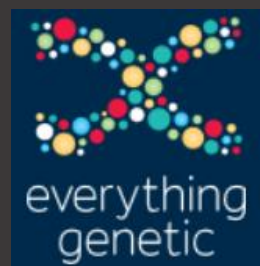


THE DABBER



NANTWICH TOWN
VS
TRAFFORD
Saturday 24th February 2024
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: 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

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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

TRAFFORD - MATCH PREVIEW

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

The Dabbers are back at home this Saturday (3pm kick-off), facing Trafford at the Swansway looking to get back to winning ways.

A word from our sponsors

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Traff-ic jam

Trafford come into this game on back-to-back wins, something they've only done 3 times this season. They beat 1874 Northwich 4-0 and followed it up with a 2-1 win over Newcastle Town, coming from behind to win that one. If you just take league games, they are unbeaten in 4, earning impressive draws with promotion chasing Runcorn Linnets and Stalybridge before that.

They have drawn 13 games out of 28 this season, 2 more than anyone else in the league and more than double that of the Dabbers. But they've gathered enough points and wins to pull them away from danger, now 8 points above relegation in 16th. Former FC United boss Karl Marginson has stabilised things after a sluggish start to the season.

Last Time We Met

Marginson got his first win as Trafford manager in our reverse fixture, where they won 2-1 on Halloween night. Troy Bourne gave Nantwich the lead before getting sent off, and an inspired Matty Lusakueno scored twice to complete the comeback.

Players to Watch

Despite looking like a world-beater that night, they remain the only 2 goals Lusakueno has scored this season. However, he has only made 2 appearances since that game because of injuries but he was back in their last game against Newcastle.

The main man in terms of goalscoring has been Eddie Servuts. He is up to 9 for the season now, more than double any other Trafford player, and has scored in both those back-to-back wins before this game.

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HANLEY TOWN – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich Town put in one of their best attacking performances of the season to overcome Hanley Town 3-0 at The Swansway Stadium.

Before the game, there was a minute's silence to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the tragic death of Nantwich player Ryan Keen aged just 20 in 1994. The Dabbers team of today went on to put in a showing that did his memory proud; as Paul Carden said afterwards 'it's the kind of performance I know that's in us.'

The first chance came just 2 minutes in, as Courtney Meppen-Walters headed narrowly wide from the first corner of the game.

After a couple of range finders from either side, the best chance yet came via the returning Paddy Kay, who almost repeated his scoring heroics from the Solihull game with a curling strike that was excellently tipped onto the bar by Adam Whitehouse.

Amir Tavakoli headed comfortably wide, and a fierce Kai Evans free kick delivery was well handled by the Hanley backline. More and more fouls and stoppages then started to creep into the game. It was getting bitty and edging towards nasty, yellow cards starting to be delivered regularly, including one for the keeper Whitehouse who decided to run half the length of the pitch to argue with the referee.

The game needed a goal to break this funk that it had gotten into, and it arrived for the Dabbers just minutes later. A ball was swung in from the right and found its way into the back of the net. Hanley wanted a foul on the goalkeeper, if Nantwich didn't get one for the goal that Prescott scored at the Swansway earlier in the season than this wasn't one either.

It's another goal where it is not immediately clear who scored it. Initially given to Callum Saunders and then to Troy Bourne after looking at a pitchside video, Troy honourably said afterwards that he didn't think he touched it. Video footage from the main angle reviewed afterwards actually showed it was the unfortunate Saul Shotton who put it into his own net.

It's the third Nantwich goal in a row where this has happened; the Byron Harrison goal against Witton was reclassified by the NPL as an own goal, Saunders' goal against Leek is under review for the same reason, and now this. It could end up being three own goals in a row.

Saunders almost immediately got a goal that would have unquestionably been his, forcing an excellent save by Whitehouse to tip it round the post. But from the very next corner, the second goal did come. It was not properly cleared by the Hanley defence and out it rolled to George Milner who smashed in a spectacular first goal for the club. 2 goals in 3 minutes had Hanley reeling.

HANLEY TOWN – MATCH REPORT

Ethan Stanton tried to reduce the deficit, but his cross/shot was well held by Scott Moloney. The second half picked up where the first left off, Saunders saw the woodwork rattle again after a crisp strike was pushed onto the post by Whitehouse.

Kay hit a sipping shot that took a deflection for a corner, then a significant chance for Cesaire Lingouba to get his own first Nantwich goal as he slid a shot wide of the post when it looked destined to be a goal.

Joint top scorer for Hanley Kieran Brown had a couple of efforts, turning and shooting straight at Moloney then heading on target a couple of minutes later, neither stretching the Dabbers keeper.

