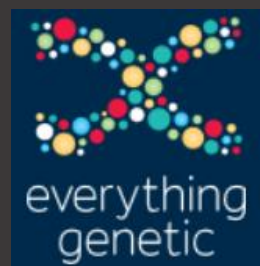


THE DABBER



NANTWICH TOWN
VS
STALYBRIDGE CELTIC
Saturday 6th April 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,

Waterloode, 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, Gary Johnson,

Carl Thorpe

Company Secretary: John Dunning

Football Officials

Manager: Paul Carden

Assistant Manager: Jay Speare

Coaches: Adam Carden, Jon Moran

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

FDO & CWO: Lyndon Wain

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

STALYBRIDGE CELTIC - MATCH PREVIEW

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

Another Saturday and another significant game for the Dabbers, as we entertain Stalybridge Celtic at the Swansway Stadium (3pm kick-off).

Staly-n Alive

Recent form for Stalybridge has been very up and down; they have 3 wins in their last 5 games, all at home, and no back-to-back wins since November. They beat Mossley 1-0 on Monday in front of a tremendous crowd of nearly 1,500 and other recent wins have come over Widnes and Newcastle Town. Before this better run, they had gone 6 games without a win through January and February.

It's been their games away from Bower Fold where they have struggled more in the second half of the season. They haven't won away since a stunning 4-0 victory over Bootle on 6th January, again that's 6 games ago. Like the Dabbers, they've lost at Leek and Vauxhall Motors in that time. The clean sheet they kept against Mossley was also their first since that Bootle game.

All this means that Saturday's game is a meeting between 8th and 9th in the NPL West, the Dabbers 1 place, 1 point and 12 goal difference better off, and that all important 5th place just 2 and 3 points away, respectively (but with City of Liverpool v Bootle still to be played).

Last Time We Met

As mentioned above, no consecutive wins for Stalybridge since November, but one of those wins was against Nantwich in the reverse game. Nantwich conceded twice in injury time to see a strong position flipped on its head in a 3-2 defeat. Just like against Hednesford, there are some demons that need exorcising on Saturday.

Players to Watch

Aaron Dwyer remains Stalybridge's top scorer on 18 in all competitions. He's remained consistent scoring despite missing games at different times through suspension and injury. Jordan Burton scored the winner against Mossley on Monday, and former Dabber Joe Robbins should be in action; he's made 19 appearances for them this season and played in that reverse game.

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HEDNESFORD TOWN – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich Town scored with the last kick of a wild game to claim a crucial 4-3 win over Hednesford Town at The Swansway Stadium.

3 changes from Friday's game saw Timi Sobowale make his first Nantwich start, Sean Lawton make his first start since February, and Jon Moran make his first appearance in Nantwich colours since the last game of last season. A combination of knee issues and the Dabbers' switch to an artificial pitch meant it may have been the end of Jon's time at Nantwich so it was great to see this fan's favourite back in the side.

Joel Connolly curled narrowly wide via a deflection or touch from the keeper when there didn't look much on for him.

A big moment came just 10 or so minutes in when Ryan Brown, the Hednesford stopper, went down and needed treatment for what looked like a groin injury. As is common at this level, the Pitmen didn't have a sub keeper so he had to soldier on, albeit not taking goal kicks or kicking out of his hands.

Kai Evans took full advantage of this for the opening goal. Played in behind by a wonderful long pass by Byron Harrison, he delicately lobbed Brown for a brilliant start.

George Milner had a go from outside the box but a big deflection left Brown watching as it dropped wide.

Then came a remarkable few minutes of football. On 27 minutes, Troy Bourne headed in the Dabbers' second from a corner, a low stooping effort that deserved a goal.

Almost exactly from the kick off, Hednesford pulled one back, Tom Thorley tucking it away from close range as the Dabbers were caught cold.

Evans found himself through on goal again but he got the lob wrong this time and it went straight to a surely grateful Brown.

A minute later the scores were level. Sean Lawton committed himself down the Hednesford right but got it wrong and Sam McQuilkin swung in a cross that was volleyed brilliantly in by Jake Jervis. It's a contender for goal of the season across the entire NPL without a doubt and capped off a crazy 4 minutes of play.

Nantwich were reeling and were dealt another blow shortly before half time with Milner forced off with what looked a nasty muscle injury.

