

ISSUE 3

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THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF ASHTON TOWN AFC

TALK OF THE TOWN



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILLY BARTON - FA CUP 17/8/13

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Tuesday 20/8/2013 KICK OFF - 7:45PM
NORTH WEST COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

ASHTON TOWN AFC

v

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Good evening and welcome to The Hardwick Group Stadium for this Northwest Counties Division One fixture against Formby.

Amazingly the season has only just started yet surprise results are being made left right and centre. For instance with ourselves, we left our 3-3 draw at Widnes thinking it was points dropped yet they have gone on to win their next three games including a 2-1 victory over today's visitors.

Following on from last seasons greatness, Formby have to be favourites to win the league. I have had the pleasure of watching them a couple of times already this season and their squad is outstanding. Obviously I am a massive fan of our ex keeper Nathan Brabin, whilst the leadership of Mikey White always impresses me. Most impressive for me though was Luke Holden, an ex Charlton Athletic player who has bags of pace and energy. As much as I am impressed though with Formby I am confident that we have a side that can handle them, we were very unfortunate on Saturday not to win in the FA Cup and it is vital now that we focus all our efforts on the league for now.



Behind the scenes the club yet again continues to grow, we now host Saturday Soccer Camp's linked with Ivory Coast and new Everton striker Arouna Kone, as the club builds on the fantastic link set up between Arouna and myself last year. Arouna's Foundation is based at our club, and with his Soccer School now set up and run by Ashton Town, the future looks mighty impressive.

The Saturday Camp is for all children aged 4-12 years old and runs 10am till midday every Saturday, with the children getting free passes to the Town game on later that afternoon.

The first session is FREE and then just £3 a session making it one of the cheapest coaching sessions around.

Enjoy the game.

Mark

Club Chairman



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RESULTS/FIXTURES

Sunday 18th August 2013
F.A. Challenge Cup
Extra Preliminary Round

AFC Emley	3-2	Wigan Robin Park
AFC Liverpool	1-0	Cheadle Town

Saturday 17th August 2013
F.A. Challenge Cup
Extra Preliminary Round

Alsager Town	1-3	Atherton Collieries
Armthorpe Welfare	1-4	Glossop North End
Bacup & Rossendale Borough	1-4	Formby
Bootle	2-1	Squires Gate
Colne	1-1	South Shields
Hebburn Town	2-2	Barnoldswick Town
Maine Road	0-3	Runcorn Linnets
Maltby Main	1-4	Congleton Town
Norton United	7-1	Southam United
Runcorn Town	7-2	Winterton Rangers
Silsden	1-2	Bridlington Town
St Helens Town	2-2	Ashton Athletic
Staveley MW	2-1	Ashton Town
Stockport Sports	1-2	Winsford United
West Didsbury & Chorlton	2-0	Abbey Hey

First Division

1874 Northwich	1-3	Nelson
AFC Darwen	1-2	Hanley Town
Atherton LR	1-0	Leek CSOB
Chadderton	1-0	Daisy Hill
Ecdeshall	2-2	Holker Old Boys
Oldham Boro	0-1	Irlam
Widnes Vikings	3-1	Rochdale Town



Tuesday 20th August 2013
F.A. Challenge Cup
Extra Preliminary Round Replay

Ashton Athletic	v	St Helens Town
Barnoldswick Town	v	Hebburn Town
South Shields	v	Colne (20:00)

Premier Division

Abbey Hey	P-D	Colne
Ashton Athletic	P-P	Alsager Town
Barnoldswick Town	P-D	AFC Blackpool
Congleton Town	P-P	St Helens Town
Glossop North End	v	West Didsbury & Chorlton
Runcorn Linnets	v	Norton United
Squires Gate	v	Runcorn Town
Wigan Robin Park	v	AFC Liverpool
Winsford United	v	Bootle

First Division

Ashton Town	v	Formby
Daisy Hill	v	Atherton Collieries
Irlam	v	Widnes Vikings
Leek CSOB	v	Hanley Town

Wednesday 21st August 2013
Premier Division

Silsden	v	Stockport Sports
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First Division

Cheadle Town	v	1874 Northwich
Northwich Flixton Villa	v	Chadderton

Thursday 22nd August 2013
Liverpool Senior Cup
Final

Bootle	v	AFC Liverpool
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(To be played at Bootle FC.)

NEXT GAME HERE
Thursday 22nd August
Wigan Cup
Ashton Town AFC v Hindsford FC
at The Hardwick Group Stadium

MATCH REPORT

Widnes Vikings FC 3-3 Ashton Town AFC

by Billy Bristow - Tuesday 6th August 7:45pm

Town were forced to settle for a point thanks to both some uncharacteristic defending and missing a host of chances.



The splendid setting of the Halton Stadium provided the venue for Ashton Town's second league game of the season and the first ever meeting with league newcomers Widnes Vikings.

Widnes lost their inaugural league game to Cheadle Town, but Town manager John Brownrigg was certainly not going to underestimate a side that in fairness we all knew relatively nothing about. Not surprisingly, Thomas Jump was given a starting jersey after his display on Saturday, whilst Scott Baker was selected ahead of Michael Boyle. New signing and goalkeeper Lewis Reid was also given his first competitive start for Town.

The game got underway amid the glorious late evening sunshine, and was barely over four minutes old when the deadlock was broken. Sean Robinson cut inside from the right and teed up Thomas Jump, who from roughly 25-yards drove the ball under the goalkeeper, for his first ever Ashton Town goal.

All the early action in this game was played inside the Widnes half, with the duo Sean Robinson and Thomas Jump, both taking centre stage. On 10 minutes Jump had his instinctive shot blocked forcing the ball to spring high into the air. Sean Robinson was quickest to react, but his header was booted away from under the cross bar by a Viking defender. It wasn't the end of this double act though as only six minutes later they combined again. This time Robinson beat the offside trap to receive Jump's pass before taking it around the keeper, composing himself and placing the ball into the net.

The surprisingly large Ashton Town contingent in the stands must surely know have believed that their team would go on for a comfortable victory and scoring plenty more goals, but it never quite went to plan.

In fairness Town had a host of first half chances to have put the game well and truly to bed. The unlikely goal threat of Paul Keenan nearly came to light, but his wicked shot from distance was brilliantly parried onto the post by Luke Picken in the Widnes goal. The woodwork also proved to be Town's nemesis again, when Sam Wilkie rose highest from a corner, but he could only watch as his looping header clattered back off the bar.

