

**DELTA**  
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# BOOTLE

versus

Alsager Town

League Challenge  
Cup 2nd Round



29.10.2011 Kick Off 3pm

Official Bootle FC Matchday programme £1



[www.bootlefc.co.uk](http://www.bootlefc.co.uk)





# Welcome to Bootle Football Club



The original Bootle F.C. were formed in 1880 and played at Hawthorne Road. In 1889-90 Bootle became founder members of the Football Alliance. That season was the most successful as we finished league runners-up, reached the quarter-finals of the FA Cup,

where we lost to Blackburn Rovers (0-7). When the Alliance merged with the Football League in 1892, Bootle became founder members of the new Second Division. However, despite a respectable 8th place final position, the club dropped out after one season (and were replaced by neighbours Liverpool) and seemingly disappeared due to financial problems. Football returned to Hawthorne Road when a new club, Bootle Athletic, was later formed with the new team initially playing in the Liverpool Leagues. In 1948 when the club were elected to the Lancashire Combination 2, which was won at the first attempt. However, Bootle struggled in the top-flight and after several tough seasons withdrew and folded during the 1953-54 campaign.

In 1953, the current club was formed as Langton and played in the local leagues. After a very successful spell in the Liverpool County Combination (which we won on numerous occasions) the club reverted back to it's



It's better known identity of Bootle F.C. in 1973; and a year later joined the Lancashire Combination, which we won in 1976 and 1977. Bootle then joined the Second Division of the Cheshire County League, which was won in our first season, and we were promoted to the First Division. In 1982 the Cheshire County League was one of the leagues that merged to form the North West Counties League, which Bootle duly joined, becoming a member of the First Division. The club spent most of their time in the First Division until 2000 when we unfortunately dropped into the Second Division. However, despite finishing 6th in 2002, the club dropped into the Liverpool County Combination. In 2006 the club, with a new ground, were elected back into Division 2 of the North West Counties League. In 2009 Bootle won promotion to the NWCL Premier Division and also won the Championship. In 2009/10, our first season back in the Vodkat Premier League Bootle finished a NWCL highest placing of 3rd. In 2010/11 despite a shaky start Bootle finished a respectable 6th place.

With the club continuing to grow off the field, all eyes are on what can be produced on the field this season, with the NWCL Premier Division a firm goal in what could be another success for this fast growing club looking to progress again.



**Up the Bucks!**

## Honours

*Liverpool Challenge Cup*  
1964-65, 1975-76,  
1978-79

*Liverpool Amateur Cup*  
1965-66, 1967-68,  
1973-74

*Liverpool County  
FA Youth Cup*  
1977-78, 1984-85, 1990-91,  
1999-00, 2005-06

*Lancashire Amateur Cup*  
1970

*Liverpool County  
Combination Champions*  
1964-65, 1965-66, 1967-68,  
1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71,  
1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74

*Lancashire County  
Combination Champions*  
1975-76, 1976-77

*Cheshire County League  
Div Two Champions*  
1978-79

*North West Counties League  
Div Two Runners-up*  
1992-93

*Tennants Floodlit Trophy  
Winners*  
1993-94

*Vodkat League Challenge Cup*  
*Runners-up*  
2007-08

*Vodkat League  
Reserve Division Winners*  
2007-08, 2009-10

*Runners-up*  
2008-09  
*Vodkat League First Division  
Champions*  
2008-09



All our yesterdays.....



Bootle F.C., embarking on what is hoped will be a successful season in the Lancashire Combination. Back row (left to right): Tom Jones, Alan Davis, Tommy Toole, Les Blighery, Kevin McMillan, Jimmy Toole, Bob Wilson, Vinnie McHenry. Front row: Tony Harris, John Day, Tony Healey, Dave Parker, Tom Murphy, Peter Kaurin.



# Kickabout

## 7-a-side & 5-a-side Football

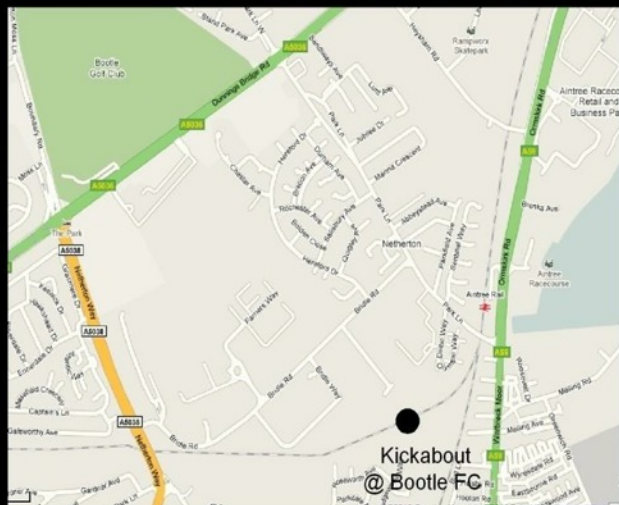


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Bootle Football Club -  
 Founder members of the  
 Football Alliance 1889,  
 The Football League Div2\*  
 1892 & The Northwest  
 Counties Football League

