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ISSUE #21



OFFICIAL
**MATCH
DAY**
PROGRAMME

ILKESTON TOWN **V** MORPETH TOWN

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2024 - KO: 15:00

MICROLISE NEW MANOR GROUND


microlise
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KIT MANUFACTURER



CLUB INFORMATION

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Club Officials:

Chairman: Andrew Nally

Shareholder: Andrew Nally 100%

Staff:

Manager: Ian Deakin

First team coaches: Craig Swinscoe,

Adam Campbell, Ben Hutchinsinon

Club Secretary: Liam Attwood

Club Photographer: James Bolton

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Supporters Group Secretary: Kevin Cross

Supporters Group Treasurer: Liam Attwood

Supporters Group Membership: Tim Broadbent,

Annette Broadbent

Supporters Group Travel: Zane Henson

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FROM THE DUGOUT

Welcome Morpeth, their players, staff and supporters to the Microlise New Manor Ground.

We want to continue with our momentum. Tuesday night was a great result off the back of some really good performances of late too in difficult conditions. Tuesday night they showed what character they've got and how they can adapt to playing. With some personal coming in and getting some much needed minutes it was a real professional performance and we want to continue that.

It's the last home game of the season, we want to make sure we end on a high note. It's been bit of a frustrating season, one filled with ifs butts and maybes, if we had not had the six points took off us we'd probably be within the mix for the play offs which is what we aimed for. I think it was hypothetically achieved although it's not what we wanted and we're going to finish around the 8th/9th mark but I think the lads have showed real determination and that their mentality is strong. It's quite easy at that stage of the season to down tools but these lads want to succeed and i've reiterated that the standards never drop and that we want to win every game, that's the message from now until the end of the season.

I want to thank everybody at the club for this season. The staff, the people that support us, the fans have been excellent, Tuesday night at Bamber Bridge they travelled in numbers to come and watch us which is excellent and we value that support. I want to say a personal massive thank you to them from me.

Hopefully we can continue this form and win our final two games of the season and put us in a good frame of mind for over the summer ready for a hard pre-season.



EAGLE

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MORPETH TOWN - CLUB HISTORY

Morpeth Town Football Club was established in 1894, and through more than a century of football have continued the tradition of carrying Amber and Black as their team colours.

The club was formed after an amalgamation between Morpeth United and Morpeth FC, playing at Stobhill Cricket Field.

In 1954 the club moved to Storey Park, and in the 1980's enjoyed a successful time in the Northern Alliance, winning the title and finishing runners-up on two other occasions, as well as lifting both the Challenge Cup and Benevolent Bowl in 1986.

The club spent half a century in the Northern Football Alliance before stepping up to the Northern League on their one hundredth anniversary, winning the Division Two title in their first season and finishing sixth in Division One and Northumberland Senior Cup runners-up in their second. In 1998-99 they made it to the final qualifying round of the FA Cup, losing 1-0 at home to Nigel Clough's Burton Albion.

The club moved to a purpose-built stadium in 1994, which coincided with a League and Cup double, and with it, promotion to the Northern League. Craik Park was named after the father and son W and R Craik who had served as secretary between 1920 and 1985. Current President Ken Beattie was the man behind the stadium and since 1992 he has revived the club's fortunes.

Membership of the Northern League followed in 1994/95 and the following year saw the Second Division Championship being presented to Morpeth. The club finished 6th in the First Division at the first time of asking, as well as reaching the final of the Northumberland Senior Cup.

After sitting comfortably mid-table between 1996/7 and 1999/2000, Morpeth narrowly avoided relegation on goal difference in the 2000/01 season, and finished once again one spot above the relegation zone in 2001/02.

The next few years saw Morpeth Town move back into the middle of the table before a 6th place finish in 2005/06, Morpeth's equal top performance in the Northern League.

In 2006/07 Morpeth won the Northumberland Senior Cup for the first time since 1886 (as Morpeth Harriers) with a 3-2 victory over Blyth Spartans.

Disaster struck in 2009/10 as Morpeth Town were relegated to the second division and things got even worse a season later as Morpeth Town finished bottom of the Northern League's second tier.

The club was in dire straits with President Ken Beattie and Chairman Jim Smith trying their best to keep the club running by bringing the ground up to Northern League standards whilst being forced to ground share with local rivals Bedlington Terriers. The club was within weeks of folding at one point.

MORPETH TOWN - CLUB HISTORY

The Highwaymen began their revival in 2011/12 under the stewardship of Nick Gray who moved to the club from Seaton Delaval and brought a number of players. In his first season Morpeth narrowly avoided promotion back to the top tier, finishing fourth and a one point won fourteen consecutive home games.

2012/13 saw the side improve once more, finishing one place higher in third position, beating out Jarrow Roofing on goal difference to earn promotion.

After earning promotion Morpeth Town managed to avoid the drop quite comfortably finishing in 17th place. During the season, they also went on a then historic FA Vase run to the Quarter-Final stage.

In 2014/15 saw further improvement, with the Highwaymen finishing 8th in the table and reaching the Northumberland Senior Cup Final. The club was now beginning to attract high-caliber players to the area, with the likes of Keith Graydon and Ben Sayer signing from higher level football.

The 2015/16 season brought Nick Gray his first trophy for the club, and what a win it was, beating heavily favored Hereford FC 4-1 in the FA Vase final at Wembley Stadium. Despite going a goal down in the first two minutes, the Highwaymen battled back, 45-year old Chris Swailes netting to equalise before half-time. The second half brought an onslaught from Morpeth, Luke Carr scoring after just a minute before Sean Taylor and Shaun Bell netted on a famous day for the Northumberland club. In addition to the Vase, Town finished 4th in the Northern League. The following season, the club narrowly missed out on winning their inaugural Northern League title, finishing in second place behind South Shields.

