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DIGITAL



PRESCOT CABLES FOOTBALL CLUB



PARTNERS WITH



NORTHERN
PREMIER
LEAGUE

PITCHING-IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE WEST
PLAY-OFF FINAL 2023-24

PRESCOT CABLES

v

CITY OF LIVERPOOL

SATURDAY 4th MAY 2024 - KO 3.00pm

INSIDETODAY'S EDITION

ISSUE #272023/24

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BOARDLINES

RICHARD TIGWELL



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Joseph Russell Stadium for today's Pitching In Northern Premier League West Play-off Final against City of Liverpool. I'd also like to take the opportunity to welcome the players, coaches and officials from CoL who will be here for what we hope will be a fantastic football occasion. We hope you enjoy your time with us today.

What an occasion for both clubs, and what an opportunity.

As a football supporter I would like to congratulate Ste Daley and Paul McNally on their brilliant achievements to bring their players through to the play-offs and the brink of promotion. Good luck to both teams this afternoon.

With my Cables hat on, I would love to see Liam Hollett, a dedicated servant to the club who made his debut for the club aged 15 and has at time played for free, lift that trophy this afternoon after a great game of football. If anyone deserves it, it is Liam.

Wearing my Matchday Operations hat I hope that another crowd of over 2,000 has a great, safe and memorable afternoon with us for all the right reasons. We want everyone to enjoy the afternoon so we ask everyone to respect our security team, stewards and stadium safety officers and any instructions they give. It will be for a good reason. They are also here to help so please approach them at any time if you have any concerns or need assistance.

Our team of staff and volunteers here at Cables has risen above and beyond the call of duty in the last week, and been amazing all season. It's not just been good on the pitch, it's been good behind the scenes too and I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart.

A final word on our matchday programme, The Walloper. We took the difficult decision to save paper and convert to a digital edition. Compiled, edited and produced by David Raven it has been a tremendous team effort and would not have been possible without contributions from Chris Bayes, Gareth Coates, Roy McDonald, Sam Rawnsley and Phil Taylor (and you! Ed); our supporter's focus group of Chris Bayes, Jon Rawnsley and Stan Kostrzewski; our photographers Tom Barker, Lilly Coates and John Middleton. Put simply, we have gone from selling 68 copies to just under 400 downloads every game. We'd call that a success and a good decision!

Whatever the outcome, our end of season awards night will take place as soon as the ground has settled down after the trophy presentation. We will have some great entertainment on, so we hope you can join us for a late one!

Right, that's enough from me, enjoy the game, it should be a cracker.

RICH



THE DUGOUT

STEDALEY



One more hurdle.

As we draw a close to this exciting season I would like to round off the season off by thanking my management team for supporting me throughout the season they deserve massive credit for the work they put in.

A massive thanks to the players for buying into the way we want to take the club forward. I am privileged to manage these lads who wholeheartedly have my respect, such a special group of players.

What can I say about the fans. YOU HUMBLE ME with your fantastic support, you are amazing.

Onto today's game. What an occasion for the club, I will keep it short and sweet!

We will fight with everything we have to get a result for you!

Let's pull together and make memories!

Up the Bulls

STE

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A TRIBUTE TO OUR GAFFER

STE DALEY'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY



CLUB CAPTAIN LIAM HOLLETT PAYS TRIBUTE TO CABLES' GAFFER STE DALEY

As the curtains close on another exhilarating football season, it's time to pause and reflect on the extraordinary journey we've shared under the stewardship of our manager, Ste Daley. Words alone can hardly capture the essence of what this season has meant to us as a team, as individuals, and as a family.

Ste Daley isn't just a manager; he's our mentor, our motivator, and our unwavering source of inspiration.

Throughout the highs and lows of the season, his belief in us never wavered. Under his guidance, we've conquered milestones we once thought insurmountable, culminating in a historic playoff final appearance.

This season wasn't without its challenges. There were moments when the odds seemed stacked against us, when doubts crept in, and people wrote us off. But in those moments, Ste stood tall as our unwavering beacon of hope. His unwavering faith in our potential fueled our determination, turning doubters into believers and skeptics into supporters.

When the world doubted us, Ste never did. His unwavering faith in our abilities, coupled with his tactical genius, transformed us into a force to be reckoned with. From the nail-biting victories to the heart-wrenching defeats, Ste was there, guiding us with wisdom, passion, and an unyielding belief in our collective strength.

But Ste's impact extends far beyond the confines of the pitch. He's more than just a manager; he's a mentor, a friend, and a father figure to us all. His door is always open, his words of encouragement ever-present, and his unwavering support a constant reminder of his commitment to our success, both on and off the field.

And behind every great manager stands a team of dedicated individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our success. Assistant manager Wacker, with his tactical brilliance and unwavering loyalty, has been Ste's right-hand man, providing invaluable support and guidance every step of the way. Coaches Sully, Lee, and Macca have been the driving force behind our training sessions, pushing us to our limits and extracting the best from each player.

As we bid farewell to this season, let us raise our voices in unison to express our deepest gratitude to Ste Daley, Wacker, Sully, Lee, Macca and every member of our coaching staff. Their tireless dedication and unwavering support have propelled us to new heights, and their legacy will forever be etched in the annals of our club's history. Here's to you all, our guiding lights, our mentors, and our champions.

Thanks for everything your skipper 🧡



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Formation and league application (2015-2016)

The first meeting that led to the formation of the club was proposed in October 2014 by Paul Manning; also present at that first meeting were Peter Furnedge, Martin Jones, Kevin Morland, and Nicky Allt. Names including "Liverpool City FC" and "Merseyside FC" were considered before the club was officially established in May 2015 as "City of Liverpool FC". The club chose to play in the colour purple due to its reputation as the "civic colour" of the city, owing to the fact that the city's two most famous football teams are Everton FC, whose colour is blue, and Liverpool FC, whose colour is red. Due to work commitments and other issues, Allt and Morland had left the venture by December 2014, and Stuart Fitzgerald joined the remaining three committee members in February 2015. The club held an open public meeting in September 2015, by which time Jones had also left the organisation. The community voted to form the club as a community benefit society on socialist principles and the club held its first members' meeting at Jack Jones House in Liverpool city centre in February 2016. Simon Burton, formerly of Runcorn Town, was appointed as the first manager of the club in March 2016. The club applied to join the North West Counties Football League in early 2016, but their application was rejected by the Football Association in May and they were instead placed in the Liverpool County Premier League. They chose to take up their option to appeal against the decision, particularly in light of the league being left with a vacancy following the resignation of Northwich Manchester Villa, and attended an appeal hearing at Wembley Stadium on 8 June 2016, also attended by the two remaining directors Manning and Furnedge as Fitzgerald had left the board in April 2016. The appeal was successful, allowing the club to join the First Division of the North West Counties Football League for the 2016-17 season.

Season 2016-17: Debut season, two cup wins, and play-off winners

The club played their first game away to Prestatyn Town of the Cymru Alliance on 9 July 2016 in a pre-season friendly, which resulted in a 3-2 win. An unbeaten start throughout August in the NWCFL inaugural season bode well for the season, until a 2-1 defeat at Daisy Hill in early September. However, a 2-1 win away to Whitchurch Alport in November saw the team reach the top of the league and they remained in the promotion race until late into the season. The club missed out on automatic promotion in the end, but secured a place in the playoffs after finishing 4th. In December 2016, the club secured a 2.5-year sponsorship agreement with local social housing provider Regenda Homes. The club reached two cup finals in their first campaign, defeating Widnes 4-0 on aggregate to reach the final of the NWCFL First Division Challenge Cup, and then overturning a two-goal deficit against Chadderton before eventually winning a penalty shoot-out to reach the final of the NWCFL League Challenge Cup. They faced Sandbach United in the First Division Challenge Cup final on 1 May 2017 in Runcorn; Jamie McDonald scored the only goal of the match, which led the club to win its first ever trophy. They defeated Whitchurch Alport 1-0 in the playoff semi-final and beat neighbours Litherland REMYCA 3-0 in the final, also facing Premier Division side Barnoldswick Town in the final of the League Challenge Cup and winning the game 3-2 on penalties, despite being reduced to 10 men and subsequently 9 men after Matthew Williams was sent off in the 1st half and Kevin McEllin was sent off in the 1st period of extra time. The match finished 1-1 aet. City of Liverpool FC became only the 2nd team in the history of the North West Counties League to win the historic Cup double after Cammell Laird did the same in season 2004-05. At the NWCFL AGM held at the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool on 17 June 2017, Simon Burton was awarded the title of "1st Division Manager of the Year" and Stephen Longrigg was awarded the title of "1st Division Goalkeeper of the Year". On 10 May 2017, the club was awarded the title of "Non-League Team of the Season" by bookmaker Coral. The club held its first annual AGM in July 2017, at which the existing board of directors was voted to remain in place for a period of three years. The existing board of directors consisting of Paul Manning and Peter Furnedge had been augmented during the season by Peter Manning as club secretary and Gary Johansen as media director. At the AGM, Cathy Long was also voted onto the board. Subsequently, a member's council was formed and voted Sarah Comber as its chairman, with initially Francis Stanton and latterly Andrew Lavin elected as secretary. Upon her election, Comber took up an automatic place on the board of directors as chair of the member's council.

