

TOWN



Saturday 15th November 2025 - £2



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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the PSD Stadium at Ruskin Drive for today's game, and in particular to our visitors from the other side of Carr Mill Dam, Billinge FC.

This is the first of back-to-back fixtures against Billinge, with the 'away' game next week taking place at Sutton Leisure – just up the road from our traditional home at Hoghton Road. We've been glad to receive strong support home and away over the last couple of seasons, and hope it will be especially good for these two local interest matches.

Performances in the last two home games have given the Town fans present plenty to cheer, with maximum effort on display and strong finishes clinching maximum points. Even neutrals will have been impressed by the standard of football and the excitement provided by the jeopardy lasting until late in each game.

Participants at the 'Beat the Yicker – Live!' quiz night last Saturday – were also impressed with the effort (Captain Diggle wasn't taking any prisoners in the 'fetch a blade of grass round'), excitement (could you guess the mystery object – shrouded in a mysterious...clear plastic bag?!), and jeopardy (keepy-uppy with a rugby ball in a room full of beer glasses) it provided.

It was genuinely hilarious. Thank you to everyone who took part, and to those who organised it – especially Andy Langley, who did a sterling job devising the quiz and presiding over it as a cross between Magnus Magnusson and Chris Kamara.

Football clubs are about events like that almost as much as they are football matches. We can't run the club without raising funds and being a big community

of willing volunteers working together, as the players work together on the pitch. You would be very welcome to help too, as there is always lots to do: whether setting up the PA, capturing video clips, managing the kit and replica shirt stock, or helping run events – there's something for everyone. Give any of us a shout on a matchday or contact us via social media and we'll welcome you warmly.

Now, to business: 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 Billinge FC 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.

Another home game!! My goodness after weeks on the road we finally have a few home games.

Before we get into the footy, big shout out to Langers who hosted our first Town Quiz Night and my god it was comedy gold.

I was made up with last week's performance against a much improved Style team (although I don't like going a goal down before we start to play LOL).

The mental strength of this bunch of lads is unbelievable - they never know when they are beat. It was also good to welcome Marc Gibson and Charlie Leech back into the squad - it just makes the strength in depth even better.

This week we host our near neighbours Billinge and trust me, despite their position in the league we know it won't be an easy game.

We have been where they are right now; rebuilding and getting players in, so it will be treated like every other game.

Thank you for your continued support.

#tellinstown #mertz

Peo



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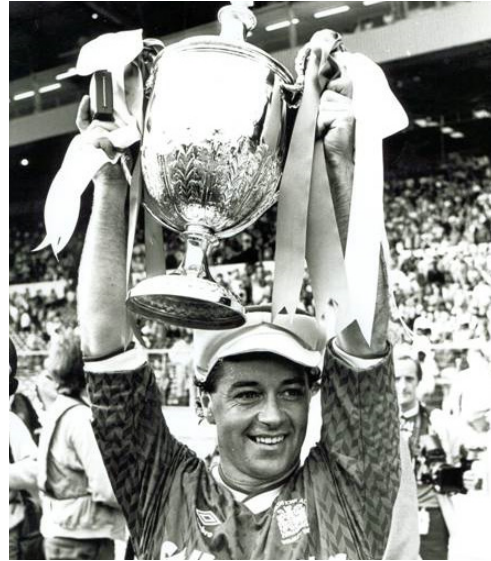
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

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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CULTURE VULTURE

CHICKEN MAN AND THE BAD EGGS... NETFLIX



So, those of you who've been reading my articles for a while — good on ya — will have seen my previous interviews and pieces with St Helens' punky alt-crossover chaos merchants, Chicken Man and the Bad Eggs. I recently caught up with frontman Ryan "Moz" Morris to find out what the band's been up to since we last spoke.

It's great to have you back in the programme! What's new with Chicken Man and The Bad Eggs since we last caught up?