Then a very tidy move brought the Dabbers's third and decisive goal. Excellent play down the right between Lingouba and Tavakoli, Amir then put the ball on a plate for Kai Evans to notch his first Nantwich goal since the end of November.

Understandably Hanley heads did drop at that point and Nantwich tried to take advantage of this. Saunders again came agonisingly close were it not for another Whitehouse save.

Then a remarkable bit of skill from Meppen-Walters in the box saw him sit a defender down then hit the outside of the post with an effort from a narrow angle. That was the third time Nantwich had hit the woodwork; amidst scurrilous claims of bias in the game the only thing you could call biased were Hanley's goalposts.

Moloney was quick off his line to claim a ball ahead of Brown who was sprung in behind, then a misjudgement from Whitehouse at the other end saw him out of his box and not getting to the ball, Sean Lawton wasn't quite able to find a Nantwich man as the keeper scrambled back.

Ex-Dabber Luke Walsh shot straight at Moloney, before sub, Jacob Edwards came close to his first ever Nantwich goal, shooting into the side netting. Kay fired wide with the last kick of the game as the Dabbers saw out their joint biggest league win of the season.

Nantwich Town: Scott Moloney, Amir Tavakoli (Jacob Edwards, 86), Sean Lawton, Troy Bourne, Courtney Meppen-Walters (Nathan Okome, 82), Perry Bircumshaw, Paddy Kay, Cesaire Lingouba, Callum Saunders, George Milner, Kai Evans (Akiel Raffie, 80)

Subs not used: Eric Merner, Byron Harrison

Goals: Bourne (38), Milner (41), Evans (59)

Attendance: 280



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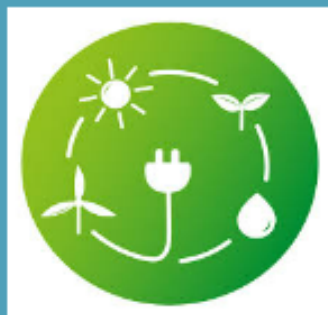


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MOSSLEY – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich Town and Mossley shared the points in a drab 0-0 draw at Seel Park.

The Dabbers made just the one change from the win over Hanley, with Joel Connolly returning from his suspension just in time to replace George Milner, who was out with a tight hamstring.

There wasn't a great deal to write home about from the first half. Mossley had half a chance from the very first corner of the match, winning the initial header at the far post and then flicking the second ball over the bar.

Then, Jack Banister sliced an effort into the side netting from an ever narrowing angle.

In open play there was very little between the sides but the early chances were the home side's. An almost calamitous Dabbers moment came when Scott Moloney came to the edge of his box to clear, didn't catch it properly, and saw Reece Webb-Foster run past him, luckily Perry Bircumshaw was also there to clear and avoid a painful Nantwich tribute to the Alisson blunder at the Emirates last weekend.

There was half a shout for a Nantwich penalty as Troy Bourne went down in the box while looking to shoot. The big question is why would he go down when there was a chance there to have a go; best to let the video decide on that one.

William Shepherd was the next to chance his arm from distance, over-fading his strike and seeing it slide away from Moloney's goal.

Arguably the biggest chance of the half came from Cesaire Lingouba, who brought a decent save out of Finley Madigam with a snapshot that was pushed over. Again there was a brief penalty shout, this time for handball, just before the Lingouba effort. Reece Webb-Foster, a recent signing for the Lillywhites, didn't test Moloney with his effort just before half time.

In the second half, Courtney Meppen-Walters blazed over the bar from a free kick in a semi-promising position. There is still the belief that Meppen-Walters will score a screamer before the season is out but not to be today.

Webb-Foster missed the target at one end, before Connolly may have hit the target were it not for a good block on the edge of the box at the other.

Alfie Belcher got a break down the Mossley right and was able to pull the ball across to Banister who couldn't keep his effort down. That was the culmination of a good spell for the home side, and it was a game where both sides had those kinds of spells of 5 or 10 minutes but neither did enough with them.

MOSSLEY – MATCH REPORT

Kai Evans was lively again out there and curled on target but simply enough for Madigan to handle. The front line that was on fire on Tuesday just wasn't quite sparking this time.

Mossley sub Sam Adetiloye had a shot after cutting in from the right but a nick off a Dabbers leg made the save simpler save for Moloney than it might have been.

The strongest chance came from Evans inside the last 10 minutes. A solid Mossley backline had a brief lapse in concentration and Evans got round the back, Madigan was able to save his effort with his legs and that and the Lingouba chance from the first half was as good as it got for the Dabbers.

Moloney was on hand to push away a last minute free kick by Belcher, a tougher save than it looked with the ball bouncing right in front of him and also in a slightly boggy penalty area.

