

# TOWN



Saturday 29th November 2025 - £2



v



CRITICAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LTD





**CRITICAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LTD**

# Industry Leaders in Critical Infrastructure Electrical Installation & Life Safety Systems

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

[www.criticalbusinesssolutions.com](http://www.criticalbusinesssolutions.com)  
[enquiries@criticalbusinesssolutions.com](mailto:enquiries@criticalbusinesssolutions.com)

## WE ARE HIRING!

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

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

### CONTACT US:

[careers@criticalbusinesssolutions.com](mailto:careers@criticalbusinesssolutions.com)

# FROM THE CHAIR

*Welcome to the PSD Stadium at Ruskin  
Drive for today's game, and in particular to  
our visitors Winstanley Warriors.*

We played the return fixture on a Wednesday evening in early August, resulting in a 1-4 victory with goals from Max Buckley-Benbow, Liam Diggle, Taylor Prescott and Charlie Simpson. Fingers crossed for another strong performance today, albeit in rather different conditions.

This is likely to be our last home game of 2025, so I'll get my annual summary in now. In short, this has been A Very Good Year for Town, with our First Team having won the Cheshire League Division 2 in May – our first League title for more than 50 years and first senior trophy since the F.A. Vase in 1987. We have made a strong start to our Division 1 campaign and have all to play for when football resumes in January.

Along the way we've experienced many memorable moments and had an awful lot of fun. The First Team performances have been central to this, and for that we have our Manager Peo to thank, ably supported by Seddo, Lee, Kenny and Mike. Everyone at the Club is grateful to them for their hard and successful work. Long may it continue.

Danny Hughes and Gav Hanson have made an excellent start as our new U23s team managers since their appointment over the Summer. The team is flying, with a run of impressive victories whilst playing ever-improving football. They are also working very nicely with our U18s manager Carlos, and his assistant Dave. Several U18s players have made the step up to open aged football and have enjoyed the experience whilst making an important contribution.

Carlos and Dave are also doing a very good job with the U18s team itself, having built another good group including a lot of 16 year olds who

will be together for this and next season. The team is only going to get stronger and we all look forward to seeing their progress.

The managers could do nothing without the players, and we're lucky to have a wonderful extended group across the three teams. We thank them all for their hard work and commitment, and hope they enjoy playing here as much as we enjoy watching them.

One thing that makes Town special is our matchday support: it has been marvellous all year, home and away, and I am convinced has played a part in many of our excellent results. Thank you, everyone, and let's keep it up today then at Knutsford and Maine Road next week.

I hope you have an excellent Christmas, and all the very best for 2026.

*Cheers!*

*Ste Lingard*



# REVIVE

TAKING CLEANING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

## COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL CLEANING

[reviveclean.co.uk](http://reviveclean.co.uk)

**07488 812288**

[contact@reviveclean.co.uk](mailto:contact@reviveclean.co.uk)

# A WORD WITH THE MANAGER



*Myself and the club would like to welcome everyone from Winstanley 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.

Really pleased with how things are going right now we go into today's game 7 straight wins and everyone knows that builds confidence.

Over the past few games we have taken the opportunity to rotate players and rest a few, which has been very important to us and to show the strength of the squad.

It also shows the quality of the mentality of the lads as well who deserve all the credit.

Despite a last minute change of opponent today we know exactly what Winstanley will bring today after a very exciting game at the beginning of the season where they fought till the last kick of the game.

However we aim to continue this great run we are on and we will give everything we can as we always do.

Thank you as always for your continued support it means so much.

*#tellingstowntown #mertz*

*Peo*

Peo & Seddo



## Residential

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



## Industrial

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

## Commercial

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



# THE GRIFFIN INN

Your local pub,  
restaurant &  
hotel.

Serving home  
cooked food and  
hosting events for  
all occasions.

