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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 Bury who have made the trip for this afternoon's match in the Pitching In Northern Premier League Division One West.

Our faithful supporters will be well familiar with the type of start we have made to season 2025/26. A look back to last season, our first back in the Northern Premier League will show our opening 4 games consisted of 2 defeats, 1 draw and one victory. That record reads exactly the same this season. Indeed, one of the fixtures last season, was an opening day defeat here in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round against todays' visitors Bury. They were in the NWC Premier Division and of course went on to be Champions and win promotion to the NPL for this season. The victory last season was a fine performance away at Vauxhall Motors. This season, the victory was against NWC Premier Division side Padiham who had won all 5 of their league and cup matches (the only side to have a 100% record at the time). That was a week ago and we ran out 3-0 winners in that match to earn a place in the 1st Qualifying Round. By some stroke of fortune, we were drawn away to

Widnes, who most will know, folded in the close season. That gave us a walk over into the 2nd Qualifying Round on Saturday September 13th.

Bury, fancied by many to do what Macclesfield did by gaining promotion to the Premier Division at the first attempt, have started with an away draw at Avro and a home win against Newcastle Town. What is very surprising is their exit in the FA Cup after drawing 1-1 at Stalybridge Celtic last Saturday, they then went on to lose 2-0 at home in the replay. It is certain that they will want to forget that result and get back to winning ways immediately. That means the Bears will have to be at their very best to get something from this match.

Our drawn game last season was a 3-3 goal fest at Chasetown. This season, the draw was 2-2 in our first midweek game here against Mossley. That took a late equaliser to gain a point in what many felt a fair result. The win in the FA Cup of course, saw glimpses of the fine football we played through most of last season and goals from Ethan Hartshorn, George Sankey and Danny Needham were just reward for an entertaining display. That could no be said about Tuesday's defeat 1-0, at Stafford Rangers, in a match many will consider forgettable.



Our recent performances against Bury have generally been close affairs except for last season's 4-2 defeat in the FA Cup. In 2022/23 season, we lost 2-1 away and drew 1-1 at home before the epic meeting here in the quarter finals of the FA Vase. The score at 90 minutes was 1-1 and the Bears won an exciting penalty shoot out 5-4 with Dave Parton's save seeing us through. Unfortunately for the Bears, we suffered a similar fate in the semi final losing 3-2 on Penalties (with the score at 90 minutes 2-2) against Newport Pagnell and the chance of playing at Wembley.

Next up for the Bears is this Bank Holiday Monday 25th August with a trip to Kidsgrove Athletic ko 3pm. With no game on 30th September (courtesy of Widnes) we resume with a home tie against Vauxhall Motors in the Isuzu FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round on Saturday 6th September ko 3pm followed by the Cheshire Senior Cup 1st Round tie against Stockport County here on Tuesday 9th September ko 7.45pm.



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







#### THE BEARS

#### PLAYING SQUAD 2025/26:

Thomas Allen
Ebou Badjie
Brian Barton
Jack Bates
Owen Beamon
Shaun Brisley
Darren Chadwick
Richard Duffy

#### **COACHING TEAM:**

Richard Duffy Louis Dodd Oliver Simpson Peter Ward Kieran Garner-Knapper Matthew Gillam Joshua Hall Thomas Hampton Ethan Hartshorn Matthew Liptrott Max McCarthy

#### **MEDICAL STAFF:**

**Abigail Blythe** 

Owen Morris
Daniel Needham
David Parton
George Sankey
Jason Ukatu
Peter Williams
Travis Ziglam



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## HOW IT STARTED...

It was a meeting at the White Horse Hotel in Bury on April 24th 1885, where an agreement to merge the Bury Wesleyans and the Bury Unitarians to become Bury FC. Later that year, an agreement to play on Mr. Barlow's field, Gigg Lane was agreed, and the rest they say, is history. And what a long one it is. Gigg Lane, thought to be the 11th oldest football ground in the world, and now today, once again, still in use.

It was in 1892, that the Club's famous nickname was coined, when before a Lancashire Cup Final against Everton, chairman JT Ingham was reported to have roused the players by saying: "We shall shake 'em. In fact, we are the Shakers!"

This history includes, two famous FA Cup wins of 1900 and 1903, with the 1903 victory still in the record books for the joint highest score in a final and the only club to win the cup without conceding a goal. Furthermore, that season seeing the Shakers win their very own treble with winning both the Lancashire and Manchester Senior Cup's, competitions that were illustrious in their own right at the time.

Much of the first 100 years of the club's history was spent in the top 2 divisions, and as a result in 2005 the Club became the first to have scored 1000 goals in each of the 4 Football League divisions.

