



v Armthorpe Welfare / Retford FC
5th March 2022 / 9th March 2022
NCEL DIVISION ONE
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STEVE'S SAY

MANAGER STEVE BODLE GIVES HIS THOUGHTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Hello to all and welcome to The Fast Frame for our double headed fixtures against Armthorpe Welfare and our local rivals Retford F.C

Both games will be competitive games which I'm sure you'll enjoy watching, both sides are above us in the league though whilst talk is cheap I genuinely feel there's very little between the three clubs.

I'm hoping our recent performances against Carlton and Hallam show the lads we aren't far away from being back to our best! It's been a frustrating six weeks, losing Levi Owen to a six game ban, Gavin King suspended then injured for six weeks, Brandon Shaw missing a number of weeks from work commitments, Ben Partridge going to Stocksbridge and a number of other "big" players missing games has really stopped us on our sharp rise up the league. I don't feel sorry for myself as this is what this level of football can be like however, it's hard for everyone at the club to not look at what could have been.

In December I was really confident that last playoff spot was in sight and attainable but it's not been that straight forward.

Anyway, being positive, those lads will all be back for Retford so I'm certain we will finish the season on a high!

Looking back to our game against title challengers Hallam, I think we were really hard done too with

the result. For long spells we were the better side and we had a stonewall penalty turned away in the 89th minute, when your luck's out there's not much you can do other than keep working. I was extremely proud of the squad and the fact we took two lads from our development team showed we are still getting talent coming through. Hallam will finish top two for sure and are a team to be admired for the basics being done right and the winning mentality through their side.

I'm looking forward to both games, we owe both clubs a tough game. We had bare bones at Armthorpe and got a beating, Retford was a game we dominated but still came away with nothing. We did beat Retford in the cup game so it's a little decider today which for both clubs is a big game with us being neighbours.

Looking at next season I've started talking to our sponsors and their intentions. Hopefully we can continue to grow and keep majority of this year's squad, get a good pre-season together then add a couple. We could cause a few raised eyebrows at where this club could end up.

Thanks for the support to those that travelled to Hallam it means a lot to the team, and all the supporters that come to home games your support is invaluable!

Please enjoy the games!

Up the Town

BODLE



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GROUND STAFF:
NEIL HAMILTON
ANDY MCKEWAN

FIRST TEAM MANAGER:
STEVE BODLE

FIRST TEAM ASSISTANT:
LEE NEEDHAM

FIRST TEAM COACH:
DAN SHORT

RESERVE TEAM MANAGER:
MARK FRONCZAK



Ollerton has a long history of football going back to the late 1800s. One of its best periods was immediately before the Second World War when Ollerton Colliery won the Notts Senior Cup in 1937/38 and its reserve team won the Notts Intermediate Cup the year previous.

Ollerton Colliery ceased as a football club in the early 1980s but was reformed in 1988 as Ollerton and Bevercotes Miners Welfare and began life in the Mansfield Bitter League before progressing to the Notts Football Alliance in 1991. The club won the Nottinghamshire Football Alliance Division Two championship in 1992–93, gaining promotion to Division One under the management of Adge Owen and David Kent.



Following the closure of the colliery in 1994, the club changed its name to Ollerton Town F.C. In the same year, Ollerton were champions of Division One in 1995–96 and were promoted to the top division of the Notts Alliance.

After finishing runners-up in 1999–2000, the club was promoted to the Central Midlands League and entered the English Football Pyramid.

In the 2007–08 season, Ollerton, under the management of Don Gethfield, David Kent and Anthony Thompson, the club won the Central Midlands Premier Division, earning promotion to the Supreme Division. That season they also reached the Nottinghamshire Senior Cup final where they were beaten 2–0 by Eastwood Town. In 2008–09, the club took part in the FA Vase for the very first time, getting to the second round proper in 2009–10..



After the resignation of Don Gethfield back in 2011, and a brief stint under Paul Rawden, the club appointed Dave Winter and Stephen Bodle as first team managers. The pair guided the club to a 7th placed finish and the Central Midlands Floodlit Cup final in their first season.

For the 2011–12 season, the club was placed in the Central Midlands North Division following a league restructure.

Ollerton spent a few seasons in the middle echelons of the league before in the 2015–16 season, with former-captain Jamie Allan now also on board as first team coach, the club secured promotion to the Northern Counties East League after finishing runners-up in the Central Midlands North. The club battled against the odds to secure their survival over the next three years and recorded some memorable results against some very big teams.



In 2020, after the season came to a premature end due to the COVID-19 outbreak Ollerton were moved laterally to the East Midlands Counties League but the season only lasted 12 league games before it once again fell victim to the pandemic and national lockdowns.

