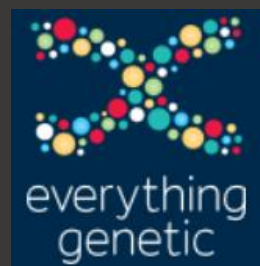


THE DABBER



NANTWICH TOWN
VS
CLITHEROE
Saturday 26th August 2023
KICK OFF 15:00

Official matchday programme of Nantwich Town FC

CLUB DETAILS & HONOURS

Nantwich Town Football Club Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Company No: 0732 8670

The Swansway Stadium,
Waterlode, Nantwich, CW5 5BS

Telephone: 01270 621771

County Affiliation: Cheshire FA

Year Formed: 1884

At the Top

President: Frank Blunstone

Life Vice-Presidents:

Peter Temmen & Albert Pye

Chairman: Jon Gold

Vice-Chairman: John Dunning

Directors: Mark Hawkins, John Dunning,
Clive Jackson, Dave Clapp, Dan
Dunning-Cole, Tim Crighton, Keith
Knight

Company Secretary: John Dunning

Football Officials

Manager: Paul Carden

Assistant Manager: Jay Speare

Coaches: Darren Moss & Adam Carden

Head Physio: Callum Carey

Behind the Scenes

Club Secretary: Gary Richardson

General Manager: Gary Richardson

Press Officers: Liam Price, Adam
Bateman

Programme Editor: Carl Thorpe

Club Photographer: Jonathan White

Groundsman: Matt McAuley

Stadium & Safety Officer: Bob Melling

Social Networks:

Twitter: @TheDabbers

Facebook: /nantwichtownfc

YouTube: Nantwich Town FC

Instagram: officialnantwichtownfc

CLUB HONOURS

LEAGUE COMPETITION:

Cheshire County League:

Champions – 1980/81

Mid-Cheshire League:

Champions – 1963/64

Runners-Up – 1950/51, 1961/62, 1964/65

Crewe Amateur Combination League:

Champions – 1946/47

Cheshire League:

Division One Runners Up – 1900/01

Shropshire & District League:

Runners-Up – 1891/92

Manchester League:

Runners-Up – 1966/67

Northern Premier League:

Div 1 South – Play-Off Winners – 2007/08

Premier Division Play-Off Final – 2008/09

CUP COMPETITION:

Cheshire Senior Cup Winners – 1932/33,

1975/76, 2007/08, 2011/12, 2017/18,

2018/19

FA Vase Winners – 2005/06

FA Trophy Semi Finalist – 2015/16

FA Cup First Round – 2011/12, 2017/18,
2019/20

North West Counties League Cup
Winners – 1994/95

Mid Cheshire League Cup Winners –
1961/62, 1963/64

CLITHEROE - MATCH PREVIEW

Good afternoon and welcome to the Swansway Stadium for this afternoons Division One West match against Clitheroe. We would like to welcome all the directors, staff, players and supporters associated with Clitheroe this afternoon.

It's a big day in the recent history of Nantwich Town, as Saturday sees the club play its first ever official game on an artificial pitch in our own stadium, against Clitheroe.

Clitheroe, row, row your boat

It's been one win, one draw and one loss for Clitheroe so far in the PitchingIn NPL West. They beat City of Liverpool on opening day, drew with Trafford, and lost 1-0 to Stalybridge last time out to sit 8th in the very early table.

They have also progressed in the FA Cup, beating Padiham 5-2 and earning an entertaining-looking tie against Hyde United at home in the next round.

Last Time Out

It's been a while since we last played Clitheroe competitively, 20 years in fact, in the 2003/04 season. The Dabbers have won 11 and lost 18 of our 33 historic meetings going back to 1984.

They are the team who have finished the highest last season that the Dabbers have faced so far, finishing 4th in this league last season. In the play-off semi-finals, they were defeated by eventual play-off winners Workington.

Players to Watch

Veron Parry and Sefton Gonzales both have 2 goals each from the first few games. Then, in their FA Cup game, John McGrath hit a hat trick in the last 15 minutes of the game to secure the win, so there is plenty of goalscoring threat in this Clitheroe side.

Match Information

To get your tickets so you can say 'I was there' for the first game on our new 3G pitch. You can also buy them on the gate.

Commentary will come from The Cat Radio if you can't make it today.





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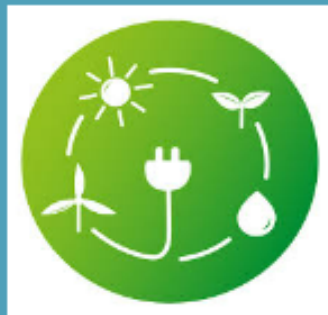


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VAUXHALL MOTORS – MATCH REPORT

On a night where the conditions were like a finely tuned car, just right and ready to go, Nantwich were looking to get back on track, after the game against Avro.

