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

**PRESCOT CABLES**

v

**BOOTLE**

TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 - KO 7.45pm

Welcome to The Walloper - Digital Edition.  
Use the buttons on this page to quickly jump to articles and features.

## BOARDLINES

The latest from the board

## HOUSERULES

Important ground regulations

## THE DUGOUT

News & views of gaffer Ste Daley

## FIXTURES RESULTS

This seasons matches and scores

## THE LOWDOWN

Today's opponents, in their own words

## CABLES CONNECT

Sponsorship opportunities

## MATCHDAY

All of today's fixture info

## SHEDS & FENCES

Volunteer updates and opportunities

## MATCH REPORT

Reports on recent games

## INSIDE INFO

Club contacts and essential info

## CABLES YOUTH

News & views from our junior section

## MATCH COMMENTARY

Listen Live via our dedicated mixlr radio channel



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# BOARDLINES

RICHARD TIGWELL



Good evening everyone and welcome to the Joseph Russell Stadium for tonight's Pitching In Northern Premier League West Play-off Semi-Final tie against our good friends Bootle FC. I'd also like to take the opportunity to welcome the players, officials and of course the fans of Bootle who have made the short trip down the M57 to be with us this evening. This is the 4th time we've met this season, so maybe it should be welcome back!

So here we are then. The moment of truth. It all comes down to the next 90 minutes. It's been a hell of a season for both clubs and between us in Ben Hodgkinson and John Murphy we have two of the top three in-form strikers in the league and in Tony Thompson and Mitch Allen the two best keepers in the league, so this has all the ingredients to be something special tonight.

The last time we were here in the playoffs, was in 2018 when we welcomed Trafford to the Joseph Russell Stadium. It's been a long hard journey back to this point. This team has the opportunity to join that immortal side of Brian Richardson's in Cables folklore tonight.

There are a few people I want to take the opportunity to thank for helping make tonight happen logistically. Lee Fisher has been a constant source of support. Scott Robinson will be scanning tickets in his sleep. David Raven a voice of clarity. Kevin Warren from The Firm Security for the support and last but not least, my wife Vicky who has been given job after job to complete and has done it without murdering me. Thanks all.

Regardless of tonight's result, we will host our end of season awards at the ground on Saturday night. Come and join us as we celebrate a tremendous season for everyone at the club. More details to follow.

Finally, I want to thank every single reader of the Walloper this season. Without you, there would be no point in doing it. See you next season.

Right, lads, hold your nerve...go out there and leave everything on that pitch. Whatever happens, we're all very proud of you.

Enjoy the game

**RICH**



# THE DUGOUT

STEDALEY



As the season draws to a close, tonight's game is the reward for all the hard work this group of players have put in.

I would also like to thank you the fans for the support you have given us, you also deserve a lot of credit for pushing us all season to a position where we could secure the home tie.

**YOU HAVE BEEN UNBELEIVABLE!**

The lads are in great spirits and cannot wait to run out in front of our great fans.

We have had some great games with Bootle this season, however we know everything goes out the window in derby games let alone the playoffs but with your support we are confident we can find a way of winning tonight's game.

Together let's make some memories and show Bootle why we have the best fans in the league.

Let's go Bulls!

**STE**

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# BOOTLEFC



Good evening all, we are delighted to be welcomed by our friends at Prescot Cables for what promises to be a wonderful play-off semi final.

What a season it has been!

And typical Bootle we have had it all. From all the excitement of pre-season; to crashing out the FA Cup; to the upheaval of the first team in September; then to the breath of fresh air that Mick McGraa and his management team has brought; as well as the total re-build of the squad with players who love this club.

Added to this we have had the much publicised off-field challenges which has been played out by some as if it is a soap opera on social media. Typical!!

Mick has created a squad who want to be at the club for all the right reasons and that is reflected on the pitch with their mentality. It's wonderful to see the re-connection with the fans and it is one of the reasons we all love football at this level.

This season compared to last is like night and day and Mick, the management and players deserve enormous credit for getting us in to this position. We should all enjoy every moment of these play-offs!

To finish, I would like to thank everyone who has been part of this season with Bootle Football Club - thank you for your time, support, and commitment. Let's enjoy this game and let's see what happens. I'm there for the ride!