A disappointing game in what must be the most scenic stadium in the division, so Mossley remain winless in 2024 and Nantwich extend their run of clean sheets to 6 in 8 league games in 2024, a remarkable turnaround compared to the first half of the season.

Mossley: Finley Madigan, William Shepherd, Darren Holden, Josh Dickin, Mark Lees, Luke Barlow, Kane Hickman, Ben Darby, Jack Banister (Jamal Crawford, 74), Alfie Belcher, Reece Webb-Foster (Sam Adetiloye, 74)

Subs not used: Jack Grundy, Tyler Berry

Nantwich Town: Scott Moloney, Amir Tavakoli, Sean Lawton, Troy Bourne, Courtney Meppen-Walters, Perry Bircumshaw, Paddy Kay, Cesaire Lingouba (Nathan Okome, 72), Callum Saunders (Byron Harrison, 83), Joel Connolly, Kai Evans

Subs not used: Jacob Edwards, Eric Merner, Akiel Raffie

Attendance: 490



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BOOTLE – MATCH REPORT

A Michael Burkey hat trick helped Bootle come from behind to beat Nantwich Town 3-1 at the Berry Street Garage Stadium.

A defining issue of the season has been injuries for the Dabbers, especially in midfield. Recent signings Jacob Hamman and Cesaire Lingouba were out on Saturday, Lingouba's dislocated toe at Mossley may yet keep him out for the rest of the season. This meant the quick signing of Finlay Heath, who was on the bench.

Despite this, the Dabbers started perfectly. 1 minute 58 seconds in they took the lead, as Kai Evans reacted quickest to a loose ball in the box to poke past Tony Thompson and take the acclaim of the travelling fans. Not bad for a player who was ill in the week and had barely trained.

Craig Carney had the first effort for Bootle, dealt with by Scott Moloney. The Dabbers then squandered a good chance to double the lead, Callum Saunders flicking an effort over the bar after Troy Bourne headed down a free kick. Jay Roberts had a fine effort after cutting in from the right onto what you'd guess was his weaker left foot, it didn't look it as he curled the shot just away from the far top corner.

Bootle, unbeaten in 4 before this, were growing into the game, but Nantwich had more half chances to extend the lead and really pile the pressure on them. Evans headed down into the path of Saunders who struck low from the angle and straight at Thompson. Sonny Hilton, booked early on, hit a ferocious drive that may have challenged the goal but Perry Bircumshaw bravely got his head behind it and it went away for a corner.

Then another chance for Saunders as Sean Lawton played him in from his advanced wing back position. Just like the last one though, he hit from an angle and it was easily held by Thompson.

3 minutes before half time, Bootle were level. A cross from the right slipped through the hands of Moloney in what were heavy rain conditions. Michael Burkey lunged to poke it towards goal and Moloney frantically tried to push it away; however after some conversation with his assistant the referee gave the goal deeming it to have been over the line.

The Dabbers ended the first half badly and started the second even worse. On 48 minutes Conor Harwood snuck in behind and cleverly lobbed the ball over the no-mans-land Moloney, he was unlucky to see it bounce off the bar and over.

Nantwich did not heed that warning and conceded just a minute later. A simple move down the right saw the ball pulled back for Burkey to sweep home his second. How Bootle were able to almost walk that ball in was a cause of real Nantwich concern.

BOOTLE – MATCH REPORT

That goal brought a change in personnel and formation from Paul Carden, Heath came on for his Nantwich debut, then Byron Harrison as the Dabbers went to a 4-3-3 with the wing backs sacrificed.

Kai Evans tried to spark Nantwich back into life with a low zipping strike that was deflected for a corner before Meppen-Walters missed the target with an effort of his own.

The Dabbers couldn't quite get truly going though, and made another big error on 72 minutes. Meppen-Walters was caught in behind and Moloney tripped Ben Hodkinson in the box, conceding the penalty and getting a booking.

There was a reprieve though, as the Bucks' top scorer Hodkinson hit the crossbar with his spot kick.

Then there was a massive chance for the Dabbers to draw level at the other end. A ball in from the left fell to the feet of Harrison, who might have hit it first time but chose to take a touch and then hit it at Thompson who had already committed himself. It had to go in.

The killer blow fell from Bootle just 2 minutes after that. The formation change may have played a part again, Burkey facing his defender who didn't know whether to engage or track the overlapping player, allowing Burkey to cut inside and curl brilliantly into the top corner despite the efforts of Bircumshaw to head away.

Akiel Raffie was the last Dabbers change and shot over the bar via a deflection as the Dabbers tried in vain to scramble back into the game.

But it wasn't to be. Despite a better start to 2024, it is now 6 league away games without a win, and just 3 away league wins out of 14 all season. If it was the home form that took Nantwich down last season, it's the away form keeping them there this time.

