

TOWN



Saturday 14th March 2026 - £2



v



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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the PSD Vehicle Rental Stadium at Ruskin Drive for today's football, and especially to our visitors Knutsford FC.

As far as I can find out, we have only played Knutsford once before, at their Manchester Road ground in the first round of the J.A. Walton Challenge Cup in October 2024. I knew that Knutsford was a long-established club with a rich history, but didn't know the extent of it until that day. Club legend Jimmy Evans showed us the impressive history displays in their clubhouse, and chatted engagingly about his experiences.

The teams couldn't be separated in normal time, but Town won the resulting penalty shoot-out. It was a special occasion, and looking back it seemed an indication of the bigger things to come over the rest of that season. Along with pride in the team, we left with a strong sense of respect for Knutsford as opponents and as a proper, traditional football club. Whatever the result, we are very happy to welcome them to St. Helens.

Last week the First Team delivered another performance that seemed a sign of things to come, winning 5-1 at high-flying Winsford Town. The result was impressive in itself, but the energy, teamwork and tactical maturity the group displayed was one of the best we've seen - a pleasure to watch.

For all the quality on display, I feel duty bound to mention one incident in particular: Lewis Jenkinson's point-blank save in the first half, when the game was still tight. He tracked the ball played across, got himself in the right position and reacted with speed and skill to divert the ball over the crossbar. The game really could have changed direction without that save. Thank you Jenko - it was top class!

At the same time, our U23s were winning 4-1 at Warrington Rylands, their ninth consecutive league

victory. It took the lads to second place in the division, just one point behind first place and with four games in hand. They are just one point ahead of today's opponents Styal in third, however, so the position is very competitive. Their game kicks off at 12.15 here at Ruskin, so by the time you read this it will be over. Fingers crossed it goes/went well, as the team has developed dramatically this season under Danny and Gav, and deserve all the success that comes their way. Keep your eye out for their remaining fixtures, as we'll be giving them all the support we can for the final push.

All the best for a good afternoon of football, and - as ever: **Come on the Town!**

Ste Lingard



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A WORD WITH THE MANAGER



Peo & Seddo

Myself and the club would like to welcome everyone from Knutsford 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.

We go into today's game on the back of one of our best performances of the season.

From 1-16 we were all on point, and looks like we are getting into the stride we showed last season. As we approach the business end of the season, hopefully we get a good run of games after being very stop start since December.

The tough games come thick and fast with Knutsford, our opponents today, a very well established and successful side in the Cheshire League.

I want to point out how well our u23's are doing this season and a give a massive shout out to Danny and Gav on the difficult job they have done.

Let's get behind the lads as always your support is very much appreciated.

#tellingtown #mertz

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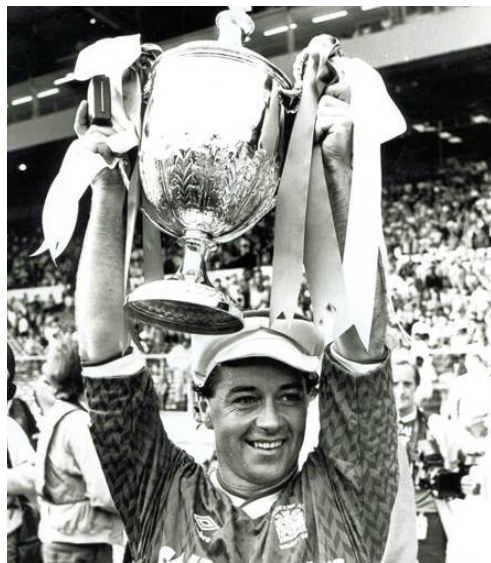
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

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 out 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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CULTURE VULTURE

CANUTE THE GREAT

I've recently covered some facts 'n' what not about the towns and villages our opposition hail from.

One of the recent ones was against close neighbours Clay Brow from Skelmersdale, and similarities between the towns. Today's opponents Knutsford are quite different. Two towns with very different histories and fortunes. I don't mean that in a reverse snob kinda way, it is what it is. However one thing that's always fascinated me about Knutsford is the origins of its name. Come with me as I take you on a journey through the mists of time, and... I'll just get on with it shall I?!

