

THE DABBER



Emirates
FA CUP



NANTWICH TOWN
VS
BANBURY UNITED
Saturday 16th September 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 & Clive Jackson

Chairman: Jon Gold

Vice-Chairman: John Dunning

Directors: Mark Hawkins, John Dunning, Dave Clapp, Dan Dunning-Cole, Tim Brighton, 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: Cate Walter

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

BANBURY UNITED FA CUP - MATCH PREVIEW

Good afternoon and welcome to the Swansway Stadium for this afternoon's FA Cup Second Qualifying Round tie against Banbury United. We would like to welcome all the directors, staff, players and supporters associated with Banbury this afternoon.

The Dabbers' run of cup games continues this Saturday with the Second Qualifying Round tie against Banbury United.

BaddaBan

Banbury are 15th in National League North with 11 points from 9 games. They ended a recent run of 4 games without winning, 3 of those without scoring, with a convincing 3-0 win over Warrington Town in their last match. All 4 of their losses this season have been by 3 goals or more, including most recently a 4-0 to South Shields, and they have yet to gain any points from a losing position.

A change in management in the summer saw Andy Whing step down and subsequently join Solihull Moors after 3 successful years with the Puritans. Mark Jones is now the manager who will look to maintain their status in the sixth tier and build on Whing's work.

Last Time Out

It's déjà vu all over again as the Dabbers and Banbury meet at the Swansway Stadium in the Second Qualifying Round for the second time in 3 years. In September 2021, Banbury, who were then at the same tier as Nantwich, came out 2-1 winners thanks to an 89th minute winner to complete the comeback after James Lawrie had put Nantwich ahead early on, with Banbury going on to reach the First Round Proper and get promotion that season. Highlights below.

Players to Watch

Ken Charles, whose name sounds like he should be banging in goals in the 1950s, is in fact scoring well in this decade. He has 4 for the season, scored in 2 pairs, most recently in the Warrington win last weekend.

Match Information

The pre-match entertainment starts in earnest in the Atherton Lounge and bar area with local artist Maisie Atkinson performing.





Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Northern Premier League football clubs need your help with them.

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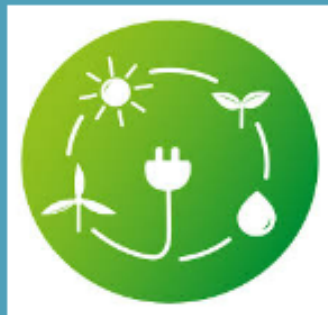


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SHIFNAL TOWN (H) – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich Town and Shifnal Town will have to meet again on Tuesday after the sides drew 1-1 at The Swansway Stadium

The Dabbers started the brighter of the two sides. Kai Evans forced a smart save out of Yankuba Colley when he let fly from the edge of the area following Callum Saunders blocked freekick. Not long later, Saunders found himself through on goal, but he blazed over from the right side of the box.

Despite the Dabbers bright start it was the hosts who took the lead after eleven minutes. Byron Harrison's loose pass in midfield was picked up by Evan Bagry who drove into the box, cut inside and fired home at the near post.

Three minutes later, Nantwich had a golden chance to instantly level the scores when Troy Bourne was taken out by Colley after he went to punch the ball to away. Byron Harrison stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong to level the scores and redeem himself for the earlier error.

After a short lull, the game soon sparked back into life when Kai Evans struck a freekick from the left side which was well saved by Colley. Evans was involved in another Dabbers attack as he found Paddy Kay inside the area, Kay cut inside from the left and took aim but his effort was weak and easy for the keeper.

The Dabbers were dominating, and they squandered another opportunity on the half hour mark when Byron Harrison went through on goal, but his touch was heavy and Colley claimed comfortably.

As the game drifted towards half time, Shifnal were awarded a penalty in the second minute of added time when Joel Connolly bought down Joe Cuff. Kyle Bennett stepped up for the visitors, but his spot kick was saved by Scott Moloney who guessed the right way to keep the scores level as we went into the break.

Much like the first, The Dabbers started the second half the better of the sides and after just five minutes they were awarded their second penalty of the game. Byron Harrison went through on goal and beat the keeper to the ball before being tripped inside the box. Luckily for Colley, Harrison was going away from goal and therefore was only shown a yellow card.

