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Northern Premier League - West

v WORKINGTON AFC



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CLITHEROE v WORKINGTON AFC



- 1 Chris Thompson
- 2 Jack Burrows
- 3 Cole Lonsdale
- 4 Gary Stopforth
- 5 Harrison Burke
- 6 Billy Priestley
- 7 Alex Turner
- 8 Danny Wilkins
- 9 Sefton Gonzales
- 10 Ross Dent
- 11 Jake Connelly
- 12 Joel Mills
- 14 Conor Gaul
- 15 Ricardo Pembele
- 16 Mbako Chalashika
- 17 Taylor Bricknell

- 1 Jim Atkinson
- 2 Matty Clarke
- 3 Kieran Charlton
- 4 Brad Carroll
- 5 Sam Smith
- 6 Brad Hubbard
- 7 Iyrwah Gooden
- 8 Charlie Bowman
- 9 Scott Allison
- 10 Conor Tinnion
- 11 Nic Evangelinos
- 12 Reuben Jerome
- 13 Carl Lightfoot
- 14 Thomas Skinner
- 15 Aidan Howarth
- 16 Danny Eccles

MONDAY 30 AUGUST 2021

Kick-off 3:00pm

PITCHING-IN NPL

West Division

REFEREE

Abid Hussain

ASSISTANTS

Sohail Asghar

Zachary Parris

NEXT HOME MATCH

Saturday 11 September

3:00pm v Runcorn Linnets

These lineups are taken from each team's previous match
and may not be accurate today. See below for live lineups.

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Daniel Stuttard

LIFE MEMBERS

Anne Barker, Alan Daniels

MANAGERS

Billy Priestley & Gary Stopforth

SPORTS THERAPIST

Harry Whitam

PROGRAMME DESIGN

root fifty-two

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WELCOME TO CLITHEROE

A warm welcome to Shawbridge to everyone for this Bank Holiday fixture.

We extend that welcome particularly to our visitors from Workington, and hope that their trip down the M6 along with the inevitable tourist traffic has not been too onerous. Our visitors will be well supported so it has the makings of a cracking game.

Workington always make any club who make the journey to Cumbria incredibly welcome and we hope we reciprocate that here at Shawbridge.

Our visitors have been particularly frustrated by the stop start nature of the Covid effects on our league over the past two seasons. Two years ago, they were clearly the best team in the league and were riding high by ten clear points when the shutters came down. No team in the league would have moaned if they had gone up.

They equally were shaping up well last season before the early curtain came down.

Much of their success was linked to the work of manager Danny Grainger and when he was offered a role in the close season as No 2 at a Scottish division 1 club, Workington took their time before appointing former Ramsbottom boss Chris Wilcock to replace him.

A vastly experienced manager, this looks a very shrewd move. With two league wins already under their belt they went toe to toe with Marine in an epic FA Cup preliminary round game, finally going out in extra time of the replay in front of 800 fans at Marine, with ex Blues boss David Lynch getting the winner.

If that wasn't enough, they then faced each other over the weekend up in Cumbria. The plaudits

they have already received suggest they will be the team to beat again, indeed very few are betting against either Workington or Marine for the title.

The crazy nature of the early part of any new season with a dash of Bank Holiday madness thrown in, means that this programme is being completed before we even know the outcome of our midweek fixture against Bootle.

We did receive the names of our opponents in the FA Cup 1st qualifying round, with us travelling to fellow league members City of Liverpool. We have only played them once in the two years since they've been league members, with a heavy defeat early in Phil Brown's reign being the only score to date. That was when they ground shared with Bootle.

This arrangement has now come to an end and they had an end of season panic to find another home, finally agreeing to ground share with NWC side Vauxhall Motors. Motors have been in the wilderness for many seasons since they were in the Conference North, but I am led to believe that the playing surface and quality of set up is still first class. It's also like going to Surrey when you travel down the leafy lanes to get there so it should be very interesting.

We are also due to play each other three days later at the same venue so we will know each other pretty well.

My last recollection of going to the ground was in the FA Vase after our Wembley visit, but we left with our tail between our lads losing 0-2. That was 25 years ago, so probably about time we

TODAY'S MATCH

rectified that!

The gaffers have also been active on the playing side and are looking to provide more depth to the squad as the games come thick and fast.

These are very much targeted additions and the first evidence of this is the signing of former Bury player Richie Baker. Others are in progress.

Equally, off the pitch the grass is not growing under our feet, if you'll pardon the pun. The club has doubled its electricity capacity by installing a top of the range generator to power exclusively the floodlights. Those gags about chip friers and floodlights not mixing really are true!