Chairman 1982  
 Frank Doran Jnr  
 Deputy Chairman  
 Ben Roberts  
 Life President  
 Frank Doran Snr  
 Honorary President  
 Joe Benton MP  
 Team Manager  
 Chris O'Brien  
 Director of Football/ Assistant  
 Manager  
 Dave Miley Snr  
 Directors  
 Bobby Capstick  
 Dave Ruth, Geoff Frasier  
 Head of Finance/ Club  
 Secretary  
 Joseph Doran  
 1st Team Coach  
 Nick Browne  
 Goalkeeping Coach  
 Paul McCowen  
 Welfare  
 Darren Carr  
 Head of Fitness & Wellbeing  
 Jamie Fullerton  
 Media & Communications  
 Dave Miley Jnr, Tony Onslow  
 Joe Doran, Ken Head,  
 Peter Symes  
 Youth Football Contact  
 Carl Dale  
 Matchday Operations  
 Peter Symes,  
 Lena Doran  
 Julie Capstick



\*Original Club folded in 1893

## Today's Teams



**BOOTLE**

manager: Chris O'Brien



**ALSAGER**

manager: John Brown

Mark MAWDSLEY  
 David MORAN  
 Jack MCDOWELL  
 Neil MCQUEEN  
 Mark KILROY  
 James KING  
 Anthony MILEY  
 Michael CARBERRY  
 Sean COULTON  
 Jamie O'BRIEN  
 Josh ESSERY  
 Ryan WILKINSON  
 Jamie HAY  
 Kevin BLACK  
 Michael YOUNG  
 Daniel O'CONNOR  
 Liam RUSHTON  
 Ross MCDOWELL  
 Tom FOLEY  
 Darren BYERS  
 Neil PRINCE  
 Lee THOMPSON  
 James ROBINSON

Tom HARRISON  
 Kloran ELLIS  
 Mark SOBOLJEV  
 Adam BEASLEY  
 Scott BURGE  
 Paul BOWYER  
 Elliot LEDWARDS  
 Ben CLARKSON  
 George BARLOW  
 Ryan MITCHELL  
 Ashley WESTRAY  
 Liam RIGBY  
 James MARROW  
 Mathew PEARSON  
 Leigh SKELLERN  
 Anthony MARSHALL  
 Arron JOHNS  
 Jack SHERRATT  
 Jamie SKELLERN  
 Neil COX  
 Thomas SELLERS  
 Darren TWIGG

### MATCH OFFICIALS



referee:

assistant referee:

assistant referee:







# The Official Website of the North West Counties Football League

## www.nwcfcl.com

### For the latest News, Fixtures, Results & Cup Information

e-mail your views & comments to  
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twitter



## Bootle, Litherland & Netherton Junior Football League News

Bootle JFL Reports 23.10.11

*Under 7's:* Belfry Yth – mom Ethan Gubbin 2, Lee Davies, Liam Rice, Charlie Rice, Ethan Taylor beat Leo Rangers 6-0. Netherton Rangers – Finn Calm 2, Thomas Corke 2, Ben Jones, Jack Flight, Sam Coughlan beat Croxteth Park Red – mom Ellis O'Callaghan 7-1. *Bootle Bucks* – Tom Colligan 2, Liam Rooney, Kayden Howard & mom Ryan Beesley beat Northfield 5-1. Holy Rosary Hurricanes – Pat Corcoran 3, Callum Guinan 3, Jack Kelly 2, James Hennessy beat Saturday Mornin Soccer – mom Ethan Rimmer 6-0. Netherton Athletic – Owen Cushion, Bobby Bjork, mom Jake Batty beat Croxteth Park Whites 2-0. *Parkfield* beat *Bootle JFC* 1-0.

*Under 8's:* Netherton Athletic – Ellis Nugent 2, Jake Rimmer & mom Callum Wilson beat Silcox Villa – Joe Donnelly & mom Harry Pike 4-2. Netherton Foxes – Joseph Cruickshank, mom Alfie Bader drew 1-1 with Parkfield Yth. Northfield – Shay Johnson beat Netherton Park – mom Joseph Flynn 1-0. *Bootle JFC* beat *Marine Colts* – Elliot Breen 1-0. Netherton Rangers – Harry Balmer drew 1-1 with Netherton Phoenix – Jack Whewell, mom Team. Croxteth Park Reds – Harvey Riley, Scott Taylor, Tom Pilling beat Belfry – mom Paul Colligan 3-2. *Marine Yth* – Adam Paddock, mom Josh Green beat *Bootle Bucks* – mom Joseph Harold 1-0.

*Under 9's:* Croxteth Park – Joe, mom Matty drew 1-1 with Kenbury Boys. *Long Lane* – Bradley Mansfield, Craig Stewart, Jimmy Mitchell beat *Bootle Bucks* 3-0. *Bootle JFC* – Callum Highdale 2, Adam Platt, mom Dan Curran beat *Netherton Foxes* – Shaun Connolly, Charlie Doyle 3-2. Stonecraft – Ste Kelly, mom Rebecca Donnahey beat Northfield Black 1-0. Northfield Yellow – Jake Garrett 3, Max Robb 2, Frankie Murtagh, George Maddocks & mom Gerrard Hart beat Stagecoach 8-0.