Nantwich Town: Scott Moloney, Amir Tavakoli (Finlay Heath, 49), Sean Lawton (Byron Harrison, 54), Troy Bourne, Courtney Meppen-Walters, Perry Bircumshaw, Joel Connolly, Paddy Kay, Callum Saunders, George Milner (Akiel Raffie, 69), Kai Evans

Subs not used: Jon Moran, Nathan Okome

Goal: Evans (2)

Attendance: 465

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TRAFFORD – BRIEF HISTORY IN TIME



CLUB INFO

Club Name: Trafford F.C.
Year Founded: 1990
Club Nickname: The North
Current Ground: Shawe View
Current Manager: Karl Marginson



CUP HISTORY

NPL Division One Cup: Winners – 1998
NPL Presidents Cup: Winners – 2000, 2009
NPL League Cup: Winners - 2019
FA Cup: 3rd Qualifying Round – 3 times
FA Trophy: 3rd Round – 2000/01
FA Vase: 5th Round – 1995/96



LEAGUE HISTORY

NWCFL Division One: Champions – 1996/97, 2007/08

LAST 5 LEAGUE SEASONS:

Season	League	POS	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
2018-19	NPL 1W	9/20	38	17	10	11	53	44	61
2019-20	NPL 1NW	ABAN	29	10	8	11	46	39	38 *
2020-21	NPL 1NW	ABAN	7	1	4	2	8	11	7 *
2021-22	NPL 1W	11/20	38	13	10	15	56	55	49
2022-23	NPL 1W	10/20	38	14	8	16	51	55	50

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

TRAFFORD - HISTORY

The club was formed in summer 1990, being the brainchild of David Brown, John Harrison, David Law, and Bill Whitten under the name North Trafford, sharing Shawe View with Trafford Borough Rugby League Club. After initially being denied entrance, a late withdrawal resulted in the club being invited to join Division 2 of the Mid-Cheshire League for 1990-91 season.

The first game at competitive level versus Macclesfield College was won 3-1, leading to a finish in second place, and promotion to Division One.

As a bonus the club obtained sole tenancy of Shawe View via a 30 year lease, and substantial ground improvements were undertaken.

1990-91 Manager David Law took North Trafford to 2nd place in the Mid-Cheshire League Division 2 & were promoted to the Division One. 1991-92 saw progress continue on the field as 4th place was achieved coupled with a successful application to join Division 2 of the North West Counties League.

1992-93 the club had another good season ending with in 7th place in the NWCL Division 2. 1993-94 a magnificent second half of the season in which 20 out of 22 games were won, resulted in 2nd place and promotion to Division One. Additionally the first trophy was won via a 3-1 victory versus Maghull in the Lamot Pils Cup. Promotion was dependent on further ground improvements resulting in the erection of floodlights and the South Stand, which was granted.

1994-95 was launched under the club's present name, ending in 4th place and defeats in the finals of the Manchester Senior and Carling Cups, progress being maintained the next season via 3rd place and reaching the last 16 of the F.A. Vase losing to the eventual winners, Brigg Town.

1995-96 Trafford had another successful league programme finishing in 3rd place. 1996-97 was undoubtedly our most successful, winning the N.W.C.L. and gaining promotion to Division 1 of the Unibond League but losing out in the finals of the Manchester Senior Cup and the League Cup. David Law who had managed the club since inception was named N.W.C.L. Manager of the Year, and the Reserves won the N.W.C.L Reserve Division, the Reserve League Cup, and the Manchester Amateur Cup.

1997-98 saw an indifferent start but the club finishing 12th, and a further trophy was won, the Unibond First Division Cup, beating Lincoln United 3-1. 1998-99 started with the appointment of Mark Molyneaux as assistant manager to David Law, taking over the reins in the December, and guiding us to a final place of 14th. 1999-00 Manager Mark Molyneaux along with his assistant Wayne Goodison guided Trafford to victory in the Unibond President's Cup Final beating Whitby Town in the 2nd leg on their ground.

TRAFFORD - HISTORY

2000-01 Trafford finished the season with thirteen games unbeaten run placing them in 5th place, their highest ever league position in the club's eleven year history.

2001-02 saw Mark Molyneaux resign to take over at fellow Unibond First Division side Chorley, with the club finishing in 15th place. Trafford then appointed Joey Dunn as the new manager.

2002-03 the results didn't come Trafford's way and at Christmas the club decided to release manager Joey Dunn & appoint the vastly experienced Mike McKenzie who has won so many honours as a manager in the Unibond League. Sadly results still didn't come & Trafford were relegated to the North West Counties League.

