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BOOTLE

BUCKS

NEWS

Official Match day Programme £1

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The Northwest Counties League Challenge Cup Round 3

16.02.2013 Kick Off 3pm

Bootle Football Club v West Didsbury & Chorlton

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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**MONDAY NIGHT
FOOTBALL**
At the Delta Taxi's Stadium, Vesty Road,
Bootle. (Off Bridle Road)





New Bucks signing, forward Jay White, has a dream debut with a double as Bucks outclass Manor Park. The Bucks began 2013 in much the same way that they finished 2012; with a fine all-round team performance, resulting in a comfortable away victory at Buckley Hill against local rivals, Manor Park.

The Bucks took an early lead after 10 minutes. Debut boy, Jay White and Dylan Doyle exchanged neat, short passes in the opposition box and White was on hand to volley home the resulting loose ball from close range with a clinical finish. 0-1.

The Bucks took an early lead after 10 minutes. Debut boy, Jay White and Dylan Doyle exchanged neat, short passes in the opposition box and White was on hand to volley home the resulting loose ball from close range with a clinical finish. 0-1.

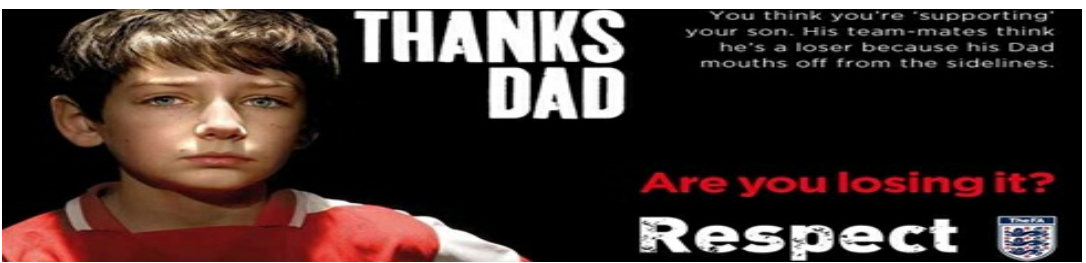
Anthony Beckett increased the Bucks lead after 25 minutes; his shot from just outside the box took a slight deflection; before Lewis Culshaw was to make it four just before the interval; rifling in a powerful left footed drive from 12 yards out, which left the Park keeper with absolutely no chance of saving, as his defenders appeared to have deserted him. 0-4.

Second half and the Bucks were soon to deservedly increase their lead. Following a fluent passing move between Antonio and Groves, Groves was to play in White who confidently finished off a fine Bucks move, coolly slotting the ball past the oncoming Park keeper.

Beckett then set up Rogers who drilled the ball past the helpless Park keeper, getting his thoroughly deserved goal.

Antonio was to increase the Bucks lead, and seal the win; firing in a low right footed drive through a ruck of players and into the far right hand corner of the net. 0-7.

Final score Bootle 7 - 0 Manor Park




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



West Dids & C

manager: Andy Nelson


<p>Dean PORTER</p> <p>David POTTER</p> <p>Neil MCQUEEN</p> <p>Michael CARBERRY</p> <p>Phil GREEN</p> <p>Joel POWELL</p> <p>Sean COULTON</p> <p>Neil MURPHY</p> <p>Paul BYRNE (capt)</p> <p>Joe FOWLER</p> <p>James OLSEN</p> <p>Jamie HAY</p> <p>Curtis GILL</p> <p>Kevin BLACK</p> <p>Kevin TOWNSON</p> <p>Billy SMART</p> <p>Michael YOUNG</p> <p>Daniel O'CONNOR</p> <p>Tom FOLEY</p> <p>Lee THOMPSON</p> <p>Jack MCCABE</p>			<p>Ben SIMPSON</p> <p>Anthony POTTS</p> <p>Ashley FARLOW</p> <p>Ben DANIELS</p> <p>Callum JONES</p> <p>Callum Schofield</p> <p>Dale NEWBROOKE</p> <p>Danny SUMMERS</p> <p>Dave CONLON</p> <p>David KILBRIDE - RADCLIFFE</p> <p>Gareth THOMAS</p> <p>Graham BRYANT</p> <p>Harry BOCKARIE</p> <p>Ian TAYLOR</p> <p>Joel HUNTER</p> <p>LEE SHILLITO</p> <p>John CRIMES</p> <p>Kyle HENDLEY</p> <p>Lewis CHILDS</p> <p>Scott JONES</p>
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MATCH OFFICIALS

referee:

assistant referee:

assistant referee:



The Official Website of the North West Counties Football League

nwcfl.com

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LOVE YOUR SPORT

The manager of Bootle Football Club

Hello and welcome to the Delta Taxis Stadium and a warm welcome to Andy Nelson and all from West Didsbury & Chorlton's team, staff and supporters for this Northwest Counties Challenge Cup clash.

