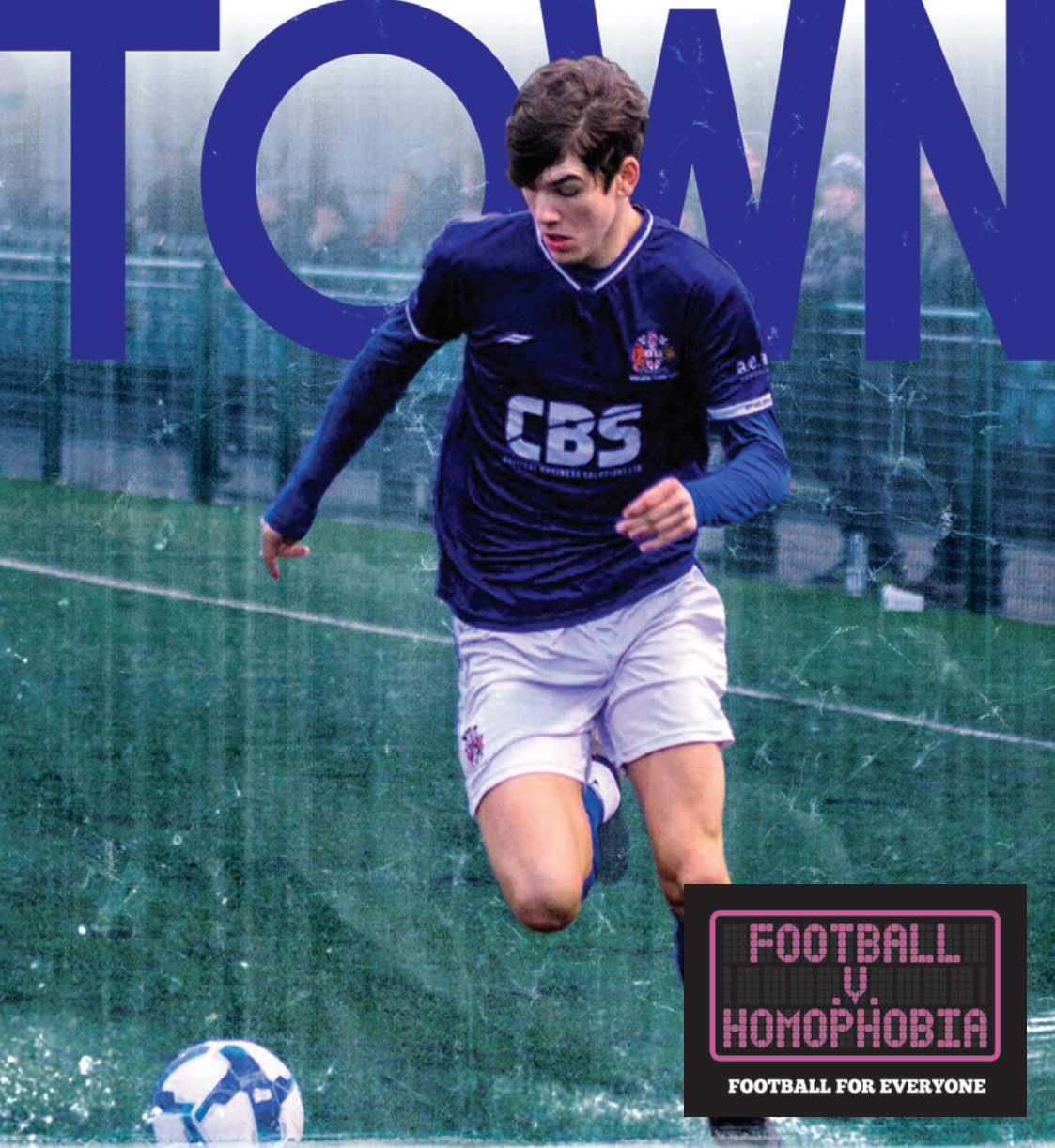


TOWN



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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to The PSD Stadium at Ruskin Drive for today's 'Coal Firm Derby' against Haydock. It will be a cracking occasion, especially following the competitive 2-2 draw in Yick last September.

