jake Kenny**

Jake joined us from Bury AFC this Summer after he made 84 appearances over the last two seasons in the North West Counties. The 27-year-old full-back is a former NPL Division One West title winner with Atherton Collieries and was named as one of Atherton's player's of the decade in 2019, having played in 157 games for The Colls between 2014-2019. He's also represented Halifax Town, Salford City, Hindsford and Trafford throughout his career and comes with vast experience.

### **Ethan Padden**

Ethan is now into his third season with Celtic, having made 59 appearances for the Club since first joining in July 2021. The midfielder started his career at Chesterfield before joining Glossop North End and then Buxton. He had a loan spell at Kids Grove before returning to Celtic and finishing the season strongly, becoming almost ever present in Chris Willcock's side, and rejoined for his third season under James Kinsey.

### **Joe Edwards**

Joe is a 19-year-old attacking midfielder who joined Oldham Athletic over the Summer, having come through the club's youth academy. Starring for The Latics youth team over a number of years, Joe signed professional terms for the 2022-23 season and has featured in their matchday squads for a number of games. Having experienced training with Oldham's first team, Joe gained senior experience last year on loan at Mossley.

### **Max Harrop**

Max arrives after most recently featuring for Ashton United who he joined in 2022. Prior to this, Max spent three seasons with Altrincham where he made 87 appearances and scored 11 goals and also had a spell with Curzon Ashton. In his first season with Altrincham, they won the Northern Premier League Premier Division title. Beginning his career in the academy at Liverpool, Max moved to Bury as a teenager, going on to make eight appearances for the club. His next permanent move saw him join Nantwich Town where he spent two years. He's also played for Ramsbottom United in addition to Altrincham, Curzon Ashton and two spells with Ashton United.

### **Michael Brewster**

Michael, a former Ashton United captain joins Celtic as James Kinsey's first signing after departing Radcliffe, where he spent the second half of last season. Prior to his spell at Radcliffe, Michael was a key figure and fan favourite at Hurst Cross. He spent three years with The Robins where he was also their club captain, making 87 appearances in total. Michael began his career in the academy at Oldham Athletic before featuring for the likes of FC United of Manchester, St Mirren, Southport and Skelmersdale before joining Atherton Collieries. He followed then manager Michael Clegg to Ashton United in 2019 where he remained until earlier this year before leaving and completing the rest of the season at Radcliffe.

### **Brandon Newell**

Brandon is a 19-year-old highly rated midfielder who joins Celtic from Macclesfield where he'd spent last season. Brandon became the youngest-ever recipient of the North West Counties First Division South Player of the Year award in 2022 after a stellar season making 32 appearances for Abbey Hulton. This saw him make the move to Macclesfield in the summer of 2022 where whilst on dual registration with Wythenshawe Town, he suffered an ACL injury that ended his season early.

### **Jordan Burton**

Jordan is a winger who joins the Celtic squad after spending three years at Wythenshawe Town where he was James Kinsey's player of the year in the 2021-22 season. IN his first appearance for the club, he scored a wonder goal against Irlam that went viral on Social Media.

### **Jack Irlam**

Jack joins Celtic from 1874 Northwich, having made 113 appearances for 1874 and becoming a key part of their squad. Last season he scored six goals and has started this season with two goals in six games.

### **Brad Byrne**

Brad signed from Cheadle Town in August following an impressive 26 goal season last year for Wythenshawe Town. Brad is Wythenshawe's current top scorer since they moved into the non-league pyramid.

### **Aaron Dwyer**

Aaron joins from Wythenshawe Town where he scored 13 goals last season in 25 games. Aaron was a key part of Macclesfield FC's 2021-22 North West Counties Premier Division winning side where he scored 10 goals in 36 appearances for The Silkmen. In addition to Wythenshawe and Macclesfield as former clubs, Aaron has also played for Bury AFC, Mossley, New Mills, Stockport Town and Curzon Ashton.

### **Obua Mugalula**

Obua joins the club from Workington AFC, impressing on trial this pre-season. Obua starred in the Cumbria County Cup last year, scoring four goals in the final as Workington lifted the trophy.

### **Matty Bryan**

Matty joins after scoring 56 goals over the last two seasons with both Wythenshawe Town and Cheadle Town. Known to both James Kinsey and Dan Whiteside, Matty has been with Wythenshawe Town since 2019 and has scored 67 goals in 98 games for the club. A short stint at Cheadle Town saw the forward score seven goals in 10 games. Matty is from Tameside and would often watch Celtic from the terraces when he was younger.

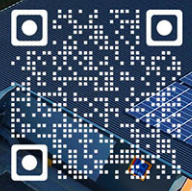
### **Max Leonard**

Experienced striker Max started his career at Huddersfield Town before spells in non-league with Frickley Athletic, Glossop North End, Curzon Ashton, Telford United, Mossley and most recently Wythenshawe Town.