01744 27907

ECCLESTON

griffininn.co.uk

MCR Building Supplies Ltd

The Meadows, Ruskin Dr, Saint Helens WA10 6RP

Email: [accounts@mcrbs.co.uk](mailto:accounts@mcrbs.co.uk) • Tel: 01744 333059



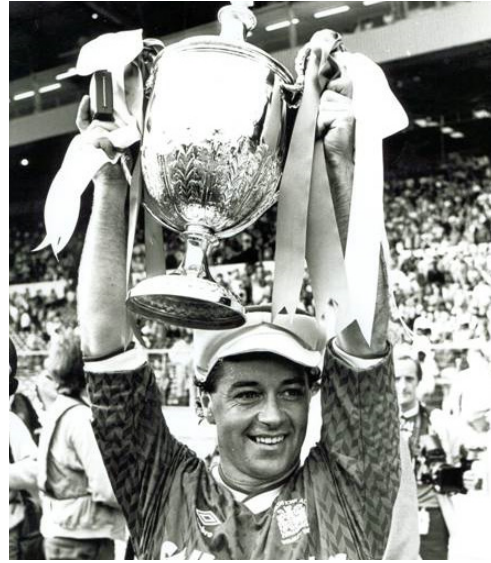
# A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN

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.

## MIKE EDWARDS SERVICES



### @NEW ROAD



### MOT TEST STATION - SERVICING - DIAGNOSTICS - REPAIRS

0151 4309412

28-30 New Rd, Prescot, L34 6JT

01744 739233

# CULTURE VULTURE

## RIP MANI

*So, as some of you may know — I've written about it before — when I'm not cheering on The Town, I'm playing bass guitar for local Stone Roses tribute band The Clone Roses.*

The sad news came through on Thursday 20th November that Stone Roses bass player Gary 'Mani' Mounfield had passed away. After spending the best part of my life playing tribute to him, it came as a huge shock. My phone didn't stop pinging as people messaged me about the devastating news.

We headed to a sold-out Shepherd's Bush Empire on Saturday determined to pay tribute to the great man, but we know that our final show of 2025 will be the most emotional — when we head to his home city of Manchester to play The Academy, a show that Mani himself was booked to DJ. Heartbreaking.

Mike Critchley from The St Helens Star is well known by Saints RL fans for his fantastic rugby league coverage, as well as Town supporters. But Mike is also a huge music fan. He contacted me to see if I'd be up for saying a few words for the paper. I thought, yes — I'd like to pay tribute to Mani.

So, here follows the interview I did for The St Helens Star with Mike.

TRIBUTES have continued to pour in for Stone Roses and Primal Scream bass player Gary 'Mani' Mounfield, who died yesterday aged 63.

Joining them is fellow bassist Mike Bagshaw, who has played in St Helens-based tribute band The Clone Roses for 27 years.

He described Mani as a "modest, down to earth working class north Manchester lad".

And tomorrow, at a packed-out Shepherd's Bush Empire in West London, the Clone Roses will pay a respectful tribute to the much-loved and respected musician in what will be an emotionally-charged occasion.

Speaking this morning, the day after the sad news broke, Mike explained why Mani was held in such high regard for his musicianship and character traits.

Mike said: "Mani's bass lines were so iconic - everything from the intro to the first album to the intro to every show played always starts with that bass line.



"And the riffs are great, like on I am the Resurrection and She bangs the drums are all so instantly recognisable."

The first time Mike met Mani was when the Clones opened the Brixton Academy show with the Happy Mondays in front of 5,000 at the iconic Brixton Academy.

"We were still in our early 20s and had not been going that long and it was our biggest show to date," Mike said.

"I was going through, 'She bangs and drums' and suddenly there was a wolf whistle behind me — and when I looked it was Mani.

"That's the first time I had met him — as if I was not already really nervous anyway.

"But backstage afterwards I got talking to him and he was just one of those blokes who was modest and he'd make the effort to put you at ease.

"Looking back on it, on reflection, he could see I was nervous about being around him and he clearly made the effort to put me at ease with his modesty, and talking about the people who we knew.

"He was just really down to earth lad, who didn't have any of that rock star persona about him whatsoever."

Mike subsequently met Mani a few times over the years and liked having a chat with him and said he had always been very supportive of what the band had done.

So, Saturday night at the big show at the prestigious west London venue will become a focus for grieving Roses fans — and there will be no lack of poignancy around the proceedings.

Mike explained: "We've talked about it as a band and we're going to start the show a particular way.

"We've got something planned to pay tribute to Mani that we hope comes across respectfully because we can't just do the show and ignore it.