*Under 10's:* Marine – Leon Beckwith 2, Joseph Gelhardt, Myles Sumner beat Leon – Elliot Clarke 4-1. Northfield – Levi Adebisi 5, John-Paul Lynch 4, Sonny Chambers 3, Michael Follis, James Crowley, Adam Cato, mom Team beat Brunny Boys. Real Parkfield – Thomas Loughran 3, Thomas Guy 3, Jack Jones 2, mom Tom Brown 2, Conner Loyden 2, Joel Dean, Joe Riley beat Whites Security – Tom Davies, Liam White, Ben Foy. Kids Cavern beat Belfry – Callum Langton 2-1. Kingfield Park – Lee Little 3, Leighton Gourlay, Luke Whitehead beat Netherton Pumas 5-0.

*Under 11's:* Netherton Boys – Ben Wilkinson 6, Dylan McDonald, Dilan Fairfield, Sam Whyte, mom Ben Wilkinson & Oliver Heaton beat Adlam Park 9-0. Netherton Rhinos – Connor Seddon 2, Jack McGarrigle, Corry Garbe & mom Oliver Garbe beat Rimrose Valley Tigers – Jamie Alty, mom Adam Moran 5-1. Frameline – Joe Topping, Francis Turkington, Liam beat Town Green Pumas – J Gregory, mom H Hodson 3-1. Town Green Jags – Nicolas Kay 6, Alex Moffitt, Will Johnson, Sean Fallon, mom George Goudie beat St Phillips – mom Sam Grant 9-0. Wilko – Liam Parry 2, Cameron Ramsay, Ronin Hampson, Daniel Leary, mom B Burns beat Kirkby Town – Joe Bibby, George Pomford, John Swift, Sam O'Hallaron 5-4. Whites Security – Callum Shepherd 2, Callum Oneil, Thomas Kirkham beat Parkfield – C Richardson, J Saddler, C Jones 4-2.

*Under 15's:* Crosby Stuart JFC – mom J Hulme 5, D Abdous, Alex Kelly beat Kingsford 7-1. Belvedere – mom James Foster drew 1-1 with Orry's. Eden Vale – Matty Laybourne 2, Matty McDermott, Sam Robinson beat Northfield. AC Reds – Jake Burke 3, mom Owen Kelly & Jake Burke drew 3-3 with Manor Park.



# Bootle Football Club's YOUTH

Under 17's  
Dave Parry  
Liverpool Premier League

Under 16's  
Ste Miller  
Springfield Junior League

Under 15's  
TEAM NEEDED!

Under 14's  
Carl Dale  
Belvale Junior League

Under 13's  
Lee Williams  
Hightown Junior League

Under 12's  
Team Needed

Under 11's  
Tony Smith  
Bootle, Litherland &  
Netherton Junior League

Under 10's  
Louise Archbold  
Scotland Road Junior League

Under 9's  
Darren Carr  
Bootle, Litherland &  
Netherton Junior League

Under 8's  
Dave Miley  
Bootle, Litherland &  
Netherton Junior League

Under 7's  
Phil Dobson  
Bootle, Litherland &  
Netherton Junior League



Does your child want to become a part of one of the fastest growing football Club's in Merseyside?

If so, please contact anyone of the aforementioned names on this page, by leaving a message at the Clubhouse with your Name, Address, Contact Number and the Age of your child.

Other age groups also wanted!

Bootle FC operates a Child Protection Policy in accordance with FA Regulations.



the gaffer  
Chris O'Brien



May we offer a warm welcome to Alsager Town from everyone here at the Delta Taxis Stadium.

It's strange playing a team so soon - as we only played Alsager here back in August but it will be good to see how much we have come on since we drew 2-2 here with them.

After going out of the two FA competitions early I'm looking to have a run in this cup competition, although the league will always be my priority. A good cup run always brings confidence and that has been in abundance since the Marine game, and credit to the players for that.

It seems like ages since last time we played, and with the large squad we have its important that the lads keep their fitness up so when they are called upon, they are ready.

I'd also like to welcome back Darren Byers to the club. He's come in at a good time - our league form has been good and hopefully Darren can give us that bit extra to push us further up the leagues and keep us in the remaining cups while he is here. I have no doubt he can help us do that.

It was all a bit doom and gloom after first 10 games after the hype and expectation in pre-season, but testament to the squad and backroom as we are bang in form now, but we must build on this through to the Christmas period and hopefully kick on to what our start of season expectations where.

And I want it to start here today....

Enjoy the game

Oby



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\*offer starts in August 2011. Offer can be withdrawn at any time.