Secondly, the club is seeking planning

permission for the works it started behind the clubhouse, with spaces ultimately for over 50 cars being sought, with these only being used on matchdays, training days or for specific events. Other than that, the gates will be closed except for access. The formal process is now firmly underway and the club is in no doubt that the developments in that corner of the ground hold the key to future growth. We all keep our fingers crossed.

OK, back to the game today. Both teams will be slightly out on their feet after such a rash of games, but Bank Holiday games with a big crowd on are the ones you want to play in. Game on!

Bennett Kirkhope Smith.



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BLUES ADD BAKER TO THE MIX

Experienced midfielder joins Shawbridge ranks as Blues look to build on fine start

The buoyant Blues have added some more top-class midfield pedigree to their ranks with Richie Baker signing up ahead of Wednesday night's home game against Bootle. Baker arrives at Shawbridge from NPL West rivals Ramsbottom United.

And as well as non-league experience at a higher level with Curzon Ashton, FC United, AFC Fylde, Stockport County and Barrow, the 33-year-old also boasts more than 100 Football League appearances on his CV from a four-year stint with Bury.

The Burnley-born midfield man – who started his career at Preston North End – links up again with joint Blues' manager Gary Stopforth after the pair spent time together at Stockport and Colne.

And Baker can't wait to get started with the Blues, who will be looking for a first home win of the campaign to build on their unbeaten start in league and cup.

"I'm happy to join Clitheroe – a great club and excited to get going," the 33-year-old said via Twitter.

Baker's signing will add further competition to the Blues' squad as they look to continue to build momentum under Stopforth and Billy Priestley and extend the feel-good factor at Shawbridge.

And defender Harrison Burke could also make a home debut after the on-loan Chester defender helped Clitheroe knock Northwich Victoria out of the FA Cup on Sunday.





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THE RESTRUCTURE EXPLAINED

The restructure at Steps 4-6 this summer solved some problems but not all.

Clubs who had performed consistently over the curtailed seasons of 2019-20 and 2020-21 were awarded promotion on points-per-game.

In total, 110 clubs were upwardly moved as a new Northern Premier League Midlands division was formed at Step 4, two new Step 5 divisions administered by the Combined Counties League and the United Counties League and the Step 6 structure reduced to 17 divisions.

But vacancies across Steps 1-4, due to the resignations of clubs over the past two years, still remained although it was never the FA's intention to fill them as part of the restructure.

Instead, the vacancies will be filled ahead of the 2022-23 season via reprieves as laid down in the FA rules.

Providing no club goes under or fails its ground grading during this season, this is what should happen:

At Step 2, each champion and play-off winner is promoted (four clubs in total). The bottom clubs in National League North and South will be relegated (two clubs in total). Step 2 is increasing to 24 teams in each league from the 2022-23 season.

At Step 3, each champion and play-off winner is promoted (eight clubs in total). Of the 16 clubs finishing in relegation positions, seven will be reprieved, comprising the clubs finishing 4th bottom in each Step 3 division plus three of the four clubs that finish 3rd bottom with the best unweighted points-per-game record. The 3rd bottom club with the worst PPG record across

the Step, plus all 2nd bottom and bottom placed clubs will be relegated.

At Step 4, each champion and play-off winner is promoted (16 clubs in total). Sixteen Step 5 champion clubs are automatically promoted and replace the bottom and 2nd bottom clubs at Step 4. Nine clubs with the best points-per-game are reprieved due to the vacancies at Steps 1-4 and the number of clubs at Step 2 increasing. This will leave seven Step 4 clubs playing off against seven Step 5 runners-up with the remaining eligible Step 5 clubs promoted.

Although reprieves are usually awarded to clubs with the best PPG records, the FA Alliance Committee has the power to vary that model.

Get your calculators and spreadsheets at the ready for the final weeks of the season!

	PROMOTED	RELEGATED
Step 2	Champion and play-off winner (4 clubs in total)	Bottom clubs in NL North and South (2 clubs in total)
Step 3	Champion and play-off winner (8 clubs in total)	16 clubs in relegation positions - 7 clubs with the best PPG reprieved, 9 clubs relegated
Step 4	Lge Champion and play-off winner (16 clubs in total)	8 bottom-placed clubs and 8 second-bottom clubs relegated. 9 of the 16 third and fourth bottom clubs with best PPG are reprieved. Remaining 4th and 3rd bottom clubs go into play-offs vs Step 5 runners-up



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SPORTS QUIZ OF THE WEEK

1. Maria Andrejczyk won a silver medal in the javelin at the Olympics in Tokyo. What has she done with her medal?

- A. She melted it down and turned it into a wedding ring
- B. She had it plated with gold
- C. She auctioned it off for a toddler who needed the money to pay for life-saving heart surgery
- D. She had to see her vet as her dog ate it.

