

THE DABBER



NANTWICH TOWN
VS
YORK CITY
Saturday 9th December 2023
KICK OFF 15:00

Official matchday programme of Nantwich Town FC

CLUB DETAILS & HONOURS

Nantwich Town Football Club (2010) 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,

David Clapp, Daniel Dunning-Cole,

Timothy Crighton, Keith Knight,

Catherine Walter

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: Carl Thorpe

General Manager: Miles Luck

Press Officers: Liam Price, Adam

Bateman, Jack Beresford

Programme Editor: Carl Thorpe

Club Photographer: Jonathan White

Groundsman: Matt McAuley

Stadium & Safety Officer: Matt McAuley

Social Networks:

Twitter: @TheDabbers

Facebook: /nantwichtownfc

YouTube: Nantwich Town FC

Instagram: officialnantwichtownfc

CLUB HONOURS

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS:

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 COMPETITIONS:

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

YORK CITY – FA TROPHY MATCH PREVIEW

Good afternoon and welcome to the Swansway Stadium for this afternoon's FA Trophy Third Round match against York City. We would like to welcome all the directors, staff, players and supporters associated with York this afternoon.

The Dabbers' dream run in the Isuzu FA Trophy continues this Saturday as we welcome National League York City to the Swansway Stadium (3pm kick-off).

Fairytale of York

York sit 64 places above the Dabbers in the football pyramid, currently 19th in the National League. You may well have seen their last match, as they went down 1-0 in the fog to Wigan in the FA Cup Second Round live on the BBC last Friday.

But that was only their second defeat in their last 8 games in all competitions, the other being to Hartlepool in the middle of November. Wins over Chester in the FA Cup and Fylde and Oxford City in the league have started to build confidence under Neal Ardley, who only joined as manager in September after the Minstermen failed to win any of their first 7 games of the season.

They have great pedigree in this competition, having won it twice before in recent memory, in 2012 and 2017. The question for Saturday is, with them still not clear of danger in the league, what sort of York team will be on show at the Swansway?

Players to Watch

Up top, Dipo Akinyemi on 8 and Lenell John-Lewis on 6 are their top scorers. However, Akinyemi has not been in the York squad for their last 2 games so it's unclear if he'll be available for this one.

In goal may well be the vastly experienced David Stockdale. With over 500 career appearances, most of those in the Premier League or EFL, he's returned to his boyhood club where he's combining keeping duties with also being York's Head of Recruitment.

Special Guest – Debbie Hewitt MBE

We are honoured that the Chair of The F.A and Vice President of FIFA, Debbie Hewitt M.B.E will also be joining us to officially open our new community 3G pitch before tomorrow's game. Prior to this she will also visit the "Applewood Arena facility to view the Saturday community activities with our junior and youth players, Pan Disability team and Women's section.

"We are delighted to have The Chair of The F.A join us to open our new community 3G pitch and to also observe and support the wonderful progress that the club continues to make on all levels, said Dabbers Chairman Jon Gold "and it's a big thanks and justification to all of our volunteers, investors and supporters, whose dedication and efforts help to make this all happen and it's wonderful that it coincides with such a prestigious game in the FA Trophy and I am sure it's going to be an exciting and memorable occasion".

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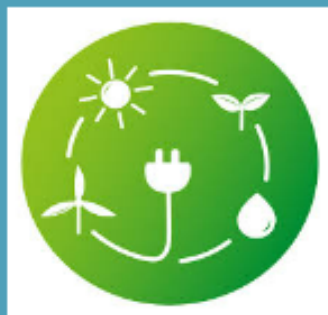


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CITY OF LIVERPOOL – MATCH REPORT

An inspired Sean Cooke hat-trick helped Nantwich Town come from behind to secure a crucial 3-2 win over in-form City of Liverpool at Bootle's Berry Street Garages Stadium.

In the first half, the home side's successes were all coming from the wings. New signing Elliot Morris got in behind on the right hand side and tried to find Ishmael Sonko, luckily for the Dabbers he wasn't ready and the ball bounced off him into the hands of Danny Roberts.