Lastly, thank you to our wonderful supporters for the unbelievable support again this season, enjoy the game and who knows what might happen!

Up the Bucks

**Dave Miley**  
Chairman  
Bootle Football Club



## Bootle FC Club History

The original Bootle FC were formed in 1880 and played adjacent to Bootle Cricket Club, on Hawthorne Road. The club were Everton FC's main rivals and competed with Everton for the prestigious place in the newly formed Football League. With only one club per area permitted to join, Bootle narrowly lost out.

In 1889 Bootle became founder members of the Football Alliance. The season was the most successful as the club finished league runners-up and reached the FA Cup quarter-finals, losing to Blackburn Rovers.

When the Alliance merged with the Football League in 1892, Bootle became founder members of the new Second Division. Despite finishing in a respectable 8th place, the club dropped out after one season due to ongoing financial problems. It was a new local club, Liverpool, who took Bootle's place.

The possible resurrection of a Bootle team became a distinct probability in August 1947 when local councillors identified the popularity and talent on show in the 'Bootle JOC' league and knew the town was big enough to be put back on the football map with its own team again. For years it had been an exporter of its many players to other professional and semi-professional clubs.

The promise of sponsorship money from local businesses brought great optimism and the issue of one shilling shares further boosted club finances. After local residents were assured that the ground at Bootle Stadium (Maguire Avenue) would not be used solely as a football ground, an application to join the Lancashire Combination for the 1948/49 season was made, and accepted. Club colours even posed a problem, red or blue were dismissed for fear of showing favour to either of the 'big two' so it was agreed that, as the original Bootle FC wore white shorts, this colour would be adopted.

Players mostly came from the local league and surrounding clubs, however one player that Bootle overlooked was a tall, blonde, ex-prisoner-of-war German, Bert Trautman.

Trautman, then living in Huyton, trained with Bootle at the stadium for several weeks but, with the area taking such a heavy pounding during the war, it was decided not to tempt any local bitterness and he was allowed to join St Helens Town and of course moved on to FA Cup and Manchester City folklore.

They kicked off their new campaign in 1948 against Barnoldswick and District. The league was won at the first attempt. However, Bootle struggled in the top-flight and after several tough seasons and a change in Council priorities they withdrew from the league and folded during the 1953–54 campaign.

In 1953, the current club was formed as Langton with Frank Doran Snr as a founding member. The club played in the various local Bootle leagues. After a very successful spell in the Liverpool County Combination – winning the leagues and cups on various occasions the club requested to change its name to the latest incarnation of Bootle FC. This was accepted in 1973 and a year later 'the Bucks' joined the Lancashire Combination.

After winning the Combination in both 1976 and 1977, Bootle then joined the Second Division of the Cheshire County League, which was won in the first season, and were promoted to the First Division. In 1982 after the Cheshire County League merged to form the North West Counties League, Bootle became members of the First Division (now Premier Division). The club spent most of their time in the First Division until 2000 when the club was relegated to the Second Division.

Despite finishing 6th in 2002, the club dropped into the Liverpool County Combination as Bucks Park on Copy Lane closed its doors for the final time. In 2006 the club, with a new ground on Vesty Road, Bootle were elected back into Division 2 of the North West Counties League. In 2009 Bootle won promotion to the NWCFL Premier Division and also won the Championship. In 2009/10, the first season back in the NWCFL Premier Division Bootle finished 3rd. They equalled the 3rd place again in 2012.

In 2017 they finished runner-up which, their highest placing in the NWCFL, and in 2019 after a 20 game winning run the club were in the driving seat to get promoted on the final day of the season with one more win. However, that win was one too many and the club agonisingly missed out after a 1-1 draw, once again finishing runners-up.

In Spring 2020, the club saw the installation of a new 'hybrid' pitch. The pitch goes hand in hand with the investment in off the pitch facilities to develop Vesty Road as a community asset.

Everyone associated with the club was left shocked and saddened in January 2021 following the sad passing of our President, Frank Doran Senior. Anyone involved with football both locally and across the North West would have known Frank, or Mr Bootle as he was affectionately known, for his booming voice, quick wit and his extensive knowledge and love of football.