2. The Paralympics began last week in Tokyo. Which two new sports will feature?

- A. Chess boxing and squash
- B. Badminton and taekwondo
- C. Croquet and snooker
- D. Padel and kabaddi

3. Chelsea have now signed Romelu Lukaku twice: from Anderlecht in 2011 and from Inter in 2021. How much has his transfer fee increased by in the last decade?

- A. 100%
- B. 333%
- C. 622%
- D. 1,500%

4. What was unusual about the results in the first weekend of the Premier League season?

- A. All 10 games were won by the home team
- B. No English players scored any goals
- C. There were no English managers in charge
- D. There were no draws

5. Why did Mark Allen say his match in the first round of the British Open snooker competition this week was "horrible"?

- A. He lost 5-0 and didn't manage to pot a ball
- B. He smashed his cue on the table halfway through the match after missing an easy shot and had to play on with half a cue
- C. He was playing against his ex-girlfriend
- D. He missed out on a 147 break (and £147,000) by missing the final black ball

6. Danny Ings scored the 2,000th penalty in Premier League history on Saturday. Which player has scored more of those 2,000 penalties than anyone else?

- A. Bruno Fernandes
- B. Frank Lampard
- C. Alan Shearer
- D. Matt le Tissier

7. Mark van Bommel has taken over as the new Wolfsburg manager. What happened in his first game in charge of the club – a match in the German Cup?

- A. Wolfsburg lost 4-0 to a team from the 8th tier
- B. Van Bommel brought on too many substitutes and Wolfsburg were kicked out of the cup
- C. Four of his players were sent off for fighting each other
- D. His assistant manager quit midway through the second half

Answers: 1C 2B 3C 4D 5C 6C 7B

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14 SAT 1874 Northwich
25 WED Bootle
30 MON Workington AFC

SEP
11 SAT Runcorn Linnets
15 WED Marine

OCT
2 SAT Kidsgrove Athletic
9 SAT Liversedge
23 SAT Widnes

NOV
13 SAT Market Drayton
27 SAT Trafford

DEC
11 SAT Prescot Cables
27 MON Colne

JAN
15 SAT Leek Town
22 SAT Mossley

FEB
5 SAT Warrington Rylands
26 SAT Kendal Town

MAR
19 SAT City of Liverpool

APR
2 SAT Newcastle Town
16 SAT Glossop North End
23 SAT Ramsbottom United



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WORKINGTON AFC



SCOTT ALLISON (forward)

Goal scoring talent recruited from Northern League side Penrith in the summer of 2013 and now into his ninth season at Borough Park.

JIM ATKINSON (goalkeeper)

Joined the club in 2019 and established himself as the first choice 'keeper, keeping sixteen clean sheets in an impressive first season. Was with Lowland League club Gretna 2008 previously and played for Queen of the South earlier in his career.

CHARLIE BOWMAN (forward)

Has experienced more than his fair share of injuries over the past three seasons, missing almost a year at one point. Arrived at the club in the summer of 2019 and netted his first goal for the Reds against one of his former clubs, Kendal Town.

BRAD CARROLL (midfield)

Began his senior career with Barrow but made his mark playing, and captaining, Clitheroe. Previously with Kendal Town, before linking up with Workington late in 2018, he was an influential player in the table-topping side two seasons ago, scoring on a regular basis.

CEIRAN CASSON (midfield)

Another talented teenager who joined his hometown club after spending his career progressing through the Carlisle United Academy. Versatile player who displays maturity wherever he plays.

KIERAN CHARLTON (defender)

Became the club's first signing of the summer having played most of his football in his native north east. Originally with Middlesbrough, the twenty year old has also spent time with South Shields and Blyth Spartans.

MATTY CLARKE (midfield)

Twenty-two year old who joined the club in 2019 from Bradford Park Avenue. Previously with Kendal Town and Penrith, he enjoyed a good first season with the club operating in an attacking right back role.

DANNY ECCLES (goalkeeper)

Made his debut in one of the pre-season games having arrived at the club in the summer. Most recently with Squires Gate, Danny has also played for Ashton United, Chorley, Ramsbottom United, Kendal Town and Congleton Town.

IYRWAH GOODEN (forward)

Skilful front-man with pace and another new recruit to the squad. He began his career with Mansfield Town and has since been associated with Warrington Town, Chester, Ramsbottom United and Clitheroe.

ROBBIE HEBSON (defender)

in his second spell with the club having played for Penrith in between. Came to prominence in an FA Youth Cup tie, scoring a hat-trick, but subsequently converted to an attacking full back. Has featured in nearly a hundred games for the club including Play-

off and Cumberland Cup finals.