Roberts was on hand again to deny Morris, saving a near post attempt from him again on the right hand side. In truth it was a very bitty first half where neither team was really getting a foothold in proceedings.

Nantwich's first shot on target actually came after The Purps' first corner, the Dabbers breaking and Sean Cooke trying to catch out Calvin Hare who held on well. Jack Hont won a header from a corner that was cleared by Byron Harrison, the rebound then caught by Roberts.

The Dabbers didn't heed that warning. Six minutes later, the same player Hont rose highest with little marking to power a header in from close range. There was a question of an offside in the build up to the corner but there was no question it was poor defending from Nantwich.

Roberts did well to push away a long range bouncing strike just before the break, the game had been meandering but it was the home team who had grabbed the initiative and were looking like a team that had only lost 1 of their last 10 in all competitions.

After an exchanging of what manager Paul Carden described as 'a few home truths' at half time, the Dabbers looked sharper straight away. The true spark arrived on 55 minutes. Stevie Hewitt swung in a free kick from out wide, it bounced around the box and Cooke popped up to poke in the equaliser, his instincts as sharp as ever.

That really lit the fuse and the Dabbers looked a different team, suddenly the passes were being pinged around and City of Liverpool looked much less secure. Kai Evans and Jake Kirby-Reed switched wings and that tweak also worked well, Kai picking out Byron Harrison at the near post but Byron not quite able to flick the header the way he'd have liked.

A penalty claim on Harrison was waved away and then there was another slight lull. With just over 15 minutes to go, Akiel Raffie was brought on for his second Nantwich debut and made an impact almost immediately, putting in crosses that cause defences problems. It was only a small cameo this time, but it was like he'd never been away.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL – MATCH REPORT

One of those crosses led to a corner. From that corner, another penalty box scramble led to a spot kick. Bodies everywhere meant it was hard to see for sure live, but suddenly the referee had not only pointed for a Nantwich penalty but had a red card in his hand for the The Purps' Danny Mitchley; it soon became clear he'd handled the ball on the goal line and had to go.

Cooke, who for most of the season has had to cede penalty duties to Harrison through injury, was on the spot this time and put it away high in the middle of the goal to complete the comeback. 2 minutes later, he wrapped up a magnificent 25-minute hat trick as City of Liverpool struggled to adapt to being down to 10 players.

Once again, the home side were guilty of not clearing their lines properly, this time it dropped kindly to Cooke in plenty of space, which for a player of his quality you simply cannot do; Sean tucked it into the far corner to make it 3-1.

It turned out to be a decisive goal, as 5 minutes from time City of Liverpool pulled one back. A remarkable shot that came in after Nantwich couldn't deal with a deep cross saw the ball hit both posts, a bamboozled Roberts unable to get there, and the ball pulled back with a brilliant Morris backheel for substitute Danny Mitchley to score the easiest of tap-ins.

A mammoth 9 minutes of added time were moving at a glacial pace, Nantwich could have killed it once and for all through Evans but he couldn't keep a tough shot down. There were no other chances for the home side to level and the Dabbers were able to return to Cheshire with a first league win in 7 games.

City of Liverpool: Calvin Hare, Michael Simpson, Jack Hont (Jawad Jebrin, 82), Adam Rooney, Michael Grogan, Kenny Strickland, Callum Schorah, Max Allen, Ismail Sonko (Xenon Bahula, 63), Josh Quarless (Danny Mitchley, 63), Elliot Morris

Subs not used: Ibrahim Conteh, Ethan Jones

Goals: Hont (39), Mitchley (85)

Nantwich Town: Danny Roberts, Troy Bourne, Tyler Hill, Steven Hewitt, Nathan Okome, Scott Butler, Kai Evans, Paddy Kay, Byron Harrison (Connor Rankin, 82), Sean Cooke (Ahmed Ali, 90), Jake Kirby-Reed (Akiel Raffie, 73)