This summer, Ollerton returned to the NCEL as part of the restructuring of the non-league system and after almost a decade in charge, Dave Winter stepped down as manager, being replaced by his long-serving assistant Steve Bodle.



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The Tyre Shop Pressed for Time
Boughton Convenience Store

Ollerton Town would ask you all to use local businesses whenever possible to support them as they support us. Thank you.



CAPTAIN'S



COMMENT

Afternoon folks,

We've played two of the big boys since I last sent some notes through to Kenty and unfortunately we haven't managed to pick up any points. However, there have certainly been positives in both games, particularly Wednesday night against Hallam. With several members of the squad missing, and after conceding in the first minute, many might have thought I could have been a long night for ous boys but I was really pleased and proud of the lad's efforts. I felt we pushed Hallam all the way, competed well and never gave in and that's what Bodle asked of us. Had we been given the penalty shout that looked a stone waller to everyone out there, then perhaps we could have got a point that I feel we deserved in the end.

I suppose that's what the top teams do though, they find a way to pick up points in all different types of games and that's the big differencd. The good teams punish any mistakes you make and we need to try and stamp those out in the last part of the season so we can try and finish as high as we can because, as ever, I believe we have a lot of really good footballers in our team that always have a chance of picking something up.

Let's see what happens today and fingers crossed for a Town win.

Hope you enjoy your time with us.

Up the Town!

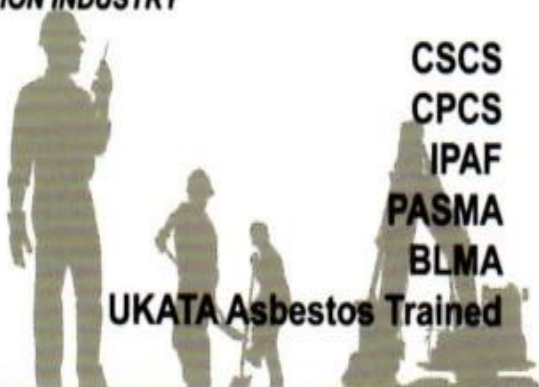
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A GAB WITH GIBBO

Ollerton Town FC extend a warm welcome to The Fast Frame to all of our supporters and to our opponents. We hope you enjoy your time with us and have a safe journey home. Also, I welcome any neutrals joining us for the match, we hope you enjoy the game and our hospitality. No matter what the result, join us for a drink and a chat after the game.

Due to the fact that we have a quick turnaround of games, this is a double issue matchday programme. On Saturday, we see

the visit of Armthorpe Welfare and his will be soon followed by the visit of our neighbours Retford on Wednesday.

We got thumped 6-0 the last time we played Armthorpe and Retford have aspirations of reaching the play-offs. It's important that we therefore give both teams the utmost respect and ensure we are on our guard.

I must admit our progress has stalled a bit and the players will need you to keep up the great support you have given them to secure two invaluable wins.

The departure of Ben Partridge, who was starting to form a great partnership with Gavin King, to Jamie Vardy's former team Stocksbridge Park Steels was no doubt a blow to the team. Along with the suspension of Levi Owen, who is probably one of the best keepers in the NCEL. But Steve will not be looking for excuses and he has faith in every player in the squad.

Football is a constant learning experience. It's not always about low blocks and passing lanes, which I get are 100% important, but at our level of football it's about players and getting the best out of them and I'm sure Steve will be working with the players in order to end the season on a high.

Thanks for your support and enjoy the game.

Up the Town!

GIBBO.





LEAGUE NEWS

Hallam's three point gap at the top of Division One remains intact after Kieran Watson got both of their goals, sandwiching a Jack Appleyard equaliser for hosts Glasshoughton Welfare, in a 2-1 victory. Oliver Donald struck twice as second-placed North Ferriby keep on their tracks following their 3-0 defeat of hosts Ollerton Town, Thomas Corner with the Villagers' third five minutes from time. Brigg Town have lost ground in third as they went down 3-2 at Hall Road Rangers, Lewis Gibson, James Piercy and Reece Moody ensuring a home victory that moves their side up into tenth. There were wins for the other two sides in the play-off zone as Marcus Day grabbed a late winner for Harrogate Railway Athletic as they beat visitors Shirebrook Town 2-1. And, Rossington Main won by a single goal at FC Humber United, courtesy of a last-gasp Myron Gibbons goal, in a game dedicated to the Football v Homophobia campaign. Seventh-placed Retford FC are now four points away from the play-off positions in seventh after they went down 2-1 to visitors Rainworth Miners Welfare, Nathan Bengier with an 88th minute goal that gave a vital win to the Wrens and leaves them four points above the drop zone. Swallownest are out of the bottom three following their 5-1 home win over Nostell Miners Welfare, Jack Haslam's double added to by Max Skelton, Jack Watts and James Woodhouse.