What's new? Well, we've had our ups and our downs and came out on top really. With members coming and going we was at a crossroads deciding whether it's time to throw in the towel. We were on the hunt for a new drummer and new lead guitarist and thankfully Shrives being Shrives put the feelers out everywhere he went, he was relentless then we ended recruiting both members at the same time! Shrives drunk in the Turks Head, probably one of the many nights he would sneak his hip flask into the boozier to play poker, spoke with the

landlord and it's there we found our young Ben and Ted, a drummer and guitarist that were available and were after a gig. We introduced ourselves and we've never looked back. Kudos to Shrives, he kept the dream alive!

We've been in the studio recently and we've just put out a new single NETFLIX, this is about going through a breakup and keeping their NETFLIX password. In true CMATBE fashion, we continue to take the micky and have a laugh when we write our music.

Next release will be a song called P45 for all those who hate their 9-5 (it's a beauty), then we have a couple more out of the set to follow. One is called "Stuntman Stan", it's about Tom Cruise's stuntman who never gets the gig. It's been amazing to be back recording and now we can start to be consistent with our releases. Shout out to our Producer, Jono at ALLO SOUND, we couldn't recommend him enough to anyone out there looking for a place to record.

We've also started a new project for our new practice room, shout out to Clock Face Recreation Club for having us back. We've literally ripped out the



room and started from scratch its really coming together, there's definitely a new creative buzz going around in the new space, so plenty more songs are in the works. It's an exciting time, we can't wait to really give it a good go in 2026.

For those who haven't heard you yet — how would you describe Chicken Man and The Bad Eggs in three words?

Energy, Chaos, Original

Have there been any standout moments or gigs since your last feature?

We've been spending a lot of time writing new material, so the gigs of recent haven't been thick and fast. However, we're gigging more and more now so I would say this is the perfect time to shout out St Helens band, KAINED. With us both representing our town we are doing a lot of gigs together recently and they always go off. Next time you see us on a bill together, you need to get down, it'll blow your undies off. Besides that, I think the biggest standout moment for us was supporting Inspiral Carpets, to play venues like the Holmfirth Picture Drome, and the Welly in Hull. That will stick with us forever, there are some funny tales behind those gigs as well. What a time.

If you could support any artist or band, past or present, who would it be?

For me (MOZ), I'd have to say supporting Ozzy Osbourne. RIP to the Prince of Darkness. Imagine the scenes, it would be wild and hilarious. I'm sure the others would have their own choices, I think

Katie would be shouting Steely Dan, Shrives would be shouting Nirvana, Tash would be shouting Amyl and the Sniffers, and Ben & Ted, who knows probably Deftones or Slipknot. But I'm just spitballing here, they might say I'm well off.

What's the latest with your music — any new releases, projects, or plans on the horizon?

As mentioned, NETFLIX is out now and available on all streaming platforms, we're sat on a couple of tunes, and we already have our eye on the next tunes we'll be recording in the studio. Follow us on Spotify, Apple Music, all that Jazz to keep up with what we're up to — @cmatbe is our username on social media.

How has your sound or style evolved since the early days of the band?

We've always kept our PUNK edge, but with our latest recruit Katie, we now have synth in the band which is cool. It gives us so much more depth and opportunity to take our music in different directions from what we are used to. We are always experimenting in the practice room. Katie also has a set of pipes, her vocals are amazing so we now have our very own Rowetta in the mix, so the possibilities are endless.

Who are some other local or regional bands or artists you think deserve a mention right now?

KAINED, don't be a dafty, get to know them. They are our brothers, and they can put on one hell of a performance. I say loving it, you say Lynch.

If Chicken Man and The Bad Eggs were to write a song inspired by football — what would it be called?

Off the top of my head, I think there's something about the story of Raoul Moat and Gazza that could be turned into a belter tune. What could we call it? I'll have to have a think about that one.

If the band were a football team, who would be in goal and who'd be the manager?

Hmm, well it's a toss up between Ben and Tash in net, because they're safe as houses live. But Ben has the height advantage, so I'll go with him. For the Manager, well Shrivs kept the whole thing alive, Tash keeps everyone in line, and it's me who's the mediator for the 6 of us. It's a shared role our Management – But it's me writing this so I'll take the position haha.

