

TOWN



Saturday 21st February 2026 - £2



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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the PSD Vehicle Rental Stadium at Ruskin Drive for our first home game for a month, and especially to our visitors Mersey Valley.

We lost this fixture last season, though we can't complain as it was our only defeat of the whole campaign and Mersey Valley were very good day and deserved the win. They joined us in achieving promotion to Cheshire League Division 1, and we met at their ground last October, with Town securing the three points. It was a good visit to a proper football (and other sports) club, and we're very happy to be hosting them again.

Since the last programme we have played a couple of cup games, winning at Maine Road then losing at Daten. The latter was a hard-fought contest, only settled in injury time as penalties were beckoning. Congratulations to the winners, as ever, and we will now give the League our undivided attention (just because I've reworded it slightly doesn't mean I'm not indulging in a cliché).

With 12 games to go we still have to play five games against three of the four teams above us: Knutsford twice, Winsford Town once (away) and Daten twice. We have already taken four points from current leaders Egerton and have games in hand on all of them (a whopping eight on Egerton). There really is all to play for, and we are very much looking forward to the challenge.

Our U23s are in a similar position, in their case just five points from the top with at least two games in hand on everyone above them - and six (not a misprint) on the leaders. They host Golborne in the early kick off today, so fingers crossed they can take another step towards their goal for the season.

In the North West Youth Alliance, our U18s have been playing some wonderful attacking football recently - a

real pleasure to watch and a credit to the players, and the coaching team of Carlos, Dave and Fynn. I'll single Fynn out this time, as he was an important part of the U18s team last season and stayed on to help out from the sidelines having graduated to open aged football. He is doing well with the U23s and has our thanks and support for the large and valuable part he is playing.

Few things make football people happier than seeing young players progressing within their club, and Fynn Sweeney is a great example of that with us.

Now, down to the proper business of any self-respecting Saturday afternoon: Come on the Town!

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A WORD WITH THE MANAGER



Peo & Seddo

Myself and the club would like to welcome everyone from Mersey Valley 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 would also like to welcome & thank everyone in attendance at today's game. As ever, your support is really appreciated.

We head into today's game with a mixed bag of results since Christmas, performance wise we have been up and down as well.

Our last outing saw us exit the cup at the second round same as last year. Hopefully this will act as the kick up the backside as it did last year. At the moment our priority is results, with games being every other week just now.

We obviously know what to expect from today's opponents after both teams getting promoted together last season and we definitely know they are in a false position in the league.

As always we will be giving our all and leaving nothing out there. Be nice and loud the lads do appreciate all the support. Xx

#tellinstown #mertz

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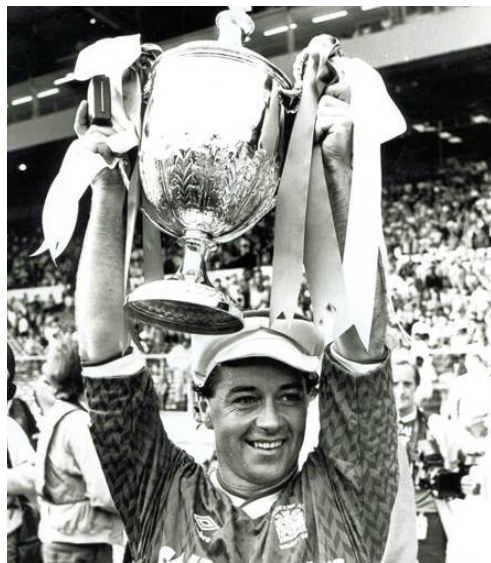
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

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

The club was re-formed by George Fryer and a group of local businessmen in 1946. They took 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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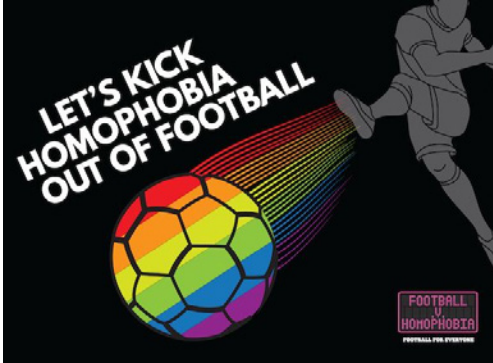
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CULTURE VULTURE

#FVH2026

Welcome back to Ruskin Drive, WA10! Like every February, today's match is dedicated to Football v Homophobia.