Evans was in a shoot on sight kind of mood, hitting a free kick over the bar early in the second half and also seeing a shot blocked on the edge of the box.

HEDNESFORD TOWN – MATCH REPORT

The Pitmen were threatening again soon after. What looked like an excellent fingertip save from Ben Garratt denied a towering Hednesford header.

A beautiful combination down the right gave the Dabbers back their lead just past the hour mark. Sobowale burst past his marker and on reaching the byline pulled it back for Gio Loureriro, who had replaced the injured Milner, to score his first ever senior goal on his first ever senior appearance. A moment the 18-year-old will never forget whatever he goes on to do in his career, and it was a tidy finish with the outside of his right foot.

A couple of half moments after that didn't go Nantwich's way, before Harrison bicycle kicked narrowly wide, a spectacular effort.

Moran lasted 72 minutes on his return and what an effort it was, despite the inevitable aching muscles in the morning you could tell he loved his time back on the pitch after so long away.

At the same time as Moran's sub, Hednesford brought on forward Eden Bailey. And in the very next move after play restarted, he was on the scoresheet, seeing the space open up for him and curling one emphatically into the top corner.

Bailey should have turned the game completely on its head again moments later, planting a header wide that he could easily have scored from.

Another pair of efforts from Evans, one wide and one straight at Brown, who credit must go to for coping so well with his knock, were the last action for Kai before he was subbed off for Callum Saunders inside the last 10 minutes.

For most of the game it was almost impossible to guess which way it was going to finish, and this trend continued into stoppage time. Hednesford came close from a corner, the player really using his neck muscles to flick it towards goal but not quite enough as it glanced wide.

Bourne could only direct a corner straight at Brown, before Player of the Match Connolly hit straight at the keeper.

In the very last seconds of the 5 added minutes, Nantwich won a final corner and a final chance. Whipped in from the right Bourne met it perfectly to turn it into the far corner and take the roof off the Swansway Stadium with the last kick of this extraordinary match.

It was meant to be for the Nantwich skipper; the end of the reverse fixture seeing him give away a decisive penalty and get sent off to today's ultimate redemption, a footballing resurrection worthy of this Easter weekend.



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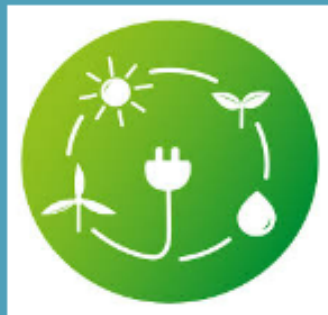


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STALYBRIDGE – A BRIEF HISTORY IN TIME



CLUB INFO

Club Name:
Year Founded:
Club Nickname:
Current Ground:
Current Manager:

Stalybridge Celtic FC
1909
The Celts
Bower Fold
James Kinsey



CUP HISTORY

Cheshire Senior Cup:
Manchester Senior Cup:
NPL Challenge Cup:
NPL President's Cup:
FA Cup:
FA Trophy:

Winners – 1952/53, 2000/01
Winners – 1922/23
Winners – 1998/99
Winners – 2000/01, 2002/03
2nd Round – 1935/36, 1993/94, 1990/00
Quarter Final – 2001/02



LEAGUE HISTORY

Cheshire Football League:
NW Counties Division 1:
NPL Division One:
NPL Premier Division:
Conference North:

Champions – 1979/80
Champions – 1983/84, 1986/87
Runners-Up – 1987/88
Champions – 1991/92, 2000/01
Play Off Finalist – 2007/08

LAST 5 LEAGUE SEASONS:

Season	League	POS	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
2018-19	NPL P	17/21	40	11	9	20	46	62	42
2019-20	NPL P	ABAN	33	12	6	15	42	50	42 *
2020-21	NPL P	ABAN	9	1	3	5	7	17	6 *
2021-22	NPL P	14/22	42	15	7	20	51	59	52
2022-23	NPL P	20/22	42	10	12	20	50	64	42

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

STALYBRIDGE CELTIC - HISTORY

Stalybridge Celtic's history has been the subject of many debates for the greater part of the century. Although an outfit calling itself 'Celtic' appears in the archives for 1906, this side seemingly only played friendlies on a ground at North-End. This seed of a club was probably the basis for the club we know today, which was formed in 1909 by Herbert Rhodes, a local businessman and philanthropist.