More recent times have been hugely successful with promotion secured to NPL East at the start of the 2018/19 season and a step into the unknown. Far from being daunted by this prospect, the Highwaymen won the title by a distance and added the Senior Cup to claim an unprecedented double.

The 2019-20 season was one not experienced by any club in history as a global pandemic brought the campaign to an abrupt conclusion, with Town on a 10-game unbeaten run and heading for the play-off spots.

The following summer brought change in the manager's dugout as long-serving Nick Gray stepped down to be replaced by Stephen Turnbull, who takes on his first job in management, having worked on the coaching staff at Craik Park as well as being a player.

In his first season, curtailed by the national Covid situation, the Highwaymen reached the third round of the FA Trophy, the furthest they've been in the competition in their history.

In the 21/22 campaign, a season of records and drama unfolded as a side bottom by mid-September came within a fraction of the play-off places after Craig Lynch took the reins and transformed the team's fortunes. The turnaround was spectacular and included runs to the FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round and the Fifth Round Proper of the FA Trophy, the furthest the club has ever been in the competition.

MORPETH TOWN - PLAYER PROFILES

James Anderson - A goalkeeper with a hugely promising future ahead of him, James spent time on loan at Whickham for the season 2021/22, earning rave reviews in the Northern League. Calm under pressure and with an imposing presence, he's an outstanding shot stopper.

Dan Lowson - An experienced keeper in the NPL, Dan has featured for Spennymoor Town most recently, with stints at Blyth Spartans, Alfreton and Luton Town among others. After six games spent on loan at Craik Park, he signed permanently during the summer of 2018/19.

Jeff Henderson - A warrior of a centre-back, Henderson's most successful time came when winning League and Cup glory at Sligo Rovers. He also played in the Europa League and Champions League while in Ireland before returning to his native north east. He joined Town from Stobswood, where he had been regaining his fitness following injury.

Liam Miller - Liam joined us from Guisborough Town in the summer of 2023 after impressing on Teesside. Originally a Sunderland Academy graduate, he has played internationally for Scotland until the age of 18 before stints in adult football with Bishop Auckland and most recently Guisborough.

Chris Reid - Chris signed for the club from Whitley Bay during the 2015-16 season and has proved to be an influential member of the squad. He made over 200 appearances for the four-time FA Vase winners and has excelled at Craik Park.

Josh Robson

Michael Turner - Michael signed for the Highwaymen and has gone from strength to strength, making 179 appearances by the end of last season. He is a solid and no-nonsense defender, who likes to get forward, with his aerial presence a handy feature.

Josh King - A versatile member of the squad, Josh joined in the summer of 2022 ahead of the new season. Previously with York City, the midfielder, who can also feature in defence, was scheduled to join us on loan before Covid brought that season to an end without him kicking a ball.

Ryan Wombwell - A talented young player who can across the defensive line and in midfield, Ryan has had two successful spells on loan at Craik Park from Gateshead before leaving Spennymoor Town to join us for a third time ahead of the 2023-24 campaign.

Danny Barlow - A midfielder with bags of energy, his direct style of play invigorates the whole midfield and ensures the Highwaymen are on the front foot. Formerly of Blyth Spartans, among others, Barlow previously took part in a U.S. scholarship programme.

MORPETH TOWN - PLAYER PROFILES

Ryan Donaldson - An adaptable midfielder with fantastic talent, Ryan joined in the summer of 2021 after leaving Hartlepool United, where he captained the side to promotion to the Football League. Spells at Gateshead, Cambridge United and Plymouth Argyle preceded his four years at Pools. An exceptional attacking talent.

Liam Noble - A signing during the 2019-20 season, the Sunderland academy graduate has played for Notts County, Forest Green and Hartlepool United among others. Very much a box-to-box midfielder, he chips in with his fair share of goals.

Vinnie Steels - Vinnie joined us from Shildon over the summer of 2023 after a near ever-present campaign. A winger by trade, he has featured for Darlington, York City, Burnley Under-21s, and Sunderland Under-21s before a stint at Shildon prior to joining the Highwaymen

Jack Foalle - Jack only made the switch to the Highwaymen in October 2018 but has hit the ground running. Following a run of 17 goals in 15 games at Whitley Bay, ambitious Jack made the move to Craik Park and duly scored a sensational first goal for the club on his home debut. Quick, energetic and enthusiastic, Foalle is a real threat up top.

Sam Hodgson - A loan signing from South Shields, the young striker has been on loan at Stockton Town, Blyth Spartans, and Marske United in the 2022-23 campaign. Quick off the mark and a keen eye for goal, Hodgson is another eager to impress at Craik Park.

Andrew Johnson - Formerly of Ashington and more recently Spennymoor Town, AJ had been a key player in the latter's rise up the football league structure. Scorer of all types of goals, he will be a major threat to opposition defences in the NPL Premier Division and was our top scorer last season with 24 goals to his name.

Connor Thomson - After featuring for Carlisle United, Blackburn Rovers, Barrow, Halifax Town, Gateshead, Scarborough Athletic and Blyth Spartans most recently, Connor made the switch to Craik Park for the 2022/23 season. Keen to get on the front foot at every opportunity, Connor will be a big asset in attack for Morpeth.

Staff





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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

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 contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

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



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#ITSOKAYTOTALK

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

#ITSOKAYTOTALK



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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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