FRICKLEY ATHLETIC

25/26

NCEL Premier Division
Official Match Day Programme



Today's Visitors:

WOMBWELL TOWN

Friday 20th March 2026

Kick Off: 7.45pm

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Owen Jenkinson was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma in 2022 and, after a year cancer-free, unfortunately relapsed in 2024. Despite further treatment, his cancer progressed, and he sadly passed away in November 2025. Owen's strength, spirit, and love for life remained unwavering, and the charity PACT (Parents' Association of Children with Tumours & Leukaemia) has been a vital source of support for him and his family throughout the journey.

To donate to PACT, helping them to continue their fine work, go to www.pactfriends.co.uk/donate



THE TOOLSTATION N.C.E.F.L. PREMIER DIVISION

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026 KICK OFF 7.45 PM

FRICKLEY ATHLETIC		WOMBWELL TOWN
Blue/White Shirts, Blue Shorts, Blue Socks.		Red Shirts, Red Shorts, Red Socks
Will Sykes	1	Jonathan Davis
Sam Kilner	2	Jason Paling
Liam Love	3	Alex Kemp
Joel Spence	4	Jack Wilson
Harry Viggars	5	Owen Birks
Harry Gagen	6	Rikki Paylor
Tom Alngohuro	7	Charlie Rogerson
Charlie Price	8	Alfred Thompson
Elliott Andrew	9	Oliver Fearon
Josh Lindley	10	Edward Agnew
Lucas Robinson	11	Zak Cottie
Harry Carmody	12	Kyle Wass
Charlie Clegg	14	Josh Lake
Sam Cable	15	Ewan Switzer
Luis Afonso Ferreira	16	Ethan Gornall
Cody Collins	17	Bailey Smedley

REFEREE

David Holbrook

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Matthew Brook
Ibrahim Bostan

Bluescene

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to The SALUS Stadium for today's Northern Counties East Premier Division game against Wombwell Town. We give a warm welcome to Wombwell's players, officials and supporters and hope they have a safe trip home after the game.

Today's match ball is sponsored by our volunteer club photographer Ty Jowett of Pixel Perfect Photography. We thank him for his continued kind support of the club.

Today's visitors, Wombwell Town, currently sit in 20th place on 17 points after 33 games. Wombwell have gone 26 league games since their last win. Their last 6 games have all been homes games and have seen them lose 5 and draw 1. Defeats against Thackley (1-2), Barton Town (1-3), Albion Sports (0-2) and Tadcaster Albion (1-3) were followed by a 2-2 draw against Horbury Town. However, this draw was a brief hiatus as Wombwell's 2-1 loss to Handsworth, on Tuesday, sealed their fate and means that they are relegated with 5 games still to play, returning to Division 1 just a season after promotion.

The Blues come into today's game in 15th place on 38 points after 34 games, just 6 points above the relegation places. On the final day of February, Lucas Robinson scored twice and Elliott Andrew put away a penalty as we beat Eccleshill United 3-1 here at The Wezzie. Since then we've lost 3 on the spin without scoring, 2-0 at Liversedge, now the league champions after the weekend's results, and a pair of 1-0 defeats, against Barton Town in our last home game and, disappointingly, in our return fixture at Eccleshill United last Saturday.

Our most recent meeting with Wombwell Town was our league game, earlier this season in October, when goals by Charlie Clegg and Lucas Robinson, in the last quarter of an hour, gave us a 2-0 victory at the Recreation Ground. This was also our only meeting with this current incarnation of Wombwell Town so tonight is our first meeting here at Westfield Lane.

Expect The Blues to be pulling out all the stops to take all 3 points and increase the gap between ourselves and the relegation zone.

Our next game sees The Blues in action here at Westfield Lane on Tuesday 28th March when old foes Sheffield are our visitors, 7.45pm ko. We hope to see you all there.

Enjoy the game and as always we thank you for your valued and continued support.

#forzafrickley #FFTD

Ground Regulations

Everybody that visits the Westfield Lane Stadium on match days must follow club rules and regulations. Any club official may ask you to leave the ground if you do any of the following:

- **Enter the ground without paying.**
- **Enter the field of play before, during and after a game without permission.**
- **Throw anything onto the field of play.**
- **Use obscene or abusive language (racial or otherwise), or violence of any nature.**

Meet The Visitors 1

Whilst there had been previous incarnations of Wombwell Town, the latest club was formed in 2018, and only have the same ground in common with the last iteration that folded in 2000.

The current Wombwell Town was looking to achieve a few simple goals. Improve the facilities at their Wombwell Recreation Ground home, compete in the Sheffield & Hallamshire County Senior League (CSL) and make progress towards reaching the NCEL.

It was a shaky start as only four hopeful players joined manager and chairman Karl Rose and co-founder Doug O'Connor at the first training session in July 2018.

From then on though the squad grew bigger and stronger, and when the season started at the beginning of September they were ready to compete. A single Joe Oliver goal was enough to give the Wellers their first win in their first competitive game and the side didn't look back.

By the end of their opening season they had won the second division of the CSL and reached the semi final of the Association Cup, losing on penalties at Denaby Main.

The 2019/20 season was one that took a turn. Just two days after the celebrations that followed securing promotion from CSL Division One with a win over Denaby Main - Covid-19 took a grip on the country and Boris Johnson called for a national lock down on.

Wombwell Town needed just one point to take their second league title as well, but it wasn't to be as the country battled against something far more important than football. After months of waiting, the league was declared null and void and promotion would not be granted, even though space opened up in the Premier Division after Grimethorpe LLUK folded.

Off the pitch, as football slowly returned, the club made improvements to the run down changing rooms and clubhouse, creating a hub for the community. Major work was also undertaken on the playing surface and the main stand was rebuilt with a small number of seats added. New palisade fencing was also put in place around the ground to make the site more secure after vandalism and theft had been a regular occurrence.

With football restored for the 2021/22 season, the club started to grow again on the pitch, with new teams at U19 and U21 levels to back up the first team. It proved to be another season where Wombwell Town looked to clinch promotion and, with just two defeats (both against South Kirkby Colliery), the title was secured with a 7-0 win at Sheffield Medics in the final game of the campaign.

County Senior League Premier Division football beckoned and just like in their first season, those same targets hadn't changed. Improving the ground further had become a priority so that ground grading measures could be met for NCEL football. The club also knew that, with no other club applying for promotion from their league, fifth position in the league table would be enough to gain that promotion.

Having played all their matches, the club sat in that required fifth spot, and when the news of promotion came, it marked the end of the club's five-year chapter in the regional feeder leagues.

That first season in the NCEL Division One saw the team finished just outside the playoffs in a very respectable sixth place, despite reaching 89 points.

The Wellers' second season in Division One saw the club clinch second place and win promotion via the playoffs, beating near neighbours Dearne & District in the 2024/25 final.

2025/26 promises to be an adventure that Wombwell Town will meet head on, hoping to prove themselves at step 5.

Meet The Visitors 2

Eddie Agnew (Forward): One of the first players to join the club when formed in 2018, Eddie is the club's all-time top scorer.

Owen Birks (Defender): Centre back now in his second spell with the club having recently rejoined from neighbours Worsbrough Bridge.