We're proud to support this international campaign, launched in 2010, which tackles homophobia, biphobia and transphobia across football. What began as a small initiative has grown into a global movement, with clubs, leagues and supporters coming together—especially during February's Month of Action—to promote inclusion and equality. Football v Homophobia provides education, resources and support to make the game safer and more welcoming for LGBTQ+ players, fans, and officials. At Town, we believe football is for everyone, and we're proud to stand alongside the campaign in making sure our sport is built on respect, unity, and opportunity.



Fran looking for Stan, he's not in the mud.

We also welcome friends from just south of the Mersey in Ashton upon Mersey. Traditionally part of Cheshire, the area joins onto the better-known town of Sale. Sport has always been a big part of life in Sale, and rugby runs right through its history. Sale Sharks were founded in 1861, making them one of the oldest rugby clubs in the world, and they've been flying the flag for the town ever since. From humble beginnings on local pitches to

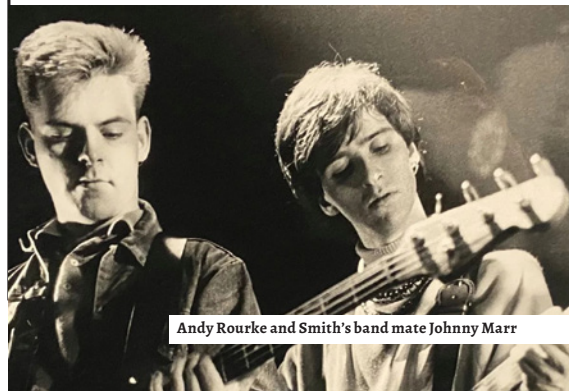
competing at the top level of English rugby, the Sharks have given Sale plenty to shout about. While the town has a strong football and grassroots sports scene too, rugby remains a huge part of its identity—something we share here in St Helens, albeit in a different code. Also my dad, Stan is big mates with ex Sale rugby legend Fran Cotton. Something he'll bore you about at any given opportunity.



The Racecourse estate

And don't let the Cheshire tag bring out your reverse snob! When I lived in Manchester, I had friends from the infamous Racecourse Estate, once home to legendary bass player Andy Rourke of The Smiths. As a bass player myself, I owe a lot to Andy—his funky, melodic style helped shape The Smiths into one of the most influential bands of the 20th century, and it pushed my own playing in ways I'll always be grateful for.

Enjoy the match and as always, stay cultured.
Mike Bagshaw - Culture Vulture



Andy Rourke and Smith's band mate Johnny Marr

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MEET A MERT!

MIKE "BAGGY" BAGSHAW

Age: 48

Position: Media Manager & part of the community team "Town in The Town"

2nd Favourite Team? Manchester City

Where you from? - Posh Eccleston boy with Parr blood. 18 years on tour in Manchester now in Up Holland.

Favourite Tellins establishment?
The Turk's Head

What you watching? Just finished IT Welcome to Derry, was good fun. Just introduced my 14 year old daughter to Beverly Hills Cop, movie perfection.

What you listening to? Crikey, I'm always listening to a lot. My Spotify algorithms have introduced me to Hyphen. He's a UK rap-punk chap, son of Indian parents. He's got a lot to say about the current state of the UK. Otherwise I default to Black Sabbath.

What's your Town origin story? I was late to the party and missed Hoghton Road. First game would have been at Knowsley Road. Our band (The Clone Roses) guitarist Tony was playing for Town. Think it was 2003. After my first visit I didn't really come back often. I was living in Manchester and watching City. I really got involved when I helped the club in a premier screening of The Keeper at Cineworld in town in 2019. It's the connection of Trautmann that seems to be central in my footballing universe.

High point and Low point of following Town?
High point, has to be last season's promotion. We've got

a long way to go but it was a nice pay off for everyone on and off the pitch. Low point, there's been a few. We're a big old scalp in these leagues and some of our local rivals have been a bit giddy when they've taken points from us.

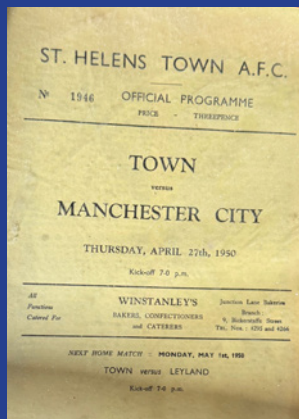
Favourite players, past and present?
I'm gunna have to say Bert Trautmann, my grandad saw him play for the PoWs, Town and City so I'm claiming him. In the current team I'm choosing big Dean Curtis. Mostly because I accidentally referred to him as a veteran player when he signed in the summer and I've been nervous since. However he's also been solid for us this season.