Manager Paul Corden looked to change things up with Kai Evans replacing Callum Saunders up front.

Leek Town were the very kind hosts of this game, due to the repair work that is still going on at the Swansway Stadium.

It was the visitors though, who early on looked to take charge of the game, Sean Smith had the first true effort of the game, thankfully his shot was over Scott Maloney's bar. Michael Burkey was the next to test Maloney, but he was equal to the shot.

The visitors, looked to continue to press their advantage, and to turn that into the opening goal, however the Nantwich defence stood firm against all of what they could throw at them, despite the mounting pressure.

The game was on a knife edge, with either side looking to gain that first crucial game changing goal.

Shortly before half time, it was the nominated home side, the Dabbers, which did just that, despite all of Vauxhall's ball domination. It was an Ali double, as first of all from a lovely ball from Ahmed Ali, it was Mohamud Ali that slotted the ball home. That was a goal against the run of play at the time, but one that the two brothers will no doubt cherish.

From there, that seemed to inspire Vauxhall more than Nantwich, as the pattern of play was the visitors to have plenty of the ball, but they never really troubled Scott Maloney in the home goal. It was a case of possession without any penetration, and manager Paul Carden would have been happy enough if that were to have remained the case at the time.

Slowly, Nantwich managed to change the tide of momentum, Steven Hewitt shot from distance, but it went just wide of Sam Booth's post. That seemed to galvanise the home side, and not to long after, and just before half time, they doubled their lead, in what was fast becoming a war of attrition, and a very combative game. Kai Evans found himself free, and he made a run through the middle of the defence, and with a great lob, he doubled the Dabbers lead, they and him were really motoring along nicely towards the half time break.

The whistle soon blew afterwards, and the home side had an advantage that they full deserved.

VAUXHALL MOTORS – MATCH REPORT

After the break, the pattern of the first half was resumed, of Vauxhall Motors having lots of possession, looking very threatening, but just lacking that killer final touch, that was despite the best efforts of first of all Sam Hughes firing a great curling effort, which went wide, and a Benjamin Duffton-Kelly free header going over the bar. The Dabbers defence was still managing to hold the visitors to manageable efforts, that didn't overly trouble the home side's goalkeeper.

Just when the visitors were looking for a way back into the game, Kai Evans decided to put on the after burners, as he made a fantastic solo run down the wing, dribbling at pace to get past at least two players to force a corner. From that resulting corner, it was the captain, Troy Bourne, who rose highest, to make it three goals for the home side. If there were such things as assists for assists, then that would have to go to Kai Evans, as that goal owed a lot to his persistence, tenacity, and never give up attitude, his determination to not give up on a lost cause, directly led to that goal. From there, that goal seemed to kill of the hope and fight from Vauxhall, they seemed to admit defeat, and didn't look to push forward to get even a consolation goal.

That is how the game finished, with Nantwich winning by three clear goals.

In the end, it was a very successful first win of the season for Paul Carden's side, and they will now hope this win can be a springboard to more of them this season, starting with the big FA Cup qualifying game away to Skemersdale United on Friday night.

Nantwich Town (3): Scott Maloney, Joel Connolly, Lewis Sinnott, Nathan Okome, Troy Bourne, Mohamud Ali, Steven Hewitt, Ahmed Ali, Kai Evans (AJ Leitch-Smith 68), Sean Cooke (Caspar Hughes 65), Byron Harrison (Jack Sherratt 79)

Subs not used: Callum Saunders, Perry Bircumshaw

Goals: Mohamud Ali (29), Kai Evans (44), Troy Bourne (64)

Vauxhall Motors (0): Sam Booth, Ben Duffton-Kelly, Sean Smith, Samuel Hughes, Adam Hughes, Bobbie Beaumont, Michael Burkey (Jordan Deer 69), Hadyn Cooper (Stephen Rigby 76), Lewis Buckley, Ben Holmes (Bobbie McDonnell 60), Joe Brandon

Subs not used: George Nugent, Thomas Mitchell

Attendance – 168 (Played at Leek Town FC)





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CLITHEROE – BRIEF HISTORY IN TIME



CLUB INFO

Club Name: Clitheroe F.C.
Year Founded: 1891
Club Nickname: The Blues
Current Ground: Shawbridge
Current Manager: Dave Dempsey



CUP HISTORY

Lancashire Trophy: Winners – 1985
NWC Floodlit Trophy: Winners – 1999
FA Cup: 3rd Qualifying – 5 times
FA Trophy: 1st Round – 2005/06
FA Vase: Runners Up – 1995/96



LEAGUE HISTORY

Lancs Combination Div Two: Champions – 1959/60
Lancs Combination Div One: Champions – 1979/80
NW Counties Div Three: Champions – 1983/84
NW Counties Div Two: Champions – 1984/85
NW Counties Div One: Champions – 1985/86, 2003/04

LAST 5 LEAGUE SEASONS:

Season	League	POS	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
2018-19	NPL 1W	18/20	38	7	7	24	45	88	28
2019-20	NPL 1NW	ABAN	30	12	8	10	46	39	44 *
2020-21	NPL 1NW	ABAN	9	5	3	1	15	9	18 *
2021-22	NPL 1W	6/20	38	21	8	9	78	44	71
2022-23	NPL 1W	4/20	38	19	7	12	70	50	64

* 2019-20 & 2020-21 Season both curtailed due to COVID-19

CLITHEROE - HISTORY

The early years of Clitheroe FC are shrouded in mystery, although it is clear that we do not have an unbroken lineage all the way back to 1877. That said, in that time, a number of teams could claim to be the town team and several of them plied their trade at Shawbridge. However, it took over 40 years for the confusion to be settled, with matters not being helped by the Clitheroe Advertiser not being around in the very early years.

What is clear is that in 1877 the first town team, called Clitheroe FC, took to the field for the first time. As legend has it, they did indeed play against Blackburn Rovers at Swan Meadows (off Kirkmoor Road) and carried on for several years before closing down. They then reformed in 1890 and went on to win the Lancashire Cup in 1892 and took their place in the North East Lancashire League. Not long after, they disappeared but this was not the end of football in Clitheroe. Far from it – indeed several teams could lay claim to being the intermediate predecessor to our current club, before a Clitheroe FC team stepped out at Shawbridge in the Lancashire Combination in 1925-26.

In 1899, Market Place Rovers came into being and played their football at Shawbridge, before becoming Clitheroe Congregationalists the following season. This was always assumed to provide a religious fig leaf to allow them to take their place in the Blackburn Sunday League. In 1902 they became Clitheroe Central, playing in the Lancashire Combination, before going bust in 1910, as a result of their goalkeeper breaking his leg and suing the club. As the club had neither insurance nor assets, they declared themselves bankrupt, a fact which was reported in The Times.

Around the same time, a team called Clitheroe Amateurs had started up in 1909 and whilst records are almost non-existent from this point until after the 1914-18 Great War, records show that they sought permission from the FA to use the name Clitheroe FC in 1921. This was granted and in 1924-25 they won the North East Lancashire Combination. After a well-attended public meeting, the club decided to apply to join the Lancashire Combination. A supporters' club sought 1,000 members to fund developments and on 29 August 1925, the mayor opened the stand and dressing rooms at the newly enlarged Shawbridge ground. Darwen were the visiting club for the opening game.

The Lancashire Combination Cup in 1934-5 and the League Championship in 1979-80 was all that the club had to show for its efforts before the creation of the North West Counties league in 1982. That was soon to change. Although Clitheroe were put into the Third Division of the NWCFL at its inception in 1982 due to the state of the ground, there followed the most successful period in the club's long history under the stewardship of Eric Whalley, subsequently manager and Chairman of Accrington Stanley FC.

CLITHEROE - HISTORY

He assembled one of the best non-league sides in the North of England and won back-to-back Championships in the Third, Second and First divisions, as well as securing the Lancashire Cup for the first time in 50 years, thanks to a solitary strike from local lad Eric Geldard. This was all the more impressive when one considers that the Division 1 was effectively Level 3 in the non-league pyramid. Captained by Mick Ashcroft and containing extravagant talents such as John Taylor and Steve Mullen, possibly the best player ever to play for the Blues, Clitheroe regularly attracted bumper gates, with the championship winning season seeing three crowds over 1,000. Cracks started to appear when Whalley took over the manager's seat at Accrington. To compound matters, the new Northern Premier Division 1 was formed, but a lack of floodlights meant the Blues could not take their rightful place and they found teams effectively leapfrogging them.

It was not until the mid-nineties that the Club recovered from this setback and started to fulfil its potential. It became a force in the NWCFL Division 1 again and also made itself known on the national FA Vase stage. Having been pipped to the title in 1994-95 by Bradford PA in controversial circumstances, the following season saw possibly the highlight of the club's history when the Blues reached the Vase Final under the joint managership of Dennis Underwood and Gary Butcher after an epic two-legged Semi-Final win against Mangotsfield United of Bristol. 2,000 people were on Shawbridge for the second leg when a deflected goal saw the Blues home with seven minutes of extra time remaining. The Final pitted the Blues against a powerful Brigg side and a 3-0 reverse in front of 7,500 fans was a fair reflection of the play. In the close season, Clitheroe also received their record transfer fee, £45,000, from Crystal Palace for goalkeeper Carlo Nash.

The Wembley experience turned the Blues into a Vase side and a Quarter Final defeat against Tiverton in 1998/99 and a two-leg reverse against Taunton in the 2000/01 semi-final gave the Blues national prominence. Dave Burgess stood down at the end of the season and central defender Lee Sculpher took over as player manager. In 2002/3, Clitheroe again finished as league runners up and lost to Mossley at Gigg Lane in the League Cup Final. Early cup exits the following season enabled the Blues to concentrate on the league and superb away form saw the Blues capture the 2003/04 league title on the final day of the season at Nantwich where Blues legend Neil Reynolds sparked bedlam when he thumped a 25 yarder into the top corner with six minutes of the season remaining.