The home side did manage to grab an undeserved goal. It came when David Wilson's inch perfect pass found Ronnie McCarthy, who blasted home at the second attempt.

So Town went for their half time refreshments, a little disappointed for not have scoring more, but not unduly worried, as Widnes didn't really seem to be enough of a threat to get back into the game how wrong we were !

Half time: Widnes Vikings 1-2 Ashton Town

Cliché, I know, but football is a "funny old game". Whatever got said in the home dressing room at the interval certainly done the trick. Widnes came out flying for the second half and up until well past the hour mark, they had Town pinned back deep inside their own half.

The threat of David Wilson was still ominous when he worked himself into a position to score, but luckily Ste Rothwell was in the right place to stop his goal bound shot, but his threat wouldn't go away and on 54 minutes he managed to equalise. A relatively routine through ball wasn't dealt with and Wilson found himself with a clear run on goal, before slotting past Reid.

Town at this stage were ragged, as they struggled to deal with the home sides newly found attacking prowess, and they very nearly fell behind on 65 minutes. A Viking player produced a lovely turn and volley that left the goal frame shaking after hitting the bar, then the rebound was also sent towards goal, but Kevin Pollard was the hero with a last ditch clearance.

Having survived what seemed to be the worst of the pressure, Town now finally started to move forward, with Liam Rushton and Sam Wilkie both testing the keeper, before the lead was finally restored, albeit in a surprising fashion.

Having won a corner kick, Jordan Lorde strolled over to take the kick, and then to all the spectators amazement his swinging kick somehow went undetected by everybody and nestled into the far bottom corner.

This should have been game over, but worryingly Town seemed to lose their shape and the inevitable equaliser was only minutes away, and it had a certain element of 'keystone cops' about it. The Town back four had ample opportunities to clear the ball, but with Rothwell falling flat on his face, the ball fell to substitute Lee Hughes, who bent the ball home from just outside the area with a delightful strike.

The game played out still in full attacking flow, with all and sundry still not knowing what way the game would end up. Both sides did have more chances but the game remained even, with both sides having to settle for a share of the spoils.

There was massive despondency in the visiting dressing room at the end, and I could see that Brownrigg wasn't happy with the result, but I'm going to edge on the side of optimism as the season is still young.

With Scott Baker and Niall Summerskill only featuring in the tail end of last season, the Town back five only had one really experienced player in Paul Keenan, so they are all still learning about each other's game. It does go to show though how invaluable a player Kevin Brownrigg is to this team. His leadership skills were almost certainly missed (due to suspension).

The youthfulness of the team continues as we move forward, with Wilkinson, Jump and Lorde all still finding their feet at this level. Last season we boasted a much more experienced team, which knew how to shut a game down. I believe that the current crop of players are technically better footballers, but going toe-to-toe in an end to end slugfest is not our strength. A little bit more caution is needed in our game, although the paying punters would disagree as they have been privileged to witness two exciting encounters in start of Ashton Town's quest for glory.



Weather: Bright sunshine 20c

Rating: 5/5 From a neutral point of view it was a terrific game

WIDNES VIKINGS: Picken, Davies, McNabb, McMenemy, Garvey (c),

Colford (Donnelly-69 mins), Myers (Smith-69 mins), McCarthy, Forsyth, Wilson, Thomas (Hughes-65mins)

not used: Madden-Buchanan, Foster

ASHTON TOWN: Reid, Baker, Summerskill, Rothwell, Keenan, Pollard, Robinson, Wilkie (c), Rushton, Jump (Patterson-53 mins), Wilkinson (Lorde-55 mins)

not used: Olsen, M.Boyle, Goodwin

Widnes Vikings Shots: (13) (7 on target), Corners: 4

Bookings: David Wilson (33 mins)

Ashton Town Shots: (16) (9 on target), Corners 7

MATCH REPORT

Ashton Town AFC 4-3 Eccleshall FC

by Billy Bristow - Saturday 3rd August 3pm

Town produce a remarkable fightback to snatch an opening day victory, despite not being at their fluent best.



Photo: Billy Bristow

In the football world, days don't get much better than 'opening day', as the sight of a sun drenched pitch infused with new faces and new expectations, all contributing to the anticipation of a new season.

It may be a new season but manager John Brownrigg was hampered straight away from misdemeanours of the last campaign. Both influential defenders Kevin Brownrigg and Scott Baker were denied the chance to play due to suspension (from THAT game!!) whilst the party island of Ibiza was the culprit of kidnapping numerous other key players, so the 'Gaffer' was basically down to the bare bones for this tricky looking first game.

Tom Goodwin was given the nod to start between the sticks, whilst new signings Liam Rushton and Ste Rothwell were both chosen to start for their league debuts with Town. Paul Keenan was asked to fill in out of position at full back and young Jordan Lorde was the man asked to lead the line up top.

So the 2013/14 season got underway and it was the visitor's from Staffordshire that made the brighter start, as a 3rd minute header was flashed wide of the post.

Ashton Town began a little shabbily but they found themselves ahead after only 9 minutes. A long punt forward by Goodwin wasn't dealt with by the Eccleshall back four, who made the defensive cardinal sin of letting the ball bounce. So with the ball on the way down Jordan Lorde intelligently beat the two defenders (both much bigger than him) with a looping header that rose high above the stranded keeper and dropped into the net. It was to be fair a well taken instinctive goal, from a young lad who looks desperate to prove himself this season.

Eccleshall were left a little stunned, but they were fortunate not to fall even further behind, 5 minutes later. Liam Rushton gathered a loose ball, and quickly let fly from 25-yards, but unfortunately the upright took the full force of the shot, instead of the net.

The visitor's though we're always looking to attack, and their endeavours were rewarded on 26 minutes when Kevin Davies played in a ball for Evangelos Tsoulakidis and with the exotically named striker being afforded too much space, he turned and placed the ball across Goodwin and into the far bottom corner. Ashton Town were urged to respond, and they did manage to force the Eccleshall keeper into action, when he firstly tipped Wilkie's shot over the bar and then he done well to hold onto Adam Wilkinson's goal bound free-kick, but it was at the other end where the next goal would come. The attack came down the Eccleshall right hand side and resulted with a deep cross that was met by the head of Paul Keenan, but unluckily for him, his defensive header fell right on the foot of Tsoulakidis, whom from the centre of goal smashed the ball home on the volley.