Leon Brooks (Defender): Centre back who joined in February 2026 from Route One Rovers.

Connor Broomhead (Midfielder): Teenager who made his debut in October at Bottesford Town.

James Byford (Defender): Centre back who joined from Athersley Rec in February 2026.

Zak Cottle (Defender): Young defender who made his debut against Rossington Main in October 2025.

Ollie Fearon (Forward): Playoff hero who returned to the team in December following a brief retirement. Started at Frickley Athletic.

Morgan James (Midfielder): Summer signing from Wakefield who he joined from Frickley Athletic, and now in his second spell with the club.

Charlie Rogerson (Midfielder): Midfield engine who in his second season with the club.

Bailey Smedley (Forward): Young forward thinking player who hopes to make an impact.

Jack Wilson (Defender/Midfielder): Midfielder or defender who joined in the summer of 2024 having previously played for Armthorpe Welfare the season before.

Ewan Switzer (Defender): Young centre back who joined from Chesterfield and Staveley MW.

Alex Kemp (Defender): Former Worsbrough Bridge defender who joined in December from Club Thorne and made his debut against Liversedge.

Jordan Kershaw (Forward): The club's top goal scorer last season with 29 goals in all competitions and scored our first ever FA Cup goal this season. Has played for Frickley Athletic's U23s.

Josh Lake (Forward): Forward who joined the club in November 2025 and has recently gained more game time.

Ant Mackie (Midfielder/Forward): Winger who has had a horrible time with injuries since joining the club, but hopes to play more regularly in 2026.

Sebastian Malkowski (Goalkeeper): Experienced former Polish International and ex- Frickley Athletic stopper who has been missing due to injury since October but is starting his comeback.

Kyle Wass (Goalkeeper): A young keeper who has been at Pontefract Collieries, Frickley Athletic and South Leeds.

Jason Paling (Defender): Now in his third season with the club and recently moved into third on the club's all-time appearance chart.

Daniel Youel (Midfielder): Joined in January 2024 from Wakefield and has been a reliable performer in midfield.

Frickley's History

Frickley Athletic FC is based in the former coal mining village of South Elmsall. Recent research has shown that the first South Elmsall football team was formed in 1905 but was superseded in 1908 by the newly formed Frickley Colliery Athletic Club and joined the South Yorkshire league which comprised of works, church and village teams. In 1910, the football club moved to the Sheffield Association League and first played in the FA Cup.

The club remained in the Sheffield Association League (except for the war years) until 1922, finishing runners up in 1911/12, and winners in 1920/21, our only ever league title.

In 1922/23 Frickley joined the Yorkshire league and after finishing runners up in 1923/24, the club were elected into the Midland League, Although the club had to apply for re election several times pre war (and didn't play in any league in 1933/34) it was kept going by the support of the mineworkers and the sale of players.

1936/37 was Frickley's worst ever league season when the club finished bottom with only 8 points, but amazingly reached the FA Cup 1st round proper for the first time.

Post war, Frickley remained in the Midland league gaining its best finish, 7th, in 1945/46, but left the league on its break up at the end of 1959/60.

From 1960/61 to 1969/70, Frickley Colliery played in the Cheshire County League, However, financial considerations led the club to join the Midland Counties League for 1970/71. They finished runners up in 1972/73, and were eventually elected into the NPL for the 1976/77 season as Frickley Athletic.

After finishing 3rd in 1979/80, the club was promoted into the Alliance Premier League, now the National League. Here they remained for 7 years, the most successful in the club's history, and in 1985/86 reached the FA Cup 3rd round proper, after beating a Football League club, Hartlepool Utd, only to lose 3-1 at home to Rotherham Utd. The club also finished as Gola League runners up. The following season saw a reversal as we were relegated back to the NPL.

From 1987/88 to 1991/92 the club consistently finished around mid-table in the NPL. but did manage to reach the league cup final in 1991/92, losing 1-0 to Marine at Maine Road.

The next few seasons saw Frickley finish in the lower reaches of the table. Then, in 2005/06 The Blues had their best league season for 20 years, finishing 2nd to Blyth Spartans. Unfortunately, the Blues lost on penalties in the playoff semi.

In the following seasons Frickley returned to the lower half of the table, but 2015/16 saw the club have a great season to finish 7th.

In 2016/17, most of the players who had brought this success were attracted to more affluent clubs. The club were relegated from the NPL Premier Division after a 30 year stay.

2017/18 saw the club enter the NPL Division 1 South, finishing 3rd in the league, scoring a record 117 goals. Additionally, Jacob Hazel broke the club record for individual goals in a season with 47 strikes. The season ended disappointingly with playoff semi final defeat at the hands of Stamford.

2018/19, in the new NPL East Division, was less successful, seeing managerial changes and a 12th place finish. However, the season had its highlights, with victory at highflying Morpeth and a 10-1 win over Liversedge in the FA Cup.

More change followed prior to the start of 2019/20. A further league reorganisation which put The Blues into the NPL South East Division was accompanied by a new manager. An inauspicious start lead to the appointment of Dave Frecklington in September 2019.

Frecks rapidly turned the side's fortunes around, before lockdown ended the season. 2020/21 ultimately suffered the same fate.

Frecks built what looked like strong squad for the 2021/22 season in the newly formed NPL East Division. However, things didn't pan out as hoped. Key departures lead to a run of form that saw the club relegated to the Northern Counties East League for the first time in our history.

In the summer of 2022, former Blue, Wayne Benn, was installed as manager, with ex-Frickley goal scoring legend Andy Hayward as his assistant. There were occasional highs but Benn resigned in early 2023 so Patrick McGuire came in to avoid a second successive relegation.

2023/24 started well, and included an 8-0 win at Goole, but ended with the release of McGuire. James Baxendale was in the hot seat for the start of 2024/25 but left to be replaced by Tom Claisse in November 2024 and successfully avoided the drop before being relieved of his duties in September 2025.

Club legend Martyn Woolford has taken the reigns and he'll be looking to roll back the years and bring winning ways back to Westfield Lane.

Memory Match

As usual, we've got 2 memory matches for you, a pair of almost 'on this day' games. The first match was a NPL Division 1 South game against Lincoln United, played on Saturday 17th March 2018. The howling wind and increasingly heavy snow couldn't prevent one of most remarkable games seen at The Wezzie in recent years as The Blues battled back from 2-0 down to win 5-3, with centre half Danny Burns scoring twice to kickstart the comeback. Then the second game is an away game from Saturday 19th March 1932, against Wombwell - not the same club as today's visitors but from the same postcode. A brace by Walker set The Azzurri on the way to a 3-1 victory to complete a Midland League double over our local rivals. With thanks to JL.

FRICKLEY FIGHT BACK FOR IMPORTANT THREE POINTS

Tony Harber
tony.harber@jpress.co.uk
@PCExp_Tony

AFTER A big effort to get the game on Frickley Athletic players produced a big performance on the pitch as they came from two goals down to earn an important win over Lincoln United at the Big Fellas Stadium.

The Blues were far from their best in the opening half, but stepped up several gears to earn three points to boost their promotion drive in the Evo-Stik South with a 5-3 victory.