High hopes accompanied Clitheroe's first foray into the Unibond League in 2004/05, but the club never fully recovered from manager Lee Sculpher resigning after a handful of games into the new season. He was succeeded by Paul Byrom who then quit in the close season. Tommy Lawson was appointed manager for the 2005/06 season, but he was relieved of his duties in early 2006, to be replaced on a temporary basis by Mark Smitheringale. He too left before the 2006/07 season started and his assistant Chris Stammers stepped up to the plate before resigning after a 10-1 thumping away to Conference North Kettering in the FA Trophy.

CLITHEROE - HISTORY

The then chairman Carl Garner offered the job to Neil Reynolds and Pete Smith at the turn of 2007, before the latter took on the role in his own right at the end of the 2008/09 season. 2009/10 and 2010/11 saw Clitheroe finishing in eighth and sixth respectively, the highest league placings in the club's history. The end of the 10/11 season also had a unique twist with Carl Garner stepping down as chairman after four years to replace Pete Smith as manager, in the process going unbeaten throughout April and taking the manager of the month prize. Garner was replaced in the role of chair by his long-standing deputy Anne Barker.

Despite the great end to the previous campaign, the 2011/12 season under Garner's leadership was ultimately disappointing, although it had started so brightly with another manager of the month award. Form quickly tailed off and huge player turnover ensued, before Garner resigned and the managerial Vase duo of Burgess and Sculpher ensured survival on a temporary basis, having taken over with less than 10 games to go. Paul Moore, the ex Leek Town and Warrington Town manager, took over the reins in 2012/13 and led Clitheroe to their record points total in Division 1 in finishing eighth, with the play-off push only ending over the final games of the season. However, the loss of key players in the close season led to a woeful start in 2013/14 and to an early exit from the FA Cup and Trophy, and the committee replaced Moore mid-season with ex Blue Simon Garner.

Garner steadied the ship and Clitheroe finished the season in 17th position, with Garner setting his stall out in 2014-15 to create a more east Lancashire focussed team. A 13th place finish and an appearance at the Reebok in the Lancashire Trophy against Chorley represented good progress, whilst the 7th place in 2015-16 continued the good work, and the push for the play-offs only faltered in the final weeks. Following Garner's resignation, the club moved quickly to appoint ex Wales international Simon Haworth to the manager's role. He moulded a team from scratch into genuine play-off contenders, only faltering in the penultimate game of the season to a 90th minute goal at rivals Colne. 2017-18 could not quite recapture these heights although both Kurt Willoughby and Alex Newby featured prominently in the league goal-scoring charts. When Howarth announced he was leaving, the club appointed former Warrington Town manager, Stuart Mellish. After an unhappy, short tenure, his assistant, former Ossett Town manager Lee Ashforth, was handed the role six games into the season. Unfortunately, Clitheroe endured their worst season at this level and Ashforth's tenure was ended. Former Lancaster manager Phil Brown steadied the ship in the truncated 2019-20 season, with crowds averaging back over 350 and the Blues hovering around the play off places. The club appointed former Blue David Lynch as player manager for the 2020-21 season.

Billy Priestley led the club in the 2021-22 season as player manager to its joint highest placing and points total in the NPL, before he was replaced by former Blue David Dempsey after stepping down around New Year of the 22-23 season. Dempsey inspired a superb run in and led the club to fourth place and to the play offs.

CLITHEROE – SQUAD & STAFF

Dave Dempsey - Manager

Former Clitheroe player returned to the club as manager after several seasons as manager of Widnes FC. Successfully steered the club into the play offs last year and will be looking to go one better this season.

Chris Stammers – Assistant Manager

Hugely respected coach, who also had a spell as manager of the club.

Hakan Burton – Goalkeeper	Lee Pugh – Defender
Jacob Hanson – Defender	Billy Priestley – Defender
Derren Holden – Defender	Cameron Lancaster – Defender
Waqas Azam – Defender	Richard Baker – Midfielder
Ross Dent – Midfielder	Danny Wilkins – Midfielder
Ethan Kershaw – Midfielder	Scott Sephton – Midfielder
Mark Howarth – Midfielder	John McGrath – Midfielder
Reece Webb-Foster - Midfielder	Veron Parry - Midfielder
Sefton Gonzales – Forward	Domaine Rouse - Forward