The name "Knutsford" itself is believed to be connected to the Viking-era ruler King Cnut (also spelled Canute). According to local tradition, the name derives from "Knutr's ford," referring to a river crossing associated with the king. While historians debate the exact origin of the name, the story suggests that King Cnut either crossed the River Lily near the town or had some connection with the site during the early 11th century when he ruled England. Over time the name evolved from "Knutesford" to the modern "Knutsford."

In modern times, Knutsford is strongly associated with wealth and prestige because it lies within the area known as the Golden Triangle. This term refers to a cluster of affluent towns in Cheshire—most commonly Knutsford, Alderley Edge, and Wilmslow. The Golden Triangle gained national attention during the early 2000s as a preferred residential area for Premier League footballers, celebrities, and business executives. High-end restaurants, luxury homes, and boutique shops have since become a defining feature of the area.



King Cnut — better known as Canute the Great — was one of the most powerful rulers in early medieval Europe. A Danish prince, he seized the English throne in 1016 after defeating Edmund Ironside and went on to rule a vast North Sea empire stretching across England, Denmark and Norway. Despite arriving as a Viking

conqueror, Cnut proved politically astute, adopting English customs and working closely with the Church to stabilise a kingdom exhausted by decades of warfare.

Cnut styled himself as a devout Christian king. He rebuilt churches, rewarded monasteries and even travelled to Rome on pilgrimage in 1027, presenting himself as a protector of the faith. Yet this shift toward Christianity also marked a turning point for the old Viking world he came from. The Norse gods and pagan traditions that had shaped Scandinavian culture for centuries were increasingly pushed aside as rulers like Cnut aligned themselves with the powerful Christian institutions of Europe.

For some, this represented progress and stability. For others, it symbolised the slow fading of the pagan roots that once defined Viking identity. By backing the Church so strongly, Cnut helped cement Christianity's dominance across his lands, leaving the old beliefs of Odin, Thor and Frey to survive only in stories and legend.

The most famous story about Cnut is the tale of him ordering the sea to stop rising. According to legend, he placed his throne on the shoreline and commanded the tide to halt. When the water inevitably continued to rise, the king used the moment to show that even the most powerful ruler cannot



King Canute sculptures celebrated across Knutsford. Pagans beware!



command the forces of nature — a reminder that ultimate authority lies beyond any king.

Anyway enough of all that history nonsense, back to the here and now. Our community arm Town in the Town would like to give thanks to one of their generous grant providers Health24, so here goes.

A huge thank you to Health24 for their generous grant supporting our Hope United refugee and asylum seeker football club. Because of this support, we've been able to purchase our fantastic new kit and travel together to play away friendlies.

It cannot be underestimated how important this is for the mental and physical wellbeing of our players. Football provides routine, friendship and a positive outlet, but travelling together and wearing a professional kit also builds pride and a real sense of belonging.

Our players come from many different backgrounds and cultures. Many of our lads have fled extremely dangerous situations and experienced trauma before arriving here. When we step onto the pitch together, those differences disappear and we're simply united by a shared love of football.

Football is powerful, a true international language. It brings people together and creates community.

Without generous support from grants like this, programmes like Hope United simply wouldn't be possible.

Anyway, that just leaves me to say, enjoy the match, c'mon The Town and as always, stay cultured.

Mike Bagshaw - Culture Vulture



Dani, Ush and Alpha from Hope United looking good in the new Health24 kit.

MEET A MERT!

CHARLIE MIDDLEMORE

Age: 27

Position: Centre Midfield / Centre Back

Who do you support? Manchester United

Where you from? Warrington

Best player of all time? Wayne Rooney

Best goal ever? Ronaldo v Portsmouth best goal I've seen live!

Favourite other sport? Boxing

Which player would you compare your playing style to? Don't know these days, a bit of Pogba in the day.

Tell us a bit about your football career so far, how are you finding it at town so far? Started off at Ashton Athletic, captain u18s and reserves then onto first team at 17/18. Then a short spell at AFC Liverpool then back to Ashton for a bit, then had a break from football. Returned briefly with Dagen, then coming to town for Peo.

Best moment in a Town shirt so far? Probably my first home game last season Stratford Paddock.

Best thing about Tellins? Feathers (Club physio and owner of the world's largest calves, Mike Featherstone - Ed.)

What are you watching? I'm boring, only watch videos / podcasts on football, boxing or UFC.