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## A Day Out at Lyme Valley

I set out at 11:30am from Sutton to meet my friend Stan at 12:15pm. The four amigos set off at 1:00pm, Stan, Aaron, Cliff, and I. Stan used my phone to navigate the trip to Newcastle-Under-Lyme. On the road we had great banter. How would we fare? It was in the Northwest Counties days that I went by coach or car to follow Tommy Lawson's promotion side.

We arrived at 2:15pm, each supporter went their own way, I went to the café, and I bought some chips and a cup of tea. I asked Jess Goodwin for a team sheet. The match kicked off in bright sunshine and a mild afternoon. Jeff was doing the radio. After Cables had two goals disallowed, Tom Jones scored a brilliant goal from 25 yards out on 24 minutes. I retired to the café for a pie and another cup of tea. I met Tom Jones' parents from Manchester. They told me he was eighteen and is on loan from Altrincham.

At half time I met Neil Baker, Manager of Newcastle. I made him tea at Prescott when he was Leek Town manager. I spoke about his interviews on Moorland Radio. A former Crewe coach, his experience as always, his nemesis for defeating Cables.

In the second half, Newcastle scored early in the 49th minute by Jake Twyford after a mix up in the Cables defence. The final goal was scored by ex-Leek Town player Jake Avery on 63 minutes. A solo effort when put through the middle and a simple tap in past Mitch Allen.

Cables tried hard but kept being flagged for offside. Many times very dubious. It was strange that Newcastle gave goalkeeper Joe Slinn man of the match. Cables pressed on many occasions, but the final ball did not run for the Pesky Bulls!!

When walking around the stadium, you felt you were in a bowl, a velodrome cycling track, keeping spectators at a distance from the field of play. Leek Town supporters who had no match, any Hanley Town fans who match had been postponed, when City of Liverpool had travelled, all watched our game. Two Stoke City fans who were playing Blackburn Rovers away spoke to me. They asked about the history of Cables. They were amazed at Prescott celebrating 140 years. I told them, I was at the century dinner when Paul our Mayor of Liverpool was chairman. We spoke of VAR, they preferred non-league because you can debate decisions over a pint, not referee miles away! When the final whistle blew, the players and Steve, our manager, applauded the travelling fans.

A bad day at the office.

On the journey home, we said we would have to play much better to get a result against Leek on the following Tuesday. The journey home was much quicker, although disappointed with the result, we were still second in the league. Have we handed the title to Leek? It is Leeks to lose? We must now go for the home tie in the playoffs. There will be twists and turns till the end of season. Cables will go again. They will not let us down.

## Sustainability

Cables are moving in the right direction, but there is one piece of the jigsaw missing. What is it? What is this puzzle?

It is simple, throughout the history of Prescott Football Club, we have always had peoples who have gone the extra mile. After many years, Albert Draper from the Liverpool Echo rang me at home, out of the blue. Bert Taylor from The Prescott Reporter Bert's own notes had told him about the newly formed supporters club. My father Harry Taylor became treasurer, and I became secretary in 1980. We gathered each week at the club with about twenty fans. Harry Morris and Stan Ball ran a weekly tote. When the club was being refurbished, we met on a Sunday night at the fusilier pub (now Prescott Town Hall).

In 10 years, we raised £40,000 to keep the club going. George Haywary, our football secretary at the time would come once a month to help with his phone bill. We also bought the football kit for the first team. When I left in 1995 to get married, the supporters club lay vacant, with the money handed over to the football club. When the chairman Ted Mercer stepped down, the supporters took over running the club. I was asked to be treasurer for a while until Norman Parr took over my duties with great aplomb. We ran a monthly lottery at the reform club with the excellent help of Harry Molyneux and Stan Ball, our lottery promoter. We paid for the team bus and committee paid on the bus. We had a raffle on away matches. If the club needed money for various jobs, we tried to accommodate them. My wife, Colette and myself when Arthur McCumiskey then Tommy Lawson were managers of Cables, we did a half-time raffle, we sold tickets to all the players and officials as well as the spectators. The referee would draw the ticket for a prize of a bottle of whiskey.

We made £12'000 for Cables in five years. My heart is like, all supporters are in the Pesky Bulls. Now the new generation must decide to take the football forward. If enough people are interested, a supporter's club would take the strain off the football club. Paying for stewards, bar staff and away coaches can be a heavy burden on the club. Players wages plus VAT, Knowsley council rent, electric bills, they all add up!