AIDAN HOWARTH (defender)

Featured with the first team over a dozen times after making his senior debut as a sixteen year old. Has skippered the Development team over the last two years

BRAD HUBBOLD (midfield)

Arrived at the club in 2018 and performed well in a struggling side before blossoming over the last two seasons when confidence was restored. Ball-playing midfielder who has scored several spectacular goals with his trusted left foot.

REUBEN JEROME (forward)

The club's major summer signing in 2020 when he joined from title rivals, Ramsbottom United. Scored against Workington on a couple of occasions in recent seasons then had the misfortune of missing two penalties on his Reds debut in pre-season.

CARL LIGHTFOOT (forward)

Made his first team debut at seventeen and another member of the Development Squad to have featured with the seniors. Opened his goals account last season with a spectacular chip v. City of Liverpool.

JORDAN LITTLE (defender)

Joined the club in 2019 after starting the season with Cleator Moor Celtic in the Hallmark Security League. Talented player, listing Penrith and Gretna 2008 amongst his former clubs, who marked his full debut for Workington with a fine headed goal. Currently recovering from a knee operation.

STEVEN RIGG (forward)

Returned to Borough Park in the summer having previously spent time with the club in 2018, scoring a winning goal on his debut. After a wonderful scoring record with Penrith, he got his chance with Carlisle United and scored for them on his Football League debut.

SAM SMITH (defender)

The only member of the squad who has made a century of appearances for both Reserves and the first team. Made his debut for the seniors during the '13-14 season and would have made considerably more than his 190 starts had it not been for several frustrating injuries.

DAVID SYMINGTON (midfield)

Workington born but launched his career with Carlisle United where he spent three seasons in the first team. His first goal in senior football was against Ipswich Town in a League Cup tie and he later scored Carlisle United's 'goal of the season' during his time at Brunton Park.

CONOR TINNIION (midfield)

Team captain and longest serving player in the squad with 300 appearances to his credit. Skilful individual who has developed into an outstanding player and recognised by his team mates with a hat-trick of Players' Player of the Year awards in recent seasons.

DAN WORDSWORTH (defender)

Originally with Carlisle United, he then had a brief stay with Kendal Town before signing for Workington, initially in 2011, and now embarking on his tenth season at the club.



A SHORT HISTORY

Formed in 1884, Workington played competitive football in the Cumberland Association, Cumberland Senior, Lancashire, Lancashire Combination and the North Eastern leagues before disbanding in 1911.

The club was reformed in 1921 and, since then, has operated from the North Eastern League (25 seasons), Football League (26 seasons), Northern Premier League (34 seasons), North West Counties League (1 season) and National North (9)

North Eastern League

When the club was reformed in 1921, they became members of the North Eastern League remaining there for thirty years.

They finished in the top half of the table more often than not – 5th on five occasions, 4th five times and runners-up after one memorable season. Goals were plentiful in those days, with the team netting over a century on eight occasions – including 147 at the end of the 1933-34 campaign. Billy Charlton was the leading scorer during the early thirties, netting 131 NEL goals in just three seasons.

The Club record victory (16-1 v. Chopwell Institute) was obtained in May, 1934 having overcome the same team 7-4, away, earlier in the season.

On two occasions, they lifted the NEL Challenge Cup overcoming Middlesbrough Reserves in 1936 and Blyth Spartans two years later. They were beaten finalists in 1938.

The Football League

Elected to the Third Division North in 1951, their first Football League fixture was against Halifax Town but ended in a 3-1 defeat. A few days later, Chesterfield were welcomed as the first visitors to Borough Park with Reds emerging 3-1 victors.

It was a tough baptism, though, and Workington finished 24th, 23rd and 20th in their first three seasons with a record FL defeat (0-8 at Wrexham) inflicted upon them during '53-54.

Matters slowly began to improve under the management of Bill Shankly and his two year tenure saw the club better positioned when he left than they were on his arrival. Two other prominent managers, Joe Harvey, who was in charge for five seasons, and Ken Furphy, in the hot seat for just over two years, did so much to enhance the club's reputation throughout the late fifties/early sixties.

Promotion from the Fourth Division in 1964 led to three seasons in the Third and, whilst there, Workington attained their highest FL placing – 5th position at the end of the '65-66 campaign. Sadly, though, relegation was experienced twelve months later.

It had been a golden period in the club's history and included a notable league double over Swansea Town (7-0 at home, 6-1 away), during the 1965-66 campaign.

They became famed League Cup fighters in the sixties, reaching the quarter finals in both 1964 and 1965 only to lose to West Ham United and Chelsea respectively. The run in '64-65 competition began with a 9-1 victory over Barrow and included a sensational 5-1 replay success over, then, top flight outfit Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park.