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*NEXT TO  
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**THE DELTA TAXIS STADIUM.....**



St Helens Town



Tuesday 8th November 7.45pm KO

Colne



Saturday 12th November 3pm KO

Atherton LR



Saturday 19th November  
7.45pm KO







www.nwcfl.com

As at 29th October 2011



Saturday 29th October 2011

Premier Division

League Challenge Cup

Second Round

AFC Blackpool v Leek CSOB  
Ashton Town v Runcorn Linnets  
Atherton Col v Bacup Boro  
Barnoldswick Town v Irlam  
Bootle v Alsager Town  
Chadderton v Padiham  
Colne v Ashton Athletic  
Congleton Town v Runcorn T  
Eccleshall v Glossop North End  
Flixton v AFC Liverpool  
Maine Road v Stone Dominoes  
Norton United v Nelson  
Squires Gate v Atherton LR  
St Helens Town v Silsden  
(To be played at Silsden FC)  
Wigan Robin Park v Winsford  
(13:00)

Premier Division	P	GD	Pts
1. Runcorn Town	16	19	32
2. Flixton	18	5	32
3. Winsford United	17	15	30
4. Bootle	16	11	29
5. Glossop NE	14	21	28
6. Barnoldswick T	13	14	28
7. Ramsbottom U	14	11	28
8. AFC Blackpool	15	3	24
9. Alsager Town	14	6	23
10. Bacup Borough	14	0	23
11. Ashton Athletic	13	1	20
12. Padiham	16	-6	20
13. Congleton Town	16	-9	20
14. Runcorn Linnets	9	4	18
15. Colne	14	2	18
16. Silsden	13	-4	15
17. St Helens Town	17	-21	15
18. Maine Road	13	-5	13
19. Squires Gate	11	-3	10
20. Atherton LR	13	-24	9
21. Stone Dominoes	14	-25	5
22. AFC Liverpool	12	-15	2

First Division

AFC Darwen v Abbey Hey  
Cheadle Town v Northwich Villa  
Daisy Hill v Formby  
Holker Old Boys v Rochdale Town

Kick off times are 3pm Sat, 7.45pm  
midweek unless stated otherwise

# nwcfl.com

## news from the official website of the Northwest Counties Football League

### Farny Back In Hospital

League Vice-Chairman Alan Farnworth has once again been admitted to hospital.

After a recent spell in the Royal Bolton Hospital, Farny returned home and a few days later was able to attend the game between AFC Blackpool and Winsford United. However, he took a turn for the worse yesterday and was taken back in once again. He is feeling better today and all being well, he is hoping to be back home again in a few days time.

In the meantime, he is available on his mobile and would welcome calls from anyone wanting to keep him up to date on news and gossip from around the league.

### League Landmarks - w/e Saturday 22nd October 2011

Saturday 22nd October 2011

Paul Shanley's 46th minute goal for Atherton Collieries, the second in their 3-2 win at Rochdale Town, was the club's 1600th League goal.

The second of Johnathon Hardy's two goals, the third for Abbey Hey in the 5-1 win over Nelson, was Abbey's 750th League goal.

### F.A Vase Second Round Draw

The draw for the second round of the F.A Carlsberg Vase was released by The Football Association today.

Current Premier Division leaders Runcorn Town enter the competition for the first time, and travel over the Pennines to face Northern Counties East League Division One side Glasshoughton Welfare who currently sit third in their division. Bacup Borough face a tough trip to Northern League Premier Division side West Auckland Town, while Glossop North End face a long trip up to Billingham Town. Ramsbottom United will travel to face Guisborough Town or Consett AFC. Elsewhere there we are guaranteed at least on NWCFL side into the next round, as Squires Gate welcome Winsford United to School Road. Padiham entertain NCEL Division One strugglers Askern Villa, while Barnoldswick Town entertain Spennymoor Town. Finally, Norton United entertain Midland Alliance side, Ellesmere Rangers.



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- Receipt of the monthly Bootle FC Sponsors e-bulletin



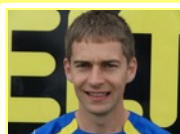
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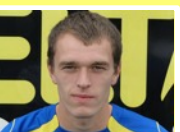
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**DANIEL O'CONNOR**

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# BYERS IS BACK!

## Striker signs in on loan deal



Bootle Football Club have completed the signing of Darren Byers on a short term loan deal.

The striker, who spent the second half of last season at the Bucks after completing a move from Burscough, scored 11 goals in only 13 games to finish 2nd top scorer at the club and earn himself a payrise and the chance to play at a higher level at the Mariners.

Byers has missed a chunk of the season through injury and both Marine and Bootle are hoping that the loan deal will help him re-discover his fitness and form.



Manager Chris O'Brien was very happy he chose to come back but warned Byers will have to fight for a place in the team: 'I'm glad to see more competition for places with Darren Byers coming back to us on loan from Marine. Darren scored 11 goals in 13 games for us in the back end of last season and we hope to see more goals in the initial 3 months he is with us. An enormous thanks must go to Marine for giving both Darren and us the chance to work together again, to which I'm sure will benefit all concerned.'

