

TOWN



Saturday 15th March 2025 - £2



ST HELENS TOWN A.F.C.

v



CRITICAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LTD





CRITICAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LTD

Industry Leaders in Critical Infrastructure Electrical Installation & Life Safety Systems

Critical Business Solutions Ltd
Unit 14, Haydock Cross, Kilbuck Ln,
Haydock, Saint Helens WA11 9UX

www.criticalbusinesssolutions.com
enquiries@criticalbusinesssolutions.com

WE ARE HIRING!

Are you an experienced Electrical Engineer looking for your next challenge?

Join our diverse team of experts and grow your career today.

CONTACT US:

careers@criticalbusinesssolutions.com

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the PSD Stadium at Ruskin Drive for today's match against Stretford Paddock.

This is our third meeting of the season, but the first at home, so welcome to all from Paddock and fingers crossed for an afternoon of good football.

Last Saturday a crowd of 255 witnessed our cup game against Clay Brow. The result wasn't what we wanted, but congratulations to our opponents and good luck to them for the final. An attendance of that size is truly remarkable at this level of football, though, and worth reflecting on.

It was the highest for a Town game at Ruskin since hosting the then AFC Bury in the North West Counties League in 2021, which filled the place to its 600+ capacity, thanks largely to their famous travelling support. Other than that, 255 is probably the highest attendance for any of our home games since returning to play in St. Helens at the start of the 2017/18 season, or certainly right up there.

Town average home attendances for NWCL games in those years ranged from 70-odd to the low end of 100-odd, with occasional exceptions. Home support in the few games at Ruskin in the early months of this season was a little higher than that, but has increased significantly in recent games, with crowds going from 120, to 130 and more than 155 in the one before the semi-final last week.

It has also been striking that people are travelling to support us at away matches. The 57 seat coach trip to Hyde in February was exceptional, but there have routinely been 20-30 blue hats joining in 'Charlie Had a Budgie' at grounds across the Cheshire League. It helps the lads on the pitch, and it gives all of

us a sense that collectively we are doing something right. Thank you everyone for your support.

I hope that this trend continues for the final part of the season, which includes six home and three away games (at Maine Road, Halton Farnworth and Moore United). Join us, for what is sure to be an exciting journey.

Come on the Town!

Ste Lingard



REVIVE

TAKING CLEANING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL CLEANING

reviveclean.co.uk

07488 812288

contact@reviveclean.co.uk

A WORD WITH THE MANAGER

Myself and the club would like to welcome everyone from Stretford Paddock 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 thank everyone who turned up to watch us in the semi final last week. It was amazing to see so many people here supporting us.

Unfortunately we fell just short, but I think everyone went away feeling the same as us, the best team lost on the day.

Saying that, good luck to Clay Brow in the final, I hope they enjoy their day.

As for the game, I'm still not sure what happened. We were absolutely brilliant for 85% of the match and somehow lost.

The glaring thing was our wasted opportunities in front of goal, which wasn't just one or two players but numerous lads who failed to capitalise on how well we played.

That's the only game all season that Jenko hasn't made a save but conceded 3 goals.

From a management point of view the performance was very good and we hope to continue it into today's game which is another very tough game against a very tough opponent.

We have met twice already this season with a draw in the league, and a defeat in the cup.

We know what to expect and we know what we need to put right from the cup game where Paddock were the better team from start to finish.

Keep getting behind the lads and pushing on it's always appreciated.

#tellinstown #merts

#tellinstown #mertz

Peo



MCR Building Supplies Ltd

Member of the MCR Group of companies



Residential

- ✓ Bricks
- ✓ Artstone
- ✓ Lintels
- ✓ Insulation
- ✓ Roofing
- ✓ Dry Lining



Industrial

- ✓ Drainage
- ✓ Attenuation
- ✓ Gas Barriers
- ✓ Hard Landscaping
- ✓ Bypass separators

Commercial

- ✓ Blocks
- ✓ Fire Protection
- ✓ Masonry Support systems
- ✓ Acoustic solutions



THE
GRIFFIN
INN

Serving home
cooked food and
hosting events for
all occasions.

griffininn.co.uk

ECCLESTON

01744 27907

Your local pub,
restaurant &
hotel.