Other cup heroics were recorded in the FA Cup –

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a narrow 1-0 defeat against Liverpool ('51-52) and a 1-3 reverse v. Manchester United ('57-58) – both memorable occasions.

Messrs Shankly, Harvey and Furphy were revered during their time in the Borough Park hot-seat, but the stability was not quite the same thereafter and managers came and went on a regular basis. Brian Doyle and former player, George Aitken, did stay longer than most but once they left the club the future looked bleak

The decline set in during the mid-seventies and Workington's final four seasons saw them finish 23rd, 23rd, 24th and 24th. It ended in demotion from the Football League in 1977, voted out and replaced by Wimbledon.

The Non-League Era

They became members of the Northern Premier League on the 18th June, 1977 but life remained a struggle. Indeed, they were left to reflect on 19th, 14th and 21st final placings in the first three campaigns and didn't manage a top half finish (7th) until the end of their sixth season.

Winning a first trophy in forty seven years was welcome respite when they lifted the President's Cup in 1984 but matters deteriorated on the league front culminating in relegation at the end of the 1987-88 season. Many unwanted records were established including an all-time heaviest loss, 0-9 at Chorley, and the heaviest home defeat, 0-8 v. Rhyl.

Ten mediocre seasons in the NPL First Division followed, before another relegation saw them demoted to the NWCL in 1998.

After years of struggle and decline, what happened in the NWCL was truly remarkable. They won their final fourteen league games to pip Mossley for the '98-99 title on the final day of a dramatic season – a first senior championship in the club's history.

It prompted fifteen years of moderate success and a nine season stint in Conference North, ending in April, 2014.

They twice reached the Conference North play-offs, and enjoyed several good FA Trophy runs, with a few Cumberland Cup successes thrown in for good measure.

They finished runners-up in Evo-Stik Premier in 2015 recording more victories (27) than any other team in the division. Unfortunately, though, they lost in the play-offs to Ilkeston, a team they had beaten twice in the regular campaign. A fifth place finish in 2016 again culminated in play-off heartache, beaten in the final at Salford City.

Workington made it a hat-trick of top five finishes, fourth in fact, but again suffered disappointment in 2017 when they fell at the first hurdle, albeit a thrilling 3-2 defeat at Stourbridge.

It was a mid-table finish at the end of the 2017-18 campaign when an injury crises over the second half of the season saw them slump from a position of second at the turn of the year to a final standing of eleventh.

And the decline continued throughout the 2018-19 season with only eight league wins recorded, culminating in relegation. During the last three months of a depressing season, Workington lost nine consecutive league games at home – another unwanted club record!

Under new management, the Reds bounced back in style during the '19-20 campaign but, the intervention of a world-wide pandemic prevented a highly probable promotion and immediate return to Step 3 football. They were ten points clear at the top of the North West Division when the season was declared 'concluded' and recorded as null and void. 2020-21 also was not completed due to COVID with the Reds third when only eight games were possible.

CLITHEROE PROFILES



Billy Priestley - Joint player/manager.

Centre Back. Started his career at Ramsbottom where he won the league before he followed Messrs Johnson and Morley to Salford, where he stayed for three years. He has since played for Southport and Bradford PA, and is relishing the chance to cut his managerial teeth.

Gary Stopforth: Joint player/manager.

Midfielder. Previously on Blackburn's books, he first cut his teeth in non league at Clitheroe over 10 years ago. One of the most recognisable non league players in the NW due to his larger than life personality, he numbers Salford City, Stockport County and Chester amongst his clubs, winning trophies at all of them.

Chris Price

Assistant manager, bringing over 20 years of management and coaching experience with him.

Chris Thompson

30 year old stopper, with over 100 Clitheroe appearances to his name. Firm fans' favourite and a member of the Team of the Decade.

Matthew Hodds

17 year old goalkeeper from Sabden. Has been at professional academies and is now part of the youth team set up at Stockport County academy.

Cole Lonsdale

Tenacious 23 year old left back, formerly on Bolton's books, back for his second spell at the club. Loves to burst down the line, and links up well with the front line, using his sweet left foot to full advantage.

Harrison Burke

19 year old centre back signed on loan from Chester. He captains the club's youth team and has secured a first team deal.

Jack Burrows

19 year old who has progressed through the Blues under 23 side. He is versatile across the back line and has the engine and desire to secure a place for himself this season

Alex Turner

High energy 20 year old central midfielder who was at Liverpool's Academy, who had a spel with Runcorn Linnets last season.

Jamie Edwards

24 year old attacking wideman who started on Blackpool's books. Signed from Darwen after a lengthy pursuit and will be keen to show his quality at the higher level.