Famous players have adorned the famous white shirt, many have their favourites, Pointer,

Bell, Linsday, Forrest, Madden, Robinson, and added to that hall of fame were the class of

95-99, where a golden period, led by Stan Ternant took The Shakers from the fourth to the  $\,$ 

2nd tier, the last Bury side to play at that level. The spine of the team of Kiely, Lucketti, Butler, Daws, the loved and sorely missed Johnrose, ethcing their names into Bury folklore. Their heroics preceded more modern day heroes Sodje, Bishop, Mayor and Lowe.

And it was Lowe, one of the few managers to win promotion as both a player and manager that led the Shakers to that final monumental promotion in 2019 against a backdrop of turbulance and heartbreak. And then May 2019, we thought it was gone for ever. 134 years of history, after 4852 matches in English League football since their first match in 1894; only five clubs have played more games. We were expelled from The Football League.

April 2020, a new club was formed, Bury AFC. A fan run phoenix club, from the ashes that was the wreck left behind by the owners who had destroyed our beloved club. The new Club was quickly accepted into the North West Counties League Division One North and a ground sharing agreement made with neighbours Radcliffe FC. Following a first season curtailled due to the global pandemic, what was to be the Club's first full season ended up in promotion as league champions and also a newly formed women's team winning their league too.

As 2021 turned to 2022, the news all Bury fans wanted to hear happened when members of Bury FC Supporters Society working closely with the Government acquired, Gigg Lane and the club's history from administrators and Gigg Lane had been saved. Fast-forward to May 2023 and in a landmark agreement, fans of both societies agreed to merge and in some ways recreating how Bury FC came about all those years ago, a unified team will play football at Gigg Lane again.

The 2024–25 season will forever stand as a defining moment in our history. In front of a record-breaking 8,719 supporters, Bury Football Club claimed the NWCFL Premier Division title, capping off a remarkable campaign with 33 wins, 109 points, and 131 goals scored. A goal difference of +82 speaks volumes, but the true story lies in the spirit behind those numbers.

This is our town, our club, our community, our family. They tried to kill us—we would not die.

Against the odds and through the noise, we stood together. We rebuilt. We believed. And now, as we celebrate our triumph at Gigg Lane, we do so not just as champions - but as a community that refused to be erased.

Thank you for joining us as we mark our return and prepare to enter our 140th year - a milestone made possible by every person who never gave up. This club is not just bricks and seats. It is memories, passion, and defiance. It is family.

Welcome home. The next chapter begins now in the NPL West Division.



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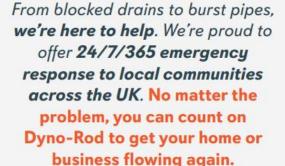






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### **BURY FC**

#### **SQUAD LIST**



MITCH ALLEN
POSITION: GOALKEEPER

**AGE:** 25



RUSSELL SAUNDERS
POSITION: GOALKEEPER

**AGE: 36** 



AARON CHALMERS
POSITION: DEFENDER

**AGE: 34** 



AIDEN WALKER
POSITION: DEFENDER

AGE: 25



**CONNOR PYE** 

**POSITION:** DEFENDER

AGE: 21



SCOTT DUXBURY
POSITION: DEFENDER

AGE: 30



KIERAN LLOYD

**POSITION: DEFENDER** 

**AGE: 22** 



LOUIS ISHERWOOD
POSITION: DEFENDER

**AGE: 23** 



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
- f thedanielwilkinsonfoundation
- (G) dwfoundation5
- contact@thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org
- thedanielwilkinsonfoundation.org

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



#### **SQUAD LIST**



BEBETO GOMES
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

**AGE: 26** 



BOBBY CARROLL
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

**AGE: 23** 



BRAD CARROLL
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

**AGE: 28** 



JOSH GREGORY
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

**AGE: 27** 



CALLUM SPOONER
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

**AGE: 27** 



CAMERON FOGERTY
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

AGE: 21



OWEN ROBINSON
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

AGE: 22



DJAVAN PEDRO
POSITION: FORWARD

AGE: 21



RUSTAM STEPANS
POSITION: FORWARD

**AGE: 24** 



TYLER JAMES
POSITION: FORWARD

AGE: 21



KIERAN GLYNN POSITION: FORWARD

**AGE: 27** 



**KAI EVANS** 

**POSITION: FORWARD** 

**AGE: 21** 



GABRIEL JOHNSON
POSITION: FORWARD

**AGE: 28** 

#### **MANAGER**



**DAVE MCNABB** 

#### **ASSITANT MANAGER**



**TIM LEES** 



## 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?

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

#### WHERE IS IT?

ANDYSMANCLUB has clubs in many 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 is available on our website.

