

ROBINSONS REVIEW

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
ILKESTON TOWN 2024/25 - EDITION 6

PITCHING IN PARTNERS WITH **NORTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2024





CLUB INFORMATION

The New Manor Ground, Awsworth Road
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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, Simon Dye
Club Secretary: Liam Attwood
Club Photographer: James Bolton
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Supporters Group Chairman: Alex Middleton
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 to Ashton United's, players, fans, and staff to the MNMG.

We're coming off the back of a good result away at Leek Town last week. A good performance and we want to keep building that momentum going forward. Keeping the performance levels there is important, we have a tough block of games coming up, it's important that we continue to do the same.

We have some good news in terms of the squad. We're hopeful that Jonathan Wafula will be back for Saturday and we're looking better with the injury list now. This is a massive positive for the players as they've given everything over the past few weeks, some of them even running on empty so having those players back will give us a massive boost.

The fans have been fantastic again these past few weeks. The support on the road at Hereford was unbelievable and hopefully we can pack the Microlise New Manor Ground out on Saturday's as we go out there and give everything on the pitch to get three points on the day.

We're under no illusions that Ashton United are a tough opposition, their manager Steve is a great guy and he'll come to play, having the same mentality as us to win so we will need the Robins supporters right behind us.

Enjoy the game,
Deaks



microlise

HISTORY - ASHTON UNITED

Ashton United were founded as Hurst Cricket & Football Club in 1878 and have played at their current home for most of their history. The club was quite progressive early on, entering the FA Cup in 1883, becoming founder members of the Manchester FA in 1884, and winning its first cup competition against Newton Heath in 1885. They also faced teams like Blackburn Rovers, Accrington, Bolton, and Everton.

However, the village side couldn't keep up with larger clubs when the Football League was formed in 1888. It wasn't until 1909 that the club was revitalized by local cotton industrialist Alderman James Kenworthy, leading to success in the Manchester League and Manchester Cup.

Promotion to the Lancashire Combination followed, with a wartime Championship title win in 1917. A post-war move to the Cheshire League brought a change to red shirts, a color they've mostly worn since the 1920s, and the adoption of "The Robins" nickname. While trophies between the wars were mainly Manchester Cup wins, the club secured the services of football legend William "Dixie" Dean in 1939, though World War II cut his time short.

Like many clubs, Hurst struggled after the war. They changed their name to Ashton United in 1947 and re-joined the Lancashire Combination. The 1950s saw Manchester Cup wins and two first-round appearances in the FA Cup, in 1952 and 1955. Floodlights were installed in 1953, making Ashton the first Manchester FA club to play a competitive match under lights.

The 1960s began with a debut for future England star Alan Ball, but ended with financial trouble due to a spell in the Midlands League. By 1968, the club returned to the Cheshire League, where they remained until the North West Counties League (NWCL) was formed in 1982. In 1992, Ashton became the first NWCL Double winners, earning promotion to the Northern Premier League (NPL).

In 1997, they reached the FA Trophy Quarter Finals, and in 2002, they were promoted to the NPL Premier Division. Ashton became founding members of Conference (now National League) North in 2004, though relegation soon followed. The club won the NPL Challenge Cup in 2011 and earned another promotion to NL North in 2018, though it lasted only one season.

In 2019, David and Jonathan Burke, son and grandson of club legend Johnny Burke, became joint chairmen. Under their leadership, the club has invested in community programs, youth development, and the stadium. Although Steve Cunningham's team narrowly missed the play-offs in 2024, they brought home silverware with a record 17th Manchester Premier Cup win.

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BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Sam Baird (Defender) – Signed in 2020 from Trafford, Sam is the longest-serving player and a reliable choice when available. Known for his heading ability, he won multiple awards at the 2023 season's end.

Bobby Bjork (Midfield) – Signed from Burscough in 2023, Bobby was Blackpool FC's Scholar of the Year. He made his first-team debut for Ashton at 19, showing maturity beyond his years.

Trevon Bryan (Utility) – On loan from Bolton Wanderers in 2024, Trevon adds width and pace to the squad. With NPL experience, he can play full-back or winger.