Season 2017-18: Another cup win and first FA Cup journey

The 2017-18 started with another trophy, beating Atherton Collieries 4-3 on penalties after a 3-3 draw in 90 minutes, in the annual Champions Cup game between the Premier Division Champions and Challenge Cup winners. On 5 August, the club travelled away to fellow Premier Division side Padiham for its first-ever game in the FA Cup, which City of Liverpool won. In the second preliminary round, they played Northern Premier League side Prescot Cables. After a 2-2 draw at Prescot in the first match, a new record home crowd attendance of 956 witnessed the club set the highest scoring game of the round as they defeated their opponents 8-2 to secure their place in the first qualifying round, and a home tie against Nantwich Town. On 1 September, the first FA Cup run came to an end with a deflected 95th-minute winner handing Nantwich Town a 2-1 victory in front of a record crowd of 1,022. In the FA Vase, the club progressed to the 3rd round before being beaten by Stockton Town of the Northern League, who themselves went all the way to the final at Wembley Stadium. Season 2017-18 concluded with a creditable 4th place finish in the Hallmark Security league Premier Division. In June 2018, Comber resigned her position as chair of the member's council and was subsequently replaced by Paul McGrady, who was co-opted onto the main board of directors on an interim basis pending a full meeting of the supporter's council; however, following a nomination process, no other member was nominated for the role and McGrady was elected unopposed. In July 2018, the club announced that it had parted ways with manager Simon Burton by mutual consent after two years in charge. Two days later, the club announced that it had appointed veteran centre-half Craig Robinson as manager.

Season 2018-19: Another title win

On 14 July, the club travelled to Merthyr Town of the Southern League to play for the prestigious Supporter's Direct Shield, losing 3-1 in what was new manager Craig Robinson's first full game in charge. After an excellent debut season, Robinson led the team to its first title success, winning the North West Counties Football League Premier Division with 91 points. At various points of the season, the title seemed to be a formality, but with rivals (and landlords) Bootle FC going on an unprecedented 20-game winning run in the league, culminating in a 1-0 victory over COLFC in front of a record crowd of 1,344, the team were relegated into 2nd place in the table with just 1 game to play (having been in 1st place since 27 September 2018). A 2-0 away victory at Irlam on the last day of the season, as Bootle drew 1-1 at home with Northwich Victoria, saw the lead change hands again and City of Liverpool crowned champions. In the FA Cup, the team reached the 2nd qualifying round before losing to Chester FC of the Conference North in front of the club's record crowd of 1,834. In the FA Vase, a disappointing 0-4 away loss at Hebburn Town in front of yet another record crowd, this time 1,304, ended the club's hopes in the 1st round. Having beaten Avro FC 6-2 on aggregate in the Macron Cup Semi Finals, City of Liverpool FC met 1874 Northwich in the final on 4 May at Altrincham FC, with the club looking to become only the 4th team in NWCFL history to win the Double and separately to become also one of four teams to have won the Challenge Cup twice; however, in a dour affair, 1874 scored an 88th-minute winner. At the NWCFL AGM on 15 June, Robinson was named as Premier Division Manager of the Year. On the same day, the club was officially accepted into the Northern Premier League for the 2019-20 season.

Season 2019-20: Null and void

The club's inaugural season in the Northern Premier League was largely disappointing as the club adapted to life in Step 4 of the National League Pyramid. At the club's annual AGM, Sean Lindblad had been appointed to a place on the board of directors for "Community" and Mike Caulfield appointed as "Club Welfare Office" having been co-opted during the previous season. The NPL North West Division was considered particularly difficult as due to a re-alignment in the FA's ongoing re-structure; the makeup of the division was to include teams from the North East, making average travelling distances much greater. In the pre-season, the club once again won the NWCFL Champions Cup, inflicting revenge on 1874 Northwich with a 2-1 home win. This trophy was the club's sixth in its three seasons in the NWCFL and equalled the trophy haul of Warrington Town and thus making the club the joint most successful club in NWCFL history based on trophies won, although the six wins came in only three seasons, whereas Warrington's came in twelve seasons. In the FA Cup, wins over Champion FC and Skelmersdale Utd set up a first qualifying round game away at Warrington Town FC. The game saw a crowd of over 600 enjoy a 2-2 draw, with City of Liverpool leading 2-1 due to two strikes from Jack Hazlehurst into injury time, before intense pressure from the hosts got them a very late equaliser and sent the tie to a replay the following Tuesday. In front of a record home crowd of 1099, the match was a disaster and ended 0-4 to the Yellows, with the opening goal coming in the first minute after defender Danny Dalton suffered a season-ending achilles tendon injury. Both the FA Trophy and NPL League Cup campaigns ended in first round defeats to Tadcaster Albion and Mossley respectively. The club fared better in the Liverpool Senior Cup with a 5-1 home win (its first ever home tie in the LSC) over divisional rivals Widnes and a 2-0 win over Everton U23's securing a home semi-final draw with Landlords Bootle. In the league, a seven-match unbeaten run saw the club head the form table early in the season, but a series of heavy defeats to Ramsbottom, Tadcaster and Marine were soon to follow as the club hovered around lower mid table. A notable 3-0 win at home over Prescot Cables was a highlight in what was largely a dour and uninspired campaign as the squad struggled to find its feet at the level. A discrepancy in a loan signing subsequently saw the club deducted six points in February, just before the entire season was scrapped due to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequently declared null and void.

Season 2020-21: Curtailed

Season 2020-21 started off very brightly with a 0-3 away win at Glossop North End in the FA Cup preliminary round, but quickly turned bad with successive home defeats to Marske in the league (2-4) and Morpeth in the FA Cup 2nd Preliminary round (0-3), before two further defeats away from home at Kendal Town (0-1) and Workington (2-5) brought about the end of Robinson's reign as manager of the club, with the club sitting bottom of the league with no points. The club installed Michael Ellison (formerly of Runcorn Linnets) and despite him taking over too late for any training sessions to be undertaken, the team put on an outstanding performance to win away at Brighouse Town 5-2. Still with no training sessions, the team turned in an excellent performance to draw 2-2 with Prescot Cables (away) on the following Tuesday. Trafford at home came next and the excellent start under Ellison's tutelage continued with a hard-fought 1-0 home win to make it 7 points gained from 3 matches. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only three more league games were able to be played which saw a depleted squad lose away at title contenders Colne and a 2-1 Boxing Day home derby defeat to Marine, interspersed by a 4-1 home win against Pontefract Collieries and a creditable 10th position as the season was officially curtailed by the FA. The club had an excellent run in the FA Trophy, beating Atherton Collieries (NPL Prem) 3-0 away before repeating the feat and going away to beat Buxton also of the NPL Premier Division 2-1 and losing 0-2 in a highly creditable performance away at National League North side Darlington. At the club's AGM, both Cathy Long and Gary Walthew stood down as directors. Earl Jenkins was elected unopposed.

Season 2021-22: Stability

The season was one of mid-table stability with club's lowest position being 15th and highest being 8th, with a final league position a creditable 9th. This was the club's first fully completed season in the NPL. The season was affected by a spate of season ending injuries to key players; Kelly, Burke, Potter, Johnston, Sharrock and serious shorter term injuries to various other key players, culminating in the club signing 55 players throughout the season which was by far a divisional high. The club achieved its highest ever FA cup run, reaching the 3rd qualifying round before going out to eventual NPL Premier Division title winners Buxton, but beating Vanarama National League North side Farsley Celtic 3-0 in an early cup upset. The club's 1 season playing at Vauxhall Motors ended and The Purps returned to the Berry Street Garage Stadium, the home of Bootle FC.

Season 2022-23

On the back of 4 straight league defeats at the start of the season, the club decided a change was needed before they were cut adrift at the bottom of the table. Manager Michael Ellison's services were dispensed with, and a week later Paul McNally made the move from Skelmersdale United. Two further defeats meant the Purps were pointless after 6 games. As with any managerial change, players come and go, and by the end of the season the squad was very different from what it was at the start. Safety was mathematically achieved in the penultimate game of the season, though with a far superior goal difference to the clubs around them, the Purps finished 12th position.

Season 2023-24

Paul McNally has brought in a few new faces, but has kept the backbone of the squad that finished last season. After a quite good pre-season, everyone at the club is looking forward to pushing on, and at the very least, achieve a comfortable top half table finish.

Pen Pics

Michael Fitzgerald - Defender :Young defender Michael Fitzgerald joined from Ramsbottom United, having impressed against the Purps on four occasions this season. Fitzgerald came through the youth ranks at Blackpool where he captained their Under 18s side and spent time loan at Rammy last season, before making the move permanent after leaving the Bloomfield Road outfit. The 19 year old defender impressed on his debut against Workington with an excellent display at right back, as the Purps secured an important win.