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DABBERS 2023-24 SEASON

DATE	OPPONENTS	Competition	KO	H/A	SCORE	ATT
Sat 12th Aug 2023	Avro	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	0-1	249
Tue 15th Aug 2023	Vauxhall Motors	NPL Div One West	8.00pm	H ¹	3-0	168
Fri 18th Aug 2023	Skelmersdale United	FA Cup Preliminary	7.45pm	A ²	6-0	232
Sat 26th Aug 2023	Clitheroe	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Mon 28th Aug 2023	1874 Northwich	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 2nd Sep 2023	Shifnal Town	FA Cup 1st Qualifying	3.00pm	H		
Sat 9th Sep 2023	Liversedge	FA Trophy 1QR	3.00pm	A		
Sat 16th Sep 2023	Leek Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 30th Sep 2023	Bootle	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 7th Oct 2023	Trafford	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 14th Oct 2023	Kids Grove Athletic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 21st Oct 2023	Prescot Cables	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 28th Oct 2023	Witton Albion	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 4th Nov 2023	Newcastle Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 11th Nov 2023	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 18th Nov 2023	Widnes	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 25th Nov 2023	City of Liverpool	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 2nd Dec 2023	Mossley	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 9th Dec 2023	Chasetown	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 16th Dec 2023	Vauxhall Motors	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 23rd Dec 2023	Avro	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		

1

Match to be played at Leek Town

2

Match to be played at Burscough

Player	Apps	Goals
Kai Evans	3	2
Mohamud Ali	3	2
Troy Bourne	3	2
AJ Leitch-Smith	3	1
Steven Hewitt	3	1
Caspar Hughes	3	0
Joel Connolly	3	0
Nathan Okome	3	0
Scott Maloney	3	0

DABBERS 2023-24 SEASON

DATE	OPPONENTS	Competition	KO	H/A	SCORE	ATT
Tue 26th Dec 2023	Hednesford Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Mon 1st Jan 2024	1874 Northwich	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 6th Jan 2024	Clitheroe	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 13th Jan 2024	Hanley Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 20th Jan 2024	Witton Albion	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 27th Jan 2024	Prescot Cables	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 3rd Feb 2024	Leek Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 17th Feb 2024	Bootle	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 24th Feb 2024	Trafford	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 2nd Mar 2024	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 16th Mar 2024	Chasetown	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 23rd Mar 2024	Mossley	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 30th Mar 2024	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Mon 1st Apr 2024	Hednesford Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 6th Apr 2024	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 13th Apr 2024	Newcastle Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 20th Apr 2024	City of Liverpool	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 27th Apr 2024	Widnes	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
TBC	Hanley Town	NPL Div One West	TBC	A		
TBC	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	TBC	H		

Player	Apps	Goals
Callum Saunders	2	1
Byron Harrison	2	0
Lewis Sinnott	2	0
Paddy Kay	2	0
Perry Bircumshaw	2	0
Sean Cooke	2	0
Ahmed Ali	1	0
Jack Sherratt	1	0
Scott Butler	1	0

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SKELMERSDALE UNITED – MATCH REPORT

This season's FA Cup gets underway for Nantwich Town away to Skelmersdale United, and Manager Paul Carden looked to get off to the best way possible, by playing a strong side.

He set his stall out by playing most of the same side that had played so very well against Vauxhall Motors. There were one or two players for Nantwich who were looking to catch the eye of the manager to start future games, one of them was AJ Leitch-Smith, who had the first chance of the game, but on the stretch, he just couldn't quite connect.

The man of the moment, Kai Evans was next to try his luck, but despite showing good footwork, his shot was just wide of the post.

It was a good start by the away side, and a few moments later, it got even better, as the captain, Troy Bourne headed home, from a Steven Hewitt free-kick. This seemed to calm down any potential nerves that the away side might have had coming into this game.

Nantwich were in firm control of the game, and they looked to add to their advantage when Hewitt went down to the byline, and that is what happened, as Leitch-Smith dummied the ball, and Kai Evans put the ball into the empty net. A very well worked team goal, which no doubt pleased manager Paul Carden and his staff. Evans has been a very shrewd acquisition, and he is fast becoming a fans favourite.

Another player who was playing very well, was Steven Hewitt, and it was him who was next to have the next shot, it was his free-kick which was fizzed at the Lombard in the home goal, then in the resulting scramble, it was new signing Scott Butler who saw his shot go just over the bar from close range.

It was very much a case of how many were Nantwich going to get at this stage, as they were very much the dominant side.

There was though one player from the home side that was proving to be a thorn in the Dabbers side, that player being Kristan Knowles, as he saw his shot, after some good play by Sam Ilensemi, go just wide of Moloney's far post.

That was just a warning to the Nantwich defence to not totally shut off, because if they were to do just that, then they could be punished.

At the other end of the pitch, the right one, for all Dabbers fans, it was Kai Evans that was once again showcasing his talents, as he danced his way through the home side's defence, before being very unceremoniously brought down, just as he was about to shoot on goal.

The referee had no choice but to award a penalty, and it was Evans who dusted himself off, to take the resulting penalty, but on this occasion, Evans was not able to put the ball in the net, as Lombard produced a fantastic save to keep the score to just two.