Subs not used: Perry Bircumshaw, AJ Leitch-Smith

Goals: Cooke (55, 78, 80)

Attendance: 324

City of Liverpool 2-3 Nantwich Town



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YORK CITY – BRIEF HISTORY IN TIME



CLUB INFO

Club Name: York City F.C
Year Founded: 1922
Club Nickname: The Minstermen
Current Ground: York Community Stadium
Current Manager: Neal Ardley



CUP HISTORY

North Riding Senior Cup: Winners – 11 times
FA Cup: Semi Finals – 1954/55
FA Trophy: Winners 2012, 2017
Football League Cup: Quarter Finals – 1961/62



LEAGUE HISTORY

National League North: Playoff Winners – 2021/22
Conference Premier: Playoff Winners – 2011/12
Fourth Division: Champions – 1983/84
Third Division: Playoff Winners – 1992/93

LAST 5 LEAGUE SEASONS:

Season	League	POS	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
2018-19	NAT N	12/22	42	16	10	16	58	63	58
2019-20	NAT N	2/22	34	19	9	6	52	28	66
2020-21	NAT N	ABAN	13	6	4	3	22	17	22 *
2021-22	NAT N	5/22	42	19	9	14	58	50	66
2022-23	NAT P	19/24	46	13	12	21	55	63	51

* 2020-21 Season curtailed due to COVID-19

YORK CITY - HISTORY

Established in 1922, York City Football Club is a passionate, proud club with football and community spirit at the heart of everything it does. We aspire to welcome, support and represent our entire community. As well as a full-time professional men's first team, YCFC has a successful Ladies Team, Youth Team, Academy and Foundation.

The present club was formed in 1922 and prior to their election to Division Three North of the Football League in 1929 played in the Midland League. They remained in the Northern Section until 1958 when they became one of the original members of the Fourth Division. (During the Second World War when the League was suspended from 1939 until 1946 the club operated in the various wartime competitions). Over the next 45 seasons (1958-2004) the club won promotion six times. In 1958/59 and 1964/65 they moved up to the third tier only to suffer immediate relegation.

Over the years City have earned themselves the title of "giantkillers" and when in the Third Division North reached both the quarter finals and semi-finals of the FA Cup. In the Football League Cup they reached the quarter finals in 1961/62 and in the mid 1990's beat Premier clubs Manchester United and Everton in successive seasons.

En route to the 6th round in 1937/38 they defeated First Division clubs West Bromwich Albion and Middlesbrough before bowing out to Huddersfield Town in a replay at Leeds Road. The game against Town at York attracted Bootham Crescent's record crowd of 28,123.

In 1954/55 City beat top flight clubs Blackpool and Tottenham Hotspur and in the semi-final drew 1-1 at Hillsborough against Newcastle United to become the first Third Division side to appear in an FA Cup semi final replay which was lost 2-0 at Roker Park.

City again gained promotion in 1970/71 and in 1974 reached the Second Division (Championship) for the first and to date only time in our history.

In two seasons in the second tier of English football the club competed with Manchester United, Chelsea, Aston Villa, Sunderland, West Bromwich Albion and Nottingham Forest amongst others and in 1974/75 achieved their highest ever League placing when they finished 15th.

The following campaign, however, they were relegated and by 1977 were back in the Fourth.

In 1983/84 City won their first major honour when they finished runaway Fourth Division champions with 101 points becoming the first club in Football League history to reach three figures.

YORK CITY - HISTORY

City's next promotion success in the Football League was via the playoffs in 1992/93 when on the club's first ever visit to Wembley Stadium they beat Crewe Alexandra in a penalty shoot out.

In January 1985, York City famously beat Arsenal 1-0 in the 4th round of the FA Cup at Bootham Crescent thanks to a last minute Keith Houchen penalty. That one kick of the ball sent the fans into total delirium and the club into the 5th round to face Liverpool.