Jacob Hazel missed a good chance after great work by Reece McGinley and saw another effort well saved while Nicky Darker shot just wide, but the rest of the first half belonged to Lincoln who had shocked Frickley earlier in the season.

They were given a helping hand with the opening goal when awarded a penalty despite there appearing to be little contact as a two players went for the ball in the area. Andrew Toyne nevertheless put away the spot kick to give Lincoln an 18th minute lead.

They doubled the advantage when Matthew Cotton met a left wing cross to head home and it only stayed 2-0 to the break thanks to several timely clearances and blocks from the hosts.

But whatever manager Spencer Fearn said to his players at half-time worked as the game changed round. There was more intent about the Blues' play and five minutes in they had pulled a goal back, Danny Burns heading home Darker's cross.

After an action replay the hosts were all square, Burns again rising well to head in a cross from Darker and celebrating with a dive in the snow.

Within three minutes it was 3-2 to Frickley with Hazel showing good pace down the left before his cross-come-shot ended up in the back of the net for his 37th goal of the season.

It was all Athletic now and they soon netted again when Hazel and Ben Algar combined well and the latter's low cross was turned in by Tyler Walton.

A couple of breaks in play were necessary as snow was swept off the pitch and the players took shelter. On the resumption, Gavin Allott was sent clean through only to be brought down just outside the box by the Lincoln keeper. The result was a red card, although Frickley could not make anything of the free-kick.

Despite being down to 10 men the visitors hit back late on through Jack Wightwick as he reacted quicker than defenders to a low ball into the area.

In a frantic finish in added time only a goal-line clearance from a corner that had been flicked on prevented an equaliser. But the Blues then went straight down the other end as Hazel ran 80 yards with the ball before slipping in Tom Dugdale, who was then brought down to bring about a penalty. Up stepped Allott to finish an amazing game at 5-3.

Frickley could not follow up against Carlton on Monday when the game was postponed and they remain in fourth place.

ONLINE: For more sports news visit www.hemsworthandsouthelmsallexpress.co.uk

Memory Match (Cont.)

FRICKLEY COLLIERY'S "DOUBLE" AT WOMBWELL'S EXPENSE.

Frickley Colliery's smartest achievement of the present season was established at Wombwell on Saturday, when they pulled off a "double" in successive weeks at Wombwell's expense. They won by three goals to one, and ascended another rung in the Midland League ladder, being now fifth from the bottom, with Lincoln City Reserves, Rotherham United Reserves, Wombwell and Denaby United below. Thus far Frickley have played 35 matches, of which they have won 11, lost 20, and drawn 4, and they have 26 points to their credit. They have scored 68 goals against 111. It is to be hoped they have now eradicated all fear of relegation. For their match with Wombwell Frickley had no fewer than five changes from the side of the previous week, but they showed no weakness on that account, and fully deserved their victory. Although Frickley were the better team throughout, it had to be admitted that two of their goals had an element of luck. Frickley's team work was capital, whereas Wombwell's efforts were largely individualistic. Walker gave Frickley the lead after 15 minutes. One of the Wombwell defenders was clearing when the ball struck another player, leaving Walker unmarked. Walker added another goal after 40 minutes, and again the goal was unexpected. Bott put in a flag-kick, and Ward had the ball cornered, when Hopkinson got in his way and prevented him from clearing. Frickley scored their third goal shortly after resuming, Hayhurst cleverly rounding Hopkinson to place the ball past Ward. Hopkinson reduced the lead with a penalty shot after a Frickley defender had handled. Frickley put up a fine defence, Wade, Williams, and Hayhurst being the stars. It was a game of limited chances for the Wombwell forwards, but Briggs, Waring and Murden were triers. The teams were:—

Frickley Colliery—Harvey; Wade and Williams; Todd, Hayhurst and Chapman; Bott, Munday, Gibson, Walker and Wiggleworth.

Wombwell—Ward; Hobson and Hopkinson; Sykes, Senior and Jones (W.); Warding, Coppitch, Briggs, Jones (R.) and Murden.

Referee: Mr. A. Hackford (Swinton).

The Famous Five – Who Am I?

1. Blues defender, one of the most consistent performers in 2025/26, who is in his second season at the club since signing from Ossett United.
2. The one of Wombwell Town's goalkeepers who used to play for Frickley AND has an international cap for Poland.
3. Real Madrid's Uruguayan midfielder who scored a first half hat trick in his side's 3-0 win over Manchester City in last week's Champions League Last 16 tie.
4. Beleaguered top flight boss who has achieved promotion with each of the 3 English clubs that he has managed, Fulham, Bournemouth and current club Burnley.
5. Hull City forward, on loan from Liverpool, who is a full welsh international - as was his dad, Jason.

Answers on the 'Awaydays' page

The NLP Column:

K$I invests...

By Matt Badcock

The Class of 92 at Salford City, Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney turbo-charging Wrexham and even Boyzone rocking up at Chorley, the Non-League game has long been appealing to celebrity investors.

And that shows no signs of slowing.

"The game is evolving and so are we," said Dagenham & Redbridge chairman Anwar Uddin, who captained the club to the Football League back in 2007.

It came as the National League South club revealed YouTube star KSI was becoming a shareholder (pictured).

KSI boasts over 17 million subscribers and over four billion views on his main channel. He is also a main judge on ITV's Britain's Got Talent.

In a statement, the 32-year-old told of his dream to take Dagenham & Redbridge all the way to the Premier League.

"I'm so excited to start this journey," the megastar said. "It's gonna be a rollercoaster for sure but I hope to bring Dagenham and Redbridge back to the glory days. And once we reach that point, I want to go even further.

"Reaching the Premier League would be a dream. And I believe it is 100% doable. It will take a long time, so to the Daggers fans, please be patient.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER
ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

"I want you to know that I am fully committed to making sure Dagenham and Redbridge is a team that everyone will know worldwide, and will be an exciting team to watch and support.

"I've been watching games secretly at home for months on YouTube streams so it feels so good to finally show my support publicly."

As it would happen, Daggers won their first game under KSI's watchful gaze when they beat league leaders Dorking Wanderers 1-0.

Of course, opinions will vary on any celebrity involvement – as it did at Salford and Wrexham – but it's fair to say the digital eyes of the world are on Non-League like never before. Technology has made the world a much smaller place and the game's reach is greater than ever. Digital content is a huge factor in raising that awareness.

Last weekend, Witham Town enjoyed their biggest attendance in history – 1,205 – after YouTuber Ellis Platten encouraged his army of followers from his popular Away Days channel down to watch Town's game against Gorleston in the Isthmian North.

"I think the English pyramid is the best in the world for many reasons," Platten, who boasts 587,00 subscribers, said. "But one of the reasons is you can go anywhere in the country and within five minutes there will be a team which has a community to it. I don't think there is anywhere else in the world that can rival that."



Match Reports

Frickley 0 Barton Town 1

In a near carbon copy of the midweek defeat at Liversedge, it was another game where The Boys in Blue grafted relentlessly but were left empty handed, going down to the only goal of the game from the visitors, Barton Town.

Barton arrived sitting 4th in the table, and from the early exchanges it was clear they intended to consolidate that position. This meant The Azzurri had to be alert in the 7th minute when Barton tried their luck from range, the effort going over.