A fifth successive defeat sees Clipstone fall into the relegation places, Matthew Ord with two goals as their hosts Dronfield Town condemned them to a 3-1 loss. Things look very bleak now for Teversal whose 2-0 loss at Parkgate sees the bottom side now seventeen points away from safety with nine games remaining. Meanwhile, there was a 3-0 victory for Armthorpe Welfare, Rhys Plater, Conner Williamson and Jack Shaw with the goals at Worsbrough Bridge Athletic to keep their side in ninth spot.

	Team	Played	Points
1	Hallam	32	78
2	North Ferriby	32	75
3	Brigg Town	32	68
4	Harrogate Railway	33	67
5	Rossington Main	32	62
6	Selby Town	31	56
7	Retford	31	55
8	Parkgate	31	51
9	Armthorpe Welfare	32	48
10	Worsbrough Bridge	31	47
11	Hall Road Rangers	31	45
12	Nostell MW	32	43
13	Ollerton Town	31	39
14	Dronfield Town	31	38
15	Glasshoughton Welf	32	36
16	Shirebrook Town	31	33
17	Rainworth MW	30	27
18	Swallownest	31	23
19	Clipstone	32	22
20	Humber United	30	19
21	Teversal	32	6

Top Scorer Charts

Scott Phillips, Brigg Town: 37

Liam Flanagan, Selby Town: 28

Adam Baskerville, Armthorpe Welfare: 24

Iren Wilson, Hallam: 24

Liam Royles, Hallam: 22

Dayle Hutson, Brigg Town: 18

Kieran Watson, Hallam: 18

Anees Younis, Nostell MW: 18

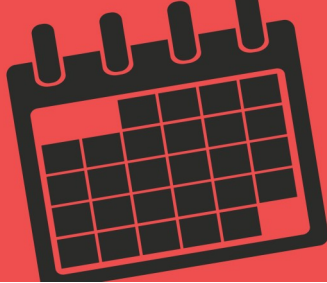
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FIXTURES 2021-2022