Finally — when can merts next catch you live, and where can people follow your latest updates?

We're looking to wrap up the year doing a gig on home turf, SIN TELLINS!! We're finalising a date in the Vault, it'll be in December, guess who with? Our good friends KAINED of course. So, keep an eye on our socials - @cmatbe and you'll find all our updates there.

Thanks for reading, stay cultured and c'mon The Town.

Mike Bagshaw

Culture Culture



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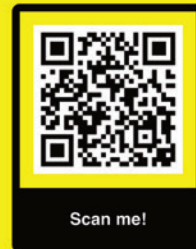
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THE SQUAD

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SEASON STATISTICS

| Opposition | 15/12 | 0-3 | 1-5 | 0-3 | 2-4 | 22/11 | 0-4 | 1-4 | 0-6 | 29/11 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Billinge FC | | 0-3 | 1-5 | 0-3 | 2-4 | 22/11 | 0-4 | 1-4 | 0-6 | 29/11 |
| Cheadle Heath Nomads | | 1-3 | 1-3 | 2-5 | 2-5 | 22/11 | 0-5 | 3-3 | 29/11 | 1-2 |
| Clay Brow | | 15/11 | | 6-1 | 8-3 | | 0-1 | | | |
| Congleton Town Res | | | 1-2 | 0-5 | 29/11 | | 06/12 | | 1-3 | 2-3 |
| Daten FC | | 15/11 | 3-5 | 1-0 | 4-2 | | 06/12 | 9-0 | 13/12 | 5-1 |
| Egerton FC | | 1-0 | 5-0 | 2-1 | 6-3 | | 22/11 | 1-1 | 15/11 | 3-2 |
| Knutsford FC | | 4-0 | 3-2 | 1-1 | 29/11 | | 0-2 | 4-3 | 3-0 | 6-0 |
| Mersey Valley | | 8-1 | 0-7 | 2-1 | 0-4 | | 2-1 | 0-4 | 2-3 | 0-4 |
| Sandbach United Res | | 9-0 | 15/11 | 4-4 | | | 06/12 | | 1-6 | 15/11 |
| St Helens Town | | 4-1 | 8-2 | 2-1 | 2-1 | | 2-2 | 3-1 | 0-3 | |
| Stretford Paddock | | 8-0 | 2-3 | 22/11 | 0-1 | | 2-2 | 13/12 | 5-2 | 3-2 |
| Styal | | 2-1 | 3-1 | 0-1 | 2-1 | | 06/12 | | 2-3 | |
| Upton | | 1-1 | 0-6/12 | 4-1 | 22/11 | | 1-4 | 1-4 | 15/11 | 0-2 |
| Winsford Town | | 1-1 | 0-4 | 1-4 | 1-4 | | 3-4 | 0-8 | 2-4 | 1-2 |
| Winslanley Warriors | | 06/12 | | | | | | | | |
| Wythenshawe Reserves | | | | | | | | | | |

CHESHIRE LEAGUE 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Egerton FC | 19 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 59 | 25 | 34 | 39 |
| 2 Daten FC | 16 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 52 | 25 | 27 | 38 |
| 3 Winsford Town | 13 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 37 | 16 | 21 | 34 |
| 4 Knutsford FC | 15 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 37 | 21 | 16 | 34 |
| 5 Stretford Paddock | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 21 | 11 | 31 |
| 6 Clay Brow | 12 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 50 | 19 | 31 | 25 |
| 7 St Helens Town | 12 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 39 | 20 | 19 | 24 |
| 8 Styal FC | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 41 | 39 | 2 | 23 |
| 9 Sandbach United Res. | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 29 | 20 | 9 | 17 |
| 10 Winslanley Warriors | 13 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 16 |
| 11 Mersey Valley | 16 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 36 | 54 | -18 | 16 |
| 12 Congleton Town Res. | 16 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 18 | 30 | -12 | 14 |
| 13 Upton JFC | 14 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 32 | 39 | -7 | 10 |
| 14 Wythenshawe Res. | 15 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 24 | 62 | -38 | 6 |
| 15 Cheadle Heath Nomads Res. | 15 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 22 | 60 | -38 | 5 |
| 16 Billinge FC | 15 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 7 | 64 | -57 | 1 |