City secured a 1-1 draw against Liverpool in the 5th round at Bootham Crescent, but faced a 7-0 defeat in the replay at Anfield. Incredibly, the following season York City made the 5th round and drew Liverpool once again. We again secured a replay at Anfield following another 1-1 draw, losing 3-1 after extra time.

On 20th September 1995 the club hit the national headlines with a stunning Coca Cola League Cup 2nd round upset at Old Trafford. City thumped future double winners 3-0 Manchester United in front of their own fans. The return fixture resulted in an aggregate 4-3 result and one of the biggest cup shocks of all time.

In 2004 the club finished bottom of Division Three (League Two) and dropped down to the Conference bringing to an end 75 years membership of the Football League. During that time they had spent two seasons in the second tier and 16 in the third tier.

In eight years in the Conference City reached the promotion play offs three times. In 2006/07 they lost at the semi-final stage and in 2009/10 went down to Oxford United in the final and then, on May 20th 2012, promotion back to the Football League was achieved when Luton Town were beaten 2-1 at Wembley.

This latter game marked the club's 4th appearance at the national stadium in four years and completed a league and FA Trophy double at Wembley in just eight days.

After four years back in the Football League, York dropped back into the Conference finishing in 24th place in League 2 in 2015/16. The following season City suffered a second successive relegation, after finishing in the final relegation place in the National League and will compete in regional non-league football in 2017/18 for the first time since 1929.

Against all the odds, City successfully battled through a tough National League North playoffs to achieve a return to national football in the club's historic centenary year. The final against Boston United was held at City's new LNER Community Stadium, with a 2-0 victory securing promotion.

YORK CITY – THE SQUAD

Meet the Opposition

Neal Ardley (Manager)

York City FC were delighted to announce the appointment of vastly experienced Neal Ardley as the club's new first team manager on a three-year deal in September 2023.

The former player spent large parts of his playing days at Wimbledon, where he racked up over 200 appearances between 1991-2002, leaving as one of their longest serving players by the time of his departure.

AFC Wimbledon secured the services of their former player in October 2012 after a poor start, where the now 51-year-old spent over 300 games in charge between 2012 to 2018.

Neal has also had spells as a manager with Notts County and Solihull Moors.

Lenell John-Lewis (One to watch)

Experienced forward, nicknamed 'The Shop', who joined City initially on loan from Grimsby Town in February 2022, has spent the majority of his career playing in the Football League for the likes of Lincoln City, Bury and Newport County. After playing a key role in the National League North promotion, John-Lewis was signed on a permanent deal and was City's captain and top scorer last season in the National League.

Alex Woodyard (One to watch)

The experienced central midfielder signed from AFC Wimbledon where he was club captain. Woodyard was an important part of Lincoln City's rise from the National League and has since made over 250 EFL appearances for the Imps, Peterborough, Tranmere Rovers, and the Dons.

David Stockdale (One to watch)

David started his senior career with the Minstermen 20 years ago after coming through the club's academy and making his debut as a 17-year-old against Oxford United. Since then, the Yorkshireman has carved out an incredible career at the top levels of English football, winning the golden glove in the Championship, League One, and League Two.

In the 2022/23 season Stockdale made 24 League One appearances and kept 11 clean sheets as Sheffield Wednesday secured promotion to the Championship via the play-offs. This was the fifth promotion-winning campaign that the goalkeeper has contributed to in the EFL, having also ascended from League One with Wycombe Wanderers and Leicester City, and from the Championship with Brighton & Hove Albion and Hull City.

Having represented England C while a youngster at York, Stockdale was part of the England senior set-up under Fabio Capello after impressing during a run of games in the Premier League with Fulham. With the Cottagers, he also received a UEFA Europa League Runners-up medal in 2009/10.

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A business of Marsh McLennan

WITTON ALBION – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich Town made it 4 unbeaten in all competitions with a 4-1 win away at Witton Albion on Tuesday night.

Connor Rankin curled wide after just 2 minutes, his pressing and physicality working well there but not so well when he picked up a booking after just 15 minutes.

