

# The Wren



Saturday 2nd March 2024



Rainworth MWFC

v

Blackstones FC



UNITED COUNTIES  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

United Counties League  
Division One



UNITED COUNTIES

Match Sponsor— Matt Nettleship

# A Dialogue with Dan



Good afternoon and welcome to Kirklington Road for todays fixture against Blackstones FC.

It's a rare occasion this season that I write this on the back of a win but hopefully now it will be a regular occurrence to the end of the season.

The result on Saturday was a very positive one in a game that had a bit of everything.. For once we got a bit of luck as well which is always nice when it goes for you.

We did our usual though and gifted them a goal but the game swung in our favour when they had a man sent off.

Evan had a really good home debut with 2 assists and Brooksey was clinical in front of goal and in truth they were lucky we only managed to score four after we hit the woodwork twice and missed a chance from point blank range.

We go into todays game knowing that we now sit in a position where we can control what happens to us come the end of the season and in the form guide currently sit in 15th something that wasn't looking likely for long periods of the season .

This is testament to the hard work being put in behind the scenes and on the pitch.

A warm welcome goes to all Blackstones supporters, officials and players hope you enjoy todays game .

The previous fixture saw us on the wrong end of a 2-1 defeat. Although in the game we led 1-0 at half time we were on our bare bones squad wise that day and carried injuries in the game. Blackstones had the bit of extra quality that got them the win so we know what to expect today and what our tasks need to be in order to get a positive results

Let's make some noise and get behind the lads. eleven cup finals to go

Up the Wrens

Hope you enjoy the game.

*Dan*



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**Notts Senior Cup winners 1981-82**

**Notts Alliance Senior Cup winners 1971-78-82-83-95**

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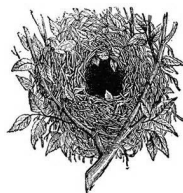


**Last**  
**My neighbours complained about me**  
**groaning too loud having sex in the morning...**

**If they only knew I was just trying to put my**  
**socks on!!**

***Del Boy***

# Welcome to the Wrens Nest



WELCOME, one and all, to this Afternoons United Counties League match against Blackstones FC. Welcome especially to all who have joined us from Thorney Stadium. We hope you will all enjoy a good afternoons entertainment, and will join us in the Welfare building across the road for a post-match drink and chat.

A special welcome, too, to any first time visitors to the ground, and any members of the ground-hopping fraternity who may be with us today. We hope you will have a pleasant stay with us and travel home safely with good memories of our club and our village.

And, to you all, enjoy the match.

## YOUR MATCH PROGRAMME

Winner of the Frank Harwood award for the Central Midlands League programme of the Year 2005-06

Non-League Daily Programme of the Year for steps 5-7 2006-07

Programme Monthly best in Central Midlands League 2006-07

Midlands Programme Awards best in Northern Counties East Division  
One 2007-08

Most Re-cycled Rubbish Award, , Newark & Sherwood Council 2017-22



Oh yes! those programme awards, that was when it was done by a professional, our very own 'Gordon Foster'. Unfortunately it's gone downhill since I took over.

My wife said, "Our new neighbours are so in love, he kisses her, strokes her hair and hugs her".

"Why don't you do that?"

I said, "Because I don't know her that well yet!!"

My friend asked me where he could meet women who scream loudly in bed.

I took him to the Maternity Ward!!

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# The Wren's Warble

By Paul Fryer



Well another good week at the office when we collected a rarity this season three points. It was enough to take us off bottom although we have played more games than those around us. The most pleasing thing was although we are still gifting goals we are at last finishing some of the excellent chances we have created all season.

Today's opponents will give us a major test, on the three occasions we have met, once in the FA Vase and twice in the league we have lost them all. We will be hoping today is our first victory, however whatever happens it will not define our season there are a number of 'Six pointers' on the horizon.

I was happy for Callum Brooks on Saturday, for a lot of the season he has had to carry our forward line, as the clubs leading goal scorers chart shows. Against Leicester St Andrews he got a deserved hat-trick, a feat helped by the new look forward line that we now process. The club owes Callum a huge 'thank you' for staying at the club when he has had a lot of clubs submitting '7 days' for him.

Another huge vote of thanks must go to Matt Nettleship whose sponsorship has helped keep the club on an even keel during these testing financial times. We would also like to thank Rainworth Parish Council for donating the money to pay for the cost of repairs after the water ingress due to the failure of the cold water system and subsequent damage, in the main Changing Rooms and 'T' Bar, it was much appreciated.

Behind the scenes planning is already in preparation for the coming season and I will be updating you later in the season. Anyone considering sponsorship for next season should contact Debbie in the 'T' Bar during or after the match.