Photo: Billy Bristow

Half Time: Ashton Town 1-2 Eccleshall

I'm pretty certain that both managers wouldn't have been too happy with their sides as they both lacked organisation and were showing schoolboy lapses in concentration. This of course would have infuriated them but for the spectators it meant for a terrific game that flowed from end to end. On 57 minutes Alex McMilam bent in a dangerous looking attempt that resulted in a corner thanks to a mixture of both Tom Goodwin's gloves and the crossbar, but the third goal was just about to come.

Kane Fletcher burst through on goal, outpacing the chasing Ashton Town defence, and with himself just inside the corner of the box; he unleashed a blistering shot that left Goodwin with no chance. It was a very well taken goal.

Town were struggling badly, and if I'm honest, at this stage I didn't foresee a way back into the game, but the fortunes of the game were about to change, and this came about for one reason only, the introduction of Thomas Jump.

The policy of John Brownrigg's Ashton Town is that we play, win and lose as a team. We are not a bunch of individual's and John is always reluctant to single out players for both praise and criticism, but in saying that in would be hard to deny the impact young 'TJ' had on the rest of the team. He is probably one of the shortest players in the league, but he has great pace and is (if I'm totally honest) a constant pain in the oppositions backside.



Photo: Dawn Marshall

Town suddenly looked resurgent, but the way back began with a gift from an opposing defender. The tall central defender under hit his back pass, which was gratefully accepted by Sean Robinson, who side stepped the keeper and squared the ball for Liam Rushton too tap in from a couple of yards out. Suddenly Ashton realised that they had time on their side to get something out of the game.

As it happens, the fight back came around much quicker than expected. With Town trailing 1-3, it took only a mere 14 minutes for them to bizarrely be 4-3 ahead.

The equaliser came on 65 minutes when Liam Rushton was on hand again inside the six yard box to drill home after the keeper had parried Jordan Lorde's volley. The build up to this goal though should go unmentioned. Robinson took a quick throw in and linked up with Keenan, Wilkie and Jump, before he provided the cross for Lorde.

Town were in the ascendancy now and nearly sneaked ahead when Pollard's header was tipped onto the bar, but only minutes later Sean Robinson latched onto Jump's neat through ball and lofted the ball high into the net, much to the delight of the home support. It was in all honesty a difficult finish, made to look easy by last season's player of the year for Ashton Town. Obviously the excitement wasn't to end there as to their credit, Eccleshall responded brilliantly and they could and maybe should have equalised in injury time. Tom Goodwin firstly made a smart save at the expense of a corner, but on the next attack he

unfortunately lost the ball in the bright sunshine, which left the ball loose inside the Town six yard box, and fortunately for Town it fell to a centre half in Jack Warren, with the big lad placing the ball wide of the post with the goal at his mercy. So like last season's opening game, Town begin the campaign with a 4-3 home thriller, only this time they achieved it without really looking that impressive. It is of course more important to have taken the maximum points with a depleted squad, so John Brownrigg I'm sure wouldn't be too unhappy.

Eccleshall could feel a little aggrieved not to have left for home with a share of the spoils, from a game that they contributed a lot to, but from what I seen of the yesterday, I'm certain they will finish further up the table than last season. I would also like to mention that it was nice to see a welcome return of James 'Spanner' Banawich yesterday. James has been a good servant for Town in the past and looks to enjoying himself in the black and blue stripes of Eccleshall.

Weather: Mainly sunny with a strong breeze 21c

Rating: 5/5 Both sides looked a little sloppy at times, but it produced an end to end classic.

Ashton Town: Goodwin, Keenan, Summerskill, Rothwell, M.Boyle, Pollard, Robinson, Wilkie (c), Lorde, Rushton, Wilkinson (Jump 54 mins) not used: Morris, D.Boyle, Reid.

Eccleshall: Woodhouse, Cooper, Davies, Banawich, Mapperson (c), Warren, Fletcher (Lowatt 77 mins), Gerald, Tsovlakidis (Williams 85 mins), McMilan, Lanaso (Hall 67 mins)

not used: Beech, Gilbert Ashton Town Shots: (12) (9 on target), Corners (4) Eccleshall Shots: (13) (6 on target), Corners (8)



Photo: Dawn Marshall



Photo: Dawn Marshall

MATCH REPORT

Ashton Town 1-1 Irlam 13/8/13

by Billy Bristow

Town salvage a point thanks too a much improved second half display.

The Ashton Town baby boom is now in full effect, with both the Ashton Town manager and his assistant ready to become Fathers again. In fact at the time of writing this report and with a bit of luck, we may well have another couple of welcome additions to the Ashton Town family!!

Instead of pacing up and down the maternity ward, John Brownrigg opted to pace up and down the Hardwick Group Stadium sideline, to oversee his team come up against a much improved and in form Irlam. The West Manchester side arrived in confident mood after a convincing victory over AFC Darwen last Saturday. A result that made the rest of league stand up and take notice.

Obviously when it comes to Brownrigg's early season team selections, then you stand a better chance of guessing the lottery numbers, rather than figure out who is going to be selected. He reshuffled again, with Tom Goodwin, Jordan Lorde, Andy Olsen and Michael Boyle all earning a recall. Good news did arrive though in the return of our main marksman Bradley Smart, and the 'Ibiza Stud' Ian Joinson, although both had to settle for a berth on the bench. Its moments like this that I thank god i'm bald, as the young 'Joy' returned sporting an extremely camp 'snide part'. Surely the 'Gaffer' should start taking action against these teenage 'boy band' style haircuts, starting with the appalling effort Scott Baker has on show!!

Irlam began the game playing down the slope, and sensing the early nerves amongst the home support, they went on the attack straight away. So it was no surprise that it took just over 12 minutes for them to open the scoring. Gary Prescott raced onto a through ball before delicately chipping the ball over Tom Goodwin, for a really well taken goal.

Town had begun sluggishly, but Liam Rushton could have equalised virtually straight away, when he took control of Summerskill's neat pass, but his finish was just the wrong side of the post.

It was the visitor's in Blue that were the dominant force though, with striker Gary Prescott catching the eye, as he virtually single handily was causing the Town defence, no end of problems. The unsettled Town back line nearly conceded a second and comedy goal, when Michael Boyle cleared a shot off the line, only to strike his own keeper, forcing him to clear for a second time. This summed up the rather unsettling first half Town were to endure.