Harrison eventually dusted himself down and spotted the ball to take the penalty. However, this time Harrison's penalty hit the post and went out for a goalkick.

As the game went on, both sides pushed for a winning goal. However, neither side really went close to going ahead until the 76th minute. Nantwich Town substitute AJ Leitch-Smith linked up well with Harrison down the right side before Leitch-Smith cut inside but fired straight at the keeper.

SHIFNAL TOWN (H) – MATCH REPORT

The game really sparked into life and Dabbers came close again when Evans picked up a loose back pass and took aim but the angle was tight and his effort was cleared away off the line by the Shifnal defender. From the resulting corner, Troy Bourne headed over at the back post.

With five minutes to go, Troy Bourne was then sent off for a second bookable offence after he was brought down Hesson just outside the box.

As the clock ticked down, Shifnal Town came close when a corner from the right was headed towards goal by Thomas but Moloney comfortably saved.

As the referee indicated eight minutes of added time, Kai Evans tried his luck from just inside the Shifnal half but his effort narrowly went over the bar to the relief of the backtracking keeper.

After ninety minutes of normal time and eight minutes of added time, the referee blew the whistle and the sides are forced to meet again in a replay that will take place on Tuesday night.

Nantwich Town (1): Scott Moloney, Joel Connolly, Perry Bircumshaw (AJ Leitch-Smith 67'), Mo Ali, Troy Bourne, Scott Butler, Paddy Kay, Ahmed Ali, Callum Saunders (Nathan Okome 45'), Kai Evans, Byron Harrison

Subs not used: Caspar Hughes, Lewis Sinnott, Jacob Edwards, James Speare

Goal: Harrison (15 pen)

Shifnal Town (1): Yankuba Colley, Jack Fishman, Kane Lewis, Kyle Bennett, Jordan Jones (Emem Jones 56'), Reuban Lal, Joe Kenton, Evan Bagry, Josh Thomas (Lewis Jarman 89'), Jack Hodnett (Josh Hesson 61'), Joe Cuff

Subs not used: Eshan Green, Keiran Buckley, Rhys Williams

Goals: Bagry (11)

Attendance – 320



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Perry Bircumshaw – NTISA

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Byron Harrison – Nantwich Refrigeration Services

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Jon Moran – Councillor Arthur Moran

Troy Bourne – Stephen Morris, Dave Walker, Andrew Wisely

Dan Cockerline – NTISA

Joel Grant – Rupert Dyke

Matt Bell – Grant Richards

Jack Sherratt – Boughey Distributions (Neil Trotter)

Jacob Edwards – Peter Boulton

Ritchie Sutton – Pete Murphy (Nebula Global Services)

Caspar Hughes – Matt Dighton

SHIFNAL TOWN (REPLAY) – MATCH REPORT

The Dabbers looked to book their place in the next round of the FA Cup, against Shifnal Town, after the first game was drawn.

Manager Paul Carden looked to switch things up with his team, to try to put Shifnal on the back foot from the get go.

It very almost worked as after barely 20 seconds AJ Leitch-Smith pounced on a poor goal kick from Colley in the home goal, but his shot was straight at the goalkeeper. An early warning of what was to come.

It was the away side that were on top for the most of the first half hour, as Troy Bourne and Nathan Okome both saw headers from corners go just over the bar.

The chances for the home side kept on coming, Ahmed Ali saw his shot well saved, and so did Leitch-Smith once again.

Colley in the home goal was putting on a man of the match display, and he was making sure that nothing was getting past him.

Kai Evans was trying his best to keep the tempo and momentum in the favour of the Dabbers, and he was unlucky to not have a penalty go his way, as was Caspar Hughes, who put in a cross, only for it to be deflected away, off of a home side defenders arm.

The pressure was building, and Byron Harrison was next to see his turn and shot pushed away by Colley.

It seemed like only a matter of time until Nantwich broke the deadlock before half time.

However, despite all of the domination of possession and the chances, there was no break-through, and the sides went in level at half-time.

As the second half started, it seemed as if the break was what the home side needed, as they came out a completely different side.

They had a succession of corners, to really put the pressure on the away side's defence.