"But at the end of the day, people still want to enjoy themselves and see a Stone Roses show that they've paid money to see so we don't want it to be too sombre, but we will pay a tactful tribute."

The Clone Roses are finishing the year with three massive gigs with the Shepherds Bush event followed by Leicester and then Manchester Academy.

"It's going to be emotional tomorrow, but Manchester's going to be something else especially as Mani was due to be performing at that gig.

"I have so much respect for Mani, and I was really looking forward to seeing him in Manchester.

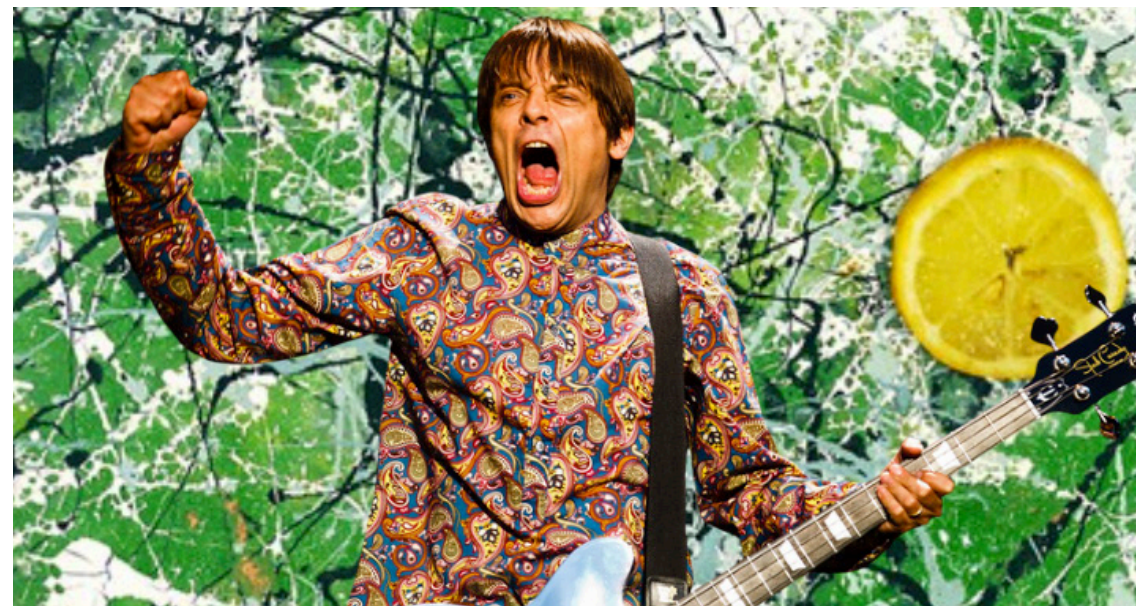


"He was such a really nice bloke - a down to earth, working class North Manchester lad."

I'm not at today's match as I'm out with The Clone Roses in Leicester. But we'll be glued to our phones during sound check — much to our sound engineer's annoyance. Fingers crossed for another great performance from the boys in blue.

***As always, stay cultured and c'mon The Town... and rest easy, Mani.***

***Mike Bagshaw - Clone Mani***



# Celebrate the story of ST HELENS TOWN AFC

## Town in the Town CIC & St Helens Town AFC

Invite you to kickstart our brand-new Pop-Up Museum shining a spotlight on over a century of football heritage, pride, and community spirit.

Bert Trautmann? Houghton Road? Park Road? The 1986–87 FA Vase?

If these names spark a memory... this event is for you.

If they don't — come along and discover why they matter.

Our club's incredible history deserves to be shared, remembered, and brought to life for new generations.

### Why We're Doing This

St Helens Town AFC has been part of the town's identity since 1901. Its story is filled with unforgettable players, unforgettable places, and unforgettable people. But much of that history has never been properly collected or celebrated - until now.

Our Pop-Up Museum will bring together

Photographs • Oral histories • Kits • Match programmes • Stories from fans, families, and players. A truly community built collection, created with pride and shaped by the people who lived it.

### Join Us for a Special FREE Film Screening To launch the pop-up museum,

We're bringing everyone together for a heartwarming screening of:

**The Keeper:** This film tells the inspiring true story of **Bert Trautmann**, who began his English football journey with **St Helens Town AFC** before rising to fame at Manchester City. It's a moving film about courage, redemption, and an unlikely goalkeeper who became a legend.

