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BOOTLE

BUCKS

NEWS

Official Match day Programme £1



CHARTER STANDARD CLUBS



The Northwest Counties League Premier Division

01.05.2013 Kick Off 7.45pm

Bootle Football Club v Winsford United FC

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



CHARTER STANDARD CLUBS

Bootle Football Club have teams that range from Under 7's to Under 18's.

Due to the popularity of the teams places are limited. However, at the moment there are places available in our Under 8 teams. If you would like more information please E-mail mediateambfc@gmail.com

We also hold pre-school Football sessions in association with Positive Skills. If you are interested in bringing your child Please e-mail

positiveskillsfootballcoaching@live.co.uk



Bootle FC in partnership with Positive Skills Football Coaching presents:
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
At the Delta Taxi's Stadium, Vestry Road, Bootle. (Off Bridle Road)



BUCKS Youth

Under 18's win 2nd piece of silverware

Boyle won the West Cheshire Youth Plate Final against Gateacre on Thursday night with a powerful performance that was more emphatic than the 1-0 score-line suggests.

Cheetham, Charnock and Seddon bossed the midfield from the first whistle and chances came and went. A sweeping move saw Pruden get in behind the Gateacre defence and deliver a great deep cross that was met well by Loughlin only for the keeper to make a great save. Rowlands was then put clear in the opposition area and seemed to be unceremoniously dragged back round the neck and then buried into the turf, only for the officials to wave away cast iron appeals.



A further penalty shout was turned down when Charnock cleverly worked himself into the box. He was clearly clipped from behind but chose to stay on his feet and cross the ball. Boyle didn't have long to wait for the opener. Another break down the left saw a great cross delivered into the Gateacre box. Cheetham timed his run to perfection and nodded the ball home strongly despite a great attempt by the impressive Gateacre keeper. Further chances were created before the interval but the half time score was Boyle 1 Gateacre 0.

The second half took on a familiar pattern with Boyle winning the midfield battle and breaking quickly to threaten. Rowlands was replaced by Ellis on 60 minutes and the game became a real battle with neither side backing down. However, the Boyle goal wasn't challenged for the entire 90 minutes other than free kicks lofted high into the box and Pruden and Charnock both had great chances to add to Boyle's lead.

Final score - Boyle 1 Gateacre 0

Another great win by this impressive young side making it 2 out of 3 in their quest to win a Cup Treble. The final part of this comes tomorrow v Gateacre again in the LCFA Cup Final



Boyle 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 Neil Murphy
 Goalkeeping Coach
 Mr Paul McCowen
 Welfare
 Mr Darren Carr
 Head of Fitness & Wellbeing
 Mr Liam Royle
 Media & Communications
 Mr Dave Miley Jnr,
 Youth Football Co-ordinator
 Mr Carl Dale



*Original Club folded in 1893

Today's Teams



BOYLE

manager: Neil Prince



WINSFORD

manager: Lloyd Morrison

Dean PORTER

David POTTER

Neil MCQUEEN

Mark KILROY

Michael CARBERRY

Phil GREEN

Sean COULTON

Liam DODD

Paul BYRNE (capt)

Joe FOWLER

James OLSEN

Jamie HAY

Kurtis GILL

Kevin BLACK

Kevin TOWNSON

Neil PRINCE

Billy SMART

Michael YOUNG

Daniel O'CONNOR

Tom FOLEY

Jack MCCABE

Nathan MARTLAND

Hello ANDRE

Andy JONES

Ian HARRISON

James BLAIR

Lee DUCKWORTH

Phil DRUMMOND

Daniel MCDONNELL

Lois MAYNARD

Charlie ANDERSON

Andy BROWN

Andrew KEOGH

Adam FOY

Steve WARBURTON

Wayne WELBECK

Kyle MCGONIGLE

Paul PEARSON

Charlie WEIR

Andy HURST

Brian MATTHEWS

Callam GARDNER

MATCH OFFICIALS



referee:

assistant referee:

assistant referee:



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The manager of Bootle Football Club

Hello and welcome to the Delta Taxis Stadium for our final home league game of the season; and a warm welcome to Lloyd Morrison and all of Winsford United's team, staff & supporters.