2003-04 By October Trafford decided to part-company with Mike McKenzie after finding themselves in 19th position in Division One. A month later Trafford appointed 28 year old former Leigh R.M.I. Reserve Team Manager Danny Johnson as the new manager. Within a couple of weeks the results changed and Trafford began to improved their league position.

2004-05 By the end of season Danny Johnson's young entertaining side finished in 16th position with 50 points. Trafford didn't have much joy in any of the cup competitions but finished in an improved 12th position on 56 points. While the Reserve Team won their third County Cup in four seasons by winning the Manchester F.A. Trophy.

2005-06 was Trafford got off to a flying start in the League and had a good run in the FA Vase, but sadly couldn't maintain their league form throughout the season finishing in 14th position

Season 2006-07 saw Trafford finish in 5th place in the NWCL Division One the club's best campaign since 2001 when they finished in 5th place in the Unibond Division One. The season included a good run in the FA Cup, two players in the top 20 goalscorers in the NWCL, with Glyn Barker in 6th place with 34 goals & Troy Hayder in 16th place with 20 goals, & a end of season run of 17 games unbeaten to round off a marvellous season. At the end of the season sadly manager Danny Johnson decided to move up to the Unibond League with Ashton United, with our player Ged Kielty becoming Trafford's 'new' Player Manager, assisted by Lee Southwood & coached by Tony Coyne.

TRAFFORD - HISTORY

2007-08 With the new look management Trafford had one of their most successful campaign's winning the Vodkat League Championship title by 11 points with a club record of 95 points to be promoted to the Unibond League for a second time after winning the title in 1997. From September 2007 Trafford went on a 29 league game unbeaten run including 18 straight wins which is a League record. Manager Ged Kielty was also voted Manager of the Year & the club won Programme of the Year. Centre forward Andy Lundy ended the season with 34 overall goals putting him in second place in the League goalscoring chart, but was the League top scorer with his 28 goals in Division One. His 'sidekick' Scott Barlow came close behind in fourth overall place with 29 goals.

2008-09 saw Trafford return to the Unibond League after an absence of five seasons. Manager Ged Kielty led the team to the club's second Unibond League President's Cup win beating First Division South Quorn 2-0 on their ground in the final. Trafford previously won the President's Cup back in 1999-2000. Trafford's striker Scott Barlow finished runner-up as the First Division North Overall Leading Goalscoring charts with 40 goals. Trafford finished in 15th place in the Division.

2009-10 former Trafford stalwart Garry Vaughan in the 'hot-seat' as Ged Kielty decided to step down as manager. During seven seasons in the 90's Garry played a record 305 games for Trafford & is still the overall leading club goalscorer with 89 goals. In his first season as a manager at Unibond League level Garry along with his Assistant Manager Loz Greenhalgh guided the club to a creditable 12th place in the First Division North & were finalists in the Manchester County FA Premier Cup. During this season striker Scott Barlow scored 21 goals to become the joint overall club top goalscorer with a total of 89 goals in his three seasons at the club along with Manager Garry Vaughan.

2010-11 Trafford had a poor first half of the season, then Manager Garry Vaughan made a number of personnel changes including bringing back former Assistant Manager Wayne Goodison & the clubs fortunes changed finishing in a respectable 14th place.

2011-12 Trafford didn't have much luck in any of the cup competitions & had a roller coaster season in the First Division North finishing in 12th place. 2012-13 In Garry Vaughan's fourth season as Manager along with his Assistant Wayne Goodison they led Trafford to promotion to the Evo-Stik League Premier Division, after winning the First Division North Play-Off final against Cammell Laird 4-2 on penalties aet on their ground.

TRAFFORD - HISTORY

2013-14 Trafford playing in their highest ever level of football in the Evo-Stik League Premier Division the club had a very successful season finishing in a very impressive 10th place & won the Manchester Premier Cup against Football Conference side Hyde at Bury FC's Gigg Lane.

2014-15 In January 2015 Manager Garry Vaughan & his Assistant Wayne Goodison resigned from the club & former Altrincham Manager Graham Heathcote took charge along with his Assistant Chris Adams. At the end of the season Trafford were relegated back to the Evo-Stik NPL First Division North & Graham Heathcote retired from Football management.

2015-16 In May 2015 Trafford appointed former FC Halifax & Chorley Captain Tom Baker as the club's new Manager. After in mixed first half to the season from mid-December Trafford's form turned for the better with only five defeats in twenty two league & cup games finishing the season in a creditable 8th place in the Managers first ever season as a Manager.

2016-17 After an impressive first season as Manager Tom Baker along with his assistant Manager Chris Shuker took Trafford to an improved sixth place in the First Division North missing a play off place by just two points. 2017-18 Trafford had another successful season finishing in 6th place for the second consecutive season, runners-up in the Manchester Premier Cup.