Celtic played for two seasons in the Lancashire & Cheshire Amateur League, before turning professional and joining the Lancashire Combination become Second Division champions at the first attempt. Due to some local bureaucracy, Celtic's ambition to join the Football League meant that they had to join the Southern League, and travel by train to every away match. Fortunately, finishing runners-up (to Stoke) meant promotion.

There followed a short pause most people know as the First World War. In the aftermath (1920/21 to be exact) Celtic re-joined the Central League. At the end of the 1921 season, Celtic became one of the founder members of the Third Division (North).

Our first game in the Third Division was against Chesterfield, a home game that we won 6-0. However, winning this league was to prove too difficult, finishing 7th and 11th in the first two years. Lacking the support of local people, the funds were not available to press for a third campaign, forcing Celtic to voluntarily resign from the Football League. Celtic re-joined the Cheshire County League (replacing the reserve squad) and stayed there for sixty years until the formation of the Bass NW Counties League. Peter Wragg took the helm and steered Celtic to Championship victory in 1980, eventually winning the Bass NW Championship in 1984 and 1987, and runners-up in the NPL First division. During this time of league progress, there was a lot of work at Bower Fold, culminating in the ground gaining League grading.

Phil Wilson took over the reins in 1989 when relegation threatened, eventually finishing second in the NPL. He followed this escaping act with promotion into the Conference in 1992. Our first season was a success, finishing 12th, but it was followed by disaster and relegation loomed again. Peter Wragg returned and saved the sinking ship by winning 9 of the last 12 games. Peter Wragg resigned at the start of the 1996/97 season, replaced by Brian Kettle, but it was not enough, and Celtic were relegated in 1998 back to the NPL after finishing bottom.

It was troubling times for the club, and there was a succession of managers including Stirling and Keelan before Phil Wilson came back. Phil Wilson was to prove an inspirational manager. Firstly in 1999 he brought us the League Cup, then, in 2001, we won the Cheshire Senior Cup (something we'd not won for nearly 50 years). Demolishing a strong Stockport County team 5-1 at Ewen Fields. In the same season, we went on to beat Blyth Spartans in the President's Cup, before going on to win the league title after an impressive victory against closest rivals Emley at their ground.

STALYBRIDGE CELTIC - HISTORY

The title was won away at local side Droylsden thanks to an injury time Stuart Locke penalty. We finished up with over 100 points and scored nearly 100 goals. The foray into the Conference was short lived though. Phil Wilson joined Southport, taking several of the squad with him, and the assistant coach. With scant time before the start of the new season, Paul Futchter took over the reins. With a series of disastrous runs, Celtic replaced Paul with Dave Miller. He almost, but not quite, kept us in the Conference before sensationally sacking nearly the entire team. Miller won the President's Cup at the first attempt, and we finished 4th in the NPL.

With the formation of the Conference North in 2004/05, Celtic had to finish 2003/04 in 13th or higher - we only just did it. A sensational win at champions Hucknall Town saw us finish 13th. Our first season in the Conference North was almost our last, and with half the season gone, Miller was sacked and replaced by John Reed. John pulled off the great escape, clawing back an 18-point deficit to finish a place above the relegation zone, following it up by missing out on the Play-offs on the last day of the 2005/06 season. A poor couple of seasons saw John Reed replaced with Steve Burr, who took Celtic to the Play-off Final at his first attempt in the 2007/08 season, losing by one goal to Barrow. Steve Burr's second season saw him come within a whisker of the Play-offs, and after a storming start to his third season in charge, he left to join Kidderminster in the Conference National, and was replaced first by Benny Phillips and then by Jim Harvey. With the finances at Celtic unable to allow them to compete with the top sides in the division, Celtic took the brave option of going full-time with a youth set up to allow them to compete in a different way. After a good first season, finishing 6th just outside the Play-offs, Harvey's second full season was less successful, finishing midtable. A bad start to season '13/14 saw Harvey replaced by former player Keith Briggs.