MCR Building Supplies Ltd

The Meadows, Ruskin Dr, Saint Helens WA10 6RP

Email: accounts@mcrbs.co.uk • Tel: 01744 333059





A WORD FROM THE MANAGER

It fills me with sadness that I write this.

A couple of weeks ago, I informed St Helen's Town AFC that I will be stepping down as manager of the U23s team at the end of the current season. It has been a wonderful two and a half years at the club and will always be a key moment in my coaching journey.

I feel it is now time to hand over the ropes to someone else and look for a new challenge. The support of all the first team players, the committee (in particular Stylesy, who was influential in me taking the role) and Gaffer Peo will be remembered forever, and I'll be eternally grateful.

Peo, what a pleasure it has been to work alongside him and be supported by him. He has listened to my opinion on my players and has supported their development into the first team. We have the same passion and determination for the club to continue to progress. I wish Peo and the first team all the best in chasing titles, and success.

To the former U18s gaffer, Paul Hilton, who was influential for supporting a pathway from U18s, to U23s into first team football. Current U18s Manager, Carlos, has formed a great core group of lads and is working hard on the pathway for his players which is brilliant to see. I wish Carlos all the best.

A special mention for the fantastic photography work of Mary, the lads and I appreciate all you do and your continued support - keep up the hard work!

My assistant, Joe Bone, who has definitely been more than an assistant. This has been the best signing I have made during my coaching career and his work on and off the pitch has made my job a lot easier. Joe has a big future in coaching ahead of him, we'll keep in touch and I wish him all the luck.

The biggest thank you of all, thank you to all of the players past and present who have featured for me over the last 2 and a half seasons for the U23s. It is without a doubt, the best group of lads that I have had the pleasure of managing and hope our paths cross one day in the future. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Our U23s team have given opportunities to 16 year olds, we have given opportunities to 30+ year olds who have had a break from football and now back playing with a first team. Six of the current first team players progressed through our U23s team. When I joined the club, I said I'd push lads into the first team and I've done it. A team highlight was definitely going 9 games unbeaten last season, a personal highlight is definitely seeing the success of the pathway that has been created at the club.

No matter what I do next, or where I am coaching; I will always be a St Helen's Town AFC supporter and the club will always stay in my heart.

Matt Birchall

FREE FOOTY



Free turn up and play football for all **11-16** year olds.

Run by qualified and experienced coaches.

**Every Monday
5pm-6pm
Starts Monday 24th February**

Parr Sports & Community Centre

Derbyshire Hill Road,
St Helens, WA9 2LH

**For more info email:
towninthetown2024@gmail.com**

Town in the Town

Strengthening Community & Welcoming All



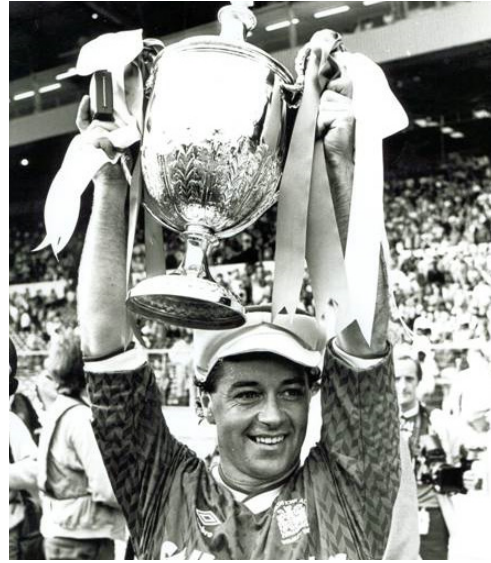
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

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 first in the Cheshire League.

The rebuild is ongoing.

MIKE EDWARDS SERVICES



@NEW ROAD



MOT TEST STATION - SERVICING - DIAGNOSTICS - REPAIRS

0151 4309412

28-30 New Rd, Prescot, L34 6JT

01744 739233

CULTURE VULTURE

IF YOU TOLERATE THIS, YOUR CHILDREN WILL BE NEXT

With everything that's happening in the world right now, you'd be forgiven for thinking I'm about to dive into a hard-hitting political or human rights article.