Nick Ryan - Defender: He has also previously represented Burscough and Witton Albion in the Northern Premier League and started this season with Lower Breck after overcoming a long term injury. Nick joined the Purps in February 2022, making his debut in a 2-0 home win against Clitheroe. Nick went on to make 6 appearances last season, and will surely add to that this season.

Jack Hont - Defender: The 25 year old left back joins from Skelmersdale United where he was originally signed by Purps manager Paul McNally. Hont has impressed this season in a Skem shirt, not least when his former side won 2-1 against his new team in August. Jack has also previously represented Prestatyn Town, Burscough and AFC Liverpool.

Michael Grogan - Defender: An experienced defender who is also capable of operating in midfield, Grogan was a trainee at Manchester United before going on to represent a number of clubs across the Non League pyramid. Mike has previously played for Warrington Town, Burscough, Cammell Laird and Telford United, where he was an important part of Liam Watson's side as the Bucks won the 2013-14 Conference North title. Joined the Purps in January 2023.

Michael Simpson - Midfielder: Simmo was a key part of Runcorn Linnets side which won the NWCFL Premier Division title. A midfielder who is also capable of operating in defence, Simpson started his career at Bury before playing over 200 times for Linnets across a couple of spells.

Ismail Sonko - Striker: A product of Kingsley United who the Purps have a long standing partnership with. Ismail has impressed in the handful of games that he has started for the Purps. His quick pace and work rate has meant he has quickly become a fan favourite. After impressing early in pre-season an injury unfortunately meant he missed most of the season but since he has gained fitness he has become a regular name on the team sheet.

Max Allen - Midfielder: The 24-year-old spent the summer of 2020 on trial with the Purps, impressing as 'Trialist #1' in a number of pre-season fixtures before moving to America to play for College side San Jose State University Spartans. A classy left-footed midfielder, Max started out at Liverpool Academy before moving to Bolton Wanderers at the age of 10, where he stayed until he was 18. As a youngster he had a spell on loan in the NPL Premier Division with Skelmersdale United in 2017, featuring 16 times for Alan Rogers' side.

Kenny Strickland - Midfielder: The midfielder was a key part of manager Paul McNally's side at Skem, making well over 300 appearances for the club across a couple of spells, and is now reunited with Macca and former team mate Danny Mitchley at Purple Hub. Strickland represented both Manchester United and Chelsea at youth level, turning out for the London club up to the Under 18 age group. Our new signing also spent a number of years at Marine where he made over 130 appearances for the Crosby club. A versatile operator, Kenny is highly adept in a number of positions and will add to the strength in depth and leadership attributes Paul McNally is steadily building at the club.

Jay Salkeld - Midfielder: Jay Salkeld has returned to the club following a short spell with the Purps last season, where he joined from Burscough early in the campaign. Supporters will remember an excellent cameo where he won a penalty and scored a memorable solo goal as we defeated National League outfit Farsley Celtic 3-0 in the FA Cup in September 2021. Jay came through the youth set up at Tranmere and has also played for AFC Liverpool and Skelmersdale United where he worked with Macca last season.

Ibrahim Conteh - Midfielder: Operating in central midfield, Baba has shone with an all-action display, bringing energy and dynamism both in and out of possession, which earned him the supporters Man of the Match award on his debut.

Danny Mitchley- Striker: The 32-year-old forward brings with him a wealth of experience which has seen him represent Blackpool, Southport, Mansfield, Wrexham and Altrincham amongst others. Danny also had a fruitful spell with Marine during which time he scored 81 goals in 178 appearances and captained the side before leaving for Radcliffe in June 2019. Mitchley is no stranger to Purps manager Paul McNally, for whom he has starred in recent years and leaves Skem after three spells at the club. Danny has been a key player for Macca and was a pivotal figure in Skem's promotion from the NWCFL Premier Division in the 21/22 season.

Malikai Fry - Defender: A young defender with a bright future ahead of him. Malikai has impressed during the pre-season and will be a valuable squad member.

Anthony Miley - Defender: Anthony has a wealth of experience, signing in the summer from Marine. Anthony has made a number of appearances in the Welsh Premier League.

Arron Flemming - Winger: Flem signed for the Purps in the summer of 2023. Last season he was with Trafford and has also played for AFC Fylde.

Simon Wills - Midfield: No stranger to Vesty Road, Simon spent last season with Bootle. A no nonsense midfielder, another summer 2023 signing.

Xenon Bahula - Forward: In his second spell with the Purps, Xenon is a tricky winger who likes to take defenders on. Spent last season playing for Burscough.

Jawad Jebrim - Forward: JJ signed in the summer of 2023 havin been a regular with Lower Breck last season. A broken foot has ruled him out since pre-season.

Josh Quarless - Forward: Another to return to the Purps for a second spell after originally being with the Purps in the 2021/22 season. Always plays with a smile on his face, Josh will be looking to add to his goal tally this season.

Harry Cannon-Noren - Defender/Midfield: Harry recently left Prescott Cables where he made 38 appearances last season, mainly at right-back. Has also played for Clitheroe, Colne and Runcorn Linnets so has considerable NPL experience.

Tom Fagan - Defender/Midfield: Tom joins the Purps having previously played for Colne and Kendal Town in the NPL. Can play in defence or midfield, Tom started his non-league career with Southport in the National League, where he made a handful of appearances.

Nivaldo Rodrigues Ferriera - Forward: Brazilian forward Nivaldo played for Radcliffe and Bootle last season and has previously played professionally in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Played against the Purps last season whilst with Bootle in the 1-1 draw in January.

Callum Schorah - Forward: Callum was named the NWCFL Premier Division player of the year for the 2021/22 season whilst playing for AFC Liverpool. On the back of that season's performances Callum joined Chorley in the National League North. Callum has joined the Purps following a summer playing for Georgia Revolution in America.

Calvin Hare - Goalkeeper: Calvin came through the youth ranks at Wigan Athletic before spells with Non-League clubs including AFC Fylde, Droylsden, Burscough, Marine and Witton Albion. Calvin's impressive performances on trial during pre-season saw the custodian earn a place in Paul McNally's plans for the 2023-24 campaign, where he has made the #1 shirt his own.

Adam Rooney - Defender: A recent acquisition to the Purps, Adam had been on the club's radar for a while and as soon as he became available Paul McNally moved in for him. An experienced defender, Adam has played at a higher level, and has represented Skelmersdale United, Bootle, Cammell Laird, Droylsden and Trafford prior to his recent spell at Atherton Collieries.

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CABLES YOUTH

JON MARSTON



WELCOME TO PRESCOT CABLES JFC

The junior section currently has 21 teams. We have over 170 kids registered and are always looking to bring kids into the club and develop them into teams. All our teams are set up through MCSS and MCSS are the clubs training partner.

End of season report from John Marston, Youth Secretary

We would firstly like to say a massive thank you to all our players, coaches, parents and volunteers for the season which is now coming to an end. Without you we wouldn't work as a club, so thank you to each and every one of you that puts in the hard work.

Commiserations to Prescott Cables u10 Saturday & Sunday who both lost their cup finals last weekend. Well done on getting to the final lads and keep your heads up.

Best of luck to Prescott Cables Girls u13's who meet River Juniors in their cup final today.

Best of luck to Prescott Cables Girls u12' who also meet River Juniors in their cup final today. This is their first season together and would be brilliant to top it off with a trophy, but no matter what girls be very proud of how far you've come in such a short space of time

Best of luck girls, let's end the season on a massive high.

Best of luck to Prescott Cables u11's who are into the final of the MYFL cup. I know how hard you've worked over the season so hopefully you can reap the rewards in the final.

Well done to our Prescott Cables Girls u10's who finished as winners of their cup competition for the Liverpool Girls league last weekend. Girls first season together and they have come on leaps and bounds. Keep it up girls for next season

Massive good luck with Prescott Cables u16's this Saturday. Top of the table clash against Parklands, if the lads win will almost certainly win the league. We're all behind you lads.

Well done to all our teams who have just finished their first seasons with us:

Cables u6 Town	Cables u6 1884	Cables u7 Town
Cables u7 1884	Cables u8 Town	Cables u8 1884
Cables u8 JFC Sunday	Cables u9 Town	Cables u9 1884

It's been fantastic to see all these sides growing together as teams and I'm personally looking forward to watching the journey continue for each and every one of you.

We've had a fantastic season on the whole we've created several new teams and expanded the Cables family. Many of our players now regularly attend match days as you can see from our pictures. Some of our teams have had the pleasure of being mascots and we are looking forward to continuing this next season.

Best of luck to all of our teams in their summer leagues and we're looking forward to seeing the success stories & all the trophies we pile up over the next few weeks and months from our summer leagues

GOAL OF THE MONTH

This season we started our goal of the month competition in the junior section, and it's been a massive hit with the players and parents without our club, and has drove our social media channels wild. We've seen several clubs now imitating what we do, which certainly adds to the pride in our club that we are setting examples and ideas for others.