Looking at the season, this has been the closest it has been at the top for years and we have given it our best shot. I think in the end we have ran out of gas. The hectic fixture list seems to have caught up with us, with injuries to key players a big factor.

It is hard enough to play the top teams as it is, but to go to Runcorn Town, then play Padiham on the Tuesday; and then Barnoldswick - it took a lot out of us. On my part lessons have been learned and next year I know we will come back stronger for it.

The lads have been absolutely fantastic this season and I would like to personally thank every single player who have played their part, even the lads who have moved on over the course of the year have played their part.

The lads have produced some excellent stuff and its important that we don't forget that. We must now go on and finish the season as strong as possible. I want this league to be won on goal difference only, and two wins for us could make that happen.

We need to finish as strong as possible to give a true reflection of the season and set us up for the Liverpool Senior Cup final, whenever that may be,

Finally, I would like to thank the committee and the supporters for their backing this season, you have been tremendous.

Up the Bucks!



Princey

NEIL PRINCE



THE BUCKS REMAINING GAMES:

Saturday 4th May
V St Helens Town
(3pm KO) at Edge Green St
In the NWCFL Premier Division



Thursday 5th May
Bootle Under 18's
V Gatacre
In the LCFA Cup Final



Thursday 9th May
Bootle Under 16's
V Woolton Charisma
In the Tommy Malone Trophy Final



Also keep a look out for details of
The Liverpool County FA
Senior Cup Final to be announced

CHECK TWITTER AND FACEBOOK
FOR BREAKING NEWS AND INFORMATION

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www.bootlefc.co.uk



www.nwcfcl.com



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As at 30/04/2013

PREMIER DIVISION

Wednesday 1st May 2013

[AFC Liverpool](#) v [Squires Gate](#)

[Bootle](#) v [Winsford Utd](#)

[Stone Dominoes](#) v [Bacup Borough](#) (20:00)

Thursday 2nd May 2013

[Bacup Boro](#) v [Norton Utd](#) (20:00)

Friday 3rd May 2013

[AFC Liverpool](#) v [Bacup Boro](#) (20:00)

Thursday 2nd May 2013

League Challenge Cup Final

[Formby](#) v [Runcorn Linnets](#)
(To be played at Curzon Ashton FC)

	P	GD	Pts
1 Padiham	41	48	88
2 Maine Road	41	40	84
3 Winsford United	41	42	83
4 Bootle	40	34	82
5 Runcorn Town*	41	59	81
6 Runcorn Linnets	41	25	72
7 Colne	42	33	67
8 Congleton Town	41	29	66
9 Barnoldswick T	41	21	66
10 AFC Blackpool	40	2	63
11 AFC Liverpool	40	4	56
12 Wigan RP	42	-5	56
13 Glossop NE	41	2	52
14 Norton United*	41	-14	51
15 Alsager Town	42	-12	50
16 Stockport Sports*	42	3	49
17 Bacup Borough	37	-21	40
18 Silsden	41	-41	36
19 Ashton Athletic	41	-31	35
20 St Helens Town	40	-37	34
21 Squires Gate	41	-47	30
22 Stone Dominoes	41	-134	13

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

Bootle FC Players of the month 2012/13



STATEMENT FROM THE LEAGUE COMMITTEE

Over the past few weeks, certain decisions made by the Management Committee have been criticised in local newspapers and on social media (Twitter, Facebook and various forums). I would therefore like to put some perspective on the matter.

The Management Committee are all elected into their relative position by the Member Clubs. Those Committee Members have a vast experience in football as players, referees and club officials, at all levels of the game, internationally, professionally, semi-professionally and senior amateur level. They certainly are not "Jobsworths" as described by one local alleged journalist. I say "alleged" journalist, as he certainly has no understanding of football administration and has not done his homework to find out as to why a decision has been made.

The role of the Management Committee is to make sure the league is run on a fair and equitable basis, while operating within the laws of the game, which is administered through the FA, both nationally and through the respective County Associations. Our role is to ensure that all clubs operate within these rules, in order not to gain an unfair advantage over other sides within the competition. During the course of a season, the Management Committee are called on to make various decisions, which to the offending club are not popular, but are made because the rules which all clubs have agreed to at the start of each campaign have been broken.