Just before the hour mark, the all important breakthrough happened, and in unbelievable and spectacular style.

Joe Cuff for Shifnal, picked a lovely pass back up, just near the half way line, and he looked up, and under no pressure, he calmly struck a powerful shot past Moloney, who was off of his line, but even so, it was a shot worthy to win any game.

SHIFNAL TOWN (REPLAY) – MATCH REPORT

That seemed to stir Nantwich into life, for the threat of going out of the FA Cup at such an early stage must have been a huge motivation for the team.

It was this surge in momentum that brought them the equalising goal not too long after.

From good build up play, AJ Leitch-Smith found himself free in the penalty area, and he struck a thunderbolt of a shot, to the delight of the travelling fans.

From this moment on, it looked as if Nantwich were the most likely side to get another goal, as Shifnal looked happy enough to play for extra time.

It seemed though, as if Shifnal might get their way, but then deep into added on time, Byron Harrison rose like a salmon, and headed a cross into the back of the net, and the Dabbers had taken the lead.

After a good period of time management by the Nantwich players, that is how the game finished, with the away side winning, and progressing to the next round to face Banbury United.

Shifnal Town (1): Yakuba Colley, Jack Fishman, Jordan Jones, Jack Howse, Emen Jones, Reuben Lal, Joe Kenton, Evan Bagry, Joe Cuff, Kyle Bennett, Kane Lewis.

Subs: Thomas, Williams, Greer, Buckley, Jarman, Hodnett, Tanomjit.

Goals: Cuff (54)

Nantwich Town (2): Caspar Hughes, Perry Bicumshaw, Nathan Okome, Troy Bourne (C), Scott Butler, Paddy Kay, Ahmed Ali, Byron Harrison, AJ Leitch-Smith, Kai Evans.

Subs: M. Ali, Saunders, Edwards, Sinnott, Holden

Goals: Leitch-Smith (73), Harrison (90)

Attendance – 455





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BANBURY UNITED – BRIEF HISTORY IN TIME



CLUB INFO

Club Name:	Banbury United FC
Year Founded:	1931
Club Nickname:	The Puritans
Current Ground:	Spencer Stadium, Banbury
Current Manager:	Mark Jones



CUP HISTORY

Oxfordshire Senior Cup:	Winners – 6 times
Buckingham Charity Cup:	Winners – 5 times
FA Cup:	First Round – 6 times
FA Trophy:	Fifth Round – 2022/23
FA Vase:	Second Round – 1999/00



LEAGUE HISTORY

Oxfordshire Junior League:	Champions – 1933/34
Oxfordshire Senior League:	Champions – 1934/35
Hellenic League Premier Div:	Champions – 1999/00
SFL Div One South & West:	Playoff Winners – 2015/16
SFL Premier Division:	Champions – 2021/22

LAST 5 LEAGUE SEASONS:

Season	League	POS	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
2018-19	SL CEN P	17/22	42	13	14	15	53	55	49 [^]
2019-20	SL CEN P	ABAN	32	14	10	8	48	31	52 *
2020-21	SL CEN P	ABAN	7	2	2	3	9	13	8 *
2021-22	SL CEN P	1/21	40	32	6	2	92	32	102
2022-23	NL N	ABAN	46	13	15	18	55	62	54

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

[^] 2018-19 – 4 points deducted

BANBURY UNITED - HISTORY

Banbury United's genesis is to be found in Spencer Villa, a works club formed in 1931. Friendly matches were played on a ground on the town's Middleton Road. The club joined the Banbury Junior League for the 1933-34 season and won the championship at their first attempt. They changed their name to Banbury Spencer in 1934 and moved to their current ground for the start of the 1934-35 season in which they competed in the Oxfordshire Senior League. This too they won at their first attempt. During the season they were elected to the Birmingham Combination for the start of the 1935-36 season.

After the war, Banbury resumed in the Birmingham Combination and turned professional for the 1946-47 season. In 1947-48, with attendances averaging 3,500, they finished runners-up in the league and reached the first round proper of the FA Cup for the first time, losing 2-1 at Colchester United, at that time a Southern League club. The next season the ground attendance record was broken when 7,160 turned up to see Banbury lose to Oxford City in the third qualifying round of the FA Cup. The same season also saw Banbury reach the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup, losing 2-1 to Nuneaton Borough. Banbury's manager at this time was Jimmy Cringan, who had joined them in 1936 and was to remain 'The Boss' for no less than 25 years until his retirement in 1961.