### Sunday 28 December 2025

Doors open: 12:00pm | Film: 12:30pm

Interval with sandwiches, ice cream and drinks.

**Lucem House Community Cinema**, Claughton Street, St Helens

And afterwards we'll continue the conversations at **The Lamb Inn!**

Follow the QR code or email [towninthetown2024@gmail.com](mailto:towninthetown2024@gmail.com) to book your free ticket to the screening



# HOPE UNITED

## NEW TO ST HELENS? LOVE FOOTBALL?

# REFUGEE FOOTBALL SESSIONS



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

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

For more information email:  
[sthelentownafc@outlook.com](mailto:sthelentownafc@outlook.com)



Scan me!

# THE SQUAD

A big thankyou to all our player sponsors.  
 Player sponsorship is available for £70, and (alongside the warm feeling you get knowing you're helping support your local team), you will also receive a visible presence in the programme as well as on social media.

For information email us : [sthelenstownafc@outlook.com](mailto:sthelenstownafc@outlook.com)



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



**Martin Seddon** **ASSISTANT MANAGER**  
 Sponsored by: Essence- Nails/Beauty/Skin



**Lee O'Connor** **COACH**  
 Sponsored by: Prescott Signs



**Callum Davies** **GK**  
 Sponsorship Available



**Liam Diggie** **MID**  
 Sponsored by: Kazbar



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



**Pacey Garrett** **MID**  
 Sponsored by: Triprint



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



**Ellis Evans** **GK**  
 Sponsored by: TNZ Global



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



**Lewis Bateman** **DEF**  
 Sponsored by: St Helens Eats



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



**Danny Hughes** **MID**  
 Sponsorship Available



**Charlie Middlemore** **MID**  
 Sponsored by: John McKiernan



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



**Dale Whitehead** **MID**  
 Sponsored by: PSD



**Jack Critchlow** **DEF**  
 Sponsored by: Michael Allison



**Dean Curtis** **DEF**  
 Sponsored by: St Helens Nutrition



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



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



**Ryan Cook** **FWD**  
 Sponsored by: Haresfinch Blues



**Will Clapham** **FWD**  
 Sponsored by: Universal Tanker Solutions



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



**Charlie Leech** **FWD**  
 Sponsored by: The Clone Roses



**Harry Long** **DEF**  
 Sponsored by: Compliance Education



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



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



**Makol Atem** **MID**  
 Sponsored by: Town In The Town



**Ben Noonan** **FWD**  
 Sponsored by: AJGL Contractors



**Taylor Prescott** **FWD**  
 Sponsored by: The Clone Roses



**Charlie Simpson** **FWD**  
 Sponsored by: Tony Dawson



**Ethan Wetton** **FWD**  
 Sponsorship Available

# SEASON STATISTICS

Match	Home Team	Score	Away Team	Score	HT	FT	Referee
1	Billinge FC	0-3	Billinge FC	0-3	1-5	0-3	
2	Cheadle Heath Nomads	29/11	Cheadle Heath Nomads	2-4	1-3	0-4	
3	Clay Brow	6-0	Clay Brow	2-5	0-5	1-1	
4	Congleton Town Res	2-0	Congleton Town Res	8-3	0-1	0-1	
5	Daten FC	3-5	Daten FC	4-2	1-1	1-2	
6	Egerton FC	1-0	Egerton FC	5-2	1-1	0-2	
7	Knutsford FC	4-0	Knutsford FC	1-0	06/12	3-0	
8	Mersey Valley	8-1	Mersey Valley	0-4	2-1	0-1	
9	Sandbach United Res	9-0	Sandbach United Res	0-0	06/12	2-2	
10	St Helens Town	6-1	St Helens Town	2-2	2-1	2-1	
11	Stretford Paddock	4-1	Stretford Paddock	1-2	2-4	2-4	
12	Styal	4-1	Styal	3-3	1-3	5-2	
13	Upton	8-0	Upton	0-1	2-2	1-3	
14	Knutsford FC	2-1	Knutsford FC	2-1	4-1	2-4	
15	Winstanley Warriors	1-1	Winstanley Warriors	1-4	1-4	1-4	
16	Wythenshawe Reserves	13/12	Wythenshawe Reserves	6-4	3-4	0-8	