Congratulations to all of our winners;

- June 2023 - Alfie Skinley
- July 2023 - Elsie Scales
- August 2023 - Carson Tickle
- September 2023 - James Wilkinson-Crawley
- October 2023 - Noah Marston
- November 2023 - Logan Johnston
- December 2023 - Harrison Wood
- January 2024 - Rhys Swainston
- February 2024 - Noah Marston
- March 2024 - Alex Hoogendyk
- April 2024 - Freddie Foy

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I would also like to thank all of our sponsors for all their help they have provided this season, from kit sponsors to goal of the month sponsors, each and every one of you is invaluable to our success as a club.

- Uniquo Construction
- SJ Services Liverpool
- Kids Cuts Prescott
- Stone and Porcelain Luxury Designs
- Milton's Diamonds
- Abbey Kitchens and Bedrooms
- Pump Paradise Nutrition
- Sparkling Gems

FAMILY FUN DAY

Finally I want to sign off with an invitation to our family fun day. This will be held on the 18th May, at the Joseph Russell Stadium. This will be a day of activities for the kids as well as an opportunity to see the real positives our junior club plays in the lives of children in the local community and further. We will be running a raffle to help raise funds for our club for next season, so please do bring some cash to help us out as well as enjoying the day. We will also have registration forms for any players looking to join one club for the next season .

OUR CLUB

We would like to say a massive thank you to David Raven for including all of our submissions into the Matchday programme, I hope you all enjoy following along and seeing the progression our teams are making, hopefully bringing the future first players through.

A big thank you to Richie Tigwell for getting all the logistics sorted for a lot of our teams to be mascots at the games throughout the year.

A big thank you to Michael Seed, our clubs' girls lead. Within his first season at our club Michael has managed to create 3 brand new girls teams, who are all flying. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can achieve for next season with the girls football.

A big thank you to Neil Clarke and Jonny Sproson. Without Neil and Jonny our younger teams would not have been able to play their matches due to coaches. They have both been superb and instrumental in the development of our younger players and teams.

See you all next season, hopefully in the Pitching-In Northern Prem

Come On Cables

JOHN

GOAL OF THE MONTH WINNERS



PRESCOT CABLES V BOOTLE



Youth contacts

Club Chairman - Michael Corless
Club Secretary - Jonathan Marston
Club Welfare Officer - Andy O'Hare
FA Liaison Officer - Joe Gilibiru
Club Treasurer- Jonathan Marston
Girls Football Lead - Michael Seed

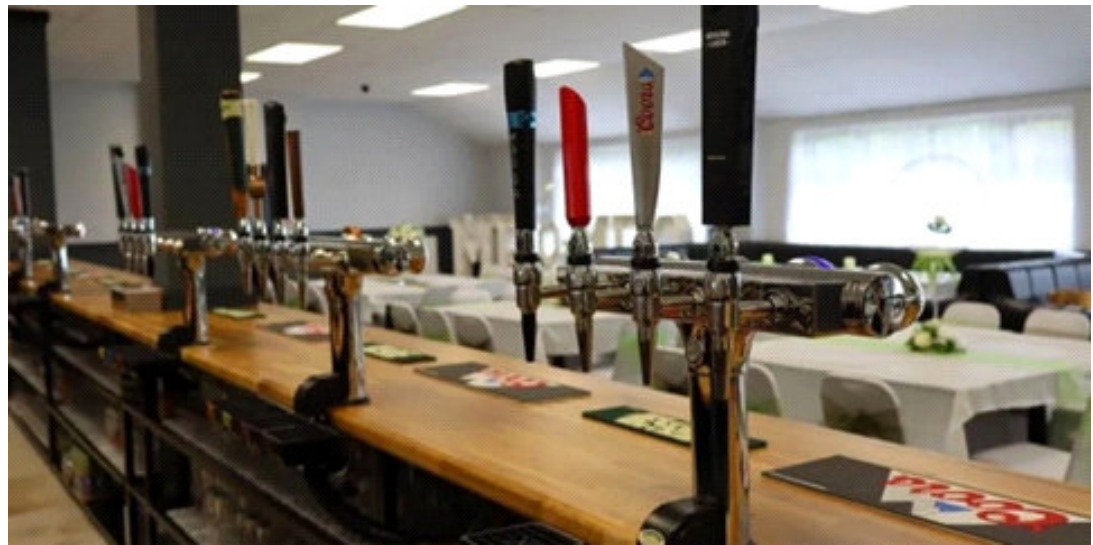


CABLESYOUTH

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Contact Us



<https://www.facebook.com/PrescotCablesFunctionRoom/>

Better yet, see us in person!

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Prescot Cables FC, Hope Street, Prescot, Liverpool. L34 6HD



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#ITSOKAYTOTALK

**We are a peer to peer support group for men.
Come have a brew and a chat!**

#ITSOKAYTOTALK

FIXTURES&RESULTS

2023/24SEASON

Sat 5 Aug	H	Eccleshill United	FA Cup EP	2-0
Sat 12 Aug	A	Mossley	NPL West	1-2
Tue 15 Aug	H	Avro	NPL West	0-1
Tue 22 Aug	A	Vauxhall Motors	NPL West	3-0
Sat 19 Aug	A	West Didsbury & Chorlton	FA Cup P	3-0
Sat 26 Aug	H	1874 Northwich	NPL West	1-0
Mon 28 Aug	A	Bootle	NPL West	0-0
Sat 2 Sep	H	North Ferriby	FA Cup 1 Q	4-2
Sat 9 Sep	H	Bridlington Town	FA Trophy 1 Q	4-0
Tue 12 Sep	H	Clitheroe	NPL West	0-2
Sat 16 Sep	A	Whitby Town	FA Cup 2Q	1-2
Sat 23 Sep	A	North Ferriby (lost 5-6 on penalties)	FA Trophy 2Q	2-2
Sat 30 Sep	A	Hanley Town	NPL West	3-0
Tue 3 Oct	H	City of Liverpool	NPL West	2-1
Sat 7 Oct	H	Witton Albion	NPL West	4-1
Sat 14 Oct	A	Chasetown	NPL West	2-1
Sat 21 Oct	A	Nantwich Town	NPL West	1-1
Sat 28 Oct	H	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL West	2-1
Sat 4 Nov	H	Widnes	NPL West	1-1
Sat 11 Nov	A	Hednesford Town	NPL West	2-0
Sat 18 Nov	H	Trafford	NPL West	5-1
Sat 25 Nov	A	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL West	1-1
Tue 29 Nov	H	Ashton Town	CountyCup 1	4-2
Sat 16 Dec	A	Avro	NPL West	0-2
Tue 19 Dec	H	Pilkington	CountyCup 2	6-0
Sat 23 Dec	H	Mossley	NPL West	5-3
Tue 26 Dec	A	Runcorn Linnets	NPL West	1-2
Mon 1 Jan	H	Bootle	NPL West	2-0
Sat 6 Jan	A	1874 Northwich	NPL West	1-0
Fri 12 Jan	H	Vauxhall Motors	NPL West	1-1
Sat 27 Jan	H	Nantwich Town	NPL West	1-0
Sat 3 Feb	A	City of Liverpool	NPL West	4-1
Sat 10 Feb	A	Newcastle Town	NPL West	0-3
Tue 13 Feb	H	Leek Town	NPL West	0-1
Sat 17 Feb	H	Hanley Town	NPL West	1-1
Sat 24 Feb	A	Witton Albion	NPL West	3-2
Sat 9 Mar	A	Kidsgrove Athletic	NPL West	1-1
Tue 12 Mar	H	Bootle	County Cup QF	1-0
Sat 16 Mar	A	Leek Town	NPL West	0-3
Sat 23 Mar	H	Newcastle Town	NPL West	1-0
Tue 26 Mar	H	Chasetown	NPL West	1-0
Sat 30 Mar	A	Clitheroe	NPL West	1-0
Mon 1 Apr	H	Runcorn Linnets	NPL West	2-2
Sat 6 Apr	H	Hednesford Town	NPL West	1-1
Fri 12 Apr	A	Widnes	NPL West	2-4
Tue 16 Apr	H	Marine	County Cup SF	0-1
Sat 20 Apr	H	Stalybridge Celtic	NPL West	2-0
Sat 27 Apr	A	Trafford	NPL West	1-0
Tue 30 Apr	H	Bootle	NPL W PO SF	1-0

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
C	Leek Town	38	24	6	8	85	44	41	78
2	Runcorn Linnets	38	20	8	10	63	39	24	68
3	Prescot Cables	38	19	10	9	59	41	18	67
4	Bootle	38	19	9	10	60	45	15	65
5	City of Liverpool	38	18	9	11	69	47	22	63
6	Witton Albion	38	19	6	13	65	59	6	63
7	Clitheroe FC	38	16	10	12	69	56	13	58
8	Avro	38	15	13	10	49	43	6	58
9	Widnes	38	17	6	15	60	43	17	57
10	Nantwich	38	17	6	15	61	47	14	57
11	Chasetown	38	16	8	14	52	50	2	56
12	Stalybridge	38	14	11	13	56	59	-3	53
13	Hanley Town	38	12	11	15	37	46	-9	47
14	Newcastle Town	38	13	6	19	44	51	-7	45
15	Mossley	38	12	9	17	43	56	-13	45
16	Vauxhall Motors	38	13	5	20	51	73	-22	44
17	Trafford FC	38	8	15	15	40	57	-17	39
18	Kidsgrove Athletic	38	10	9	19	56	74	-18	39
R	Hednesford	38	7	11	20	44	68	-24	32
R	1874 Northwich	38	4	6	28	24	89	-65	18