#### **CONTACT US**

f @andysmanclub

**②**@andysmanclubuk

- @@andysmanclubuk
- andysmanclub.co.uk
- info@andysmanclub.co.uk
  - mandysmanclub





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#### CLUB INFORMATION

#### **CLUB OFFICALS:**

CHAIRMAN: Charles Porter SENIOR FOOTBALL: Chris Rowley

SECRETARY: Ken Mead MEDIA: Adam Gosling

#### **FIRST TEAM:**

MANAGER: Richard Duffy ASST MANAGER: Louis Dodd CLUB PHYSIO: Abi Blythe

#### **RESERVE TEAM:**

**MANAGER: Martin Cornes** 

#### **LADIES TEAM:**

**MANAGER:** Mark Curry



GROUNDSMAN: Paul Minshull CLUBHOUSE: Rebecca Young PHOTOGRAPHER: Elliot Treanor KIT PROVIDER: Fused Sport

#### **CLUB CHARITABLE PARTNER:**

Mind Body & Sole (Mental Health)



#### CLUB INFORMATION

#### **PRICES:**

Adults - £10\*
Concessions - £7\*
Children (U16's) - £3\*
Under 10's FREE\*

\*League games only

#### **LEGAL ENTITY:**

Congleton Town Football Club is owned and operated by:
Congleton Town FC (Operations) Limited
Company Number – 14885130
Director – Charles Porter
Person(s) of Significant Interest – Charles Porter

#### **CLUB SHAREHOLDERS:**

**Charles Porter – 100%** 



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



## Remember you are not alone

#MindBodySole

help@mindbodysole.uk www. mindbodysole.uk

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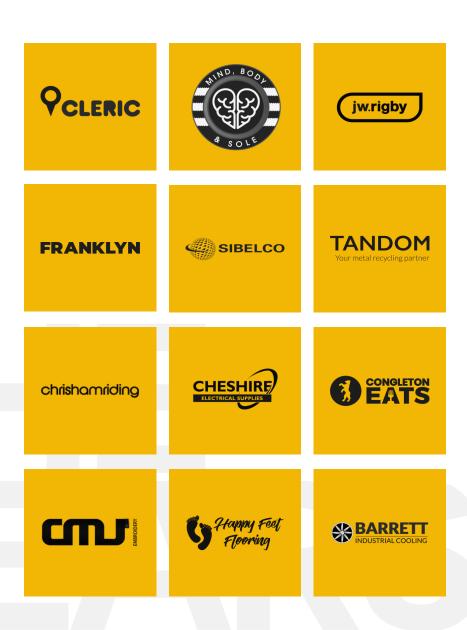
### **LEAGUE TABLE**

			P	+/-	Pts
(3)	1	Lower Breck	3	+5	9
連	2	Clitheroe	3	+2	7
***	3	Nantwich Town	3	+2	6
<b>3</b>	4	Darlaston Town	3	+2	6
<b>@</b>	5	Kidsgrove Athletic	3	+1	6
<b>®</b>	6	Sporting Khalsa	3	+1	6
	7	Stafford Rangers	4	-3	6
(3)	8	Runcorn Linnets	2	+2	4
•	9	Avro	3	+1	4
	10	Bury	2	+1	4
	11	Stalybridge Celtic	2	+1	4
	12	Bootle	3	0	4
-	13	Chasetown	3	0	4
	14	Shifnal Town	3	+1	3
	15	Newcastle Town	2	+1	3
<b>②</b>	16	Vauxhall Motors	2	0	2
-	17	Mossley	3	-1	2
<b>(5)</b>	18	Wythenshawe Town	2	-2	1
1	19	Congleton Town	3	-3	1
1	20	Witton Albion	3	-3	1
<b>3</b>	21	Trafford	2	-2	0
	22	Atherton Collieries	3	-6	0

## **SPONSORS**

At Congleton Town Football Club, we are proud to showcase our roster of fantastic sponsors who have helped make our club the success it is today. Without the support of our generous sponsors, we would not be able to continue providing top-quality football matches and events for our fans and community.

We believe that our sponsors are more than just financial backers – they are valuable members of our community who share our passion for football and supporting local organizations. So why not consider becoming a Congleton Town Football Club sponsor today? We can't wait to welcome you to the team!



## PLAYER/STAFF SPONSORS





































## **PITCH SPONSORS**

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Sankey	& Mel	Young	Dolman	H
Jamie	Rory	Fred & Angela	Gaz	Collie
Price	Goodwin	Massey	Lewis	Dog
Bins of	Paul	Charlie	Muriel	Jonathan
Congleton	Slinger	Stacey	Needham	Needham
Nic	Ethan	Max	GIGGLZ	Carmel
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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

Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk

to find out more