SKELMERSDALE UNITED – MATCH REPORT

That wasn't the case for too much longer however, as with yet another attack, this time from Paddy Kay, who got in behind the defence, he very unselfishly, cut the ball back to Leitch-Smith, who put the ball with some venom into the bottom corner, and that was the third goal for the away side.

It was very much deserved, as it was practically one-way traffic in the first half, and the referee soon blew the whistle for the half time break.

After the break, the conditions soon worsened, as the heavens opened up, from what was good playing conditions, it became a contest of who could deal with the very heavy rain the best.

Nantwich manager Paul Carden made a sub at the start of the second half, with Mohamud Ali coming on for Troy Bourne.

It seems at the moment, Paul Carden can't do too much wrong, as it was his substitute, Ali that extended the lead to four goals, and put the knockout blow to the home side's hope of progressing to the next round.

It was from another Hewitt free-kick that Ali scored his goal scoring from close range, to the delight of his boss and his teammates.

Paul Carden looked to freshen things up by making a couple of further subs, player of the moment Kai Evans and Lewis Sinnott were removed for Callum Saunders and Perry Bircumshaw.

This again almost produced another goal, as Bircumshaw got to the byline, then cut the ball back for Leitch-Smith, only to see his shot saved very well by Lombard in the home goal.

It was that man again, Kristan Knowles, who wasn't quite ready to give up the ghost, as he looked to pull one back, but his shot from inside the area was initially very well saved, before the rebound was scrambled away.

It was another one of Paul Carden's subs who then added to the scoresheet for the Dabbers, as Callum Saunders made it five goals for the away side, as he fired in from the left-hand side.

He was causing all manner of issues for a very tired and very wet home side's defence, and it was Saunders who had another shot near the end of the game, only for Lombard to make another very good save, but the rebound fell to Hewitt, who fired it home to make it six goals for the away side.

Soon after the referee blew his whistle to send Nantwich through to the next round, where they will play Shifnal Town on the 2nd of September at the Swansway Stadium.

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NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

SCOTT MALONEY

Goalkeeper

05 FEBRUARY 2001

The 23-year-old shot stopper joined The Dabbers in the summer from League Two side Barrow. Maloney spent his youth career at Hartlepool and Bury before making the move to barrow where he made four first team appearances for The Bluebirds.

TROY BOURNE

Defender

13 JANUARY 1998

Troy is a graduate from the Dabbers' youth team, having impressed former manager Phil Parkinson in 2015/16 pre-season training. He spent much of the 16/17 campaign on a dual registration at Alsager Town but did make a couple of first-team appearances for the Dabbers. Troy is now the club captain and picked up four awards at the 2022/23 end of year awards night, including players' player of the season and managers player of the season.

PERRY BIRCUMSHAW

Defender

Equally capable at centre back or full back, Perry joined the Dabbers early on in the 22/23 season, initially on dual registration terms from Winsford United.

But such was the manner he impressed the staff at Nantwich with his performances, he was quickly signed up permanently in September 2022 and has become a fixture in defence since.

JOEL CONNOLLY

Defender

19 NOVEMBER 2002

The 20-year-old right-back is a product of the Burnley youth academy, making it to there under 21s before being released last summer.

In October, he joined Prescot and made 14 appearances for them before joining Paul Carden here at the Dabbers for the run-in to the end of the 2022/23 season.

NATHAN OKOME

Defender

11 MAY 2001

The versatile midfielder started his career at Macclesfield Town, and has also played for other Cheshire clubs Sandbach, Knutsford, 1874 Northwich and Witton. The 21-year-old has made 6 appearances for Chorley this season, as well as having a loan spell at Glossop North End, where he made 12 appearances in all competitions up to the end of February.

LEWIS SINNOTT

Defender

04 MARCH 2004

After impressing in pre-season of the 2023/24 season, Evans was signed by The Dabbers after being released by Wrexham in the summer. Evans signed his first pro contract at the Welsh side in the COVID hit 2020 season and showcased his talents over the course of the following season when he topped the scoring charts in the National League Youth Alliance from midfield. In 2023 he left Wrexham to join Nantwich Town

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

MUHAMAUD ALI

Defender

08 JUNE 1994

He began his footballing career at ADO Den Haag in Holland where he played alongside Nathan Ake in their academy. He moved to England in 2014 where he represented Northwich Victoria in the First Round of the FA Cup against Northampton. Ali has since played for various non-league sides like Curzon Ashton and Southport before joining The Dabbers, with his brother Ahmed in 2023. Muhamud has represented Somalia eight times. He was awarded man of the match in their own FIFA World Cup qualifying win against Zimbabwe in 2019.

