

OFFICIAL CONGLETON TOWN FC MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



CONGLETON TOWN FC

v BOOTLE FC

01/02/2025 | KICK-OFF 15:00PM
2024/25 SEASON





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UP THE BEARS

BY KEN MEAD
CLUB SECRETARY

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone at the Cleric Stadium today and particularly to the players, officials and supporters of Bootle who have made the trip for this afternoon's match in the Pitching In Northern Premier League Division One West.

We suffered a chastening experience last Saturday, losing 5-1 to table topping Widnes. Too many mistakes were made, and the travelling Bears fans were disappointed to see an excellent run of 15 league matches unbeaten come to an end. Strangely enough, that run started after a similarly disastrous defeat (5-2) away at Witton Albion. So, the home fans will be looking for a similar response and hope that another unbeaten run can start today and help secure a play off place come the end of April. Bootle will present a stiff challenge after they recorded a terrific result midweek, winning 2-0 away at Vauxhall Motors. That, coupled with our defeat at Widnes, strengthened the hold that Widnes have at the top of the table and also represented encouragement to the chasing pack in the top half of the table. With around 1/3 of the season remaining, only 11 points separate Vauxhall in 2nd place and Runcorn Linnets in 9th. More interestingly, only 9 points separate Newcastle Town in 15th place from Chasetown who currently occupy the last play off place (5th).

We played Bootle away back in early October and came away with a 2-0 win thanks to goals from Max McCarthy and Danny Needham. It is not very often we have any joy when we travel away to the Berry Street Garage ground. Over the past 2 months, Bootle have enjoyed some good form. Of the 9 games played, they have won 3 drawn 3 and lost 3 but their 3 wins include that result at Vauxhall Motors and an equally impressive 4-2 away win at much fancied Hednesford Town. If the Bears want to get back to winning ways, they will need to be at their best for the full 90 minutes. Two weeks ago, we faced Nantwich Town with Craig Ellison back with us covering for the injured Dave Parton. Craig was unlucky to see a late first half own goal beat him to level the scores after Max McCarthy had scored a stunning opener from 25 yards with a dipping volley. Both goalkeepers had an otherwise easy 90 minutes and the 1-1 draw looked to be a fair result.

The 5-1 scoreline at Widnes last Saturday was a

blow considering how well the team had been playing but the playing surface at the DCBL Stadium was not one of the team's favourite. After going 2-0 down inside 18 minutes, another excellent volley this time from George Sankey's cross saw Peter Williams rifle home to bring the Bears back into the game after 37 minutes.

However, another error saw Widnes restore their 2-goal lead within 6 minutes and the early second half dismissal of Shaun Brisley on 50 minutes left the Bears with a huge task and they could not find the answers. Now, it is up to the team to pick itself up and show the resilience they have found in that 15 match unbeaten league games – 11 wins and 4 draws.



Upcoming fixtures: Tuesday 4th February ko 7:45 pm away at Clitheroe (The Eco Giant Stadium, Shawbridge Street, Clitheroe, BB7 1LZ). Next Saturday 8th April, the Bears are away at Avro (The Vestcare Stadium, White Bank Road, Oldham, OL8 3JH). Next home game here will be on Saturday 15th February ko 3pm when the visitors will be Witton Albion.



We hope everyone here enjoys the match and importantly, stays safe and has a safe journey home.

Ken

KEN MEAD
CLUB SECRETARY



MATCH OFFICIALS

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Congleton Town FC 24/25 Squad

THE BEARS

GOALKEEPERS:

David Parton
Travis Ziglam
Ayrtton Best

DEFENDERS:

Callum Lovatt
Darren Chadwick
Joshua Hall
Joshua Ryder
Marco Fregapane
Owen Morris
Richard Duffy

MIDFIELDERS:

Callum Stringer
Daniel Needham
Dorian Jedrzejczyk
Ethan Hartshorn
George Sankey
Kieran Garner-Knapper
Peter Williams
Thomas Allen
William Arnold

STRIKERS:

Brian Barton
Max McCarthy
Thomas Hampton
Lewis Porter

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GREAT PLACES
TO PLAY





HOW IT STARTED...

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

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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.



Photo by Joe Matthews

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.

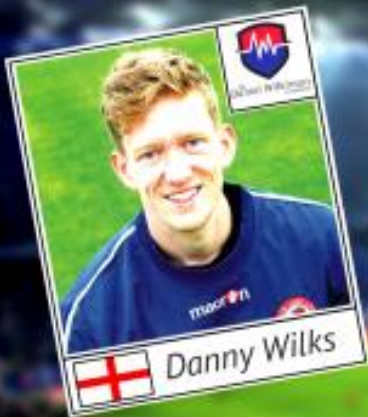
Frank was a Docker, but more importantly for him, a footballer who was part of the 1954 Langton FC team that became the latest incarnation of Bootle FC. It was Frank who drove the club forward, as player, manager, secretary, chairman, groundsman - you name it - and latterly president of the club.



