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BOOTLE

BUCKS

NEWS

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The Northwest Counties Football League Premier Division

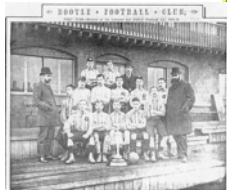
03.05.2012 Kick Off 3pm

Bootle Football Club v Bacup Borough FC

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



# History of the Bucks



The original Bootle F.C. were formed in 1880 and played at Hawthorne Road. They were in fact Everton FC's biggest rivals. In 1889-90 Bootle became founder members of the Football Alliance, narrowly missing out on the football league to the blues. 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 its 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 NWCL Premier Division Bootle finished a NWCL highest placing of 3rd. In 2010/11 finished 6th place. They equalled the 3rd place again in 2012. With the ground grading and charter standard status established in 2011/12 the club are looking to progress to the next level.



## Club Landmarks

*Vodkat League First Division Champions*  
2008-09

*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

*\*Liverpool Senior Cup Winners*

1883, 1888, 1889

*\*Football Alliance Runners-up*  
1889-90

# Bootle Football Club's YOUTH



**Under 18's - West Cheshire League - Manager Richie Boswarva**

**Under 17's - Liverpool Premier League - Manager Ste Miller**

**Under 16's - Bootle & Litherland JFL - Manager Alex Grosart**

**Under 15's - Belvale Junior League - Manager Carl Dale**

**Under 14's - Hightown JFL - Manager Lee Williams**

**Under 12's - Bootle & Litherland JFL - Manager Tony Smith**

**Under 10's - Bootle & Litherland JFL - Manager Darren Carr**

**Under 9's - Bootle & Litherland JFL - Manager David Miley**

**Under 8's - Bootle & Litherland JFL - Manager Phil Dobson**

**Under 7's - Bootle & Litherland JFL - Manager Ste Miller**



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## Bucks Go To Town



## On West End

The Bucks get back on winning track with comprehensive 5-1 victory with Groves(2), Doyle(2) and McKevit all scoring. In blustery conditions that were far from ideal for playing football, the Bucks in their royal blue shirts kicked off against West End in their claret and light blue shirts. Almost immediately from the kick off, it was apparent there was a real sense of urgency in the Bucks play and they were pressing the visitors high up the pitch, not letting West End have any meaningful possession.

It was not long before the Bucks took a well deserved lead. Lewis Culshaw hit a firm left footed volley that was well saved by the West End keeper, but the keeper's parry fell invitingly to Dylan Doyle who coolly slotted into an empty net. The Bucks would double their lead within minutes of going ahead through Doyle again. It would not be long before the Bucks were to score again, this time Brandon Groves was on the score sheet, drilling home an unstoppable low drive from 12 yards out. The Bucks were keeping smart possession playing short passes in a tight area on the right when Scott Munro cleverly switched play to the left to Jordon Thomas who found Tom Rogers, who then exchanged quick, slick passes with Brandon Groves, which led to Groves being put through one on one with the keeper and he confidently hit a low drive that despite the keeper's despairing dive, hit the back of the net. The Bucks were now well on top and soon it would be five. A Jordon Thomas left footed driven corner was headed powerfully goalward by Mike McKeivitt, his header deflecting off a West End defender and looped over the helpless keeper. The final 5-1 score line reflected the overall balance of play and was just the tonic needed after the previous week's defeat



Bootle Football Club -  
Founder members of the  
Football Alliance 1889,  
The Football League Div2\*  
1892 & The Northwest  
Counties Football League  
1982  
Awarded FA Charter  
Standard Status in  
November 2011