Whose fault is it for playing players whilst under suspension, without international clearance, who have previously had their registration cancelled by the club concerned, or played whilst being cup-tied? It's not the Management Committee. The blame is squarely with the poor administration of the Club.

No one wants to see a club denied promotion or an appearance in a Cup Final due to an administration error, but rules are rules and are there for the benefit of all Clubs. To turn a blind eye or take no action would be unfair on the innocent party. Likewise, being a Member of a League within the National League System also brings responsibility from the Clubs, playing at all levels within the system.

Clubs are required to achieve and maintain FA Ground Grading Standards, and where a Club clearly has not, they are now placed in a relegation position.

It is nothing new to be denied promotion on ground grading issues. Atherton LR to the Northern Premier League, and Maghull from our then Second Division to the First, are just two examples that have affected this League.

The North West Counties League Official Leagueline

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

More recently, last season Woodley Sports, now Stockport Sports, were relegated to us from the Northern Premier League due to ground grading issues. Clubs have regularly been warned throughout the season concerning ground grading standards, but unfortunately one Club has failed due to various reasons. Again the alleged journalist mentioned above has not done his research, and I am not at liberty to disclose any further information, as the Club state that they are to appeal against the League's decision to the FA. That's their right, and the Management Committee do not have a problem with it.

However, the League has continually helped clubs achieve the suitable ground grading requirements for promotion to a higher level – our record is second to none, and we don't believe standards should drop as improved facilities can only benefit clubs and supporters in the long term. I am proud of the fact we had no fewer than ten clubs apply for promotion to the Evo-Stik League for next season, all meeting the required standard for that division. This was the best representation of clubs from any league in the country.

To promote clubs who fail to meet the standards would be an insult to those clubs who have spent a small fortune on improving their facilities, and would only store up trouble for the future, potentially leading to relegation the following season. Finally, abusive remarks made by players and/or club officials against Management Committee members, Match Officials, other Clubs and other Club Officials through social media is totally unacceptable. The Management Committee are volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of time and work, often at their own expense, to keep the league operating. If there were no committee, there would be no League. I am informed that the FA and County FA's are taking a more serious approach towards the problems faced by abuse through social media, and in the light of recent events this is something that I am now sure the Management Committee will also pursue.

John Deal, Secretary, North West Counties Football League



66 King St, Wallasey, Merseyside CH44 8AU
Phone: 0151 639 9959

Our Visitors today....

Lying on the River Weaver, south of Northwich and west of Middlewich, where the salt mining industry was cause for the settlement in the eighteenth century.

Winsford United were founded in 1883, as Over Wanderers and played football in the Welsh Combination Football League. They changed their name and moved to their current ground, the Barton Stadium (then called the Great Western Playing Field), a few years later. However, after excessive spending, the club soon folded.

They re-formed just before the outbreak of the First World War, and re-grouped after this had finished under a committee led by Mr. R. G. Barton, becoming a founder member of the Cheshire League. From then until the late 1970s, Winsford United played football locally in Cheshire.



Highlights of this period included one FA Cup first round appearance, against Peterborough United, and Cheshire league wins in 1920–21 and 1976–77. During this period, in the late 1970s, the club also reached the quarter finals of the FA Trophy

and featured future Welsh international goalkeeper Neville Southall.

The Cheshire League merged with other regional divisions to become the North West Counties Football League in 1982, with Winsford doing sufficiently well to enter the Northern Premier League Division One upon its formation in 1987. They were promoted from that in 1992, and enjoyed their highest ever finish as runners up of the Northern Premier League Premier Division in 1992–93. They also reached the FA Cup First Round for a second time, losing to Wrexham, and won the Northern Premier League Challenge Cup.

The successful team was broken up, however, when manager Mike McKenzie moved on to local rivals Witton Albion.

WATERLOO DOCK FACE PADDOCK FC AT GOODISON PARK MONDAY MAY 13th



Waterloo Dock face Paddock FC at Goodison Park on Monday May 13th as part of a testimonial Fundraiser and farewell to Dock Manager Jimmy Davies who retires at the end of the season having been at the helm for 50 years.