Alas, I'll keep it football-related. That said, much like everything in life, you can't escape politics. In fact, football is deeply entrenched in politics and has often been misused by everyone from power-hungry dictators to WAGs airing their dirty laundry to the highest bidder.

The reason I've borrowed the title of Manic Street Preachers' 1998 number-one hit is this: As I've mentioned in previous programme articles, as well as my love for the mighty Town, I'm also a Manchester City supporter. I first started following City when I moved to Manchester in the '90s, a fresh-faced 18-year-old full of dreams and wonder. At the time, City was going through their worst spell in history—sounds familiar, doesn't it?—and had found themselves, for the first time ever, in the third tier of English football. But this only encouraged me to get even more behind the club, especially since I could literally see the ground from my bedsit window.

Supporting City during this time was a lifestyle choice I fully embraced in my adopted Manchester. My grandad was a Mancunian and a City fan, so I had the credentials. Now, I'm starting to forget what I was talking about... Oh yes, The Manics...

A friend of mine, Dante, helps run the 1884 Group, a dedicated group of City supporters who organise flag displays in the South Stand of the Etihad

and also lobby the club on fan issues. Since I'm somewhat capable of making a video or two on my iMac, Dante occasionally asks me for help with the group's social media campaigns.

This time, he wanted to highlight the supporters' discontent with City's current ticketing policies. The club has frozen new season tickets for the past five seasons with no plans to reintroduce them. This leaves new generations of families and friends unable to attend matches in the tradition they've grown accustomed to. Individual adult matchday tickets now start at around £62, among other issues.

I know football is tribal, and rival fans might read this and dismiss it with a "price of success, mert!," but the truth is, this behaviour is mirrored across the Premier League and beyond. The game has been pushed away from the working-class roots it was built upon in inner cities and industrial towns, and now it's largely in the hands of billionaires and football tourists.

So, as we rebuild Town and start our journey back up the leagues, let's enjoy this little adventure together and work to build a club for everyone in the town—no matter who you are, where you live, or where you're originally from.



Coalfields football at Parr Sports & Community Centre



Alpha from Hope United repping his new football club.

COMMUNITY UPDATE!

Our charity, Town in the Town, has been continuing its excellent work. The free football sessions at Parr Sports every Monday from 5-6pm have been a great success, with 19 children attending the most recent session.

Our refugee team, Hope United, is set to compete in the Community Cup here at Ruskin on Thursday, April 24th. Teams representing charities from across the borough will take part in a 7-a-side competition, raising awareness for their services. More details will be released soon, so keep an eye on Town's social media and matchday programmes.

Anyroads, enjoy the game and C'mon The Town

Mike Bagshaw

Culture Vulture

MEET A MERT!

MARY CASTROGIOVANNI

Age: 17 **Position:** Unofficial Club Photographer

Who's your 2nd team? Man United

Where are you from? Heywood

Best Tellins establishment?

Favourite past establishment is probably between just the job (just remember going there a lot when I was little), the clockface pub or Darwin's music shop (always got a guitar pick for a guitar I didn't have when I went there), present I'll have to say Blackburns cos it's just a good pie shop.

What are you watching?

My favourite film is obviously The Keeper but also I love The Lost Boys, but also I've watched Spike Island more times than necessary, my favourite TV show is probably between My Mad Fat Diary, Father Ted, The IT Crowd and Friday Night Dinner.

What are you listening to?

To be honest the most random bunch of stuff ever, Ten Storey Love Song by The Stone Roses, Sometime in the Morning by The Monkees, Name For You by The Shins or You Win Again by The Bee Gees constantly on repeat at the moment.

How long have you been following Town?

I've been following town since Saturday 3rd August 2013, I don't remember the game but it was the first league game after town and man city legend Bert Trautmann passed it was a home game and we drew 3-3 against Norton United (good old counties days).

Why / how did you start following Town?

I started following town because I was forced to come down by my dad, but I didn't really actually fall in love with the club until my 11th birthday in 2018 where I got a card and money off the players (oh yeah and Liam Diggle scored his first ever hattrick for town).

High point and Low point of following Town?

Low point will have to be relegation because obviously it's gonna be a low point, but this season has been the high point for sure, the players, fans, committee and players parents are beyond lovely and supportive of me and I don't know what I'd do without them.