The club needs you, please, if only a small group could form a supporter's club; it could be the making of a 140-year-old club. 1906 to 2024, the support is growing. We need you to take the club that bit nearer to the National League North. I watched Cables from the Lancashire Combination, Mid-Cheshire, Cheshire Northwest Counties and now Northern Premier League. If you can see the light at the end of the tunnel, you will enjoy running the supported club. The more you give the more enjoyment you will get out of the club. The Wallopers will go on for another 100 years with your enterprise, so I hope the jigsaw can be completed. We are all in it together.

Yours in Sport, Phil Taylor.

# 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.

# ***End of season report from John Marston, Youth Secretary***

We would firstly like to say a massive thank you to all our players, coaches, parents and volunteers for the season which is now coming to an end. Without you we wouldn't work as a club, so thank you to each and every one of you that puts in the hard work.

We've had a fantastic season on the whole we've created several new teams and expanded the Cables family. Many of our players now regularly attend match days as you can see from our pictures. Some of our teams have had the pleasure of being mascots and we are looking forward to continuing this next season.

I would like to wish the best of luck to Prescott Cables u16 JFC who are currently top of their league, with the final few games remaining, let's hope they can clinch the title. I know they have worked very hard over the past few seasons to get to where they are now. Keep up the hard work in training and getting them results to seal the title.

I would like to wish good luck to Prescott Cables u10 1884 Saturday who are in the final of the spring cup in the Merseyside youth league. This team has had a lot of ups and downs over the season, a managerial change and several new players coming in, but they have brought the team back to its best. Let's hope we end the season on a massive positive with a cup win

I would like to wish good luck to Prescott Cables u10 1884 Sunday who are in the final of the under 10 charity shield at the Craven Minor League. This team will be playing its final game as a Prescott cables team before they move on to a new club, best of luck in the final a nice bit of silverware would end the season on a high & good luck for the future.

I would like to wish good luck to Prescott Cables u8 JFC who this weekend take part in the annual Stocky Bilbao cup on 20th April. There's some stiff competition with some of the best sides in the city involved. I've got every confidence in you lads.

Best of luck to all of our teams in their summer leagues and we're looking forward to seeing the success stories & all the trophies we pile up over the next few weeks and months from our summer leagues

I would also like to thank all of our sponsors for all their help they have provided this season, from kit sponsors to goal of the month sponsors, each and every one of you is invaluable to our success as a club.

Finally I want to sign off with an invitation to our family fun day. This will be held on the 18th May, at the Joseph Russell Stadium. This will be a day of activities for the kids as well as an opportunity to see the real positives our junior club plays in the lives of children in the local community and further. We will be running a raffle to help raise funds for our club for next season, so please do bring some cash to help us out as well as enjoying the day. We will also have registration forms for any players looking to join one club for the next season

Here's to a successful end of the season and hopefully a promotion for the lads.

Up The Cables

**JOHN**





# RAFFLE

## PRIZES NEEDED



We are looking for raffle prizes for our end of season presentation in May 2024. We will be running the raffle from the start of April, with the winners being announced at our family fun day



**SATURDAY 18  
MAY 12PM START**



**JOSEPH RUSSELL  
STADIUM, L34 6HD**

**ANY HELP WOULD BE  
MASSIVELY APPRECIATED**

**DM TO DONATE**



**07914111157**



## **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



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# MATCHREPORT

JONRAWNSLEY

**Prescot Cables 0-1 Marine**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Liverpool FA Senior Cup semi-final**

It was semi-final heartbreak for Cables as an early goal from Sinclair-Smith ultimately proved the difference on the night and set up a final against City of Liverpool for the visitors.

The pacy winger was in the right place at the right time to tuck home a low cross from the right as Marine attacked on the break, and without a Cables defender being tight enough, the damage was done.



The early stages saw caution from both sides, and the goal was the first action of note. Marine went on to turn the screw, applying most of the pressure for the first half an hour without being able to extend their lead. Numerous half chances arose but were denied by determined defending and blocks by Cables, backed up by Allen who made at least two saves in one-on-one scenarios.

As the half wore on, Nathan Koehler began to stamp his authority on the aerial balls Marine sent down the middle, and Cables gained some level of footing. The best chance fell to Franny Smith, following an incisive move down the right which saw Sambor cross low and hard, Glennon dummy at the near post, only for Smith's shot to be blocked on the line by the back-rushing Doyle. This would prove to be the best chance of the night for Cables, and arriving just before half time, it could have made for a completely different second half.



As it was, Marine came out for the second period and maintained control of the game, without ever creating significant opportunities to go further ahead. The main threat for Cables came from the lively Jack Goodwin down the left, who enjoyed a close contest with Butler, getting the better of the defender a few times but without finding anyone in the middle to take advantage.

Midway through the second half, Cables made their three changes and for the remaining period of the match, managed to exert an increasing amount of pressure but sadly not able to make anything decisive in the final third with the possession that they enjoyed.