Taylor Brickell

Young attacking midfielder who has featured for Chorley and Burscough. Now looking to put his flair to the test with Clitheroe.

Richie Baker

33 year old midfielder signed from Ramsbottom United. Has more than 100 games on his CV with Bury in the league, as

well as higher level non league experience with FC United, AFC Fylde and Stockport County.

Ross Dent

A Clitheroe lad. Still only 25, he already has 150+ Clitheroe appearances to his name and another member of the Team of the Decade. Having spent the last two seasons with former manager Simon Haworth at Stalybridge, Ross cemented his reputation as one of the hardest working and most fearless midfielders around.

Danny Wilkins

Signed at the end of 2019-20 season from Droylsden and returned to the club for a second spell. Can play anywhere across the front line and midfield and offers a rare mix of talent.

Jake Connelly

18 year old winger played for the England Colleges XI, suffering an injury just as he was starting to make inroads into the first

team. Has filled out over the summer and will be looking to use his power to terrorise defences.

Terry Cummings

23 year old is already a big hit with the Shawbridge crowd, using his strength and pace to take on defences. Will be looking to add to his goal tally to complete the package. Currently sidelined with a bad knee injury.

Conor Gaul

Noodle is a mercurial striker who won the league with Atherton Colls. Top scorer two seasons ago and an absolute fans' favourite

Sefton Gonzales

Much travelled striker who has spent much of his career at the higher level. Was a member of the Team of League when last at Clitheroe and on his day is virtually unplayable.

Joel Mills

Young striker previously on Accrington Stanley's books, looking to make his way back up the ladder.

A HISTORY OF THE BLUES



The club starts its 18th season in the Northern Premier League at Level 4 of the non league pyramid.

Under the chairmanship of Stewart Fort, it is looking to build on the continuing transformation of the club and to seek promotion to the next level, or at the very least to secure a place in the play offs for the first time.

The club was formed as Clitheroe Central in 1877 at the Swan Hotel in Castle Street by local businessmen. After playing in local leagues, the club joined the Lancashire Combination in 1903 and dropped Central from their name. Aside from breaks during the First and Second World Wars, the club continued to play in the Combination until the end of the 1981-82 season, when it combined with the Cheshire League to become the North West Counties League.

For the first 100 years of Clitheroe FC's existence, a Lancashire Junior Cup win in 1893, the Lancashire Combination Cup in 1934-5 and the League Championship in 1979-80 all that the club had to show for its efforts. That was soon to change. Although Clitheroe were put into the Third Division of the NWCFL at its inception due to the state of the ground, there followed the most successful period in the club's long history under the stewardship of Eric Whalley, subsequently manager and Chairman of Accrington Stanley FC. He assembled one of the best non-league sides in the North of England and won back to back Championships in the Third, Second and First divisions, as well as securing the Lancashire Cup for the first time in 50 years, thanks to a solitary strike from local lad Eric Geldard. This was all the more impressive when one considers that the Division 1 was effectively Level 3 in the non-league pyramid. Captained by Mick Ashcroft and containing extravagant talents such as John Taylor and Steve Mullen, possibly the best player ever to play for the Blues,

Clitheroe regularly attracted bumper gates, with the championship winning season seeing three crowds over 1,000. Cracks started to appear when Whalley took over the manager's seat at Accrington. To compound matters, the new Northern Premier Division 1 was formed, but a lack of floodlights meant the Blues could not take their rightful place and they found teams effectively leapfrogging them.

It was not until the mid nineties that the Club recovered from this setback and started to fulfil its potential. It became a force in the NWCFL Division 1 again and also made itself known on the national FA Vase stage.

Having been pipped to the title in 1994-95 by Bradford PA in controversial circumstances, the following season saw possibly the highlight of the club's history when the Blues reached the Vase Final under the joint managership of Dennis Underwood and Gary Butcher after an epic two legged semi Final win against Mangotsfield United of Bristol. 2,000 people were on Shawbridge for the second leg when a deflected goal saw the Blues home with seven minutes of extra time remaining. The Final pitted the Blues against a powerful Brigg side and a 3-0 reverse in front of 7,500 fans was a fair reflection of the play. In the close season, Clitheroe also received their record transfer fee, £45,000, from Crystal Palace for goalkeeper Carlo Nash

Dave Burgess stood down at the end of the 2000-2001 season and central defender Lee Sculpher took over as player manager. In 2002/3, Clitheroe again finished as league runners up and lost to Mossley at Gigg Lane in the League Cup Final. Early cup exits the following season enabled the Blues to concentrate on the league and superb

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The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Daniel Wilkinson who died in 2016 aged 24, while playing the game he loved, from an underlying heart condition called Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC).