Favourite players, past and present? So my

past favourite players will have to be Elliott Hughes and Jamie Apperley because they were absolute ballers and lovely people, will also have to add on there Tom Jackson (my coach partner) and Kenny Dixon who's basically my biggest cheerleader, favourite current players will have to be Liam Diggle, Foz, Jenko, Scott and

if we are adding U23s into the mix Taylor Moffat and Anthony McNamara. But also Chris Greene I don't know what category he would go into but he's amazing!

Favorite away ground? I'm gonna have to say Nelson because of the little row of cottages, but then again Daisy Hill brings back memories for me personally because it was where I first tried photography using a camera and not using my phone it's just sentimental you know, but in the Cheshire league I'm gonna have to say Mersey Valley I love their set up especially the shipping container with their initials on it.

Do you have any prized possession / memorabilia? Well I'll have to say my

5 birthday cards I've had over the different seasons 2018/19, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 just because of the kind messages people had put in their, or the dinosaur teddy last season's lot got me for my birthday I sleep with it every night.

Any funny stories from your time following Town? I wasn't

there for this but in summer of 2023 the lads took a trip to Germany and I was sent 5 personalised messages from the lads one from Ciaran Lea, one from Tom Jackson and Ellis Daverin, Chris Greene, Matty Rochford and Gav and Baggy all presented by Peo, Matty Rochford was presented and the first thing to come out of his mouth was "hi Mary this is the rock here" so after that day that quote was repeated to me about 12 million times last season before it died out not forgetting Chris Greene put it on a cake cos that's apparently what every girl wants for her birthday :/



HOPE UNITED NEW TO ST HELENS? LOVE FOOTBALL?

REFUGEE FOOTBALL SESSIONS



**YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN
EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.30am
RUSKIN DRIVE, ST HELENS, WA10 6RP**

Come and join Hope United FC an inclusive team for refugees and asylum seekers. Play football for free and meet new people.

**For more information email:
sthelenstownafc@outlook.com**



Scan me!



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.

For information email us : sthelenstownafc@outlook.com



Paul Piert **MANAGER**
 Sponsored by: Gerard Songsters



Martin Seddon **ASSISTANT MANAGER**
 Sponsorship Available



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



Will White **GK**
 Sponsored by: Ste Lingard & Flat Back Four



Danny Hughes **MID**
 Sponsorship Available




Rob Marsh **MID**
 Sponsored by: Triprint



Ellis Morris **MID**
 Sponsored by: Epic Clean



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



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



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



Thomas Hunt **DEF**
 Sponsored by: Neil Hitchen



Charlie Middlemore **DEF**
 Sponsorship Available



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



Dale Whitehead **MID**
 Sponsored by: PSD



Scott Williams **MID**
 Sponsored by: John McKiernan



Ryan Cook **FWD**
 Sponsored by: Hope United




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



James Jones **DEF/MID**
 Sponsored by: Reid Autos



Will Clapham **MID**
 Sponsored by: CKP Group



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



Liam Diggle **FWD**
 Sponsored by: Kazbar




Charlie Leech **FWD**
 Sponsored by: Michael Allison



Charlie Simpson **FWD**
 Sponsored by: available@Town In The Town



Alex Slevin **FWD**



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



Pacey Garrett **MID**
 Sponsored by: Prescotts Signs



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



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



Ethan Wetton **FWD**
 Sponsored by: The Clone Roses

TOWN IN ACTION

Town 1 - 3 Clay Brow - March 1st

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Lewis Jenkinson



Max Buckley-Benbow



Ryan Cook heads the ball on to Luke Diggle for the equaliser



Charlie Leech



Scott Williams



The biggest crowd of the season so far saw Town go down fighting in the sun in this Liverpool FA Junior County Cup semi final at Ruskin.

The 255 in attendance were assured though that Town were not out of their depth at this level despite playing against a team a division higher than them. And, it was almost a perfect start for Town when in form Charlie Leech got round the back of the Clay Brow defence and crossed for Cook to go agonisingly close to putting Town one up.

In the opening exchanges that was the best of the chances but on 18 minutes a Clay Brow counter attack would see a clinical finish from Oliver Byrne put Brow ahead and 0-1 up at half time.