- 31/07/2021:** (A) L 4-2 Rossington Main | Owen, Moody, Green, Stretton, Slack, Madin, Price, Geeves, Agar, King, Atkinson
07/08: (H) L 2-1 Brigg Town | Owen, Moody, Shaw, Stretton, Slack, Madin, Lumley, Geeves, King, Dungworth, Green
10/08: (A) W 4-1 Glasshoughton W (**NCEL Cup**) | Owen, Geeves, Shaw, Stretton, Slack, Madin, Lumley, Turner, Foulds, Green
14/08: (A) L 3-1 Hall Road Rangers | Owen, Moody, Martin, Stretton, Dalmedo, Madin, Lumley, Turner, Foulds, Littlejohn, Geeves
18/08: (H) D 3-3 FC Humber United | Owen, Slack, Dalmedo, Bamforth, Shaw, Madin, Lumley, Turner, Foulds, King, Geeves
21/08: (A) L 2-0 Retford FC | Owen, Geeves, Cooper, Turner, Slack, Shaw, Lumley, Grady, Foulds, Agar, King
28/08: (A) W 2-1 Swallownest | Owen, Geeves, Cooper, Stretton, Smart, Shaw, Lumley, Dalmedo, King, Grady, Partridge
- 01/09:** (H) W 1-0 Parkgate | Owen, Smart, Shaw, Stretton, Slack, Madin, Lumley, Geeves, King, Grady, Partridge
04/09: (A) L 2-1 Dronfield Town | Owen, Smart, Cooper, Stretton, Shaw, Madin, Lumley, Geeves, King, Grady, Partridge
11/09: (H) L 3-1 Harrogate Railway | Owen, Slack, Cooper, Turner, Smart, Shaw, Lumley, Grady, King, Etia, Partridge
18/09: (H) W 2-0 Worsbrough Bridge | Owen, Geeves, Shaw, Stretton, Madin, Slack, Partridge, Turner, King, Grady, Green
21/09: (A) W 2-0 Glasshoughton Welfare | Owen, Geeves, Holland, Turner, Slack, Madin, Partridge, Lumley, Etia, Grady, Green
25/09: (H) W 4-0 Teversal | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Holland, Shaw, Madin, Partridge, Lumley, Etia, Grady, Green
- 02/10:** (H) W 4-3 Selby Town | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Madin, Partridge, Holland, Etia, Grady, Green
09/10: (A) D 1-1 North Ferriby | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Holland, Partridge, Turner, King, Lumley, Etia
12/10: (A) W 1-0 Retford FC (**Notts Cup**) | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Holland, Partridge, Turner, King, Lumley, Green
23/10: (A) L 6-0 Armthorpe Welfare | Owen, Geeves, Esmaily, Martin, Smart, Murr, Partridge, Lumley, King, Grady, Green
30/10: (H) W 4-0 Clipstone | Owen, Geeves, Murr, Turner, Shaw, Madin, Lumley, Green, King, Grady, Atkinson
- 03/11:** (H) L 3-1 Penistone Church (**NCEL Cup**) | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Madin, Partridge, Lumley, King, Holland, Green
06/11: (A) W 5-0 Teversal | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Martin, Higginson, Partridge, Lumley, King, Grady, Green
13/11: (H) D 1-1 Nostell Miners Welfare | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Madin, Murr, Partridge, Lumley, King, Grady, Green
20/11: (A) D 1-1 Shirebrook Town | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Madin, Partridge, Lumley, King, Grady, Etia
23/11: (A) W 3-0 Clipstone (**Notts Cup**) | Owen, Geeves, Holland, Stretton, Shaw, Turner, Partridge, Lumley, King, Grady, Dickinson
27/11: (H) D 1-1 Rainworth MW | Owen, Geeves, Martin, Stretton, Shaw, Madin, Partridge, Lumley, King, Turner, Dickinson
- 01/12:** (H) L 4-0 Hallam | Owen, Geeves, Holland, Stretton, Shaw, Madin, Partridge, Lumley, King, Turner, Etia
04/12: (A) W 2-1 Brigg Town | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Martin, Green, Partridge, Lumley, Atkinson, Bayne, Etia
11/12: (H) W 4-2 Rossington Main | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Green, Partridge, Lumley, King, Grady, Squires
- 03/01/2022:** (A) L 3-0 Harrogate Railway | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Green, Partridge, Lumley, Turner, Grady, Murr
08/01: (H) D 1-1 Swallownest | Owen, Squires, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Turner, Green, Lumley, Etia, Grady, Murr
15/01: (A) L 3-1 Parkgate | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Turner, Murr, Green, Lumley, Etia, Grady, Squires
22/01: (H) D 1-1 Dronfield Town | Owen, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Turner, Murr, Etia, Lumley, King, Grady, Green
29/01: (A) D 2-2 Worsbrough Bridge | Coombs, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Turner, Madin, Foster, Lumley, Etia, Grady, Green
- 05/02:** (H) D 0-0 Glasshoughton Welfare | Coombs, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Turner, Foster, Lumley, Etia, Grady, Squires
16/02: (H) L 3-2 Carlton Town (**Notts Cup**) | Coombs, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Shaw, Squires, Green, Dickinson, Etia, Grady, Murr
26/02: (H) L 0-3 North Ferriby | Coombs, Geeves, Moody, Stretton, Turner, Squires, Etia, Lumley, Francis, Grady, Murr
- 01/03:** (A) L 2-1 Hallam | Coombs, Geeves, Slack, Stretton, Moody, Squires, Etia, Lumley, Carty, Turner, Murr
05/03: (H) v Armthorpe
09/03: (H) v Retford FC
12/03: (A) v Clipstone
16/03: (H) v Hall Road Rangers
22/03: (A) v Selby Town
26/03: (A) v Nostell Miners Welfare
29/03: (A) v Humber United
- 02/04:** (H) v Shirebrook Town
09/04: (A) v Rainworth Miners Welfare

PLAYER STATISTICS



Name	Position	S	SO	CS	G
Levi Owen	Goalkeeper	31	0	8	0
Marcus Coombs	Goalkeeper	5	0	1	0
Tom Moody	Defence	5	1	0	0
Josh Madin	Defence	18	3	6	0
George Slack	Defence	26	0	7	5
Sam Geeves	Defence	32	2	9	1
Brandon Shaw	Defence	23	1	7	0
Lewis Dalmedo	Defence	3	0	0	1
Liam Smart	Defence	5	1	1	0
Ash Cooper	Defence	4	0	0	0
Jake Squires	Defence	7	2	1	0
Sam Stretton	Midfield	29	2	6	2
Harry Holland	Midfield	8	2	5	1
Lewis Murr	Midfield	10	0	1	0
Ollie Grady	Midfield	23	0	8	6
Sam Martin	Midfield	5	12	4	0
Joe Turner	Midfield	21	2	6	1
Joe Lumley	Midfield	32	2	8	3
Joe Bayne	Midfield	1	6	3	2
Jason Foster	Midfield	2	1	1	0
Sean Dickinson	Midfield	3	2	1	1
Callum Littlejohn	Attack	1	5	1	1
Connor Green	Attack	20	3	7	0
Callam Atkinson	Attack	3	9	3	2
Gav King	Attack	22	2	7	17
Sam Foulds	Attack	4	0	0	3
Ben Partridge	Attack	21	0	6	7
Conor Higginson	Attack	2	1	1	1
Jacques Etia	Attack	16	4	4	6
Luke Francis	Attack	1	0	0	0

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The Kent Comment

A big welcome to you and thank you for buying this matchday programme. Whether you're joining us for the Armthorpe game, Retford game or even both, I hope you enjoy your time with us here in NG22.