Frank was a Docker, but more importantly for him, a footballer who was part of the 1954 Langton FC team that became the latest incarnation of Bootle FC. It was Frank who drove the club forward, as player, manager, secretary, chairman, groundsman - you name it - and latterly president of the club.

He would be seen every day up at both Bucks Park, on Copy Lane, and more recently at Vesty Road doing one job or another at the club, and that continued right up until December 2020. Frank's memory will last forever in the town of Bootle, and in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

Bootle enter their third season at Step 4 of the non-league system. After a disappointing season saw the Bucks fighting for relegation. Dave McNabb, who previously won the title with Warrington Rylands, replaced Ste McNulty in the dugout and was able to secure safety. Dave undertook an overhaul of the squad in the summer with only 4 players beginning the new campaign from the side he inherited. Following an approach from Bury Dave left the club to be replaced by Vauxhall Motor's promotion winning manager Mick McGraa.





## **Bootle FC Pen Pics**

**Mick McGraa (Manager)** - Mick joined the club following the departure of Dave McNabb in September. Joining from fellow Northern Premier League Division One West side Vauxhall Motors where he spent 5 seasons. During that time he won promotion from the North West Counties Division One and North West Counties Premier League. He also led the team to mathematical promotion in a season "null and voided" by Covid.

**Tony Thompson (Goalkeeper)** - Experienced goalkeeper who was near ever present in Warrington Town's promotion winning side to National League North last season. Previously part of the Altrincham side who were promoted from the Northern Premier League Premier Division and subsequently from National League North.

**Ethen Vaughan (Defender)** - Right sided defender who joined the club in the summer from FC United of Manchester. Born in Halifax and had previously had spells with Huddersfield, Norwich and Burnley. Has further Northern Premier League Premier Division experience from Guiseley and Marske United.

**Sean Smith (Defender)** - Left sided defender who joined the club in October after his release from Vauxhall Motors. Tough tackler and tenacious defender who has previous Northern Premier League experience at Marine who he joined from the Welsh Premier League where he had spells with Connah's Quay Nomads and Bala Town.

**James Cooper (Defender)** - Cooper joined the club from Prescot Cables following the arrival of Brian Richardson as the club's new manager in 2022. Comfortable in positions across the back, and can also play in midfield. The popular player picked up a Player of the Season award last season.

**Adam Buxton (Defender)** - Experienced central defender who joined the club from Warrington Rylands in the summer. Progressed into the first team at Wigan Athletic whilst they were a Premier League outfit. Had subsequent spells at Burton Albion, Accrington Stanley, Portsmouth, Tranmere and Morecambe before entering non-league football with York City.

**Anthony Miley (Defender)** - Returned to the Bucks from City of Liverpool. Centre-back who recently featured for Marine in their infamous run in the FA Cup which ultimately saw them exit against Tottenham Hotspur in the third round. Previously played in the Welsh Premier League for Conwy Borough, Colwyn Bay, Bangor City and Bala Town having last played for Bootle as a 16 year old.

**Scott Sephton (Defender / Midfielder)** - Joined the club from Clitheroe town in October 2023. The vastly experienced player spent a significant portion of his career in the Northern Premier League Premier Division at clubs including Warrington Town, Stalybridge Celtic and Atherton Collieries.

**Arthur Lomax (Defender / Midfielder)** - Joined the club permanently in the summer from Tranmere Rovers. Arthur is a technically gifted left sided player who impressed in a left-wing back position last season for Bootle on loan. Previously on the books at Wigan Athletic before he signed for Tranmere in 2022.

**Michael Carberry (Defender)** - Returned to the club from Marine in December. A fans favourite in his first spell with the Bucks after joining in before departing for National League another Southport in 2022. Played 35 times for Southport during last season before a summer switch to Marine.

**Craig Carney (Midfielder)** - Joined the club in the summer from Hyde United. The centre midfielder has a wealth of experience in the Northern Premier League including with Colne, Clitheroe, FC United, Marine and Warrington Town.

**Saul Milovanovic (Midfielder)** - Midfielder who became one of Mick McGraa's earliest signings from Leek Town. Previous experience in the Northern Premier League at Matlock Town. Progressed through academy football at Liverpool, Huddersfield and eventually Norwich City before entering senior football at Kettering Town.