Dan played football from an early age and joined Hull City AFC when he was 10, earning a professional contract aged 18. Loughborough University followed where he completed a degree in Accounting and Financial Management while playing non-league football. He was an athlete who enjoyed the gym and took his health and nutrition very seriously. He lived life to the full and had so much ahead of him.

Other than feeling light-headed on a few occasions in the month before he died, he had no symptoms!

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

- SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with NO SYMPTOMS or family history.
- ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.
- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

OUR MISSION

The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation has been set up to raise awareness of SCD and to provide funding towards heart screening, defibrillators and CPR/defibrillator training primarily for grass-roots sporting teams.

Tragedies can be prevented through cardiac screening. It is vital that young people are identified and treated.

Find out more

-  @dannywilks5
-  thedanielwilkinsonfoundation
-  dwfoundation5
-  contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org
-  thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

away form saw the Blues capture the 2003/04 league title on the final day of the season at Nantwich where Blues legend Neil Reynolds sparked bedlam when he thumped a 25 yarder into the top corner with six minutes of the season remaining.

High hopes accompanied Clitheroe's first foray into the Unibond League in 2004/05, but the club never fully recovered from manager Lee Sculpher resigning after a handful of games into the new season. He was succeeded by Paul Byrom who then quit in the close season. Tommy Lawson was appointed manager for the 2005/06 season but he was relieved of his duties in early 2006, to be replaced on a temporary basis by Mark Smitheringale. He too left before the 2006/07 season started and his assistant Chris Stammers stepped up to the plate before resigning after a 10-1 thumping away to Conference North Kettering in the FA Trophy in November 2006.

The then chairman Carl Garner offered the job to Neil Reynolds and Pete Smith at the turn of 2007, before the latter took on the role in his own right at the end of the 2008/09 season. 2009/10 and 2010/11 saw Clitheroe finishing in eight and sixth respectively, the highest league placings in the club's history. The end of the 10/11 season also had a unique twist with Carl Garner stepping down as chairman after four years to replace Pete Smith as manager, in the process going unbeaten throughout April and taking the manager of the month prize. Garner was replaced in the role of chair by his long-standing deputy Anne Barker.

Despite the great end to the previous campaign, the 2011/12 season under Garner's leadership was ultimately disappointing. Form quickly tailed off and huge player turnover ensued, before Garner resigned and the managerial Vase duo of Burgess and Sculpher ensured survival on a temporary basis, having taken over with less than 10 games to go. Paul Moore, the ex Leek Town and Warrington Town manager, took over the reins in 2012/13 and led Clitheroe to their record points total in Division 1 in finishing eighth, with the play-off push only ending over the final games of

the season. However, the loss of key players in the close season led to a woeful start in 2013/14 and to an early exit from the FA Cup and Trophy, and the committee replaced Moore mid season with ex-Blue Simon Garner.

Garner steadied the ship and Clitheroe finished the season in 17th position, with Garner setting his stall out in 2014-15 to create a more east Lancashire focussed team. A 13th place finish and an appearance at the Reebok in the Lancashire Trophy against Chorley represented good progress, whilst the 7th place in 2015-16 continued the good work, and the push for the play-offs only faltered in the final weeks.

Following Garner's resignation, the club moved quickly to appoint ex Wales international Simon Haworth to the manager's role. He moulded a team from scratch into genuine play off contenders, only faltering in the penultimate game of the season to a 90th minute goal at rivals Colne. 2017-18 could not quite recapture these heights although both Kurt Willoughby and Alex Newby featured prominently in the league goal-scoring charts.

When Howarth announced he was leaving, the club appointed former Warrington Town manager, Stuart Mellish. After an unhappy, short tenure, his assistant, former Ossett Town manager Lee Ashforth was handed the role six games into the season. Unfortunately, Clitheroe endured their worst season at this level and Ashforth's tenure was brought to an end. Former Lancaster manager Phil Brown steadied the ship in the truncated 2019-20 season, with crowds averaging back over 350 and the Blues hovering around the play off places. He left for personal reasons at the end of the season and the club appointed former Blue David Lynch as player manager for the 2020-21 season, who in turn left after a promising truncated season. Billy Priestley and Gary Stopforth have now been appointed as joint player managers for the coming season.