Young shot stopper Tom Goodwin, earned himself some credit with a couple of smart saves, before Rushton was finally about to test Brewer in the Irlam goal, but his low shot was well held. Kevin Pollard also brought the best out of the keeper, when he leapt to knock over his deflected shot.

Then just on the stroke of half time, the tormentor Prescott surged into the Town penalty area, beating off the lunge of Boyle and the outstretched arm of Goodwin, before rolling the ball towards the line for what seemed a certain second goal. In fact I was cursing the fact we had conceded again when amazingly Niall Summerskill slid in with a heroic last ditch clearance virtually right on the goal line. It was an astonishing piece of defending that forced the mystified Prescott to applaud Niall and pat him on the back.

The truth was that Ashton went into the dressing rooms at the interval, extremely lucky to have found themselves only trailing by just one goal, as Irlam had dominated for long periods and should have really added to their tally.

Half Time: Ashton Town 0-1 Irlam

Whatever Brownrigg had demanded in his half time team talk, seemed to take effect as within the opening 60 seconds of the half, Town had looked more dangerous than they did in the whole of the first 45 minutes.

Kevin Pollard curled a shot from distance, narrowly wide and Liam Rushton had a shot that nestled into the arms of the keeper.

So keeping up with Town's 'Jekyll & Hyde' start to the season, this entertaining game was to follow suit, as Town took control and began to push Irlam further and further back towards their own goal.

The deserved equaliser came on 75 minutes when Bradley Smart floated in a corner, which was bulleted into the net via the forehead of the leaping Sean Robinson. It looked at this stage that Ashton may go on and find the winner, but Irlam and in particular Gary Prescott still posed a significant threat, and when the number 9 forced his way towards goal again it took a perfectly timed Ste Rothwell tackle to block his shot out at the expense of a corner.

Credit must go to both sides as they epitomised the standard of attacking football that is on show at the moment and will make the North West Counties League as exciting as it gets this season. Both outfits never gave up and earned several late corners apiece but no side managed to sneak the winner, and for me this was the correct finish to another enthralling game.

Weather: Cloudy 16c

Rating: 4/5, two attacking sides, both of whom could have won it.

ASHTON TOWN: Goodwin, Baker, Summerskill, Boyle, Rothwell, Pollard, Robinson, Wilkie (c), Olsen (Smart 57 mins), Rushton, Lorde (Joinson 57 mins)

Not Used: Keenan, Wilkinson, Reid.

IRLAM: Brewer, Braithwaite (Norcross 80 mins), Barlow, Smith, Mills (c), Ledson, Mooney, Lynch, Prescott, Main (Liberal 80 mins), Davies (Mills 75 mins)

Not Used: White

Ashton Town Shots: (13) (7 on target), Corners (5)

Bookings: (3) Pollard, Joinson, Rothwell

Irlam Shots: (12) (6 on target), Corners (7)

Bookings: (1), Prescott



**Ashton Town AFC v Staveley MW FC
FA Cup 17/8/13 By Billy Bristow**



**Ashton Town AFC v Irlam FC
13/8/13 By Dawn Marshall**

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Simon Says.....

2nd May 2013 is just another date in the calendar for most people and it wouldn't be noticed as anything spectacular or life changing unless it was your birthday or other family event happened, however for over 800 professional and Under 18 Academy players it will be a date to remember. That day or around that time is when players are generally informed whether they will be being kept on by their club. For those players who are experienced professionals it will be nothing new just a ritual that they as a player come to expect every year or so and in an average 15 year career as a pro it will happen to most players, certainly in League 1 and 2 at least 6 times. That is because most lower league contracts are in the main 1 or 2 years, and a player might be lucky and gain a 3 year deal but a one or two year contract is the norm.

So what, you might say as a football fan stating that they earn enough each year to compensate that. However, it might come as a surprise to many fans that in League 2 there are currently players earning as little as £300 per week basic with a bonus if they win a game or gain a point here or there. For many outside the world of football that is a wage many receive each week in your work in a factory or in the office, but there is generally one difference which affects the players in that they one have a contract for 1 year say so are in effect temporarily employed. For anyone in employment you will be aware that this seriously affects your life as most mortgage lenders won't give you a mortgage if not in full employment as they can't be sure you will be able to fulfill your repayments etc. So there will be many players who are in their mid thirties who are still renting and some living with relatives if having to move away from their family home.

Why have I mentioned this as the season starts? Well as someone who has been involved in the football industry for a number of years it never fails to amaze me at the comments a large number of fans throw at footballers saying they are all money grabbing and their agents are parasites. Yes, of course there will be the odd footballer with this attitude but many in League's 1 and 2 who are struggling like everyone else to pay bills etc and if they ask for as little as an extra £10 a week the club labels them as money grabbing and not thinking of the club. I personally now of one player who was hounded out of his then club for the simple reason that the club refused to pay his petrol expenses as states they would in his contract. The very same day this happened the club concerned released a statement saying that due to 'differences' with the player over his contract they are letting him go. Now, most fans when they read that in the press one have one view, that view being the player is in the wrong, whereas the club have done right in not being held to ransom by the player. Sadly a lot of fans fail to realise a lot of what is written in the press is at best 'untruths' from the club are blatant lies.

Over the coming weeks I will give a little insight to the workings of working in the football industry from Player Agents and the work they do to managers going back on their word to a player the day before the season starts.

Simon O'Neill

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FA CUP NEWS

Saturday saw 26 of our 41 clubs in FA Cup action in the Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round, and after Saturday's fixtures, 11 can look forward to the next round, four face midweek replays and Wigan Robin Park, AFC Liverpool and Cheadle Town were all in action on Sunday.



The headline grabbers were Norton United and Runcorn Town, who both scored seven goals in seeing off opponents from outside our league. Five different players were on target for Norton in their 7-1 win over Southam United, while six Runcorn Town players shared the goals around in their 7-2 triumph over Winterton Rangers.

Six clubs enjoyed good away wins. Glossop North End, Formby and Congleton Town all recorded 4-1 wins at Armthorpe Welfare, Bacup Borough and Maltby Main respectively, while Winsford United won 2-1 at Stockport Sports, and Atherton Collieries upset the odds with a 3-1 win at Premier Division Alsager Town.