**Sonny Hilton (Midfielder)** - Joined after his release from Fulham where he had played since he was 15 following a move from Tranmere Rovers. Had loan spells in Finland in 2021 and a spell with Carlisle United last season where he made 7 appearances for the Cumbrians.

**Moses Yoak (Midfield)** - Imposing midfielder who joined from Glossop North End, is equally capable at centre back. Moses has previously played for Stalybridge Celtic, Clitheroe and Longridge Town.

**Sam Hughes (Midfield)** - A talented and technically gifted centre midfielder and Mick McGraa's first signing from Vauxhall Motors having only joined the Motormen from Ashville in the West Cheshire league at the beginning of this season.

**Jack Lenehan (Midfielder)** - Joined the club in October from Bury Athletic. Centre-midfielder who impressed in a spell at Prescot Cables in 2018 before earning a move to the Northern Premier League Premier Division with FC United. He later moved to Atherton Collieries until the end of last season before his move to Bury in the summer.

**Michael Burkey (Midfield)** - Joined the club from Vauxhall Motors having played with manager Mick McGraa for the past 5 years winning promotion from the North West Counties Division One and North West Counties Premier Division.

**Conor Harwood (Striker)** - Became Mick McGraa's fourth signing from Vauxhall Motors in December. Began his career in the Welsh Premier League with Connah' Quay Nomads where he featured in the Europa League. Later moved to Flint Town before a switch to City of Liverpool in June 2022, making the move to Vauxhall Motors in September that season. A key member of Vauxhall's promotion winning side last year.

**Ben Hodkinson (Striker)** - Rejoined the club in the summer from Marine as Dave's first signing for the new season. Was Bootle's top scorer the season prior and had hit double figures when he departed last season. An ever popular player amongst the fan base and one that everyone is delighted has returned to the club.

**Tom Peterson (Striker)** - The forward joined the club from Fleetwood Town following the conclusion of his scholarship back in the summer of 2013. He then left the club to join City of Liverpool three years later, but returned last summer after scoring 64 times in 158 appearances for the Purps. Was the club's top scorer last season.

**Jake Burton (Striker)** - Striker on loan from Chester until the end of the season. Joined Chester after his release from Tranmere. Has previously had loan spells at Stalybridge Celtic and Marine.

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# 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 Prescot 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 Prescot Cables players and others throughout his career.

Crossy's journey with Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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 Prescot 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.

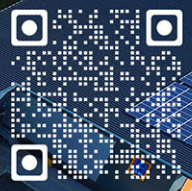
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# CABLES YOUTH

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 luck to Prescott Cables Girls u13's who are in their cup final on Saturday coming against river juniors. Best of luck Girls, let's end the season on a massive high.

Best of luck to Prescott Cables Girls u12. They play their cup final on Saturday against River Juniors u12's. 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 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.

I would like to wish the best of luck to Prescott Cables u16 JFC who are currently top of their league, with the final few games remaining, let's hope they can clinch the title. I know they have worked very hard over the past few seasons to get to where they are now. Keep up the hard work in training and getting them results to seal the title.

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

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.

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

***Good luck tonight to the lads, all the juniors are behind you***

Up The Cables

**JOHN**





# RAFFLE

## PRIZES NEEDED

We are looking for raffle prizes for our end of season presentation in May 2024. We will be running the raffle from the start of April, with the winners being announced at our family fun day



**SATURDAY 18  
MAY 12PM START**



**JOSEPH RUSSELL  
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## **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



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# FIXTURES&RESULTS

2023/24 SEASON

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 1Q	4-2
Sat 9 Sep	H	Bridlington Town	FA Trophy 1Q	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

# 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

## HEADTOHEAD

from [footballwebpages.co.uk](http://footballwebpages.co.uk)