The teams will contest the Hayward Transport Cup which Paddock won last year in a match which is sponsored by Ex-West Brom and Sheffield Wednesday player Sean Hayward and all money raised from the gate will go to Mark Maddox and the Merseyside branch of the Motor Neurone Association.

There will also be a veterans match straight after the main game which will be between an All Star Waterloo side and a Hayward Transport select eleven. The game is a testimonial match for Jimmy and Larry Dowling who between them have over 100 years service to local football. The two have made a massive impact to grass roots football on Merseyside and have been the most successful duo the area has ever seen

Ex-Waterloo, Canada FC and Altrincham legend Mark Maddox is living with MND but will be pulling on his boots for the game alongside numerous other sporting challenges he is taking on this year to help raise awareness of this incurable disease.

Tickets are £5 and can be purchased from Jim Davies jnr on 07966 509 349 or Darren Owens on 07852 268 592 . They can also be purchased outside the Lower Bullens on the night of the game from local MNDA volunteers.

Please get along and show your support for Mark and for grass roots football.



Registered Charity No: 294354



How do you want to be remembered?



Respect

Lose Respect
Lose the game

After a few more seasons in the bottom half of the Northern Premier League Premier Division, and another local derby in the FA Cup first round – this time against Chester City – the club were relegated three times in four seasons. At the start of the 2003–04 season, they found themselves in the North West Counties Division Two.

They were finally promoted on April 24, 2007 to the North West Counties Football League Division One and secured the Division 2 title on April 28, 2007. Manager Joe Gibiliru left in the Summer of 2009 and Terry Murphy, former Middlewich Town F.C. manager, was brought in as replacement. Although at the back end of August 2009 Murphy left the club due to family reasons and his assistant, Mike Alcock, was promoted to Manager.



Alcock did not, however, last long as at the beginning of September 2009 he was forced to resign due to ill health and coach Tony Ledwards was promoted to manager. In March 2010, Ledwards stepped down as manager after a poor run of results and the club was taken over by a co-management team of Mike Alcock and Dave Twite, who effectively saved the team from relegation. At the end of the 2009/10 season, Alcock and Twite decided not to continue as managers and became involved in coaching and scouting roles instead.

Chris Willcock was announced as the new manager and later named Ian Street as his assistant, it was to be Willcock's second spell in charge of the club after leading them to promotion from North West Counties Division Two in 2007, Chris Willcock resigned as the Blues manager in early 2011 and assistant Ian Street was appointed as the new boss.



Street was to remain in charge of the team in for the rest of the season and under his management, Winsford won the North West Counties Football League Challenge Cup, defeating New Mills F.C. in the final.

Street managed the team for the whole of the 2011/12 season, guiding them to 7th place. However, in June 2012 it was announced Street had left the club to take over as manager of Ashton Athletic F.C. On 17 June, it was announced that Lloyd Morrison had joined the club as the new manager, he had been at Flixton F.C. for the past two seasons. Kevin Bircumshaw decided to stay on as assistant manager.¹¹



NWCFL Challenge Cup Final

Thursday 2nd May 2013

FORMBY



Formby

.v.

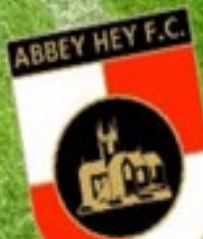
Runcorn Linnets

At Curzon Ashton F.C, K.O 7.45pm



NWCFL First Division Trophy Final

Tuesday 30th April 2013



Abbey Hey

.v.

West Didsbury & Chorlton

At Runcorn Linnets F.C, K.O 7.45pm



Adults: £5 Concessions: £3

Children Under 12: Free (2 per paying adult)



£1 OFF

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Thursday 2nd May 2013

N.W.C.F.L First Division Trophy Final
Tuesday 30th April 2013

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HEAD TO HEAD

BOOTLE WON 5 DRAWN 2

WINSFORD WON 4

82

POINTS

83

50

GAMES PLAYED

55

1.92

AVERAGE GOALS

1.95

2.05

AVERAGE LEAGUE POINTS

2.02

21

CLEAN SHEETS

17

WDLWL

LAST 6 GAMES

DWDDWW

REMAINING GAMES

ST HELENS TOWN (A)

1982-2012

Est. 1883

Est. 1883

Safe Terrace

. Midfield playmaker, Brandon Groves found himself in plenty of space in the middle of the pitch and with time on the ball, he cleverly picked out Jay White, who had only minutes before been introduced to the action, with an accurate, pinpoint pass. White, with a well timed run, got behind the centre half and still with plenty to do, coolly slipped the ball along the ground, past the oncoming keeper and into the now unguarded, empty Charisma net. 1-1. An intelligent pass followed by a clinical finish and a fine Bucks goal to level the scores.