TODAY'S FIXTURES

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

Cheshire League 1

14:00 Daten FC v Cheadle Heath Nomads
 14:00 Egerton FC v Styal FC
 14:00 Knutsford FC v Sandbach Utd Res
 14:00 Mersey Valley v Wythenshawe Res

14:00 Winsford Town v Upton JFC
 14:00 Winslanley Warriors v Stretford Paddock
 15:00 Clay Brow v Congleton Town Res
 15:00 St Helens Town AFC v Billinge FC

Leading Goalscorers

| Player | Goals | Appearances | Goals/GP |
|-------------|-------|-------------|----------|
| Liam Diggle | 12(0) | 10 | 0.83 |
| Prescott | 12(0) | 10 | 0.77 |
| Simpson | 13(0) | 5 | 0.38 |
| Noonan | 2(2) | 4 | 0.29 |
| Cook | 9(3) | 3 | 0.25 |
| Wetton | 0(2) | 2 | 1.00 |

Player of the Match

| | 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 | Middlemore | Filson | Simpson | Diggle (C) | Cook1 | Morris | Prescott | Long | Luke Diggle | Leech | Noonan | Atem |
| 02/08 | A | CFL | Wythenshawe Res. | 0-8 | Jenkinson | Bateman | Middlemore | Critchlow 1 | Prescott | Diggle 2 (C) | Simpson 2 | Filson | Leech | Noonan | Clapham 1 | Long | | |
| 06/08 | A | CFL | Winslanley Warriors | 1-4 | Jenkinson | Long | Filson | Buckley-Benbow | Filson | Diggle (C) | Prescott 1 | Clapham | Hanson | Luke Diggle | Hughes | Noonan | Atem | |
| 12/08 | A | CFL | Upton JFC | 3-3 | Jenkinson | Long | Buckley-Benbow | Filson | Petersen | Diggle (C) | Cook | Middlemore | Prescott | Atem | Hanson | Noonan 1 | Morris | |
| 30/08 | A | CFL | Styal FC | 5-2 | Jenkinson | Long | Petersen | Sant | Petersen | Diggle (C) | Cook 1 | Middlemore | Prescott | Noonan 1 | Luke Diggle | Whitehead | Morris | |
| 06/09 | H | CFL | Cheadle Heath Nomads Res. | 4-4 | Jenkinson | Bateman | Petersen | Sant | Petersen | Middlemore | Diggle 2 (C) | Morris | Prescott | Curtis 1 | Noonan | Long | Atem | |
| 13/09 | A | CFL | Ormskirk West End | 1-6 | Jenkinson | Bateman | Long | Sant | Petersen | Middlemore (C) | Prescott 1 | Simpson 1 | Luke Diggle | Cook 1 | Foster | Buckley-Benbow | Critchlow | |
| 20/09 | A | CFL | Stretford Paddock | 3-0 | Jenkinson | Bateman | Luke Diggle | Sant | Petersen | Middlemore (C) | Noonan | Prescott 3 | Simpson 1 | Luke Diggle | Clapham | Cook | | |
| 27/09 | A | CFL | Cheadle Heath Nomads Res. | 0-5 | Jenkinson | Curtis | Bateman | Sant | Petersen | Whitehead | Diggle (C) | Morris | Noonan | Yawson | Clapham | Cook | | |
| 04/10 | A | CFL | Rainhill Town | 5-1 | Davies | Bateman | Luke Diggle | Foster | Petersen | Middlemore | Diggle 2 (C) | Morris | Cook | Noonan | Luke Diggle | Foster | Petersen | |
| 11/10 | A | CFL | Egerton | 0-2 | Jenkinson | Bateman 1 | Buckley-Benbow | Sant | Petersen | Filson | Cook | Middlemore (C) | Clapham | Prescott | Noonan 1 | Critchlow | Buckley-Benbow | |
| 18/10 | A | CFL | Mersey Valley | 0-4 | Jenkinson | Bateman | Curtis | Sant | Petersen | Middlemore | Cook | Diggle (C) | Cook | Noonan | Foster | Curtis | Petersen | |
| 25/10 | H | CFL | Sandbach Utd Res | 2-1 | Davies | Bateman | Curtis | Sant | Petersen | Middlemore | Cook | Diggle (C) | Prescott 1 | Noonan | Wetton 1 | Long | Clapham | |
| 08/11 | H | CFL | Styal FC | 3-1 | Jenkinson | Critchlow | Buckley-Benbow | Sant | Petersen | Middlemore | Cook | Diggle (C) | Prescott 1 | Long | Gibson | Noonan | Clapham | |
| 15/11 | H | CFL | Billinge FC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22/11 | A | CFL | Billinge FC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29/11 | H | CFL | Wythenshawe Res. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 06/12 | A | CFL | Daten FC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Current Squad All Time Appearances