HEAD TO HEAD

from footballwebpages.co.uk

Date	Competition	Home	Score	Away	Attd
Sat 3 Feb 2024	NPL West	City of Liverpool (1)	1 4	(1) Prescot Cables	549
Tue 3 Oct 2023	NPL West	Prescot Cables (2)	2 1	(0) City of Liverpool	707
Sat 1 Apr 2023	NPL West	City of Liverpool (0)	0 1	(1) Prescot Cables	504
Fri 11 Nov 2022	NPL West	Prescot Cables (1)	1 1	(0) City of Liverpool	1,348
Sat 23 Apr 2022	NPL West	City of Liverpool (1)	1 0	(0) Prescot Cables	356
Sat 4 Dec 2021	NPL West	Prescot Cables (0)	0 6	(2) City of Liverpool	330
Tue 13 Oct 2020	NPL North West	Prescot Cables (0)	2 2	(1) City of Liverpool	
Sat 22 Feb 2020	Northern North West	Prescot Cables (1)	2 0	(0) City of Liverpool	617
Sat 4 Jan 2020	Northern North West	City of Liverpool (2)	3 0	(0) Prescot Cables	601
Tue 22 Aug 2017	FA Cup P	City of Liverpool	8 2	Prescot Cables	956
Fri 18 Aug 2017	FA Cup P	Prescot Cables	2 2	City of Liverpool	973



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

HOUSE RULES

GROUND REGULATIONS

Welcome to the Joseph Russell Stadium

We hope you enjoy the match and your experience with us today. Prescott Cables is committed to ensuring attendance at our grounds is safe and friendly for everyone. Your entry to the ground shall constitute acceptance of these Ground Regulations. CCTV is in operation for your security and safety.

All persons entering the Ground must have paid the relevant admission charge or be in possession of a valid season ticket or match ticket. Proof of age, where an age concession is claimed, and proof of identity may be required and must be supplied on demand.

All spectators must respect and comply with any lawful instruction given by a steward or an officer of the club. Failure to do so will result in ejection from the ground. Stewards can and will take photos and/or video for purposes of security, safety and crime prevention which may be passed to the police.

The following are **arrestable offences** under the Football (Offences & Disorder) Act 1999

- Throwing of any object within the ground without lawful authority or excuse
- Chanting or shouting anything that is considered indecent, racist or homophobic
- Entry to the playing area
- Entry to any areas to which spectators are not generally admitted

Conviction could result in a football banning order affecting entry to all grounds in the country and surrendering of your passport whenever England are playing abroad. You will in the first instance be ejected from the ground and where appropriate a season ticket will be suspended.

The Club reserves the right to make changes to any of these Ground Regulations from time to time. The full Rules and Regulations can be found on our website.

Supporters must not:

- enter the playing area **at any time** unless invited to do so by a **club official**
- enter the tunnel area around the changing rooms
- sit on the pitch-side perimeter fencing during games

Any supporter wanting a photo with a player must wait outside the changing rooms after the game.



Russell Roofing



30 YEARS OVER & OUT

CLUB CAPTAIN LIAM HOLLETT PAYS TRIBUTE TO CABLES' LEGENDARY PHYSIO

As the curtain falls on another football season, there's a bittersweet moment looming over Prescott Cables. This season marks the end of an era as we bid farewell to a cherished member of our team, Alan Cross, affectionately known as "Crossy." For years, Crossy has been the heartbeat of our club, tirelessly tending to the needs of our players, both on and off the pitch. As he embarks on a well-deserved retirement, it's time to celebrate his incredible contributions and the indelible mark he's left on Prescott Cables players and others throughout his career.

Crossy's journey with Prescott Cables is one defined by unwavering dedication and selflessness. From the early days of taping ankles to the late-night treatments after grueling matches, Crossy's commitment to the well-being of our players has been unmatched. His expertise, paired with his genuine care and compassion, has been a cornerstone of our team's success.

But Crossy has been more than just a physio; he's been a mentor, confidant, and friend to everyone at the club. His infectious positivity and calming presence have been a source of comfort during the highs and lows of each season. Whether it's offering words of encouragement or sharing a laugh in the treatment room, Crossy's impact extends far beyond his professional duties.

As we prepare to say goodbye to Crossy, it's impossible to quantify the impact he's had on Prescott Cables. His legacy will endure in the memories of players past and present, and in the countless victories and challenges overcome with his support. Though he may be retiring from his official role, Crossy will forever remain an integral part of the Prescott Cables family.

As we bid farewell to Crossy, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and admiration for all he's given to our club. While his absence will be felt on the sidelines, his spirit will continue to inspire us in every match and every triumph. Here's to Crossy, a true legend of Prescott Cables, and a friend for life.

As we turn the pages of another matchday program, let us take a moment to honor Crossy's remarkable career and the profound impact he's had on Prescott Cables. Though his time with us may be ending, his legacy will live on in the annals of our club's history. Thank you, Crossy, for everything. You'll always have a special place in our hearts.

LIAM





Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

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

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
to find out more



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NORTHERN
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LEAGUE

MATCHREPORT

SAMRAWNSLEY

Prescot Cables 1-0 Bootle

Pitching-In Northern Premier League West, play-off semi-final
Tuesday 30th April 2024

Cables put up a fierce fight on Tuesday night to confirm their spot in the 2023/24 NPL West Play-Off Final, their first final appearance since 2018. Local rivals Bootle stood in the way, but Kyle Sambor's extra time winner gave the edge in an enthralling encounter in front of a staggering 2,035 spectators.

The hosts saw the first couple of potential opportunities come their way, with Murphy heading just wide from a free kick delivery, minutes before Sambor played a low ball into the box, but failed to find a teammate in the process. Shortly following, the visitors had a spell of pressure on their opposing goal, McNally making a good block to deny Burkey on the edge of the area, and then Allen tipping onto the bar after Woolley floated a dangerous corner towards the far post.



As the first half progressed, the game became more open, with each side gaining their fair share of possession and half-chances. Bootle had a string of corners following a cracking save from Allen to deny a half-volley, yet failed to capitalise, prompting a break from Cables, where Goodwin saw his effort blocked by the defender.

Bootle's danger man, Burkey, saw another opportunity come his way, as he got a decent header onto the end of a free kick – but it was straight into the grasp of Mitch Allen. The subsequent attack from Cables then saw Murphy lay off Sambor to hit one on the edge of the area, but his shot was dragged just wide of the left hand post. Minutes later, the referee indicated for half time. Bootle had seen the better chances come their way, yet neither side had been able to find an early breakthrough.



Cables came back out for the second half with greater energy, as Murphy's penalty shouts were denied early on, and in the 53rd minute he was inches away from putting his side ahead if it had not been for a spectacular reflex save from Thompson, to deny Murphy's header from point blank range. Three minutes later, it was Hollett's turn to have a go, but his header was again scraped off the line, this time by a Bootle defender.

The game began to open back up a bit; the away side looking dangerous on a couple of occasions, but robust defending from Cables led to no outcome. Hollett made a strong headed clearance, and Allen claimed a failed through ball. Koehler made a cracking diving headed clearance in the closing stages, and then at the other end, Goodwin had a crack from a free kick around 25 yards out, but hit his effort into the hands of Thompson. This proved to be the last chance of normal time, and so we awaited 30 extra minutes to decide a winner.

Extra time started fairly slowly, until Cables won a corner with 99 minutes on the clock, which really increased the noise inside the stadium.

Thompson pawed away Sambor's near post header, but Hollett lofted the loose ball back towards goal with an overhead kick which hit the crossbar and dropped into the goalmouth where Kyle Sambor reacted quickest to poke home the rebound, sending much of the Joseph Russell Stadium into raptures.



The second half of added time saw Bootle unsuccessfully seeking an equaliser, as Devine headed a looped cross out for a corner. The corner was cleared and led to an instant Cables counter attack led by Sambor, with Glennon in support, but he opted to take it on himself, cutting inside as he reached the area and searching for the far post with his effort, which was instead met by the head of a Bootle defender.

With 5 minutes to go, Cables saw yet another shot well-saved by Thompson, this time from the head of Glennon. It was a nervy end to proceedings, but Cables defended robustly, and the full time whistle sounded after 3 additional minutes of play, prompting echoing roars to boom around the stadium.

Cables are now set to face City of Liverpool on home turf this Saturday, hoping to eradicate the dimmer memories of Bamber Bridge six years previously, and book their place in the Northern Premier for the first time since 2009.