## CHESHIRE LEAGUE 1

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1	Egerton FC	21	14	3	4	66	28	38
2	Daten FC	17	13	2	2	54	25	29
3	Winstanley Warriors	15	13	1	1	45	18	27
4	Knutsford FC	16	11	1	4	39	24	15
5	Stretford Paddock	15	10	2	3	33	22	11
6	<b>St Helens Town</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>
7	Clay Brow	14	9	2	3	56	23	33
8	Styal FC	17	7	2	8	43	44	-1
9	Sandbach United Res.	13	5	5	3	32	21	11
10	Congleton Town Res.	18	5	3	10	23	34	-11
11	<b>Winstanley Warriors</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>
12	Mersey Valley	17	5	1	11	38	59	-21
13	Upton JFC	16	2	4	10	34	47	-13
14	Wythenshawe Res.	16	2	0	14	26	66	-40
15	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	17	1	3	13	23	63	-40
16	Billinge FC	17	0	1	16	9	73	-64

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

### Cheshire League 1

14:00 Cheadle Heath Nomads v Billinge  
 14:00 Congleton Town Reserves v Knutsford  
 14:00 Styal v Egerton  
 15:00 St Helens Town AFC v Winstanley Warriors FC

### Leading Goalscorers

Player	Goals
Liam Diggle	13(0)
Prescott	13(0)
Simpson	14(0)
Noonan	3(3)
Clapham	4(6)
Cook	10(4)

### Appearances

Player	Appearances
Liam Diggle	13(0)
Prescott	13(0)
Simpson	14(0)
Noonan	3(3)
Clapham	4(6)
Cook	10(4)

### Goals

Player	Goals
Liam Diggle	10
Prescott	10
Simpson	6
Noonan	6
Clapham	3
Cook	3

### GPG

Player	GPG
Liam Diggle	0.71
Prescott	0.71
Simpson	0.40
Noonan	0.38
Clapham	0.30
Cook	0.21

### Player of the Match

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	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	Critchlow 1	Middlemore	Foster	Filson	Prescott	Leech	Atem1	Hanson	Clapham 1	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Hughes	Noonan	Atem
06/08	A	CFL	Winstanley Warriors	1-4	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow 1	Filson	Foster	Petersen	Prescott	Clapham	Prescott1	Hanson	Luke Diggle	Hughes	Noonan	Morris	Morris	Atem
12/08	A	CFL	Upton JFC	3-3	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Filson	Foster	Petersen	Prescott	Middlemore	Cook	Middlemore	Prescott	Atem	Hanson	Noonan1	Morris	Atem
30/08	A	CFL	Styal 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	Diggle (C)	Morris	Prescott	Morris	Noonan	Long	Atem	Bateman
13/09	A	NRFC	Ormskirk West End	1-6	Jenkinson	Bateman	Long	Sant	Curtis	Middlemore (C)	Petersen1	Morris	Prescott3	Simpson1	Luke Diggle	Cook1	Foster	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow	Critchlow
20/09	A	CFL	Stretford Paddock	3-0	Jenkinson	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Whitehead (C)	Morris	Prescott2	Noonan	Yawson	Clapham	Cook	Cook	Critchlow
27/09	A	CFL	Cheadle Heath Nomads Res.	0-5	Jenkinson	Curtis	Bateman	Sant	Foster	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore (C)	Morris	Prescott2	Cook	Noonan	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Foster	Petersen
04/10	A	NRFC	Rainhill Town	5-1	Davies	Bateman	Luke Diggle	Foster	Curtis	Petersen	Simpson	Middlemore	Diggle 2 (C)	Morris	Clapham	Clapham	Prescott	Noonan	Luke Diggle	Foster
11/10	A	CFL	Egerton	0-2	Jenkinson	Bateman1	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Middlemore (C)	Critchlow	Clapham	Prescott	Noonan1	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow
18/10	A	CFL	Mersey Valley	0-4	Jenkinson	Bateman	Curtis	Sant	Critchlow 1	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott1	Noonan	Noonan	Foster	Curtis	Clapham
25/10	H	CFL	Sandbach Utd Res	2-1	Davies	Bateman	Curtis	Sant	Critchlow	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott1	Noonan	Noonan	Long	Foster	Clapham
08/11	H	CFL	Styal FC	3-1	Jenkinson	Critchlow	Buckley-Benbow	Sant	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Diggle (C)	Prescott1	Long	Gibson	Leech1	Noonan	Clapham
15/11	H	CFL	Billinge FC	6-1	Jenkinson	Long	Buckley-Benbow	Critchlow	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Diggle (C)	Gibson2	Clapham	Cook	Noonan1	Sant	Simpson1	Clapham
22/11	A	CFL	Billinge FC	1-3	Jenkinson	Long	Gibson	Filson	Curtis	Filson	Simpson	Middlemore	Cook	Prescott	Noonan1	Diggle	Clapham1	Petersen		
29/11	H	CFL	Winstanley Warriors																	
06/12	A	CFL	Knutsford																	
08/12	A	NRFC	Maine Road Res																	