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Liam Diggle | 140 |
| Danny Hughes | 89 |
| Ryan Cook | 82 |
| Luke Diggle | 74 |
| Dale Whitehead | 64 |
| Alex Petersen | 55 |
| Charlie Simpson | 51 |
| Chris Foster | 49 |
| Max Buckley-Benbow | 49 |
| Lewis Jenkinson | 43 |



MEET A MERT!

DEAN CURTIS

Age: 31

Position: Defender

Who do you support? Don't support anyone just love playing it.

Where you from? - Thatto Heath

Best player of all time? - Ronaldo

Best goal ever? - Mine against Cheadle!

Best kit ever? - Town's home one.

Favourite other sport? Enjoy watching boxing.

Pre-Match Ritual? A very small breakfast - waffle and banana, down a big red bull and an energy gel.

Which famous player do you compare your playing style to? Vidic - loves a tackle and a header.

Tell us a bit about your football career so far, how are you finding it at town?

Started off young for St Helens school boys went onto blackbrook didn't play for a bit then joined local men's side thatto Heath at 16 playing in the St Helens comb very rough league for that age, moved onto FC St Helens won a few trophies with them, then onto Pilks and won the Div 1 of the Counties. I stopped playing for a bit then fancied tryna help the Town out and get them back to where they belong with a top

manager Peo. I didn't think I'd enjoy it so much here, but I am - all the lads are top, made me feel welcome straight away along with the fans and committee. I think we'll do well over the next few seasons.

Best moment in a Town shirt so far? My last minute debut goal to get us a point against Cheadle.

Best thing about Tellins? The Boars Headin Sutton Heath - top boozier.

Currently watching? Trigger Point - great series.

THE SQUAD

Biggest moaner? Ry Cook

Worst dancer? Must be Jack Critch - looks stiff.

Worst dressed? Lew Bateman

Worst haircut? Gotta be Ben Noonan

Who's the laziest? Will Clapham

Ugliest faces pulled when playing football? Taylor Prescott with ease.

Who would you most want to be stuck in a lift with? Peo, funny guy. Might cheer the situation up.



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TOWN IN ACTION

St Helens Town 3 - 1 Styal FC - November 8th

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Taylor Prescott



Charlie Leech



Charlie Simpson



Ben Noonan



Ryan Cook



Liam Diggle



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FOOD PANTRY
ST HELENS BOROUGH
Player of The Match Jake Sant





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FOR managers, it's an extra three minutes to deliver the finishing touches to your pre-match team talk.

For fans, it's a chance to grab a quick coffee or spend in the warmth of the clubhouse bar.

Three minutes. One hundred and eighty seconds. It doesn't sound a lot, but it could make all the difference to the National League's 3UP campaign as it continues to ramp up pressure on the EFL to finally put a third promotion spot into League Two on the agenda.