'As Darren knows, however, he's got a fight on his hands to get back into our team. With Lee Thommo (Thompson) scoring 3 last Tuesday and Ross McDowell in excellent form; as well as Docker (Dan O'Connor), Jay Robbo (Robinson) and Tom Foley we have a number of quality strikers all vying for a starting place'

Let us hope that Byers can produce and fire us to the top of the division and into the next round of the cup!

Welcome home Darren!!!



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# Welcome...



# ALSAGER TOWN

## WHO?

Our Visitors today: Alsager Town

## WHERE?

Alsager is

## WHEN?

The History of our guests:

The club was founded in 1965 as Alsager from the merger of Alsager Institute and Alsager United, and the current ground was acquired in 1967. They started off playing in the Crewe League. After improving the ground's facilities they joined the Mid Cheshire League in the 1971-72 season. After the 1972-73 season they changed name to Alsager Town and they remained in the league under that name until the 1985-86 season. In 1986 they changed name to Alsager United finishing fifth in the 1986-87 season and were runners-up in the league in 1987-88. The club then reverted to Alsager were forced out of business for due to lack of funds associated with poor support.

After two seasons in the Crewe League Premier Division, Alsager regained entry to the

Mid Cheshire League, joining the Second division, in the 1991-92 season. In 1995-96 they finished in third place, missing out on the runners-up spot on goal difference. In 1998 they joined the Midland League where they spent just one season, 1998-99 finishing as runners-up. They then applied to join the North West Counties Football League. After the necessary ground and league position criteria were fulfilled, Alsager were accepted for the 1999-2000 season, playing in Division Two, finishing 12th.

After the 2000-01 season it was decided to change the club name back to Alsager Town once again, which also coincided with the addition of floodlights to the Town Ground. After finishing in second place in the Second Division in 2001-02, they were promoted to the First Division. They finished in 11th place in their first season in the First Division. The 2005-06 season saw Alsager finish in third place and thus earn promotion to the Northern Premier League First Division. In 2006-07 they finished in 14th. They also finished in 14th in 2007-08,

## PUBLIC SAFETY



In the interests of the safety and welfare of ALL spectators, supporters are reminded that NO glasses or glass bottles are allowed onto the concourse either within or outside of the Clubhouse area.

Also, please also be aware that at NO time are spectators allowed to encroach onto the Playing Area.

Failure to observe either of these important restrictions could result in your removal from the stadium. Bootle F.C. are committed to ensuring that the Matchday Experience at the Delta Taxis Stadium is a fun and memorable experience for both home and away supporters.

Please help us to maintain this standard by observing ALL Club Safety Rules and Regulations.

THANK YOU & ENJOY THE GAME

The Committee – Bootle Football Club



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Our Matchday Hotline is:  
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this time in the newly created Division One South. The season also saw a new ownership of Alsager Town with local businessman Chris Ansell and former player Richard Mitchell teaming up to take over the club and form Alsager Town Football Club Limited

Alsager were relegated for the first time in their history at the end of the season to the North West Counties Football League Premier Division due to FA ground grading requirements. Ansell and Mitchell consequently left the club, leaving it with an uncertain future. Former chairman Peter Clegg returned to the club to re-take the helm, appointing former Witton Albion reserves coach, Neil Gill as manager. Following Peter Clegg's resignation as chairman, former player and singer of 'The Casuals' John Bailey took over a few weeks before the end of season 2009-10. John Bailey was with the club for three months, since when Mike Cross, vice-chairman and representative of the youth section, has been acting as chairman.

Season 2010-11 saw Alsager Town embrace for the first time the many youth teams that had previously operated autonomously through the Town under the badge and name 'Alsager Town' where it is hoped that from this point (November 2010) onwards every young person in and around Alsager who wants to play football will support the Club and come along and join the various teams and training sessions for all abilities that are springing up.

It was reported in the South Cheshire Advertiser (10 February 2011) that Terry Greer, chairman of Biddulph Victoria, will be resigning his position within a few days, with a view to taking over as chairman of Alsager Town. Terry Grear was formally adopted as chairman at a meeting in February 2011.

Damien Grocott, who was appointed as caretaker manager in February 2011 to see the season out, resigned following the final match of the season, having completed the task of keeping the club in the NW CFL Premier Division. It is expected that the position will be taken by Karl Wilcox, manager of Biddulph. (South Cheshire Advertiser - 5 May 2011) It was announced on the club website on 7 June that John Brown has been appointed manager, supported by Stuart Heeps.

## WHAT?

Club Honours

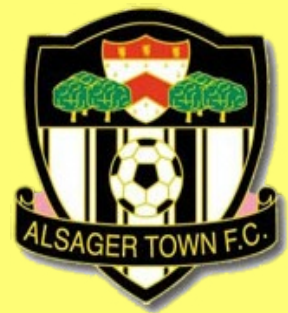
NWCFL Division Two Runners up 2001/02

Leek Cup Winners 2002

Crewe & District Cup Runners-up 2006/07

## HOW?

Alsager have made a solid start to the Northwest Counties Premier Division and currently sit 9th with 23 points from 14 games. James Marrow is Alsager's top scorer with 9 goals already this term





# Tales From The Northwest Counties

By Tony Onslow

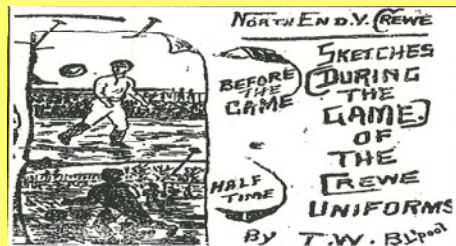
## The Two Foot Rulers



The Cheshire town of Crewe developed around its large railway works earning the local football club, Crewe Alexandra, the nickname of the "Railwaymen." However, following a bizarre F.A. Cup tie, the Cheshire club became briefly known as "The Two Foot Rulers". The incident happened during the 1888/89-football season.