ABOUT THE SQUAD

Biggest moaner: Oliver Filson

Worst dancer: Alex Pettersen

Cleverest: I feel like Max should be.

Worst dressed: I would have said Jenko for his old trainers, but he's got rid of them now.

Least like to be stuck in a lift with: Lee O'Connor

Prefer to be stuck on a desert island with: Probably Max, feel he'd survive the longest.

Laziest: Oliver Filson - never seen him sprint, I do all his running.



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SEASON STATISTICS

Team	1-8	14/03	0-3	1-5	0-3	2-4	28/03	1-3	0-4	1-4	0-6	2-6	3-2
Billinge FC	5-2	28/03	1-3	28/03	1-3	2-4	28/03	1-3	0-4	1-4	0-6	2-6	3-2
Cheadle Heath Nomads	6-0	5-1	2-2	6-1	6-1	8-3	2-3	0-5	1-1	3-3	0-4	1-2	4-2
Clay Brow	2-1	24/03	1-2	0-5	3-2	3-1	2-1	17/03	2-3	14/03	3-2	1-3	1-2
Congleton Town Res	6-1	2-0	3-5	1-0	3-1	4-2	1-1	4-1	9-0	6-2	14/03	5-1	3-2
Daten FC	1-0	5-0	2-1	1-1	6-3	0-2	4-3	0-2	1-1	0-2	5-0	2-1	6-0
Egerton FC	4-0	3-2	1-1	2-3	0-2	4-3	1-0	28/03	3-0	4-2	4-0	21/03	6-1
Knutsford FC	9-0	8-1	0-7	2-1	0-4	2-1	0-1	2-3	0-4	0-3	7-6	6-4	3-2
Mersey Valley	6-1	4-4	1-0	2-0	2-2	14/03	2-1	2-1	3-1	21/03	0-4	6-0	6-0
Sandbach United Res	3-3	14/03	2-1	3-0	1-2	0-1	2-1	3-0	3-1	5-2	2-2	3-2	4-1
St Helens Town	4-1	8-2	2-4	0-1	2-2	1-3	1-3	5-2	1-1	28/03	3-3	4-3	4-1
Streton Paddock	8-0	2-3	2-4	0-1	2-2	1-3	1-3	2-2	3-3	4-2	2-3	1-1	1-1
Syal	2-1	3-1	2-3	2-1	4-1	4-1	2-1	2-6	1-5	2-2	4-0	2-1	H-W
Upton	1-1	5-2	4-1	4-1	2-1	2-4	2-1	1-4	1-4	28/03	0-2	2-1	4-1
Winsford Town	2-4	0-4	1-4	0-7	1-4	0-7	28/03	6-4	3-4	0-8	2-4	0-8	4-1
Winstanley Warriors													
Wythenshawe Reserves													

CHESHIRE LEAGUE 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Daten FC	23	18	3	2	79	32	47
2	Egerton FC	29	17	3	9	80	43	54
3	Winstanley Warriors	23	17	2	4	69	38	53
4	St Helens Town	20	14	3	3	64	28	36
5	Knutsford FC	22	14	1	7	53	36	17
6	Streton Paddock	23	12	5	6	48	39	9
7	Clay Brow	20	11	3	6	70	39	31
8	Congleton Town Res.	25	10	3	12	38	46	-8
9	Sandbach United Res.	18	9	5	4	45	28	17
10	Syal FC	22	9	4	9	55	54	1
11	Winstanley Warriors	22	9	2	11	57	56	1
12	Mersey Valley	24	8	1	15	56	82	-26
13	Upton JFC	24	4	7	13	56	72	-16
14	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	24	5	3	16	48	82	-34
15	Wythenshawe Res.	25	2	1	22	41	101	-60
16	Billinge FC	24	1	2	21	22	105	-83

TODAY'S FIXTURES

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

Cheshire League 1

14:00 Congleton Town Res v Syal FC	14:30 Billinge FC v Clay Brow
14:00 Daten FC v Winsford Town	15:00 St Helens Town AFC v Knutsford FC
14:00 Egerton FC v Winstanley W	15:00 Streton Paddock v Cheadle H.N.R
14:00 Sandbach Utd Res v Mersey Valley	