Keith continued the full-time experiment but resigned in December 2015 with Celtic looking doomed to relegation. Liam Watson came in and oversaw a turnaround in Celtic's form that saw them safe on the last day of the season with a thrilling 4-4 draw with Gainsborough Trinity. 2016 was to prove a disastrous season, Liam Watson was replaced by co-managers Steve Halford and Paul Phillips, but Celtic looked certain relegation candidates, so the club replaced them with Steve Burr who was unable to save Celtic from relegation, sending one of the last remaining founders of the Conference North into the Northern Premier League. 2017 was also a poor season, with Celtic finishing in the bottom four, though due to a league restructuring, with only one going down, Celtic remained in the division for the 2018 season. Simon Haworth came in after another poor season, in his first full season, Celtic finished in the bottom five, but then the season after Covid hit, curtailing both that season and the next. When football finally came home, Celtic finished bottom three and Chris Wilcock stepped into the manager hotseat ahead of the 2022/23 season. In the summer of 2023, the club was taken over by Nigel Jones and Paul Bowden, giving the club fresh hope and a new start. Chris Willcock departed and was replaced by James Kinsey. A summer of change ensued with Celtic starting the 2023-24 Northern Premier League season with new owners, a new committee, a new manager and new squad.

STALYBRIDGE CELTIC – STAFF & SQUAD

James Kinsey - First Team Manager

James joined Celtic in May 2023 after a successful five-year spell in charge of Wythenshawe Town, where he took the club from the Cheshire Premier Division to two third place finishes in the North West Counties Premier Division.

James departed Wythenshawe Town with a league win record of 61%, having managed 153 league games, scoring an impressive 384 goals. James' first taste as a manager in senior football came in May 2017 when he became the manager of East Manchester FC.

A successful 10 months led him to Wythenshawe Town where he spent five successful years, before moving to Bower Fold in the Summer.

Ones to Watch

Aaron joins from Wythenshawe Town where he scored 13 goals last season in 25 games. Aaron was a key part of Macclesfield FC's 2021-22 North West Counties Premier Division winning side where he scored 10 goals in 36 appearances for The Silkmen. In addition to Wythenshawe and Macclesfield as former clubs, Aaron has also played for Bury AFC, Mossley, New Mills, Stockport Town and Curzon Ashton.

Squad:

Luke Hewitson	Ethen Vaighan	Cole Lonsdale
Greg Wilkinson	Connor O'Grady	Max Leonard
Aaron Dwyer	Jordan Butterworth	Benito Lowe
Joe Robbins	Jordan Burton	Pawel Zuk
Rio Clegg	Michael Brewster	Craig Hobson
Brady Byrne	Darius Osei	Ntumba Massanka

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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	44	4	4
Byron Harrison	43	17	4
Nathan Okome	42	2	1
Kai Evans	41	17	10
Troy Bourne	37	8	5
Scott Butler	31	0	1
Joel Connolly	30	0	7
Perry Bircumshaw	29	0	5
Scott Moloney	29	0	0
Callum Saunders	28	6	4
Ahmed Ali	26	3	3

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Steven Hewitt	25	1	18
Mohamud Ali	20	4	0
Akiel Raffie	20	0	1
Jake Kirby	16	2	0
Sean Cooke	15	6	4
Courtney Meppen-Walters	15	0	1
Connor Heath	13	3	0
Danny Roberts	13	0	0
Sean Lawton	12	0	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	4-0	472
Sat 2nd Mar 2024	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	4-1	315
Sat 16th Mar 2024	Chasetown	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	3-0	503
Sat 23rd Mar 2024	Mossley	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	2-1	431
Fri 29th Apr 2024	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	0-0	847
Mon 1st Apr 2024	Hednesford Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	4-3	463
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
Amir Tavakoli	10	0	2
Tyler Hill	10	0	1
George Milner	9	1	0
Joe Piggott	8	1	2
Ben Garratt	6	0	0
Eric Yahaya	5	1	0
Cameron Rooney	5	0	1
Caspar Hughes	5	0	1
Lewis Sinnott	5	0	0
Cesaire Lingouba	4	0	0

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Dylan Thompson	4	0	0
Ollie Holden	3	1	0
Tom Pratt	3	0	6
Timi Sobowale	3	0	1
Finlay Heath	3	0	0
Frazer Cookson	3	0	0
Giovanni Loureiro	1	1	0
Adam Carden	1	0	0
Jack Sherratt	1	0	0
Jacob Hamman	1	0	0
Jon Moran	1	0	0

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NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

BEN GARRATT

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

TIMI SOBOWALE

Defender

22 JANUARY 2002

Timi is an Irish footballer who signed on a free transfer from Floro SK of Norway, Adept as powerful right back, Timi's footballing journey has seen him go from Manchester City, Wigan Athletic and on to Waterford where he played alongside his brother, before his spell in the Norwegian Third Division at Floro SK. Timi has played at various youth levels for the Republic of Ireland.

