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NANTWICH TOWN
VS
CONGLETON TOWN
Tuesday 15th September 2026
KICK OFF 19:45

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

FA Affiliation: Full Members

County Affiliation: Cheshire FA

Year Formed: 1884

At the Top

President: Frank Blunstone

Life Vice-Presidents:

Peter Temmen & Clive Jackson

Chairman: Jon Gold

Vice-Chairman: John Dunning

Directors: Mark Hawkins, John Dunning,
Daniel Dunning-Cole, Timothy Crighton,
Gordon McKinnon

Company Secretary: John Dunning

Management Team

Manager: Luke Goddard

Assistant Manager: Jack Turner

Head Coach: Marc Feighery

Coach: Kevin Street

Goalkeeper Coach: Miles Couling

Head Physio: Callum Carey

Data Analyst: George Edge-Robinson

Head of Recruitment: Hayden Moore

Behind the Scenes

Club Secretary: Carl Thorpe

General Manager: Paul Carter

Press Officers: Liam Price, Adam Bateman

Programme Editor: Carl Thorpe

Club Photographer: Jonathan White

Groundsman: Matt McAuley

Stadium & Safety Officer: Matt McAuley

Club Welfare Officer: Katie Hubbard

Community Dev. Manager: Katie Hubbard

Social Networks:

X: @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

CONGLETON TOWN - MATCH PREVIEW

Good evening, welcome to the Swansway Stadium for NPL Division One West fixture against Congleton Town. We would like to welcome all the directors, staff, players and supporters associated with Congleton this evening.

The Dabbers host Congleton on Tuesday night (7.45pm kick-off) in what even at this early stage of the season looks like a significant game for both sides.

Grin and Bears It

After finishing a point and a place above the relegation zone at the end of last season, Congleton have had a bit of a slow start again this time around.

Like the Dabbers, they are yet to win a league game. However, if you spread it out to all competitions they have won 2 games to Nantwich's 1, having had a couple of wins in the FA Trophy before being knocked out by Bridlington Town at the weekend.

There are similarities in their league results to the Dabbers; like us they have drawn with Vauxhall and lost at home to Prescott. Other recent league results have included a goalless draw with Wythenshawe and a 2-1 defeat to Kids Grove.

They have only scored 2 goals in their 5 games in the league, which is the lowest of anyone. However, they did put 4 past Atherton in the FA Trophy so do have goals in the side.

The game does take on greater importance than normal simply because of the positions of the two teams. Only Lichfield, who sadly already look like they'll be going down, are below the Dabbers and Congleton in the NPL West table.

Last Time We Met

Nantwich won both meetings with Congleton 2-0 last season, the most recent being the win at the Cleric Stadium in January when Marc Feighery was in temporary charge. Byron Harrison's 50th goal for the club and a late Callum Saunders tap-in after a great run by Joel Connolly made the difference.

Players to Watch

Another thing the Dabbers and Congleton have in common is losing a talismanic goalscorer over the summer. Max McCarthy got a well earned move to Radcliffe after years of great goalscoring for the Bears.

As a replacement, they made the canny signing of Rob Stevenson. Stevenson's goals were a big part of Leek's title win at Step 4 a couple of years ago. He then got a move to Hednesford but after a bad knock to the head in a game he was diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome which has meant he's barely played any football for the past couple of seasons, so it's great to see him back and he has netted for his new side this season.

Kieran Knapper has 2 goals to his name so far in a team full of familiar names from Dave Parton in goal to Peter Williams and captain Darren Chadwick.



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2026-27 MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP

We're grateful to those so far who have sponsored players and staff ahead of the 2026/27 season. Below is a list of those taken and those still available.

To claim any of the players and staff still left, email generalmanager@nantwichtownfc.com. It costs £200 plus VAT, which gets you or your business promoted every time that player is mentioned (goals, Player of the Match, birthday, etc) to tens of thousands of social media followers, plus their match shirt at the end of the season at the end of season awards for which you also get free entry.

It's a vital source of income for the club and a great way to support your favourite player and the club as a whole.

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Harry Davis – The Dabbers Archive

Joe Piggott – Micky & Bea Cundy and Chris Sutch

Ethan Hartshorn – Insure Life Group

Joe Collins – Front Guy Gary Entertainment

Ollie Pope – George Smyth

Byron Moore – Dame Pat Bacon

Josh Hancock – The NTISA

Luke Goddard – The NTISA

Jack Turner – Stephen Wilkinson

AJ Kandeke – The Oddfellows Arms

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WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN – MATCH REPORT

Nantwich Town welcomed the NPL Midlands league leaders, Wellingborough Town, to the Swansway Stadium in the Second Qualifying Round of the FA Trophy.