The status of the Birmingham Combination began to decline in the early 1950s. At the end of the 1953-54 season the league disbanded and, along with most of its remaining clubs, Banbury joined the Birmingham League. In 1959-60 they reached the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup for the second time, again losing to Nuneaton, this time 1-0. In 1961-62, Banbury reached the first round of the FA Cup for the second time, travelling to Third Division Shrewsbury Town and losing 7-1.

The Birmingham League continued to expand and became the West Midlands League in 1962. This coincided with the effective independence of the football club, the Spencer company having all but ended its association. The club name remained unchanged, however, until April 1965 when, with the club's finances suffering – attendances had fallen to a historical low – a group of local businessmen bought the club. Banbury Spencer became Banbury United.

The new owners were ambitious and were looking to a higher grade of football. Former Chelsea, West Ham, Arsenal and England player Len Goulden was installed as manager. During the summer of 1966 Banbury were elected to the Southern League. Significant improvements were made to the ground. Floodlights were installed and the famous old railway coaches that had been used as changing rooms were removed and replaced by a new clubhouse.

BANBURY UNITED - HISTORY

United then embarked on an unbroken 24-season run as members of the Southern League. They came close to league honours in 1967-68 when they finished in seventh place in the First Division, just two points and three places behind Rugby Town who were promoted to the Premier Division. The first round of the FA Cup was reached twice more; in 1972-73, United lost 2-0 at home to Barnet, then a Southern League club, and the following season, after a 0-0 draw at home, they lost 3-2 away to Fourth Division Northampton Town in a replay. United twice reached the last sixteen of the FA Trophy, losing 1-0 in a replay to Hereford United in 1970-71 and, in 1973-74, by the same score in a second replay to eventual Southern League champions Darford.

From the late 1970s United's fortunes declined sharply as debts mounted. The ownership of the ground was given up as security against the club's debts. On the field the team was also struggling, finishing in the top half of the table just twice in twelve seasons after 1978. In 1990, United finished 21st of 22 and were relegated for the first time in their history, starting season 1990-91 in the Hellenic League.

Those fans who expected a quick return to the Southern League were to be disappointed. Only in 1993-94, when they finished third, did United make look like making a serious promotion challenge. However, from 1997 onwards a revived and expanded committee brought about such an improvement in financial circumstances that the club was ready to aim for promotion.

Former Oxford, Newcastle and QPR player Kevin Brock was appointed first team manager for the 1999-2000 campaign.



United's form up to Christmas of 1999 was good but they entered the New Year no fewer than nineteen points behind leaders Highworth Town. In only eight weeks they overhauled their rivals with a run of 13 consecutive victories and remained unbeaten for the rest of the season. A 3-1 victory at Wantage Town clinched the Hellenic League championship with two games remaining and Banbury United were back in the Southern League.

United took a couple of seasons to find their feet in the Eastern division, finishing 13th and 15th. Eighth place in 2003 was their best in the Southern League in 25 years. That was equalled the following season, enough to qualify for a play-off for a place in a reformed Premier division in the restructured non-League pyramid. Banbury beat Sutton Coldfield Town of the Western division, coming from behind to win in stoppage time in extra-time.

A difficult first season in the Premier division (2004-05) was followed by a much better second. Seventh place in season 2005-06 was an improvement of ten places (United spent nine weeks in the play-off places) but thirteenth in 2006-07 was a big disappointment. However, it was troubles off the field that made the headlines. Club accounts showed a large deficit and big cuts were made to the playing budget. Shortly after the season ended, manager Kevin Brock resigned, citing the cuts as his reason for leaving after eight years. His departure was the first of six changes of manager in the next eight years as United went into another decline.