Indicative of the frustration was that perhaps the best chance, in injury time, fell to Koehler who was thrust forward for the final few minutes. When his opening came on the edge of the box, the ball wouldn't just fall in time for him to pull the trigger, and Marine scrambled the ball away.



The final whistle brought relief from the visitors who were pushed hard as the game wore on, and disappointment for Cables at not being able to find a way to level matters.

With two league games remaining, Cables focus now shifts firmly towards securing a play off position and then whatever that adventure brings.

**Man of the Match:** Nathan Koehler – solid throughout

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**We are a peer to peer support group for men.  
Come have a brew and a chat!**

# #ITSOKAYTOTALK

# FIXTURES & RESULTS

2023/24 SEASON

Sat 5 Aug	H	Eccleshill United	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	NPL West	0-2
Sat 16 Sep	A	Whitby Town	FA Cup 2Q	1-2
Sat 23 Sep	A	North Ferriby (lost 5-6 on penalties)	FA Trophy 2Q	2-2
Sat 30 Sep	A	Hanley Town	NPL West	3-0
Tue 3 Oct	H	City of Liverpool	NPL West	2-1
Sat 7 Oct	H	Witton Albion	NPL West	4-1
Sat 14 Oct	A	Chasetown	NPL West	2-1
Sat 21 Oct	A	Nantwich Town	NPL West	1-1
Sat 28 Oct	H	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL West	2-1
Sat 4 Nov	H	Widnes	NPL West	1-1
Sat 11 Nov	A	Hednesford Town	NPL West	2-0
Sat 18 Nov	H	Trafford	NPL West	5-1
Sat 25 Nov	A	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL West	1-1
Tue 29 Nov	H	Ashton Town	County Cup 1	4-2
Sat 16 Dec	A	Avro	NPL West	0-2
Tue 19 Dec	H	Pilkington	County Cup 2	6-0
Sat 23 Dec	H	Mossley	NPL West	5-3
Tue 26 Dec	A	Runcorn Linnets	NPL West	1-2
Mon 1 Jan	H	Bootle	NPL West	2-0
Sat 6 Jan	A	1874 Northwich	NPL West	1-0
Fri 12 Jan	H	Vauxhall Motors	NPL West	1-1
Sat 27 Jan	H	Nantwich Town	NPL West	1-0
Sat 3 Feb	A	City of Liverpool	NPL West	4-1
Sat 10 Feb	A	Newcastle Town	NPL West	0-3
Tue 13 Feb	H	Leek Town	NPL West	0-1
Sat 17 Feb	H	Hanley Town	NPL West	1-1
Sat 24 Feb	A	Witton Albion	NPL West	3-2
Sat 9 Mar	A	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL West	1-1
Tue 12 Mar	H	Bootle	County Cup QF	1-0
Sat 16 Mar	A	Leek Town	NPL West	0-3
Sat 23 Mar	H	Newcastle Town	NPL West	1-0
Tue 26 Mar	H	Chasetown	NPL West	1-0
Sat 30 Mar	A	Clitheroe	NPL West	1-0
Mon 1 Apr	H	Runcorn Linnets	NPL West	2-2
Sat 6 Apr	H	Hednesford Town	NPL West	1-1
Fri 12 Apr	A	Widnes	NPL West	2-4
Tue 16 Apr	H	Marine	County Cup SF	0-1
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

# LEAGUETABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
C	Leek Town	36	24	6	6	83	38	45	78
2	Runcorn Linnets	36	18	8	10	55	37	18	62
3	Prescot Cables	36	17	10	9	56	41	15	61
4	Bootle	36	17	9	10	56	45	11	60
5	City of Liverpool	36	17	8	11	66	45	21	59
6	Witton Albion	36	18	5	13	61	57	4	59
7	Widnes	35	16	6	13	54	38	16	54
8	Nantwich	36	16	6	14	58	44	14	54
9	Avro	36	14	12	10	47	43	4	54
10	Clitheroe FC	36	14	10	12	63	54	9	52
11	Chasetown	36	14	8	14	48	49	-1	50
12	Stalybridge	36	13	11	12	54	56	-2	50
13	Newcastle Town	36	13	6	17	42	46	-4	45
14	Hanley Town	36	11	11	14	33	43	-10	44
15	Mossley	36	12	8	16	43	54	-11	44
16	Vauxhall Motors	36	12	5	19	48	68	-20	41
17	Kidsgrove Athletic	35	10	9	16	54	67	-13	39
18	Trafford FC	36	7	15	14	38	55	-17	36
19	Hednesford	36	7	11	18	43	64	-21	32
R	1874 Northwich	36	4	6	26	24	82	-58	18

## HEADTOHEAD

from footballwebpages.co.uk

Date	Competition	Home	Score	Away	Attd
Sat 25 Nov 2023	NPL West	Stalybridge Celtic (I)	1 - 1	(I) Prescot Cables	814
Tue 31 Oct 2017	FA Trophy 1Q	Stalybridge Celtic	5 - 1	Prescot Cables	171
Sat 28 Oct 2017	FA Trophy 1Q	Prescot Cables	0 - 0	Stalybridge Celtic	285

## THE RUN-IN

Leek Town were crowned richly-deserved champions on Easter Monday and, sadly, our friends at 1874 Northwich were confirmed as relegated.