2018-19 In his fourth season at Trafford Manager Tom Baker crowned the season by winning the Integro League Cup for the first time in the club's history beating League Champions Farsley Celtic in the final.

2019-20 Trafford finished in ninth place in the NPL North West Division and reached the final of the Manchester Premier Cup to play FC United of Manchester. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 the final did not take place. During the close season Manager Tom Baker resigned after five seasons at Trafford and his assistant Danny Caldecott stepped up to become the new Manager of the club.

2021-22 This was Danny Caldecott's first full season as the Manager & Trafford had a steady first half of the season but had a poor end of season finishing in mid table. 2022-23 Trafford had a roller coaster of a season finishing in tenth place.

2023-24 In October 2023 Manager Danny Caldecott departed to manage Clitheroe. Later this month Trafford appointed former FC United Manager Karl Marginson as Manager.

TRAFFORD – PLAYING SQUAD

MANAGER - KARL MARGINSON Aged 52. DOB 11/11/1970. Appointed Trafford Manager in October 2023. Last Club FC United of Manchester. Previous club's loads.

TYRESE BEAUMONT – Midfield/Right Back. Aged 22. DOB 24/09/2001. Joined the club in October 2023 from Altrincham also played for Colne.

TOM BECKETT - LW,RW, CAM, LB, RB. Aged 20. DOB 23/11/2002. Signed in November 2023. Also played for Stockport County, Ashton Athletic & Pilkington's.

ALLY BROWN – Defender. Aged 35. DOB 01/06/1988. Rejoined Trafford in August 2023 from Runcorn Linnets. He first signed in 2012 making 153 appearances. He also played for Runcorn, Witton Albion & Warrington Town.

SAM BOOTH – Goalkeeper. Aged 23. DOB 06/12/2000. Signed the club in November 2023 from Vauxhall Motors. Previous clubs include Crewe Alex, Leek Town, Kidsgrove Athletic.

MICHAEL BURKE - Striker. Aged 26. DOB 18/07/1997. Joined the club in August 2021 from Stalybridge Celtic. Previous clubs are Staveley MWFC & Maine Road FC.

NIAL CUMMINS – Striker. Aged 36. DOB 19/03/1987. Joined the club in November 2023 from AFC Bury. Also played for Marine, Curzon Ashton, Burscough.

JOE COYLE - CB,CM. Aged 18. DOB 20/03/2005 Signed for Trafford in November 2023 from Pilkington. Also played for Burscough.

HARRISON DENTON – Striker. Aged 19. DOB 12/09/2004. Signed in October 2023 from South Liverpool. Also played for Skelmersdale United & Marine U23s.

QUIRINO DIAS – Striker. Aged 26. DOB 13/12/1997. Joined the club in December 2023 from Wythenshawe Amateurs. Also played for Gresley FC, Retford & Mansfield Town.

TOM ECKERSLEY – Centre Back. Aged 31. DOB 06/12/1991. Joined the club in October 2023 from Ramsbottom United. Also played for FC United, Curzon Ashton, Ashton United, AFC Fylde.

TRAFFORD – PLAYING SQUAD

JORDAN FAGBOLA – Centre Back. Aged 30. DOB 18/10/1993. Signed for the club in November 2023 from Atherton Colls. Previous clubs include Stockport County, Colwyn Bay, FC United, Hyde Utd.

SAM GILL – Midfield. Aged 19. DOB 17/10/2004. Signed on loan from Warrington Town in December 2023. Also played for Wigan Athletic.

SEAN HIGGINS – Right Back. Aged 21. DOB 06/10/2002. This is his second spell at Trafford. Last club Bury FC Previous clubs Matlock & Trafford.

EOIN HOGAN – Midfield. Aged 19. DOB 22/06/2004. Joined the club in December 202 from Curzon Ashton.

HILAL KHAN – Midfield. Aged 20. DOB 14/07/2003. Signed for Trafford in October 2023.

HARRY NORRIS - Centre Back. Aged 24. DOB 10/01/2001. Signed in August 2022 from New Mills. Previous club Oldham Athletic Youth Team (U18's).

KWAME OSIGWE – Age 21. DOB 11/01/2002. Signed in October from Wythenshawe Town also played for Cheadle Heath Nomads.

CHRIS ROWNEY – Midfield. Aged 32. DOB 04/02/1991. Signed in January 2024 from Bury FC. Also played for Curzon Ashton & Ashton United.

EDDIE SERVUTS – Forward. Aged 20. DOB 09/08/2003. Signed in October 2023 from Widnes. Previous clubs Burscough, Skelmersdale United & Southport.