This afternoon, over 200 clubs from Steps 1 to 4 will kick-off at 3.03pm in 'A Day of Action' to raise awareness on the issue with the Premier League and a large percentage of the EFL away on international duty.

National League chiefs and clubs have been pushing for an extra promotion place for a number of years to align with the rest of the English pyramid.

But while the EFL acknowledge it should be up for debate, the matter is yet to be officially brought to the table despite chairman Rick Parry's promise to "look downwards as well as upwards".

A recent Football Supporters' Association poll revealed 93 per cent of all supporters support the move, while 83 per cent of fans of EFL clubs are so in favour.

But Football League chiefs say any deal would have to form part of any funding agreement with the Premier League so with the two bodies at a stalemate amid the wait for the incoming Independent Football Regulator, National League chiefs have decided to up the stakes amid fears it could be years before EFL clubs vote on any changes.

National League vice-chairman and chair of the 3UP steering committee Steve Thompson MBE has been a key part of the push and he wants their message heard.

He told The NLP last week: "The games kicking off at 3.03pm is really going to shine a spotlight on it.

"We've got MPs from all over the country going to these games.

"It's not just the 12 National League games. While National League North and South aren't playing league games because it's FA Trophy, the Trident Leagues are also supporting it. That's fantastic.

"The whole football family at Non-League level sees how important it is."

So important that, in recent months, clubs and the league have been engaging with their local MPs with more than 100 – and

members of the London Assembly – pledging their support.

And last week Sir Keir Starmer "commended" 3UP at Prime Minister's Questions with over 60 MP's actively supporting the campaign.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has formally "recognised" that 3UP's ambitions tie-in with the football regulator's objectives with a Backbench Business Debate planned later this month, as well as two supportive Early Day Motions.

"I was blown away," Thompson said of the political support received.

"So many MPs are season ticket holders at their local club. They realise how much their clubs do in their community. They realise how much the owners and chairs of those clubs do in the community.

"The fear is if you have this bottleneck and owners don't think there is a realistic chance of being promoted they will walk away. You need that competitiveness. It creates a healthy eco-system in football and that's what we face losing.

"The EFL say they've got to look down as well as up. Well, look down a bit more."

History shows there is no competitive imbalance between the National League and League Two.

No club has ever been relegated back into Non-League the season after they won promotion while Luton Town went through to the Premier League and others, including Yeovil Town, Doncaster, Burton Albion and Wrexham, have reached the Championship.

"There's over 30 clubs in the EFL that have been in the National League at some stage or another," Thompson added.

"There's Wrexham now in the Championship. There are 19 League Two clubs that have been in National League. Half of the National League have been in the EFL.

"There's nothing to fear but there is this bottleneck."

This afternoon, fans from clubs up and down the country will be involved both on the terraces and via social media making their voices heard.

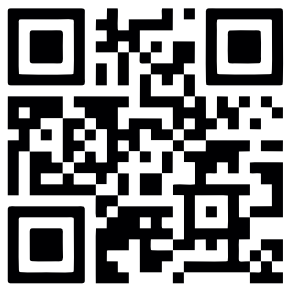
For 180 seconds at least the floor is theirs. That's got to be worth raising a glass to.

John Couch



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BEAT THE YICKER

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Who scored Everton's goal in the 1986 FA cup final against Liverpool?
2. Which current Cheshire League club used to play at Barrows Farm?
3. Manchester City signed Rayan Cherki from which French club?
4. Which nations women's team are known as the Matilda's.?
5. Which league one club are known as the Brewers?
6. What did Brian Clough famously do during a pitch invasion at The City Ground?
7. Former Town under 18s manager Dave McNab is manager at which club?
8. Who won the FA Cup in 1988?
9. Gornik Zabrze are from which European country?
10. Who are currently top of Cheshire League 2?



CLUB INFO

Honorary Life President: Alan Wellens

Vice Presidents: Jim Barrett, Steve Ball and John McKiernan

Chair: Ste Lingard

Vice-Chair: Lee Jenkinson

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, Lee Jenkinson, 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

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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 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
- 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) |

