

TOWN



Saturday 10th January 2026 - £2



v





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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the PSD Stadium at Ruskin Drive for our first match of 2026. A Happy New Year to everyone, including our visitors Winsford Town.

With the quirks of the fixture system, Christmas and a dash of winter, we haven't played since 29 November, six weeks ago. It feels like even longer, though the lads have been working hard in training and are keen to get going again.

We last played Winsford Town in consecutive games to open the 2023/24 season in Cheshire League Division 2, two and half years ago. We lost both times, unfortunately. We're a rather different team now, though, and it is good to meet again at the business end of Division 1. I'm sure we're in for a good, competitive game.

Our U23s and U18s have both played more recently than the First Team. The U23s beat Egerton Reserves and Moore United Development in December, both away and in style. They are playing excellent football and Makol and Matty in particular are looking very sharp up front. They host Moore United in the early kick off today, so fingers crossed they can continue their recent form.

The U18s lost a close game away to Atherton Collieries in December, but beat Altrincham Youth 4-3 here at Ruskin last week in the President's Cup Quarter Final. It was an excellent result, and included a top class goal from Ben Noonan, who has also made an impression with the First Team and U23s this season. The lads are away to Stalybridge Celtic in the league tomorrow, and we're all keen to see their good play translate into points there.

Looking further ahead, we will be welcoming our Stuttgart partner club TSV Uhlbach to St. Helens in June, to continue our programme of exchange visits. We last hosted them in 2018 and visited Germany

ourselves in 2023, so we are very much looking forward to seeing them again. The focal point of the trip will be a friendly between the two clubs here at the PSD Stadium, likely to be on Saturday 6 June. Put the date in your diary and we'll confirm it in due course.

It will be an excellent occasion, like the previous two. Football has a near-unique capacity to bring people together, across differences and boundaries of all types. We are all equal on the pitch and in the stands, and all know what the highs and lows feel like. Whatever the score, spending time with our friends from TSV will be a high for all concerned.

Come on The Town!

Ste Lingard



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A WORD WITH THE MANAGER



Myself and the club would like to welcome everyone from Winsford to Ruskin Drive this afternoon.

No matter what the score is, we hope you'll join us after the game for refreshments in The Wicket bar.

Firstly, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and reiterate how grateful we are for everyone's continued support.

We enter the new year on a bit of a bounce, despite not playing for nearly a month (some of it due to league stopping for Christmas).

We seemed to have found our feet in a more challenging division. And as everyone knows this month could prove pivotal with all the top 5/6 teams playing each other.

I do genuinely believe we have the best squad of players to pick from and that will definitely come into play this month and beyond.

As always, you know what to expect from a squad selected by myself, Seddo and Lee; hard working and honest, and giving everything we have.

I also know you'll get behind the lads and give them all the support and encouragement they need in these big games.

Thank you for sticking with us and here's to a successful 2026.

#tellinstown #mertz

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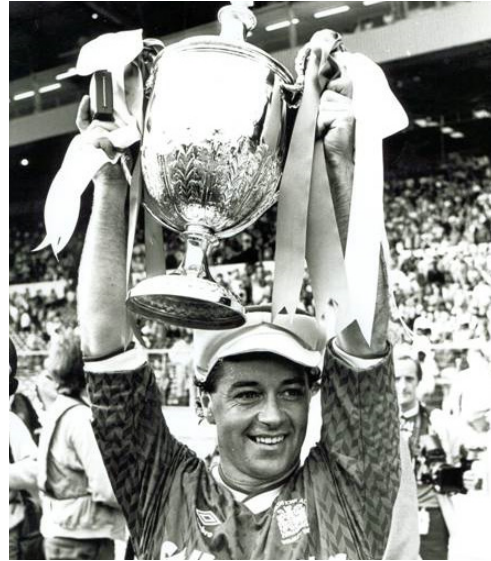
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

The original St. Helens Town club was formed in 1901 and played at Park Road, behind the Primrose Vaults public house. Although it was known as the Primrose Ground, the players changed further down Park Road at the Black Horse pub. Playing in the Lancashire League and Lancashire Combination, the team enjoyed some early success, but struggled after the Great War and appears to have folded midway through the 1928/29 season.

The club was re-formed by George Fryer and a group of local businessmen in 1946. They took over a lease of the former cricket ground at Hoghton Road, Sutton, adjacent to the St. Helens Junction railway station and, although it entered in the FA Cup in the 1946/47 season, a team could not be raised in time to fulfil its tie with Prescot Cables.