The Boys in Blue were a slightly altered lineup from midweek, set up to try out some new things in preparation for games to come and next season. Such it was that we pieced together some neat moments of our own.

Collins released Kilner down the flank on 16 minutes, but his delivery was struck too cleanly and drifted beyond everyone.

A lovely 20th minute move involving Love, Kilner, Spence and Price ended with the Barton keeper gratefully clinging onto the ball.

Barton twice attempted to catch Sykesy off his line. Firstly with a 40 yard attempt that sailed past the post, then another ambitious lob after he'd swept up outside his box, this one flying well over. The visitors also slung in a high cross on 33 minutes, but Sykesy pushed it away before the flag went up.

Gagen threw himself in front of a shot on 36 minutes, and the loose ball was dragged wide by Barton.

Love was then harshly booked after the Barton right back collapsed under minimal contact.

Moments later, Andrew unleashed a 25 yard strike that drew a full stretch save from the keeper.

3 minutes before the break, Kilner recycled a Collins corner and found Cleggy, whose shot on the turn was charged down.

Barton responded with a firm back post header in the final minute of the half, but Sykesy produced a sharp stop to keep Les Bleus level at the interval. HT 0-0.

The second period opened with Andrew beating his man out wide but he was unable to wrap his foot around the cross.

The best Azzurri chance of the game came on 55 minutes, Kilner fed Cleggy and his low drive cannoned off the upright.

Barton shot narrowly wide before Cleggy then volleyed straight at the keeper, and Spence's cross found Andrew, who nodded wide.

The game's decisive moment came in the 65th minute. A very soft free kick was awarded to Barton, and from it they were allowed to head in at the near post.

The visitors then flashed another ball across goal as The Blues regrouped.

Sykesy kept The Azzurri in it with a superb fingertip save from a glancing header on 71 minutes.

Several substitutions followed and one of those, Cable, soon teed up Price, who shot wide.

Radz went into the book before both Cable and another sub, Robbo, almost pounced in quick succession, only for Barton to scramble clear.

Deep into time added on, Cable headed inches wide from a corner, and Radz did the same just 90 seconds later. FT 0-1.

The win took Barton into 3rd place in the table so there's no shame in that result. In fact, we've put in a proper shift and pushed them all the way to the final whistle.

WEBMASTER MOTM - another encouraging performance where we haven't taken a backwards step against a team near the top of the table. I could make a bloomin' good case for every player from 1 to 11 to be in the mix for my motm but the Glitterball is going to Harry Gagen and Joel Spence. They were the beating heart of the side and simply oozed quality. Spot on, Sp-agen!

TWITTER MOTM - Charlie Clegg takes it from Harry Gagen, Joel Spence and Sam Kilner. Liam Love and Will Sykes also polled votes Thanks to all who voted.

SPONSORS/VOLUNTEERS MOTM - Liam Love was chosen by Bailey Long. Well done, LL!

182 through the gate. Your phenomenal support means the absolute world to us. Thank you all!

Match Reports (Cont.)

Eccleshill United 1 Frickley 0

The Blues made the long trip to Keighley, knowing a win could take us further clear of the relegation zone. Instead, an exasperating afternoon on a poor surface saw a soft penalty send Les Bleus to a narrow defeat against an opportunistic Eccleshill side.

The Blues were immediately on alert, with Kilner cutting out a dangerous cross inside the first minute.

7 minutes in, the same player turned provider, with a pin point ball to Andrew, whose effort flashed agonisingly wide from a prime position.

Andrew was involved again shortly after, teeing up Robbo for a shot that was saved.



Robbo then set off on a dazzling solo run, skipping past 3 defenders before dragging his shot wide.

Eccleshill's first attempt worthy of the name came on the half hour, but Syksey was more than equal to the long range strike.

In the 32nd minute, Love found Tom A in space, but the bobble betrayed him and his shot veered off target.

The Azzurri continued to press. Robbo and Tom A combined neatly to set up Andrew who skewed his shot well wide.

Just before the break, Lindley's teasing cross narrowly evaded Andrew's head, leaving us to go in goalless. HT 0-0.

Love produced a vital block early on, but from then on The Boys in Blue continued the second period with intent.

Robbo's low cross was smothered by the keeper. He remained lively, curling a shot just wide from the edge of the box.

Andrew's 66th minute blast at goal was blocked, and Price's follow up stung the keeper's palms.

Spence then embarked on a determined run to earn a corner, from which Robbo's flick had to be deftly cleared.

Luis AF replaced Tom A and quickly linked up well with Kilner, though the cross was dealt with. From the throw in, Price fired over. Spence then drilled a low shot wide.

Cable came on for Andrew, and Cleggy replaced Lindley. Cleggy wasted no time in getting amongst it, his header from Kilner's cross being safely hung onto.

The difficult pitch had the final say in the 84th minute when the ball kicked and caught under Gagen's feet causing his back pass to be under hit and Sykesy body checked the Eccy forward just inside the box. Spot kick awarded and duly dispatched (pictured).

Eccleshill managed the closing few minutes without too many issues. FT 1-0.

The Azzurri were the better team for 90 minutes and will feel hard done by after being sunk by a late penno as a result of an unpredictable pitch. However, more of a killer instinct in front of goal might have avoided this outcome. The Boys in Blue must now regroup.

WEBMASTER MOTM - we had most of the play but couldn't develop the rhythm needed to make that count. Still, there were positives, Sam Kilner and Liam Love were threatening on the overlap, Harry Viggars was rock solid at the back, and Tom Alngohuru and Elliot Andrew kept the Eccy defence on their toes. But the Glitterball goes jointly to Lucas Robinson and Joel Spence. Robbo was involved in all the best stuff we produced going forwards. Whilst, to paraphrase a comment from one of our esteemed fans (ta, Wak!), 71% of the Earth is covered by water and the rest is covered by Joel Spence. Cheers, fellas!

TWITTER MOTM - Joel Spence takes it from Lucas Robinson, Harry Viggars and Sam Kilner. Thanks to all who voted.

SPONSORS/VOLUNTEERS MOTM - Joel Spence was chosen by James Brownley. Well done, Skip!

61 through the gate, with well over half of those from SESKU. We thank you for your dedication, travelling all the way to Keighley to get behind The Blues!



Everywhere We Go

Keighley

Our destination for the most recent Blues awayday was a venue where a World Cup finals game was played. However, the World Cup game in question was Fiji vs South Africa in the 1995 Rugby League World Cup as the venue was Cougar Park, home to Keighley Cougars rugby club for well over 100 year.

Our opponents were Eccleshill United who have moved there to groundshare with Keighley last summer, in an attempt to increase attendances. Despite one of the Blue Faithful travelling to Eccleshill's old ground in Bradford before realising their error, there was a good turnout of more than 50 Blues fans in attendance. However, the total crowd of 61 suggests that there's still a little way to go to lure Keighley's population away from their normal diet of egg-chasing.

Nonetheless, it's a decent ground with huge amounts of seating in the large main stand (pictured above) and masses of terracing, such as the covered Terry Hollindrake Stand at one end (pictured below).