Town came out fighting in the second half with renewed vigor and Ryan Cook's clever hooked flick on would set Will Clapham free but he was denied by the Clay Brow keeper.

This chance would give Town the belief to push on and Charlie Leech was again a threat. His cross

on 55 minutes was flicked on by Cook and Luke Diggle volleyed home much to the delight of the partisan crowd. 1-1 and all to play for. Town were starting to win the midfield battle with Marc Gibson, Scott Williams and Liam Diggle showing their value against the higher division opposition.

But despite this Town could not capitalise and get a second goal. In the final quarter the tie looked to be headed for penalties but on 84 minutes a speculative looping effort from Darren Mea Foley evaded Jenkinson and Clay Brow had the lead again.

Paul Piert reverted to three at the back for the closing exchanges, in a move that has been successful in recent weeks but the comeback would evade Town this time and as the blues pushed forward with the large and vociferous crowd urging them on, Clay Brow broke with a counter attack again which was well finished by substitute Joe Whittingham and Town went down 1-3.

Scott Williams was awarded the St. Helens Borough Food Pantry player of the match award for Town.

ST. HELENS FOOTBALL
"DERBY DAY."

RECREATION v. TOWN.

THE CLUBS' RECORDS.

The formation and career of the St. Helens Town Association Football Club has undoubtedly given the Association game a strong impetus in the St. Helens district, and there can be little doubt, judging from what has transpired during the present season, that Association is the local game, from a football point of view, of the future. At one time the Rugby code held undisputed sway, but the conversion of the old St. Helens Recreation Club to the "Socker" game was a blow, with disastrous effects to the future prospects of Rugbyism in St. Helens. Before that time, and since, junior Association clubs have sprung up on every hand, while the older and better known "handling" clubs have been quietly disbanded and gradually retired into obscurity with, so far as can be seen at present, little chance of resurrection. The birth of the St. Helens Town A.F.C., its inclusion in the Lancashire League, and the undoubtedly brilliant displays which they have given in many of their engagements have made them strong rivals to the St. Helens Recreation A.F.C. in claiming the support of those favourable to the Association game, and with football enthusiasts practically divided into two camps—the Recs and the Townites—there has naturally been some warm discussions and strong arguments in football circles as to the respective merits of the teams. There have been many wishes expressed that the Recs. and the Townites could be brought together, and, as the season has advanced, this feeling has been intensified. The officials of the two clubs, however, knew of difficulties in the way, which could not be adequately stated, but it is satisfactory to know that these have at last been surmounted and that there will be a "batle royal" between the Recreation and the Town club on Saturday next. The occasion has been aptly described as the "Derby Day" so far as local football is concerned, and given fine weather everyone interested in the popular winter pastime is convinced that all previous records for attendance at football matches will be easily "smashed." The game will be played on the Recreation ground at City-road—a point greatly in favour of the success of the popular works team—but the Town players have a habit of "rising to the occasion," which adds the greatest uncertainty to considerations as to the probable result of the contest. So far as the matches of the two teams are concerned there is very little to guide one in the way of comparison. The Recs. and the Townites have taken part in separate organisations and different cup contests, and in neither case can one come to a satisfactory conclusion as to the merits of the teams under notice. The only thing about the matter upon which Associations speak with certainty is that the sup orters of the Recs. are confident that the City-road men will win, while the adherents of the Park-road club, and they are numerous, are equally positive that the Recs will find the Townites a very hard nut to crack.

In view of the importance of next Saturday's meeting it may be of interest to chronicle the performances of the two teams this season. The following table is a comparison of all matches played—including "Combination," "League," "friendlies" and cup-ties, up to and including last Saturday:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F. A.
Recreation	25	12	8	3	70-33
Town	26	13	10	3	48-46

TOWN BACK IN TIME

1901 In this feature, we take a journey through time to explore the history of St Helens Town.

The first town team was established in 1901 to rival St Helens Recreation. This original team played their matches at the Primrose Ground on Park Road.

The articles below provide a head-to-head comparison of the two rival teams, as reported by the St. Helens Newspaper and Advertiser before their encounter in February 1902.

The match ended in a 2-2 draw between The Recs and The Townites, with a massive crowd of over 5,000 spectators packing into the Rec's City Road Ground to witness the St Helens football showdown.