Luke Burke (Utility) – Signed in 2023 from AFC Fylde, Luke's versatility earned him Players' Player of the Year and shared Manager's award last season. He's the team captain for the current season.

Alex Byrne (Midfield) – Signed in 2023 from Matlock Town, Alex topped the assists chart and was second top scorer despite an injury. He made the NPL Team of the Year and was named Supporters' and joint Manager's Player of the Season for 2024.

George Chmeil (Forward) – Signed from Padiham in 2024, George came through Blackburn's academy and has represented Poland at U-19 level.

Bernardo Couto (Defender) – Signed from Oldham Athletic in 2024, Benny had a stint at Ashton on loan last season and impressed with some spectacular goals before signing permanently.

Dan Cowan (Defender) – After a loan spell at Ashton in 2016, Dan returned in 2023 after stints at Stockport, Buxton, and Macclesfield. He's now a key player at right back.

Tom Denton (Forward) – Signed from Guiseley in 2024, Tom has built a reputation as a prolific goal-scorer, playing for several National League clubs and FA Trophy winners North Ferriby.

Josh Doherty (Defender) – Signed from Hyde United in 2024, Northern Ireland-born Josh brings experience from Football League clubs and his national team's U-21s.

Jordan Eastham (Goalkeeper) – On loan from Blackburn Rovers in 2024, Jordan has NPL experience and is known for scoring and saving a penalty in Hyde United's Cheshire Cup Final shootout win last season.

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Jason Gilchrist (Forward) – Signed from Buxton in 2023, Jason is a natural goal-scorer who finished last season as Ashton's top scorer with 24 goals, including two hat-tricks.

James Hardy (Midfield) – Signed from Macclesfield in 2023, James scored on his Ashton debut and finished third in the scoring charts despite missing a third of the season.

Nathan Lowe (Midfield) – Signed from Kidderminster Harriers in 2023, Nathan captained the Manchester Premier Cup-winning side after returning from playing in Australia.

Leon Johnson (Forward) – Signed from Bradford Park Avenue in 2024, Leon impressed in pre-season, earning a permanent spot under Steve Cunningham.

Jak McCourt (Midfield) – Signed from Buxton in 2024, Jak brings Football League experience from clubs like Chesterfield and Swindon Town, adding strength to Ashton's midfield.

Jack Massey (Forward) – Signed from Accrington Stanley in 2024, Jack is a versatile young forward brought in after being released from Accrington's U-23 side.

Conor O'Keefe (Goalkeeper) – Signed from Macclesfield in 2024, Conor has played in Spain, Gibraltar, and Sweden. He was brought in after the retirement of Luke Simpson.

Darius Osei (Forward) – After a loan spell in 2022, Darius returned permanently in 2024, scoring on his second debut.

Louis White (Midfield) – Signed from Marine in 2024, Louis joined after helping Marine reach the FA Cup 1st Round and win the NPL Play-off Final last season.



JUNIORS - U10 HAMMERS

After two losses in the warm-up games, the Hammers were filled with nervous excitement for their first-ever league match in Group 4 of the DJFL. They faced the Shelton Rhinos, a team with experience in Group 3. The Rhinos scored early, but the referee disallowed the goal as he hadn't blown the whistle yet. Once the Hammers settled into the game, they started passing smoothly. Bobby opened the scoring with a brilliant top-corner strike, soon after Calum had rattled the post from long range. Bobby added a second with a well-placed shot from the left side of the box. He then completed his hat-trick before the Rhinos launched a counter-attack that looked sure to result in a goal, only for Zachary to make a crucial block, though it led to a penalty. Luckily, Jack stood tall, and the Rhinos missed the spot kick.

The Hammers dominated, with Daniel smashing in a goal and Bobby netting again to make it 5-0. Just before halftime, the Rhinos pulled one back with a powerful shot, making it 5-1 at the break.