Ahmed Ali had a shot blocked just outside the box before Witton's John Pritchard picked out top scorer Connor Hughes who couldn't direct a header on target.

There was no doubting the Dabbers were on top and there were a couple of big chances to make that pay. Rankin was found by Evans and his low strike was brilliantly saved by Ollie Martin. Then, Scott Butler saw an effort cleared away from off the goal-line from the following corner, both inches away from their first Dabbers goals.

Against the run of play, Witton then took the lead. It was from a corner and was frustratingly similar to the opening goal from City of Liverpool at the weekend. A corner was swung in and former Premier League defender Matthew Lowton sidefooted in from close range.

The Dabbers didn't have to wait long to equalise. A free kick, swung in by Stevie Hewitt, was met by an unmarked Ahmed Ali for just his second open play goal of the season.

Rankin headed over from a Tyler Hill cross as the Dabbers went in level at the break.

The second half saw the Dabbers put their foot on the accelerator much as they did on Saturday. Sean Cooke dragged an effort wide, then on 55 minutes a moment of pure individual brilliance gave Nantwich the lead.

Kai Evans picked up the ball on the left side, and set off into a crowd of bodies with the ball seemingly glued to his foot. Battling his way through he then had the coolness to open up his body and curl into the far corner to delight the travelling supporters behind that goal. Paul Carden admitted afterwards he and some of the other coaches were shouting at Kai to pass the ball, but everyone of a Nantwich persuasion was delighted he didn't.

10 minutes later, Kai had his second and 8th of the season. It was another great finish, slotted in behind by Hewitt he showed composure to knock it around the onrushing keeper Martin and tuck the finish away from a quickly narrowing angle.

WITTON ALBION – MATCH REPORT

Danny Roberts, mostly not called into action in the game, made an instinctive save from an Elliot Rokka snapshot.

With 10 minutes to go, the Dabbers wrapped up the goalscoring. Hewitt completed a hat trick of assists with another sublime free kick delivery, a gift that captain Troy Bourne was only too happy to accept as he buried a header into the net. Troy's 5th of the season means he's already surpassed his best season of scoring for the Dabbers, and we're still only in November.

Witton were looking thoroughly deflated and gaps were opening up everywhere. Sub Connor Heath had acres of space to run into but couldn't quite pick out Rankin who was just missing a goal to top off a great centre forward's performance, that crucially allowed Byron Harrison to rest.

A very good night all round for the Dabbers, and back-to-back league wins for only the second time this season.

Witton Albion: Ollie Martin, Mike Koral (Tom Hoyle, 62), John Pritchard, Matthew Lowton, Oliver Hitchcox, Kingsley Williams, Oli Roberts (Harry Brazell, 62), Jack Sherratt (Cameron Fogerty, 62), Connor Hughes, James Lawrie, Elliot Rokka

Subs not used: Brandon Newell, Joe Mwasile

Goal: Lowton (21)

Nantwich Town: Danny Roberts, Troy Bourne, Tyler Hill, Ahmed Ali, Nathan Okome, Scott Butler, Kai Evans (Connor Heath, 75), Steven Hewitt, Connor Rankin, Sean Cooke (Akiel Raffie, 71), Paddy Kay

Subs not used: Perry Bircumshaw, Byron Harrison, Jake Kirby

Goals: A.Ali (25), Evans (55, 65), Bourne (80)