In ties played a couple miles apart, Runcorn Linnets won 3-0 at Maine Road and West Didsbury & Chorlton celebrated their first ever tie in the FA Cup with a 2-0 win over South Manchester rivals Abbey Hey. In the other all-NWCFL ties Bootle beat Squires Gate 2-1, while St Helens Town and Ashton Athletic will return to Brocstedes Park on Tuesday night to meet again after their 2-2 draw.



Two other sides facing replays are Barnoldswick Town, after their 2-2 draw at Hebburn Town, while a late Jason Hart equaliser earned Colne a 1-1 draw and another crack at South Shields. However, there were no cup fairytales for Silsden, who lost 2-1 at home to Bridlington Town, and Ashton Town lost by a similar score at Staveley MW.

In the First Division, another healthy crowd of 394 turned up at the Barton Stadium for 1874 Northwich's game against Nelson, but it was the visitors who emerged victorious with a 3-1 win. The other league newcomers continued their good starts to the season, with Hanley Town winning 2-1 at AFC Darwen and Widnes Vikings beat Rochdale Town 3-1 at the Select Security Stadium.

Elsewhere Leek CSOB recorded an impressive 6-1 win at Atherton LR, Chadderton beat Daisy Hill 1-0, Irlam won by the same score at Oldham Boro and Holker Old Boys set off back home from their long trip to Eccleshall with a point from a 2-2 draw.

THE FA CUP WITH BUDWEISER

The Budweiser Club Futures programme aims to help clubs become more financially sustainable and play a bigger role in their local community by providing investment into their general facilities. Budweiser Club Futures will give grants of £50,000 across [eight regions](#) to non-league clubs in [steps 5-7](#) of the English Football pyramid. In addition the eight successful clubs will also go to a public vote for the chance to win an additional super grant of £100,000. The closing date for entry is 11:59pm on 6th September 2013. Previous grant winners are not eligible. To find out if your club is eligible, and how to enter, please call 0844 980 8200 x4875 during business hours.

This season Budweiser Club Futures will be giving 5 clubs, who apply for a Club Futures grant, a brand new 16 piece Nike Home or Away Kit. Clubs will be randomly selected by a prize draw. *(Terms & Conditions apply)*

MATCH REPORT

Town's F.A. Cup dream is shattered, despite a brave display.

After a couple of years in FA Cup exile, Ashton Town embraced this world famous trophy again, w Staveley are a team that play their football at a step higher than Town, in the Baris Northern Cou the underdogs.



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It would be fair to say that at this stage I did actually believe that we could have been in for a lc rejuvenated themselves, and started to fight their way back into it.

The deserved equaliser came on 20 minutes, when Sean Robinson exchanged a lovely pass with 3 rise majestically and nod the ball past the bewildered keeper. It was a goal that rolled back the y man capable of recapturing his top form that has graced the North West Counties League for year The pattern of the game soon became obvious, as there was plenty of hard work, with a feisty e tween.

Half Time: Staveley Miners Welfare 1-1 Ashton Town

Like a mirror image of the first half, Town began too slowly and yet again paid the price, by conce The one criticism I could muster from Ashton Town's first half was the frequent mistake of conc and this bit of naivety would cost them dear, when Scott Baker was adjudged to have brought d with my principle of keeping my match reports honest, I did think the referee called it right. The c very unhappy about it. There was also an important member of the home side that quietly (an award the penalty.

The decision stood though, and Ryan Damms ugly spot kick somehow found the net, by squeezing Credit again must go to the visitors, as they never gave up and continued to defend bravely and the game to a replay.

It wasn't until the final four minutes of the game, did we finally see some goalmouth action. Lew ous Turner shot over the crossbar. As it turned out this one shot, was the only shot on target in th



The real excitement came at the other end of the field. Jorc view of goal was blocked by both the keeper and a defender bounced back away of the post.

Despite the ninety minutes already being up, Town were pre Robinson just getting his head to the ball before the keeper, and crossbar.

It was disappointing in the end not to have managed to grab ers, could be immensely proud of their conduct and attitude Anyway the booze fuelled trip home was always going to be named the star man for his on field antics, but I have giv Needless to say Kevin had never been so popular.

It was on the whole a great day out despite the result.

Everybody at Ashton Town would like to thank Staveley Mine

Weather: Cloudy with a strong cross field wind. 16c

Rating: 2/5 A game between two committed sides, but both goalk

*STAVELEY MW: Tollerfield, Ludlam, Trench, Scully, Olliver, Kistell, Smith
ASHTON TOWN: Reid, Baker (Patterson 82 mins), Summerskill, Keenan, well, Goodwin*

Staveley MW Shots: (9) (3 on target), Corners (4) Bookings: (2), Kisti

Ashton Town AFC 1 v 2 Staveley MW FC by Billy Bristow

with a journey into Derbyshire to face a talented Staveley Miners Welfare team. Counties East League, so Town arrived at the splendid Inkersall Road in full knowledge that they were

on also arrived minus their Manager and his assistant. Robbie Holcroft was basking in the delights of becoming a Father again; whilst John Brownrigg had to still endure the long long wait of a slow pregnancy (The baby is due anytime now!!). This meant a rapid promotion for the confident Adam Wilkie, to take charge of the days affairs, with reserve team 'gaffer' Alan Brady also stepping up for emergency first team duties.

Starting eleven oversaw a recall for Paul Keenan, Lewis Reid and Adam Wilkinson, with Ste Roth and Jordan Lorde the unfortunate guy's too loose out, as they took their places on the bench. There was a noticeable buzz about the whole squad on their arrival at 'The Green' as the home supporters prefer to call their ground, with the lads excited about playing FA Cup football in such a smart stadium and on a perfectly flat pitch. The euphoria though was very short lived, as Town found themselves a goal down with less than four minutes on the clock. Staveley midfielder Matt Thrope was awarded too much space to canter towards the Town goal, before his 25 yard shot bounced into the net with the help of a massive deflection.

During the afternoon, but Ashton quickly regained their composure and

Adam Wilkie, before lofting his ball into the area for Andy Olsen to clear. Olsen was a real threat for the big Town front man, thus proving that Andy is still a real threat (More than Andy will care to remember!!) He had a few chances, but any real goalscoring chances were very few and far between.

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FA CUP QUOTES By Ian Templeman

After a busy weekend of FA Cup action, ten of our clubs have progressed into the next round, with another four facing midweek replays. Here's a selection of observations from the weekend action.

Alsager Town 1 Atherton Collieries 3

Atherton Collieries Secretary Emil Anderson: "I was very proud of our performance, we got the job done. We weren't at our best but we were determined and focused.