BANBURY UNITED - HISTORY

Relegation was avoided in 2009 as the annual bout of resignations and demotions elsewhere in the Pyramid resulted in a reprieve. In 2012 a last-day victory ensured safety. Season 2013-14 began well enough – United were eighth in the table in early February – but more drastic budget cuts were applied. Another player exodus resulted; there followed the most embarrassing run of defeats in the club's history as the team plummeted to 19th, conceding 43 goals in nine games. The dismal form continued into the 2014-15 season and the inevitable occurred. After 11 years in the Premier division level the club was relegated for only the second time in its history and was placed in the South & West division for the 2015-16 season.

Change, however, was on its way. For a year fans had been discreetly working on a takeover. Advised by Supporters Direct, the umbrella organisation for supporters trusts, the supporters club launched its bid towards the end of the season. Agreement was reached with the existing board and a joint committee ran the club during the spring and summer until the takeover was formally completed in the first week of the new season, four months after the 50th anniversary of Spencer becoming United.

In May that committee had appointed a new team manager, ex-Oxford United player and Brackley Town and Oxford City manager Mike Ford. He had to assemble a new squad from scratch. Early form was moderate with only four wins from the first 12 games but the team hit form to win 24 of the next 30 and finish runners-up to Cinderford. A nervy victory in the play-off semi-final against Winchester set up a final showdown with third-placed Taunton. In front of more than 1,200 spectators, the club's biggest attendance for more than 21 years, United won 2-0 to regain their place in the Premier Division at the first attempt, a remarkable achievement for a club that had been on its knees a year earlier.

Those supporters who had thought that after relegation and the takeover a season of consolidation was a realistic target saw their expectations exceeded but even the most optimistic followers might not have anticipated that upon their return to the Premier Division United would enter the last month of season 2016/17 challenging for a place in the play-offs. Only over the Easter weekend did their hopes disappear but a final position of sixth was the club's best in the post-2004 Pyramid. Though this was followed by a creditable ninth place finish in season 2017/18, the next season was rather a disappointment, albeit never in serious danger of relegation, with the club finishing down in 17th place.

In May 2020, the club appointed a new team manager/coach when Andy Whing took over in charge, but what turned out to be a baptism of fire with the resultant Covid-19 problems curtailing the season over halfway through, the Club reached the first round proper of the FA Cup for the first time in 48 seasons, but the biggest disappointment was that with the raging pandemic, the Supporters were denied their moment of glory when the first round proper game had to be played behind closed doors.

Few would argue that season 2021/22 was the best in the clubs over 90-year history. The FA Cup First Round Proper was reached for the second consecutive season, the club hosting League 2 side Barrow. Though losing 3-0, it was great to see supporters, unlike the previous year, able to enjoy the occasion with a sell-out crowd of 2,400 in attendance. But it was United's league form for which the season will be remembered, just two defeats all season with the club hitting the top of the table in mid-December and pulling away to win the Southern League Central Division by an incredible 23 points to earn for the first time in the club's history a place in the National League North division.

Last season began well for the Puritans, challenging for a playOff place until a poor run of form from March onwards saw the club sliding down the table. Despite just one win in 18 league games, the good start to the season meant United managed just to finish just above the relegation zone, The end of the season saw manager Andy Whing leave and replaced by Mark Jones.

BANBURY UNITED – SQUAD & STAFF

Mark Jones (Manager)

Appointed Banbury United manager in June 2023. Joined Oxford City in a coaching role during season 2014/15 before being appointed their first team manager in December 2016, a position he held with the National League South side until October 2019. More recently had a 15-month spell managing National League South side Hemel Hempstead Town, leaving them in December 2022. As a midfielder, his playing career included spells with Aylesbury United, Thame United, Harrow Borough and Oxford City. Holds a UEFA "A" coaching licence.

Jack Harding

31-year-old goalkeeper who came through the Banbury United youth side and would progress to be a regular in the reserve side, also making five first team appearances before having spells with Hellenic League sides Hook Norton and Ardley United. Returned to Banbury in the summer of 2015 and has now made over 300 appearances for the club.

Jack Davies

20-year-old central defender, a product of the MK Dons academy, progressing to earn his first professional deal with them in August 2020. He would go on to make five senior appearances for MK Dons and had loan spells with National League South sides Oxford City (twice) and Concord Rangers. Opted to join the Puritans after expiration of his contract this past summer.