In the second half, the Hammers controlled possession and won their individual battles. Zachary hit the post from a free kick, but the Rhinos scored first after a lucky bounce. Arthur responded with a superb goal from the edge of the box, but the Rhinos struck again after a defensive error, closing the gap to 6-3. Any hopes of a comeback were quickly dashed when Arthur slid in for another goal, and Bobby sealed the win with a fantastic strike, ending the game 8-3 to the Hammers.

Every player contributed to a fantastic team performance, and they should all be proud of their efforts.



**VOTE FOR
ILKESTON TOWN**

BEST

**FOOTBALL
CLUB**

NON-LEAGUE



FROM THE ARCHIVES - THIS WEEK IN 1984

Forty years ago this week Ilkeston Town were playing Belper Town at the old Manor Ground in the Northern Counties East League. The Robins were reeling from the news that star keeper Scott Barrett had, two days previously, signed for Wolverhampton Wanderers albeit for a small fee and a promise of pre season friendly. Kirk Hallam born Barrett started out at Notts County and then joined Stanton before moving on to Ilkeston. He later starred for Stoke City and Colchester United before going into management. Ilkeston replaced Barrett with ex England schoolboy international teenager Paul Holland to face a Belper team that included forty year old Derby County legend Kevin Hector.

Ilkeston Town :- Holland, Gethings, Cooper, Stutchbury, Webster, Cuthbert, Wilkinson, Robinson, Ablott, Thompson, Richards (L) and sub Richards (D)

Belper Town :- Thornley, Rowe, Daniel, Staley, Baker, Thompson (R), Khan, Downing, Owers, Hector, Mann (P) and sub Mann (S)

Ilkeston matched Belper in the opening stages of the game and the Nottingham Football Post reported that the only difference between the two teams was Hector who showed flashes of brilliance despite his veteran status. He scored with a free kick, which went in off the bar after five minutes, but Ilkeston were still causing problems for the Belper keeper Thornley with Lloyd Richards coming close. Hector finally made the game safe by making two goals for Owers in the second half to make the final score 3-0. Hector left Belper in 1984 and went on to play well in to his fifties for Eastwood Town, Heanor Town and Shardlow St James.

Manager Steve Cuthbert defended debutant keeper Paul Holland saying the defeat was not his fault and that he was more concerned about the racist abuse his players had received the week before at Sutton United.

Ilkeston finished the season in thirteenth place and unsurprisingly Belper Town ended up as champions. Two seasons later the Robins had left the Northern Counties East and joined the newly formed Central Midlands League Supreme Division.

Elsewhere Derby County were in the Third Division and beating Lincoln City 2-0. Ex Forest star John Robertson made both goals. Ex Robin Kenny Burns got the first and future Robins manager Kevin Wilson got the second. Nottingham Forest moved up to second in the First Division behind Tottenham Hotspurs after beating Norwich City 3-1 with very late goals from Steve Hogdge and Trevor Christie. Ex Robin Bryn Gunn played in the back four for Forest. Notts County were firmly rooted to the bottom of Division Two and lost 4-2 to Shrewsbury Town making it seven losses in eight games. Ex England international Dave Watson made his second debut for the club, his last appearance for the club being seventeen years earlier. Future Robin Chris Marples was starring in goal for Chesterfield keeping them in the game in a 0-0 draw with Bury. In Youth football in a certain Martin Carruthers scored six goals in an U12 game where Padstow Youth Club beat Keyworth United 16-0.

Nationally the news was dominated by the brewing British Coal dispute. The unions had just voted to strike. Labour leader Neil Kinnock had fallen six points behind Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in an opinion poll after being level only two weeks previously. Finally Lucy Watts became the proud mother of triplets and the first ever test tube babies and a Sony Walkman would set you back £29.50 in Dixons.



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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

 dwfoundation5

 contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

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

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#ITSOKAYTALK

ANDYSMANCLUB

WHAT IS ANDYSMANCLUB?

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

HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

The clubs all run on the same format and adhere to the same guidelines. A key principle of ANDYSMANCLUB is anything that is said in the club, stays within the club.

WHO IS IT FOR?

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

WHEN IS IT?

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


WHERE IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB has over 100 locations across the UK. Check our website below for a full list.

HOW DO I JOIN?

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

CONTACT US


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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
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