Unfortunately, no scorers are recorded for the match, but the Town team lineup was as follows:

- A. Hoy – Goalkeeper
- G. Stirrup and J. H. Wainwright – Full Backs
- E. Green, A. Limond, and G. Houghton – Half Backs
- J. Leigh, R. E. Brown, A. McGuffie, W. Walker, and G. Eccles – Forwards

The article also mentioned rumors of a potential merger between The Recs and The Townites, though this never came to fruition.

As we move forward, we would love to hear from former Town players, coaching staff, and committee members who have played for the club or have stories to share. We are looking to establish an Ex-Players Association, with regular meetings to share everyone's memories of the club.

If you are interested, please get in touch with us.

Michael O'Connor

An analysis of the matches played by the two clubs gives the following figures:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F. A.
Combination	18	9	6	3	54-27
Friendlies	3	2	1	0	14-3
Cup Ties	2	1	1	0	2-5

It is said that "figures can be made to prove anything," and it would appear from the foregoing tables that the Recreation are not only the better goal-getters, but are superior "net defenders." This, however, could only be a mere assumption, as there has been a very wide difference in the teams which the two clubs have played, and next Saturday's contest may possibly show that the team with the best goal-keeping for their own matches is not one whit superior to another playing a different series of games.

It is interesting to note that for the match in question both clubs will be represented by their strongest teams. The following players have been selected:—

ST. HELENS RECREATION.—J. Lee, goal; J. Hodgson and J. H. Brown, full-backs; G. Ellaby, J. Mees and W. Gaskell, half-backs; Leavor or Carr, J. Mercer, G. Roberts, G. Storey and F. Mercer, forwards.

ST. HELENS TOWN.—A. Hoy, goal; G. Stirrup and J. H. Wainwright, full-backs; E. Green, A. Limond and G. Houghton, half-backs; J. Leigh, R. E. Brown, A. McGuffie, W. Walker and G. Eccles, forwards.

FACTS FROM THE YEAR:

- Willis H. Carrier designs the first system to control temperature and humidity, inventing modern air conditioning.
- The fossils of a Tyrannosaurus rex are discovered by Barnum Brown in Hell Creek, Montana.
- Beatrix Potter writes her first Peter Rabbit story.
- Enrico Caruso makes his first gramophone recording.
- The Aswan Dam is completed in central Egypt, becoming the primary means of storing irrigation water for the Nile Valley.
- Cuba gains independence from Spain.

BEAT THE YICKER

Answers at the bottom of the page.

- Daisy Hill from the North West Counties League come from which town on t'houstkirts of Bolton?
- Bayern Munich beat which club at Wembley to win the Champions League in 2013?
- Today's visitors play home games at Hyde United but have previously played at which North West Counties League ground?
- Who was Barcelona's manager between 2003 and 2008?
- Which League One club play at St Andrews?
- Preston North End player Ryan Porteous has this week been called up to play for which nation?
- Jamie Carragher's son James plays for which EFL club?
- Music magician and 2nd best ginger in the world Ed Sheeran supports which Premiership club?
- Kaizer Chiefs FC are from which country?
- Which 2 teams will contest the Liverpool Junior cup final?



NOTICES.

ST. HELENS THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1862.

TWO LITTLE YAGABONDS.

J. HEWITT, 17, CHURCH STREET, ST. HELENS.

R. A. CLARKE, 12 & 14, WESTFIELD ST., ST. HELENS.

JOSEPH HEWITT, 27, CHURCH STREET, ST. HELENS.

St. Helens Newspaper & Advertiser

ST. HELENS INTELLIGENCER. Established 1853.

NO. 423. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1862.

NOTICES.

MACDONALD'S - ARTIFICIAL - TEETH.

OCEAN ACCIDENT & GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LTD.

CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

ST. HELENS CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE TRAMS STOP.

THE LITTLE SMART CHAP.

COMBINATION CHAIRS.

JOHN ANDERTON, 9, CHURCH STREET, ST. HELENS.

THOMAS WOODS, BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR, SHAW STREET.

ATLAS FURNISHING COMPANY.

COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS, CABINET MAKERS, AND UPHOLSTERERS, 107, CHURCH ST., ST. HELENS.