*Enjoy the match*

# Blackstones FC

## History

The first club with links with Blackstones was the Rutland Ironworks; the club's headquarters were the Half Moon Inn while matches were played on Ryhall Road, Stamford. The first trace of the Ironworks was recorded in 1891, the local press reported them beating Stamford Town Reserves 1-0. By the 1892-93 season the Ironworks were the best team around, dislodging the longer established Town, but in the summer of 1894 the clubs merged.

The Great War was almost over by the time the next Blackstones Club emerged, joining the Peterborough League in 1918 winning the championship that season. However, the club's success, indeed its life was short-lived withdrawing from league the following season. 1921 the club re-emerged under a new name Rutland Engineering Works. The Peterborough League of the twenties was formidable with the likes of Spalding, Bourne and Yaxley. The club opted for more local competitions, in 1929-30 they lined up in both the Stamford Amateur and Deepings Leagues. In 1929-30 they won the championship of both competitions. By 1933 the club again disappeared from the scene. In 1938 the club by now known as Blackstones returned to action, again playing in two leagues Peterborough and Stamford Amateur Leagues. Both leagues abandoned during the Second World War. In 1949 the club returned to the Peterborough League but in 1951 they re-joined the Stamford Amateur League. 1959 saw them re-join the Peterborough League and this was to last 25 years. 1960-1961 was one of the club's most successful years winning promotion to Division Two and capturing four local cup competitions. Further success followed a year later when the Division Two title was won and promotion to Division One again followed. However, the following season saw them relegated again. 1969 once more saw the club gain promotion back into Division One. 1975-76 the clubs won Division One and along with the improving facilities at Lincoln Road were promoted to the Premier League. The eight seasons at that level saw a best finishing place of fourth in 1977-78. Also during 1978 they were accepted into the FA. Vase for the first time.

In the seventies, the club had established a youth policy under the guidance of Pete Thomas and this was a great success. The best-known player to emerge from this policy was Alan Nelson who was signed by Newcastle United and later transferred to Southamton for a fee of £300,000.

In 1984 the club entered senior football by joining the United Counties League Division One. 1987 saw the Stones (as they were now nicknamed) promoted to the Premier Division, finishing runners-up to Northampton Spencer. 1987-88 had also seen Reserves join the UCL. By 1990 they completed the Double, winning the Reserve Division One title and Reserve Knockout Cup. In 1987 floodlights were installed. The following season the lights were officially opened with Aston Villa sending a strong side to open them, the result being a 2-2 draw. 1991-92 season saw the Stones have an exciting FA Cup run, beating Bishops Cleeve in a First Qualifying Round replay at Lincoln Road 2-0. Stones made their exit in the next round losing by a single goal to Heybridge Swifts. 1992-93 saw the Stones land their first major trophy, the Lincs Senior Cup A. In a dramatic final against Bourne, Stones ran out 2-1 winners after extra time.

Since entering the Premier Division our best finish in that time is 6th place. Since winning the Lincs Cup in 1993 we then reached two further Cup Finals, losing both! 1995 we lost 5-1 to Bedford Town in the Hinchingbrooke Cup Final at St Neots Town and then in 1997 we lost 3-1 to Glapwell in the Evans Halshaw Floodlit Cup Final at Ilkeston Town.

The Stones have had six Chairmen since joining the United Counties League, Andy MacDonald, Bill Sewell, Darren Laughton, Kevin Boor, K.Doyle and Gary Peace. We have also had 12 Managers in that period, Ian Jarvie, Chris Corby, Steve Blades, Dominic Genovese, Vince Adams, Ian Jackson, Mel Landin, Kevin Flynn, Tony Lowther, D.Bird and Joint M. Goode and D. Jarvis, Dave Stratton, Gary Peace, Phil Gadsby and Andy Lodge.

Season 2003-04 proved to be yet another successful one on the "Cup Front" for the Club. Four finals were reached, with the first team "winning" the County Senior 'A Cup for the second time but losing in the Hinchingbrooke Cup Final. Meanwhile the Reserves went one better in their League Knockout Cup, beating Spalding United in the final but losing in the final of the Ancaster Cup. Both sides improved their position in the League and off the field further improvements were made to Lincoln Road.

003-2004, 2007-2008 and 2010-2011 seasons all ended with the senior team winning the Lincs Senior Trophy. Season 2012/13 Was dramatic. December 2013 saw managers Jarvis and Goode resign followed by 8 senior players, new manager Dave Stratton, due to financial restraints within the club, could not attract established UCL players with the result that Blackstone's finished in a relegation position. After 23 years in the Premier League Stones were relegated. Season 2013/14 Saw Stones struggling to adapt to Division 1 Football the early Season results were disappointing resulting in a change of Manager, in early September, Dave Stratton was replaced by Chairman Gary Peace. Results improved but not sufficient enough, finishing third from bottom.