The day's visitors saw off their fellow Midlands league opponents, Belper Town, winning their first-round fixture 2-1 at their home stadium, the Dog & Duck ground.

Luke Goddard's side saw three players making their first starts for the club, including new signings Cian O'Shea, Will Smith and Collins Kagame. Perry Bircumshaw captained the Dabbers on his 150th appearance for the club.

After a quiet first half, it was the visitors who opened the scoring through Danny Draper, who found space from distance and rifled the ball into the bottom left corner from 25 yards out.

The Dabbers came agonisingly close to levelling the scoreline minutes before the break when Adrian Kandeke broke down the right flank and looked to pick out Josh Hancock for a tap-in. Unfortunately, his cross was just overhit and missed Hancock at the back post.

Nantwich came closer in the first half as Paddy Kennedy's header struck the bar from a corner, before Callum Saunders' rebound was blocked on the line.

However, it wasn't long after the break that Nantwich equalised; the Dabbers drew level in the first minute when Kandeke's low cross was flicked past Jay Alexander by one of his own defenders Sam Warburton.

The visitors quickly reinstated their lead through their captain, Jack O'Connor, who bundled it over the line from close range from a corner after O'Shea misjudged the flight of the ball, with 3 Dabbers defenders going for the ball in front of him.



WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN – MATCH REPORT

Wellingborough sealed the win through substitute Zayn Hakeem, who found space in behind the defence and calmly slotted past O'Shea to secure their place in the next round of the FA Trophy.

Nantwich grabbed a very late goal as Kennedy looped his header over Alexander to halve the deficit, but it was too little, too late as the final whistle blew quickly after the restart.

The Dabbers return to Swansway Stadium on Tuesday for a big league game vs Congleton Town, before travelling to Northwich for another league fixture against 1874 Northwich.

Nantwich Town: Cian O'Shea, AJ Kandeke (Aidy Roxburgh, 72), Perry Bircumshaw (Joe Collins, 74), Ethan Hartshorn, Tom Graves, Paddy Kennedy, Will Smith, Callum Saunders, Luke Enright (Bruno Cina, 57), Josh Hancock, Collins Kagame (Ollie Pope, 57)

Sub not used: Joe Piggott

Goals: Warburton (47', own goal), Kennedy (90+6')

Wellingborough Town: Jay Alexander, George Barnell (Charlie Green, 66), Sam Warburton (Glenn Walker, 79), Rhys Kelly, Jack O'Connor (C), Matty Slinn, George Ball, Nathan Hicks (Zayn Hakeem, 60), Neo Richard-Noel (Alexander Wilson, 80), Danny Draper, Kai Fifield

Goals: Draper (37'), O'Connor (51'), Hakeem (74')

Final Score: Nantwich Town 2-3 Wellingborough Town

Attendance: 283



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CONGLETON TOWN – BRIEF HISTORY IN TIME

CLUB INFO

Club Name:	Congleton Town
Year Founded:	1901
Club Nickname:	The Bears
Current Ground:	Cleric Stadium
Current Manager:	Richard Duffy



CUP HISTORY

Cheshire Senior Cup:	Winners – 1921, 1938, 2023
NWC League Cup:	Winners – 2023
Midland League Cup:	Winners - 2024
FA Cup:	1 st Round – 1989/90
FA Trophy:	4 th Round – 2000/01
FA Vase:	Semi Finals – 2022/23



LEAGUE HISTORY

Mid Cheshire League:	Champions – 1974, 1976, 1978
Cheshire League Div 2:	Champions – 1982
Midland Football League:	Champions – 2024

LAST 5 LEAGUE SEASONS:

Season	League	POS	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
2021-22	NWC P	9/21	40	16	10	14	67	54	58
2022-23	NWC P	8/22	42	19	8	15	70	62	65
2023-24	MID P	1/18	34	25	6	3	101	31	81
2024-25	NPL 1W	3/22	42	24	6	12	82	56	78
2025-26	NPL 1W	18/22	42	10	14	18	60	72	44

CONGLETON TOWN - HISTORY

Congleton Town Football Club was founded in 1901. It was effectively an offspring of the late Congleton Juniors' squad bolstered by other local, amateur players with a view to creating a new town representative side, as indicated by its choice of club title, to fill the void left by the Congleton Hornets following that club's demise through financial difficulties in April 1900. The team initially played its matches on the Chaddock-Lowndes field at the top of Booth Street before moving to its current site on the upper-half of adjacent West Field in the summer of 1903.

The first Town team, known as the 'Townies', was a fine young side and included a 16 years old Hugh Moffat amongst its ranks, a full back who went on to play at the highest level and who remains the only Congleton born-and-bred footballer to have represented his country in a full international match. In those early days the team first sported red jerseys, then later claret and blue before adopting their famous black & white striped kit in 1920.