R. POWNALL, 27, CHURCH STREET, ST. HELENS.

WHY HIRE A HOUSE?

Follow me on Instagram for more... [RETRO_STHELENSTOWN AFC](#)



ST HELENS EATS

80+
TAKEAWAYS



DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!



YOUR LOCAL ORDERING APP

GET £5 OFF YOUR FIRST ORDER!

USE CODE: **UPTHETOWN**

Terms & Conditions apply, £5 off only applies to orders over £15 and only valid until 31/05/2025

CLUB INFO

Honorary Life President: Alan Wellens

Vice Presidents: Jim Barrett, Steve Ball and John McKiernan

Chair: Ste Lingard

Vice-Chair: Neil Hitchen

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, Kenny Dixon, Gill Ellison, Michael Featherstone, Neil Hitchen, 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: Danny Hughes

U23s Manager: Matt Birchall

U23s Assistant Manager: Joe Bone

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

Facebook: facebook.com/StHelensTownAFC

Instagram: sthelenstownafc



STHELENS TOWN A.F.C

In Loving Memory

A.E. Holland.

MEMORIALS LIMITED
EST - 1950

We are a family owned & run Memorial Company established in 1950. Throughout this time we have been successfully helping families across the northwest in providing a lasting reminder of their loved one, helping to provide a unique reflection of their loved ones personality and commemoration of their life. Our time served professional Memorial Masons have many years of experience carving & fitting memorials in a wide variety of stone material.

At A.E.Holland Memorials we understand how important choosing the perfect memorial can be. You may already have a clear idea of

what you want - be it traditional or modern, ornate or understated - and would like our craftsmen to make it a reality. Or perhaps you would simply like to browse our showroom & brochures for inspiration. Either way, you can rest assured of our complete care and attention and, naturally, the highest quality, lasting memorial.

Our services include: Headstones (Granite, Marble, Natural stone), Additional Inscriptions, Memorial Vases, Cleaning, Renovations/Repair of Memorials, Lettering/Engraving, Bespoke memorials, Handcut lettering, Cenotaph engraving, Memorial Tablets.



*"Those we Love remain with us
For Love itself lives on"*

- New Memorials
- Cleaning & Restoration
- Additional Inscriptions
- Bespoke Designs

✓ Free Estimates
We provide free no obligation estimates to all of our customers

✓ Highly Experienced
Family run business that have a combined workmanship of almost 60 years

Call us today for a free no obligation estimate
01744 25922
ahollandmemorials.co.uk



Providing Memorials, Headstones and Gravestones across St Helens, Liverpool & the North West

59 Greenfield Road, Denton's Green, St Helens, WA10 6SL

Craftsman Built Memorials Since 1950

BRAMM

MERTZ MERCH!



CLONE ROSES TRAINING SHIRT
£25

BUTTON BADGE
£1

BEANIES
LARGE - £13.50
SMALL - £12.50



SCARF
£15



T-SHIRT
£12.50



REPLICA TOPS
ADULT £30
CHILDREN £25



BUCKET HAT
£15

To purchase, email : STHELENSTOWN AFC@OUTLOOK.COM



YOUR LOCAL TOWN CENTRE PRINT SHOP

- Leaflets
- Business Cards
- Business Stationery
- Photocopying
- Wedding Stationery
- Invitations
- Order of Service
- Finishing
- Graphic Design
- Posters
- Pop Up Banners
- Scanning



Tel: 01744 808385
 80 Cloughton Street, St. Helens. WA10 1SN
 E-mail: sales@triprint.net ▪ www.triprint.net

Find us on
 @TriprintStHelens
 @Triprint1

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 Lancs 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

Record Attendances:

- 9000 at Prescott Cables v Runcorn (1949)
- 8000 at Houghton Road v Man City (1950)
- 3012 at Houghton 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)
72 Arthur Tyrer	34 Andy Gillespie 2015/16	278 Jimmy Woodyer (67 estimated)
68 Phil Stainton	33 Ronnie Rigby 1952/53	276 Iain Dyson
63 Mervyn Bull	32 Harry McCann 1950/51	272 Ray Fairweather (3 estimated)
62 Liam Diggle	31 Terry Garner 1950/51	265 Larry Redmond (134 estimated)