It will be nice to get back to playing a game at home today as it's been a long time, and at the moment the cup is a welcome relief from the league.

I was really disappointed to come away from Norton United midweek with nothing, especially having gone in front. I think we are still lacking despite a good result and performance last weekend at Squires Gate after two very disappointing results at Runcorn Linnets and Wigan Robin Park, The weather has no doubt affected our sharpness and I am conscious that the more games we fall behind the more catching up we have to do later in the season.

We have not been able to play our football as we did at the start of the season and, although we have on the most part, continued to win games, we haven't looked as convincing as we did before Christmas.

We also need to realise that if we are not playing well that we still put 100% effort into our play. Every player has a dip in form every now and again but if we dig in we can still win our battles on the field and get a result.

I want a big response today from the players after midweek. I want to push on in all competitions and go one better in this competition than last year.

Up the Bucks!



Princey

NEIL PRINCE

nwcf	Completion	a	04/08/12	0-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	McCabe	Kilroy	Thompson	Young
nwcf	Wigan RP	H	07/08/12	2-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Thompson	Young		
FAC	Alsager	H	11/08/12	4-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Smart	Thompson	McCabe	Prince	Kilroy
nwcf	Winstford	a	14/08/12	0-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Young	Smart	Young	McCabe
nwcf	Stockt'S	H	18/08/12	2-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Thompson	Prince	Young	Gray	Kilroy
nwcf	St Helens	H	21/08/12	2-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	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	Coltne	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 ©	Kilroy	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	Thompson	Young	Gray	Green	O'Connor	Foley
FAC	Bamber Br	H	08/09/12	1-2	Porter	Green	Kilroy	Carberry	Coulton ©	Black	Blakeman	Hay	Young	O'Connor	Gray	Essery	Pudren	Foley
nwcf	Padliham	a	08/09/12	1-1	Porter	McQueen	Kilroy	Carberry	Coulton ©	Black	Blakeman	Hay	Prince	O'Connor	Young	Gray	Foley	Kilroy
nwcf	Silsden	H	22/09/12	2-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Gray	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Thompson	Foley	Kilroy	Adamson	Olsen
FAC	Maine Rd	H	08/10/12	1-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Kilroy	Coulton	Olsen	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Foley	Adamson	Black	Green
nwcf	Stockt'S	H	13/10/12	3-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Young	Adamson	McCabe	Adamson
nwcf	Runcorn L	H	16/10/12	2-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Coulton	Black	Blakeman	Hay	O'Connor	Prince	Young	Green	McCabe	Kilroy
nwcf	Stone D	a	20/10/12	0-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Black	Blakeman	Hay	McCabe	Prince	Adamson	Young	Olsen	Adamson
Icup	Runcorn T	H	27/10/12	3-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Black	McCabe	Hay	Foley	Prince	Young	Kilroy	Olsen	Fowler
nwcf	Bacup	H	03/11/12	2-0	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Olsen	Thompson	Hay	Foley	Prince	Young	Adamson	Kilroy	
nwcf	St Helens	a	06/11/12	P-P	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©											
nwcf	Stockt'S	a	10/11/12	0-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Black	Prince	Hay	Foley	Blakeman	Prince			
Icsc	Cam Laird	H	13/11/12	1-0	Porter													
AV	Thackley	a	17/11/12	3-1	Porter	Murphy	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Olsen	Blakeman	Prince	Foley	Young	Adamson	McQueen	Kilroy	Thompson
nwcf	Congleton	H	01/12/12	3-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Black	Prince	Hay	Foley	Thompson	Young	Adamson	Kilroy	Olsen
nwcf	Silsden	a	08/12/12	1-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Black	Fowler	Hay	Foley	Madin	Young	Thompson		McCabe
Icsc	Ashton T	a	18/12/12	0-1	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Black	Fowler	Hay	McCabe	Madin	Young			
nwcf	AFC L'Pl	a	26/12/12	1-2	Porter	McQueen	Byrne ©	Carberry	Green	Black	Fowler	Olsen	Foley	Madin	Young			
nwcf	Bacup	a	05/01/13	2-4														
nwcf	Wigan RP	a	12/01/13	2-1														
nwcf	Runcorn L	a	29/01/13	3-2														
nwcf	Squires G	a	02/01/13	0-4														
nwcf	Winstford	H	09/02/13															
nwcf	Norton Utd	a	12/02/13															
nwcf	WD&C	H	16/02/13															
nwcf	Squires G	H	19/02/13															
nwcf	Maine Rd	a	23/02/13															
nwcf	Ashton A	a	26/02/13															
nwcf	AFC Bl'p'l	H	02/03/13															
nwcf	St Helens	a	05/03/13															
nwcf	Norton Utd	H	12/03/13															
nwcf	Barlrick	a	16/03/13															
nwcf	Ashton A	H	19/03/13															
nwcf	Glossop	H	23/03/13															
nwcf	Alsager	a	26/03/13															
nwcf	Glossop	a	30/03/13															





