

# THE HISTORY OF LITHERLAND REMYCA FC

Litherland REMYCA FC began life in the Seaforth area of Liverpool as St Thomas F.C. (1959) Players were recruited mainly from Seaforth and Bootle, and the team later became known as Bootle C.L.B. (Church Lads Brigade).

Links were formed with Bootle YMCA which provided a club base and facilities to train. In 1967, a local working-man's club offered to finance the running of the club. One year later, REMYCA UTD F.C. came into being, the name deriving from connections with both REM Social Club and Bootle YMCA.

The team, after successive championships and earning a reputation for playing attractive football, were accepted into the I Zingari League. The founder members of REMYCA Utd, Bill and Ken Edwards, acted as managers having recently given up their playing careers.



The I Zingari Challenge Cup was claimed in the 1975/76 season as REMYCA Utd began to establish itself as a force within amateur football on Merseyside. The formation of a Premier League led to the club being invited to become inaugural members.

This demanded improved playing facilities and the club left its spiritual home at Moss Lane, Litherland to move to Maghull High School.

A former player, Steve Smith, became manager and began building a squad capable of competing with the best amateur sides in the region.

REMYCA Utd became the I Zingari League Champions in the 1987/88 season and in 1991 became one of the few Merseyside Teams to win the all Lancashire FA Amateur Cup. The 1990's was a significant period in the club's history, and the most successful, as both Premier League and Cup doubles were achieved in seasons 1993/94, 1994/95 and 1995/96 followed by again winning the Challenge Cup in the 1998/99 season.

This period of dominance and success resulted in REMYCA Utd seeking entry to the Liverpool County Combination League to test itself at a higher level again.

REMYCA are now based at Litherland Sports Park. Our mid-long term aims are to work with local councils to identify a site and build a community facility for all sides under the REMYCA banner as well as the local area.

In 2013, the Management Committee of REMYCA began exploring the potential to grow and develop the club. The aim is for a sustainable club - a community based model offering football opportunity with good coaching to all ages from seven years upwards.

The first stage of the new development plan was to add Litherland to the club name so as to identify with the local area and enhance the community ethos of the club.

A key appointment was Colin Begbie as head of youth development, who's experience and network of football contacts has proven invaluable.



The club applied, and secured a league position worthy of promotion to the NWCFL in 2014. In their first season, the club finished 9th and reached the semi final of the Reusch Cup, only to be beaten by Atherton Colls. A first ever appearance in the LCFA Senior Cup saw the club beaten by Skelmersdale United. REMYCA went on to reach the semi final in three consecutive years after this.

In 2015, Phil Stafford was given the job as first team manager following a successful stint at Maghull. In his second season, he led the club to a thrilling battle for promotion, which culminated in defeat at the final hurdle - the playoff final. That game holds the attendance record in NWCFL history, with 1303 supporters flocking to LSP.



In March 2016, the quarter final of the LCFA Senior Cup saw Everton travel to LSP and fall to a solid, containing REMYCA by a goal to nil. This game put the club on the map, and boosted their profile and reputation.

Ultimately, at the end of that season, Stafford decided it was time to move on along with Andy Olsen, and, after a search for a new gaffer, Paul McNally was handed the task of leading REMYCA from the beginning of the 2017/18 season.

McNally put his own stamp on the team, and under huge expectations, guided the club to its first ever promotion and the highest level of football in the history of Litherland REMYCA. Along the way, REMYCA made their first ever appearance in the FA Cup, beating AFC Liverpool 2-0 in a game live streamed across the BBC iPlayer.



In a shock turn of events, McNally left the club by mutual consent at the end of 2017-18, and left the club manager-less for the second straight summer. James Olsen was chosen to be the man to take over in the summer of 2018 and lead the club in its first ever season in the NWCFL Premier Division.