The setting was definitely impressive but the football was sadly lacking. The pitch out-bobbled that of The Wezzie by a long way, as you might expect of a rugby league surface, and a scrappy game was settled by a late penalty for the home side, the only goal of the game.

A piece of interesting history was probably made as our boss Martyn Woolford followed in the footsteps of his forebears to became the third generation of Woolfords to present himself in a sporting sense at Cougar Park. Although this was at a different sport, as Woolly's dad and grandad both appeared at Cougar Park for Featherstone Rovers rugby league club. But next time, we'll employ a few more 40-20s, wraparounds, offloads and crash balls to get us a Woolly win…



Blues Squad 25/26

Joel Spence (Midfielder): Joel 90 was at Armthorpe before joining us and he's been on the books of Rotherham United before plenty of experience at Belper Town, Ossett United and Wakefield. Deservedly won player of the season in 24/25.
Will Sykes (Goalkeeper): The Holy Goalie is a highly rated young stopper who joined us from Hallam, against whom he saved a penalty towards the end of last season.
Tom Alngohuru (Midfielder/Forward): The Guru is a defender's nightmare. He joined last season from Ossett United. Prior to that he was at the York City and i2i academies, and has played almost 80 games for Pickering Town.
Luis Afonso-Ferreira (Midfielder/Forward): The Ferrari is a rapid forward who puts teams on the back foot. He has plenty experience from time at the likes of Retford United, Parkgate and Albion Sports.
Sam Cable (Forward): The Power is a handful of an attacker. Since starting out in our U19s over a decade ago, he is now in his 3rd spell with the club after spells at Barton Town and Garforth Town.
Charlie Clegg (Forward): The Power is a local boy and a fan favourite, in his third spell with us. Has experience with Ponte Colls youth programme, Emley, Athersley, Armthorpe and Club Thorne.
Will Jenkinson (Defender): Jenko is a footballing defender who joins us from Parkgate, having started out at Rotherham United.
Sam Kilner (Defender): A NCEL title winner at Silsden last season, Killer is a highly proficient fullback who has also been at Buxton, Mossley, Hemsworth and Knaresborough.
Lucas Robinson (Midfielder/Forward): A rangey winger with an eye for goal, Cool Hand Lucas comes to us from Harrogate Railway but has been at Goole and Barton Town too.
Thomas Radley (Defender): Radz is a big centre half who was at Shelley last season and brings quality and leadership into our back line.
Harry Gagen (Defender): The HGV is a Rolls Royce of a defender who started out at Barnsley but joined us from Ossett United after an initial loan spell.
Elliot Andrew (Forward): The Prince is a quality striker who started out at Doncaster Rovers then Nottingham Forest before more recent spells at Tadcaster, Beverley and Rossington Main.
Jack Horobin (Defender): Jack The Lad has stepped up from the U18s to make his debut as very capable defensive cover.
Cody Collins (Defender): The Force has pedigree, his dad was a pro and 2 uncles played for us. Returns from Barton, after time at Mansfield Town, Gainsborough, Rossington and Bottesford.
Tyler Sheard (Defender/Midfield/Forward): VersaTyler is one of our U23s who can do a job anywhere on the park, team before self every time.
Ashton Johnson (Midfielder): AJ is an exciting winger from our U18s who recently made his debut, getting an assist within 5 minutes of coming on!
Dylan Sefton (Goalkeeper): Safe-ton is a solid young keeper who returns after coming through our academy and spending time at Worsbrough Bridge.
Josh Lindley (Midfielder): J-Force is a midfielder signed on dual reg with Ponte Colls. The son of ex-Blue, Phil, he started at Doncaster Rovers, and has been at Ossett, Wombwell Town and Dearne & Dist.
Bailey Cowsell (Forward): Bails is an goalscorer from our U23s. Made his first team debut in 2023/24.
Shayan Keyghobadi (Midfielder): Once at Fulham, The Key is quite capable of unlocking a defence.
Spencer Booth (Goalkeeper): The Barrier joins us dual reg with Guiseley. He has also had a spell at Leeds UFCA earlier in the season.
Liam Love (Defender/Midfielder): The Heartbreaker is a consistant performer with experience at Pickering and most recently Selby.
Harry Carmody (Midfielder): The Modfather is a solid young midfielder who has been at FC Halifax Town's academy, Goole and Glasshoughton.
Harry Viggars (Defender/Midfieder): Dirty Harry is an experienced player, signed on dual reg from Garforth. His 3 seasons there were preceded by 10 at Hemsworth, with a short spell at Ossett United,
Charlie Price (Midfielder): Priceless is an exciting prospect on youth loan from Barnsley.
Oluwayfeyisayomi Afuape (Midfielder/Forward): A-Game is an attack-minded player, another on youth loan from Barnsley. Feyi has had loan spells at Guiseley, Grantham Town and Mickleover.
Lewis Binns (Defender/Midfielder/Coach): El Binno is a local lad and played for South Kirkby and Armthorpe. A Frickley legend, the 22/23 player of the season is back from injury and is coaching too.
Mike Carmody (Assistant Manager): As a player, MC Hammer was a top defender for Huddersfield and Tranmere in the EFL and for many years at Altrincham. Since retirement, he has managed Armthorpe Welfare and Goole AFC.
Martyn Woolford (Midfielder/Forward/ Manager): The Woolfman started at The Wezzie in 2005 after joining from Glasshoughton. He is a classy attacking midfielder who has been in the EFL with the likes of York, Scunthorpe, Millwall, Bristol City and Sheffield United since then but he's back home for a 3rd spell. Took over as player-manager in October 2025.

Frickley Player Statistics

Frickley Athletic Apps. & Goal Scoring Record Career Up to & Inc. 14th. Mar. 2026							
	League	Cups	Total	Sub.	Grand	Gls	c/s
			Starts	Apps.	Total		
Martyn Woolford	70	15	**85**	9	**94**	18	
Joel Spence	67	11	**78**	2	**80**	5	
Charlie Clegg	19	3	**22**	56	**78**	10	
Lewis Binns	49	10	**59**	15	**74**	4	
Tom Alngohuro	32	7	**39**	10	**49**	12	
Harry Gagen	40	8	**48**	0	**48**		
Will Sykes	40	7	**47**	0	**47**		9
Lucas Robinson	31	5	**36**	3	**39**	12	
Sam Cable	10	3	**13**	22	**35**	8	
Sam Kilner	25	5	**30**	3	**33**		
Tom Radley	24	4	**28**	3	**31**	2	
Will Jenkinson	22	3	**25**	1	**26**	1	
Luis Afonso Ferreira	11	4	**15**	6	**21**	3	
Cody Collins	11	3	**14**	4	**18**	1	
Josh Lindley	13	2	**15**	2	**17**	2	
Elliott Andrew	8	1	**9**	8	**17**	2	
Liam Love	10	0	**10**	3	**13**		
Charlie Price	6	0	**6**	1	**7**		
Harry Carmody	3	0	**3**	4	**7**		
Harry Viggars	4	0	**4**	1	**5**		