DAMOLA SOTONA – LB/LW/RW. Aged 22. DOB 25/11/2006. Joined the club in October 2023 from Bury FC. Also played for Northwich Victoria & Ramsbottom United.

MATTHEW WOLFENDEN - Midfield/Striker. Aged 36. Joined the club in November 2023 from Avro FC. Also played for Oldham Athletic, Wrexham, FC United, Stalybridge Celtic, Radcliffe.

ROBERT WORRALL - Midfield. Aged 25. DOB 20/08/1998. Signed in December 2021 from NCEL club Staveley MW. Former clubs include Knaresborough, Sheffield & Brighouse.

JEROME WRIGHT – Left Side. Aged 38. DOB 29/10/1985. Joined the club in January 2024 from Preswich Heys. Other clubs include Wythenshawe Town & FC United.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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	38	4	3
Byron Harrison	37	12	2
Kai Evans	36	10	5
Nathan Okome	36	0	1
Troy Bourne	31	6	5
Scott Butler	31	0	1
Scott Moloney	29	0	0
Ahmed Ali	26	3	3
Steven Hewitt	25	1	18
Joel Connolly	24	0	6

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Perry Bircumshaw	24	0	4
Callum Saunders	22	6	3
Mohamud Ali	20	4	0
Jake Kirby	16	2	0
Sean Cooke	15	6	4
Akiel Raffie	15	0	1
Danny Roberts	13	0	0
Connor Heath	12	3	0
AJ Leitch-Smith	11	4	2
Jacob Edwards	11	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	3-2	905
Tue 12th Dec 2023	Widnes	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H	0-2	193
Sat 16th Dec 2023	Vauxhall Motors	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	3-1	186
Sat 23rd Dec 2023	Avro	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	1-1	413
Tue 26th Dec 2023	Hednesford Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	2-3	795
Mon 1st Jan 2024	1874 Northwich	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	2-0	507
Sat 6th Jan 2024	Clitheroe	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	0-0	890
Sat 13th Jan 2024	Solihull Moors	FA Trophy R4	3.00pm	A	1-5	808
Tue 16th Jan 2024	Chasetown	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H	1-0	282
Sat 20th Jan 2024	Witton Albion	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	1-0	624
Sat 27th Jan 2024	Prescot Cables	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	0-1	786
Sat 3rd Feb 2024	Leek Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	1-3	513
Tue 6th Feb 2024	Hanley Town	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H	3-0	280
Sat 10th Feb 2024	Mossley	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	0-0	490
Sat 17th Feb 2024	Bootle	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	1-3	465
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	Assists
Connor Rankin	10	1	1
Courtney Meppen-Walters	10	0	2
Tyler Hill	10	0	1
Sean Lawton	10	0	0
Amir Tavakoli	9	0	2
Joe Piggott	8	1	2
Eric Yahaya	5	1	0
Cameron Rooney	5	0	1
Caspar Hughes	5	0	1
Lewis Sinnott	5	0	0

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Cesaire Lingouba	4	0	0
Dylan Thompson	4	0	0
George Milner	3	1	0
Ollie Holden	3	1	0
Frazer Cookson	3	0	0
Adam Carden	1	0	0
Finlay Heath	1	0	0
Jack Sherratt	1	0	0
Jacob Hamman	1	0	0

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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.

ERIC MERNER

Goalkeeper

17 SEPTEMBER 2001

22-year-old Eric has made 3 appearances for Leek Town this season, and has also played for Connah's Quay Nomads, Sandbach United and Eccleshall.

TROY BOURNE

Defender

(CLUB CAPTAIN)

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.

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.

COURTNEY MEPPEN-WALTERS

Defender

02 AUGUST 1994

The 29-year-old centre-back has also played most recently at Glossop, Chorley and Radcliffe, and had 5 appearances under his belt this season, taking him to 26 in total for Guiseley after signing last season. He initially joined Nantwich on a one-month loan at the start of January and his no-nonsense style of defending and leadership qualities made him an instant fan's favourite and he was signed on a permanent deal at the end of January.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

AMIR TAVAKOLI

Defender

30 JUNE 2004

Amir is a young pacey and exciting right wing or full back who is currently with the Steve Gerrard Academy. Amir has previously had a spell with Burscough in the North West Counties League last season where he excelled and is now looking to progress with Nantwich Town

JACOB EDWARDS

Defender

29 AUGUST 2003

Young full back originally arrived in pre-season, after being released from Swansea City. Impressed during the pre-season friendlies and has managed to appear a few times during the season at both left back and right back. Jacob has also played a few games at Alsager Town and Whitchurch Alport on dual registration. Jacob returned after having another pre-season with Nantwich in the summer of 2023 and after impressing with Whitchurch Alport in the first half of the season was brought back in the fold and into the first team squad.