Tai Fleming

21-year-old central defender who was in the junior set-up at Norwich City before completing a two-year scholarship with then Football League side Yeovil Town. After not being offered a professional contract by the Somerset side, Tai joined then National League Premier side King's Lynn Town for the start of season 2020/21, making 19 league appearances in his first season with them. After being loaned out to Lowestoft Town for the whole of season 2021/22, playing regularly for the Southern League side, he returned to Lynn last season though found first time game time limited, making nine National League North appearances. Joined Banbury this past summer.

Josh Barlow

19-year-old central midfielder who began his career with Cheltenham Town before joining Shrewsbury Town for season 2021/22, captaining their academy side. Awarded a professional contract by Shrewsbury in May 2022. Made three EFL Trophy appearances for the Shropshire side last season, making his Football League debut in April when coming on as a substitute against Portsmouth. Joined Banbury this past summer after his release by Shrewsbury.

Lawson D'Ath

30-year-old experienced central midfielder with a total of 161 Football League appearances to his credit who signed for Banbury in the summer of 2023. Came through the youth ranks at Reading and had loan spells with various clubs including Yeovil Town where he made his Football League debut as a 19-year-old before moving to Northampton Town in 2014, playing a key part in their League 2 title win in season 2015/16. Moves to Luton Town and MK Dons followed before he returned to by then National League side Yeovil for the 2019/20 season but was released at the end of last season.

BANBURY UNITED – SQUAD & STAFF

Tope Obadeyi

33-year-old experienced winger who joined Banbury this past summer. Began his career with Bolton Wanderers, making three Premier League appearances for them and having spells on loan with Swindon Town, Rochdale, Shrewsbury Town and Chesterfield, making a total of 43 Football League appearances in those loan spells. After a stint in Portugal, Tope joined Bury and had two loan spells at Plymouth Argyle before playing in Scotland for Kilmarnock and Dundee United.

January 2017 saw Tope move to Oldham Athletic where he made 37 Football League appearances through to the end of season 2017/18. After two seasons in France and then a spell out of the game, Tope had a brief return to Oldham Athletic and a short spell at Ilkeston Town before joining Gloucester City last season.

Ken Charles

22-year-old striker who joined Banbury this past summer. Had experience with Erith Town, Colchester United U21s, Enfield Town and Braintree Town before joining Cheshunt for the first time in the summer of 2021. His performances earned him a move to then National League Premier side King's Lynn Town in November 2021 but he found game time limited with the Norfolk club and, after a loan spell back at Cheshunt, he returned to the then National League South club permanently in January 2023.

Finn Tapp

23-year-old central defender who was with the Milton Keynes Dons academy from the age of eight, completing his scholarship with the club before being awarded a professional contract in May 2018. Whilst at Dons, Finn made four senior appearances in cup competitions and during season 2018/19 had a loan spell with Staines Town before being released at the end of that season. Made 22 appearances for Oxford City in the first half of season 2019/20 before then taking a break from the game. Returned to football this season and after impressing in pre-season signed for Banbury United.

Jack Tompkins

21-year-old full back or midfielder who came through the Barnet academy to earn a professional contract in December 2018. As well as making a handful of first team appearances for the Bees, Jack had a spell on loan with Staines Town before being released at the end of season 2020/21. Seasons at Thame United and then Berkhamsted followed before joining Banbury United in July 2023.

Simeon Maye

28-year-old central midfielder who was with Birmingham City as a youngster and then played for Boldmere St Michaels, Redditch United and Hednesford Town before joining National League side Solihull Moors in December 2016, going on to make 21 appearances in the top level of non-league football in the remainder of that season. Spells with Rushall Olympic, Hereford and Brackley Town followed before he joined Leamington in the summer of 2020. After suffering a long-term leg injury, Simeon was out of the game for almost a year but returned to the Leamington side at the start of last season but, after finding game time limited from the start of the calendar year, left the club and joined Banbury in March 2023.

BANBURY UNITED – SQUAD & STAFF

Yonis Farah

23-year-old left back who was with the Southend United academy before, on his release. in May 2018, moving to Norway to play for Trysil. After a season with Trysil he joined Swedish side Ytterhogdals, then moving in the summer of 2021 to fellow Swedish side Eskilstuna City. Made his international debut for Somalia in September 2019 and has gone on to represent them seven times. Joined Banbury for the start of this season after impressing in pre-season. Yonis is a cousin to GB running legend Mo Farah.