DYLAN THOMPSON

Defender

25 OCTOBER 2002

A former Blackpool and Everton youth player who also had trials at Newcastle United, in 2021 he left for the US and joined the San Diego Toreros, the soccer team of the University of San Diego in the extremely competitive world of the US collegiate sporting system, while also studying for a Business Management degree. The 20-year-old, 6ft 3 left footed centre-back also spent some time at Asheville City in North Carolina, who play in the 4th tier of American soccer, before then playing for UNC Asheville Bulldogs, the college team of the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

SCOTT BUTLER

Defender

ON LOAN FROM WREXHAM

30 DECEMBER 2002

Wrexham-born Butler, who can play at full-back and centre-back, moved south to join Swansea in 2019 and represented them at Under-18s and Under-23 level before leaving in the summer.

The 20-year-old was on trial with Wrexham but was given a deal in October 2022 after impressing during his time at the club.

He has been a key feature in the Reserve team, impressing at the heart of the defence, and was handed the number 24 shirt in Phil Parkinson's squad.

Scott has joined Nantwich on loan until January 2024 to gain valuable experience.

STEVEN HEWITT

Midfielder

05 DECEMBER 1993

Starting out at Burnley as a youth player, he made a few league appearances for the Clarets before moving on to Chester and Southport.

A spell at Accrington followed, before some time in Wales with both Bangor City and Aberystwyth either side of Hume City in Melbourne, Australia. Most recently, the 29-year-old has been at Wythenshawe Town, where this season he's scored 3 times in 23 appearances in all competitions.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

CASPAR HUGHES

Midfielder

09 JUNE 1993

Caspar re-joined the Dabbers from AFC Fylde at the start of the 2017-18 season, before being named captain in January 2018 after the departure of Sam Hall. While Caspar is an excellent ball-winner in midfield and can also play at full-back. The midfielder was a highly rated prospect in the famed Crewe Alexandra youth academy before joining Nantwich, where he spent two solid seasons before moving on to Fylde. The midfielder helped Fylde gain promotion from both the Northern Premier League and the National League North and is regarded one of the better midfielders in the league.

SEAN COOKE

Midfielder

03 SEPTEMBER 1992

A productive attacking midfielder, A danger from set-pieces – especially free-kicks – Sean has a keen eye for goal and has proved that not only with Nantwich but at other clubs higher up the non-league pyramid. Sean, along with Caspar Hughes, was part of the AFC Fylde side that won promotion from the Northern Premier Division and has also played for FC United of Manchester. Cooke broke through into the Nantwich side at a young age and is the only player to start in all 3 Dabbers' FA Cup First Round appearances. He has also won the Northern Premier League's Young Player of the Season as well as making three Team of the Season appearances.

PADDY KAY

Midfielder

The Young midfielder impressed in the handful of games he played for Nantwich In pre-season. However, after joining Warrington Town in the summer, he joined the Dabbers on loan to pick up some minutes in men's football.

AHMED ALI

Midfielder

23 OCTOBER 1990

Brother of Dabbers defender Muhamud, Ahmed was born in Somalia before moving to The Netherlands where he began his footballing career. In 2013 he moved to England where he continued to play football for Redditch, Bromsgrove Sporting & Halesowen before signing for Nantwich in 2023. Ali has also represented Somalia 8 times; He captained his country to their first ever FIFA World Cup victory when they beat Zimbabwe 1-0 in September 2019.

KAI EVANS

Forward

27 JANUARY 2004

After impressing in pre-season of the 2023/24 season, Evans was signed by The Dabbers after being released by Wrexham in the summer. Evans signed his first pro contract at the Welsh side in the COVID hit 2020 season and showcased his talents over the course of the following season when he topped the scoring charts in the National League Youth Alliance from midfield. In 2023 he left Wrexham to join Nantwich Town

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

BYRON HARRISON

Forward

15 JUNE 1987

The 6ft3, vastly experienced striker has nearly 150 Football League appearances, the majority of which were during a successful spell at Cheltenham Town where he scored 20 goals in 94 games between 2012 and 2015.

In more recent years, he also performed strongly for Barrow in the National League, scoring 32 times in 67 appearances in 2 seasons that ended in 2018, before he returned in 2019/20 to help them gain promotion to the EFL.

Starting his career in non-league with clubs like Havant and Waterlooville and Boreham Wood, he earned a move to League 2 Stevenage in 2010, before spending time at AFC Wimbledon and Chesterfield as well as that run with Cheltenham.

In 2018, he returned to non-league, and has played for teams such as Sutton, Barnet and most recently Altrincham.

AJ LEITCH-SMITH

Forward

06 MARCH 1990

Currently in his second spell at The Dabbers. Leitch-Smith brings a wide array of talent of experience to our forward line, he has made a living of scoring goals in the EFL and has represented teams like Port Vale, Crewe Alexandra, Shrewsbury Town and Morecambe. AJ is a local lad and is a great addition to the Dabbers side..

CALLUM SAUNDERS

Forward

26 SEPTEMBER 1995

Currently in his second spell at the club. Saunders has been a consistent goal scorer for several years. He scored 29 goals in 75 appearances across his previous time at the Dabbers.