Photo by Joe Matthews

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 fourth season at Step 4 of the non-league system. Mick McGraa lead the side to their best ever finish last season as they finished in the playoffs in fourth position. They were defeated 1-0 in extra time by eventual winners Prescot Cables. The Bucks will be looking to go one better this season.



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

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 thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

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



BOOTLE FC

SQUAD LIST:

MICK McGRAA - Manager

Mick lead the club into the playoffs last season after joining the club in September. He previously spent 5 seasons at fellow Northern Premier League Division One West side Vauxhall Motors. During that time he won promotion from the North West Counties Division One and North West Counties Premier League. He also lead 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.

HARRY WRIGHT OCAÑA – Defender

Full back joined the club following his release from Fleetwood Town. Joined their development squad from Everton in July 2023.

SEAN SMITH – Defender

Left sided defender who joined the club in October 2023. 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.

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**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.

TOM HANNIGAN – Defender

Established defender joined the club from Warrington Town where he won promoted to the National League North. Also played in successful promotion campaigns for AFC Fylde and Altrincham.

WILL BELL – Defender

Returns to the club for the third time from Widnes. Began his career at Morecambe before moving into the Welsh leagues with spells at Bala Town, Aberystwyth, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay. Returned to English football with The Bucks in 2020, has previously departed the club to join both Macclesfield and Skelmersdale United.

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.

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.

SEAN WILLIAMS - Midfield

Vastly experienced and tenacious centre midfielder who joined the club from Warrington Town in the summer. Has won multiple promotions in spells at Altrincham and at Warrington Town where he made 203 appearances in two spells, and scored their first ever goal in the National League North last season.

JACK LENEHAN - Midfielder

Joined the club in October 2023 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 before his move to Bury.

ANDY SCARISBRICK -Midfield

Joined the club for his third spell in the summer after departure from Prescot Cables. Scarisbrick has back to back promotions and an FA Vase winners medal under his belt from during his time at Warrington Rylands. Scarisbrick also featured for Marine during 2022/23 season.



ANDYSMANCLUB



#ITSOKAYTOTALK

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.

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**EVRARD YAO** - Forward

Joined the club in the summer from Lower Breck after impressing in pre-season. The lively winger played at youth level for Bolton Wanderers until 2021 before spells in Slovenia and France. Returned to the UK in 2023 and featured to both Atherton LR and Southport.

Kenzie O'Neill - Forward

The former Runcorn Linnets, 1874 Northwich and Prescot Cables winger joined the club in the summer after a trial period. He was also a member of Wigan Athletic's academy at under 17 and under 21 level and has also represented Northern Ireland U17s.

Conor Harwood - Striker

Signed from Vauxhall Motors in December 2023. 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 to the Northern Premier League West.

Ben Hodkinson - Striker

Rejoined the club last summer from Marine. Has been Bootle's top scorer in both Northern Premier League West seasons he has completed with the club. An ever popular player amongst the fan base and one that everyone is delighted has returned to the club.

Courtney Duffus - Striker

Former Republic of Ireland u21 international who joined the club from Macclesfield. Originally hails from Cheltenham from where he was picked up by Everton. Picked up Football League experience in spells at Bury, Oldham, Yeovil, Morecambe and Barrow before moving to Macclesfield in the summer.

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. Scored his 100th goal for the club last season.

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CLUB INFORMATION

CLUB OFFICIALS:

CHAIRMAN: Charles Porter
SENIOR FOOTBALL: Chris Rowley
SECRETARY: Ken Mead
MEDIA: Adam Gosling

FIRST TEAM:

MANAGER: Richard Duffy
ASST MANAGER: Louis Dodd /
 Oliver Simpson
CLUB PHYSIO: Abi Blythe

RESERVE TEAM:

MANAGER: Martin Cornes

UNDER 18'S:

MANAGER: Paul Heler
GRANDSMAN: Paul Minshull
CLUBHOUSE: Rebecca Young
PHOTOGRAPHER: Elliot Treanor
KIT PROVIDER: Fused Sport

CLUB CHARITABLE PARTNER:

Mind Body & Sole (Mental Health)

WEBSITE: www.ctfc.club
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TWITTER/X: @CongletonFC
INSTAGRAM: @CongletonFC
FACEBOOK: @CongletonFC
EMAIL: admin@ctfc.club





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www.mindbodysole.uk

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