Favourite away ground? In the Cheshire leagues going to Hyde United's ground where Stretford Paddock play. It's a bit of a cheat answer but it demonstrates what life looks like up the leagues and makes you ambitious.

Do you have any prized possession / memorabilia from following Town?
I have a lot because we're currently collecting items from Town's past and we've got quite a bit. The Town v Manchester City 1950 programme is high up, but it's the clubs not mine.

Funniest story from your time following Town?

The trip to TSV Ulbach, Stuttgart in 2023 was a great experience. Some highlights from that trip. Probably a young Scott McGregor losing his passport on the airplane back to Manchester. They wouldn't let him out of the airport, then some pointed out he was 18 so we left him. His parents were coming to save him and the minibus couldn't wait any longer but the whole scenario was very amusing.



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CHARLIE Wyke must be the bravest, but also unluckiest, footballer going.

Four years ago, the striker, now at Carlisle United, suffered a heart-attack during a training session for Wigan Athletic and actually died for four minutes.

But that traumatic experience was nothing compared to the physical and mental anguish the 33-year-old has endured over the last 16 months.

In October 2024, shortly after coming on as a substitute for Carlisle in a League Two match against Cheltenham, Wyke was felled by a heavy tackle from Luke Young.

"I broke my leg, dislocated my ankle, tore every ligament, damaged the cartilage - it was like six or seven different injuries in one," the former Bradford City, Sunderland and Rotherham striker exclusively told The NLP last week.

"I had multiple operations, screws and pins put in my leg. And the pain - I honestly can't describe it.

"Everybody knows about my cardiac arrest, and objectively that's 100 times worse. But there was no pain with that. I had to have a lot of tests, missed a lot of football. Day to day, though, it didn't really bother me.

"This was so much harder. I was battling the pain literally every day. I had to call an ambulance like three times because the pot on my ankle was too tight. At one point, I didn't sleep for six nights straight and started hallucinating.

"I'd been watching Black Mirror on Netflix and there was an episode where somebody turns into a werewolf. One night, I thought the werewolf was in my bedroom. I was screaming and shouting. I felt like I was going mad.

"On top of that, I had the surgeon telling me I was done. I went up to see him five or six times, and the message was always the same. He said 'You're 33, it's a massive injury - my advice is to retire immediately'.

"He said that nobody fully recovers from something like this, and even if I did get back to running and playing football then I'd struggle badly with arthritis for the rest of my life. You hear that, and your whole life just stops. It's been horrendous, absolutely horrendous."

Wyke defied his doctor's orders to continue a 14-year career that saw him score 130 goals in 358 EFL appearances, featuring in last month's 3-1 National

League victory over Altrincham at Brunton Park.

Or at least, it should have been emotional. Unfortunately for Wyke, part of the medication for managing his heart condition includes an adrenalin suppressant.

"The reception I got coming on, I should have been absolutely buzzing," he says. "But it's just a bit... different. It's the same when you score a goal. There isn't that rush.

"I think if I went on a rollercoaster these days, I'd just be sitting there bored, waiting for it to finish! It's a very strange feeling."

Sadly, he won't be back for long. Wyke may have won the battle, but acknowledges that the war is lost. He can barely train, suffers constant swelling and can't even manage half an hour of competitive action.

"I'll never be able to start a game again," he admits. "If you ask anyone who has been to the last few games, I can't even warm up properly.

"Coming on for five or ten minutes is just about alright. I could do 25 at a push. But if I did that my knee and ankle would swell up massive and I wouldn't be able to train for the rest of the week.

"So yeah, it goes without saying that my days are numbered. I'll probably go until the end of the season, then that will be me.

"It's not ideal. Nobody wants to retire, especially at 33. But as the surgeon said, you have to look at the bigger picture.

"My son Albie is six and he's mad into football. I've already missed a good 14 months of taking him to training, playing with him in the garden, all that sort of stuff. I don't want to be a 40-year-old dad who can't run around and can't play with my kids.

"Practically, as well, who is going to touch me? The gaffer here has been great, really understanding and supportive. But nobody is going to sign a player who can only play for ten minutes, especially with all the problems I've had."

So, a sad end to a promising career, but making that sacrifice for the sake of his son serves as a reminder to us all of the important things in life.