20 minutes into the second half, the Bucks were awarded a free kick just outside the left hand side of the hosts' penalty box about 30 yards from goal. The diminutive figure of Leamey placed the ball, took a couple of steps back and then unleashed a trademark, unstoppable Leamey left foot Exocet ! Despite the keeper's attempt to save, the ball smashed against the middle of the underside of the bar, bounced down, clearly behind the line, and then bounced back up into the roof of the net. Bale who? You can not coach technique like this! The Bucks with the much needed second goal. 1-2.

The outstanding Brandon Groves (Man of the Match) in the centre of midfield was pulling the strings for the Bucks; hitting intelligent passes to the frontmen, winning crucial tackles in midfield, whilst assisting his defenders. Scott Munro in the middle of the defence was showing what a stylish and accomplished defender he can be; making fine, timely interceptions and coolly anticipating any possible dangers, whilst in possession showing excellent distribution from the back.

GOAL. With 10 minutes remaining, the Bucks were to deservedly increase their lead and ease the pressure a little. Tom Rogers received a ball on the edge of the box and with a defender marking him possibly too tightly, he managed to roll the defender, turn and hit a ferocious, unstoppable right footed drive across the keeper and into the far side of the hosts' net, beating the despairing dive of the keeper. 1-3. A real goal predator's finish.

The Bucks could now only wait for information concerning the crucial other game being played. What with the wonders of modern technology, (mobile phones & texts!), the Bucks were able to learn that Rangers were winning 0-2 at half time. Not good. Then news filtered through that Northfield (Liam Wilson) had scored and reduced the deficit. 1-2. Game on. Could Northfield do the Bucks that massive favour, afterall ? Come on you Northfield ! With minutes remaining, the texts were flying around furiously and a SkySports goal flash from Buckley Hill was reporting yet another goal for Northfield (Wilson again). 2-2. Full Time 2-2 and the news that the Bucks are LEAGUE CHAMPIONS !

Congratulations to Alex Grosart, Lee Groves and all the Under 16's lads on winning the League #UPTHEBUCKS!!



Under 16's - Two words... LEAGUE CHAMPIONS !

Match report by Paul Doyle | Sunday 28th April 2013

In scenes reminiscent to the last day of last year's Premier League title race, the Bucks win title as Woolton Rangers let a two goal lead slip away.

Grosart and Groves had a full seventeen man squad to choose from and brought in Jack Antonio to bolster the centre midfield area and also started with Brandon Groves and Lewis Culshaw up front; the dangerous front man, Jay White having been injured in the previous week's narrow defeat was on the bench, if required.

Given the nature of the importance of this game, one may have expected both teams to have been somewhat cautious in their play in the opening couple of minutes; scared to possibly make an early costly error. However, the Bucks players appeared to relish this additional pressure as they were quickly on the front foot and taking the game to their opponents.

The first chance of the game fell to Jack Antonio, but his right footed shot went straight at the keeper who was able to make a comfortable save. Charisma won an early corner but Scott Munro made a brave, towering header to clear the danger. Anthony Beckett had a right footed snapshot easily saved. The hosts should have taken an early lead; as an unmarked Charisma forward had a free header on goal, but his header went wide of the Bucks left post.

Unfortunately, following an injury to Mutch, he was unable to continue and was replaced by Jay White, which meant some positional adjustments

Minutes later, Woods almost turned provider as his fine, long pass proved to be just too long for the chasing Culshaw and the keeper came sharply off his line to collect on the edge of his box.