Leading Goalscorers

Player	Appearances	Goals	GP/G
Prescott	24(0)	15	0.68
Liam Diggle	18(2)	11	0.55
Cook	15(7)	8	0.36
Simpson	20(2)	7	0.32
Noonan	42(0)	6	0.25
Wetton	3(4)	5	0.71

	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	Curtis	Critchlow 1	Middlemore	Foster	Prescott	Diggle 2 (C)	Simpson	Leech	Atem1	Noonan	Clapham 1	Long		
06/08 A CFL	Winstanley Warriors	1-4	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Filson	Foster	Petersen	Filson	Diggle (C)	Cook	Clapham	Hanson	Luke Diggle	Hughes	Noonan	Atem	
12/08 A CFL	Upton JFC	3-3	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Filson	Foster	Petersen	Filson	Diggle (C)	Cook	Middlemore	Prescott	Atem	Hanson	Noonan1	Morris	
30/08 A CFL	Syal FC	5-2	Jenkinson	Long	Petersen	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Diggle (C)	Cook1	Middlemore	Prescott	Noonan1	Luke Diggle	Whitehead	Morris	
06/09 H CFL	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	4-4	Jenkinson	Bateman	Petersen	Sant	Luke Diggle	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Diggle 2 (C)	Morris	Prescott	Curtis 1	Noonan	Long	Atem	
13/09 A JAWCC	Ormskirk West End	1-6	Jenkinson	Bateman	Long	Sant	Curtis	Middlemore (C)	Petersen1	Morris	Noonan	Simpson1	Luke Diggle	Cook1	Foster	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow	
20/09 A CFL	Streton Paddock	3-0	Jenkinson	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Whitehead	Diggle (C)	Morris	Noonan	Yawson	Clapham	Cook		
27/09 A CFL	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	0-5	Jenkinson	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Diggle 2 (C)	Morris	Prescott2	Cook	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Foster	
04/10 A JAWCC	Rainhill Town	5-1	Davies	Bateman1	Luke Diggle	Foster	Curtis	Petersen	Simpson	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Middlemore (C)	Clapham	Prescott	Noonan1	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow	
18/10 A CFL	Egerton	0-2	Jenkinson	Bateman1	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Clapham	Noonan	Foster	Curtis	Clapham	
25/10 H CFL	Mersey Valley	0-4	Jenkinson	Bateman	Curtis	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott1	Noonan	Wetton1	Long	Foster	
25/10 H CFL	Sandbach Utd Res	2-1	Davies	Bateman	Curtis	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott1	Garrett	Long	Wetton1	Foster	
08/11 H CFL	Syal FC	3-1	Jenkinson	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Curtis1	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott1	Long	Gibson	Leech1	Noonan	
15/11 H CFL	Billinge FC	6-1	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow	Curtis	Filson	Wetton1	Middlemore	Diggle (C)	Gibson2	Clapham	Cook	Noonan1	Sant	Simpson1	
22/11 A CFL	Billinge FC	1-3	Jenkinson	Long	Gibson	Sant1	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Prescott	Noonan1	Diggle	Clapham1	Petersen		
29/11 H CFL	Winstanley Warriors	6-0	Jenkinson	Curtis	Gibson1	Sant	Critchlow1	Filson	Simpson	Diggle (C)	Cook2	Prescott	Clapham1	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Petersen		
10/01 H CFL	Winstanley Warriors	0-4	Jenkinson	Long	Simpson	Sant	Filson	Petersen	Prescott	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Gibson	Clapham	Garrett	Noonan	Foster	Bateman	
17/01 H CFL	Congleton Town Res	2-0	Jenkinson	Bateman	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Curtis	Filson	Prescott	Middlemore	Cook	Gibson	Clapham	Clapham	Noonan	Foster	Buckley-Benbow	
24/01 H CFL	Clay Brow	1-3	Jenkinson	Cottingham	Gibson	Sant	Curtis	Filson	Prescott	Middlemore	Noonan	Diggle 1 (C)	Gibson	Clapham	Cottingham	Critchlow	Leech	
31/01 A JAWCC	Maine Road Res	1-0	Jenkinson	Cottingham	Gibson	Filson	Sant	Critchlow	Prescott	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Clapham	Simpson	Noonan	Petersen	Clapham	Cook	
07/02 A JAWCC	Daten FC	2-1	Jenkinson	Bateman	Gibson	Sant1	Cottingham	Filson	Prescott2	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Clapham	Foster	Noonan	Watson	Wetton1	Foster	
21/02 H CFL	Mersey Valley	2-1	Jenkinson	Bateman	Gibson	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Prescott1	Middlemore	Cook1	Diggle (C)	Wetton	Noonan	Clapham	Whitehead	Foster	
07/03 A CFL	Winstanley Warriors	1-5	Jenkinson	Bateman	Buckley-Benbow	Curtis	Sant	Filson	Prescott2	Middlemore (C)	Simpson	Gibson	Wetton1	Noonan	Diggle	Cook1	Petersen	
14/04 H CFL	Knutsford FC																	
17/03 A CFL	Congleton Town Res																	
21/03 H CFL	Upton JFC																	
28/03 A CFL	Knutsford FC																	