Chris Dunlavy

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SEASON STATISTICS

Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Billinge FC	1-8	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3
Cheadle Heath Nomads	5-2	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3
Clay Brow	6-0	5-1	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2
Congleton Town Res	2-1	P-P	3-5	1-0	1-2	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5
Daten FC	6-1	2-0	2-0	1-0	1-2	0-5	3-1	21/02	4-2	1-1	4-1	9-0	6-2	1-3	2-3	5-1	3-2
Egerton FC	1-0	5-0	2-1	1-1	6-3	0-1	0-1	0-1	5-2	1-1	0-2	5-0	2-1	6-2	3-1	6-0	6-0
Knutsford FC	4-0	3-2	1-1	2-3	0-2	4-3	0-2	4-3	1-0	1-2	3-0	4-2	4-0	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
Mersey Valley	8-1	0-7	2-1	0-4	2-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-4	2-3	0-4	28/02	0-3	1-6	6-4	3-2	3-2
Sandbach United Res	9-0	21/02	0-0	2-0	28/02	2-2	2-2	2-2	21/02	2-1	3-1	3-1	3-1	0-3	0-3	6-0	6-0
St Helens Town	6-1	4-4	1-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	1-2	2-1	2-1	2-1	3-0	3-1	3-1	0-4	0-4	3-2	3-2
Stretford Paddock	21/02	2-1	2-1	3-0	2-4	1-3	2-4	1-3	3-3	1-3	5-2	4-2	4-2	5-2	2-2	3-2	3-2
Syal	4-1	8-2	28/02	1-2	2-4	1-3	2-4	1-3	3-3	1-3	5-2	3-3	3-3	3-3	3-4	4-3	4-1
Upton	8-0	2-3	2-4	0-1	2-2	1-3	1-3	1-3	2-2	2-2	3-3	4-2	4-2	2-3	1-1	1-1	1-1
Winsford Town	2-1	3-1	2-3	2-1	2-1	4-1	4-1	4-1	2-2	2-6	2-2	21/02	4-0	2-1	2-1	H-W	H-W
Winstanley Warriors	1-1	5-2	4-1	4-1	1-4	21/02	2-4	2-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	0-2	0-2	2-1	2-1	4-1	4-1
Wythenshawe Reserves	2-4	0-4	A-A	A-A	1-4	0-7	28/02	28/02	6-4	3-4	0-8	2-4	1-2	2-4	0-8	0-8	0-8

CHESHIRE LEAGUE 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Egerton FC	26	17	3	6	78	34	44	54
2 Daten FC	22	17	3	2	76	32	44	54
3 Winsford Town	21	16	2	3	64	33	31	50
4 Knutsford FC	19	13	1	5	47	27	20	40
5 St Helens Town	18	12	3	3	57	26	31	39
6 Stretford Paddock	20	11	3	6	41	35	6	36
7 Clay Brow	19	10	3	6	64	38	26	33
8 Syal FC	21	9	3	9	54	53	1	30
9 Sandbach United Res.	16	8	5	3	43	26	17	29
10 Winstanley Warriors	20	7	2	11	49	53	-4	23
11 Mersey Valley	20	7	1	12	47	68	-21	22
12 Congleton Town Res.	21	6	3	12	27	40	-13	21
13 Upton JFC	21	3	7	11	45	60	-15	16
14 Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	22	4	3	15	44	76	-32	15
15 Wythenshawe Res.	22	2	1	19	34	90	-56	7
16 Billinge FC	22	1	1	20	17	96	-79	4

TODAY'S FIXTURES SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Cheshire League 1

14:00	Daten FC v Knutsford FC	14:00	Wythenshawe Res v Upton JFC
14:00	Sandbach United Res v Cheadle Heath Nomads Res	15:00	St Helens Town AFC v Mersey Valley
14:00	Winsford Town v Syal FC	15:00	Stretford Paddock v Billinge FC
14:00	Winstanley Warriors v Egerton FC		

Leading Goalscorers

Player	Appearances	Goals	GPG
Prescott	19(0)	12	0.60
Liam Diggle	17(0)	11	0.61
Simpson	19(0)	7	0.35
Cook	14(6)	6	0.3
Noonan	4(8)	6	0.27
Wetton	1(4)	4	0.80