Date	Competition	Home	Score	Away	Attd
Tue 12 Mar 2024	Liverpool Cup 2	Prescot Cables (0)	1 - 0 (0)	Bootle	505
Mon 1 Jan 2024	NPL West	Prescot Cables (0)	2 - 0 (0)	Bootle	1,160
Mon 28 Aug 2023	NPL West	Bootle (0)	0 - 0 (0)	Prescot Cables	712
Mon 10 Apr 2023	NPL West	Prescot Cables (1)	2 - 2 (1)	Bootle	812
Mon 26 Dec 2022	NPL West	Bootle (1)	3 - 1 (1)	Prescot Cables	752
Sat 22 Jan 2022	NPL West	Prescot Cables (1)	2 - 1 (0)	Bootle	776
Sat 16 Oct 2021	NPL West	Bootle (0)	3 - 0 (0)	Prescot Cables	451
Tue 27 Nov 2018	Liverpool Cup 1	Bootle	0 - 6	Prescot Cables	161



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](https://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.





# 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.

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Please visit  
[Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](http://Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)  
to find out more



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LEAGUE

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# MATCHREPORT

JONRAWNSLEY

**Trafford 0-1 Prescot Cables**  
**Pitching-In Northern Premier League West**  
**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

So, it's onwards and into a home play-off shoot out on Tuesday evening against near neighbours, Bootle, for a Prescot Cables side that wrapped up the regular season with an ultimately strong win away at Trafford, courtesy of a late winner from John Murphy.



Whilst the first half was curiously downbeat for Cables, the team asserted itself in the second half and the result was deserved on balance, as the pressure exerted eventually told, when Murphy pounced like the predator he is after a scramble in the box.

Cheered on by a strong away following, some in fancy dress (or at least, it's assumed so), and Warren Koehler out-doing Phil Lewis in the travelling stakes by a few miles with his trip from Georgia, USA compared to Phil's day trip from Edinburgh, it was a quiet opening from both sides.



Cables attacked up the slight slope, but it was a half of few chances at either end as both teams struggled to gain the upper hand. As the ref blew for half time, scores elsewhere meant that Cables were facing the prospect of a midweek away trip, and perhaps this and the arrival of Foley and Donaldson from the bench motivated the team onto a more purposeful performance in the second period.

Within the first minute of the re-start, Sambor danced through the home defence but the shot from his cross was blocked. A succession of corners followed, with Hollett coming close at the far post with one headed effort, and another being cleared off the line as the Trafford defence began to feel the pressure. Foley came close, but Booth in the home goal stood firm to keep things level.



The key change came with 20 minutes remaining, as John Murphy came off the bench.

Before he struck the winner, Sambor had the ball in the net only for the goal to be disallowed for a foul, and Jack Goodwin began to get more and more possession down the left, with Cables chasing the vital goal.

Whilst it was a little scrappy when it arrived, the goal had been coming and Murphy demonstrated what an important part of the Cables set up he is, by clinically taking the chance when it came.



Ten minutes remained and passed by without any alarms for Cables, meaning that all eyes now turn to what should be a massive occasion in front of a bumper crowd on Tuesday evening.



Match photos by Lilly Coates

# 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

So, a season's work comes down to this. A local derby. A Cup tie against a local rival who have recorded their best-ever Step 4 season to reach this point. Horrible, isn't it?

It is, of course, the best kind of 'horrible'. As stomach-churning as the pre-match nerves are and as agonising as the match will be for Bulls and Bucks alike it's great that Cables and Bootle still have a shot at promotion. In the old days, Saturday's win at Trafford wouldn't have been enough for Prescott and Runcorn Linnets would be celebrating their elevation to Step 3. As it is, with only three points separating the runners-up from tonight's visitors and the fifth-placed club, City of Liverpool, only another two points behind, all of the sides involved could make a compelling argument for a place at the higher level.

Football fans tend to think of play-offs as a relatively recent phenomenon, but the concept is almost as old as League football. In the earliest days of the Football League, promotion and relegation weren't automatic; instead, "Test Matches" took place involving the bottom three First Division clubs against the top three clubs in the Second Division. There were seedings – the Second Division Champions took on the bottom club in the First Division, and so on. Just like tonight's match and Saturday's Final, the Test Matches were one-off fixtures, not two-legged affairs. However, these games were played at neutral venues.