The "Railwaymen" had shunted their way smoothly through the regional ties and, in round 4, were granted a home tie with a team of former public school men. They were based in London and played under the name of the Swifts. The amateurs proved to be an accomplished bunch of players and held the home side to 2-2 draw. The Swifts, now having the choice of ground, decided to stage the game on the recently opened Queens Club in west London. The Crewe party, when they arrived at the location, noticed that the crossbar, on one of the goal frames, appeared to be fixed at an angle. One of their committee, it is alleged, produced a two-foot ruler from his pocket and took some measurements. He found the crossbar to be below the regulation height but let the match go ahead without protest. However, following their 3-2 defeat, the Crewe party drew the referee's attention to the discrepancy in the goal frame. The official then had no choice but to declare the game void and place the matter, for decision, before the F.A. committee who debated the matter at their next meeting. They ordered that the tie be re-played at a neutral venue. The game took place on the Derby Cricket Ground and Major Marinden, the F. A. President, was there to take charge in the middle. Crewe Alexandra, following a rough match, won the tie by 2 goals to 1 and moved on to the next round. The F.A. committee, clearly unhappy with the matter, later released the following statement...  
*"In the opinion of the committee, the conduct of Crewe Alexandra concerning the protest against the Swifts, was most un-sportsman like and calculated to degraded the game of Association Football. In the estimation of those of the public who wish to see it played in proper spirit, and further that the rules be amended as to prevent the re-occurrence of such a case.* The national press also came out in sympathy with the Swifts and consistently, for many weeks to come, referred to the Cheshire club as "The Two Foot Rulers".

Crewe Alexandra went on to reach the semi-final where they faced Preston North End on the Everton ground at Anfield. It was the first time the penultimate tie have been staged in Liverpool and over 10, 000 people paid for admission. Preston won the toss and played the first half with the slope in their favour. They completely outplayed their opponents and took a 5-0 lead at the break. The overnight snow, which had been melted by the bright sunshine, had now turned the pitch in to quagmire. The "Railwaymen", during the second half, soon ran out of steam as they struggled to score in the deep mud. Preston, when the final whistle sounded, had won the tie by 5 goals to 0. The Crewe executive later lodged a protest concerning the state of the ground but F.A. committee, who took rigid measures, ruled against them and ordered the result to stand.



15<sup>TH</sup> February 1886.

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*By*  
*Willie MacGorbals*

St Johnstone Football Club is based in the City of Perth, which is on the Firth of Tay and is known as "The Gateway to the Highlands". The town was formerly known as St Johns Toun after the local church of St John the Baptist and is also thought to be the birthplace of Pontius Pilate.

The club was formed in 1889 and began playing their matches in the local park before settling down at Muirton Park in 1924. The ground opened on Christmas Day with a visit from Queens Park and the attendance was 11,000. The ground record was established in 1951 when 29,972 flocked to watch the Saints play Dundee. (This is one of few record crowds, which does not include Rangers or Celtic.) In the 65 years that St Johnstone spent at Muirton Park they never won a trophy but their playing staff did include several notable names the most famous of which was Sir Alex Ferguson.

In 1967 the club appointed Willie Ormond as manager and, three years later, they qualified for Europe by finishing third in Scottish League. St Johnstone, after beating Hamburg SV and Vases, Budapest, were eventually beaten by NK Zeljeznicar of Sarajevo. The lean years however, continued and Muirton Park, along with neighboring Ice Rink, was sold to ASDA. The club then moved to new home and in to the record books.

In 1989 St Johnstone occupied a new home at MacDiarmid Park. The ground was so named in deference to local farmer, Bruce MacDiarmid, who very kindly donated the land. The ground was purpose built for football and was loosely modeled on the home of Glasgow Rangers at Ibrox Park. It was also the first all seated football ground ever to be built in the UK. It was started December 1988 and finished, without commotion, in time for the forthcoming season. The opening match, against Clydebank, was a low-key affair as, October 17<sup>th</sup>, Manchester United arrived for an official opening. The record attendance however, 10,525, occurred on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 when Dundee were once again the visitors. MacDiarmid Park has also hosted a Rugby International when Scotland beat Japan by a record score of 100 points to 8. Success, mean while, continues to elude the St Johnstone Football Club and no silver ware has, as yet, made its home in the "Fair City" of Perth.