I wasn't at the Hallam game so I'm afraid my analysis on it will be brief. Only losing by one, and it sounds like we were very competitive, isn't a bad return against a free-scoring side who will probably win the league come the end of the season. I was happy for Stret to get a goal. Stret knows how much I love him. He doesn't get many headlines so I'm glad he could get on the scoresheet and take some of the limelight.

This is one of the strongest, closest and nice squads I've known in my time at Ollerton. There's been a real sense of camaraderie around the place and especially at the back end of last year, there was a real buzz which showed in some of the results.

I'm not really sure why it hasn't kicked on like we would have hoped but squad availability has definitely been a factor with Steve, Lee and Dan not able to pick their strongest eleven regular enough. We obviously lost Ben Partridge which was a blow but then it's felt like every week we've had 2 or 3 key players at least unavailable which is always going to be an issue for any side.

That isn't to discredit the lads who have played or who have come in though. They're good players and I think we've been a little bit unlucky at times over this run with some of our results. Obviously the management have also moved to bring in a few faces like Luke Francis to help us too so hopefully we can turn a corner.

When I look at our remaining games, I honestly think we could win them all. I know we won't, before someone uses this against me, but on a game-by-game basis I look at them and think there's a chance we could get something with the players we have.

Let's hope these back-to-back games can bring an upturn in fortunes for us.

Up the Town!

KENTY x



MATCH ACTION!

HALLAM 2-1 OLLERTON TOWN

by Nigel Owen

1. Marcus Coombs
2. Sam Geeves **OFF1**
3. George Slack
4. Sam Stretton **@ 1**
5. Tom Moody
6. Jake Squires
7. Jacques Etia
8. Joe Lumley
9. Carlton Carty
10. Joe Turner
11. Lewis Murr
12. Josh Brentnall
14. James Munson **ON1**
15. Sam Martin

Ollerton Town's winless start 2022 stretched to nine games after defeat against league leaders Hallam on Wednesday evening.

However those onlookers who expected the outcome to be a formality were in for a big surprise, as the visitors came close to returning south with a point for their evening's efforts. In truth, the reaction of the home team players and fans at the final whistle was one of relief that their side had hung on to register a 2-1 victory, and had been able to maintain their three point lead at the top of the Northern Counties East League Division One.

The evening hadn't started well for Stephen Bodle's side, missing a number of first team regulars and falling behind with just 48 seconds on the clock. The goal was well worked, with James Gregory picking the ball up the Ollerton left, and getting to the touchline. The Hallam player pulled the ball back into the path of Brandon Bradbury, who stole into the penalty area unmarked, and hit a side-footed volley passed Ollerton 'keeper Marcus Coombs.

Despite the early setback, Ollerton began to build into the game, although the going was extremely tough against a strong Hallam side, kicking down the Sandygate slope. It took the visitors until the 16th minute to get a shot on goal, when Joe Turner won the ball in midfield and played in Carlton Carty, who ran at the Hallam defence before hitting the ball from the edge of the box, but seeing his effort fly over the bar.

With 19 minutes gone, the visitors were dealt another hammer blow when Hallam doubled their lead. Bradbury picked up the ball on halfway and was clattered by Ollerton captain Sam Stretton. The referee played a good advantage with the loose ball being picked up by Liam Royles. He ran at the Ollerton defence, cutting inside of his



marker before wrong-footing Coombs with a superb side foot finish, leaving the Ollerton 'keeper standing.

At that point, the small Ollerton following in a crowd of 325, must have feared that Town were about to find themselves on the wrong end of a 'cricket-score'. They couldn't have been more mistaken and for the remainder of the first half, the visitors enjoyed the better of the possession, creating two good chances to reduce the deficit.

The first of these came on the half hour mark, and came from a move straight out of the Hallam play-book. Jake Squires hurled a long throw into the Hallam penalty box, finding Joe Turner, whose header was turned around the post by Hallam 'keeper Myles Wright. Five minutes later, Wright came to his side's rescue again, parrying a Joe Lumley effort, after the Town midfielder had broken into the penalty area and shot low to the 'keepers left. The danger was cleared by Hallam defender Steve Wankiewicz, who thumped the loose ball to safety.

At the other end, Hallam's best chances both fell to Kieran Watson. The striker, with 15 league goals to his name already this season, headed just over from a corner in the 37th minute, before being foiled by Coombs 5 minutes before the break.