This vibrant young side immediately claimed a hat-trick of Crewe & District League titles prior to being accepted for the North Staffordshire & District League in 1905, where they finished as runners-up in 1915 and then champions in 1920 following the resumption of football after the Great War. Other successes prior to WW1 were a Crewe & District Cup win in 1904 and consecutive triumphs in the Cheshire Amateur Cup in 1906 and 1907. They were also beaten finalists in the Cheshire Amateur Cup in 1904 and 1909, and the Burslem Cup in 1913. In 1920 the club moved up to the Cheshire County League, then an elite league ranked just below the Football League. This switch coincided with the return to the club of Hugh Moffat, now in the twilight of his long career, who inspired the team to a runners-up spot in the league and a first-ever victory for the town of Congleton in the prestigious Cheshire Senior Cup when Winsford were beaten 1-0, with Moffat heading a goal-bound effort off the line in the final minute.

This period also saw the introduction of accommodation at the football ground with the acquisition of an ex-Army Hut for changing rooms in 1920 and the building of a unique, wooden stand circa 1923. The latter, constructed by the aptly-named James Standeven, incorporated replacement changing rooms and a communal bath, in addition to providing sheltered spectator seating and a press box. It then served the club for the next 70 years. Although the club also finished as league runners-up the following season their successes leading up to the outbreak of WW2 in 1939 were limited to a further Cheshire Senior Cup win against Crewe Alexandra in 1938 following two replays and being the beaten finalists in that cup in 1928 and 1934, and the League Cup in 1928.

The Cheshire County League was suspended following the declaration of war, but the club did compete in the local Macclesfield & District League in 1939-40 finishing in equal first place with Bollington, eventually emerging as champions following a play-off. The club also won the Sentinel Cup in 1939. Following the resumption of football after WW2 the club once again participated in the Cheshire County League. However, the team perpetually struggled to compete at this level, always languishing in the bottom half of the table, culminating in a bottom finish in 1965 that saw them controversially voted out of the league. Their games did attract big crowds though. In particular, the local derbies versus Macclesfield Town when spectators turned up in their thousands. Indeed, the ground's highest ever attendance is reputedly an estimated 7,000 for this derby in 1954.

CONGLETON TOWN - HISTORY

That said a far more plausible nominee for that record is the definite crowd of 5,448 that turned up at Booth Street on 7th April 1950 against the same opponents. In April 1949 the club sold their star player, inside-forward Desmond Frost, to Leeds United for a fee of £1K, the equivalent of £36K in 2021 money. That fee was, and still is, a club transfer record and it just happened to be the exact amount of money required to facilitate the club's immediate purchase of the ground from the Lowndes-Yates family. Three seasons in the lowly Manchester League then followed before the club switched to the Mid Cheshire League in 1968. This proved to be a successful period for the club on the pitch under the guidance of ex-player Roy Campbell but the club's perilous financial situation resulted in the ground being sold off to the Congleton Corporation for the sum of £4.5K early in 1971. The club had been desperate and, not for the first time, on the verge of collapse.

Conversely the team, made up of quality local amateur players, was in great shape and it finished champions of the Mid-Cheshire League in 1974, 1976 and 1978; runners-up in 1970, 1972 and 1977; and won the League Cup in 1972 and 1978. They also won the Bartlett Memorial Trophy in 1972, and the Cheshire Amateur Cup in 1978. In 1978 the club re-joined the Cheshire County League. This time in its newly-formed second division and they were crowned champions of that division in 1982. Immediately afterwards though the Cheshire County League merged with the Lancashire Combination to create the North West Counties League with Congleton Town FC being one its founder members. The club finished runners-up in 1986, only losing the title on goal difference. In 1980 better times had obviously prevailed as significant ground improvements had been undertaken with the pitch's infamous slope now levelled and the club's first set of floodlights installed.

In 1983 the team had again contested the Cheshire Senior Cup final narrowly losing 1-2 to the much higher-ranked Macclesfield Town, and in 1987 the club were elevated to the Northern Premier League's newly-formed second tier. The 1989-90 season witnessed the club's finest achievement when the team battled through all of the qualifying rounds to reach the First-Round proper of the FA Cup. They were drawn away to Football League side Crewe Alexandra and 1,000 supporters made the short journey to cheer them on. They acquitted themselves well but eventually lost 0-2 after holding out for 60 minutes. They were also League Cup finalists that season. The NPL years were very much a repeat of the post-war Cheshire County League period with the team struggling most seasons until a bottom finish in 2001, the club's centenary year, saw them relegated to the NWCFL. The team did reach the 4th round of the FA Trophy that season though, the team's best progression in that competition to date.