Coal was fundamental to the development of this whole area, and we are proud to have representatives of the North West Miners Heritage Association with us today, parading their new Bold Colliery banner. The Bold headgear and neighbouring power station dominated our much-missed 'Town Ground' at Hoghton Road, and was plainly visible from the house I grew up in. Lots of the kids I went to school with at Our Lady's and St. Cuthbert's came from mining families and lived in Cement City.

Though my own Dad wasn't a miner, my uncle Colin (Stockley) was. I recall vividly what he chose to share of his experiences – especially during the 1984/85 strike. I also recall the dramatic impact that period had on my classmates whose families depended on mining for their livelihood. For the first time it dawned on me that the government didn't know – or care – much about them, nor their communities.

Much has happened in the 40 years since then, some of it good, some of it less so. Industry has changed and at least workers are no longer compelled, by en large, to ruin their health to earn a living. The town is no longer dominated by a small number of big employers, but has a range of companies, including some major multinationals.

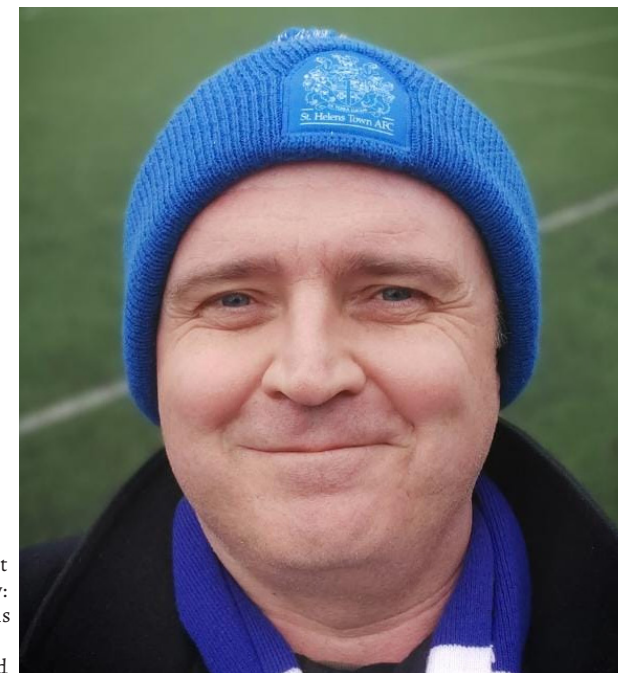
We are proud, however, that some of the best locally owned companies support us directly: especial thanks to Critical Business Solutions Ltd., MCR Building Supplies, AE Holland Memorials and Triprint. We're really chuffed

to welcome them, PSD Rentals and other supporters to the match today, and hope they have a great afternoon.

Football, in the final analysis, is about community: of players, coaches, volunteers, fans, sponsors and fellow travellers, all keenly interested in our home town. None of us can achieve anything in this game on our own – including this afternoon. Thank you all for being with us.

Come on the Town!

Ste Lingard



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A WORD WITH THE MANAGER

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

After no games at home for months, we have our second in a row!

Last week was a tough return to our home ground, but we showed what character and strength in depth we have in this squad this season.

It was fantastic to see Gibbo back on the pitch and doing what he does best.

Today's game is a derby, and no doubt a typical one where league positioning and form count for nothing as a derby at any level always shows.

We also welcome our sponsors today, without their support we wouldn't be where we are today.

Thank you for your continued support, as always we will give our all.

Thank you.