These proved to be the last chances of the half, with the home side returning to the changing room's two goals to the good, and on course for another three points.

Ollerton started the second half well, but Hallam defend the slope well and soaked up pressure from the visitors before creating the first clear chance of the half, when Royles was played in after good work by Bradbury, and hit a low drive which struck Coombs leg before bouncing away to safety.

Ollerton had a great chance to reduce the deficit ten minutes into the half. Jacques Etia picked the ball up inside his own half and used his pace to get free down the visitors left before finding Carty, who hit his shot on the turn, but couldn't keep his effort down and saw the ball fly over Wright's crossbar.

Mid-way through the half, Hallam almost extended their lead when Richard Patterson's effort from the edge of the box was saved low to his right by Coombs after a good Hallam move, with the ball spinning just wide of the post as Max Pemberton looked to score from the rebound.

Then, with 15 minutes left, Ollerton halved the deficit and got themselves right back into the game. After a long throw from Squires was only half cleared, Carty did well to get the ball back into the box, finding Tom Moody at the back post. Moody superbly turned the ball back across goal, finding Stretton who turned the ball in, giving Wright no chance. Ollerton sensed an opportunity and, with 10 minutes left, the visitors won a corner which led to the games most controversial moment. Lewis Murr swung the ball in to the box and, as George Slack ran in to meet the ball, he seemed to be dragged to the ground by Bradley Morton. The visitors were sure it was a penalty but the referee waved away their very vocal appeals. Having looked at replays of the incident, it seemed clear that Slack was brought down and, at the time, there seemed some very concerned players in blue. To add insult to injury, Slack was booked for his protests.

That proved to be the last action of any note, and Hallam were able to see out the remaining minutes quite comfortably, and record their 25th victory of the season.

Ollerton were undoubtedly unlucky not to take something from the game and, given the last 15 minutes, Hallam will probably be relieved to have taken full points.

It is, however, easy to suggest that the home side were lucky to get the victory. The truth of the matter is that Hallam win games without always playing well, and that is how championships are won.

Ollerton returned to Nottinghamshire pointless, but with plenty of pride to take from their performance. They will hope to turn this into a first win of 2022, when they entertain Armthorpe Welfare at Walesby Lane on Saturday.

ARMTHORPE WELFARE

The club was formed in 1926 as part of the Colliery Social Welfare scheme. Throughout its years, it achieved varied but limited success before disbandment in 1974. The lack of senior football in the village was soon recognised, and the club was reformed in 1976 when they registered in the Doncaster Senior League Division Three.

It wasn't long before honours were arriving, starting with the Senior League Championship in 1978/79 season. The following years brought further success by way of the Second Division Championship (1979/80), then the First Division Championship in the 1981/82 season, when they also lifted the West Riding Challenge Cup. Welfare also won the Doncaster Senior League Cup in the 1979/80 season and retained it for the following three seasons.

The 1982/83 season proved to be the most productive season as this included the Doncaster Senior League Championship, the West Riding Challenge Cup, the Goole and Thorne District FA Challenge Cup and the Doncaster Senior League Cup. The reserve team also lifted the Doncaster and District Challenge Trophy.

The following season saw Welfare join the Northern Counties East League in the Northern Second Division. They finished runners-up, which was enough to gain promotion to the Central Division One. Once again, they were promoted at the first time of asking by topping the division in 84/85. It was this year where the goal scoring talents of Martin Johnson; the former Boston FC striker, and Peter Camm saw them score 42 goals between them.

Since the glory days of the early 80's, Welfare maintained their place in the Northern Counties East Premier Division for 32 years from 1985 to 2017, but has not lifted any silverware in that time. They came close in 2007/08 when they were reached the Presidents Cup Final, but were beaten 4-2 (AET) by Liversedge.

The 2009/2010 season was their most successful of recent times, and if not for a late drop in form, could have gained promotion to the Unibond (now Evo-Stik) First Division. They still managed their highest point's haul (79) to finish third, and reached the fourth round of the FA Vase where Wroxham beat them on penalties in the replay. Welfare also reached the League Cup Final, but finished runner-up to Dinnington Town.

Unfortunately, the success of the previous season put a number of players on other clubs radars and there was a high turnover in players. The first half of the 2010/11 season was difficult as the players tried to gel, and form did improve through the second half of the season to end with a 13th place finish. 17 different players played in defence throughout the season, with more than 50 signed on in total meaning stability was a real issue.