### *An associated committee consisting of elected members:*

Chairman  
Mr Frank Doran Jnr  
Deputy Chairman  
Mr Ben Roberts  
Life President  
Mr Frank Doran Snr  
Honorary President  
Mr Joe Benton MP  
Committee  
Mr Bobby Capstick, Mr  
Dave Ruth, Mr Geoff Frasier,  
Mr Tommy McKay, Mr Tony  
McKay  
Head of Finance/ Club  
Secretary  
Mr Joseph Doran  
Assistant Secretary  
Mr Dave Miley Snr  
1st Team Manager  
Mr Neil Prince  
1st Team Assistant Manager  
Mr James Olsen  
1st Team Coach  
Mr Liam Blakeman  
Goalkeeping Coach  
Mr Paul McCowen  
Welfare  
Mr Darren Carr  
Head of Fitness & Wellbeing  
Mr Lee Stenson  
Media & Communications  
Mr Dave Miley Jnr,  
Youth Football Co-ordinator  
Mr Carl Dale



\*Original Club folded in 1893

## Today's Teams



### BOOTLE

manager: Neil Prince

Dean PORTER  
David POTTER  
Neil MCQUEEN  
Mark KILROY  
Michael CARBERRY  
Phil GREEN  
Sean COULTON  
Neil MURPHY  
Paul BYRNE (capt)  
Joe FOWLER  
James OLSEN  
Jamie HAY  
Liam BLAKEMAN  
Kevin BLACK  
Brett ADAMSON  
Neil PRINCE  
Billy SMART  
Jak GRAY  
Michael YOUNG  
Daniel O'CONNOR  
Tom FOLEY  
Lee THOMPSON  
Jack MCCABE



### BACUP

manager: Brent Peters

Ryan JONES  
Shane BIRTLES  
Matthew BRYAN  
Arron KIRK  
Otis GORMAN  
Gareth WAGER  
Daniel COCKS (capt)  
Kingsley WILLIAMS  
Haydn PAUL  
Steven MADEN  
Paul NELSON  
Matthew MAINE  
Boic NHLIZYO  
David LIMABROOKE  
Craig BENNETT  
Robel KIBREAR  
Adam DALE  
Joel HOWORTH  
Farres AOUN

### MATCH OFFICIALS



referee: Steven Swallow  
assistant referee: Ali Ebrahimi  
assistant referee: Phillip Stubbs



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# nwcfl.com

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LOVE YOUR SPORT



# The manager of Bootle Football Club

Hello and welcome to today's Northwest Counties League Premier Division game, and a warm welcome to Brent Peters and his Bacup Borough team, staff and supporters to the Delta Taxis Stadium.

Last Saturday was very pleasing. I thought we completely dominated the game and we look so comfortable in possession at the moment. The result will have sent out a message to the rest of the league that we mean business. We made a team who are joint top with us look very average indeed. It was nice to progress to the next round where we have a home tie against lower league opposition. I want to do well in all competitions that we are in.

Results continue to go our way in the league with the teams around us all dropping points. It is vital that we focus on ourselves and don't drop points by taking our foot off the gas. I'm confident that the mentality of the squad is strong enough to ensure that this doesn't happen.

We have signed Joe Fowler this week. This is a big signing for the club as Joe was captain of Marine last season and is experienced and capable of playing at a much higher level. Joe is a centre midfielder but can also play right midfield or right back. He is short of match fitness at the moment but once fully fit he will be a valuable member of the squad. Marine's loss is definitely our gain.

I would like to highlight the performances of Jamie Hay lately as he works so hard for the team and breaks up the opposition attacks constantly with tackles, interceptions and headers. He is also a major threat for our set pieces and has got on the scoresheet a couple of times. Jamie's role in the team is crucial as I want him to be disciplined and hold his position in midfield, break opposition attacks up and then give a simple ball to our attacking players. Jamie is doing this so consistently now that this is a huge reason why we are so comfortable in possession lately.

Here's to hopefully another 3 points today, thanks for your continued support.