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THE BUCKS ARE NEXT AT HOME ON:

**Saturday 19th February
V Squires Gate
(3pm KO) in the NWCFL
Premier Division**



**Saturday 2nd March
V AFC Blackpool
(3pm KO) in the NWCFL
Premier Division**



**Saturday 12th March
V Norton United
(3pm KO) in the NWCFL
Premier Division**



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As at 08/02/2013

Saturday 16th February 2013

League Challenge Cup 3rd Round

Abbey Hey v Cheadle Town
Alsager Town v AFC Liverpool
Bacup Borough v AFC Darwen
Barnoldswick Town v Formby
Bootle v West Didsbury &
Chorlton
Congleton Town v Maine Road
Padiham v AFC Blackpool
Runcorn Linnets v Winsford
United

Premier Division

Colne v Runcorn Town
Glossop North End v Norton
United
Squires Gate v Stone Dominoes
St Helens Town v Silsden
Wigan Robin Park v Stockport
Sports

First Division

Atherton LR v Holker Old Boys
Chadderton v Irlam
Nelson v Atherton Collieries
(14:00)
Northwich Villa v Eccleshall
Oldham Boro v Leek CSOB

	P	GD	Pts
1 Maine Road	27	24	56
2 Padiham	25	32	55
3 Runcorn Town	25	34	53
4 Bootle	22	20	47
5 Runcorn Linnets	27	10	47
6 Colne	26	28	45
7 Congleton Town	25	24	43
8 Winsford United	23	24	43
9 Barnoldswick T	24	22	43
10 Stockp't Sports *	29	15	40
11 Glossop NE	25	10	40
12 Alsager Town	29	-1	37
13 AFC Blackpool	25	-8	33
14 Wigan RP	24	-5	32
15 Norton United	25	-19	32
16 AFC Liverpool	21	-4	26
17 Silsden	24	-17	26
18 Ashton Athletic	27	-30	20
19 Bacup Borough	22	-16	19
20 Squires Gate	27	-31	17
21 St Helens Town	22	-32	16
22 Stone Dominoes	26	-80	7

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



2012/13

Daniel
O'Connor

nwcfl.com

Ladies Join Linnetts

Runcorn Linnetts have announced that Runcorn Ladies FC will next season play as Runcorn Linnetts Ladies FC.

The team was formed last season and have been making great strides during the course of the current season. Ladies team manager Luke Barber said: "We are delighted to be joining the Linnetts set up. We have been hugely impressed with what we have seen and the team members are delighted.

"We still need to iron out a number of details, so discussions will continue over the rest of the season".

Linnetts Chairman Derek Greenwood said: "We are pleased to welcome Runcorn Ladies team into the Linnetts set up, and we hope this will be a great opportunity for more local participation in the sport".

Events at Colne FC

Colne have announced two forthcoming fund raising events. On Friday March 15th 'An evening with Mike King' is being held at the Alma Inn, Laneshawbridge, Colne. The evening also features former pro footballer Craig Hignett and magician Andrew Dean.