Season 2014/15, Gary stood aside for Phil Gadsby who brought in player and the season began to look better, but although reaching the final of the Lincs Trophy, losing on penalties to Winterton Rangers, and Winning the Daniels Cup against Stamford Lions, Stones finished 17th that year. The following season was yet another challenge struggling to string results together finishing mid table, then with results failing to materialise in the 2016/17 season and a poor Christmas period a managerial change took place and Andy Lodge took the reins. Now to see what Andy can achieve in the 2017/18 Season. Mid November Andy Lodge stood down from the position of manager and was succeeded by Dan French and Lee Clarke in a joint role.

Season 2017/18 with Dan and Lee at the helm saw a mixed bag of results as the new management got to grips with the challenges of the UCL, finishing 8th in the league, and once more reaching the final of the Daniels cup and for the second time in 3 years lifted the trophy beating Cottesmore Amateurs 2-1 on the day.



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# Wrens Match

Date	Opponents	F-A	Att.	Goal Scorers
July				
29	West Bridgford FC	0v3	73	
Aug				
5	Kirby Muxloe	0v1	107	
8	Sandiacre Town FC	0v2	84	
12	Leicester St Andrews FC	0v2	61	
19	Birstall United FC	1v3	69	Fletcher
22	Newark Town FC	2v6	90	Tracey 2
26	Sleaford Town FC (FA Vase) (3v4 Pens) Lost	3v3	119	Bedford 2; Brooks
29	Ollerton Town (Cup)	3v2	77	Brooks; Marshall; Bengier
Sept				
2	Blackstones FC	1v2	106	Fletcher
5	Sherwood Colliery FC (L. Cup)	1v5	79	Brooks
9	Asfordby FC	2v2	66	Fletcher; Gee
16	Southwell City FC	3v3	76	Brooks 2; Marshall
19	Dunkirk FC	5v2	58	Brooks 2, Butcher-Simpson; Gee; Arnold
23	Harrowby United FC	1v5	66	Marshall
26	Selston FC	3v1	60	Hendley; Brooks; Butcher-Simpson
Oct				
7	Gedling MWFC	0v6	108	
14	Bourne Town FC	0v3	64	
17	Dunkirk FC (Cup)	3v1	40	Tracey; Arnold; Marshall
28	Lutterworth Athletic FC	1v1	58	Brooks
Nov				
4	West Bridgford FC	0v1	57	
8	Eastwood CFC (Cup)	0v5	98	
11	Holwell Sports FC	2v3	62	Gee; OG

# Facts 23—24

Date	Opponents	F-A	Att	Goal Scorers
Nov				
18	Gedling MWFC	4v1	74	Brooks 2; Phythian; Fletcher
25	Radford FC	1v4	62	Brooks
Dec				
16	Clifton All Whites FC	1v4	40	Brooks
23	Harrowby United FC	0v2	118	
26	Clipstone FC	2v5	100	Brooks 2
Jan				
13	Kirby Muxloe FC	0v5	48	
24	Clifton All Whites FC	2v4	40	McKernan; Brooks
27	Holwell Sports FC	2v1	68	Goodwin; Brooks
Feb				
3	Bourne Town FC	0v6	292	
10	Dunkirk FC	2v4	57	Brooks; Bedford
17	Newark Town FC	1v1	182	Bedford
24	Leicester St Andrews	4v1	53	Fletcher; Brooks 3
Mar				
2	Blackstones FC			
9	Saffron Dynamo FC			
16	Lutterworth Athletic FC			
19	Sandiacre Town FC			
23	Radford FC			
27	Selston FC			
30	Saffron Dynamo FC			
Apr				
1	Clipstone FC			
6	Asfordby FC			
10	Southwell City FC			
20	Birstall United Social FC			

Home Matches in Bold type



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Registered Colours: White-Green Hoops/Green/  
White

Alternative Colours: All Blue

Distance: 12 miles

Estimated Travelling Time: 30 minutes

## Thoughts for the Day

*'If you see me eating salad, I've been kidnapped and I'm trying to signal you!'*

~~~~~

*'I'm not fat, I'm just much easier to see!'*

~~~~~

*'I hate people who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow, I don't even know what I'm doing now.'*



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Fri	11:30am—11pm
Sat	11:30am—10pm
Sun	4:30pm - 10pm

[www.thejunctionrainworth.co.uk](http://www.thejunctionrainworth.co.uk)

## A moment with Bob.

Most people at the club know our 'Golden Goal Seller' Bob Holmes and as well as telling would be punters of the 'special offers', he is also known for his humour. Ok I'll let you be the judge of that.