Princey

nwcf	Completion	a	04/08/12	0-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	McCabe	Kilroy	Thompson	Young
nwcf	Wigan RP	H	07/08/12	2-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Thompson	Young		
FAC	Alsager	H	11/08/12	4-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Smart	Thompson	McCabe	Prince	Kilroy
nwcf	Winstord	a	14/08/12	0-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Young	Smart	McCabe	McCabe
nwcf	Stockt'S	H	18/08/12	2-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Thompson	Prince	Green	Young	Kilroy
nwcf	St Helens	H	21/08/12	2-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Thompson	Prince	Young	Gray	Green
FAC	Mossley	a	25/08/12	3-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Green	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Gray	Prince	Young	Kilroy	
nwcf	Colne	H	01/09/12	2-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Kilroy	Coulton	Black	Young	Hay	Foley	Gray	Prince	O'Brien	O'Connor	Foley
nwcf	Runcorn T	H	04/09/12	1-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	Thompson	Gray	Gray	Green	O'Connor	Foley
FAC	Bamber Br	H	08/09/12	1-2	Porter	Green	Kilroy	Canberry	Coulton ©	Black	Blakeman	Hay	Young	O'Connor	Gray	Essery	Pudren	Foley
nwcf	Padliham	a	08/09/12	1-1	Porter	McQueen	Kilroy	Canberry	Coulton ©	Black	Blakeman	Hay	Prince	O'Connor	Young	Gray	Foley	Kilroy
nwcf	Silsden	H	22/09/12	2-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Green	Gray	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Thompson	Foley	Kilroy	Adamsen	Olsen
FAC	Maine Rd	H	08/10/12	1-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Kilroy	Coulton	Olsen	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Foley	Blakeman	Black	Green
nwcf	Stockt'S	H	13/10/12	3-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Olsen	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Adamsen	McCabe	Foley	Adamsen
nwcf	Runcorn L	H	16/10/12	2-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Young	Green	McCabe	Adamsen
nwcf	Stone D	a	20/10/12	0-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Green	Black	Blakeman	Hay	McCabe	Prince	Adamsen	Young	Olsen	Kilroy
Igcup	Runcorn T	H	27/10/12	3-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Canberry	Green	Black	McCabe	Hay	Foley	Prince	Young	Kilroy	Olsen	Adamsen

nwcf	Bacup	H	03/11/12															
nwcf	St Helens	a	06/11/12															
nwcf	Stockt'S	a	10/11/12															
Icfasc	Carn Laird	H	13/11/12															
nwcf	Squires G	a	17/11/12															
nwcf	Runcorn L	a	20/11/12															
nwcf	Ashton A	a	27/11/12															
nwcf	Comleton	H	01/12/12															
nwcf	Silsden	a	08/12/12															
nwcf	A Blackpl	H	15/12/12															
nwcf	Norton	H	22/12/12															
nwcf	AFC L'p'l	a	26/12/12															
nwcf	Alsager	H	29/12/12															
nwcf	Bacup	a	05/01/13															
nwcf	Wigan RP	a	12/01/13															
nwcf	Padliham	a	26/01/13															
nwcf	Squires G	a	02/02/13															
nwcf	Winstord	H	09/02/13															
nwcf	Maine Rd	a	23/02/13															
nwcf	Barlick	a	16/03/13															
nwcf	Glossop	H	23/03/13															
nwcf	Glossop	a	30/03/13															
nwcf	AFC L'p'l	H	01/04/13															
nwcf	Stone D	H	06/04/13															
nwcf	Colne	a	13/04/13															
nwcf	Runcorn T	a	20/04/12															
nwcf	Barlick	a	27/04/12															



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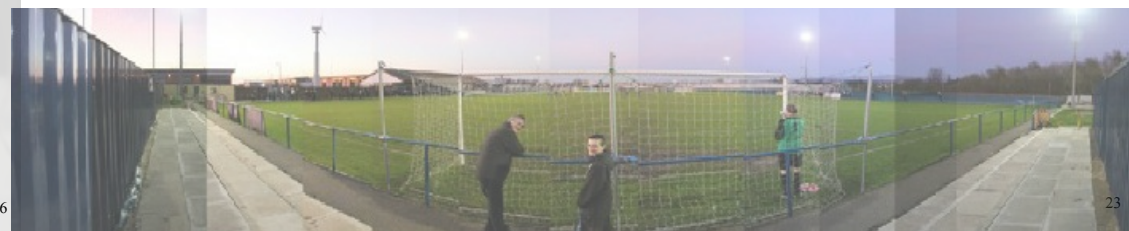
**Tuesday 13th November  
V Cammell Laird  
(7.45pm KO) in the Liverpool  
County FA Senior Cup Round 1**