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.

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!

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE YOUNG (SCD)

- SCD is the leading cause of death in young athletes during sport and the majority of deaths occur with NO SYMPTOMS or family history.
- ARVC can be found in one in every 1,000 to 5,000 young adults - IF IT IS LOOKED FOR.
- Warning signs may include light-headedness, fainting, palpitations, swollen legs, breathlessness.
- Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people (aged 35 and under) die from previously undiagnosed heart conditions.
- In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport, they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89%.

OUR MISSION

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

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

Find out more

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Jonathan White



Nantwich Town Independent Supporters Association

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☐

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PITCHING IN NPL D1W - RESULTS & FIXTURES

NPL Division One West Results - Monday 1st April 2024

Chasetown	0	0	Hanley Town	451
City of Liverpool	P	P	Bootle	
Kidsgrove Athletic	2	1	Clitheroe	113
Nantwich Town	4	3	Hednesford Town	463
Newcastle Town	1	2	Leek Town	727
Prescot Cables	2	2	Runcorn Linnets	1,230
Stalybridge Celtic	1	0	Mossley	1,484
Trafford	2	4	Avro	341
Widnes	2	1	Vauxhall Motors	168
Witton Albion	3	0	1874 Northwich	902

NPL Division One West Fixtures - Saturday 6th April 2024

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

PITCHING IN NPL D1W - STANDINGS

			P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	C	Leek Town	34	24	5	5	81	35	+46	77
	2	Prescot Cables	34	17	9	8	53	36	+17	60
	3	Runcorn Linnets	34	17	7	10	53	37	+16	58
	4	Bootle	33	16	8	9	50	41	+9	56
	5	City of Liverpool	33	15	8	10	55	39	+16	53
	6	Witton Albion	34	16	5	13	56	57	-1	53
	7	Widnes	34	15	6	13	50	36	+14	51
	8	Nantwich Town	34	15	6	13	54	41	+13	51
	9	Stalybridge Celtic	34	13	11	10	52	51	+1	50
	10	Clitheroe	34	13	10	11	56	49	+7	49
	11	Avro	34	12	12	10	42	42	0	48
	12	Chasetown	34	12	8	14	41	45	-4	44
	13	Mossley	34	12	8	14	42	50	-8	44
	14	Newcastle Town	34	12	6	16	41	45	-4	42
	15	Hanley Town	34	10	10	14	29	40	-11	40
	16	Kidsgrove Athletic	34	10	9	15	54	62	-8	39
	17	Vauxhall Motors	34	11	5	18	45	65	-20	38
	18	Trafford	34	6	15	13	36	50	-14	33
	19	Hednesford Town	34	7	10	17	42	60	-18	31
	R	1874 Northwich	34	4	6	24	22	73	-51	18



NANTWICH TOWN

Manager – Paul Carden

Ben Garratt (GK)
Timi Sobowale
Perry Bircumshaw
Troy Bourne (Capt)
Courtney Meppen-Walters
Joel Connolly
Paddy Kay
Nathan Okome
Byron Harrison
Giovanni Loureiro
Kai Evans
Sean Lawton
Eric Merner (GK)
Jon Moran
Akiel Raffie
Callum Saunders

STALYBRIDGE CELTIC

Manager – James Kinsey

Luke Hewitson
Ethen Vaughan
Cole Lonsdale
Greg Wilkinson
Connor O'Grady (Capt)
Jack Tinning
Joe Robbins
Jordan Butterworth
Rio Clegg
Max Leonard
Jordan Burton
Pawel Zuk
Darius Osei
Brad Byrne
Joe Edwards
Matthew Bryan

REFEREE: Adewunmi Soneye

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Adrian Newby, Michael Dermody

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