Attendance: 348

Witton Albion 1-4 Nantwich Town

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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	2-1	415
Sat 23rd Sep 2023	Dunston	FA Trophy 2QR	3.00pm	H	2-1	307
Tue 26th Sep 2023	Hanley Town	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A	0-1	157
Sat 30th Sep 2023	Chester	FA Cup 3rd Qualifying	3.00pm	A	1-2	2,162
Sat 7th Oct 2023	Bradford (Park Avenue)	FA Trophy 3QR	3.00pm	A	0-0 (6-5)	256
Tue 10th Oct 2023	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H	3-1	390
Sat 14th Oct 2023	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	3-1	745
Tue 17th Oct 2023	Leek Town	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A	0-2	502
Sat 21st Oct 2023	Prescot Cables	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	1-1	461
Sat 28th Oct 2023	Stratford Town	FA Trophy R1	3.00pm	H	0-0 (4-2)	279
Tue 31st Oct 2023	Trafford	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A	1-2	297
Sat 4th Nov 2023	Newcastle Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	0-1	383
Tue 7th Nov 2023	Bootle	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	2-2	287
Sat 11th Nov 2023	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	2-3	847
Tue 14th Nov 2023	Runcorn Town	Cheshire Cup R1	7.45pm	H	10-1	221
Sat 18th Nov 2023	Chester	FA Trophy R2	3.00pm	H	0-0 (4-2)	1414
Sat 25th Nov 2023	City of Liverpool	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	3-2	324
Tue 28th Nov 2023	Witton Albion	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A	4-1	348

1

Match played at Leek Town

2

Match played at Burscough

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Paddy Kay	25	1	3
Byron Harrison	24	10	1
Troy Bourne	24	5	4
Steven Hewitt	24	1	16
Nathan Okome	24	0	1
Scott Butler	24	0	1
Kai Evans	23	8	4
Ahmed Ali	23	2	3

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Mohamud Ali	18	4	0
Scott Moloney	17	0	0
Sean Cooke	15	6	4
Joel Connolly	14	0	2
Connor Heath	13	3	0
AJ Leitch-Smith	11	4	2
Perry Bircumshaw	11	0	3
Danny Roberts	10	0	0

DABBERS 2023-24 SEASON

DATE	OPPONENTS	Competition	KO	H/A	SCORE	ATT
Tue 5th Dec 2023	Witton Albion	Cheshire Cup R2	7.45pm	H	1-2	194
Sat 9th Dec 2023	York City	FA Trophy R3	3.00pm	H		
Tue 12th Dec 2023	Widnes	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	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		
Tue 16th Jan 2024	Chasetown	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	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 10th Feb 2024	Mossley	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
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	Kids Grove 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	Assists
Callum Saunders	9	3	2
Jake Kirby	7	1	0
Connor Rankin	7	0	1
Tyler Hill	7	0	1
Eric Yahaya	5	1	0
Cameron Rooney	5	0	1
Caspar Hughes	5	0	1
Lewis Sinnott	5	0	0

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Dylan Thompson	4	0	0
Jacob Edwards	4	0	0
Ollie Holden	3	1	0
Akiel Raffie	3	0	1
Sean Lawton	2	0	0
Jack Sherratt	1	0	0
James Speare	0	0	0

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#ITSOKAYTOTALK

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

SCOTT MOLONEY

Goalkeeper

15 APRIL 2000

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.

DANNY ROBERTS

Goalkeeper

23 AUGUST 1989

The experienced 34-year-old signed for Nantwich as a free agent at the end of October 2023 after Scott Moloney suffered a fractured wrist. Danny is very experienced and previously has been at Leek Town and Witton Albion to note. Danny has already been instrumental to the current FA Trophy run, making heroic saves in the penalty shoot-out victories over Stratford Town and Chester.

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

21 DECEMBER 1994

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.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

MOHAMUD ALI

Defender

08 JULY 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. Mohamud has represented Somalia eight times. He was awarded man of the match in their own FIFA World Cup qualifying win against Zimbabwe in 2019.

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.

SEAN LAWTON

Defender

12 SEPTEMBER 2003

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.

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

28 OCTOBER 2004

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 Mohamud, 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.

JAKE KIRBY-REED

Midfielder

09 MAY 1994

Jake joins the club having been unattached for 4 years. He had over 150 league appearances across six years at Tranmere Rovers and two years at Stockport County before stepping away from the game in 2019 aged just 25 due to persistent injury problems. Now 29, he is returning to the game with the Dabbers.

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.

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.

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.