MOST RECENT PREVIOUS RESULTS ON THIS DATE 20TH MARCH

Year	Day	H/A	Comp.	Opponents	Result	Frickley Scorers
1982	Sat	H	APL	Dartford	Won 3-0	Wadsworth 2, Whiteley
1984	Tue	H	LCSF2L	Scarborough	Lost 1-3	Hooley
1993	Sat	H	NPL	Winsford Town	Lost 1-2	Thompson
1999	Sat	H	NPL	Hyde United	Won 3-0	Green, Hatto 2 (2p)
2001	Tue	A	NPL	Blyth Spartans	Lost 0-3	
2004	Sat	H	NPL	Worksop Town	Draw 1-1	Smith
2010	Sat	A	NPL	Ashton United	Won 3-1	White, Clarke, Lindley
2012	Tue	A	LC SF	Rushall Olympic	Lost 1-2	Grayson (1-1 after 90 mins)



Macron NCEL Premier Division Table

	As at 20.03.26	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Liversedge	33	26	5	2	80	25	55	83
2	Beverley Town	34	20	6	8	69	44	25	66
3	Barton Town	35	20	6	9	65	40	25	66
4	Sheffield	33	19	8	6	83	36	47	65
5	Tadcaster Albion	35	18	8	9	61	44	17	62
6	Campion	35	17	9	9	76	50	26	60
7	Handsworth	35	18	4	13	57	54	3	58
8	Pickering Town	33	16	5	12	61	54	7	53
9	Parkgate	35	11	13	11	54	66	-12	46
10	Knaresborough Town	32	10	10	12	59	52	7	40
11	Golcar United	34	10	10	14	61	55	6	40
12	Penistone Church	35	9	12	14	50	73	-23	39
13	Thackley	35	10	8	17	36	56	-20	38
14	Eccleshill United	34	11	5	18	33	54	-21	38
15	Frickley Athletic	34	11	5	18	50	76	-26	38
16	Bottesford Town	35	10	6	19	54	78	-24	36
17	Horbury Town	35	8	11	16	54	58	-4	35
18	Albion Sports	34	10	5	19	60	89	-29	35
19	Rossington Main	33	8	8	17	49	58	-9	32
20	Wombwell Town	33	3	8	22	30	80	-50	17

PREVIOUS GAME BETWEEN FRICKLEY & WOMBWELL TOWN

Season	Date	Comp.	H/A	Result	Frickley Scorers
2025/26	Sat. 25th October 25	NCELP	A	Won 2-0	Clegg, Robinson

ON THIS DAY IN FOOTBALL – 20TH MARCH

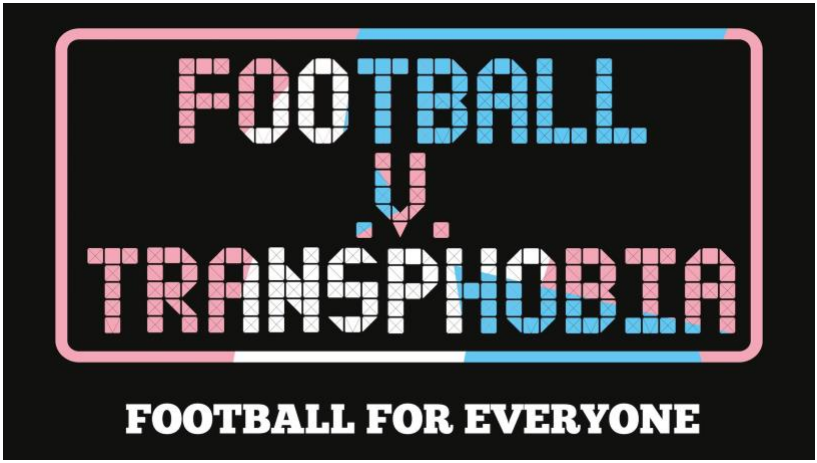
1966 - Just 4 months before it was due to be presented to the World Cup winners at Wembley, the World Cup trophy was stolen while on display at the Westminster Central Hall. After a massive police hunt, The Jules Rimet trophy was found under a hedge in South London by a dog named Pickles!

1976 - Aston Villa's Chris Nichol became only the second player to score two goals for each side in a League match when he scored all 4 goals in Villa's 2-2 First Division draw against Leicester City at Filbert Street. Sam Wynne of Oldham Athletic was the only other player ever to do that, vs Manchester United in October 1923.

1988 - Liverpool finished the season as League champions but their dream of an unbeaten season in the League ended on this day in 1988, when they lost to Everton, after being unbeaten in their first 29 League matches of the season.

Macron NCEL Division One Table

	As at 20.03.26	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Dearne and District	37	31	2	4	107	30	77	95
2	Wakefield	37	25	6	6	97	37	60	81
3	Harrogate Railway Athletic	36	23	6	7	96	44	52	75
4	Worsbrough Bridge Athletic	34	23	4	7	85	46	39	73
5	Brigg Town	38	21	6	11	75	52	23	69
6	Route One Rovers	36	21	2	13	106	54	52	65
7	Leeds UFCA	35	19	5	11	77	59	18	62
8	Club Thorne	35	17	9	9	60	43	17	60
9	Armthorpe Welfare	35	17	6	12	84	68	16	57
10	Crowle Colts	37	17	5	15	69	67	2	56
11	Selby Town	37	15	6	16	66	59	7	51
12	South Leeds	38	14	6	18	69	83	-14	48
13	Goole	36	14	3	19	71	80	-9	45
14	Maltby Main	36	14	3	19	60	75	-15	45
15	Doncaster City	34	11	8	15	52	69	-17	41
16	Ilkley Town	37	10	9	18	58	82	-24	39
17	Appleby Frodingham	35	12	2	21	55	82	-27	38
18	Louth Town	36	10	7	19	54	76	-22	37
19	Athersley Recreation	37	10	6	21	50	85	-35	36
20	Winterton Rangers	37	9	3	25	44	86	-42	30
21	Nostell Miners Welfare	36	6	6	24	30	87	-57	24
22	Glasshoughton Welfare	37	2	4	31	32	133	-101	10



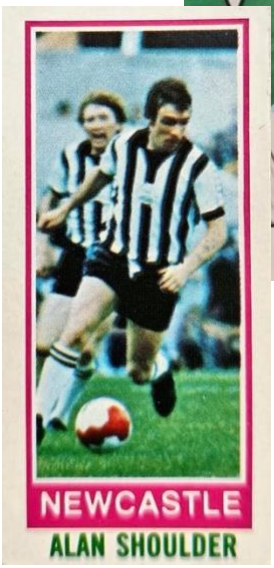
Frickley Athletic Football Club Macron NCEL Premier 2025-26

