

TOWN



Saturday 24th August 2024 - £2



ST HELENS TOWN A.F.C.

v



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FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the PSD Stadium at Ruskin Drive for our first home game of the season, and especially to our visitors from Lymm.

We have made an unbeaten start to the season, with four away fixtures resulting in 10 points. The squad has several new players including some who have stepped up from our U23 and U18 teams, and some young players new to the Club. Having a strong pathway to open aged football is central to our approach, so this is very encouraging. We have also been able to add senior players with experience of football at higher levels, to provide a good blend in the squad.

Off the pitch, former player Kenny Dixon has joined the Committee as player liaison representative. With his long experience as a player, including with Town and as a professional, he will be an asset in this role. We're very glad he is staying with us in this capacity.

We recently announced several important new sponsor partners, and I want to mention some of them here, as we couldn't run the Club without them. Especial thanks to Andy Somerville and the team at Critical Business Solutions, who also supported our Festival of Football last season. We're proud to have CBS on the front of our shirts. Thanks also to Jim Woodyer and MCR Building Supplies, who are on the back of our shirts and have supported free entry for everyone at all of our matches. Jim is well remembered as a long serving and very good Town player, so we're very proud to have his support. As per the opening line of these notes, we have a new stadium sponsor: PSD Vehicle Rental. They are an excellent local company, and both we and Pilkington FC are very happy to have them involved. We look forward to seeing lots of our sponsors as the season progresses.

Matt Birchall and Joe Bone continue to lead our U23s, and intend to continue the excellent progress they made in the second half of last season. We wish Darren Peers all the very best,

following his departure to join the First Team coaching staff at AFC Knowsley.

We welcome Carlos Rodrigues and Dave Pallett as our new U18s management team, supported by Fiona Sharrock. Their North West Youth Alliance season doesn't begin until September, but they are hard at work assembling the squad they need for that very competitive league.

Everyone at the Club is working together, with high targets set for all three teams, and each supporting the other. We're all looking forward to the season, and I hope you are too.

Come on the Town!

Ste Lingard



(L-R) Andy Somerville, Rob Marsh and Ste Lingard

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A WORD WITH THE MANAGER

Firstly I'd like to start with some sad news this week we lost one of our original supporters in Catherine Slevin.

Catherine and her family Ian and young Alfie have been at 90% of our home games since we came to the club 2 years ago, along with their daughter Megan.

I'd like to personally pass on my condolences to the family.

Rest in Peace Catherine. X

On to today's game which is our first home game of the season and what a game it should be as both teams have had a great start to the campaign.

Myself and the club would like to welcome everyone from Lymm Rovers 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 will see the depth of our squad today with a few players missing due to holidays, but it gives opportunities to the lads who have been chomping at the bit in training.

Big shout out to Matt and Joe who have had a fantastic start to their season in the U23's league let's hope both teams continue this form.

A massive thank you to all our sponsors this season old and new, am sure you'll agree the kit looks amazing, and finally give a warm welcome to the new members of the squad, some great young additions to the club and not forgetting my new assistant Martin Seddon.

After a few chats last season and knowing Seddo from years ago, it felt like he was made to come into the structure which he has done seamlessly.

Enjoy today's game and get behind the lads it's always appreciated.

Peo
#Tellinstown #Mertz



Ian & Catherine Slevin



Martin Seddon (left) with Peo

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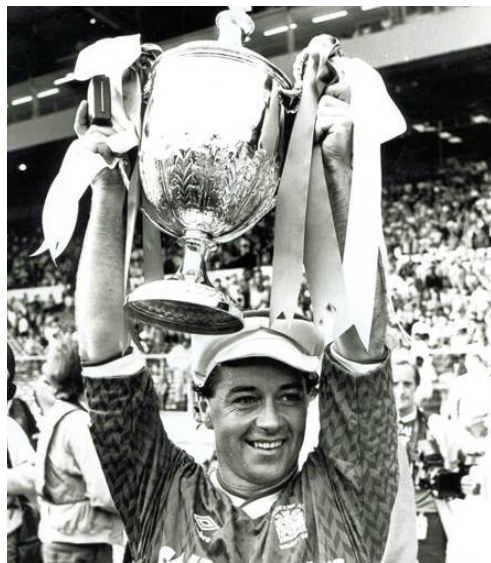
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

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 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 and ground-shared with Saints Rugby League club pending an intended move to their new stadium, which took many years longer than anticipated and finally moved out of Knowsley Road when it closed in September 2010. Plans for the move were shelved following a disagreement and Town went on a nomadic existence, playing out of town at Ashton Town, Ashton Athletic, Prescot Cables and odd games at Atherton Collieries, before St. Helens Council redeveloped the Ruskin Drive multi-sports complex and St. Helens Town moved back home there in August 2017, playing on an artificial 3G surface.

2021-22 saw Town in their eighth season at Step 6, the NWCFL First Division North, and it proved to be a disastrous campaign which Town record only four wins and four draws from 36 league games. Town finished 21 points adrift of Atherton LR in eighteenth place, 24 points from guaranteed safety. The bottom place finish confirmed the club's relegation to step 7 and the start of a new journey in the Liverpool County Premier League.

Significant changes took place on a off the field over the Summer of 2022; a new consortium purchased the club from St Helens RFC. After a difficult first year in charge, the committee made the difficult decision to drop a couple of divisions in order to realign the club with its historic place in the Cheshire League.



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TODAY'S OPPONENTS



Lymm Rovers has a proud history in junior football, currently with 400+ young players. In the summer of 2021 a men's team was formed and in 2022 it was accepted into The Cheshire League.