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ILC The Integro League Cup **LFA** Lancashire FA Challenge Trophy

	DATE	H/A	OPPOSITION	ATT	SCORE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	SUB 1	SUB 2	SUB 3	OG	
AUGUST	14 SAT	H	1874 Northwich	LGE	441	2 - 2	Thompson	Askev	Lonsdale (1)	Dent	Stopforth	Priestley	Edwards	Turner	Gonzales (1)	Mills	Connelly	Gaul	Burrows	Wilkins	
	17 TUE	A	Prescot Cables	LGE	497	2 - 3	Thompson	Askev	Lonsdale	Stopforth	Burrows	Priestley	Wilkins	Dent	Gonzales (1)	Mills (1)	Connelly (1)	Pembele	-	-	
	22 SUN	A	Northwich Victoria	FAC	304	1 - 2	Thompson	Burrows	Lonsdale	Stopforth	Burke	Priestley	Turner	Wilkins	Gonzales	Dent (2)	Connelly	Bricknell	Gaul	Pembele	
	25 WED	H	Bootle	LGE																	
	28 SAT	A	Glossop North End	LGE																	
30 MON	H	Workington AFC	LGE																		
SEPTEMBER	4 SAT	A	City of Liverpool	FAC																	
	7 TUE	A	City of Liverpool	LGE																	
	11 SAT	H	Runcorn Linnets	LGE																	
	15 WED	H	Marine	LGE																	
	18 SAT	A	Kendal Town	LGE																	
25 SAT	A	Leek Town	LGE																		
OCTOBER	2 SAT	H	Kidsgrove Athletic	LGE																	
	9 SAT	H	Liversedge	FAT																	
	16 SAT	A	Mossley	LGE																	
23 SAT	H	Widnes	LGE																		
NOVEMBER	6 SAT	A	Warrington Rylands	LGE																	
	13 SAT	H	Market Drayton	LGE																	
	20 SAT	A	Newcastle Town	LGE																	
27 SAT	H	Trafford	LGE																		
DECEMBER	4 SAT	A	Ramsbottom United	LGE																	
	11 SAT	H	Prescot Cables	LGE																	
	18 SAT	A	1874 Northwich	LGE																	
27 MON	H	Colne	LGE																		
JANUARY	1 SAT	A	Workington AFC	LGE																	
	8 SAT	A	Kidsgrove Athletic	LGE																	
	15 SAT	H	Leek Town	LGE																	
	22 SAT	H	Mossley	LGE																	
29 SAT	A	Widnes	LGE																		
FEBRUARY	5 SAT	H	Warrington Rylands	LGE																	
	7 MON	A	Market Drayton	LGE																	
	19 SAT	A	Marine	LGE																	
26 SAT	H	Kendal Town	LGE																		
MARCH	12 SAT	A	Runcorn Linnets	LGE																	
	19 SAT	H	City of Liverpool	LGE																	
	26 SAT	A	Trafford	LGE																	
APRIL	2 SAT	H	Newcastle Town	LGE																	
	9 SAT	A	Bootle	LGE																	
	16 SAT	H	Glossop North End	LGE																	
	18 MON	A	Colne	LGE																	
23 SAT	H	Ramsbottom United	LGE																		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1 Marine	2	2	0	0	6	1	+5	6
2 Workington AFC	2	2	0	0	4	0	+4	6
3 Kidsgrove Athletic	3	2	0	1	4	1	+3	6
4 Warrington Rylands	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6
5 Mossley	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6
6 Glossop North End	3	1	2	0	4	2	+2	5
7 Clitheroe	2	1	1	0	5	4	+1	4
8 1874 Northwich	3	1	1	1	3	5	-2	4
9 Ramsbottom United	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2	4
10 Bootle	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
11 Runcorn Linnets	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
12 Widnes	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	3
13 Market Drayton Town	3	1	0	2	1	3	-2	3
14 Trafford	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
15 City of Liverpool	3	0	2	1	1	4	-3	2
16 Colne	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
17 Kendal Town	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	1
18 Leek Town	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
19 Prescot Cables	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
20 Newcastle Town	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0



CFC GOALSCORERS

- 2 Ross Dent
Sefton Gonzales
- 1 Jake Connelly
Cole Lonsdale
Joel Mills

LEAGUE SCORERS

- 3 Rory Fallon (GLO)
- 2 Ryan Brooke (RUN)
Kieran Brown (KID)
Sefton Gonzales (CLI)
Neil Kengni (MAR)

RESULTS

Monday 23 August

Market Drayton Town **0** **1** 1874 Northwich

Tuesday 24 August

City of Liverpool **1** **1** Glossop North End

Kendal Town **1** **2** Ramsbottom United

Kidsgrove Athletic **1** **0** Widnes

FIXTURES

Monday 30 August

City of Liverpool **v** Bootle

Clitheroe **v** Workington AFC

Kendal Town **v** Colne

Kidsgrove Athletic **v** Newcastle Town

Marine **v** Prescot Cables

Market Drayton Town **v** Leek Town

Mossley **v** Ramsbottom United

Runcorn Linnets **v** 1874 Northwich

Trafford **v** Glossop North End

Warrington Rylands **v** Widnes



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