**Saturday 17th November  
V Thackley  
(3pm KO) in the  
FA Vase Round 2**



**Saturday 1st December  
V Congleton Town  
(3pm KO) in the NWCFL  
Premier Division**





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As at 01/11/2012

### Premier Division

3rd November 2012

AFC Blackpool v Stone Dominoes  
AFC Liverpool v Padiham  
Alsager Town v Ashton Athletic  
Barnoldswick Town v Stockport Sports  
Bootle v Bacup Borough  
Congleton Town v Colne  
Glossop North End v Squires Gate  
Maine Road v Winsford United  
Runcorn Town v Norton United (14:00)  
Silsden v Runcorn Linnets  
Wigan Robin Park v St Helens Town (14:00)

### First Division

Abbey Hey v Atherton Collieries  
Atherton LR v Leek CSOB  
Daisy Hill v Oldham Boro  
Eccleshall v Ashton Town  
Formby v Chadderton  
Irlam v AFC Darwen  
Nelson v Cheadle Town  
Northwich Villa v West Didsbury & Chorlton  
Rochdale Town v Holker Old Boys

	P	GD	Pts
1 Runcorn Town	16	19	30
2 Maine Road	15	13	30
3 Stockport Sports	16	24	29
4 Congleton Town	14	20	29
5 Bootle	12	13	29
6 Padiham	14	10	29
7 Barnoldswick T	15	9	27
8 Colne	15	12	24
9 Runcorn Linnets	15	-2	24
10 Silsden	16	0	23
11 Wigan RP	16	-3	22
12 AFC Blackpool	17	-6	22
13 Winsford United	13	9	21
14 Glossop NE	14	-1	20
15 Alsager Town	17	0	18
16 Bacup Borough	13	0	16
17 AFC Liverpool	13	-11	13
18 Ashton Athletic	15	-14	13
19 Norton United	15	-23	13
20 St Helens Town	12	-16	12
21 Squires Gate	17	-16	11
22 Stone Dominoes	16	-37	4

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



2012/13



Phil Green

# nwcfl.com

## FA CUP FIRST ROUND MEMORIES

This Saturday sees four former NWCFL clubs competing in the First Round Proper of the FA Cup.

For AFC Fylde, Accrington Stanley, Fleetwood Town and Bradford Park Avenue, prize money and a further chance of nationwide publicity and cup glory awaits them, if they emerge victorious and progress to the Second Round.

Our past association with those clubs is the only remaining link our League can claim to have to the competition at this current stage, but although it may seem a tall order these days to expect a team from the NWCFL to reach the First Round of the competition, since the League began in 1982 it has in fact happened on six occasions.

The most recent instance was in 1996, when Newcastle Town's run in the competition was ended at the hands of Notts County, in a game played at Stoke City's then home ground, the Victoria Ground.

Two familiar faces who have a long association with our League were involved with Newcastle Town that day, and experienced at first hand the excitement and national exposure that a place in the First Round Proper can bring.

Town's Club Secretary at the time was John Cotton, now General Manager at Norton United, and the Match Day Secretary was Ray Tatton, who these days still retains the position of Club Secretary at Newcastle Town, which he held when they left our League as Champions in 2010.

Sixteen years on, both can still remember vividly the events of the time.

Ray recalls: "It was only when we drew Frickley in the Third Qualifying Round that we realised how close we were to the First Round. Victory after a replay on a wet night by 2-1 saw us play Bamber Bridge with the winners going into the First Round.

"We thought it would be difficult but a goal inside 15 seconds by Dave Ritchie calmed the nerves and Castle ran out comfortable winners by 4-0. We didn't have to wait long for the draw as it took place at 5.25 pm that night and Sky Television were there to film us watching the draw.

"We were no strangers to Sky as the weekend after the Frickley game, they appeared at Daisy Hill where Newcastle were playing a cup game, and filmed us carrying the bags from the bus, down the street and into the ground.

"We all crowded into the boardroom. It took ages, as we were drawn out towards the end – and getting drawn against Notts County at home saw a big cheer".