Friendly games were played, then local team Derbyshire Hill Rovers were taken over in April 1947, those players forming the nucleus of the team which entered the Liverpool County Combination at the start of the 1947/48 season. St. Helens Town soon began to prosper and early results included a sensational 10-4 win over Everton "A" on 6th December 1947. Former German prisoner-of-war Bert Trautmann joined the club in the Summer of 1948, the strapping goalkeeper helping the team to win its first trophy, the George Mahon Cup, which was secured with a 2-1 win over Runcorn at Prescot on 7th May 1949. Crowds averaged over 2000 that season, peaking with a league record attendance of 3012 against Burscough in October 1948.

The following season, 1949/50, Town entered the Lancashire Combination and, despite losing Trautmann to Manchester City in October 1949, they won the Second Division title in some style the



following season, three players, Albert Leadbetter (36), Harry McCann (32) and Terry Garner (31) all netting over 30 goals apiece. An all-time club record attendance of "between 8000 and 9000" witnessed a friendly game against Manchester City, arranged as part of the Trautmann transfer deal, in April 1950 and another 4000 witnessed a second match with City the following season.

Although relegated by a slender margin from the First Division in 1951/52, the club continued to look forward, even contemplating Football League status and, in order to further its ambitions, moved to the former St. Helens Recs. rugby league ground at City Road. Initial crowds were encouraging but, despite success, the club decided to move back to Hoghton Road in October 1953, where they remained until April 2000.

Town produced a number of fine players who joined Football League clubs, including Bill Foulkes (Manchester United), John Quinn (Sheffield Wednesday) and John Connelly who joined Burnley, later transferring to Manchester United and who played in the England 1966 World Cup winning squad. More recently, Dave Bamber scored goals in all four divisions of the league with a host of different clubs, starting and ending

his league career at Blackpool and in more recent times, Karl Ledsham, who had a productive career at conference level with Southport, Lincoln City, Barrow and Stockport County before moving to the USA.

Following a second relegation in 1956, St. Helens Town continued to play in the Lancashire Combination, winning the Championship in 1971/72, by nine points ahead of Accrington Stanley.

However, the formation of the Northern Premier League in 1968 led to a gradual drain of stronger clubs from the Combination and St. Helens joined the Cheshire League in 1975, becoming founder members of the North West Counties League seven years later. They held the proud record of being the only club



to play in the NW Counties' top flight every season until they were relegated in April 2015, conceding an injury-time equaliser to Silsden in the last game of the season, a match they had to win to stay up.

Town enjoyed a golden era in the late 1980s, just missing out on an appearance in the First Round proper of the FA Cup in 1985/86, losing to Morecambe in a Fourth Qualifying Round Replay, but they obtained ample compensation by winning the FA Vase at Wembley in 1987, beating near neighbours Warrington Town 3-2, with two goals from Phil Layhe and one from Brian Rigby.

They were regular promotion candidates for many years, largely due to the scoring exploits of Steve "Pellet" Pennington, who grabbed 216 goals in 351 games, his season's best hauls of 45 in 1993/94 and 46 in 1997/98 just failing to beat the club record of 47 scored by Phil Stainton in 1963/64. Former club captain Andy Gillespie won the NW Counties' golden boot with 34 goals in the 2015/16 season and netted another 24 times the following season.

Town moved from Hoghton Road in 2000 to ground share with St. Helens RFC, as part of the merger into the new Sporting Club St. Helens. Developing the new Saints stadium took years longer than anticipated, and when Knowsley Road closed in 2010 Town became nomads, plaig variously at Ashton Town, Ashton Athletic, Prescot Cables and Atherton Collieries. Town returned to St. Helens Borough in August 2017, playing on a 3G surface at Ruskin Drive, after St. Helens Council redeveloped the facilities.

The 2021-22 season saw Town in the NW CFL First Division North. It was a disastrous campaign, with only four wins and four draws from 36 league games. The club finished bottom of the table, 21 points adrift, and was relegated to the Liverpool County Premier League.

A consortium of Town fans bought the club from St. Helens RFC in Summer 2022. They took the decision to move it to the Cheshire League, believing it offered the most constructive environment in which to rebuild the club. It was a difficult decision, however, as it involved having to start at the bottom of that league system, a further two divisions down. The 2023/24 season was the club's first in Cheshire League Division 2. The following season Town finished 11 points clear having lost only one league game in the whole campaign, securing their first title for more than 50 years and promotion to Division 1.