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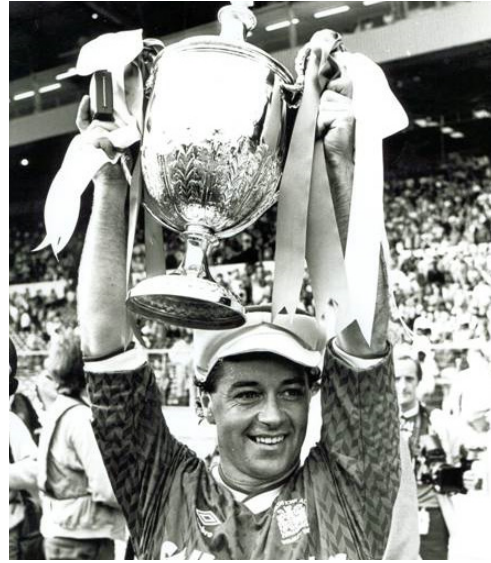
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

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 first in the Cheshire League.

The rebuild is ongoing.

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CULTURE VULTURE

WE ARE HOPE

Well, last Saturday's match was certainly eventful. As much as we all love a last-minute (ish) winner, it doesn't do my stress levels any good!

On Monday, I was busy with our charity arm, Town in the Town, as we took Hope United—our team made up of refugees, asylum seekers, and those displaced by war and conflict—to Anfield Sports & Community Centre. There, we faced a team representing the Liverpool FC Foundation, along with representatives from the Birmingham City FC Foundation.

I'm always proud of our Hope United lads; they're honestly the nicest, most appreciative chaps I've ever met. Despite what you might read in the comments section of every St Helens Star or council post on social media, I often think, I'm glad I'm not the social media guy for the council or the local paper—I'd probably lose faith in humanity seeing our lads, as part of Town in the Town, rubbing shoulders with Liverpool FC and Birmingham City's foundations filled me with immense pride. It just goes to show what our charity is capable of.

Anyway, I'm happy to say that despite the freezing cold at Anfield Sports. St Helens football legend and Hope United coach, Mr. Kenny Dixon, stepped in as both goalkeeper and manager, bringing an experienced head to steady the team and orchestrate the play.

First up, we faced Birmingham City. The lads put in a commanding performance, dispatching the Brummie Blues 3-0. Then, it was Liverpool FC. Last time we played an LFC team, let's just say

they dusted us. But this time, the Hope United boys put in a stellar effort and edged a 1-0 win.

The final saw us face Birmingham City again, and though the Brummies put up a stronger fight, we managed to secure a narrow 1-0 victory. Three wins—and, as I'm sure Mr. Kenny Dixon will remind you—three clean sheets!

A huge thanks to the Liverpool FC Foundation and our new merts at Birmingham City. A trip to Brum is definitely on the cards.

Another fantastic initiative that Town in the Town is involved with is the Game On programme, in partnership with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. We'll be hosting FREE footy sessions at Parr Sports & Community Centre every Monday from 5-6 PM. Like I said, it's FREE—just turn up and play!

Finally, I'd like to give a huge welcome to the Northwest Miners Heritage Association, who will be leading out today's teams behind the Bold Colliery banner. NMHA do an incredible job of keeping our mining heritage alive, alongside many other community projects. It's a fitting tribute for a match between St Helens Town AFC and Haydock FC.

Any roads, enjoy the match—and C'mon The Town!

Mike Bagshaw

Culture Vulture



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MEET A MERT!

ANDY "LANGER'S BANGERS" LANGLEY

Age: 50 **Position:** Matchday announcer and wannabe International DJ

Who do you support (apart from Town)? Bolton Wanderers

Where are you from? Originally from Finger by the Post but now in Haydock

Favourite Tellins establishment? Back in the day was Forum 44, thats where it all went horribly wrong. Currently its Mecca Bingo.

What are you watching? Currently watching the Bear Grylls celebrity thing on Netflix, not bad. fave of all time is Only Fools, my specialist subject on Mastermind.

Did you play footy as a kid? I was always a goalkeeper as a kid, only ever for the school though. Wasnt always possible to escape Borstal.

How long have you been following Town? Been at the club 16 years, first went at Hoghton Rd, first game v Wrexham around 1994.