CABLESCONNECT

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Prescot Cables FC have a range of sponsorship opportunities to suit all budgets.

If you or your business have a special occasion or would like to entertain some clients, then why not sponsor a game here at the Joseph Russell Stadium?

MatchDay Sponsorship £200

Entry for up to 5 people

Access to the newly refurbished Sponsors Lounge with private bar

Pre-match, half-time and full-time drink for each member of your party

Half-time buffet

Your party details, corporate logo or slogan included in The Walloper*

Your message or sponsorship added to the match-day script

Opportunity to meet players and management post-match

MatchBall Sponsorship £75

Entry for 2 people

Access to the newly refurbished Sponsors Lounge with private bar

Half-time buffet

Your party details, corporate logo or slogan included in The Walloper*

Opportunity to meet players and management post-match

Perimeter advertising boards £500 *price includes manufacture and fitting*

We are currently filling the pitch perimeter with our new high-quality, long-lasting metal advertising boards at the larger size of 8ft x 3ft, so clearly visible. These are just £500 for the entire 2023/24 season and the price includes production, delivery and fitting. The season is nearly underway so don't miss out on a unique opportunity for local, regional and national exposure. Monthly payment plans can also be arranged. Please get in touch for more details.

Other Opportunities

These include kit, stands and even the whole stadium. All are currently taken for the 23/24 season, but we can always register your interest.

**Subject to booking prior to programme publication deadline*



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GETYERCOATES

GARETHCOATES

The final match of the season, is upon us; Cables' 50th in all competitions during the campaign. And what a way to bring up the half-century; a local derby which is a winner-takes-all showdown with promotion at stake.

Everywhere you look, there is a story, just waiting to be written. Will Prescott's legendary Physio, Alan Cross, be ending his thirty years of magic sponge wielding with a victory, or will the Purps reach Step 3 before the end of their first decade of operation? Is Josh Gregory destined to make a telling contribution to the Play-Off Final, having made an unexpected return to the squad for the semi-final against Bootle, or will Elliott Morris continue his goalscoring form, having scored both City of Liverpool's goals at Runcorn Linnets in midweek?

Certainly, the visitors will arrive at the Joseph Russell Stadium in confident mood. The Purps have lost just once in their last ten League and play-off matches and defeated Linnets away from home in front of a sell-out crowd, so a similar spectacle this afternoon is unlikely to phase Paul McNally's men. On the other hand, both this season's League matches between the clubs ended in victories for Cables, who are unbeaten in their last four meetings with the Purps.

Today's game is a bit different, of course. While the crowd this afternoon will only be about a quarter of the all-time record attendance here at Hope Street (set back in the 1930s when the Main Stand was even bigger than the one we have now and no-one had heard of Health and Safety), those who are present will witness one of the most significant fixtures ever played on the ground. Pitting arguably the oldest non-League club in the Liverpool City Region against the youngest, it also brings together two passionate sets of fans whose Saturday afternoon entertainment is made possible by teams of dedicated volunteers.

There have been 'bumps in the road' in the lead-up to this Final, but these could also be filed under 'nice problems to have'. When you're used to dealing with the full-time ticket office staff of professional clubs, it's easy to argue certain provisions should have been put in place. And in an ideal world, the home club probably would run a phased ticket sale or allocate a fixed number of tickets to the visitors. When you only have three days to put all the arrangements in place, a day job to do, a family to look after and other commitments as well, sometimes that's not possible.

Plus, occasionally events just take an unexpected turn. For the play-off semi-final here against Bootle, a little under 1,200 tickets were sold online in 48 hours at an average of roughly 25 tickets per hour. That's not what happened on Wednesday night. I've been involved with football at this level or just above for 34 of my 44 years and I've never seen ANYTHING like the ticket sale on Wednesday night.

"The demand was known" said more than one person on social media after the fact and while it's true that a sell-out wasn't that difficult to predict, the speed with which it happened in the initial sale was truly unprecedented. The first 1,400 tickets were sold in seventeen minutes. That's an average of 83 tickets, every 60 seconds. To put that into perspective, another Step 4 club – Redbridge of the Isthmian League North – only had six home matches this season which had more than 83 people in attendance! Today's game is not your typical non-League match.

It is to the club's credit that, having seen what happened when the first batch of tickets went on sale, they used the remaining tickets to provide an allocation to City of Liverpool and an opportunity for Cables season ticket holders to secure their place at this afternoon's game. In this respect, at least it can be argued that the 600 tickets initially kept in reserve for supporters who can't or don't buy online or who were unable to get tickets in the initial phase have been used to ensure regular supporters of the two clubs were able to be here today.

This week, Cables are genuinely the "hottest ticket in town". Local pubs and bars have announced drinks promotions or earlier opening hours to cater for the huge crowd which will be walking down Hope Street this afternoon. This game – and the midweek tie with Bootle – placed the Pesky Bulls at the heart of life in Prescott in a way that hasn't happened for decades. Students in local schools have been badgering Cables-supporting teachers for tickets. The club is a focal point for the town in normal times; this week, it has probably been THE focal point.

This excitement has been made possible by an outstanding squad of players, superbly coached. But all of that achievement on the park has been made possible by the volunteers who keep things going when the matches are over and the ground is empty. Who litter pick around the stadium, or wash the kit, who mark the pitch, compile the programmes or even set up the online ticketing platform. Everything those volunteers do and have done this season has been with the best interest of the club and its supporters in mind. This "team behind the team" is as magnificent as the squad Ste Daley has assembled and I celebrate them with the same fervour I will salute our team at the end of today's game, whatever the score. This season's been special and I thank everyone who made it so from the bottom of my heart.



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The Joseph Russell Stadium
Hope Street, Prescott, Merseyside
L34 6HB

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Tony Zeverona	Graham Black
Joe Gibiliru	Ian Wright
Mick Flaherty	Chris Melling
Paul Goodwin	Michael Corless
Richard Tigwell	Dave Parr
Lee Fisher	Gary Finney

Vice President: David Williams

Football Operations Team

First Team Manager: Steven Daley
Assistant Manager: Peter Cumiskey
Coaches: Tony Sullivan & Lee Dowding
Physio: Alan Cross

Operations Support

Vicky Tigwell
Richard Tigwell
James Tigwell

Matchday & Hospitality Team

Hospitality Manager: Lynda Derbyshire
Board Room Hospitality: Jess Goodwin
Club Shop: Billy and Yvonne Maund

Club Operations Team

Chairman: Tony Zeverona
Vice-Chairman: Joe Gibiliru
Welfare Officer: Tony Zeverona
General Manager: Ken Derbyshire
Club Secretary: Paul Goodwin
Treasurer:
Operations Manager: Lynda Derbyshire

Media Team

Our website, programme, match commentary, PA, photography & social media are managed by:

Gareth Coates, Lilly Coates, Jeff Connally, Lee Fisher, Paul Goodwin, John Middleton, David Raven, Sam Rawnsley, Richard Tigwell, Ben Yoxall

The programme is edited and produced by David Raven using media from multiple sources including the excellent Freepik.com. Our programme focus group is Stan Kostrzewski, Jon Rawnsley and Chris Bayes. Today's cover photo was taken by Lilly Coates.

You may at times notice that some of our articles appear in more than one programme. This is done by design and you do not need to adjust your eyes. Some of our original articles are so good, they deserve to be seen by a bigger audience.

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CABLES BY NUMBERS

2023-24 SEASON STATISTICS

ALL COMPETITIONS

P49 W25 D13 L11 F87 A50

WIN RATE **51%** - GOALS PER GAME **1.77** - PPG (LEAGUE) **1.76**

BIGGEST WIN **6-0** (PILKINGTON) BIGGEST DEFEAT **0-3** (LEEK)

MOST GOALS IN A GAME **8** (5-3 v MOSSLEY)

CLEAN SHEETS **18** FAILED TO SCORE **8**

SEQUENCES

WINS **4** DRAWS **5** DEFEATS **2**

UNDEFEATED **12** NO WINS **7** NO DRAWS **7**

CONCEDING **6** NOT SCORING **4**

ATTENDANCES

31,810 SPECTATORS AT **49** GAMES, AVG **649** PER GAME

20,247 AT **27** HOME GAMES, AVG **749** PER GAME

LEAGUE AVERAGE **762**, **2ND** BEST IN THE DIVISION

PLAYERS

APPEARANCES

Mitchell Allen	49
Kyle Sambor	49
James Foley	47
Nathan Koehler	47
James Devine	46
Anthony Donaldson	46
Alex McNally	45
John Murphy	43
Matthew Devine	42
Jack Goodwin	42
Francis Smith	41
Thomas Owens	38
Liam Hollett	24
Luke Pritchard	20
Charlie Glennon	17
Sam O'Halleron	16
Dominic Cain	11
John McGrath	7
Ethan Devine	7
Alex Gofton	5
Matthew Hamilton	5
Fidel O'Rourke	5
Stephen Milne	3
James Barrigan	2
Chris Happi-Fankam	2
Harry McVeigh	2

GOALSCORERS

John Murphy	22
Kyle Sambor	13
James Foley	9
Jack Goodwin	6
Nathan Koehler	6
Francis Smith	5
Anthony Donaldson	3
Matthew Devine	2
Alex McNally	2
Sam O'Halleron	2
Thomas Owens	2
Charlie Glennon	1
Matthew Hamilton	1
Fidel O'Rourke	1

PLAYERS USED

Prescot Cables	26
Leek Town	28
Witton Albion	28
Mossley	30
Chasetown	31
Hanley Town	33
Runcorn Linnets	34
Hednesford	58

THE WALLOPER

10,661 DOWNLOADS FROM THE OFFICIAL SITE

27 ISSUES PUBLISHED*

AVERAGE DOWNLOADS PER GAME **394**

AVERAGE SALES OF OUR PRINTED PROGRAMME LAST SEASON
WAS AROUND 68, SO WE THINK THE MOVE TO DIGITAL HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS

*TONIGHT'S MATCH MAKES IT 28, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE STATS YET

SHEDS&FENCES

As Prescott Cables Football Club is a Community Interest Club, we rely on local people helping out with many areas to keep things running smoothly on Matchdays. We have the basic building blocks in place to take our club to the next step.