The rebuild is ongoing.



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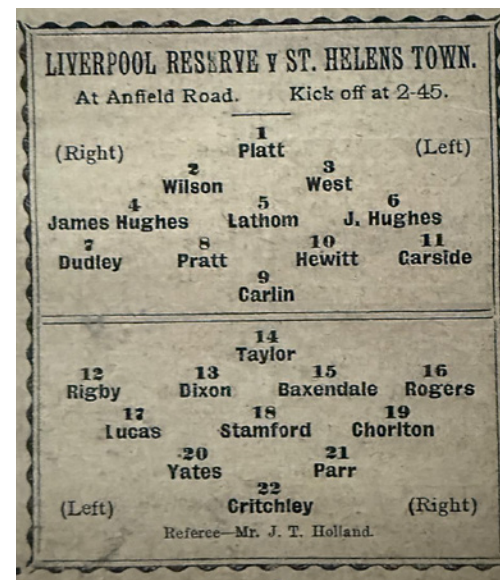
TOWN POPS UP!

Well first off, Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the festive period — whether that meant quality time with family and friends, or simply being relieved that normal service has resumed. Either way, welcome back to Ruskin Drive and to another thrilling instalment of Culture Vulture.

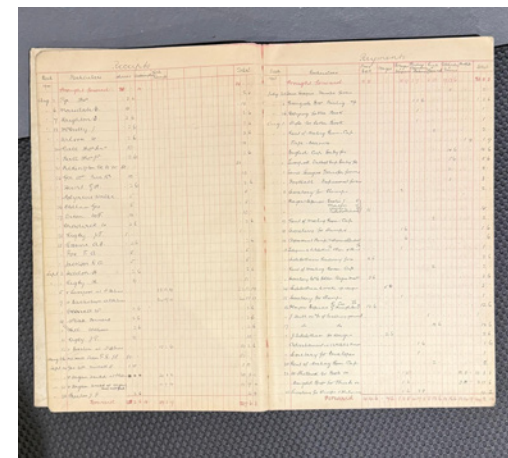
The festive break was a busy one off the pitch for myself and my fellow Town in the Town compadres, as we hosted a very special screening of everyone's favourite

Bert Trautmann biopic, *The Keeper*, at the wonderful Lucem House Community Cinema on Corporation Street. A fitting film in a fitting venue, celebrating football, resilience and community spirit.

This wasn't just any old film night either. Thanks to a small grant from The Coalfield Regeneration Trust, the screening doubled up as the official launch of our Town pop-up museum project — an exciting new initiative aimed at preserving and sharing the rich history of our club.



The cinema was packed with faces from Town's past and present, all coming together to share stories, memories and treasured memorabilia spanning decades of the club's history. Shirts, programmes, photographs and personal anecdotes flowed freely, reminding everyone in the room just how deeply *The Town* is woven into the fabric of our community. There was a real sense that this was about more than nostalgia — it was about pride, identity and passing those stories on.



The next step is to bring everything together: cataloguing the items, recording the memories, and shaping them into a mobile exhibition that we can take out into the community. The aim is simple — to spread the good word of *The Town*, celebrate its heritage, and make sure those stories are not lost to time.

The pop-up museum project is still actively seeking stories, photographs and memorabilia of historical significance. Whether you're a former player, volunteer, supporter, or someone with a family connection to the club, your contribution matters. If you're unable to attend future events but would still like to be involved, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information, to offer memorabilia, or to share your memories, please contact Gill Ellison on 07904 980 641 or email towninthetown2024@gmail.com

Enjoy the match, stay cultured and ofc'mon The Town!