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.

JOEL CONNOLLY

Defender/Midfielder

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.

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

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.

GEORGE MILNER

Midfielder

ON LOAN FROM ASHTON UNITED

08 MARCH 1998

On a one-month loan from Ashton United, the 25-year-old has made over 50 appearances for Ashton, including 23 so far this season, scoring once. He has also played for Mickleover, Belper, Frickley Athletic, and Valdres in Norway. He can play in a variety of positions in attacking midfield or out wide.

JACOB HAMMAN

Midfielder

ON LOAN FROM SALFORD CITY

27 FEBRUARY 2005

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.

CESAIRE LINGOUBA

Midfielder

06 SEPTEMBER 1995

The 28-year-old was most recently at Bala Town in the Cymru Premier League. He is well experienced at football at this level and above in England too, having made 8 appearances for Atherton Collieries last season, 7 for Stalybridge the season before and over 100 appearances for Witton Albion before that.

Earlier in his career, he also played for Droylsden, Northwich Victoria and Matlock Town.

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.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

CALLUM SAUNDERS

Forward

26 SEPTEMBER 1995

Currently in his second spell at the club. Saunders has been a consistent goalscorer 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 goalscorer 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.

AKIEL RAFFIE

Forward

15 FEBRUARY 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.



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 D1W - RESULTS & FIXTURES

NPL Division One West Results - Saturday 17th February 2024

1874 Northwich	0	2	City of Liverpool	248
Bootle	3	1	Nantwich Town	465
Clitheroe	4	1	Chasetown	745
Hednesford Town	0	1	Mossley	735
Kidsgrove Athletic	A	A	Avro	
Leek Town	2	2	Vauxhall Motors	531
Prescot Cables	1	1	Hanley Town	815
Stalybridge Celtic	0	1	Runcorn Linnets	861
Trafford	2	1	Newcastle Town	329
Widnes	1	3	Witton Albion	240

NPL Division One West Fixtures - Saturday 24th February 2024

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

NPL Division One West Fixtures - Tuesday 27th February 2024

City of Liverpool	vs	Newcastle Town	7.45pm
Clitheroe	vs	Bootle	7.45pm

PITCHING IN NPL D1W - STANDINGS

			P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1	Leek Town	27	18	4	5	63	32	+31	58
	2	Runcorn Linnets	27	15	4	8	45	29	+16	49
	3	Prescot Cables	27	14	6	7	44	27	+17	48
	4	Witton Albion	28	13	5	10	45	49	-4	44
	5	Bootle	26	12	6	8	39	35	+4	42
	6	Clitheroe	26	11	7	8	47	38	+9	40
	7	Stalybridge Celtic	28	10	10	8	43	40	+3	40
	8	Chasetown	28	11	6	11	38	38	0	39
	9	Widnes	27	11	5	11	39	28	+11	38
	10	Avro	26	9	11	6	30	28	+2	38
	11	City of Liverpool	25	11	4	10	46	36	+10	37
	12	Mossley	27	10	6	11	34	41	-7	36
	13	Nantwich Town	28	10	5	13	37	36	+1	35
	14	Newcastle Town	27	10	5	12	33	35	-2	35
	15	Kidsgrove Athletic	26	9	7	10	43	43	0	34
	16	Trafford	28	6	13	9	31	36	-5	31
	17	Hanley Town	26	8	7	11	24	33	-9	31
	18	Vauxhall Motors	26	8	4	14	33	52	-19	28
	19	Hednesford Town	28	5	8	15	33	51	-18	23
	20	1874 Northwich	27	4	5	18	19	59	-40	17



NANTWICH TOWN

Manager – Paul Carden

Ben Garratt (GK)

Joel Connolly

Perry Bircumshaw

George Milner

Courtney Meppen-Walters

Troy Bourne (Capt)

Finlay Heath

Paddy Kay

Byron Harrison

Tom Pratt

Kai Evans

Sean Lawton

Nathan Okome

Akiel Raffie

Callum Saunders

Amir Tavakoli

TRAFFORD

Manager – Karl Marginson

Sam Booth

Sean Higgins

Damola Sotona

Jordan Fagbola

Harry Norris (Capt)

Christopher Rowley

Robert Worrall

Matthew Morgan

Edwards Servuts

Eoin Hogan

Thomas Beckett

Hilal Khan

Matthew Lusakueno

Jerome Wright

Michael Burke

Scott Kay

REFEREE: Taylor Metcalf

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Albert Gent, Jamie Roberts

**MAN OF THE MATCH SPONSORED BY:
NANTWICH REFRIGERATION SERVICES**