For much of the season the NPL West division was the tightest league in the trinity of the NPL, SPL and Isthmian leagues...and with two games left for most teams in the division there is still a lot to be sorted out with 10 games amongst the top eight teams!

Every team from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> can still mathematically make the play-offs...eight teams still in the mix is testimony to how strong the division has been.

At the bottom of the table Hednesford can still overhaul Trafford but they have a mammoth task as their last game is against play-off chasing Bootle.

This table features the remaining fixtures of the eight teams chasing those four play-off places. It was solely down to space reasons that we chose the top eight. Oppo in *italics* indicates an away game. Oppo in **bold** indicates a game between two teams currently in the top half of the table with a big impact on the final league placings!

	Pts	Sat 20 Apr	Tue 23 Apr	Sat 27 Apr
Linnets	62	<b>Widnes</b>		<i>1874 Northwich</i>
Cables	61	Stalybridge Celtic		<i>Trafford</i>
CoL	59	<b>Nantwich Town</b>		<b>Witton Albion</b>
Bootle	59	Hanley Town		<i>Hednesford Town</i>
Witton	59	<b>Leek Town</b>		<b>City of Liverpool</b>
Widnes	54	<b>Runcorn Linnets</b>	<i>Kidsgrove Athletic</i>	<b>Nantwich Town</b>
Nantwich Town	54	<b>City Of Liverpool</b>		<b>Widnes</b>
Avro	54	1874 Northwich		<i>Mossley</i>

# GETYERCOATES

GARETHCOATES

Tuesday's Liverpool Senior Cup tie against Marine might have seen Prescott Cables bow out of the tournament, but the fantastic attendance of 1,051 will have been as morale-boosting for the club as the valiant performance from a patched-up team. The midweek match was the fourth Cables home game this season watched by more than a thousand fans. On social media, the club hailed the surge in support and programme focus group member Jon Rawnsley suggested that this season might have seen more four-figure gates at Prescott than in the preceding eighteen years!

So, I checked. Of *course* I checked, I love a good stat. Thanks to the legendary Ken Derbyshire, I had the data going all the way back to 2000-01, when the club was in the North West Counties League. However, for the purposes of this exercise I limited my number-crunching to the club's membership of the Northern Premier League, which began in the 2003-04 season.

That first campaign saw an average of 202 supporters in attendance at Cables' home matches, although there was a relatively small range of attendances. The best crowd in 2003-04 was 283, while the worst was 158. If you want a measure of how much the Pesky Bulls' fanbase has grown in recent years, consider this: this season's lowest attendance here at the Joseph Russell Stadium was 272, for a Liverpool Senior Cup tie against Pilkington XXX, just nine fewer than the highest attendance in Cables' first season at Step 4.

The club's first 1,000+ gate of this period was against Liverpool on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008, when 1,387 people attended a Liverpool Senior Cup tie won by a young Reds side. The next match to break four figures was on New Year's Day 2011, when 'phoenix club' Chester FC attracted 1,024 people through the turnstiles. However, the 2010-11 season also saw the lowest home game of Cables' two decades of NPL membership when a County Cup tie against Formby was watched by 80 hardy souls. This isn't the lowest overall crowd to watch a competitive match involving Prescott Cables since they left the North West Counties League; just 38 people saw a match between Cammell Laird and Cables at Kirklands on Boxing Day 2012.

After Chester's visit to Hope Street, Cables had five consecutive seasons where the season's highest crowd included fewer than 400 people. It's a sign of how much the club was struggling during this period that the best gate of the 2012-13 season was 190, for a match with Skelmersdale United, while the 2014-15 League match against Salford City pulled in only 89 spectators. I wonder whatever happened to Salford City?

But, then... things started to pick up again. I started watching the club at the beginning of the 2016-17, which ended with the Liverpool Senior Cup being lifted by Cables in front of 905 supporters. The following season saw 973 fans in attendance for a Friday night FA Cup tie with City of Liverpool. The 2019 Liverpool Senior Cup Final saw the highest crowd on our famous old ground for a decade, as 1,226 people saw Southport hang on for a goalless draw, then steal the silverware in a penalty shoot-out.