"Last Monday we beat Nelson 2-1 after a fine comeback in the second half. It could have been all over half time but we showed real bottle to come back. I thought that Alsager would have to be some team to be as good as Nelson, so I was quietly confident, although I would never have admitted it.

"Brad Cooke got our first on the half hour mark when he was the first man to react to a saved penalty. Paul Atherton bundled in the second just after the break.

"Alsager came back into and pulled a goal back. This boosted them and they had their best section of the game but our defence weren't really threatened again. Gaz Peet settled it for us with the last kick of the game. "It's always nice to get the scalp of a team in a higher division especially on their pitch. Next up are Radcliffe Borough and this is going to be a good match up".

Maine Road 0 Runcorn Linnets 3

Runcorn Linnets manager Joey Dunn: "From a Linnets perspective we are very relieved and happy to be in the next round, and really glad to have played so well against a quality outfit like Maine Road.

"We expected a tough game from a team who had up until then had a 100% record for games this season, and got one. But we played some really good football on a magnificent surface, and scored some quality goals. "The FA Cup can be a real positive boost to a season for clubs at this level so we will be looking to carry the Runcorn Linnets and NWCFL banner as far as we can, and in doing so, generate the financial benefits that go with it and hopefully get through to the proverbial 'glamour' tie in later rounds".

Maltby Main 1 Congleton Town 4

Congleton Town Secretary Ken Mead: " This was a well deserved victory and the weather had a large say in the result.

"After just 4 minutes Chris Middleton's cross towards goal held up in the strong wind and deceived the Maltby 'keeper, dropping almost vertically into goal. The wind assisted the home side with an equaliser when a cross carried through to Brannigan who scored with a well directed diving header.

"We struggled for any fluency against the wind in the first half but it wasn't clear until the second half started, just how much impact the strong wind was having. We dominated the second half with goals from Jones and Middleton who took advantage of a quickly taken free kick to catch the home defence napping. "The wind had the final say too when Ian Willis fired in a rocket shot from a free kick from 25 yards with the ball swerving past the startled 'keeper. We can now look forward to the trip to Prescott Cables on 31st August".

Stockport Sports 1 Winsford United 2

Winsford United manager Eddy Haslam: "We knew our opponent's strengths and weaknesses and we had a game plan to deal with them. I'm delighted to say the players followed the plan to a tee and got the result we deserved. We will now be looking carefully at Warrington Town, our opponents in the next round". Winsford United Secretary Bob Astles: "Two weeks before the start of the season when we had no manager and one player, I doubt anyone would have given us much hope of winning four games out of the first five.

"The first half against Stockport Sports was as good as anything I have seen in recent seasons. The strong wind in the second half changed the game and after they scored we visibly wilted for a while, but we found strength in the closing quarter of an hour".

Norton United 7 Southam United 1

Norton United manager Scott Dundas: "It was a great win and performance from the lads. We played well and were clinical with our chances, and our 7th goal scored by Lee Talbot was one of the best individual goals I have seen in non-league football".

Armthorpe Welfare 1 Glossop North End 4

Glossop North End Press Officer Jonathan Haggart: " Two goals in injury time put a gloss on a good performance for us, but were perhaps a bit unfair on our hosts, who tried to play a passing game from the back. "That said, we wasted a few chances to put ourselves further ahead before their leveller and again after we quickly re-took the lead, but we ultimately had a little bit too much for them. It was a pleasing day out with a good turn out from the Hillmen, who will be there again at Runcorn Town in a couple of weeks for what will be a tough tie".

West Didsbury & Chorlton 2 Abbey Hey 0

West Didsbury & Chorlton manager Andy Nelson: "I felt we could have scored more goals, although the goals we scored came at important times for us. I was impressed with the way Abbey Hey tried to play, they are a good team and are not just a kick and rush side.

"I'm pleased because we have been playing really well, and just not getting results we deserved, it's not as if we have been shown up as not being up to playing at this level.



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Mark Hayes on 07851 254936 Or email: markhayes@ashtontownafc.co.uk

Under 18's Match Report

Sunday 18th August 2013

Lancaster City 0 Ashton Town 5

by Andrew West

After a successful pre season Ashton Town's Youth Team played their first League game away to Lancaster City.

Last season was more than we could have asked for and the addition of some quality players into the squad for this season's opener was eagerly awaited by all. From the first whistle the boys looked to take control of the game putting Lancaster on the back foot. Within 10 minutes a free kick from Charlie Munro threatened to give Ashton the lead with Lancaster seeing little of the ball. With the score at 0-0 a quick break nearly caught Ashton out ending with a 20 yard shot narrowly going wide. That was to prove Lancaster's only effort early on before the quality of Ashton's play took control of the game. It was only a matter of time before the first goal came and it was quality individual run and finish from Matty Smith that did it on 28 minutes. The second did not look like long in coming and on 32 minutes a great strike Kie West produced a good save from the keeper.

Despite the dominance in the first half by Ashton a 1-0 lead did not look enough and on 44 minutes a rare venture into our half by Lancaster ended with the ball in the net only for it to be ruled out for offside.

The second half started with Lancaster going "route one" playing the ball long at every opportunity but Ashton continued to dominate and the quality of their play started to create clear chances to increase the lead. Ben Rogers forced a good tip over from the keeper and a ball from Jack Halliwell across goal managed to just miss the post. Even with a narrow lead we did not look in danger of conceding and on 60 minutes Colin decided to freshen things up bringing on Josh and Danny Pilling for his debut. That seemed to raise the intensity and it was Josh who got the second on 64 minutes with a great shot from just inside the box. The effort in just staying in the game seemed to take its toll on Lancaster and the flood gates looked like opening and on 65 minutes Connoll Osborne came on for his debut replacing Matty at centre half. The work rate and quality of the performance started to get what it deserved with a slick pass from Kie finding Jack inside the box and his fantastic turn gave him a clear chance and made it 3-0. With 20 minutes still to go the score could have been anything and Danny, Charlie, Josh and Jack all had chances to extend the lead before on 84 minutes Josh made it 4 - 0. The scoring had not finished and a run down the left by Jack found Josh at the back post who knocked it back across the goal for Danny to make it 5 - 0.

The final score reflected Ashton's control of the game with the quality of play and sheer hard work shown by all the lads left everyone watching the game looking forward to the rest of the season.