He was the Dabbers' top scorer in the 2018/19 season and curtailed 2020/21 season.

Callum was most recently at Stafford, where he spent the 2022/23 campaign. The season before, he was joint third highest goal scorer in the NPL Premier with 18 goals.

Outside of the NPL Saunders made 27 senior appearances for Crewe Alexandra where he began his footballing career at a young age.



The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Daniel Wilkinson who died in 2016 aged 24, while playing the game he loved, from an underlying heart condition called Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC).



Dan played football from an early age and joined Hull City AFC when he was 10, earning a professional contract aged 18. Loughborough University followed where he completed a degree in Accounting and Financial Management while playing non-league football. He was an athlete who enjoyed the gym and took his health and nutrition very seriously. He lived life to the full and had so much ahead of him.

Other than feeling light-headed on a few occasions in the month before he died, he had no symptoms!

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

- SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with NO SYMPTOMS or family history.
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- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

OUR MISSION

The Daniel Wilkinson Foundation has been set up to raise awareness of SCD and to provide funding towards heart screening, defibrillators and CPR/defibrillator training primarily for grass-roots sporting teams.

Tragedies can be prevented through cardiac screening. It is vital that young people are identified and treated.

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Nantwich Town Independent Supporters Association

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PITCHING IN NPL RESULTS & FIXTURES

NPL Division One West Results - Tuesday 22nd August 2023

1874 Northwich	1	1	Chasetown	229
Bootle	1	1	Witton Albion	514
Clitheroe	0	1	Stalybridge Celtic	655
Hednesford Town	2	3	Kidsgrove Athletic	651
Leek Town	3	0	Trafford	201
Mossley	1	0	Widnes	757
Runcorn Linnets	1	1	Newcastle Town	569
Vauxhall Motors	0	3	Prescot Cables	289

NPL Division One West Results - Wednesday 23rd August 2023

Avro	0	1	City of Liverpool	281
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NPL Division One West Results - Friday 25th August 2023

Stalybridge Celtic	1	1	Bootle	677
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NPL Division One West Fixtures - Saturday 26th August 2023

Chasetown	vs	Vauxhall Motors	3.00pm
City of Liverpool	vs	Leek Town	3.00pm
Kidsgrove Athletic	vs	Runcorn Linnets	3.00pm
Nantwich Town	vs	Clitheroe	3.00pm
Newcastle Town	vs	Mossley	3.00pm
Prescot Cables	vs	1874 Northwich	3.00pm
Trafford	vs	Hanley Town	3.00pm
Widnes	vs	Hednesford Town	3.00pm
Witton Albion	vs	Avro	3.00pm

PITCHING IN NPL STANDINGS

		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1 Kidsgrove Athletic	3	3	0	0	13	5	+8	9
	2 Stalybridge Celtic	4	2	2	0	4	2	+2	8
	3 Chasetown	3	2	1	0	5	3	+2	7
	4 Leek Town	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6
	5 Mossley	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	6
	6 Avro	3	2	0	1	2	1	+1	6
	7 Witton Albion	3	1	2	0	5	4	+1	5
	8 Bootle	4	1	2	1	4	5	-1	5
	9 Clitheroe	3	1	1	1	4	3	+1	4
	10 Runcorn Linnets	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
	11 Hednesford Town	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
	12 Nantwich Town	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	3
	13 Prescot Cables	3	1	0	2	4	3	+1	3
	14 Widnes	3	1	0	2	2	2	0	3
	15 City of Liverpool	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
	16 Trafford	3	0	2	1	3	6	-3	2
	17 1874 Northwich	3	0	2	1	3	7	-4	2
	18 Newcastle Town	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1
	19 Vauxhall Motors	3	0	1	2	2	8	-6	1
	20 Hanley Town	2	0	0	2	2	6	-4	0



NANTWICH TOWN

MANAGER

Paul Carden

1	Scott MOLONEY
2	Joel CONNOLLY
3	Lewis SINNOTT
4	Nathan OKOME
5	Troy BOURNE (C)
6	Scott BUTLER
7	Steven HEWITT
8	Ahmed ALI
9	Kai EVANS
10	Byron HARRISON
11	Paddy KAY
12	Sean COOKE
13	James SPEARE (GK)
14	Callum SAUNDERS
15	Mohamud ALI
17	A-Jay LEITCH-SMITH

CLITHEROE

MANAGER

Dave Dempsey

1	Hakan BURTON
2	Jacob HANSON
3	Darren HOLDEN
4	Alex HENDERSON
5	Cameron LANCASTER
6	Lee PUGH (C)
7	Veron PARRY
8	Danny WILKINS
9	Sefton GONZALES
10	Reece WEBB-FOSTER
11	Domaine ROUSE
12	Kian BELL
14	John McGRATH
15	Ross DENT
16	Scott SEPHTON

REFEREE: Tom Wall

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Jakub Abratanski, Jonathon Hodgson