A limited number of tickets at £40 per head, including meal, are available. It is open to Ladies and Gents who wish to attend. If anyone is interested, contact Dave Blacklock on 07804 137049 or send a message via the club website.

On Sunday May 12th, commemorative matches against AFC Emley are being staged at the Holt House Stadium. The games are being staged to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Colne Dynamos winning the FA Vase, when they beat Emley 1-0 at Wembley.

Team manager Nigel Coates, who played in the FA Vase final for Colne Dynamos, also celebrates ten years as Colne manager this year. The club are looking to contact any former players and officials who are interested in being present on the day. Anyone wishing to get in touch should contact Chairman Dave Blacklock or any other committee member at Colne FC.

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*All the news from the Official
website of the Northwest
Counties League*

Busy Weekend For The Bullets

This weekend is a busy one at Alsager Town's LAW Training Stadium, with events taking place on both Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday the Bullets are hoping for a good turnout at their League Challenge Cup tie against AFC Liverpool, thanks to an initiative started by assistant manager Stu Heeps.

Press Officer John Shenton explained: "The initiative called Target 200, and the idea is to get over 200 people through the gate on Saturday. Stu has enlisted the help of numerous people in the press and local radio, and as it happens, Crewe Alex and Stoke City are without a game or are away from home.

"Local clubs Kidsgrove Athletic and Newcastle Town are away as well, so the club is hoping to pick up a few paying spectators from those clubs. The tweets regarding the game have gone off to Liverpool as well, and it is hoped that they will bring a large following with them".

On Sunday 17th invited guests will attend a ceremony at 1pm to commemorate the official opening of the new clubhouse, which was rebuilt last year after being ravaged by fire in the summer of 2011.

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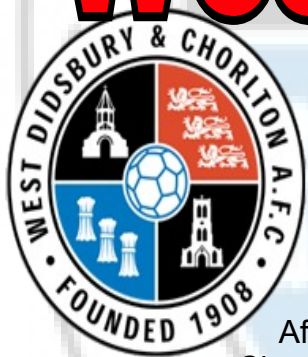


Our Visitors today....

From the town of Chorlton-cum-hardy, four miles from Manchester city centre. The River Mersey runs past Chorlton along it's southern boundary.

Newly elected North West Counties League side West Didsbury and Chorlton FC, have come a long way in their 105 year history which began back in 1908 when the club was founded as Christ Church A.F.C. by Mr R F Hartley, a Sunday School Superintendent at the church on Princess Parkway, West Didsbury. West first played in the Manchester Alliance League until the outbreak of the First World War (1914-1918).

West Didsbury & Chorlton



After the War the club joined the Lancashire and Cheshire League for the 1920/21 season and had to change its name to West Didsbury AFC, as the League did not permit association with any other body. The club was placed in Divisions 1 and A and stayed in the top flight for 25 seasons. The first honours were double runners up in Div 1 and Rhodes Cup in 1922/23, and the club remained in that league until 2006, winning many honours and providing 4 League Presidents along the way. Many of the current committee were players in that league.

The club played at Christie Playing Fields from before 1914 but had to relocate when given notice to quit by the Playing Fields Society in the mid 1980's when that body decided to sell the land for commercial gain.



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A Bootle Born Legend

This week a surprising announcement of his intentions to retire from football by Liverpool FC club legend Jamie Carragher sent a wave of tributes and memories of the Bootle-born stalwart. So, here at his home-town club would also like to pay tribute to a top professional that has done so much for the town of Bootle. First of all from Philly Carragher:



"Jamie Carragher was born in Bootle and from the age of 3 his Mum and I can remember, that he wanted to be a footballer. By the time Jamie was 7 years old, I had to tell a little white lie and say that he was 8, because in those days you needed to be 8 to play competitive football. He immediately started playing on a Sunday for Merton Villa in the under 11's Bootle & Litherland's District League. Even in those early days Jamie's potential and natural abilities were very obvious; those abilities combined with determination and total dedication to developing the skills necessary to play at premiership level, have ensured that Jamie achieved his dream."

At the age of 8 Jamie Carragher played football for his School team at St James Primary School.

At the age of 9 Jamie Carragher was playing 5-a-side games for the Brunswick Boys' Club most nights of the week as well as for Merton Villa U11's on a Sunday.