### Current Squad All Time Appearances

Liam Diggle	142
Danny Hughes	89
Ryan Cook	84
Luke Diggle	74
Dale Whitehead	64
Alex Petersen	56
Charlie Simpson	53
Max Buckley-Benbow	50

# MEET A MERT!

## HARRY LONG

**Age:** 20

**Position:** Right back

**Who do you support?** Everton

**Where you from?** Huyton

**Favourite player?** - Close between Baines and Cahill, but would have to go with Baines for longevity at Everton.

**Best goal ever?** - Messi vs Bilbao 2015

**Best kit ever?** - Colombia 1990 World Cup

**Favourite other sport?** Golf

**Pre-Match Ritual?** Red bull before the game.

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

Played for Town in 2022 when I was 16 and had a few different clubs in the meantime, but couldn't stay away so I came back for the start of this season!

**Best moment in a Town shirt so far?** Would have to be the trip to Germany, it was a class few days topped off by winning the friendly.

**Best thing about Tellins?** Got to be The Wicket, The Griffin is decent for a pint and food as well.

**Currently watching?** Prison Break

**Favourite album?** The Beatles Rubber Soul or Abbey Road (easily the best taste in music of any Mert so far - Ed)

## THE SQUAD

**Worst dancer?** Haven't seen any of the lads yet but just going off imagination I'd say Max, looks like he'd be stiff.

**Worst tattoo?** Anyone who's got a United or Liverpool tattoo.

**Worst dressed?** I don't think BAteman has acclimatised to the fashion round here yet so I'll go with him.

**Worst haircut?** I know he's got rid of the mullet but would still lean towards Ben Noonan



**Who would you least like to be stuck in a lift with?** Probably Pacey, purely because I think he'd chew me ear off the whole time.



# FREE FOOTY



**Free** turn up & play football for all 11-16 year olds. Qualified & experienced coaches.

**EVERY MONDAY  
5PM - 6PM**

★ A parent/carer telephone number is required

**Venue**

**St.Cuthbert's High School  
Berry's Lane, Sutton. WA9 3HE**

**Contact**

**towninthetown2024@gmail.com**

**TOWN IN THE TOWN**  
Strengthening Communities & Welcoming All



Follow our Facebook @towninthetown. Instagram @town\_in\_the\_town



# TOWN IN ACTION

Billinge 1-3 St. Helens Town AFC - November 22nd

Photos by Mary Castrogiovanni



Charlie Middlemore



Taylor Prescott



Liam Diggle



Ben Noonan being a handful (LOLZORDZ)



Alex Pettersen



Charlie Simpson



MOBILE COMMUNITY  
**FOOD  
PANTRY**  
ST HELENS BOROUGH  
Player of The Match Marc Gibson - Boooo!



Jake "The Salmon" Sant leaps for the qualiser



### Beauty Treatments

A range of treatments designed to enhance your natural beauty with expert precision and care. Whether your looking for bespoke brows, a natural lash lift, facial or body waxing, all of our treatments are tailored to you.



### Nail Services

Treat your nails to an expert manicure or pedicure with a range of BIAB, Acrylic and Gel colours. Or indulge with a relaxing 'spa like' luxury manicure and pedicure



### Advanced Facial Treatments

Indulge in one of our luxurious relaxing facials or experience a more advanced targeted treatment such as Microdermabrasion or Microneedling, to combat common skin concerns and rejuvenate your skin.

**BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!**

Open Monday - Saturday  
Evening appointments  
Every Thursday

07930622296

Essence @ 11 Hatters Row  
Horsemarket Street  
Warrington  
WA1 1XP

# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

To subscribe, visit [www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com/subscriptions](http://www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com/subscriptions)

**FOOTBALL'S latest trend accessory, the micro shin pad, is going out of fashion faster than a John Barnes free-kick, it seems.**

As the name suggests, "micro" - or "mini" pads as they are also known - are modern-day shin guards that cover a smaller amount of the shin, about the size of a Custard Cream biscuit. But last week, we reported that a number of Step 5 and 6 clubs had imposed bans prohibiting their use following a horror injury suffered by young Ilfracombe Town winger Riley Malin. Malin suffered a double leg break after coming off worse in a 50/50 challenge against Bridport, forcing their South West Peninsula League Premier East match to be abandoned.

Micro shinpads were blamed and, as a result, the Bluebirds, along with Bridport and the likes of Bude Town and Dobwalls FC, announced that they implemented an immediate and non-negotiable ban on the use of micro shin pads across all age groups and squads.

Ilfracombe said the decision had been made in the "interest of player safety and welfare", and to ensure that all players are "equipped with protective gear that meets required safety standards".

Showcased by Premier League stars such as Jack Grealish, the micro shinpad is now a popular item in dressing rooms up and down the country at amateur, grass roots and junior level.

FA guidance for shin pads in community football states that such protection is a "compulsory" piece of equipment, but stops short of prohibiting micro versions.

"The amount of shin physically covered is an important consideration, as any part of the shin that is not covered is not as well protected," the guidance says.

"Micro' or 'Mini' shin pads may therefore increase the risk of injury due to the smaller amount of shin covered compared to larger sized shin pads."

Malin's injury proved the final straw for Ilfracombe, who said in a statement: "All players must wear regulation-sized, fully protective shin pads for all matches, training sessions, and club-sanctioned activities.

"Any player found wearing micro shin pads—or any shin protection that does not meet accepted safety standards—will not be permitted to participate until compliant equipment is worn.

"The incident at Bridport highlighted the unacceptable risk posed by inadequate protective equipment. The club has a duty of care to every player, and this measure is essential to maintaining safe and responsible playing conditions."

Their stance has been emulated by South West Peninsula League rivals Bude Town. They added: "This decision has been made to ensure player safety and welfare across all elements of competitive football, whether that be matches or training.

"Players will not be able to play for Bude Town Football Club unless compliant equipment is worn and we need the co-operation from players, coaches and parents/guardians to enforce this decision."

Since our article, a number of other clubs have followed suit and also publicly come out in support of the ban.

Isthmian South Central side Binfield said: "Following recent reviews of match-day equipment and reports within the press highlighting the ineffectiveness of micro shin pads, the club is introducing a full ban on micro shin pads, effective immediately.

"Whilst we recognise that The FA has not yet put a ban in place to this effect, we at Binfield FC strongly believe that micro shin pads do not provide adequate protection and significantly increase the risk of injury.

"To maintain a safe playing environment for all, all players must wear appropriately sized shin pads for training sessions and competitive fixtures.

We ask all players, parents, and coaches to support this policy and ensure suitable equipment is worn at all times.

"The club will continue to prioritise player welfare and appreciates your cooperation in upholding these standards.

And clubs at Step 7 are also taking a stance.

Beaminster FC, who play in the Dorset Football League, said that their new shin pad policy was "a non-negotiable policy".

"Managers/coaches and club officials present on the day will be asked to check that players are wearing appropriately sized shin guards that comply with this new policy," they said.

"Failure to comply will result in the player being withdrawn from the fixture."

And Lyme Regis FC, who play in the Devon and Exeter Premier, added: "Player safety is our highest priority, and this policy reflects our commitment to ensuring a safe and responsible playing environment for everyone at the club."

With Ilfracombe's stance gathering support all the time, don't be surprised others make a stand, thus forcing the relevant governing bodies into making a firmer decision in time.