Date	Opponents…	Res	Att	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sub	Sub	Sub	Sub	Sub
26.07.25	**Albion Sports**	2-1	183	3	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Butchart	Katsere	Jenkinson	Williams	Sheard	**Afonso F**	Robinson	**Alngohuro**	Cotson	Nnenanua			
02.08.25	Brighouse FACEPR	0-1	151		Sykes	Kilner	Jenkinson	Butchart	Gagen	Collins	Afonso F	Spence	Woolford	Sheard	Alngohuro	Radley	Nnenanua			
09.08.25	Barton Town	0-1	301	12	Sykes	Kilner	Jenkinson	Tingle	Radley	Collins	Afonso F	Spence	Nnenauua	Butchart	Alngohuro	Wilson				
16.08.25	**Thackley**	1-0	182	5	Sykes	Kilner	Jenkinson	Tingle	Radley	Collins	Woolford	Spence	Nnenanua	Robinson	Alngohuro	Butchart	**Afonso F**			
19.08.25	Bottesford Town	0-1	212	7	Sykes	Kilner	Jenkinson	Tingle	Radley	Collins	Afonso F	Spence	Nnenanua	Robinson	Alngohuro	Keyghobadi				
23.08.25	**Maghull FAV1Q**	1-5	152		Sykes	Kilner	Collins	Tingle	Gagen	Jenkinson	Afonso F	Spence	Woolford	Robinson	Alngohuro	**Nnenanua**	Butchart	Katsere	Sheard	
26.08.25	**Tadcaster Alb.**	0-3	165	10	Sykes	Kilner	Jenkinson	Tingle	Gagen	Collins	Robinson	Spence	Nnenanua	Woolford	Sheard	Afonso F	Butchart	Katsere	Keyghobadi	
30.08.25	Penistone Chu.	2-0	232	7	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Woolford	Radley	Jenkinson	**Afonso F**	Spence	**Nnenanua**	Robinson	Alngohuro	Ceesay				
02.09.25	**Liversedge**	0-0	220	9	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Woolford	Radley	Jenkinson	Afonso F	Spence	Nnenanua	Robinson	Sheard	Ceesay	Keyghobadi			
06.09.25	Parkgate	2-2	150	8	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	**Woolford**	Radley	Jenkinson	Afonso F	Spence	Ceesay	Robinson	**Alngohuro**	Nnenanua				
09.09.25	**Knaresborough**	0-3	205	9	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Woolford	Radley	Collins	Afonso F	Spence	Nnenanua	Robinson	Ceesay	Garrick	Butchart	Katsere		
13.09.25	**Golcar United**	1-6	206	14	Wass	Kilner	Gagen	Woolford	Radley	Jenkinson	Robinson	Spence	Ceesay	Butchart	**Alngohuro**	Nnenanua	Tingle	Collins	Garrick	
17.09.25	Campion	0-4	137	14	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Woolford	Radley	Jenkinson	Afonso F	Spence	Ceesay	Robinson	Alngohuro	Collins	Nnenanua	Tingle	Butchart	
23.09.25	**SJR Worksop SC1**	1-0	115		Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Butchart	Katsere	**Collins**	Garrick	Tingle	Nnenanua	Spence	Alngohuro	Sheard	Cable	Robinson	Binns	
27.09.25	Sheffield FC	0-5	416	16	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Tingle	Collins	Katsere	Afonso F	Butchart	Cable	Spence	Robinson	Nnenanua	Alngohuru			
04.10.25	Beverley Town	4-1	333	14	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Butchart	Jenkinson	Katsere	Afonso F	Spence	**Nnenanua**	**Robinson**	**Alngohuro**	**Sheard**	Woolford	Wilson	Johnson	Horobin
11.10.25	**Handsworth**	0-3	308	15	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Butchart	Jenkinson	Katsere	Sheard	Spence	Nnenanua	Robinson	Alngohuro	Cable	Woolford	Radley		
14.10.25	**Bottesford T LC2**	7-6	160		Sykes	Horobin	Gagen	Binns	Katsere	**Radley**	**Alngohuru**	Spence	**Cable 3**	Robinson	**Woolford**	Butchart	**Nnenanua**	Sheard	Johnson	
18.10.25	Golcar United	0-6	344	15	Sykes	Kilner	Gagen	Butchart	Katsere	Jenkinson	Robinson	Spence	Cable	Woolford	Nnenanua	Johnson	Cowsell	Sheard	Binns	
25.10.25	Wombwell Town	2-0	198	15	Sykes	Gagen	Jenkinson	Spence	Radley	Binns	Alngohuru	Heselwd	Nnenanua	Woolford	**Robinson**	**Clegg**	Butchart	Keyghobadi	Sheard	Horobin
29.10.25	**Jubilee Sp. SC2**	3-0	153		Sykes	Gagen	Jenkinson	Spence	Katsere	Binns	**Alngohuru**	Butchart	**Nnenanua 2**	Sheard	Keyghobadi	Radley	Robinson	Afonso F	Johnson	Cowsell
01.11.25	**Rossington Mn.**	4-1	234	13	Sykes	Gagen	Jenkinson	Spence	Radley	Binns	**Robinson**	**Heselwd**	**Nnenanua**	Woolford	Alngohuru	Afonso F	Butchart	**Clegg**	Keyghobadi	Shear
08.11.25	Horbury Town	0-0	181	12	Sykes	Gagen	Jenkinson	Spence	Radley	Binns	Afonso F	Butchart	Nnenanua	Robinson	Alngohuru	Clegg	Andrew	Sheard	Woolford	
11.11.25	**Pickering Town**	1-1	154	12	Sykes	Gagen	Jenkinson	Spence	Radley	Binns	**Alngohuru**	Heselwd	Nnenanua	Woolford	Robinson	Clegg	Butchart	Andrew		
18.11.25	**Rossington SC3**	2-2	123		Sykes	Horobin	Gagen	Butchart	Radley	**Binns**	Alngohuru	Heselwd	Andrew	**Robinson**	Afonso F	Keyghobd	Katsere	Spence	Woolford	
	(Lost 6-7 pens)																			
22.11.25	Knaresborough	0-6	121	14	Baker	Gagen	Kilner	Spence	Katsere	Binns	Alngohuru	Heselwd	Nnenanua	Woolford	Robinson	Lindley	Clegg	Andrew		
25.11.25	**Golcar Utd. LC3**	2-0	129		Booth	Kilner	Woolford	Spence	Radley	Gagen	Alngohuru	Heselwd	Nnenanua	**Lindley 2**	Robinson	Butchart	Keghobadi	Sheard		
06.12.25	Thackley	7-0	155	14	Sykes	Kilner	Jenkinson	Spence	Radley	Gagen	**Alngohuru**	Woolford	**Nnenanua**	Lindley	**Robinson 4**	Clegg	Butchart	**Andrew**	Keyghobadi	Love
09.12.25	Albion Sports	4-1	57	12	Booth	Kilner	Jenkinson	Spence	**Radley**	Gagen	Alngohuru	Lindley	Nnenanua	**Woolford**	**Robinson**	**Clegg**	Andrew	Butchart	Keyghobadi	
12.12.25	**Bottesford Town**	2-1	205	8	Booth	Kilner	Love	Lindley	Radley	Gagen	**Alngohuru**	Woolford	Nnenanua	Clegg	**Robinson**	Butchart	Andrew			
20.12.25	Tadcaster Alb.	1-1	341	10	Booth	Kilner	Love	Lindley	Jenkinson	Gagen	Alngohuru	Spence	Nnenanua	Andrew	Woolford	Keyghobd	Butchart			
27.12.25	**Penistone Chu.**	2-3	786	10	Booth	Kilner	Love	Lindley	**Jenkinson**	Gagen	**Alngohuru**	Spence	Nnenanua	Woolford	Robinson	Binns	Andrew	Butchart	Keyghobadi	
24.01.26	**Campion**	0-4	204	13	Sykes	Kilner	Jenkinson	Lindley	Radley	Gagen	Alngohuru	Spence	Nnenanua	Woolford	Robinson	Andrew	Butchart	Love		
31.01.26	Pickering Town	0-2	198	14	Sykes	Gagen	Love	Lindley	Radley	Collins	Alngohuru	Spence	Andrew	Woolford	Robinson	Clegg	Butchart	Keyghobadi	Kilner	
03.02.26	**Liversedge LCQF**	0-3	114		Sykes	Gagen	Kilner	Butchart	Radley	Binns	Afonso F	Spence	Woolford	Lindley	Robinson	Sheard	Horobin	Johnson		
14.02.26	Handsworth	2-1	167	10	Sykes	Gagen	Love	**Spence**	Radley	Collins	Alngohuru	Price	Andrew	Lindley	Robinson	**Clegg**	Afuape	Carmody	Kilner	
21.02.26	**Beverley Town**	1-3	224	12	Sykes	Gagen	Love	Spence	Radley	Collins	Alngohuru	Price	**Clegg**	Lindley	Robinson	Afuape	Carmody	Viggars		
24.02.26	**Parkgate**	0-2	222	13	Sykes	Gagen	Collins	Spence	Radley	Viggars	Afuape	Carmody	Andrew	Lindley	Robinson	Love	Alngohuru	Price	Jenkinson	Clegg
28.02.26	**Eccleshill Utd.**	3-1	174	11	Sykes	Gagen	Love	Carmody	Radley	Viggars	Lindley	Spence	**Andrew**	Price	**Robinson 2**	Alngohuru	Clegg	Cable	Kilner	Collins
03.03.26	Liversedge	0-2	202	11	Sykes	Gagen	Viggars	Spence	Radley	Price	Kilner	Lindley	Andrew	Love	Robinson	Collins	Clegg	Alngohuru	Carmody	Cable
07.03.26	**Barton Town**	0-1	182	13	Sykes	Gagen	Collins	Spence	Radley	Price	Kilner	Carmody	Andrew	Clegg	Love	Robinson	Lindley	Cable	Alngohuru	AfonsoF
14.03.26	Eccleshill Utd.	0-1	61	15	Sykes	Kilner	Love	Spence	Viggars	Gagen	Alngohuru	Price	Andrew	Lindley	Robinson	Afonso F	Cable	Clegg	Carmody	
20.03.26	**Wombwell Town**																			
24.04.26	**Sheffield FC**																			
28.03.26	Rossington Main																			
04.04.26	**Horbury Town**																			