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website of the Northwest  
Counties League**

John also remembers the excitement of being drawn against a Football League club.

"I remember in the boardroom when the tie was drawn, the whole place erupted, and the Sky cameras were filming our reaction.

"As soon as we knew we had a big game on our hands, we swung into action and I remember Steve Clark from the FA telling us fairly quickly we couldn't play at the Lyme Valley Stadium. But our President Ken Wilshaw had contacts at Stoke City, and within a matter of hours we had agreed that the game could be played at Stoke's Victoria Ground, which sorted out any issues with ground grading and segregation".

The next couple of weeks naturally brought plenty of media attention, not to mention hard work, for everyone at the club. "With only a couple of weeks to organise everything, it became a bit of nightmare for all the committee members", said John. "There was a lot of co-ordinating with Stoke City and the police, and I remember we worked hard on making sure that there were seats in the directors' box for everyone we wanted to be involved on the day.

"It was a lot of work for a group of people to undertake when we all had day jobs too".

As for the day itself, an impressive crowd of 3976 turned up at the Victoria Ground on the afternoon of Sunday 17th November 1996 for the game, and the Newcastle Town officials had made sure that the team were properly prepared.

"We had a pre-match meal at a hotel, and then boarded a coach to take us from the hotel to the ground", said Ray. "We had a police escort and the streets down to the ground were filled with people applauding us all the way. At the ground itself as we stepped off the coach, we were applauded in by about 500 Notts County fans".

Features in the programme included a message from Sir Stanley Matthews, who talked about the "many enjoyable times" he had had with Newcastle Town, and also a page was given over to good luck messages that the club had received, among them one from the NWCFL Secretary Mike Darby, who stated that reaching the FA Cup First Round was "a wonderful achievement for everyone connected with Newcastle Town and also for the North West Counties League".

# Our Visitors today....

Located amongst the South Pennines, along Lancashire's eastern boundary with West Yorkshire is the town within the Rossendale region. It sits within a rural setting amongst the steep-sided upper-Irwell Valley, which the River Irwell passes.

Bacup Borough Football Club was established In 1875. Their first match to take place at their current Brian Boys West View Stadium was not until 1889 when one of the founder members of the English Football League Accrington Stanley played there in front of over 1,000 spectators.

Bacup's proudest achievement was winning the Lancashire Combination Championship in the 1946/47 season, this along with finishing runners up after losing to Marine 2-1 in the Lancashire Combination Cup Final.



## BACUP BOROUGH

1972/73 season the club finished runners up in the League, losing out on goal average despite scoring 101 goals. In 1974/75 they reached the Lancashire Junior Cup Final losing 1-0 against Lancaster City, this despite famous victories against Formby, Wigan Athletic, South Liverpool, and Morecambe. In the last ever Lancashire Combination Challenge Cup Final Bacup were beaten 1-3 by Caernarfon Town in a two-legged Final.

In 1982 Bacup Borough became founder members of the North West Counties League, this following the amalgamation of the Cheshire League & the Lancashire Combination. In the 1987/88 season Bacup had to apply for re-election following finishing bottom of the Second Division.

In the 1988 /89 season under the Management of Gary Warburton the club finished Runners up in Division Two and also finished Runners Up in the Lamot Pils Trophy, they also the same season reached the Quarter Final of the League Cup and due to the Leagues re-organisation the club started the 1989 /90 season as a First Division Club. However, in the 1994 /95 season Bacup Borough were relegated back to the Second Division & did struggle both on and off the field.