The last three seasons have all seen at least one crowd of 1,000 or more. There were almost two in 2021-22 as, in addition to a gate of 1,310 against Runcorn Linnets there was a crowd of 997 against Marine. Last season, a feisty Friday night match against City of Liverpool was watched by 1,348 people; the highest attendance at the Joseph Russell Stadium for some fifteen years.

This season has seen what was already an upward trend explode exponentially. There have been four matches already this season which have broken four figures while the **LOWEST** League attendance of the campaign – 420 against Clitheroe – exceeds the **HIGHEST** attendance in ten of the 21 seasons Cables have played in the Northern Premier League.

These are remarkable numbers when you consider that we operate in the eighth tier of English club football. By contrast, in the Saudi Pro League, Al-Riyadh SC have an average attendance of 209 and even that has been boosted by getting 8,600 against Al-Ittihad and almost 7,000 against Al-Hilal. Against Al-Okhdood, there were just 133 fans inside the 15,000 capacity Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz Stadium.

However many people are in attendance this afternoon and whatever happens in the remaining matches, this has been a remarkable season for Prescott Cables. The incredible support the Pesky Bulls have enjoyed from the terraces has been a major factor. Which leaves one question: was Jon right?

Basically, yes. So far this season, there have been four 1,000+ attendances here at the Joseph Russell Stadium, compared to five in the previous twenty seasons! Something special really is stirring in L34.



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



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contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org



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**To donate:** [mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation](https://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.

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



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# CABLESCONNECT

## 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*

# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



WHERE has the season gone?

It feels like only yesterday that Notts County were edging out Chesterfield to take the final National League promotion spot into League Two, alongside Wrexham, and FC Halifax Town and Ascot United were lifting the FA Trophy and Vase respectively at Wembley. In between, we've encountered the usual highs and lows that the Non-League season never fails to throw us up, and ridden the rollercoaster of emotions which somehow lure us back to the terraces year after year.

It's difficult to fathom that in eight days' time on reading this, the regular season for 2023-24 will be over at Steps 1-4. But for the shocking weather we've had it probably would be in the majority of the Step 5-6 divisions too. So, with time ticking down on another memorable campaign, I thought we take the chance to reflect and run through the battles at the top and bottom of each division.

*It's important to note that this was written before an absolutely crucial midweek calendar when the pressure really comes to the fore under the lights. This afternoon sees the final day of the National League season – and what a year it's been.*

Paul Cook's Chesterfield put their play-off final defeat behind them as they waltzed to the title even before the Easter Bunny arrived, while Oxford City, Dorking Wanderers and Kidderminster Harriers fell through the trap door.

The rest, as it stands, is up for grabs with FC Halifax Town, Aldershot Town and Southend United, despite a 10-point deduction, all looking to join Barnet, Bromley, Altrincham and Isuzu FA Trophy finalists Solihull Moors and Gateshead in the play-offs, which kick off on Tuesday night.

At the bottom, last year's play-off contenders Woking and Boreham Wood surprisingly found them sucked into a relegation dogfight, along with big spending York City, Wealdstone and Ebbsfleet United.

Potentially, today's crunch clash at Meadow Park between Boreham Wood v Ebbsfleet United is a relegation shootout.

In National League North, Tamworth made it back-to-back titles under boss Andy Peaks to reclaim their place on Non-League's top table, ahead of Scunthorpe United.

Brackley Town, Chorley and Alfreton Town are also home and dry in the play-offs with surprise package Curzon Ashton, South Shields, Spennymoor Town, Boston United, Hereford and Chester all fighting it out for the remaining two spots.

Bishop's Stortford annus horribilis, having been placed in the North division from the Isthmian League, ended in relegation, along with Gloucester City and Banbury United.

Yeovil Town bounced back from their relegation last season to take the National League South title with Chelmsford City, Worthing, Braintree Town and FA Cup heroes Maidstone United all reaching the play-offs.

Bath City, Hampton & Richmond, Aveley and Farnborough all took it to the final week in a bid to take the last two spots.

The story of the season, however, came at the bottom where two of the divisions big-hitters over the years, Dartford and Havant & Waterlooville, both fell through the trapdoor, along with Dover Athletic.

Torquay United, after having 11 points deducted through going into administration and playing an ineligible player, could yet join them with Taunton Town and another big gun, Eastbourne Borough, also in the mix.

In the Northern Premier League, Radcliffe rallied to the Premier division title under co-bosses Anthony Johnson and Bernard Morley with Warrington Rylands battling for second with Macclesfield.

Leek Town won NPL West after a sterling season, while the East and Midlands division are still up for grabs – the latter thanks to a six-point deduction handed to then leaders Harborough Town for fielding an ineligible player.

Spalding United lead the way there with north-east rivals Stockton Town and Hebburn Town battling it out in the East.

The Southern League Premier Central title went to Needham Market, under Kevin Horlock, in the season where Nuneaton Borough perished, while Chesham United were convincing winners of Premier South.