Mike Bagshaw - Culture Vulture



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SEASON STATISTICS

Rank	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Egerton FC	22	14	3	5	66	29	37	45
2	Daten FC	18	14	2	2	60	26	34	44
3	Winsford Town	16	13	1	2	47	24	23	40
4	Knutsford FC	17	12	1	4	40	24	16	37
5	St Helens Town	15	10	3	2	54	22	32	33
6	Stretford Paddock	16	10	2	4	35	26	9	32
7	Clay Brow	14	9	2	3	56	23	33	29
8	Styal FC	18	8	2	8	47	47	0	26
9	Sandbach United Res.	14	6	5	3	38	23	15	23
10	Congleton Town Res.	18	5	3	10	23	34	-11	18
11	Winstanley Warriors	15	5	1	9	33	40	-7	16
12	Mersey Valley	17	5	1	11	38	59	-21	16
13	Upton JFC	17	3	4	10	38	49	-11	13
14	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	18	2	3	13	27	65	-38	9
15	Wythenshawe Res.	17	2	0	15	28	70	-42	6
16	Billinge FC	18	0	1	17	10	79	-69	1

CHESHIRE LEAGUE 1

Rank	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Egerton FC	22	14	3	5	66	29	37	45
2	Daten FC	18	14	2	2	60	26	34	44
3	Winsford Town	16	13	1	2	47	24	23	40
4	Knutsford FC	17	12	1	4	40	24	16	37
5	St Helens Town	15	10	3	2	54	22	32	33
6	Stretford Paddock	16	10	2	4	35	26	9	32
7	Clay Brow	14	9	2	3	56	23	33	29
8	Styal FC	18	8	2	8	47	47	0	26
9	Sandbach United Res.	14	6	5	3	38	23	15	23
10	Congleton Town Res.	18	5	3	10	23	34	-11	18
11	Winstanley Warriors	15	5	1	9	33	40	-7	16
12	Mersey Valley	17	5	1	11	38	59	-21	16
13	Upton JFC	17	3	4	10	38	49	-11	13
14	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	18	2	3	13	27	65	-38	9
15	Wythenshawe Res.	17	2	0	15	28	70	-42	6
16	Billinge FC	18	0	1	17	10	79	-69	1

TODAY'S FIXTURES SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY

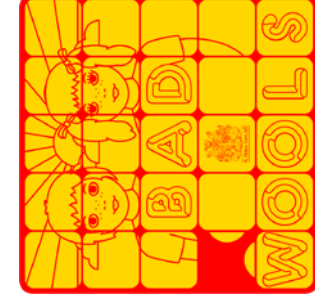
Cheshire League 1

14:00 Congleton Town Res v Cheadle Heath Nomads 14:30 Billinge FC v Wythenshawe Res
 14:00 Daten FC v Upton JFC 15:00 St Helens Town AFC v Winsford Town
 14:00 Styal FC v Knutsford FC 15:00 Stretford Paddock v Egerton FC
 14:00 Winstanley Warriors v Clay Brow

Leading Goalscorers

Player	Appearances	Goals	GPG
Liam Diggle	14(1)	10	0.67
Prescott	14(1)	10	0.67
Simpson	15(1)	7	0.44
Noonan	3(14)	6	0.35
Cook	11(4)	5	0.33
Clapham	5(6)	4	0.36