Tom Scott

20-year-old central midfielder who came through the Northampton Town academy before joining Sunderland in the summer of 2021, playing for their U21 side for two seasons. Had a short spell on loan with then National League North side Kettering Town at the end of last season but upon his release by Sunderland joined Banbury ahead of this season.

Craig Hewitt

19-year-old attacking midfielder who joined the Coventry City academy as a 14-year-old, progressing to be taken on by them as a scholar in the summer of 2020. He was a regular in the Sky Blues U18 side over the past two seasons. Joined Banbury originally in September but after finding game time limited finished the season with North Leigh. Re-signed for Banbury at start of this season.

Tyrell Hamilton

23-year-old striker who was with the Birmingham City academy before moving to AFC Bournemouth in August 2018, playing for the Cherries U21 and U23 sides and having loan spells with Salisbury and Gosport Borough. After a short stint with Alvechurch in the Covid curtailed season, Tyrell joined AFC Telford United in the summer of 2021 but finding game time limited returned to Alvechurch, initially on loan before making the move permanent in January 2022. In his spells with Alvechurch has scored 22 goals in 82 appearances. Joined Banbury ahead of this season.

Aidan Elliott-Wheeler

17-year-old winger who impressed whilst at Banbury on loan from Oxford United in the final few weeks of last season, making nine National League North appearances. Returned on loan from Oxford at the start of this season.

Lee Henderson

33-year-old central defender who first joined Banbury in the summer of 2018. Had been at Oxford City since the summer of 2013 after joining them from Didcot Town. He had also previously played for Bicester Town and Witney United and was at Oxford United as a youngster. Played for Banbury through to August 2020 before taking an extended break from the game. Re-signed for Banbury ahead of this season.

Tom Ladyman

18-year-old former Northampton Town youth team goalkeeper who signed for the Puritans ahead of this season after

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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	0-1	465
Mon 28th Aug 2023	1874 Northwich	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	1-0	325
Sat 2nd Sep 2023	Shifnal Town	FA Cup 1st Qualifying	3.00pm	H	1-1	320
Tue 5th Sep 2023	Shifnal Town	FA Cup 1st Qualifying	7.45pm	A	2-1	455
Sat 9th Sep 2023	Liversedge	FA Trophy 1QR	3.00pm	A	3-0	247
Sat 16th Sep 2023	Banbury United	FA Cup 2nd Qualifying	3.00pm	H		
Sat 23rd Sep 2023	Dunston	FA Trophy 2QR	3.00pm	H		
Tue 26th Sep 2023	Hanley Town	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	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		
Tue 10th Oct 2023	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H		
Sat 14th Oct 2023	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Tue 17th Oct 2023	Leek Town	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A		
Sat 21st Oct 2023	Prescot Cables	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Tue 24th Oct 2023	Runcorn Town	Cheshire Cup R1	7.45pm	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		

1

Match to be played at Leek Town

2

Match to be played at Burscough

Player	Apps	Goals
AJ Leitch-Smith	8	3
Nathan Okome	8	0
Scott Maloney	8	0
Callum Saunders	7	3
Byron Harrison	7	2
Kai Evans	7	2
Mohamud Ali	7	2
Troy Bourne	7	2
Paddy Kay	7	0
Steven Hewitt	6	1

DABBERS 2023-24 SEASON

DATE	OPPONENTS	Competition	KO	H/A	SCORE	ATT
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		
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		

Player	Apps	Goals
Ahmed Ali	6	0
Joel Connolly	6	0
Scott Butler	6	0
Caspar Hughes	5	0
Lewis Sinnott	5	0
Perry Bircumshaw	4	0
Sean Cooke	3	1
Jacob Edwards	2	0
Connor Heath	1	0
Jack Sherratt	1	0

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LIVERSEEDGE – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich are safely through to the Second Qualifying Round of the FA Trophy after a 3-0 win over NPL East Liversedge.

Stretched with injuries and Troy Bourne serving a suspension, the Dabbers could only name four subs and had Mo and Ahmed Ali playing and right and left back, less familiar positions for both of them.