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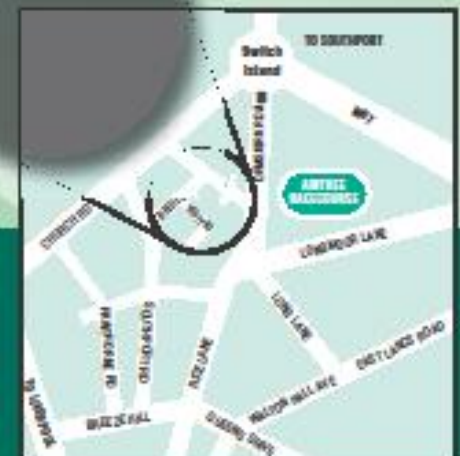
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# Match Action

Photo's from the 3-0 win v Runcorn Town in the Northwest Counties League Challenge Cup Round1



In September of the 1997/98 season with no points on the board and following a humiliating 0-10 defeat by Tetley Walker this prompted the Committee to part company with their then Manager. This then made way for the appointment of the former Doncaster Rovers Assistant Manager, Bury F.C Youth Team Coach, Accrington Stanley Director of Football, & Rossendale Utd & Glossop North End Manager Brent Peters to take over as Manager, a position

he has held ever since.

Brent's early record of achievement saw the club finish the 1997/98 season in 14th position, climbing in 1998/99 to 11th position before in 1999/00 they finished 5th in the league, the clubs highest league position in over ten years. In Season 2000/01 the club reached the Second Division Cup Final but lost 1-0 to Squires Gate.

Peters' greatest achievement came at the end of the 2002/03 season when he guided the club to the Championship of the North West Counties League Division Two, the first major success for the club in 56 years. This brought Brent Three Manager of the Month Awards and The Manager of The Year Award.

Season 2003/04, Bacup's first season following the Second Division Championship the club finished 14th in Division One and did win the North West Counties League Challenge Cup at Southport's Haig Avenue Ground by beating Newcastle Town 3-0.



Other cup runs saw Borough as NWCFL Challenge Cup Quarter Finalists in 2004/05 and Lancashire FA Co- operative Trophy Quarter Finalists in 2007/08. They finished in 8th Position in the NWCFL Premier Division in the 2008/09 Season. June 14th 2004 brought another land mark for the club when Bacup's Secretary Frank Manning celebrated not only his 70th Birthday but also 50yrs in the game of which

well over 40 years have been spent in administration at his beloved Bacup Borough F.C, This achievement was awarded by being presented with a gold award on behalf of the Football Association by Mr Jim Kenyon the Secretary of the Lancashire Football Association. Frank is now the clubs Chairman and is as youthful and enthusiastic as ever.

Last season saw more silverware arrive at the club as the NWCFL Challenge Cup returned to the Baucp trophy cabinet as Maine Road were comprehensively beaten 5-0 in a match watched by a large travelling support at the Tameside Stadium. This cup run, combined with a good FA Carlsberg Vase run, saw the club struggling to catch up with its fixtures after the run of terrible weather conditions across the region. Having to play so many games in a short period of time took its toll and the season ended with the club in a false position of 17th in the league table.





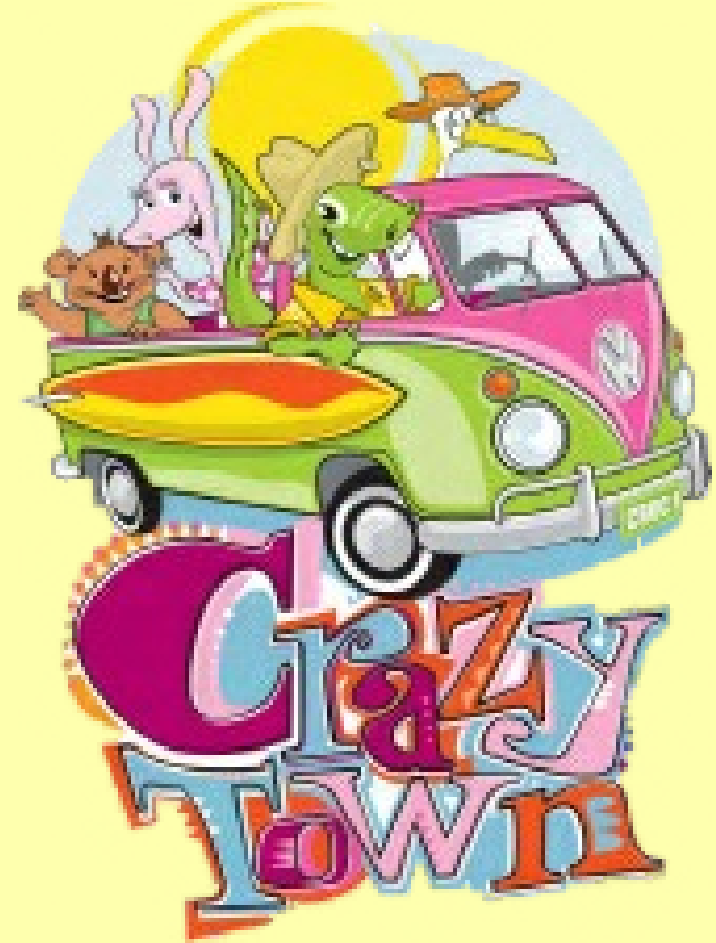
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# HENRY WELFARE