Date	Home	Away	Player of the Match																	Goalscorer #GOALS	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
26/07	A CFL	Egerton FC	2-2	Jenkinson	Petersen	Buckley-Benbow	Middlemore	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Diggle (C)	Cook1	Morris	Prescott	Long	Luke Diggle	Leech	Noonan	Atem		
02/08	A CFL	Wythenshawe Res.	0-8	Jenkinson	Bateman	Critchlow 1	Middlemore	Foster	Critchlow 1	Prescott	Diggle z(C)	Simpson z	Filson	Leech	Noonan	Clapham 1	Hughes	Noonan	Atem		
06/08	A CFL	Winstanley Warriors	1-4	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow 1	Filson	Foster	Petersen	Simpson 1	Diggle z(C)	Prescott 1	Clapham	Hanson	Luke Diggle	Hughes	Noonan	Atem			
12/08	A CFL	Upton JFC	3-3	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Filson	Foster	Petersen	Clapham 1	Diggle z(C)	Cook 1	Middlemore	Prescott	Atem	Hanson	Noonan 1	Morris	Bateman		
30/08	A CFL	Styal FC	5-2	Jenkinson	Long	Petersen	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Diggle (C)	Cook 1	Middlemore	Prescott	Noonan 1	Luke Diggle	Whitehead	Morris	Bateman		
06/09	H CFL	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	4-4	Jenkinson	Bateman	Petersen	Sant	Luke Diggle	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Morris	Prescott	Prescott	Noonan	Noonan	Long	Atem	Bateman		
13/09	A CFL	Ormskirk West End	1-6	Jenkinson	Bateman	Long	Sant	Curtis	Middlemore (C)	Petersen 1	Morris	Prescott 3	Simpson 1	Luke Diggle	Cook 1	Foster	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow			
20/09	A CFL	Stretford Paddock	3-0	Jenkinson	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Whitehead	Noonan	Morris	Noonan	Yawson	Clapham	Cook				
27/09	A CFL	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	0-5	Jenkinson	Curtis	Bateman	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore (C)	Morris	Prescott 2	Cook	Cook	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Whitehead	Bateman		
04/10	A CFL	Rainhill Town	5-1	Davies	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Foster	Curtis	Petersen	Simpson	Middlemore	Morris	Prescott 2	Cook	Cook	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Foster	Petersen		
11/10	A CFL	Egerton	0-2	Jenkinson	Bateman 1	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Morris	Prescott 1	Cook	Cook	Noonan	Noonan 1	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	
18/10	A CFL	Mersey Valley	0-4	Jenkinson	Bateman	Curtis	Sant	Critchlow 1	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Cook	Diggle (C)	Noonan	Foster	Curtis	Clapham	Petersen	
25/10	H CFL	Sandbach Utd Res	2-1	Davies	Bateman	Curtis	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Cook	Diggle (C)	Noonan	Long	Foster	Clapham	Petersen	
08/11	H CFL	Styal FC	3-1	Jenkinson	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Curtis 1	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Cook	Diggle (C)	Long	Gibson	Leech 1	Noonan	Clapham	
15/11	H CFL	Billinge FC	6-1	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow	Curtis	Filson	Wetton 1	Middlemore	Diggle (C)	Gibson z	Clapham	Cook	Noonan 1	Sant	Simpson 1			
22/11	A CFL	Billinge FC	1-3	Jenkinson	Long	Gibson	Sant 1	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Prescott	Noonan 1	Diggle	Clapham 1	Petersen				
29/11	H CFL	Winstanley Warriors	6-0	Jenkinson	Curtis	Gibson 1	Sant	Critchlow 1	Filson	Simpson 1	Diggle (C)	Prescott	Clapham 1	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Petersen	Noonan				
10/01	H CFL	Winsford Town																			
17/01	H CFL	Congleton Town Res																			
24/01	H CFL	Daten FC																			
31/01	A H/W/C	Maine Road Res																			



Current Squad All Time Appearances	
Liam Diggle	143
Danny Hughes	89
Ryan Cook	85
Luke Diggle	74
Dale Whitehead	64
Alex Petersen	57
Charlie Simpson	54

THE SQUAD

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BEAT THE YICKER

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. North West counties club New Mills are from which county?
2. Orlando Pirates are from which country?
3. Former Saint and Town fan Joe Batchelor supports which league 1 club?
4. Liverpool defender Connor Bradley plays for which national team?
5. Who won the FA Cup in 1987?
6. Why did Town have to play a 4th qualifying fa cup tie at Hoghton Rd on a midweek afternoon?
7. Which league 1 club play at Field Mill?
8. What was the name of the 80s tv show based in Newcastle about a junior football club?
9. Liverpool signed Milos Kerkez from which club?
10. Who did Town beat last season to clinch promotion?



CLUB INFO

Honorary Life President: Alan Wellens

Vice Presidents: Jim Barrett, Steve Ball and John McKiernan

Chair: Ste Lingard

Vice-Chair: Gavin Scott

Secretary: Paul Styles

Treasurer: Ste Lingard

Commercial Manager: Gavin Scott

Media Manager: Michael Bagshaw

Committee

Michael Bagshaw, Steve Ball, Daniel Castrogiovanni, Gill Ellison, Michael Featherstone, Annmarie Houghton, Ste Lingard, David O'Keefe, Gavin Scott, Paul Styles.