Both Step 4 divisions will go to the wire with Biggleswade Town holding pole position over Bedford Town, Ware, Waltham Abbey and AFC Dunstable in Division One Central honours and Wimborne Town and Frome Town neck-and-neck in Premier South. What a game that is this afternoon at the New Cuthbury!

Hornchurch were thumping winners of Isthmian League Premier division with Chatham Town impressive runners-up, but former big guns Kingstonian and Concord Rangers dropped out.

Chertsey Town clinched the South Central title but the other two are set for a showdown with Lowestoft Town going head-to-head with Bowers & Pitsea and Felixstowe & Walton United for the North title and Kent rivals Ramsgate and Cray Valley PM locking horns in a thrilling South East finale.

And talking of county rivalries, Romford and Great Wakering Rovers will be the pride of Essex when they lock horns in the Isuzu FA Vase final on May 11.

With the play-offs filtering all the way down to Step 6 this season, there's still so much football to be played, so if you're invested in the action as much as we are, then you'll pick up your Non-League Paper tomorrow.

Let the games begin.

By Jon Couch



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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

### 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:

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

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 John Middleton

*You may at times notice that some of our articles appear in more than one programme. This is done by design and you do not need to adjust your eyes. Some of our original articles are so good, they deserve to be seen by a bigger audience.*

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A business of Marsh McLennan



# SHEDS&FENCES

As Prescot 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](mailto:media@prescotcables.com)

# FLOODWARNING

DAVIDRAVEN

When it comes to the beautiful game there is nothing quite like watching the footy under the lights.

It doesn't matter what level the game is at or where it is, watching a match under floodlights has always been special and here at the Joseph Russell Stadium it is no different.

Imagine then, the surprise and disappointment we felt when we were told we could lose our ground grading due to problems with the amount of light reaching the pitch.

Ground grading is a key component in climbing the football pyramid. At each successively higher level, higher standards are expected of the ground and this can range from the height of the fence around the ground to capability of segregated areas to facilities for television companies.

Floodlights are vital for teams at our level but equally important is the distribution of light around all of the pitch.

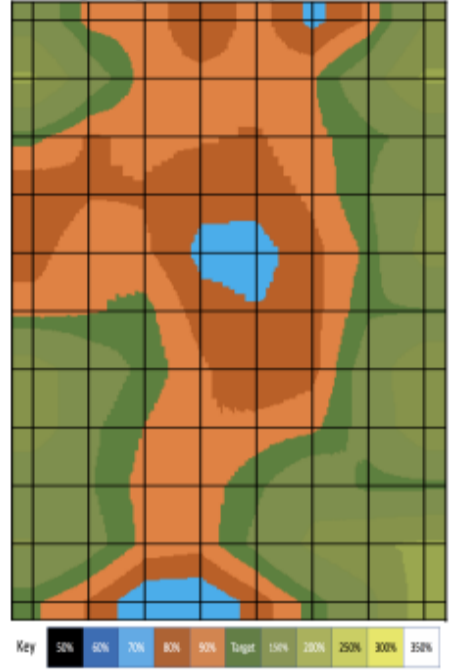
Late in 2023 the amount of light reaching some areas of our pitch wasn't good enough, and we are talking about a difference of a few candles. The power of floodlights is measured in lux, which is lumens per square metre. A lumen is the unit of luminous flux. One lumen is equal to one candela. A common wax candle emits light with a luminous intensity of roughly one candela. So, one lux is one lumen per square metre.

The average amount of light required at any given point on our pitch is 120 lux. In November it was 116. The difference literally is a small number of candles per square metre. In some cases, simply cleaning the housing can make all the difference which is why maintenance of the floodlights is essential. In our case, one floodlight was letting us down.

We had to sort the problem out and up stepped our volunteers to get the floodlights down, housings cleaned, bulbs changed, circuitry updated!

The pitch was inspected again in February by Harry Riste of Wiseman Lighting. He used measuring tapes to split the pitch into 88 blocks and then had to drag around a light metre which measured the amount of light hitting each one of those blocks. One bad block and we were looking at playing a few games at another ground.

Average Light Intensity



Thankfully, down to the work of our volunteers, the advice of Harry Riste and the support of the Northern Premier League we passed with a much improved quality of light hitting all areas of the pitch!