Continued from page 13

His time at Liverpool brought mixed success, but the fans had taken to the hard working striker even after only four appearances. Officials involved with the management of the club during this time obviously thought very highly of him, as is evident in the lucrative contract offer he received in an attempt to persuade him to stay on Merseyside and play full time for Liverpool in the First Division. Fans and club officials thought that if he could dedicate himself full time to the club he could become one of their best players, but Welfare enjoyed the freedom his amateur status brought him too much to commit himself to one club on professional terms. And he had a job or two lined up in Brazil...

His reluctance to play professionally may have played a part in him eventually joining Fluminense, as he was offered generous professional terms to play full time for Liverpool, but turned them down. He went to Rio to teach at the Ginásio Anglo-Brasileiro not long after this offer - many of the so called gentleman amateurs of the time will no doubt have been persuaded to stay by the wages on offer in Liverpool.

There is an article on the Fluminense website which describes Welfare as the British Tricolour, and refers to him as “o gigante ruivo-grisalho” – the giant red-grey – when recalling the striker’s goal record and contribution to the club’s success. Their debt to him is evident when the same article mentions that his goals helped make the club a power in football, and that he is still thought of so highly today shows the impact he had on the club.

The nomadic striker seems to have found his home, at least in football terms, at Fluminense, but other records state that he also played for Flamengo and Corinthians. Although an appearance for Flamengo is likely given that they are also based in Rio, it seems doubtful that he would have played for Corinthians who are based in Sao Paulo. He did however score against the touring English Corinthians side whilst playing for an unofficial Rio de Janeiro team in 1913.



# HENRY WELFARE

## MERSEYSIDE’S FIRST SUPERSTAR FOOTBALLER

Henry Welfare, known commonly as Harry, was a Liverpool born striker who went on to score 163 goals in 166 games for Fluminense of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. From what we know of his story there is a sense that he was a wandering football nomad who played the game by mixing amateur ethics with the hard work of a professional. Here we look at how he ended up being a Flu club legend, rather than a Liverpool one.

Welfare played for numerous clubs in the North West of England including St Helens Recreation, Sandown, Hoylake, Northern Nomads, and Liverpool. He probably played for far more teams than is documented, as he seemed to be willing to turn out for any local team who fancied giving him a game, and given his talents many would be willing to do so. Some records state that he also played for Tranmere Rovers, Southport Central, and Wrexham.



At Sandown, Welfare was made player secretary by the club, and he always returned to this club in between playing for the more renowned and higher profile Northern Nomads. The Nomads were another club who suited Welfare’s amateur outlook on the game, and they could be regarded as the northern equivalent of London’s Corinthians club. Unlike the amateurs from down south, the Nomads would not limit themselves to playing against only amateur teams, and their matches against professional teams in the area may have been where Welfare was first noticed by Liverpool, especially as some of their games were played at Prenton Park in Birkenhead. In the 1911/12 “season” (the Nomads only played friendlies) he scored 35 goals for the Nomads and this seemed to have been enough for Liverpool to want to take a closer look at the centre forward.

He made several appearances for Liverpool Reserves before eventually being promoted to the first team, and during this time he still made appearances for Northern Nomads, and maybe other amateur matches we (and Liverpool) don’t know about! Liverpool realised that his performances in the reserves showed that he could easily adapt to a higher level, and his standout performances earned him a first team place.

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