There were again turbulent times off the field with the club once more being close to extinction. In 1993 a new cantilever stand had been erected in place of the old wooden one, or rather what was left of it, and this undertaking nearly broke the club as they fell £10K short of the required £41K. Fortunately, the Congleton Town Council came to the club's rescue. There was also talk in 1996 of the club relocating to Back Lane Playing Fields following a proposal by Congleton Borough Council but, despite high hopes on both sides, nothing came of it in the end. Since season 2001-02 the club has been back in the NWCFL and it remains there to this day despite the FA inexplicably placing the club in the Midland League in 2021 as part of its reorganisation of the Pyramid. Thankfully, the club's appeal against that decision was successful. Unfortunately, there has been little success during this second stint in the NWCFL with the team's highest placing to date being third position in 2019. The team did win the Mid-Cheshire Senior Cup in 2007 for a first time and had been runners-up in 1997, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2014 but they now no longer enter this competition.

CONGLETON TOWN - HISTORY

There were also notable runs in the FA Vase when they reached the 5th round in 2004 and 2021, the team's best progressions to date. The future looks bright for the Bears in their new club colours of yellow, black and white in spite of these Covid 19 times, which resulted in NWCFL seasons 2019-20 and 2020-21 being declared null and void. The Bears narrowly escaped being laterally moved for season 2021-22 to the Midland Football League as a result of the restructuring of the non-league pyramid. Only a well-constructed appeal to the FA, which was upheld, meant the Bears were reassigned back to the NWC. Whilst all that was taking place, new manager Richard Duffy with support from Director of Football Chris Rowley set about putting together a side that would be tasked with pressing for the much sought after promotion to step 4. Among notable signings were ex-Port Vale's Tom Pope.

Season 2022/23 proved the most successful season for many years. Great progress in the FA Cup, beating 3 Northern Premier League sides to reach the third qualifying round before exiting to National League North AFC Fylde after a replay. Reaching the Isuzu FA Vase semi final where the then current holders Newport Pagnell defeated the Bears on penalties. Winning the Macron Cup (NWC League Challenge Cup) and winning the Cheshire Senior Cup defeating full time National League side Altrincham. Added to that, although their league performance was just above ordinary, no side completed the double over the Bears. Building on that success and following lateral transfer to the Midland Football League (MFL), the Bears had little success in FA competitions in 2023/24 but ran out League Champions with promotion to Step 4 (Northern Premier League First Division West with a 34-match campaign that saw them win 25, draw 6 and lose just 3 with all defeats by Nov 23. 101 goals scored and 31 conceded plus winners of the MFL Cup saw Richard Duffy deservedly pick up the Manager of the Year award. The Bears now prepare for a new, and welcome, challenge. Progress over the opening half of the 2024/25 season has been sound with the Bears consolidating as Christmas approached.

They will miss Anthony Griffith's contributions as he has been accepted on the FA's accelerated referee's programme for ex-players and his progress so far means he will need to be refereeing frequently. This has meant he has had to step away from his role as assistant manager at the club. He leaves with the best wishes from both officials and supporters. Louis Dodd and Oliver Simpson joined to assist Richard Duffy's management. An exceptional run of 15 unbeaten league games including 11 wins and 4 draws, saw the Bears climb into the top five and they ended a creditable 3rd and into the play offs. A home win on penalties, against Chasetown in the semi final meant a final against Hednesford Town away. The 2-0 defeat played in front of 4701 spectators was a record play off attendance for the NPL. It marked the end of the best 3 years in the Bears history and the challenge to maintain the standards set by the team management and players for 2025/26. During the close season, the Bears added the very experienced Peter Ward to their management team.

What followed was a reversal of fortune as the Bears struggled to recapture the form of previous seasons and ended up avoiding relegation to the NWC on the last day of the season with a 4-1 home win against Trafford, while Sporting Khalsa lost 2-1 away at Witton Albion. Much of the problem arose from losing leading scorer Max McCarthy for 2 lengthy periods plus other injuries throughout the season.