CONNOR RANKIN

Forward

27 JUNE 1997

Connor signed for the Dabbers in November 2023 after impressing in the early part of the season at Lower Breck in the NWCFL. The 23-year-old is look to showcase his abilities in the NPL for the remainder of the campaign.



The
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prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in the young*



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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- 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%.

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WITTON (CHESHIRE CUP) – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich Town are out of the Cheshire Senior Cup after Witton scored an 85th minute winner to win 2-1 at the Swansway Stadium.

Akiel Raffie made his first start since returning to Nantwich, with Callum Saunders in a Nantwich squad for the first time since September after a long spell out with a knee injury.

Taylor Kennerley had the first effort of the game, running into the box and hitting straight at Danny Roberts from the left side.

It quickly became clear that the Dabbers weren't at the level of the last few games, with cheap concessions of possession left, right and centre.

Kingsley Williams was the beneficiary of one of these loose passes, finding Connor Hughes on the right but his cross was easy for Roberts.

On 25 minutes, Witton took advantage of Nantwich's slackness with the opening goal. Nathan Okome was too easily dispossessed by a Witton player, and played in Hughes for a very easy finish about 6 yards out, his 8th goal of the season in all competitions.

Connor Heath couldn't get on the end of a Sean Cooke attempted through ball, before Roberts had to come off his line as another pass bisected the Nantwich backline.

It was easy again in the last 5 minutes of the half as a 1-2 took out several statuesque Nantwich defenders to get in behind again, luckily they were unable to make anything of it from the right wing.

A big response was needed, the Dabbers' recent momentum was started by the big win over Runcorn in the previous round and it was in danger of being stalled here.

Respond the Dabbers did. 6 minutes into the second half Mo Ali flicked a header in off the far post to equalise. Steven Hewitt's remarkable run of assisting continued with another exceptional free kick delivery. While the metrics to measure things like assists may not be as scientific here as they are in the Premier League, by the club's measure that is the 16th goal he has set up this season. For comparison, the current top assister in the Premier League has 7.

Perry Bircumshaw fired across the face of goal as an improved Dabbers looked to turn the game on its head. Then, Nathan Okome found himself in the box and did brilliantly to turn his man but the ball somewhat bounced off Byron Harrison rather than him getting a shot away and Martin gratefully fell on the ball.

WITTON (CHESHIRE CUP) – MATCH REPORT

Sub Connor Rankin flicked a header over the bar, before a better chance for him came courtesy of a fine whipped cross from Troy Bourne. Rankin got under it and it looped over the bar.

Kennerley was threatening again and zipped a cross beyond everyone waiting in the box.

Witton carried a danger whenever they went forward, even though it was happening much less in the second half. And they came as close as its possible to come as we headed into the last 10 minutes. Lee Jackson off the bench smashed one off the post and then it was carnage, another shot was blocked and the third was held by Roberts.

The Dabbers had escaped, but not for long. Kennerley was part of a 2v1 overload on the Dabbers right hand side, affording him the space when he got the ball back to fire in across Roberts.

Martin at the other end had to make a decent save from a Nantwich volley but time was up for the Dabbers in the Cheshire Cup, as Witton got their revenge for the heavy league defeat inflicted on them by Nantwich 7 days prior.

Nantwich Town: Danny Roberts, Troy Bourne, Perry Bircumshaw (Tyler Hill, 82), Paddy Kay, Nathan Okome (Scott Butler, 62), Mo Ali, Akiel Raffie, Steven Hewitt, Byron Harrison (Callum Saunders, 82), Sean Cooke (Connor Rankin, 62), Connor Heath

Sub not used: James Speare

Goal: M.Ali (51)

Witton Albion: Ollie Martin, Mike Koral, Taylor Kennerley, Oliver Hitchcox, Tom Hoyle, Cameron Fogerty, James Lawrie, Kinglsey Williams, Connor Hughes, Joe Mwasile (Lee Jackson, 57), Elliot Rokka (Oli Roberts, 62)