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse goes up to the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins."

"That's odd," answers the man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!"

She says to the second guy, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!"

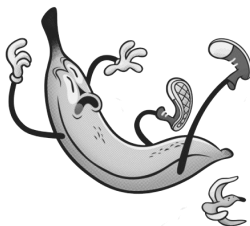
"That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!"

The nurse then tells the third man, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!"

"That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!"

The last man is groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?", the others ask.

"I work for 7 Up!"



# Rainworth Prevail in Short Handed Game

## Rainworth MWFC 4 v 1 Leicester St

Andrews FC

By Paul Fryer

A controversial game saw two reds, a penalty scored then disallowed, a stonewall penalty not given and the customary Rainworth gift to the opposition.

After ninety minutes Rainworth ran out deserved winners 4-1 to continue their pursuit of survival and move off bottom.

The game saw Rainworth start as they finished last Saturday on the front foot when in the opening minute Ewan Fortune-West's effort on the turn went inches wide of the far upright.

Four minutes later after a great run by Fortune-West found Callum Brooks who's cross was put into Fortune-West's path by Tommy Bedford, but his goal bound effort was blocked. Bedford's follow up effort flew inches wide of the upright with Luke McAdam beaten.

Fortune-West continued to be a threat and his effort in the 9th minute was gathered at the second attempt by McAdam. Leicester St Andrews first attempt on goal saw Tom Hill's effort from distance go well wide.

The opening goal of the game came against the run of play when James Leverton's clearance struck Shaun Barber who reacted first to place his effort into the far corner for the opening goal.

Rainworth were forced into an early substitution in the 28th minute when Josh Nettleship was unable to continue and was replaced by Sam Allcock. Rainworth continued to threaten the St Andrews goal and in the 31st minute they were unlucky when Bedford beat McAdam only to see his effort rebound off the upright.

The first moment of controversy came in the 35th minute when Barber's lunge left Callum Fletcher prostrate in the Rainworth penalty area. The referee initially showed Barber a Yellow card but after a torrent of expletives this was upgraded to a Red and St Andrews were down to ten men.

Rainworth immediately went up the field and Mason Wilson-Rhiney's effort from the edge of the box was turned around the post by McAdam at the expense of a corner. From the resultant corner Fletcher emphatically scored Rainworth's equaliser driving his effort into the roof of the net.

Two minutes later and Rainworth took the lead after a fine run and cross by Bedford found Brooks and he made no mistake, finding the bottom corner. They should have increased their lead a few minutes later but Mason Gee rushed his effort and lifted it over the bar when well placed.

Rainworth did increase their lead in added time when Fortune-West's headed pass found Brooks who made no mistake.

Rainworth have a habit of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory and they continued that theme in the 50th minute. After a lax piece of defending St Andrews broke into the area and Oliver Brown was adjudged to have brought down Josh Bond. The referee duly pointed to the spot and to the home fans dismay promptly showed Brown a Red card deeming him to be the last man. Andy Melville appeared to have converted the penalty only for it to be disallowed seconds later, the referee adjudging he had kicked the ball twice.

Rainworth made their second substitution bringing on Reece O'Donnell for the injured Fortune-West. Rainworth almost got a fourth when Liam Arnold's header from Gee's free kick went inches the wrong side of the upright. Two minutes later McAdam did well to beat Brooks to the ball after another excellent passage of play. A minute later and they got their fourth when Brooks completed his hat trick.

The 70th minute provided yet another moment of controversy when the majority of the crowd expected the referee to point to the spot when Brooks was brought down from behind. To their dismay he ignored the appeals and waved play on.

Three minutes later they were unlucky not to score when Fletcher's free kick came back off the upright with McAdam beaten. Rainworth made a double substitution bringing on George McKernan and Ethan Wilkinson for Brooks and Arnold. Shortly afterwards they made their final one bringing on Ryan Faulconbridge for Bedford.

Rainworth continue to threaten but were unable to add to their tally as the referee blew for full time.

Today's performance continued to give Rainworth hope of survival and they will go into the final quarter of the season knowing that survival is now a real possibility.