Date	Home	Away	Player of the Match																	Goalscorer	#GOALS
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
26/07	A	CFL	Egerton FC	2-2	Jenkinson	Petersen	Buckley-Benbow	Middlemore	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Diggle (C)	Cook1	Morris	Prescott	Long	Luke Diggle	Leech	Noonan	Atem	
02/08	A	CFL	Wythenshawe Res.	0-8	Jenkinson	Bateman	Curtis	Critchlow 1	Middlemore	Foster	Prescott	Diggle (C)	Simpson	Filson	Atem1	Noonan	Noonan	Clapham 1	Long	Atem	
06/08	A	CFL	Winstanley Warriors	1-4	Jenkinson	Long	Foster	Buckley-Benbow 1	Filson	Filson	Simpson1	Diggle (C)	Cook	Prescott1	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	Atem	
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	Bateman	
06/09	H	CFL	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	4-4	Jenkinson	Bateman	Petersen	Sant	Luke Diggle	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott	Curtis 1	Noonan	Long	Atem	Atem	
13/09	A	AWCC	Ormskirk West End	1-6	Jenkinson	Bateman	Long	Sant	Curtis	Middlemore (C)	Petersen	Morris	Prescott3	Simpson1	Luke Diggle	Cook1	Foster	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow		
20/09	A	CFL	Stretford Paddock	3-0	Jenkinson	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Whitehead	Noonan	Morris	Noonan	Yawson	Clapham	Cook			
27/09	A	CFL	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	0-5	Jenkinson	Bateman	Curtis	Bateman	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott	Curtis 1	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Foster	Buckley-Benbow	
04/10	A	AWCC	Rainhill Town	5-1	Davies	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Foster	Curtis	Petersen	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott2	Cook	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Foster	Petersen	
11/10	A	CFL	Egerton	0-2	Jenkinson	Bateman	Bateman	Buckley-Benbow	Curtis	Critchlow	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott	Clapham	Prescott	Noonan	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow	Sant
18/10	A	CFL	Mersey Valley	2-0	Jenkinson	Bateman	Curtis	Critchlow	Sant	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott1	Cook	Diggle (C)	Curtis	Clapham	Petersen	
25/10	H	CFL	Sandbach United Res	2-1	Davies	Bateman	Curtis	Critchlow	Sant	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott1	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott	Long	Clapham	
08/11	H	CFL	Syal FC	3-1	Jenkinson	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott1	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott	Long	Foster	
15/11	H	CFL	Billinge FC	6-1	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott1	Cook	Diggle (C)	Gibson	Leech	Clapham	
22/11	A	CFL	Billinge FC	1-3	Jenkinson	Long	Gibson	Sant	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Prescott	Noonan1	Diggle	Clapham	Prescott			
29/11	H	CFL	Winstanley Warriors	6-0	Jenkinson	Curtis	Gibson	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott	Clapham	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Petersen		
10/01	H	CFL	Winsford Town	0-4	Jenkinson	Long	Simpson	Sant	Filson	Petersen	Simpson	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Prescott	Clapham	Garrett	Noonan	Foster	Buckley-Benbow	Bateman	
17/01	H	CFL	Congleton Town Res	2-0	Jenkinson	Bateman	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott	Diggle (C)	Gibson	Clapham	Cortington	Critchlow	Bateman
24/01	H	CFL	Clay Brow	1-0	Jenkinson	Cortington	Gibson	Sant	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott	Diggle (C)	Noonan	Clapham	Clapham	Leech	Cook1
31/01	A	AWCC	Maine Road Res	1-3	Jenkinson	Cortington	Gibson	Filson	Sant	Critchlow	Petersen	Middlemore (C)	Cook	Clapham	Simpson	Foster	Noonan	Clapham	Watson	Clapham	Cook
07/02	A	AWCC	Daten FC	2-1	Jenkinson	Bateman	Gibson	Sant	Cortington	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Petersen	Morris	Prescott	Diggle (C)	Noonan	Clapham	Petersen	Foster	Wetton
21/02	H	CFL	Mersey Valley																		
07/03	A	CFL	Winsford Town																		
14/04	H	CFL	Knutsford FC																		
21/03	H	CFL	Stretford Paddock																		
28/03	A	CFL	Knutsford FC																		



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TOWN IN ACTION

Maine Road Reserves 1 - 3 St Helens Town AFC - January 31st

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Chris Cottington



FOOD PANTRY
ST HELENS BOROUGH

Player of The Match Taylor Prescott



Ethan Wetton



Charlie Simpson

Town won this tricky cup fixture at Maine Road's iconic Brantingham Road ground on a pitch that provided the feel of an old fashioned cup tie.

Town started well with Charlie Simpson's powerful running an early feature and he would have the first chance of the game but the home keeper did well to come out and block his progress. It was Simpson's drive and cute through ball to Taylor Prescott on 20 minutes that would see Prescott brought down in the box to break the deadlock. Prescott picked himself up and calmly finished the spot kick to put Town one nil up.