THE SQUAD

A big thankyou to all our player sponsors.

Player sponsorship is available for £70, and (alongside the warm feeling you get knowing you're helping support your local team), you will also receive a visible presence in the programme as well as on social media.

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Liam Diggie **MID**
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Oliver Filson **MID**
Sponsored by: Prostate Cancer UK



Pacey Garrett **MID**
Sponsored by: Triprint



Ellis Evans **GK**
Sponsored by: TNZ Global



Lewis Jenkinson **GK**
Sponsored by: Ste Lingard & Flat Back Four



Lewis Bateman **DEF**
Sponsored by: St Helens Eats



Max Buckley-Benbow **DEF**
Sponsored by: Stuart Pyke



Archie Hanson **MID**
Sponsored by: Hanson Property Services



Charlie Middlemore **MID**
Sponsored by: John McKiernan



Paul Watson **MID**
Sponsored by: The Jenkinsons



Dale Whitehead **MID**
Sponsored by: PSD



Chris Cottingham **DEF**
Sponsored by: Stuart Pyke



Jack Critchlow **DEF**
Sponsored by: Michael Allison



Dean Curtis **DEF**
Sponsored by: St Helens Nutrition



Luke Diggie **DEF**
Sponsored by: St Helens Eats



Ryan Cook **FWD**
Sponsored by: Haresfinch Blues



Will Clapham **FWD**
Sponsored by: Universal Tanker Solutions



Marc Gibson **FWD**
Sponsored by: Stove Fitter UK



Charlie Leech **FWD**
Sponsored by: The Clone Roses



Chris Foster **DEF**
Sponsored by: Beha Yoga



Harry Long **DEF**
Sponsored by: Compliance Education



Alex Pettersen **DEF**
Sponsored by: Rosewood Joinery



Jake Sant **DEF**
Sponsored by: Chapel House



Ben Noonan **FWD**
Sponsored by: AJGL Contractors



Taylor Prescott **FWD**
Sponsored by: The Clone Roses



Charlie Simpson **FWD**
Sponsored by: Tony Dawson



Ethan Wetton **FWD**
Sponsorship Available

TOWN IN ACTION

St Helens Town AFC 2 - 1 Mersey Valley - February 21st

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Jake Sant & Charlie Middlemore



Ryan Cook making friends



Marc Gibson

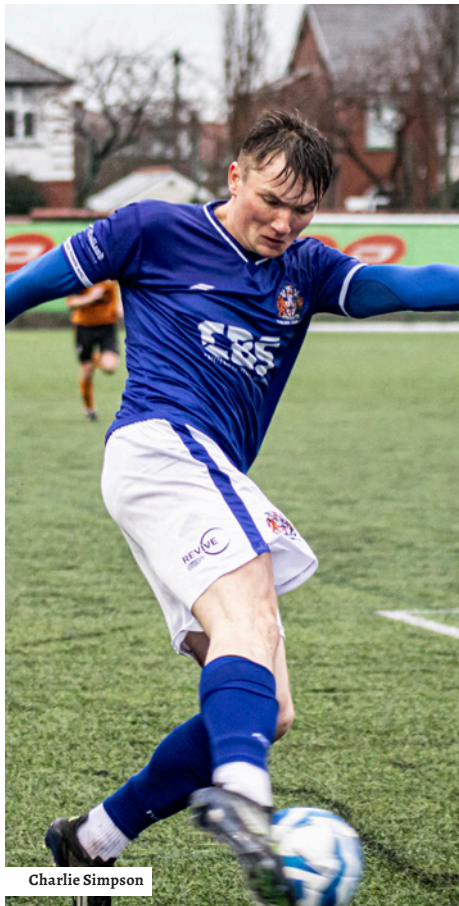
Town went into this clash knowing that nothing less than a victory would be good enough against a Mersey Valley side that had consistently caused problems when visiting the PSD Rentals Stadium in recent seasons.