Totally against the run of play, the hosts were to take a surprise and undeserved lead. In their first attempt on target, a 25 yard shot from outside the box, on the Bucks right hand side, beat the Bucks keeper Adam Fairchild and crept into the far left hand corner of the net. 0-1.

The Bucks players and their many travelling fans were shocked by this goal that came almost completely out of the blue; having totally dominated possession up to this point. However, the goal seemed to spur the Bucks on and they were to be behind for only a couple of minutes.

Bootle's Road To Wembley



Unknown too many, the FA Cup 2012/13 started in August 2012, with the extra preliminary round. The final of course is 11th May 2013 and one man has followed every single step of what would have been Bootle Football Club's road path to Wembley! Liam

Delaney has charted each round since a sunny summer day at the Delta Taxis Stadium.

The first opponents in the extra-preliminary round for Bootle were Alsager Town on 11th August at Bootle's Delta Taxis Stadium where the Bucks' ran out 4-1 winners through two goals each from Lee Thompson and Daniel O'Connor. Bootle's next tie in the preliminary round was at Evo-Stik side Mossley. This was probably Bootle's most complete performance of the season, and they ran out 3-0 winners, with two goals from Jak Gray, and one from player/manager Neil Prince.

Bootle were in the first qualifying round and where drawn at home against another Evo-Stik side in Bamber Bridge. However they could not reach the performance level of the last round, and bowed out 1-2, with the Bootle goal coming from Michael Young.

So this is where Bootle's FA Cup dream ended. But what if that run had continued? Who would the Bucks get in each round after?

Liam followed this path and Bamber Bridge were home at the QED Stadium in the 2nd qualifying round versus Guiseley who beat 'the Brig' 1-0. And so onto the 3rd qualifying round where after a 1-1 draw away at Llanelian Road; 360 people, including Liam, witnessed Guiseley beat Colwyn Bay 3-1 on their home ground at Nethermoor Park. Guiseley's run continued through the qualifiers, with a 2-0 at home to Buxton in the 3rd qualifying round which saw them into the first round proper! As you can see the road to Wembley is a long road to take and so far Liam has witnessed SEVEN games before the 1st round! Bootle's would-be path so far

was Alsager, Mossley, Bamber Bridge, Guiseley, Colwyn Bay and Buxton! But who would it be in the 1st round?!

Guiseley's opponents were Barrow in the first round proper, held on 3rd November a crowd of 1,605 witnessed a 2-2 draw. The replay would see Barrow triumph at home 1-0.



Barrow were then drawn against Macclesfield Town in round 2, and after several postponements and a 1-1 draw, they eventually succumbed to a 4-1 defeat. And so to the big boys coming into the competition, and Macclesfield were drawn against the eventual Championship winners, Cardiff City, and Liam witnessed a true giant killing. Macclesfield winning 2-1 at home! Unfortunately for Town, they were defeated by Premier League Wigan Athletic 1-0 at home in round 4.

So far the Bucks opponents could have been Barrow, Macclesfield and now Wigan Athletic!

So Liam travelled to the McAlpine Stadium, or is it the Galpharm Stadium; no sorry it is the John Smiths Stadium for the 5th round as Wigan met Huddersfield in what is usually a massive game in the Rugby

circles, but not as glitzy in the football world. Wigan ran out 4-1 winners and progressed to the quarter final where they met Everton at Goodison Park, 2 miles from where Liam's journey started!

With champions league chasing Everton the hot-favourites against the relegation-threatened Latics, it was a big surprise for Liam that the visitors came away with a worthy 3-0 win.

And so onto the semi-final at Wembley. What an experience for Liam Delaney and what a story. The Bucks road to Wembley was nearly complete. Semi-final versus Millwall, and again Wigan triumph 2-0 and book a place in the 2013 FA Cup Final against last seasons Premier League Champions Manchester City.

Unfortunately, our game has come too soon for the final part of this magnificent journey for Liam, but what a journey. Starting at Bootle; to Mossley; to Bamber Bridge; to Guiseley; to Colwyn Bay; to Buxton; to Barrow; to Macclesfield; to Cardiff; to Wigan; to Huddersfield; to Everton; to Wembley versus Millwall; to Wembley versus City!

Well done from all here at Bootle Football Club. We hope you will visit us again very soon! What a



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