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DABBERS 2026-27 SEASON

DATE	OPPONENTS	Competition	KO	H/A	SCORE	ATT
Sat 8th Aug 2026	Sporting Khalsa	FA Cup EPR	3.00pm	A	1-1	122
Tue 11th Aug 2026	Sporting Khalsa	FA Cup EPR (R)	7.45pm	H	1-1 (5-6)	267
Sat 15th Aug 2026	Prescot Cables	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	1-3	442
Tue 18th Aug 2026	Chasetown	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H	2-2	434
Tue 25th Aug 2026	Vauxhall Motors	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A	3-3	216
Sat 29th Aug 2026	Boston Town	FA Trophy Q1	3.00pm	A	2-1	167
Mon 31st Aug 2026	Witton Albion	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H	0-3	637
Sat 5th Sep 2026	Mossley	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A	1-1	420
Tue 8th Sep 2026	Stafford Rangers	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A	1-3	783
Sat 12th Sep 2026	Wellingborough Town	FA Trophy Q2	3.00pm	H	2-3	283
Tue 15th Sep 2026	Congleton Town	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H		
Sat 19th Sep 2026	1874 Northwich	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Wed 23rd Sep 2026	Shifnal Town	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A		
Sat 26th Sep 2026	Wythenshawe	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Tue 29th Sep 2026	Bootle	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	A		
Sat 3rd Oct 2026	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Tue 6th Oct 2026	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	7.45pm	H		
Sat 10th Oct 2026	Atherton Collieries	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 17th Oct 2026	Newcastle Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Tue 20th Oct 2026	Ashville	Cheshire Cup R1	7.45pm	A		
Sat 24th Oct 2026	Lower Breck	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 31st Oct 2026	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 7th Nov 2026	Padiham	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 14th Nov 2026	Hanley Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Ollie Pope	10	1	2
Paddy Kennedy	10	1	1
Joe Collins	10	1	0
Ethan Hartshorn	10	0	1
Joe Piggott	9	2	3
Aidan Roxburgh	9	2	0
Harry Davis	8	2	0
Fenton Green	7	1	1
Josh Hancock	7	1	1
Callum Saunders	7	1	0
Iwan Roberts	7	0	1
Luke Enright	6	1	0
James Baillie	6	0	0
Perry Bircumshaw	5	0	0

Player	Apps	Goals	Assists
Yusuf Mersin (GK)	5	0	0
Mason McKay	4	0	1
Byron Moore	4	0	0
Liam Fitzpatrick	4	0	0
Liam Hall (GK)	4	0	0
AJ Kandeke	3	0	1
Tom Graves	3	0	1
Bruno Cina	3	0	0
Tom Graves	3	0	0
Collins Kagame	2	0	0
Joe Davis	2	0	0
Will Smith	2	0	0
Cian O'Shea (GK)	1	0	0
Troy Bourne	1	0	0

DABBERS 2026-27 SEASON

DATE	OPPONENTS	Competition	KO	H/A	SCORE	ATT
Sat 5th Dec 2026	Shifnal Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 12th Dec 2026	Mossley	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 19th Dec 2026	Clitheroe	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 26th Dec 2026	Lichfield City	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 2nd Jan 2027	Witton Albion	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 9th Jan 2027	Hanley Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 16th Jan 2027	Chasetown	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 23rd Jan 2027	Congleton Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 30th Jan 2027	1874 Northwich	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 6th Feb 2027	Wythenshawe	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 13th Feb 2027	Bootle	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 20th Feb 2027	Atherton Collieries	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 27th Feb 2027	Kids Grove Athletic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 6th Mar 2027	Lower Breck	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 13th Mar 2027	Newcastle Town	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 20th Mar 2027	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 27th Mar 2027	Vauxhall Motors	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Mon 29th Mar 2027	Lichfield City	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
Sat 3rd Apr 2027	Clitheroe	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 10th Apr 2027	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		
Sat 17th Apr 2027	Padiham	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	A		
TBC	Runcorn Linnets	NPL Div One West	3.00pm	H		

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SPORTS & LEISURE

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

CIAN O'SHEA

Goalkeeper (On loan from Stockport County)

12 SEPTEMBER 2007

Young goalkeeper who joined Nantwich Town in time for the Wellingborough Town FA Trophy match where he made his debut.

Last season Cian had a loan spell with Avro last season as cover for Cameron Mason and played against Nantwich Town in both the FA Cup ties.

HARRY DAVIS

Defender

24 SEPTEMBER 1991

Harry is of course best known for his spell at Crewe Alex, where he made over 200 appearances between 2009/10 and 2016/2017 and won the League 2 play-offs and Football League Trophy. Very early in that spell, he had a brief youth loan at the Dabbers in 2010, making 2 appearances. After Crewe, his other clubs have included St. Mirren, Grimsby, Morecambe, Scunthorpe and AFC Fylde. Harry was named as club captain ahead of the 26/27 season.

AIDAN ROXBURGH

Defender

27 MARCH 1999

Aidy had a previous spell at the club in the 2022/23 season, where after an initial loan from Altrincham he came back again towards the end of that season, making 9 appearances in total. Since then, he played for Workington, Bury, Bootle and Irlam, for whom he played and scored in their Manchester Premier Cup final victory in 2024/25. Reached double figures in assists in an impressive first season back at Nantwich in 25/26.

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. He's a previous winner of the Player's Player of the Year and has now passed 100 appearances for the club.