Management Staff

1st Team Manager: Paul 'Peo' Piert

Assistant Manager: Martin Seddon

1st Team Coach: Lee O'Connor

U23s Manager: Danny Hughes & Gav Hanson

U18s Manager: Carlos Rodrigues

U18s Assistant Manager: Dave Pallett

U18s Secretary: Fiona Sharrock

Platinum Club Sponsor: CBS - Critical Business Solutions

Gold Club Sponsor: MCR Building Solutions

Silver Club Sponsor: AE Holland Memorials

Bronze Club Sponsor: Revive Cleaning

Player of The Match Sponsor: St Helens Borough Mobile Pantry

Player of The Month Sponsor: The Griffin Inn

Legal

St Helens Town Limited

Private Limited Company

Company No. 04392840

Date of Incorporation 12.03.2002

Ground

PSD Stadium, Ruskin Drive, Denton's Green, St Helens WA10 6RP

Website: sthelenstownafc.com

Twitter: @sthelenstownfc

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ST HELENS TOWN HONOURS

- 1949 George Mahon Trophy Winners
- 1951 Lancashire Comb Division 2 Champions
- 1972 Lancashire Combination Champions
- 1973 Bass Charrington Cup Winners
- 1974 Watson Trophy Winners
- 1978 St Helens Hospital Cup Winners
- 1979 St Helens Combination Div 1 Runners Up
- 1979 St Helens Hospital Cup Runners Up
- 1980 St Helens Combination Div 1 Champions
- 1985 NWCFL Reserve Division 2 Runners Up
- 1986 NWCFL Reserve Division 1 Runners Up
- 1987 FA Vase Winners (Wembley)
- 1994 League Challenge Cup Finalists
- 1994 NWCFL Reserve Division Runners Up
- 1995 NWCFL Reserve Division Champions
- 1996 NWCFL Reserve Division Runners Up
- 1998 Floodlit Trophy Finalists
- 1999 REALCO Fair Play Award Winners
- 2009 Bert Trautmann Trophy Winners
- 2014-15 South Lincs League U17s Cup Finalists
- 2014-15 Cheshire FA U21 League Champions
- 2015-16 Cheshire FA U21 Premier Cup Finalists
- 2016-17 Cheshire FA U21 League Cup Finalists
- 2016-17 Cheshire FA U21 Premier Div Runners Up
- 2017-18 NWYA U18s President's Cup Winners
- 2020-21 NWYA U18s President's Cup Winners
- 2024-25 Cheshire Division 2 Champions

Record Attendances:

- 9000 at Prescot Cables v Runcorn (1949)
- 8000 at Hoghton Road v Man City (1950)
- 3012 at Hoghton Road v Burscough (1948)
- 2096 at Langtree Park v Wigan Town (2023)
- 1723 at Knowsley Road v FC United of Man (2006)

Programme Awards:

- NWCFL Programme of the Year
1993-94, 1995-96, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01
- NWCFL Premier Division
2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15
- NWCFL First Division / First Division North
2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20
- Wirral Programme Club National Survey
NWCFL Programme of the Year
1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99
- Programme Monthly
NWCFL Programme of the Year 2007-08
- Soccer Club Swap Shop
National Programme Awards
2010-11 28th, 2011-12 8th,
2012-13 7th, 2013-14 8th,
2014-15 5th, 2015-16 8th,
2016-17 2nd, 2017-18 5th,
2018-19 6th, 2019-20 5th
- M60 Programmes
NWCFL Division One North
Programme of the Year 2019-20

St Helens Town AFC - Player Records 1946-2021

Goals in a Career	Goals in a Season	Career Appearances (250+ games)
216 Steve Pennington	47 Phil Stainton 1963/64	448 Alan Wellens (inc. 207 estimated)
118 Terry Garner	46 Steve Pennington 1997/98	359 John Critchley (16 estimated)
108 Gary Laird	45 Jackie Kendrick 1973/74	352 Steve Pennington
105 Lee Cooper	45 Steve Pennington 1993/94	346 Gary Lowe (1 estimated)
101 Glenn Walker	40 Bob Potter 1952/53	345 Glenn Walker
94 Iain Dyson	38 Terry Fearn 2000/01	327 Jackie Atherton (122 estimated)
84 Andy Gillespie	36 Albert Leadbetter 1950/51	300 Jackie Cooke (1 estimated)
83 Harry McCann	35 Arthur Tyrer 1957/58	287 Gary Laird
81 Ray Fairweather	34 Lee Cooper 2001/02	280 Kevin Grice (147 estimated)
77 Liam Diggle	34 Andy Gillespie 2015/16	278 Jimmy Woodyer (67 estimated)
72 Arthur Tyrer	33 Ronnie Rigby 1952/53	276 Iain Dyson
68 Phil Stainton	32 Harry McCann 1950/51	272 Ray Fairweather (3 estimated)
63 Mervyn Bull	31 Terry Garner 1950/51	265 Larry Redmond (134 estimated)