Maine Road replied on the stroke of half time when Al Rashi got in behind the Town defence and finished from close range. The tie was poised at 1-1 and Maine Road were well worthy of that with midfielder Etsuki Amano having an impact for the hosts. But, Paul Piert's second half substitutions would have a major impact on the outcome. Chris Foster came on and did not put a foot wrong in the unfamiliar role of right back whilst Ben Noonan was a threat up front.

Town were better value in the second stanza and were back ahead on 60 minutes when Ryan Cook cleverly won another penalty. Prescott stepped up again to convert his second spot kick of the game. Marc Gibson's overlapping play from left back has been a feature of recent Town games and it allowed Ethan Wetton to cut inside and provide a major threat when he came off the bench. In his first appearance of the season, fellow sub Paul Watson played Wetton in on 84 minutes and the young winger's ensuing dribble and smart finish put Town 3-1 and the result beyond doubt.



Oliver Filson



Chris Foster

ST HELENS TOWN AFC U23s

ST HELENS TOWN AFC U18s

All photos by Mary Castrogiovanni

As we approach the final stage of the season, we are very pleased with our current position in the table. After a slow start, the team has shown excellent consistency in our league campaign, remaining unbeaten since early September.

We have benefited from a settled squad, and the players have adapted exceptionally well to senior football, with many experiencing it for the first time. There is a genuine confidence within the group, which has been clearly reflected in our performances.

Recently, the fixture schedule has been unkind, with no consistent games this has impacted momentum. However, with eight games remaining and a full run of fixtures across February and March, we are looking forward to finishing the season strongly.

Thanks Dan and Gav - Managers



Jacob Rodrigues



Pogs



Finley Kelsal



George Pelicans



Callum Davies

It's been a tough season, with a very young team. However with lots of talent and promise. We've started to connect together and had some deserved wins of late. We still have a semi-final to play & the future looks bright. I'm very happy with the progression of the team- heading in the right direction, playing some nice footy.

Carlos Rodrigues - Manager



Haron Ochaka



Javier Wallace, Izzak Atkinson & Haron

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Cheshire Reserve League 2

28/02	12:15	U23s v Egerton FC Res	Ruskin Drive
07/03	14:00	Warrington Rylands Dev. Res. v U23s	Cardinal Newman, WA4 1RX
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



Matty Taylor

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Winsford Town Res.	18	9	6	3	52	37	15	33
2	Styal Res.	14	10	1	3	59	28	31	31
3	Winstanley Warriors Res.	14	9	2	3	45	28	17	29
4	Warrington Rylands Dev. Res.	14	9	1	4	51	38	13	28
5	St Helens Town U23s	12	8	2	2	40	20	20	26
6	Egerton FC Res.	14	6	2	6	42	45	-3	20
7	Golborne Sports Dev.	14	5	2	7	23	27	-4	17
8	Haydock Res.	11	4	2	5	26	28	-2	14
9	Moore United Dev.	17	4	2	11	29	60	-31	14
10	Newton-Le-Willows Res.	11	2	4	5	29	30	-1	10
11	Halton Farnworth Hornets Res.	17	0	0	17	12	67	-55	0

		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Chorley	12	8	1	3	25
2	Pilkington	11	7	1	3	22
3	Abbey Hey	10	6	3	1	21
4	Stalybridge Celtic	13	6	3	4	21
5	Atherton Collieries	12	5	5	2	20
6	Nantwich Town	9	5	2	2	17
7	Altrincham Youth	10	5	0	5	15
8	Clitheroe	11	4	2	5	14
9	St Helens Town	15	4	1	10	13
10	CMB	11	2	2	7	8
11	Cheadle Town	14	2	0	12	6

NEXT FIXTURE

Sunday 22nd February

15:00 Abbey Hey v St Helens Town AFC U18s
Dixons Newall Green, M23 2SX



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BEAT THE YICKER

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Former Liverpool player John Wark appeared in which film?
2. Who won the FA Cup in 1999?
3. What is the name of the national stadium in Belfast?
4. Who plays at Rams Park in Istanbul?
5. What nationality is PSG goalkeeper Matyev Safonov?
6. Billy McNeill was a legend at which Scottish club?
7. Cheshire League 2 club Tytherington are based in which town?
8. Who have Liverpool drawn in the next round of the FA Cup?
9. Jobe Bellingham plays for which club?
10. Al-Sadd are from which country?



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

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Date of Incorporation 12.03.2002

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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 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)