PADDY KENNEDY

Defender

2 FEBRUARY 2004

The 22-year-old played for the Dabbers as a trialist in the pre-season of 2024 but saw that period cut short by injury, before joining later in the summer. Kennedy was at Litherland REMYCA in the North West Counties Premier for the two seasons before that and captained them in 23/24.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

TROY BOURNE

Defender

13 JANUARY 1998

Troy returned to the Dabbers in 2026/27 after a season at Warrington Town in the NPL Premier. The 28-year-old needs no introduction, with 304 appearances over a 10-year period previously at the club after making his senior debut back in November 2015 at just 17 years old. He went on to become club captain as well as scoring numerous important goals in historic fixtures for the Dabbers, claiming almost every award available at the end of season awards over his time.

TOM GRAVES

Defender (On loan from Crewe Alexandra)

11 OCTOBER 2008

The young defender Graves is an up and coming talent in the Alex academy, playing a part in the side that won both the U17 PDL Cup and the Cheshire Senior Cup for Crewe last season and has captained both their U17s and U18s.

His progress was recognised by the club when he took home the Harold Finch Scholar of the Year award for the 2025/26 season.

AJ KANDEKE

Defender

24 JUNE 2004

AJ, 22 years old, featured throughout the 2026 pre-season whilst on trial following a successful season with Northwich Victoria and impressed Dabbers supporters with his tenacity and attitude. After progressing through the non-league pyramid over the past few seasons, the move to the Swansway Stadium becomes the next challenge for the defender.

JAMES BAILLIE

Defender

27 MARCH 1996

Baillie was first at the club on loan in the 2015/16 season, where he made 11 appearances. That was back when he was a Crewe Alex player, and it was at the Alex that he made his footballing start, coming through the academy there and breaking into the first team. He left Crewe in 2016 for Curzon Ashton and made over 100 appearances for them in National League North. Also in non-league, he has turned out for Warrington Town, Ashton United, Warrington Rylands and most recently Witton Albion.

LIAM FITZPATRICK

Defender/Midfielder

16 MAY 2001

Fitzpatrick, 25 years old, made 77 appearances for 1874 Northwich who he joined in 2024, scoring 13 goals and playing in numerous positions in that time, ending with promotion back to the NPL West after their playoff final victory against rivals Northwich Victoria. He has proved a fan's favourite at all his previous clubs, which have included Sandbach United, with his directness, versatility and all-round game.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

JOE PIGGOTT

Midfielder

23 JUNE 1999

Piggott, 27 years old, returned to the Dabbers for his second spell for the final month of last season after leaving Bury FC and made an immediate impact in his second stint with the club. His presence and quality in his now preferred midfield role was there for all to see, proving a popular character in the dressing room with his leadership qualities, which saw him named as one of the vice captains ahead of 2026/27.

FENTON GREEN

Midfielder

17 MAY 2003

Green was most recently at Wythenshawe Town, making 32 appearances in 2024/25. He scored once, and it just happened to be a superb strike against the Dabbers. The 23-year-old started out in the Crewe Alex academy and was with them up to under 18 level. After being released, he went to Hyde United and made 11 appearances in the 21/22 season. He scored 6 goals for 1874 Northwich in his spell there before being signed by Leek Town for their NPL West title winning season part of the way into 2023/24, making 28 appearances.

BYRON MOORE

Midfielder

24 AUGUST 1988

Moore is best known for his long spell at hometown club Crewe Alex, where across 7 years he made nearly 300 appearances and scored over 30 goals, the most famous of which being the game clinching goal in 2012's League 2 play-off final win over Cheltenham. After Crewe, he had spells at Port Vale, Bristol Rovers, Bury and Plymouth in the EFL between 2014 and 2021. He dropped into non-league with Torquay, before signing for AFC Telford under former Dabbers manager Paul Carden. Moore made over 100 appearances for Telford, the final one being another play-off win against Kettering at the end of 2024/25.

JOE COLLINS

Midfielder

19 OCTOBER 2006

Collins joined the club in September 2025 after a brief period out of the game due to an injury and has barely missed a squad since, making 30 appearances in 2025/26. Despite having to remain patient he got opportunities to show his quality, never more so than when he picked up Nantwich's Goal of the Season after a fantastic strike away at Runcorn Linnets, as voted for by the fans. A product of the Crewe academy, it's fair to say he has a big future and even more to come for 2026/27.

ETHAN HARTSHORN

Midfielder

28 JANUARY 2002

Hartshorn, 24 years old, is a former Crewe Alex youth player, leaving at 18 years old before joining his local side Congleton Town in 2021 after a spell at Kidsgrove. He went on to make over 200 appearances for The Bears, winning a promotion as well as three trophies in his time, captaining the club on numerous occasions.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

WILL SMITH **Midfielder**

30 NOVEMBER 2005

Smith began his career with Stoke City progressing through the club's academy, making his professional debut on 27 August 2024 in a 5–0 EFL Cup victory away at Middlesbrough.