Man of the Match could have gone to any number of the players but was edged by Matty Smith with a quality performance.



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HISTORY OF ASHTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Ashton Town Football Club was originally formed in 1953 as Makerfield Mill FC. Founder, Derek 'Mick' Mycock worked at the Mill and obtained permission from the owners to use their field and to form a mill-workers team. The team was soon attracting local lads and after a short spell in the Wigan Sunday School League, they played in the St. Helens Combination League with many trophies to show. In 1958 they joined the Warrington & District League and went on to champion Division 1 five times in six seasons. In 1962 the club was forced to move from its Windsor Road home due to land development and it was at this time the club name was changed to Ashton Town AFC. Home games were played on a public park pitch at Whithill Street Recreation Ground in Bryn until 1964, at which point the club purchased a piece of land and found a new home at Edge Green Street - previous home of Stubshaw Cross Rovers. In 1969 the clubhouse was completed and was opened by Liverpool & England legend, Roger Hunt and in 1975 the changing rooms were built. During this period the club joined the Lancashire Combination in 1971 and then in 1978 joined the Cheshire County League. The formation of the North West Counties League in 1982 saw Ashton Town join as Founder members. The club has remained in this league since, with the exception of season 1985/6 in the Manchester League whilst essential ground improvements were carried out.



St Helens Combination League

Division 2 Champions - 57/58, Runners Up 56/57,

Tom Worrell Cup Winners - 56/57, Runners Up 57/58,

Hospital Cup Winners - 56/57, 57/58, Liverpool FA Shield Winners - 56/57,

Rainford Pottery Cup Winners - 56/57, Runners Up - 57/58,

Martin Cup Winners - 57/58, Wigan Cup Winners - 60/61,

Warrington & District League

Division 1 Champions - 59/60, 60/61, 62/63, 63/64, 64/65,

Depot Cup Winners 60/61, 61/62, 63/64, 66/67,

Guardian Cup Winners - 63/64, 70/71, Runners Up - 57/58,

Dodds Shield Winners 63/64, Jubilee Cup 70/71,

Elizabeth Pilling Memorial Shield Winners 67/68

Lancashire Combination League

Lancashire Combination Challenge Trophy Runners Up - 70/71,

Lancashire Combination League Cup Runners Up - 71/72,

North West Counties League

Reserve Division Runners Up 98/99, Division 2 Trophy Runners Up 02/03



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HISTORY OF FORMBY FC

Formby FC was founded in 1919 and played under the name of Formby United until the summer of 1923. They spent their first season playing in the Southport and District League at several pitches in the town before settling at the ground that would be their home for more than 80 years, Brows Lane. The move coincided with a graduation to the Liverpool and District League, where they were First Division champions in 1924/25.

Soon after they transferred to the Liverpool League, achieving honours in two of that league's cups in 1927/28, winning the Barnes Benevolent Cup and being finalists in the league's knockout trophy, the RP Houston Cup. In 1929/30 the Squirrels achieved an extraordinary double, winning the RP Houston Cup on May 2nd 1930, and just three days later winning the Liverpool County FA Amateur Cup.

After a few years in Liverpool's I Zingari league, including a league and league cup double in 1933, in 1938 Formby joined the Liverpool County Combination where they soon established a reputation as one of the top sides. They were particularly strong just after the war, and for eight out of ten seasons Formby were winners or runners-up for a trophy or league title.

After nearly a decade without honours, they won the Liverpool Challenge Cup again in 1964, and in 1965 were runners up for the cup and in the league as well as winning Liverpool County Combination's knockout competition the George Mahon Cup. This was the start of manager Bryan Griffiths' 15 year tenure, something of a golden age for the club.

In 1971 they moved to the Cheshire County League (showing a certain geographical license, but this was, after all, only a few years before Ted Heath took an axe to the entire national county structure - certain Formby residents have never forgiven him for shoving them in Merseyside).

The 1973/74 season put Formby in the national news when they reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup. Sadly for the record crowd at Brows Lane the result was a 2-0 defeat to Oldham Athletic, who at the time were top of the Third Division. (Note to children: this is what we now call League One. Grade inflation isn't just for GCSEs...)

In 1978 Formby became the first non-league team to lift the Liverpool Senior Cup, a trophy usually reserved for local big boys Liverpool, Everton, Southport or Tranmere Rovers.

Formby were founder members of the North West Counties Football League in 1982. In the first four seasons of the new league they finished mid-table in the First Division (now the Premier Division, more grade inflation...), and in 1984/85 almost equaled their record showings in the FA Cup and Liverpool Senior Cup. Their FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie with Penrith saw them lose out by a solitary goal, and having secured a Senior Cup final against local rivals Marine they lost, again, by one goal.

The following year they finished bottom of the table and were relegated. After spending 1986/87 playing in Division Two there was a two-season return to the top level, before going back down again in 1989.

Despite spending the next thirteen seasons in the lower division, this period saw two pieces of silverware come Formby's way. They won the second division's knockout competition - the Lamot Pils Trophy, now called the First Division Challenge Cup - in 1994/95. They went one better in 2000/01 when - a rare achievement for a lower division side - they won the League Challenge Cup.

In 2002 the club moved from their home of over 80 years, Brows Lane, to new grounds at Altcar Road, next to the Formby by-pass. The ground was not completed to the required standard in time for the start of the season and Formby spent a year back in the Liverpool County Combination, but jumped straight back to the NWCFL Second Division the next year, where a third-place finish that season sent them up to the First Division.

After finishing the first three seasons back in the Premier Division near the bottom of the table, from 2007 Formby had results that ranked among their best. In 2007/08 they reached the fourth round of the FA Carlsberg Vase, their best performance to date in the competition and a full two stages beyond their previous record, as well as finishing 13th in the league, equaling their highest-ever placing of 1983/84.

At the end of the 2010/11 season an administrative error garnered serious sanction from the league and Formby were relegated to the First Division. That summer the helm was handed to an entirely new regime of chairman, players and perhaps most importantly management duo Jim Shirley and Kev Dally. The 2012-13 season was the club's best ever, with many records broken, an unprecedented number of wins, an abacus-shattering haul of goals, a horde of Premier Division sides dismissed on the way to being runners up in the League Challenge Cup and, most pleasingly, taking the league title with games to spare.