However, it's only going to happen if we can grow the pool & skill-set of volunteers!

We're looking for help with the following activities:

Prescot Cables Media Team

Our match day media requirements include tannoy and PA announcements which are an important aspect of stadium safety commitments. We need help with radio commentary for matches for our senior teams as well as pre- and post-match interviews.

Social Media & Website

Help us promote the club and our matches and events via our social media channels. Experience isn't necessary for this varied role and plenty of support is available. We also need help with the writing of articles & match reports which can be used for the match day magazine and website

Club Merchandise

We need help selling our broad range of official Cables merchandise on match-days as well as help to fulfil orders received via our online shopping portal

Facilities

Help us keep the stadium in tip-top shape! If you've got carpentry, welding, mechanical or electrical skills please let us know! Some of our general maintenance jobs during the close-season will also include painting, tiling and plastering.

Match Day Stewarding

An important role on match-days! Stewards are the friendly face of the club, assisting visitors and supporters when and where needed, performing vital stadium safety tasks, responding to security issues and helping to ensure every visitor to the ground has a safe and enjoyable experience.

If you'd like to join our club's team of volunteers or can help out with any of the above, please speak to any member of the board or contact us via email at

media@prescotcables.com



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MEMORYMATCH

ROYMcDONALD

MEMORY MATCH: Prescot Cables v Ashton National

FA Cup Preliminary round, 17th September 1932

A RECORD ATTENDANCE AT HOPE STREET

In today's feature, we turn the clock back 91 years to September 1932, when Cables began their FA Cup campaign with a Preliminary round match against Ashton National. Remarkably, more than 8,000 fans packed the stands and terraces at Hope Street for the game. They had come to witness how the Cables would fare against the star studded, Cheshire League side, who included Alec Jackson, the ex-Huddersfield, Chelsea and Scotland international.



Ashton National were an ambitious club who had amassed a squad of ex-League players and expected to challenge for honours. Principal amongst their new signings was that of Alec Jackson, who was, then, in dispute with Chelsea, who had placed a £6,000 transfer fee on his head, at the end of the previous season. No League club had shown a willingness to match Chelsea's high valuation, so Alec had chosen to move, outside the jurisdiction of the Football League, and joined the Cheshire League side on a temporary basis. His contract was said to be 10% of the gate receipts, or a minimum of £15 per week, plus expenses.

Given that league footballers at the time were limited by a maximum wage of £8 per week, this was a lucrative venture for the former Scottish international, but something of a gamble for the Ashton directors. The club gambled that the inclusion of a big "box office" name in their side would boost attendances sufficiently, that they would not be losing out in the innovative, but potentially risky, deal.

The Cheshire League side had entered the FA Cup for the first time in season 1932/33, and they were drawn to travel to Prescot for the Preliminary round tie. Local interest in the game was intense, especially when it was confirmed that Jackson would be playing, and the Cables club secretary, Bob 'Tebay' Rogers was anticipating the largest attendance in the club's history. These days it is hard to imagine a special train being run for a Prescot Cables match but, that day, four special excursion trains brought around 1,000 supporters from Ashton under Lyne to Prescot station!

Jackson owned a pub and had other business interests in London, and still lived in the capital. He made the journey north on the Saturday morning, and was met at Liverpool Lime Street station by the Ashton team manager and escorted to Prescot to join his teammates.

The first half of the game was fairly dull, with both teams seeming to cancel each other out. However, seven minutes before half time Duncan Lindsay received an inside pass from Jimmy Drinkwater and scored for the National. Shortly after, Joe Keegan fired a shot towards the Ashton goal, which was held by the visitor's goalkeeper. Billy Howard and Fred Rogers crowded in on the 'keeper and one of them charged him into the back of the net. In the manner of the time, many believed it to be a fair challenge and the equalising goal, and the majority of the crowd celebrated wildly, only for the referee to signal a free kick, for a foul on the goalkeeper.

Half time: Prescot Cables 0, Ashton National 1

In the second half, the Cables were resurgent and overwhelmed their visitors. The Prescot Reporter noted that, "play became boisterous, and hard knocks were given and taken with equal rapidity". Many in the crowd were asking, "where's Jackson?", as the football league man made little impression on the game, being outplayed by the clever and nimble Prescot defence.

Cables' equaliser was a fine team goal. Joe Keegan dashed down the touchline with the ball at his toes and centred to Billy Howard. Howard passed it to Bob Cherry, who headed it back into the centre of the penalty area. Hector Hodgson flung himself full length at the ball and headed it into the net.

Ten minutes later, Hodgson scored a second, from a similar diving header, which the goalkeeper got his fingers to, but couldn't keep out.

Just a minute later, Hodgson broke away and was tripped in the penalty area by Suttie. Tommy Naylor took the spot kick, but the visitors goalkeeper saved well. In increasing desperation, Ashton pressed for an equaliser, and Brown tried a shot from the halfway line, which nearly deceived home goalkeeper Jimmy Trill.

In the 89th minute Hodgson sealed the victory, and completed his hat trick, when he converted a cross by Cherry.

Final Score: Prescot Cables 3, Ashton National 1

Prescot Cables: Jimmy Trill, Tommy O'Brien, Tommy Naylor, Tommy Downey, Peter Burke, James 'Paddy' Kane, Joe Keegan, Billy Howard, Hector Hodgson, Fred Rogers, Bob Cherry






Ashton National: Arthur Briggs (ex Hull City & Tranmere Rovers); Smith (ex Bury), Gibson; Suttie (ex Manchester Central), Cecil White, capt. (ex Congleton Town & Wigan Borough), Jack Slicer (ex Huddersfield Town & Norwich City), Fred Smith (ex Stockport County), Alec Jackson (ex Chelsea), Duncan Lindsay (ex Newcastle United & Bury), N. Brown (ex Stockport County) and Jimmy Drinkwater.

Referee: Mr J Brown (Wigan)

The appearance of Jackson had, indeed, boosted the attendance, which has, subsequently, been quoted as 8,122, which still stands as the record attendance for the Hope Street ground.

PITCH SQUARES 2023-24

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'The Agony and the ecstasy of The Play-Offs'

"There's no mistake, I smell that smell, it's that time of year again" so sang the gravel voiced Welsh indie-rock pixie that is Kelly Jones in 1997. It is unlikely that Jones had the business end of the season, or what Sir Alex Ferguson used to describe as "squeaky bum time" in mind when he penned these lyrics, but they do feel apt to describe the period of the football season when fans of many clubs anxiety increases a notch.

This can be due by the thrill of a successful title challenge, no such luck for Cables themselves this season, despite a great campaign, which has represented a vast improvement on previous recent campaigns. However, we now have the compensation of a Play-Off place and with it the opportunity to gain promotion.

Since their introduction to the English Football League pyramid in 1986/87, the Play-Offs have provided a great deal of 'Agony and Ecstasy' (a perfect title for this article, lifted from Richard Foster's 2015 book chronicling the history of English Football League Play-Offs). As a concept, they haven't always been popular with managers, supporters or traditionalists, but as we rapidly approach the 40th iteration of the Play-Offs (in 2026/27) there can be little doubt that they have stood the test of time and have become firmly engrained in the fabric of the English Football calendar.

When they were introduced in 1987, there was a great deal of initial pessimism. Indeed, the man responsible for their introduction, the then Brentford chairman, Martin Lange admitted that he "couldn't see them lasting [...] even five years". Introduced as part of the so-called 'Heathrow Agreement' led by Lange, which saw a restructuring of the Football League, Lange acknowledged that the concept of the Play-Offs was only thrown in towards the end of discussions as the primary focus was "the money side". Finance and the redistribution of riches associated with the game would remain an ongoing focus for future discourse around the reshaping of the English football pyramid, which would culminate in the establishment of the breakaway Premier League in 1992. By this time, the Play-Offs had already overcome the skepticism of some participating fans and managers and the development of the shiny new league only stimulated the growth of the importance of the Play-Offs. It has led to the labelling of the second-tier Play-Off final as "the richest game in football" with a 2020 Deloitte study suggesting that winning this game could yield financial rewards "between £135 and £265 million". Despite the passing of time since Lange's brainchild and today, the primary focus appears to remain fixated on the "money side".