Smith made a further two appearances in the EFL Cup in 2025–26. On 12 March 2026, Smith joined Northern Premier League Division One Midlands side Mickleover on a one-month loan. Smith left Stoke at the end of the 2025–26 season after not having his contract renewed.

CALLUM SAUNDERS **Forward**

26 SEPTEMBER 1995

Currently in his third spell at the club, Saunders has been a consistent goalscorer for several years. 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. Now at nearly 200 appearances for Nantwich with over 50 goals.

MASON MCKAY **Forward**

9 NOVEMBER 2007

McKay, just 18 years old, joined on dual registration at the end of last season and made 4 appearances, after spending most of the year with National League North champions AFC Fylde who he had been part of over the past few seasons through their U18s before progressing into their first team squad. In just the few appearances he made since joining the Swansway Stadium for the final month he quickly highlighted the potential he has, including the standout assist he provided in a goal against Darlaston at home.

IWAN ROBERTS **Forward**

27 SEPTEMBER 2004

Roberts, 21 years old, is a graduate of Liverpool's academy, where he departed in 2023 before joining Bala Town. He finished last season with Newtown in the Cymru Alliance North after joining in January from Gresford.

BRUNO CINA **Forward (on loan from Stockport County)**

30 JANUARY 2007

Cina, 19 years old, joined Stockport in 2024 after leaving Colchester United. In April 2026 he signed his first professional contract at Edgeley Park. The 6ft 4 forward has shown proven athleticism and pace with continuous improvement in his time so far with County. On an initial 3-month loan with the Dabbers.

NANTWICH TOWN – PLAYER PROFILES

JOSH HANCOCK

Forward

5 SEPTEMBER 1990

Hancock, a local lad who played in our youth teams until the age of 17, made his first team Nantwich debut aged just 16 away at Salford City in 2007. He returned a few years later to play for the first team between 2015 and 2017, scoring 22 goals in 103 games in total for the Dabbers before leaving for Altrincham shortly after manager Phil Parkinson. He went on to enjoy huge success with Alty, Curzon Ashton and Radcliffe, spending most of these years in the National League and National League North.

OLLIE POPE

Forward

19 APRIL 2004

Pope, 22 years old, returned to the Swansway Stadium in summer 2026 after making his senior debut here at just 16 years old before leaving in 2022 after 3 first team appearances. Since then, he has gained lots of experience with local sides such as Whitchurch Alport, Alsager Town and most recently Winsford United. He has scored 21 & 24 goals in his last two campaigns, playing a huge part in Winsford's recent progression.

LUKE ENRIGHT

Forward

03 OCTOBER 2006

Enright, 19 years old and who now lives locally in Nantwich, started his career with Aston Villa before joining Stoke City where he gained a formidable record in their U18s and U21s. Following an ACL injury he departed the Potters last summer, briefly spending time training with AFC Bournemouth and Harrogate Town following his rehabilitation. He then joined Rushall Olympic in the Southern Central Premier Division (Step 3) last December where he has remained since.

The lively attacking player now joins the Swansway Stadium hoping to gain further opportunities to progress back up the pyramid.

COLLINS KAGAME

Forward

01 OCTOBER 2005

Born in Austria with Rwandan heritage is a winger/forward.

Recently signed from Flixton, Collins came through the ranks at Oldham Athletic before signing for Hyde United in the 2024/25. Last season Collins played for Stockport Town.

Pockets

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ANDYSMANCLUB



#ITSOKAYTALK

WHAT IS ANDYSMANCLUB?

ANDYSMANCLUB is a free peer-to-peer group that provides a place for men to come together in a safe and open environment to talk about the issues or problems that they have faced or are currently facing.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The process is about bringing men together who have been in similar situations, to help each other on a peer to peer basis, sharing how they have dealt with various situations through lived experiences. No matter how big or small your problem feels, we are here to support each other. The 5 questions that are asked each week are designed not only to encourage men to talk, but to start to focus on the positives and on strategies to keep moving forward. There is no pressure to answer any of the questions and it is not uncommon for men to just listen for the first few sessions. The clubs all run on the same format and adhere to the same guidelines. A key principle of ANDYSMANCLUB is anything that is said in the club, stays within the club.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The club is open to any man 18 or over, who is going through a storm, been through a storm or just wants to meet a good group of people with the aim of improving one another.

WHEN IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB meet every Monday at 7pm (excluding Bank Holiday Mondays).

WHERE IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB has clubs in many locations across the UK. Check our website below for a full list.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just turn up on the night. No registration or referral is required, all we ask is that you arrive before 7pm. The full list of our locations is available on our website.