RAINWORTH MWFC: Leverton; Thomas; Brown; Fletcher; Arnold (McKernan); Rhiney-Mason; Gee; Nettleship (Allcock); Bedford (Faulconbridge); Fortune-West (O'Donnell); Brooks (Wilkinson)

# Rainworth MWFC

## Leading Scorers

Name	League	Cup	Total
Brooks	18	3	21
Fletcher	5	0	5
Bedford	2	2	4
Marshall*	2	2	4
Tracey	2	1	3
Gee	3	0	3
Butcher-Simpson	2	0	2
Arnold	1	1	2
Benger*	0	1	1
Phythain	1	0	1
Hendley*	1	0	1
McKernan	1	0	1
Goodwin	1	0	1
Own Goals	1	0	1

\* No longer with the club



## Who's Who at Rainworth MWFC



<b>President</b>	<b>Paul Gallent</b>
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	<b>Ann Martin ; Kevin Gill*</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Les Lee*</b>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Phil Colledge</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Les Lee*</b>
<b>Matchday secretary:</b>	<b>Paul Fryer*</b>
<b>Treasurer Department:</b>	<b>Anne Lee, Les Lee* &amp; Paul Fryer*</b>
<b>Covid19 Officer:</b>	<b>Les Lee*</b>
<b>Player Registrations:</b>	<b>Paul Fryer*</b>
<b>Safety officer:</b>	<b>Les Lee*</b>
<b>Groundsmen:</b>	<b>Kevin Gill* Gary Keay*, Matt Nettleship</b>
<b>Gate stewards:</b>	<b>Roy Timms*; Tom Cooper**</b>
<b>Commercial Manager:</b>	
<b>Ground Fundraising:</b>	<b>Robert Holmes**</b>
<b>Ground Maintenance:</b>	<b>Tom Cooper***</b>

### **MEDIA**

<b>Media manager:</b>	<b>Paul Fryer*</b>
<b>Media Team:</b>	<b>Bob Holmes**: Tom Cooper**</b>
<b>Match Reports:</b>	<b>Paul Fryer*,</b>
<b>Webmasters:</b>	<b>Gordon Foster*, Paul Fryer*</b>
<b>Club Photographer:</b>	<b>Martin Warnes*</b>
<b>Facebook Editor:</b>	<b>Adam Cooper</b>

### **HOSPITALITY**

<b>Hospitality hosts:</b>	<b>Joan Foster, June Davies Karen Davies Glenis Gill</b>
<b>'T' Bar:</b>	<b>Deb &amp; Phil Colledge</b>
<b>Ladies of Leisure:</b>	<b>Ann Martin, Anne Lee</b>

### **TEAM MANAGEMENT**

<b>Management:</b>	<b>Ash Barber &amp; Dan Kirk</b>
<b>Physio:</b>	<b>Ben Elliott</b>
<b>U21 Manager:</b>	<b>Matt Nettleship</b>

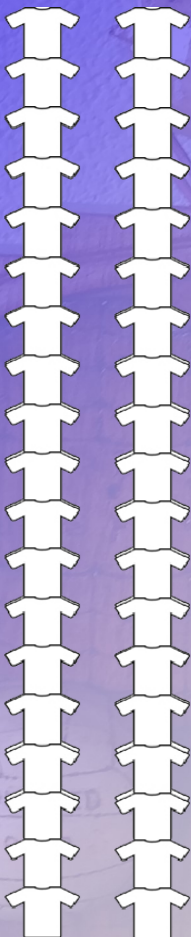
*\*denotes management committee member*

# Today's Squads

*Rainworth MWFC from  
(All Navy)*

*Blackstones FC  
from (Green/Black)*

James Culf  
Callum Brooks  
Callum Fletcher  
Liam Arnold  
Harley Butcher-Simpson  
Josh Nettleship  
Tom Berry  
Ethan Wilkinson  
James Leverton  
Ryan Faulconbridge  
Oliver Brown  
Mason Gee  
Blake Goucher  
Reece O'Donnell  
Sam Allcock  
Kamau Balayi  
Matt Goodwin  
George McKernan  
Mason Wilson-Rhiney  
Evan Fortune-West  
Tommy Bedford  
Harvey Thomas



Martin Tudosa  
Joshua Barrett  
William Bestwick  
Johan Coughlan  
Kieran Duffy-Weekes  
Tom Edwards  
Alfie Ferguson  
Edmunds Grunsteins  
Cameron Harris  
Tiago Nassunculo  
Harry Peasgood  
Logan Robnson  
Kyle Rowell  
Nathan Rudman  
Niall Shackleton  
Jamie Short  
Eddie Thorpe  
Scott Waumsley  
Simon Dalton

**WELCOME TO TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS**

*Referee ....*

*Mr. Tim Eagles  
and his assistants ....*

*Mr. Robin Bourne  
Mr. Barry Polkey*