The Dabbers could have gone ahead after only 4 minutes, Nathan Okome flashing a header wide from a corner.

However, there wasn't much of a wait as Nantwich took the lead 11 minutes in. Steven Hewitt played in AJ Leitch-Smith who calmly took the ball round the keeper and finished. It was great composure from AJ after a couple in recent games where he perhaps rushed the finish.

Nantwich continued to carry a threat but a couple of stoppages for injury and drinks in the searing heat allowed the home side to build momentum. A powerful shot across the face of goal was evidence of their growing threat, as was a low cross that somehow wasn't finished.

But just as Liversedge were growing into the half, the Dabbers doubled the lead just before the break, a searching ball was nodded in by Callum Saunders ahead of the flailing Rogan Ravenhill who was on debut in goal on loan from Barnsley.

In the second half, the Dabbers struck early again with Saunders getting his second, finishing off a lovely flowing move that was assisted by Leitch-Smith. These were Saunders' first goals since the FA Cup win over Skelmersdale.

Connor Heath, straight into the XI after returning on loan from Southport, had his own chance to bag but was denied by a decent save from Ravenhill.

Then Hewitt, having a great game after returning to the side, ambitiously fired over from very long range after seeing the keeper off his line.

The heat unsurprisingly began to wear both teams down and the result meant the quality of football towards the end did decline. A couple of off target efforts from Paddy Kay and Hewitt

In stoppage time, Scott Moloney had to make a couple of good saves to retain his clean sheet, including one brilliant reaction save to stop a header that looked all but past him, but in the end it was a comfortable and deserved win for Paul Carden's side.

The Dabbers go through, then, to face another NPL East side, Dunston, at home in the Second Qualifying Round on 23rd September.

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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

MUHAMUD 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!

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PITCHING IN NPL RESULTS & FIXTURES

NPL Division One West Results - Tuesday 12th September

Prescot Cables	0	2	Clitheroe	420
Witton Albion	3	2	Hednesford Town	371

NPL Division One West Results - Wednesday 13th September

Widnes	0	1	Hanley Town	212
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NPL Division One West Fixtures - Saturday 16th September 2023

Bootle	vs	Vauxhall Motors	3.00pm
Clitheroe	vs	Avro	3.00pm
Hednesford Town	vs	Hanley Town	3.00pm
Kidsgrove Athletic	vs	Chasetown	3.00pm
Stalybridge Celtic	vs	Witton Albion	3.00pm
Widnes	vs	Newcastle Town	3.00pm

Selected FA Cup Fixtures - Saturday 16th September 2023

Mossley	vs	Emley	3.00pm
Nantwich Town	vs	Banbury United	3.00pm
Runcorn Linnets	vs	Chorley	3.00pm
Whitby Town	vs	Prescot Cables	3.00pm
Worcester City	vs	Leek Town	3.00pm
Leek Town	vs	Grimsby Borough	3.00pm

PITCHING IN NPL STANDINGS

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



NANTWICH TOWN

MANAGER

Paul Carden

1	Scott MOLONEY
2	Troy BOURNE (C)
3	Perry BIRCUMSHAW
4	Ahmed ALI
5	Nathan OKOME
6	Scott BUTLER
7	Paddy KAY
8	Steven HEWITT
9	Byron HARRISON
10	Connor HEATH
11	Callum SAUNDERS
12	Kai EVANS
14	Mo ALI
15	Jacob EDWARDS
16	Lewis SINNOTT
17	Joel CONNOLLY

SHIFNAL TOWN

MANAGER

Mark Jones

1	Jack HARDING
2	Jack TOMPKINS
3	Jack DAVIES
23	Tai FLEMING
5	Lawson D'ATH (C)
6	Ken CHARLES
7	Abdi YUSSUF
8	Temitope OBADEYI
9	Emmanuel MAJA-WHEELER
17	Aidan Elliott-WHEELER
11	Louis HALL
10	Simeone MAYE
14	Josh BARLOW
15	Craig HEWITT
16	Tyrell SKEEN-HAMILTON

REFEREE: Edgar Brown

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Minesh Gupta, Matthew Jackson