Why / how did you start following Town? I watched a lot of footy as a kid and Town was an obvious choice. Started going regularly around 2009.

High point and Low point of following Town? Low point was a 10-0 defeat at Cleator Moor a few seasons ago. 6 hour round trip and I drove. High point was my 50th and the card/present organised by Gav and Ste. Meant an awful lot.

Favourite players, past and present? Fave players from the past was probably Graham and His brother Phil Mitchell, both a class act under Gary Bickerstaffe. Fromt he current squad, too many to mention. Gibbo is a class act, Dale whitehead is like a fine wine so I'd say those two.

Favourite away ground? Fave away ground was always Squires Gate, never seen us win there though.

Do you have any prized possession / memorabilia from following Town? I've got the Vase final programme and of course my 50th card. Thanks again guys.

Any weird / funny stories from your time following Town?

I remember a very drunken trip to Nostell in Wakefield, it was a vase game. All back to the Black Bull where it turned in to the Town olympics with numerous races across the bowling green before ale won and my guts lost. Taxi for Langers. That day Brian Hatton was dropped er route for getting caught eating a Burger King on the M62 services.



Invading his beloved Tough Sheet Stadium's pitch like a common thug.



Protesting the new ownership with some southern lad



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 Sponsored by: The Jenkinsons



Dale Whitehead **MID**
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 Sponsored by: John McKiernan



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



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



Ian Roby **DEF/MID**
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Will Clapham **MID**
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Chris Foster **MID**
 Sponsored by: Beha Yoga



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BEAT THE YICKER

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Peter Crouch famously answered what when asked, what would you be if you wasn't a footballer?
2. Which Preston based non league club play at Irongate?
3. In which Italian city are Atalanta based?
4. From which club did Liverpool sign Luis Diaz?
5. Who were the two beaten semi finalists at the 2002 World Cup?
6. Newalls Old Boys are from which country?
7. Who was last player to be entered into the St Helens Town hall of fame?
8. Which Championship club play at the KCOM Stadium?
9. The EFL Trophy is currently sponsored by which company?
10. Which club's youngsters scored the first ever goal at Everton's Bramley Dock Stadium earlier this week?



1. A Virgin, 2. Bamber Bridge, 3. Bergamo, 4. FC Porto, 5. South Korea and Turkey, 6. Argentina, 7. Andy Gillespie, 8. Hull City, 9. Bristol Street Motors, 10. Wigan Athletic

TOWN IN ACTION

Town 3 - 2 Newton Athletic - February 15th

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Ryan Cook



Marc Gibson



Luke Diggle



Max Buckley-Benbow



Dale Whitehead



Liam Diggle



Scott Williams



"Mystic Foz" predicts the score

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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

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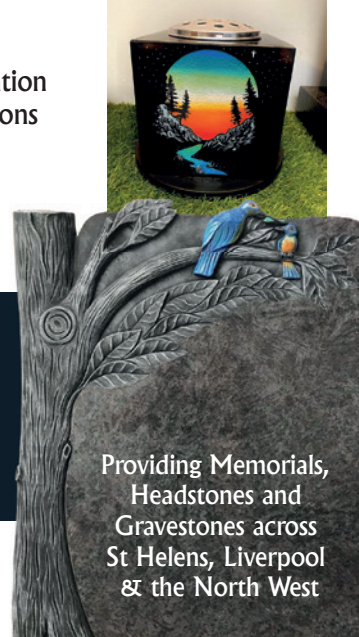
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- 1972** Lancashire Combination Champions
- 1973** Bass Charrington Cup Winners
- 1974** Watson Trophy Winners
- 1978** St Helens Hospital Cup Winners
- 1979** St Helens Combination Div 1 Runners Up
- 1979** St Helens Hospital Cup Runners Up
- 1980** 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

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

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)

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)
	31 Terry Garner 1950/51	265 Larry Redmond (134 estimated)