At the end of the 1892-93, the inaugural Second Division Champions, Small Heath (now Birmingham City) missed out on promotion after drawing with Newton Heath (now Manchester United) at Stoke, then losing a replay played at Sheffield Wednesday's ground. However, runners-up Sheffield United and third-placed Darwen did go up, after beating Accrington and Notts County respectively. Accrington didn't take their place in Division Two, however, as they couldn't afford to play at the lower level and instead resigned their membership entirely.

Newton Heath finished last in the top flight again the following season but couldn't repeat their win over Small Heath. The Mancunians were relegated after being beaten at Ewood Park, Blackburn by an upstart club by the name of Liverpool. Small Heath also made it to the First Division by beating Darwen but Notts County didn't make an immediate return to the top table; they lost 4-0 to Preston North End.

At the end of the 1894-95 season, Liverpool found themselves back in the second tier, after they lost their Test Match against Bury. Notts County and Newton Heath were again on the losing side of Test Matches, being defeated by Derby County and Stoke respectively.

The following season saw a change to the Test Match programme. The number of clubs involved was reduced to four – the bottom two clubs in Division One and the top two in Division Two. Unlike modern play-offs, a round-robin format was used, with the top two teams being elected to the First Division. Each club played home and away against the two clubs from the opposite division, but not against the club they had faced during the regular season. For example, in the first season of this format, Second Division Champions Liverpool played Small Heath and West Bromwich Albion and beat both at Anfield, which helped to secure a place in the top tier. They did not play Manchester City, who had been runners-up to the Reds in the main League table but finished bottom of the Test Matches table.

This rather strange programme of matches lasted for three seasons before a match between Stoke and Burnley on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1898 produced a convenient outcome for both clubs, who went into the game at the Victoria Ground knowing that a draw would see both finish in the top two places in the table. The fixture duly ended 0-0 and the *Athletic News* reported, "The teams could have done without goalkeepers, so anxious were the forwards not to score". The immediate effect of the scandal was for the Football League to expand the First Division to eighteen clubs, including all four clubs involved in that year's Test Matches, before abandoning the "unsatisfactory" method in favour of "promotion by merit"; an idea first proposed by Grimsby Town a year earlier.

Fast forward back to tonight, where four local rivals will come together to compete for a single promotion place. The modern play-off format is designed to reward – at least to some extent – the clubs who perform best during the League campaign by awarding home advantage to the highest-ranked team. Of course, this offers no guarantees of success to the clubs hosting any given match and, let's be honest, having to play away from home twice is unlikely to phase the nomadic City of Liverpool as they attempt to bring Step 3 football to... Cheshire. But playing in familiar surroundings and with a large crowd backing them can only be a benefit to most clubs and playing the semi-finals in midweek will help clubs whose opposition have to make a long, arduous journey on a working day.

That's what makes tonight's match – along with the other semi-final in our Division – unique. I'm not sure there's ever been a scenario where the four clubs competing within the play-offs are so close together, both in terms of geography and their results against each other. Whatever happens over the three matches that determine who joins Leek Town in the Northern Premier League Premier Division next season, it's going to be gut-wrenching, nerve-shredding and unbearably tense.

And I can't wait. Come on Cables!



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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 John Middleton.

*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

**P48 W24 D13 L11 F86 A50**

WIN RATE **50%** - GOALS PER GAME **1.79** - PPG (LEAGUE) **1.76**

## ATTENDANCES

**29,775** SPECTATORS AT **48** GAMES, AVG **620** PER GAME

**18,212** AT **26** HOME GAMES, AVG **700** PER GAME

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

## PLAYERS

### APPEARANCES

Mitchell Allen	48
Kyle Sambor	48
James Foley	46
Nathan Koehler	46
James Devine	45
Anthony Donaldson	45
Alex McNally	44
John Murphy	42
Matthew Devine	41
Francis Smith	41
Jack Goodwin	41
Thomas Owens	38
Liam Hollett	23
Luke Pritchard	20
Sam O'Halleron	16
Charlie Glennon	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	12
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

**10,037** DOWNLOADS FROM THE OFFICIAL SITE

**26** ISSUES PUBLISHED\*

AVERAGE DOWNLOADS PER GAME **387**

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

\*TONIGHTS MATCH MAKES IT 27, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE STATS YET



# SHEDS&FENCES

As Prescot 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](mailto:media@prescotcables.com)