At the age of 9 Jamie Carragher also played for Bootle Boys U11's District representing all the primary schools in Bootle.

At the age of 10 Jamie Carragher was made Captain of Bootle Boys U11's District in what was a very successful year.

At the age of 13 Jamie Carragher, having been at Merton Villa for 7 years was chosen to play for Sefton Borough.

At the age of 14 Jamie Carragher attended the former FA school of excellence in Lilleshall.

At the age of 16 Jamie Carragher signed YTS at Liverpool Football Club and played in the Lancashire League and the FA Youth Cup which they won in 1996! The rest of his success, as they say, is history!

Jamie Carragher is the epitome of what supporters love to see on the pitch - a local lad from Bootle who knows just how much Liverpool Football Club means to the people who pay to watch games. Jamie, as a way of saying thank you to the people of Merseyside, has decided to set up the "23 Foundation" to "help give local kids a chance".

Everyone associated with the game wish Jamie all the best for the future.

After several years nomadic existence the club kicked off the 1997-98 season at their splendid new home at The Recreation Ground at Brookburn Road, and began to develop a vision for a community club. This was down to the hard work of a core of players and Committee who refused to let the club fold and secured the new facilities via a Lottery grant, new sponsors and fundraising, but without a penny of help from the Playing Fields Society proceeds.

Further name change followed in 2003 to reflect our new location in Chorlton and we were elected to the Manchester League in 2006. In 2007/8 Season West won Manchester League silverware for the first time, lifting the Murray Shield in the last game of our centenary year. That team was the nucleus of the previously successful junior team and the following season West just missed promotion to the Premier Division and again reached the Murray Shield Final. With a new management team led by Andy Nelson, who had previously managed at Leigh RMI, the 2009/10 season was very successful and honours spread throughout the club. The 1st team won the Murray Shield, (the third consecutive year we have been in the final) and finishing runners-up in the league. The second team won the Bridgewater League Cup and the U17 Youth team won their League. In 2010/2011 the 1st team won the Manchester League First Division title in style with a fantastic points total (65 points out of 72 possible). This ranks as one of the highest points totals per game in the history of the Manchester League dating back over a century. The clubs reserve team and youth teams also had terrific seasons, resulting in promotion and for the second year reaching the Bridgewater Cup Final.



The clubs 'A' team finished and the Youth team reached yet another final where they were just pipped to the trophy by New Mills. The Veterans were runners up in the Premier Division of the Cheshire Veterans League and then started a second veterans team such was the interest in the club. Plans were also made to formally integrate junior football as the club Vision is to be a FA Charter Standard Community Club in every sense. In recent seasons several players who started at West have been signed by top non league clubs, but such is the spirit of the club that many players return to what they see as a family club.

The club now looks forward to fulfilling its ambition to play at the highest possible level it can whilst continuing to be run as a community club and transition to the NWCFL.

The ground and facilities have been further improved and floodlights erected to meet grading requirements and West competed in the FA Vase for the first time in 2011-2012 as a Step 7 club. The club was duly elected to the NWCFL at the AGM on 16th June 2012.



How do you want to be remembered?



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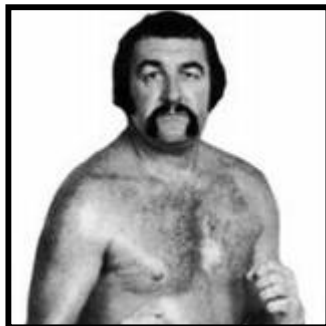
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El Bandito Bites The Dust

Continued from page 13

said teammate Mike Pritchard and “sorted out opponents who kicked us”. Before the quarter final tie against Bangor City, Pritchard revealed to Harry that he had been ‘clogged’ several times before by their legendary North Wales hardman Orig Williams. “Leave it to me, I’ll sort it”, responded Harry.

And he did. Following a midfield melee after just 5 minutes, Williams, who would later become a professional wrestler under the name ‘El Bandito’, was lying in a crumpled heap on the ground as Harry blended into the background, a picture of innocence. El Bandito had bitten the dust and limped on a dejected and forlorn figure. As for the Welsh cup final, Borough United were expected to be mere also-rans in the two-legged affair against Football League side Newport



County but the unexpected did happen and they triumphed 2-1 before a record 3,500 Nant-Y-Coed crowd; and then held out against fierce pressure at Somerton park to earn a 0-0 2nd leg draw. Borough United had produced the greatest ever shock in the history of the competition and the Welsh Cup was theirs.