The club's aim is to progress local young players into adult football and offer them a club for life with excellent facilities and coaching.

Rovers' first season in the CL was a great learning curve and last season they finished strongly in 4th place.

Lymm have made a strong start to this season with a 100% record from their first three games, so today promises to be a real test for Town.



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CULTURE VULTURE

WELCOME BACK TO THE PSD STADIUM!

After a great start to the season with 10 points from four challenging away matches, we're glad to be back at our newly renamed PSD Stadium.

Today's clash is against an in-form Lymm Rovers, and should prove a test for the lads. But as the football season kicks into gear and the school holidays draw to a close, there's more than just football to keep you entertained here in St Helens.

If you've picked up this programme and are currently at the match, you'll notice that the St Helens Gala is happening all around you. A major highlight is the celebrity crown green bowling competition, a collaboration between The Steve Prescott Foundation and Johnny Vegas's Wollyback Productions. Expect to see a host of celebrity faces, including Town's dedicated supporter, Mr. Louie McCarthy-Scarsbrook.

CARNIVAL OF CREATIVITY - SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST

Next weekend, the Carnival of Creativity is set to take over St Helens. Organised by St Helens Borough Council as part of their Arts in Libraries program, this family-friendly event will feature performers, activities, and treats across various venues in the town centre.

Johnny Vegas will be at St Helens Library for "Desert Island Books," where he'll discuss his favourite reads live.

At The World of Glass Museum, Lucem House Community Cinema will screen Granny (a short film about Lizzy Ashcroft, a pioneering footballer from Parr) and Farewell Knowsley Road (a nostalgic look at the former home of the Saints Rugby League Club).

TownTeam will be representing at the Makers Market in St Mary's Market. We're hosting a 'Design a Football Shirt' competition for under 16s, with the winning design to be produced by our kit manufacturer, Fused Sports.

CARNIVAL OF CREATIVITY
St Helens

Saturday 31st August 2024
A day of activities celebrating creativity in St Helens

STEALING SHEEP TVAM JOHNNY VEGAS
MARCO WOOLF PAUL COOKSON

MAKERS MARKET FAMILY ACTIVITIES WORKSHOPS
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FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN ME

10am-5pm
St Helens Library
The World of Glass
St Mary's Market

7pm-10:30pm
St Helens Town Hall

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MUSIC AT ST HELENS TOWN HALL

The festivities will wrap up with a music gig at St Helens Town Hall, headlined by the electric pop band Stealing Sheep, mixing organic and electronic sounds to create pagan pop and dark madrigals. The night also features alternative act TVAM. If you're into a mix of electronic and shoegaze, don't miss TVAM, the one-man act of Joe Oxley. I first came across Joe's talents when he was part of Billinge indie-psych-surf pop act The V.C.s. They had a huge slice of the legendary Devo in their music and I was an instant fan.



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FREE ENTRY

COMMEMORATING THE 1984 MINERS STRIKE

Our friends at NorthWest Miners Association are hosting an event at Clock Face Labour Club to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1984 miners strike. The evening will feature Banner Theatre's performance of Battle Lines, celebrating the strike and remembering the hardships our communities faced. There'll be a bar, free food, and anniversary badges available, with all donations supporting the Heritage Association fund.

Enjoy the Match and Stay Cultured!

Here's to an exciting game, a win for the Town, and plenty of opportunities to soak up the rich cultural events St Helens has to offer.

Mike Bagshaw - Culture Vulture

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



Archie Hanson **MID**
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Dylan Hart **MID**
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Danny Hughes **MID**
 Sponsorship Available



Rob Marsh **MID**
 Sponsored by: Triprint



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Luke Diggie **DEF**
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Alex-Brooklyn Kenamuinjo **DEF**
 Sponsorship Available



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



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



Dale Whitehead **MID**
 Sponsored by: PSD



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



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



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



Ian Roby **DEF/MID**
 Sponsored by: Elite Group



Liam Beech **MID**
 Sponsored by: The Clone Roses



Ryan Cook **FWD**
 Sponsored by: Michael Featherstone



Bradley Goy **FWD**
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 Sponsored by: Kazbar



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




Chris Foster **MID**
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Pacey Garrett **MID**
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Marc Gibson **MID**
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Ivan Gomes **MID**
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Charlie Simpson **FWD**
 Sponsored by: Town In The Town



Alex Slevin **FWD**
 Sponsored by: Beha Yoga



Ethan Wetton **FWD**
 Sponsorship Available

TOWN IN ACTION

Stretford Paddock 2 - 2 Town - July 27th

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Warrington Rylands Development 2 - 3 Town - August 10th

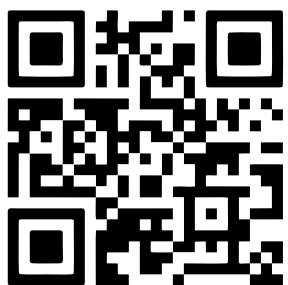
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BEAT THE YICKER

1. Which Championship club play at the Bet365 stadium?
2. Former Everton midfielder Moise Kean is now with which Serie A club?
3. Which current Championship club were runners up In the 2014 FA cup final?
4. Which German Bundesliga club are based in the city of Gelsinkerchen?
5. Which current Liverpool County Premier League club were previously known as BRNESC?
6. How many times have current league 1 club Bolton Wanderers won the FA Cup?
7. New Town signing Jake Sant was previously with which Professional club's academy?
8. Botev Plovdiv are from which country?
9. Radio 5 presenter Tony Livesey supports which Lancashire club?
10. Which Scottish club play in the town of Methil?

Answers at the bottom of the page.



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

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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

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)
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)