Welfare's most high profile signing has been former Doncaster Rovers, Cardiff City and Rotherham professional Leo Fortune-West, who contributed 7 goals in 13 appearances season in his first season. Fortune-West made 29 appearances in his first season but gradually took more of a back seat, assisting manager Des Bennett on the coaching side. Then at the end of 2011/12 season Bennett announced he was to resign after 24 years at the club. Citing a desire to spend more time with his family, and on work commitments, ending his 13 year tenure as manager. He left the club having maintained their status in the NCEL Premier Division throughout his time at the club, and last season guided the team to a 1st qualifying round replay in the FA Cup, and the third round of the FA Vase.

Welfare moved swiftly, and it seemed a natural transition to appoint Fortune-West as manager, with Gary Paton joining him as assistant manager for

2012/13. They obviously had a major rebuilding job to do as would be expected when a long serving manager leaves, and Paton only lasted half a season before moving on and being replaced by Brian Johnston as assistant manager. Johnston brought a host of new faces and despite the quality of some players showing through, there was still inconsistency in team selection and tactics, and Fortune-West was struggling to get his team playing together.

The threat of relegation became very real, and Fortune-West tendered his resignation with five games left to play. Johnston stepped up to the plate and it came down to the final day of the season at home to Glasshoughton Welfare. Welfare required a win to be sure of safety, and despite going 1-0 down, Welfare battled back to win 2-1 and secure Premier Division status and maintain the clubs record of never being relegated in their history at least for another year.

The 2013/14 season started with Johnston continuing as manager on a permanent basis, but it was clear the rebuilding was far from done.

The overall season was an improvement, and the main target of avoiding relegation was achieved well in advance of the end of the season. 2014/15 went much the same way despite requiring a mid-season resurgence after a poor November and December was followed by a dramatic upturn in form where we picked up 16 points from the 24 available between the end of January to the middle of March to gave us a big enough boost to see out the season and finish a place higher than the season before.

Starting the 2015/16 season, manager Brian Johnston was continuing a tough rebuilding job, trying to weed out the unreliable players in the squad to try and maintain some consistency. Having to work the majority of the season without a dedicated assistant made life difficult and in reality it was a very tough season where we narrowly escaped relegation in the final week of the season.

Evidently the toll of trying to survive for the last few years took its toll on the manager and in 2016 we were dealt a huge set back when Brian Johnston decided to resign only weeks into the season. That left us with an extremely difficult period to navigate, and left us in a huge hole to try and get out of and Michael Carmody was given the job of trying to pick the club up. Despite a positive November and December, the transition proved to be too big a hurdle to overcome and we were eventually relegated for the first time since our reformation in 1976. Even with the difficulties on the pitch, it was clear a major rebuilding of the entire club and not just the team was required and so Lee Carmody came in to replace Steve Taylor as Chairman before the end of the 2016/17 season. Lee brought fresh enthusiasm to the role and the club made massive strides during that summer completely refurbishing the tea room into a more welcoming clubhouse and adding people to the committee.

Mike Carmody continued over the next few seasons to try and make his mark on the team gradually building a squad of players to match what he wanted on the pitch. Ultimately though, the disruption of the previous few seasons still lingered and Welfare found it hard to gain any kind of momentum and push up the league, and Carmody's reign was generally a few seasons of mediocrity where we were never really



threatened with relegation, nor did we push into the top half of the table. The 2019/20 season ended abruptly thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, which also disrupted the start of the 2020/21 season. Despite starting the season, both manager and chairman decided to resign their positions and the club once again went in search of a new manager as well as a new chairman.

Welfare moved quickly to appoint Steve Baskerville as chairman. Steve is well known at the club and brings with him a wealth of football experience and knowledge as well as many encouraging football and business contacts. With the season delayed due to Covid-19 the committee were able to take more time in selecting their new manager, eventually choosing ex-Worsborough Bridge manager Lee Morris. Covid-19 continued to cause disruption and the season never really got going and was ultimately curtailed. Despite the rocky road on the field, the club has continued to make strides off the field with the improvement of the facilities, including the pitch and a more welcoming ground for the community. In addition we first added a Development Team in 2018 competing in the Doncaster Rovers Senior League and more recently in 2020 Armthorpe Welfare Under 18's was formed meaning we now have a direct route from the end of junior football into adult football and up to NCEL standard for those that are capable. This route has already proved fruitful, most notably for our now first team vice-captain Harry Brown.

Welfare have worked since the turn of the year in 2021 with local junior club Armthorpe Wolves, and are delighted that the clubs have now merged meaning Armthorpe Welfare in conjunction with Armthorpe Welfare Junior Football Club is truly growing as a community club boasting 10 junior teams ranging from under 7's to under 18's as well as development sessions for 3 to 6 year old's, adult walking football, the two adult men's teams with a view to incorporating girls football soon.

The ground at Church Street has a capacity of 2,500, and it held close to that in 1986 when facing Doncaster Rovers in a charity match.