Town were on top in the first quarter and would be rewarded for their hard work on 25 minutes when Lewis Bateman's cross shot skidded off the greasy surface across the face of the goal and Ryan Cook was quickest to react to deflect the ball in and put Town one nil up. Further chances would fall to Ethan Wetton after he bravely hurdled a last defender intent on scything him down and to Liam Diggle but it remained one nil going into half time.

At the start of the second half, Town started slowly and were punished within the first few minutes when a Valley cross shot ricocheted off Jake Sant into his own net. With the second half now locked up at 1-1 both teams could have been forgiven for agreeing to pack up and take a point each given the almost biblical levels of rainfall in the 20 minutes after half time. But for the excellent facilities on offer at Ruskin this game may likely have been postponed or abandoned as many others in the North West were and local fans will be thankful that the game was completed because the Saints stepped up a gear in the last quarter.

Successive chances for Liam Diggle and Jake Sant had the Town fans that had crammed into the main stand to avoid the downpour thinking that it would not be Town's day but it was a double substitution from Manager Paul Piert that changed all that. Livewire substitute Charlie Simpson's run on 77 minutes was the catalyst for Town's victory with Simpson's powerful running style with the ball taking him past three defenders before his on target shot was parried by the Valley keeper.

Taylor Prescott was on hand to finish the rebound calmly and put Town 2-1 up just as the crowd were starting to get nervous. As the clock ticked down his fellow substitute Ben Noonan would also have an impact. The youngster's workrate was phenomenal in keeping the Mersey Valley defenders on their toes and one passage of play in particular had the crowd chanting his name when he seemed to prevent the Valley back four from getting out of their quarter such was his will to defend from the front. Town took the spoils and Lewis Bateman took the St. Helens Borough Food Pantry player of the match award for his all action display at right back.



Charlie Simpson



FOOD PANTRY
ST HELENS BOROUGH

Player of The Match Lewis Bateman



Ethan Wetton

ST HELENS TOWN AFC U23s

St Helens Town AFC U23s 3 - 2 Egerton FC Reserves - February 28th

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Ellis Daverin



Ole Croxton



The team celebrate Ole's winner

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Cheshire Reserve League 2

14/03	12:15	U23s v Styal Res.	Ruskin Drive
21/03	12:15	U23s v Haydock Res.	Ruskin Drive
28/03	14:00	Styal Res. v U23s	Altrincham Rd, SK9 4JE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Winsford Town Res.	17	8	6	3	46	37	9	30
2	St Helens Town U23s	13	9	2	2	41	23	18	29
3	Styal Res.	13	9	1	3	52	28	24	28
4	Warrington Rylands Dev. Res.	14	8	1	5	50	41	9	25
5	Winstanley Warriors Res.	13	7	2	4	36	28	8	23
6	Golborne Sports Dev.	14	4	2	8	28	31	-3	14
7	Egerton FC Res.	14	4	2	8	35	50	-15	14
8	Haydock Res.	10	3	2	5	24	28	-4	11
9	Moore United Dev.	15	2	2	11	21	60	-39	8
10	Newton-Le-Willows Res.	11	1	4	6	27	34	-7	7

With no first team game for Town, attention turned to the St. Helens Town under 23s who have the Cheshire reserve league two title in their sights.

The young side under the tutelage of club stalwart Danny Hughes and Gav Hanson kept up their title chase with a vital 3-2 victory over Egerton at PSD Rentals Stadium, Ruskin this past weekend.

Goals from Marc Gibson, George Roberts and Ole Croxton ensured that the young Town team need to win the six remaining fixtures to win the league which would be a huge achievement for the management team in it's first season in charge.