# PESKYVOLUNTEER



Photo by John Middleton

Role	<i>Programme editor, and help out the media team and stewards when I can get to a game</i>
Watching Cables since...	<i>2017</i>
Any other clubs?	<i>Grays Athletic, Kilmarnock, Everton</i>
Favourite professional player when you were young	<i>Kenny Dalglish &amp; Kevin Ratcliffe</i>
Favourite Cables player?	<i>Mitch Allen</i>
All-time favourite sportsperson	<i>Johan Cruyff</i>
You are hosting a celebrity dinner, what are you making?	<i>I'm a lousy cook, so we'd get something in from The Big Chippy</i>
Which four celebrities are on the guest list?	<i>Garth Brooks, Michael Caine, Peter Jackson and Mark Knopfler</i>
Favourite movie	<i>The Godfather &amp; The Aristocats</i>
Dream holiday destination?	<i>Japan</i>
If you could time travel, when and where would you go?	<i>Late 1800's to see the march of the railroads across the American West</i>
Favourite bar/cafe/restaurant in Prescot	<i>Maturo or the Cables bar after a match</i>
Best thing about Cables?	<i>The volunteers</i>

# DAVID RAVEN



# TAP & GO



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# PITCH SQUARES 2023-24

## ELEVEN

	BERNARD THRASHER	L&M AUTOS	DAVID RAVEN	MARK & SARAH HUGHES	CBC HOLDINGS LTD	
	MICK & BARBARA FLAHERTY	CHARLES HOLLAND	MICKEY O'RUSH	SLMGC RYAN	JAYNE EDGAR	
	JOEY GIBILIRU	ELIOT & JADE GIBILIRU	CATHY GIBILIRU	CHELSEA MARSHALL RIP	RICHARD TIGWELL	IN MEMORY OF RICKY TAYLOR
MASON REID	PAUL & JESSICA GOODWIN	MIKE RUSH	PETER KNEALE SOLICITORS	PAUL MOORE	LEE FISHER	
	BEN YOYALL	JEFF CONNALLY	EDDIE BRADY	ALAN RITCHE	JAMES & JOE BYRNE	
	M O R E C R O F T S					
JIMMY HOPE	BILLY BRIGHT	PRESCOT CABLES FC FOUNDED 1884	DAVE ELIAS	IN MEMORY OF TONY FINNIGAN	V.FORTIS VENUSES SECURING FUTURES	
	81	JOHN MIDDLETON PHOTOGRAPHY	GRAHAM BLACK	IAN WRIGHT	CHRIS MELLING	
	MCSS	JON & SAM RAWNSLEY	CARL BAXTER	ALBIE OWENS	RUSS OWENS	
			GEOFF MCGRATH HAPPY BIRTHDAY! LOVE JOE	EILEEN NICHOLSON	TONY AND LORRAINE ZEVERONA	
			LEWIS & LUCIE PAXTON			

# PLAYER SPONSORSHIP



KYLE **SAMBOR**



LIAM **HOLLETT**



JACK **GOODWIN**



MICHAEL CORLESS  
SOCCER SCHOOLS



PRESCOT CABLES  
JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



HAYS TRAVEL  
PRESCOT

## Sponsor your favourite Cables player!

Player sponsorship is an exciting way to take your brand to the next level with Prescot Cables, especially if your chosen player is making the headlines.

Mad for Murphy?, Obsessed with O'Halleron?, Krazy for Koehler?

How about sponsoring your favourite Prescot Cables player?

Your name, company logo or the name of a loved one - will be associated with your chosen player in our matchday programme, The Walloper, across the club's social media platforms, even goal alerts!

We have a range of sponsorship packages available. To register your interest or for more information, please contact Ian Wright at: [ian.wright@prescotcables.com](mailto:ian.wright@prescotcables.com)



## PRESCOT CABLES

## STALYBRIDGE CELTIC

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - 3.00pm

### PITCHING-IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE WEST

Today's Matchday Sponsor



Today's Matchball Sponsor



#### Manager: Ste Daley

Mitch Allen (GK)  
Ryan McMahon (GK)  
Matthew Devine  
Liam Hollett (C)  
Alex McNally  
Nathan Koehler  
Dom Caine  
James Devine  
Francis Smith  
Josh Gregory  
James Foley  
Anthony Donaldson  
Luke Pritchard  
Jack Goodwin  
John Murphy  
Kyle Sambor  
Charlie Glennon  
Tom Owen  
John McGrath  
Harry McVeigh  
Fidel O'Rourke

amber shirts  
black shorts, amber socks

#### Manager: James Kinsey

Connor O'Grady  
Greg Wilkinson  
Michael Brewster  
Joe Edwards  
Jordan Burton  
Aaron Dwyer  
Obua Mugalula  
Brad Byrne  
Lucas Cooke  
Jai Curran-Nicholls  
Remi Efunuga  
Jack Irlam  
Max Leonard  
Jack Tinning  
Scott Warra  
Luke Hewitson  
Cole Lonsdale  
Darius Osei  
Joe Robbins  
Pawel Zuk  
Darius Palma  
George Omokua

green shirts  
green shorts, green socks

Today's match officials are

Referee **James Naisbett** and assistants **Jamie Holmes & Isaac Santos-Munn**