Connor Trueman

Steven Garner

Alex Varley

Jordan Woodhall

Connor Williamson

Charlie Shelley

Freddie Russell

Jack Wilson

Sam Race

Jack Mawson

Jack Shaw

Max Hatton

Adam Baskerville

Jamie Austin

Noel Burdett

Rhys Plater

Ali Kaid

Joe Pugh

Bailey Rumney

Aiden Tomas

Sam Wright

Manager:
Lee Morris

Assistant:
Rhys Meynell

Player-Coach:
Steve Garner

Sports Rehab:
Charlotte Hewitt

Club info

Established

1926-

Years in NCEL

1983-

Home Colours

All Blue

Away Colours

All Red



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RET FORD FC

Retford FC were formed in 2015 by Chris Woodhead and Kev Swannack. Their vision for the club was that it would become a club where local footballers would be given the opportunity to develop and play at a good standard of non-league football.

They began their existence in the 2015-16 season in the Central Midlands League North. The clubs' first ever competitive game seeing them win 2-0 at Dinnington Town with a brace from Will Tomlinson. During the season Retford would enjoy victories over eventual champions Glapwell and the side that would go on to be promoted Ollerton Town, as they finished 7th in their inaugural season.

The following season 2016-17 would see the club enter the FA Vase for the first time but they would lose 3-0 in the second qualifying round to Step 6 St Andrews. On the field the club improved on their league position of the previous year finishing 6th in the Central Midlands League North. This season included the current record score for the club which was a 15-2 victory away to Welbeck Lions, Will Tomlinson scoring nine goals in the game. A chance of some silverware came in the Floodlit Cup final, but it wasn't to be as Sherwood Colliery triumphed 5-2 in the final at Rainworth's Kirklington Road home. Off the field the club were making plans and at the end of the season they announced an end to the groundshare with rivals Retford United as they moved to a new home.

Chris, Kev and a band of volunteers built the changing rooms and added railings and hard standing to bring our new home up to required standard. Retford began the 2017-18 season with a victory in the first game at their new home 'The Rail', beating Tideswell United 3-

0. They also demonstrated their commitment to local talent with the signing of Retford born goal scorer Adam Scott from Worksop Town. Scott would net 26 times during the season as Retford finished 5th in the league and reached the semi-finals of the league cup. During the season the club would also adopt it's nickname 'The Choughs' another nod towards local history as the chough is feature on the town crest.

During a busy summer 'The Rail' underwent huge renovations as covered standing was added as well as a new snack bar and hard standing on 3 sides of the ground. The addition of a small seated stand at the road end of the ground. The club announced plans for floodlights to be installed and also continued their commitment to developing local players by adding an under 21s and under 18s to the senior club as well as merging with Ordsall Rangers to create a junior section. Rich Williams arrived as Head of Youth Development and the club adopted orange away kits to honour the history of the Rangers moving forwards. The floodlights finally arrived in November.

The Choughs matched off field success with on field success as they were crowned champions of the Central Midlands League, winning promotion to the NCEL. The season was a phenomenal success as we lost just once all year, finishing the season with 22 wins and 3 draws from 26 games and scoring 112 goals in the process. During the season Retford beat title rivals Clay Cross Town 4-1 and 5-3 as well as hammering big spending local rivals Retford United 5-0 in the Retford derby, Will Tomlinson



scoring a hat-trick to the delight of the 706 crowd. The development squad did it's job in supporting the first team and the new U18s would win the league cup in their first season. A 3-2 victory after extra time over Wath Stars at Stocksbridge was there reward for a hard working season.

Refusing to stand still the club has made further improvements to the Rail this summer with the addition of 250 seats, completed hard standing on all four sides of the ground and a new hospitality suite. The junior section has grown from 4 teams to 11 and we have also added a ladies team and can now offer an education program through our link up with Dinnington High School.

As we continue our step journey we do so with the same management and players that have worked hard to put the club on the map, a return to the FA Vase, a first ever appearance in the FA Youth Cup, a committee working hard to deliver the ethos of giving back to the local community, a growing fan base and an ambition to continue to grow 'Our Local Club'.

Jon Kennedy	Joe Edwards
Jamie Housley	Will Tomlinson
Haydn Goddard	Charlie Williams
Graeme Severn	Joel Ward
Liam Bennett	
Liam White	Manager:
Leon Larcombe-Loftus	Chris Woodhead
Will Lyon	Player-Assistant:
Matty Parkin	Will Tomlinson
Matt Robinson	Coach:
Jack Walters	Willie Gamble
George White	Physio:
Jack Johnson	Tom Armstrong
Adam Scott	
Alex Wonham	
Zach Casburn	

Club info	
Established	2015-
Years in NCEL	2019-
Home Colours	All Blue
Away Colours	Orange/Black



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