ST HELENS TOWN AFC U18s

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni

NEXT FIXTURE

Sunday 15th March

14:15 Chorley v St Helens Town AFC U18s
Westthroughton Community Leisure Centre, BL5 3BZ



		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Abbey Hey	13	9	3	1	30
2	Pilkington	12	8	1	3	25
3	Chorley	13	8	1	4	25
4	Stalybridge Celtic	14	7	3	4	24
5	Atherton Collieries	13	6	5	2	23
6	Nantwich Town	9	5	2	2	17
7	Altrincham Youth	12	5	0	7	15
8	Clitheroe	11	4	2	5	14
9	St Helens Town	16	4	1	11	13
10	CMB	12	2	2	8	8
11	Cheadle Town	15	2	0	13	6

THE Class of 92 at Salford City, Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney turbo-charging Wrexham and even Boyzone rocking up at Chorley, the Non-League game has long been appealing to celebrity investors.

And that shows no signs of slowing.

"The game is evolving and so are we," said Dagenham & Redbridge chairman Anwar Uddin, who captained the club to the Football League back in 2007.

It came as the National League South club revealed YouTube star KSI was becoming a shareholder.

KSI boasts over 17 million subscribers and over four billion views on his main channel. He is also a main judge on ITV's Britain's Got Talent.

In a statement, the 32-year-old told of his dream to take Dagenham & Redbridge all the way to the Premier League.

"I'm so excited to start this journey," the megastar said. "It's gonna be a rollercoaster for sure but I hope to

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bring Dagenham and Redbridge back to the glory days. And once we reach that point, I want to go even further.

"Reaching the Premier League would be a dream. And I believe it is 100% doable. It will take a long time, so to the Daggers fans, please be patient.

"I want you to know that I am fully committed to making sure Dagenham and Redbridge is a team that everyone will know worldwide, and will be an exciting team to watch and support.

"I've been watching games secretly at home for months on YouTube streams so it feels so good to finally show my support publicly."

As it would happen, Daggers won their first game under KSI's watchful gaze when they beat league leaders Dorking Wanderers 1-0.

Of course, opinions will vary on any celebrity involvement – as it did at Salford and Wrexham – but it's fair to say the digital eyes of the world are on Non-League like never before. Technology has made the world a much smaller place and the game's reach is greater than ever. Digital content is a huge factor in raising that awareness.

Last weekend, Witham Town enjoyed their biggest attendance in history – 1,205 – after YouTuber Ellis Platten encouraged his army of followers from his popular Away Days channel down to watch Town's game against Gorleston in the Isthmian North.

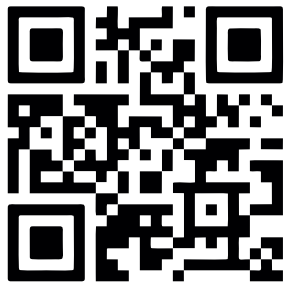
"I think the English pyramid is the best in the world for many reasons," Platten, who boasts 587,00 subscribers, said. "But one of the reasons is you can go anywhere in the country and within five minutes there will be a team which has a community to it. I don't think there is anywhere else in the world that can rival that."

Matt Badcock, Editor - The Non-League Paper



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BEAT THE YICKER

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Who was the England manager when David Beckham made his first senior appearance?
2. Who became the Premier League's oldest goalscorer when he scored for West Ham United against Portsmouth in December 2006?
3. Tony Mowbray was manager of which club between 2010 and 2013? a) Ipswich Town b) Kilmarnock c) Middlesbrough
4. Craig Bellamy has scored goals for seven Premier League clubs. How many can you name?
5. Which Arsenal striker scored six seconds after coming into the game as a substitute during the North London derby in December 2007?
6. Which English Football League club play their home games at Kenilworth Road?
7. Who scored Scotland's goal when they beat England 1-0 at Wembley in November 1999?
8. Which club did Chelsea beat 8-0 in December 2012? a) Sunderland b) Wigan Athletic c) Aston Villa
9. Which player scored his first goal for Boca Juniors in 1981, his first Barcelona in 1982, Napoli in 1984 and Sevilla in 1992?
10. Marcus Rashford scored his first senior Manchester United goal in a Europa League clash against which team? a) Fc Midtjylland c) FC Copenhagen c) AaB Fodbold



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

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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

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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 Prescott 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)
78 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)