Safety, not vanity must be the order of the day here and if a blanket ban prevents just one injury as suffered by Riley Malin then common sense will have prevailed.

**John Couch**





# ST HELENS EATS

80+  
TAKEAWAYS



DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!



## YOUR LOCAL ORDERING APP

## GET £5 OFF YOUR FIRST ORDER!

## USE CODE: UPTHETOWN

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

## BEAT THE YICKER

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. At which premier league ground would you find the Matthew Harding stand?
2. Chelsea signed Andrey Santos from which French club?
3. What bird would you associate with Swindon Tn. (Don't mean Melinda Messenger by the way)
4. Which club dropped out of the Liverpool county premier league and into the Liverpool football league?
5. Qarabag FC are from which country?
6. Who do Wigan Athletic play in round 2 of the FA cup next Saturday?
7. Which Stone Roses song to Manchester United come out to at Old Trafford?
8. Who won the FA Cup in 1978?
9. Mason Burstow is currently leading scorer at which league 1 club?
10. Which Scottish side are based in the town of Methil?



## 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

**Platinum Club Sponsor:** CBS - Critical Business Solutions

**Gold Club Sponsor:** MCR Building Solutions

**Silver Club Sponsor:** AE Holland Memorials

**Bronze Club Sponsor:** Revive Cleaning

**Player of The Match Sponsor:** St Helens Borough Mobile Pantry

**Player of The Month Sponsor:** The Griffin Inn

### Legal

St Helens Town Limited

Private Limited Company

Company No. 04392840

Date of Incorporation 12.03.2002

### Ground

PSD Stadium, Ruskin Drive, Denton's Green, St Helens WA10 6RP

**Website:** sthelenstownafc.com

**Twitter:** @sthelenstownfc

**Facebook:** facebook.com/StHelensTownAFC

**Instagram:** sthelenstownafc

In Loving Memory

# A.E. Holland.

MEMORIALS LIMITED  
EST - 1950

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Call us today for a free no obligation estimate

**01744 25922**  
[ahollandmemorials.co.uk](http://ahollandmemorials.co.uk)

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

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

Craftsman Built Memorials Since 1950

**BRAMM**

# MERTZ MERCH!



**CLONE ROSES  
TRAINING SHIRT**  
£25

**BUTTON  
BADGE**  
£1

**BEANIES**  
LARGE - £13.50  
SMALL - £12.50

**SCARF**  
£15

**T-SHIRT**  
£12.50

**REPLICA TOPS**  
ADULT £30  
CHILDREN £25

**BUCKET HAT**  
£15

To purchase, email : [STHELENSTOWNAFC@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:STHELENSTOWNAFC@OUTLOOK.COM)



# YOUR LOCAL TOWN CENTRE PRINT SHOP

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



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

Find us on   
 @TriprintStHelens  
 @Triprint1

## ST HELENS TOWN HONOURS

- 1949 George Mahon Trophy Winners
- 1951 Lancashire Comb Division 2 Champions
- 1972 Lancashire Combination Champions
- 1973 Bass Charrington Cup Winners
- 1974 Watson Trophy Winners
- 1978 St Helens Hospital Cup Winners
- 1979 St Helens Combination Div 1 Runners Up
- 1979 St Helens Hospital Cup Runners Up
- 1980 St Helens Combination Div 1 Champions
- 1985 NWCFL Reserve Division 2 Runners Up
- 1986 NWCFL Reserve Division 1 Runners Up
- 1987 FA Vase Winners (Wembley)
- 1994 League Challenge Cup Finalists
- 1994 NWCFL Reserve Division Runners Up
- 1995 NWCFL Reserve Division Champions
- 1996 NWCFL Reserve Division Runners Up
- 1998 Floodlit Trophy Finalists
- 1999 REALCO Fair Play Award Winners
- 2009 Bert Trautmann Trophy Winners
- 2014-15 South Lancs League U17s Cup Finalists
- 2014-15 Cheshire FA U21 League Champions
- 2015-16 Cheshire FA U21 Premier Cup Finalists
- 2016-17 Cheshire FA U21 League Cup Finalists
- 2016-17 Cheshire FA U21 Premier Div Runners Up
- 2017-18 NWYA U18s President's Cup Winners
- 2020-21 NWYA U18s President's Cup Winners
- 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)