At the same time, the Altcar Road ground was deemed by the NWCFL Ground Grading Committee to be below standard for the First Division, despite the best efforts of the football committee. As a result Formby were denied promotion and placed in a relegation position. The cost of bringing the ground up to standard, never mind developing it, was so prohibitive that the football committee decided they had no option but to leave Altcar Road and seek a ground share. Burscough FC agreed to host Formby and a two season agreement was signed in June 2013.

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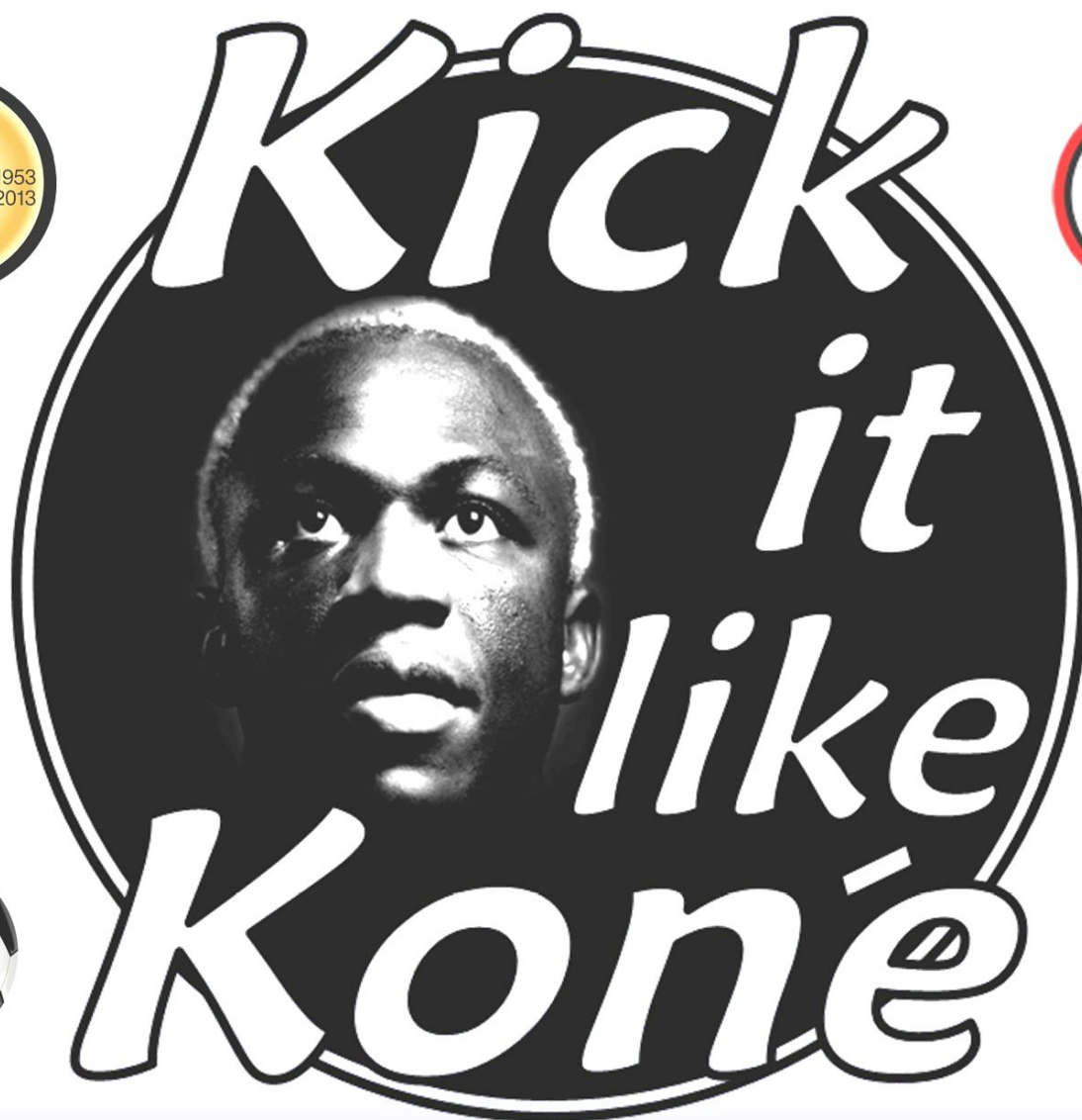
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NEWS FROM OUR VISITORS

Formby have announced a new ground share agreement with Burscough FC for the next two seasons.

The deal that will see the Squirrels playing home games at the Evo-Stik League Division One North club's Victoria Park has been set up as an interim measure while the club looks to find a new permanent ground. The club issued the following statement on their website.

Formby FC are delighted to announce that we have agreed a ground share with Burscough FC for the next two seasons.

Therefore we will be playing home games at Victoria Park. During this time it is hoped to find a new permanent ground for the club.

The move away from Altcar Road started in January when we were made aware of doubts about the future lease there. We requested an urgent meeting with the League Management Committee at which they encouraged us to explore a ground share option, which we began to do.

We were then offered a one season reprieve at Altcar Road which we believed would give us the time to secure the club's future. However, the unexpected failing of the ground grading at Altcar Road threw our plans into turmoil so we rekindled talks on the ground share whilst preparing our appeal to the FA on the grading issues.

The Committee at Burscough FC were especially welcoming and the terms of the agreement offered a better chance of a secure future for Formby FC than trying to satisfy the League's demands.

Because of this, and the swift resolution and certainty it provides, we decided not to continue with the grading appeal and instead to work with Burscough FC on making the ground share a success for both clubs. This means that we will be playing in the NWCFL First Division next season.

The club wishes to thank Burscough FC, in particular Martin Gilchrist and Dave Hughes, as well as Hugh McAuley, the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League and the North West Counties Football League for their assistance in arranging the ground share.

We also want to express gratitude to all who have helped during the eleven years at Altcar Road. The Squirrels' first game at Victoria Park will be a pre-season friendly against their landlords.

Club Secretary Adrian Cork commented, "The idea of a ground share was first mooted in January when the club looked likely to be evicted from Altcar Road. For a time it really looked as though we wouldn't be here at all next season.

"But things improved and, having responded to the work we were told to do, failing the ground grading came as a complete surprise to us. As it turned out a complete break from Altcar Road was the only serious long-term option.

"The Linnets offer everything we need to continue. They couldn't have been more co-operative and supportive, making us feel more like partners than tenants. The facilities and support are an ideal platform for us to establish an improved club that will hopefully have a decent base of its own in the near future".

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v

FORMBY FC



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