CONTACT US

 @andysmanclub

 @andysmanclubuk

 @andysmanclubuk

 andysmanclub.co.uk

 info@andysmanclub.co.uk

 andysmanclub



The
Daniel Wilkinson
Foundation

*Providing Screening and Defibrillators to
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!

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

@dannywilks5

thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

dwfoundation5

contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

To donate: mydonate.bt.com/charities/thedanielwilkinsonfoundation

PITCHING IN NPL D1W - RESULTS & FIXTURES

NPL Division One West - Saturday 12th September 2026

Atherton Collieries	1	1	1874 Northwich	302
Mossley	1	0	Witton Albion	392
Padiham	0	5	Newcastle Town	209

FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round - Saturday 12th September 2026

Bourne Town	3	2	Hanley Town	
Birdlington Town	3	2	Congleton Town	191
Kidsgrove Athletic	0	3	Stafford Rangers	371
Loughborough Students	4	3	Chasetown	122
Nantwich Town	2	3	Wellingborough Town	283
Pontrefract Collieries	1	1*	Prescot Cables (* 4-5 pens)	
Shifnal Town	3	0	Shepshed Dynamo	
Silsden	1	5	Bootle	158
Stalybridge Celtic	3	2	Lower Breck	433
Wythenshawe	0	4	Blyth Spartans	

FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round - Sunday 13th September 2026

(* 5-3 on pens) Hallam	1*	1	Runcorn Linnets	394
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NPL Division One West Fixtures - Tuesday 15th September 2026

Hanley Town	vs	1874 Northwich	7.45pm
Nantwich Town	vs	Congleton Town	7.45pm
Padiham	vs	Mossley	7.45pm
Prescot Cables	vs	Clitheroe	7.45pm
Runcorn Linnets	vs	Atherton Collieries	7.45pm
Stafford Rangers	vs	Kidsgrove Athletic	7.45pm
Stalybridge Celtic	vs	Wythenshawe	7.45pm
Vauxhall Motors	vs	Bootle	7.45pm
Witton Albion	vs	Lower Breck	7.45pm

NPL Division One West Fixtures - Wednesday 16th September 2026

Lichfield City	vs	Newcastle Town	7.45pm
Shifnal Town	vs	Chasetown	7.45pm

PITCHING IN NPL D1W - STANDINGS

		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1 Bootle	5	5	0	0	15	4	+11	15
	2 Shifnal Town	5	4	0	1	14	5	+9	12
	3 Stafford Rangers	5	4	0	1	12	5	+7	12
	4 Prescot Cables	6	3	3	0	9	4	+5	12
	5 Clitheroe	5	4	0	1	8	5	+3	12
	6 Wythenshawe	6	3	2	1	8	7	+1	11
	7 Hanley Town	5	3	1	1	12	5	+7	10
	8 Witton Albion	7	3	1	3	16	10	+6	10
	9 Stalybridge Celtic	7	3	1	3	13	13	0	10
	10 Runcorn Linnets	6	2	2	2	10	10	0	8
	11 Padiham	7	2	2	3	7	16	-9	8
	12 Newcastle Town	6	2	1	3	14	12	+2	7
	13 Atherton Collieries	5	2	1	2	8	6	+2	7
	14 Vauxhall Motors	6	1	4	1	8	9	-1	7
	15 Mossley	6	2	1	3	7	8	-1	7
	16 Lower Breck	4	2	0	2	7	8	-1	6
	17 Kids Grove Athletic	5	2	0	3	4	6	-2	6
	18 1874 Northwich	6	1	2	3	4	6	-2	5
	19 Chasetown	6	1	2	3	9	12	-3	5
	20 Nantwich Town	6	0	3	3	8	15	-7	3
	21 Congleton Town	5	0	2	3	2	6	-4	2
	22 Lichfield City	7	0	0	7	7	30	-23	0



NANTWICH TOWN

Manager – Luke Goddard

Cian O'Shea
Tom Graves
Aidy Roxburgh
Perry Bircumshaw
AJ Kandeke
James Baillie
Harry Davis
Joe Davis
Troy Bourne
Paddy Kennedy
Joe Piggott
Joe Collins
Ethan Hartshorn
Fenton Green
Liam Fitzpatrick
Iwan Roberts
Byron Moore
Ollie Pope
Callum Saunders
Josh Hancock
Luke Enright
Collins Kagame

CONGLETON TOWN

Manager – Richard Duffy

Dave Parton
Marco Fregapane
Owen Morris
Peter Williams
Julius Ndene
Darren Chadwick
Kieran Garner-Knapper
Shakeel Jones-Griffths
Dylan Scott
Joe Woolley
Matthew Gillam
Theo Knight
Joao Soares
Jack Bates
Taylor Kennerley
Matthew Liptrott
Dan Needham

REFEREE: Jack Lambert

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Jack Vase, Jamie Kilgannon

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