The whys and the wherefores of the Play-Offs have long been debated. In 1987, Oldham manager Joe Royle, whose side lost in the semi-final to Leeds on away goals despite finishing the regular season seven points ahead of them, decried the Play-Offs as "unjust". He was not the only vocal critic of the concept, Swindon's manager, Lou Macari was equally damning of the Play-Offs despite his side gaining promotion to the Second Division following a replay against Gillingham. Despite his side prevailing 2-0 in the replay, Macari commented "The Play-Offs are unfair and should be scrapped". For fans of certain clubs, the negativity expressed by Macari and Royle towards the Play-Offs has prevailed. Sheffield United and Brentford have a particularly torrid record in the Play-Offs, each having lost in eight finals – However, Brentford did defeat Swansea City in the 2021 Championship Final. Indeed, these two clubs head a group of clubs whose traditional kit of red and white stripes and black shorts appears to provide something of a curse when it comes to the Play-Offs. In addition to The Blades and The Bees, Exeter City (they did regain promotion to the Football League via the Play-Offs in 2007), Lincoln City, Southampton and Sunderland have a sorry record in the Play-Offs. However, Sunderland's triumph over Wycombe Wanderers in 2022's League One Play-Off final did also go some way to challenging this narrative.

Casting our eyes for a moment on the big two, locally. The season has seemingly lost some of the jeopardy that Play-Off participation provides. For Cables acolytes of a Red persuasion, Jurgen Klopp's 'Last Dance' farewell tour has been derailed and Liverpool's current form very much resembles that of a 1997 vintage, when Roy Evans's Reds similarly capitulated finishing 'Fourth in a two horsed race' after leading the running for much of that campaign.

On the Blue side of Merseyside, the equally gravel voiced (a further nod to Kelly Jones) ginger granite titan that is Sean Dyche has overseen a remarkable upturn in recent weeks, something the banter commentariat are attributing to his decision to ditch his usual Wetherspoons doorman attire in favour of becoming a tracksuit manager. Two games and two victories have since followed (most notably a first at Goodison over Liverpool since 2010) has ensured Evertonians can approach the remaining fixtures with much less anxiety than appeared to be the case previously.

In terms of Cables, Play-Off record, this is not our first rodeo. In 2018, we negotiated a semi-final against Trafford before tasting the bitterness of defeat in the final against Bamber Bridge. It has been a fantastic season from Steve Daly and the lads. Let's get behind them once more and see if we can put right the wrongs of 2018!

Below, I share my Top 3 Play-Off ties and fixtures since 1987:

Gillingham 2 Manchester City 3 – 1999 Second Division Play-Off Final

Back in 1999, long before Sheikh Mansour's involvement, Manchester City were firmly the second club in Manchester and their travails provided a great source of amusement to their esteemed neighbours. United were fresh from having won 'The Treble' whilst City had to console themselves with contesting a Play-Off Final against Tony Pulis's Gillingham. 'The Gills' had never played at a higher level than the third tier during their history and so City started as firm favourites. Surely, they couldn't mess this up.

Initially, it appeared as though they would not. City made a bright start and could have had a penalty in the first minute when Paul Dickov's overhead kick struck the hand of Gillingham defender, Barry Ashby. The referee chose not to give the penalty, but in the follow-up, a shot from Dickov's strike partner, Shaun Goater struck the post. After this strong start, the game settled into what the BBC described as a drab ordinariness with "with both sides clearly feeling the weight of the occasion."

As the game entered the final ten minutes, it appeared to drifting towards extra-time. However, suddenly the game turned in Gillingham's favour. Carl Asaba put 'The Gills' ahead on 81 minutes and things went from bad to worse for City when Asaba and strike partner, Robert Taylor combined well and Taylor fired past Nicky Weaver to put Gillingham 2-0 up on 87 minutes and seemed to have "condemned the Blue half of Manchester to a torturous summer." Kevin Horlock reduced the arrears on 90 minutes, but this appeared to be only a mere consolation goal and many City fans had already made their way to the exits.

However, as the game entered the fifth minute of injury-time, City defender Gerard Wiekens lashed the ball forward and following flick ons from Horlock and Goater, the ball fell to Dickov, who fired the ball past Vince Bartram and saved City's blushes. There were no further goals in extra-time and the match was decided on penalty kicks.

In the shootout, City goalkeeper Nicky Weaver was the hero, as City won 3-1. In the aftermath, Gills boss Tony Pulis blasted referee, Mark Halsey's decision to add five minutes on at the end of normal time, stating he "could not believe" that such an amount of time was added. City's manager, Joe Royle despite having won asserted, "I still hate the play-offs. They are a lottery and a joke. We played 46 games and finished third and that should have been enough to take us up without three extra cup finals."

Charlton 4 Sunderland 4 (aet) – Charlton win 7-6 on penalties – 1998 First Division Play-Off Final

Another epic Play-Off Final that was decided by penalties was the First Division Final between Charlton and Sunderland in 1998. In a pulsating match that ebbed back and forth, Charlton striker, Clive Mendonca was a hat-trick hero. However, Sunderland and their fans will have been gutted having led the game three times during what was one of the most absorbing contests in Play-Off history.

Mendonca gave The Addicks the lead on 23 minutes, when the striker dummied Jody Craddock and fired home past Sunderland's keeper, Lionel Perez. Despite Sunderland having opportunities through Kevin Ball, Niall Quinn and Lee Clark, Charlton remained 1-0 up at the break.

Into the second half, Sunderland quickly drew level when Quinn met a Summerbee corner and his header went past Sasa Ilic and Mark Bowen on the line. Kevin Phillips put The Black Cats ahead when he lobbed Ilic after having been put through by Lee Clark. Mendonca put Charlton level on 71 minutes, but parity was short-lived as a second goal from Quinn put Sunderland 3-2 up. With five minutes to go, Charlton's Richard Rufus found himself unmarked from a corner and picked an opportune moment to score his first goal in 165 Charlton appearances. This goal took the game into extra-time.

Sunderland started the brighter of the two teams and led again on 99 minutes when Nicky Summerbee struck past Ilic following a cushioned ball from Quinn. Mendonca completed his hat-trick on 103 minutes when he volleyed past Perez after having been found by substitute, Steve Brown. This was Mendonca's 28th goal of the season and perhaps his most important.

Into the second half of extra-time, Sunderland continued to make the running and to make chances. Alex Rae and Craddock both missed chances to win the game for Sunderland and the game was to be decided on penalties. Two players (Kevin Phillips and Lee Clark) who had taken spot kicks for The Black Cats had been substituted due to injury. After six successful penalties for each side, Shaun Newton stepped up and put Charlton 7-6 up, Michael Gray suffered the heartbreak of missing, and Charlton were in the Premier League for the first time where they would remain until 2007. Sunderland themselves bounced back from this disappointment and were promoted as champions the following season.

Nottingham Forest vs Sheffield United – First Division Play-Off Semi Final 2002/03

As discussed previously, Sheffield United have an awful record in the Play-Offs having lost in five finals over the years – Four of these coming in First Division/ Championship Finals and the other in 2012's League One Final when they were beaten by Huddersfield Town on penalties. Additionally, The Blades have lost in the Play-Off semis on four occasions.

This game is memorable for me because I was living in Sheffield as a student at the time and this coincided with one of the most memorable seasons in the club's recent history. Neil Warnock's side reached the semifinals of both domestic Cup competitions, losing to the eventual winners of both competitions, Arsenal (FA Cup) and Liverpool (League Cup) respectively. Their participation in both cups was matched by an excellent season in the league in which United finished in third place, setting up a Play-Off Semi Final against Nottingham Forest.

In the first leg at the City Ground, honours were even as a penalty from Michael Brown cancelled out David Johnson's opener. This set things up nicely for the Second Leg at Bramall Lane. In a pulsating contest, it was Forest who made the better start and another goal from Johnson put them ahead on 30 minutes. Forest held their advantage until half time and went into the break a goal to the good. On 58 minutes, Forest tightened their grip on the tie when Andy Reid put them 2-0 up on 58 minutes. It appeared that 'The Blades' were set to experience semi-final heartbreak once again, but a free-kick from Brown and a volley from substitute Steve Kabba brought the home side level and took the tie into extra-time.

In extra-time, goals from another substitute, Paul Peschosolido and an own-goal from veteran defender, Des Walker turned the tie decisively in United's favour and despite an own-goal from Robert Page, The Blades hung on to claim a famous victory. Their joy however was to be short-lived as they were beaten 3-0 in the Final by Wolverhampton Wanderers.



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