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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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

# PITCH SQUARES 2023-24

## ELEVEN

	BERNARD THRASHER	L&M AUTOS	DAVID RAVEN	MARK & SARAH HUGHES	CBC HOLDINGS LTD	
	MICK & BARBARA FLAHERTY	CHARLES HOLLAND	MICKEY O'RUSH	SLMGC RYAN	JAYNE EDGAR	
	JOEY GIBILIRU	ELIOT & JADE GIBILIRU	CATHY GIBILIRU	CHELSEA MARSHALL RIP	RICHARD TIGWELL	IN MEMORY OF RICKY TAYLOR
MASON REID	PAUL & JESSICA GOODWIN	MIKE RUSH	PETER KNEALE SOLICITORS	PAUL MOORE	LEE FISHER	
	BEN YOYALL	JEFF CONNALLY	EDDIE BRADY	ALAN RITCHE	JAMES & JOE BYRNE	
	M O R E C R O F T S					
JIMMY HOPE	BILLY BRIGHT	PRESCOT CABLES FC FOUNDED 1884	DAVE ELIAS	IN MEMORY OF TONY FINNIGAN	V.FORTIS VENUSES SECURING FUTURES	
	81	JOHN MIDDLETON PHOTOGRAPHY	GRAHAM BLACK	IAN WRIGHT	CHRIS MELLING	
	MCSS	JON & SAM RAWNSLEY	CARL BAXTER	ALBIE OWENS	RUSS OWENS	
			GEOFF MCGRATH HAPPY BIRTHDAY! LOVE JOE	EILEEN NICHOLSON	TONY AND LORRAINE ZEVERONA	
			LEWIS & LUCIE PAXTON			

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# PESKY VOLUNTEER



Role	<i>General busybody. I do the corner flags on match-days, help with the kit, players food and whatever Mum &amp; Dad or Ste Daley tell me to do.</i>
Watching Cables since...	<i>2017</i>
Any other clubs?	<i>Liverpool and Wycombe Wanderers</i>
Favourite professional player when you were young	<i>Steven Gerrard</i>
Favourite Cables player?	<i>Jack Goodwin</i>
All-time favourite sportsperson	<i>Lionel Messi</i>
You are inviting some celebs round for tea...what is your Mum making?	<i>Harissa chicken wraps</i>
Which four celebrities are on the guest list?	<i>Ant &amp; Dec, Danny Aarons (from YouTube), Jurgen Klopp</i>
Favourite movie or TVshow	<i>Welcome to Wrexham</i>
Dream holiday destination?	<i>Dubai</i>
If you could time travel, when and where would you go?	<i>1917, I want to see what it was like during WWI</i>
Favourite place to go in Prescot	<i>The Bard</i>
Best thing about Cables?	<i>The volunteers</i>



**PRESCOT CABLES**



**BOOTLE**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - 7.45pm

**PITCHING-IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE WEST PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL**

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**Manager: Ste Daley**

Mitch Allen (GK)  
Ryan McMahon (GK)  
Matthew Devine  
Liam Hollett (C)  
Alex McNally  
Nathan Koehler  
Dom Caine  
James Devine  
Francis Smith  
Josh Gregory  
James Foley  
Anthony Donaldson  
Luke Pritchard  
Jack Goodwin  
John Murphy  
Kyle Sambor  
Charlie Glennon  
Tom Owen  
John McGrath  
Harry McVeigh  
Fidel O'Rourke

amber shirts  
black shorts, amber socks

**Manager: Mick McGraa**

Ben Hodkinson  
Arthur Lomax  
James Cooper  
Tom Peterson  
Craig Carney  
Sam Hughes  
Scott Sephton  
Tony Thompson  
Jake Burton  
Mason Fawns  
Billy Reeves  
Owen Robinson  
Sonny Hilton  
Owen Mooney  
Ethen Vaughan  
Lewis Earl  
Jack Lenehan  
Andy Scarisbrick  
Sean Smith  
Sam Burns  
Michael Burkey

blue shirts  
blue shorts, blue socks

Today's match officials are

Referee **Nathanael Cox** and assistants **James Birch-Ford & Graeme Kearney**