# Chris Managing Change

Two years after promotion to the Premier Division, Bootle manager Chris O'Brien believes the club is now ready to push on to the next level. Since promotion in 2009, the club has established itself in the Premier Division and is very much among the front runners so far this season. However, as Chris explained, his plans for this season began well before pre-season training started in the summer.

"We finished third in our first season after we came up, and with the start New Mills had last season we knew very early that we wouldn't win the league. So after about 20-25 games I started looking a bit more closely at players for this season and trying a few lads out. I'm not saying that we weren't trying or anything like that, but it was just right at the time to start looking ahead to this season.

"We finished sixth in the end which wasn't bad, but in all honesty we didn't push hard enough, and that was because I was looking at players and the changes I was making from game to game".

Despite Chris's intentions to revamp the squad, the Bucks still have some familiar faces among their ranks, coupled with some new blood that came up through the ranks at the Delta Taxis Stadium, but it was striking power that he focused on strengthening over the summer.

"We've got eight or nine lads who have been with us for five years or more, so we've got a nucleus who are the core of the team, but in saying that we have let one or two go who have done well for us in the past to freshen things up. Four or five players have come in, and we haven't tended to do that in the past.

"We let mainly attacking players go, the likes of Andy Fowler and Andy Hickey who gave us nearly 40 goals a season between them, and haven't quite found that balance with the new players we brought it, but we will get there.

"We have title aspirations and to win the league you need lads who are scoring 20 or 30 goals a season. Players like that are hard to find of course. We brought in Ronnie Morgan from a very good level, but unfortunately his stats when he was with us were around 17 goals from 52 starts which is not good enough, so we let him go.

"So we've brought in a few of our youth team lads, brought in Tom Foley from Maghull who scored 28 goals last season and was their skipper, and Lee Thompson has come in from Winsford where he scored 17 goals last season.

"Neil Prince has joined us as well. He's been a full time pro in the past, and while he has joined the backroom staff I've told him I want him to play as well. We are fairly happy with the squad we have, and they are all local lads in the main, which is good".

The changes have not just been on the field, as Chris has altered the structure of his backroom team too. It's a notable changes in policy for him, as previously he had always liked to retain full control of team affairs. "Bootle is my home town team, and it's the only club I want to manage. I'm not interested in any other club and if I didn't manage Bootle I probably wouldn't manage anyone else. "This is my seventh season as manager of the club, and for six years I pretty much did everything on my own. I picked the team, brought people in myself, and kept full control. But now I'm letting other people in, and I'm asking them what they think, and how we should play.

FOR THE FULL ARTICLE GO TO [WWW.NWCFL.COM](http://WWW.NWCFL.COM)