Sub not used: John Pritchard

Goals: Hughes (25), Kennerley (85)

Attendance: 194

Nantwich Town 1-2 Witton Albion

PITCHING IN NPL D1W - RESULTS & FIXTURES

NPL Division One West Results - Saturday 2nd December

Chasetown	3	2	Witton Albion	1,842
Leek Town	3	0	Hednesford Town	584

Cheshire Senior Cup Results - Tuesday 5th December 2023

Alsager Town	1	3	Hyde United	
Macclesfield	4	2	Tranmere Rovers	
Nantwich Town	1	2	Witton Albion	194

NPL Division One West Fixtures - Saturday 9th December 2023

Avro	vs	Runcorn Linnets	3.00pm
Clitheroe	vs	Bootle	3.00pm
Hednesford Town	vs	1874 Northwich	3.00pm
Kidsgrove Athletic	vs	Mossley	3.00pm
Prescot Cables	vs	Leek Town	3.00pm
Stalybridge Celtic	vs	Vauxhall Motors	3.00pm
Trafford	vs	Widnes	3.00pm
Witton Albion	vs	Hanley Town	3.00pm

FA Trophy 3rd Round - Saturday 9th December 2023

City of Liverpool	vs	Hartlepool United	3.00pm
Curzon Ashton	vs	Macclesfield	3.00pm
Nantwich Town	vs	York City	3.00pm
Radcliffe	vs	Redditch United	3.00pm
Walsall Wood	vs	Coalville Town	3.00pm

PITCHING IN NPL D1W - STANDINGS

			P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1	Leek Town	17	10	2	5	42	28	+14	32
	2	Prescot Cables	16	9	4	3	28	13	+15	31
	3	Stalybridge Celtic	17	8	5	4	30	25	+5	29
	4	Avro	16	7	7	2	20	15	+5	28
	5	Clitheroe	16	8	3	5	33	23	+10	27
	6	Runcorn Linnets	16	8	3	5	28	20	+8	27
	7	Kidsgrove Athletic	16	8	2	6	33	28	+5	26
	8	Bootle	16	7	4	5	23	19	+4	25
	9	Chasetown	16	7	4	5	22	20	+2	25
	10	Mossley	15	7	1	7	21	24	-3	22
	11	Widnes	15	6	3	6	17	12	+5	21
	12	Newcastle Town	16	6	3	7	21	20	+1	21
	13	Nantwich Town	15	6	2	7	24	20	+4	20
	14	Hanley Town	15	6	2	7	15	21	-6	20
	15	City of Liverpool	15	5	3	7	26	26	0	18
	16	Witton Albion	16	5	3	8	25	40	-15	18
	17	Vauxhall Motors	15	5	2	8	17	28	-11	17
	18	1874 Northwich	16	4	2	10	14	32	-18	14
	19	Trafford	16	2	6	8	18	26	-8	12
	20	Hednesford Town	18	2	5	11	20	37	-17	11



NANTWICH TOWN

Manager – Paul Carden

Mo Ali
Ahmed Ali
Perry Bircumshaw
Troy Bourne
Scott Butler
Sean Cooke
Kai Evans
Byron Harrison
Steven Hewitt
Tyler Hill
Paddy Kay
Jake Kirby
Scott Moloney (GK)
Nathan Okome
Akiel Raffie
Connor Rankin
Danny Roberts (GK)
Callum Saunders
James Speare (GK)
Amir Tavakoli



YORK CITY

Manager – Neal Ardley

David Stockdale
Michael Duckworth
Tyler Corder
Quevin Castro
Maziar Kolihyar
Callum Harriott
Kai Kenenedy
Luke Daley
Will Davies
Thierry Latty Fairweather
Olly Green
Ryan Fallowfield
Paddy McLaughlin
Lennell John Lewis
Scott Burgess
Zanda Siziba
Alex Woodyard
Rory Watson

REFEREE: Greg Rollason

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Luis Martin & Jack Nield

4TH OFFICIAL: Kieran Chell