The magnificent achievement was not the end of the fairytale for Borough United and in 1963/64 they took their place in the European Cup Winners’ Cup alongside Manchester United, Glasgow Celtic, Barcelona, and the holders, Tottenham Hotspur. A lucrative tie against any of the giants were not to be, instead it was Sliema Wanderers of Malta who were paired with the Welsh heroes and a 2-0 aggregate success saw Borough United become the first club from the principality to win a two-legged European tie. Slovan Bratislava administered the knockout blow, 0-4 on aggregate, in the next round and the adventures were over but not the memories.

Sadly, Borough United were forced to disband in 1969 having been evicted from their Nant-Yn-Coed ground two years earlier in order to expand a nearby school.

As for our hero from Bootle, Harry Hodges, he became manager of the very successful Guinness Exports side of the middle and late 1960’s and then scouted for Liverpool for 30 years. Harry’s most successful ‘find’ was a 12 year-old Bootle Boys player and Bootle Schoolboy, Jamie Carragher.

El Bandito Bites The Dust

By Tommy Barnes

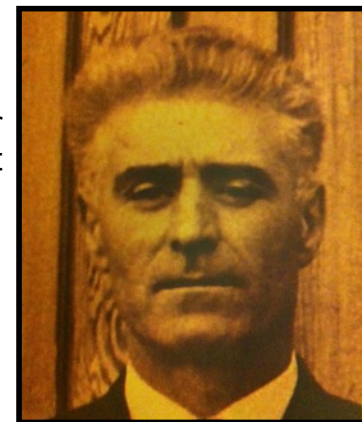
The honour of providing British non-league football with one of its greatest fairytales falls to a relatively short-lived North Wales club, not even named after a place, Borough United.

Borough United were formed in 1954 after the merger of two cash-strapped and largely unsuccessful clubs, Llandudno Junction and Conway Borough. The two neighbouring teams had a combined population of barely 8,000 and the bulk of the clubs players were recruited through advertisements placed in Liverpool, Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent newspapers.

They set up home at the old Llandudno Junction ground Nant-Y-Coed and were accepted into the Welsh League North where improvement was immediate and in 1958/59 Borough United won the Championship. A sixth place finish in 1961/62 gave little hint of the success the following season would deliver. In 1962/63 Borough United boasted four Liverpool-based players amongst their recognised thirteen first-teamers, Joey Bebb, Derek Owen, Joe McLaughlin and Harry Hodges; and results proved spectacular with 43 wins, and 3 draws out of a total of 52 league and cup matches. In a season that stretched to June because of the horrendous winter, Borough United were confirmed as clear champions and to this they added the Cookson Cup and the North Wales Coast Cup. By far their greatest achievement though was in capturing the Welsh Cup, first played for in 1877 and usually dominated by Football League Clubs Cardiff City, Swansea Town (later City) and Wrexham. All this success for minnows Borough United on a total wage bill of just £45 per week.

Borough United progressed through the Welsh Cup with an initial success against near neighbours Llandudno 2-1; then ousted Rhyl 4-1, Denbigh Town 4-2, Bangor City 4-1; and in the semi-final at neutral Wrexham FC the defeated Hereford United 1-0. It was one of these games that the attributes

of 36 year-old Harry Hodges shone through. A former Bootle Schoolboys player just before WWII, the veteran right-half had built up a wealth of experience playing representative football in the Royal Navy and in the semi-professional spheres of the Cheshire League. Harry, who worked on the Bootle docks, was a gentleman off the field but when the whistle blew, took no prisoners. “He was hard as nails”



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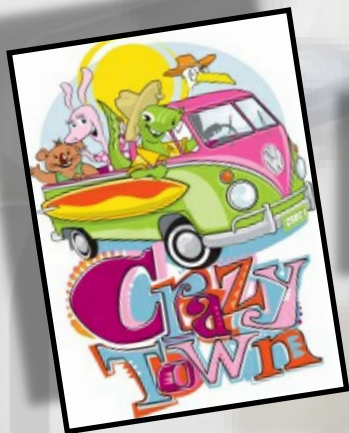
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