					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13/17	14	15	16
NWCFL	STONE DOMINOES	06/08/11	H	0-0	MORAN	KILROY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	BLACK	MILEY	HAY	THOMPSON	MORGAN	YOUNG	MCDOWELL J	MCDOWELL R	RUSHTON	CARBERRY	KING
NWCFL	FLIXTON	09/08/11	H	3-1	MORAN	MILEY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	BLACK	O'CONNOR	HAY	THOMPSON	FOLEY	YOUNG	MORGAN	KILROY	CARBERRY	MCDOWELL R	WILKINSON
NWCFL	ATHERTON LR	13/08/11	A	3-1	MORAN	MILEY	DALE	MCQUEEN	COULTON	BLACK	O'CONNOR	HAY	THOMPSON	FOLEY	YOUNG	KILROY	RUSHTON	CARBERRY	MCDOWELL R	WILKINSON
NWCFL	RUNCORN LINNETS	16/08/11	H	1-1	MORAN	MILEY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	BLACK	O'CONNOR	HAY	FOLEY	THOMPSON	YOUNG	CARBERRY	MAWDSLEY	KILROY	MCDOWELL R	RUSHTON
FAC	WIGAN RP	20/08/11	H	2-0	MORAN	MILEY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	CARBERRY	BLACK	KILROY	HAY	MCDOWELL R	FOLEY	RUSHTON	O'CONNOR	DALE	THOMPSON	YOUNG	COULTON
NWCFL	ALSAGER TOWN	23/08/11	H	2-2	MORAN	MILEY	O'BRIEN	CARBERRY	COULTON	BLACK	O'CONNOR	HAY	THOMPSON	FOLEY	YOUNG	MCDOWELL R	MAWDSLEY	RUSHTON	DALE	KING
NWCFL	AFC BLACKPOOL	27/08/11	A	0-1	MORAN	COULTON	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	MILEY	BLACK	O'CONNOR	KILROY	THOMPSON	FOLEY	YOUNG	RUSHTON	MAWDSLEY	CARBERRY	DALE	PRINCE
NWCFL	ST HELENS TOWN	30/08/11	A	2-1	MORAN	CARBERRY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	BLACK	DALE	HAY	RUSHTON	WILKINSON	YOUNG	FOLEY	MCDOWELL R	O'CONNOR	KILROY	PRINCE
FAC	WOODLEY SPORTS	03/09/11	A	1-3	MORAN	CARBERRY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	BLACK	MILEY	HAY	YOUNG	FOLEY	WILKINSON	O'CONNOR	PRINCE	KILROY	RUSHTON	MCDOWELL
NWCFL	MAINE ROAD	10/09/11	H	3-1	MORAN	KILROY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	RUSHTON	O'CONNOR	HAY	MCDOWELL	PRINCE	YOUNG	FOLEY	MAWDSLEY	THOMPSON	WILKINSON	ROBINSON
NWCFL	ASHTON ATHLETIC	13/09/11	A	0-1	MORAN	KILROY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	WILKINSON	PRINCE	HAY	O'CONNOR	MCDOWELL R	YOUNG	FOLEY	MILEY	THOMPSON	RUSHTON	ROBINSON
NWCFL	WINSFORD UNITED	17/09/11	H	1-1	MORAN	MILEY	O'BRIEN	MCQUEEN	COULTON	BLACK	PRINCE	HAY	O'CONNOR	WILKINSON	YOUNG	KILROY	ROBINSON	FOLEY	MCDOWELL R	THOMPSON
NWCFL	FLIXTON	28/09/11	A	1-0	MORAN	MCQUEEN	O'BRIEN	MILEY	COULTON	BLACK	PRINCE	HAY	ROBINSON	FOLEY	WILKINSON	KILROY	KING	YOUNG	MCDOWELL	ESSERY
NWCFL	PADIHAM	01/10/11	A	4-1	MORAN	MCQUEEN	O'BRIEN	KILROY	COULTON	BLACK	PRINCE	HAY	ROBINSON	FOLEY	WILKINSON	MCDOWELL R	CARBERRY	YOUNG	ESSERY	MAWDSLEY
NWCFL	CONGLETON	04/10/11	H	1-1	MORAN	MCQUEEN	O'BRIEN	KILROY	COULTON	BLACK	PRINCE	HAY	ROBINSON	FOLEY	WILKINSON	MCDOWELL R	CARBERRY	ESSERY	O'CONNOR	MILEY
NWCFL	BARNOLDSWICK	08/10/11	H	2-3	MORAN	MCQUEEN	O'BRIEN	KILROY	COULTON	BLACK	MILEY	HAY	O'CONNOR	ROBINSON	WILKINSON	FOLEY	THOMPSON	YOUNG	MCDOWELL	CARBERRY
NWCFL	SQUIRES GATE	11/10/11	A	3-1	MORAN	KILROY	O'BRIEN	MILEY	CARBERRY	BLACK	PRINCE	HAY	MCDOWELL	THOMPSON	WILKINSON	O'CONNOR	ESSERY	ROBINSON	MCQUEEN	COULTON
NWCFL	GLOSSOP NE	15/10/11	A	1-0	MORAN	KILROY	MILEY	CARBERRY	COULTON	BLACK	PRINCE	HAY	MCDOWELL	THOMPSON	YOUNG	O'BRIEN	ROBINSON	MCQUEEN	O'CONNOR	FOLEY
LCFASC	MARINE	18/10/11	H	2-1	MORAN	MCQUEEN	O'BRIEN	MILEY	CARBERRY	BLACK	O'CONNOR	HAY	MCDOWELL	FOLEY	YOUNG	KILROY	ESSERY	COULTON	ROBINSON	PRINCE
NWCFLC	ALSAGER TOWN	29/10/11	H																	
NWCFL	RUNCORN LINNETS	01/11/11	A																	
NWCFL	RUNCORN TOWN	05/11/11	A																	
NWCFL	ST HELENS TOWN	08/11/11	H																	
NWCFL	COLNE	12/11/11	H																	
NWCFL	ATHERTON LR	19/11/11	H																	
NWCFL	ALSAGER TOWN	26/11/11	A																	
NWCFL	SILSDEN	03/12/11	H																	
NWCFL	BARNOLDSWICK	10/12/11	A																	
NWCFL	AFC BLACKPOOL	17/12/11	H																	
NWCFL	AFC LIVERPOOL	26/12/11	H																	
NWCFL	RUNCORN TOWN	02/01/12	H																	
NWCFL	STONE DOMINOES	01/01/12	A																	
NWCFL	RAMSBOTTOM UTD	07/01/12	H																	
NWCFL	COLNE	21/01/12	A																	
NWCFL	SQUIRES GATE	28/01/12	H																	
NWCFL	ASHTON ATHLETIC	04/02/12	H																	
NWCFL	RAMSBOTTOM UTD	25/02/12	H																	
NWCFL	BACUP BORO'	10/03/12	H																	
NWCFL	MAINE ROAD	24/03/12	A																	
NWCFL	GLOSSOP NE	31/03/12	H																	
NWCFL	WINSFORD UTD	07/04/12	A																	
NWCFL	AFC LIVERPOOL	09/04/12	A																	
NWCFL	SILSDEN	14/04/12	A																	
NWCFL	PADIHAM	21/04/12	H																	
NWCFL	CONGLETON	28/04/12	A																	
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 = GOAL  
 = SUB ON  
 = CAUTION  
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