Linked to The Lane

I'm an incorrigible collector of old A&BC, Panini, Merlin, Topps, etc. football cards and stickers, and it struck me how many of the players pictured had links to Frickley Athletic. They might have played for or against us at some point, or are related to one of The Azzurri past or present. Or the connection might be even more tenuous! But you can be sure it was the highlight of their career ;)

This week it's another of those who The Blues encountered during our big FA Cup run of 1985/86, in this the 40th anniversary year. And who better to cover than Alan Shoulder, a member of the Hartlepool United team beaten by The Blues in the 2nd round proper, and a man who made his name as part of another non-league club's famous cup exploits.



Alan Shoulder was born in Bishop Auckland, on 4th February 1953, was an English professional footballer and later football manager whose career took him from non-league football to the English Football League and back into the non-league game. He passed away earlier this year, on 2nd February 2025, just 2 days before his 72nd birthday.

Shoulder began his senior football journey in the Northern League with Bishop Auckland, where he played through much of the early 1970s and established himself as one of the league's leading forwards, with his work rate endearing him to fans.

In 1977 he joined Blyth Spartans, then a Northern League club, and was at the heart of one of the most celebrated runs by a non-League side in FA Cup history (other than Frickley's in 1985/86), during the 1977/78 season.

Blyth Spartans' 77/78 FA Cup campaign captured the wider attention of the nation's football fans. The team won 8 ties and drew 2 on their way to the 5th round, including huge victories over league opposition such as Stoke City (a 3-2 win) and a hard-fought draw at Wrexham that forced a replay at St James' Park in front of a crowd of over 42,000. Shoulder was a regular throughout the run and contributed directly to that success when he scored the winning goal in the 3rd round against our old adversaries Enfield, the side that pipped The Blues to the Alliance League title at the end of the 1985/86 season. Yay to Al, boo to Enfield.

His performances in the FA Cup, all the more remarkable as he was still working as a coal miner, brought him interest from the EFL, and in December 1978 Newcastle United signed him for a fee around £20k, an amazing step up from non-league football.



At Newcastle, Alan took to the professional game like a fish to water, and he made over 120 appearances and scored almost 40 goals for Toon over the course of 4 seasons. It was no surprise when he earned the club's Player of the Year award in 1979/80.

In 1982 he moved to Carlisle United, where he remained for 3 years, making 100+ appearances and scoring about 30 goals. Shoulder then joined Hartlepool United in 1985, adding almost 70 league appearances and 24 goals before an eye injury forced his retirement from full time professional football in 1988, but not before he'd lined up against The Blues.

After his pro career ended, he continued in the game at non-league level with Ferryhill Athletic and took up coaching and management roles at several clubs, including Crook Town, Bishop Auckland, Willington, West Auckland Town, and a brief caretaker spell at Gateshead.

Rumour has it that it was facing the likes of Sean Marshall and Paul Shirtliff in the Azzurri back line on that day in December 1985 that hastened Al chucking it in as a pro – his eye injury was that he could see he was done for. Obvs ;)

Awaydays

Next up – Rossington Main

Rossington Facts: Rossington is a large village just south of Doncaster in the county of South Yorkshire, with a population of around 13500. Historically, it was a mining community built around the Rossington Main Colliery, which was one of the major local employers until it finally closed in 2007. One of Rossington's most famous residents was Joan Jurdie, a woman who became known in the early 17th century after being accused of witchcraft. She was reportedly tried twice during this period when fear of witches was common in England, but she survived both trials and was not executed, a very unusual occurrence at a time when many accused witches were put to death.

When : Saturday 28th March 2026.

Kick off : 15:00

Where : Kalkut's Community Stadium, Oxford Street, Rossington, Doncaster, DN11 0TE.

How much : Adults £6, Concessions £4, U18s £3, Accompanied U12s £2, Accompanied U5s Free. Dogs allowed on a lead.

Ian Clarkson frequently runs a supporters' bus to the more distant away games provided there is enough support to make it worthwhile. Departure is usually from North Elmsall and cost varies with distance. Details will be posted on the club's usual social media channels, or you can contact Ian on 07790 569075. Alternatively, if anyone is travelling to an away game by car and is willing to offer car share places, or is looking to travel to an away game but hasn't got transport, please email **media@frickleyathletic.co.uk** with your contact details.

Famous Five - Who Am I? Answers

1. Harry Gagen. 2. Seb Malkowski. 3. Frederico Valverde. 4. Scott Parker.
5. Lewis Koumas.

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This is also the club's registered office address. Company Number 4932518 - a company limited by guarantee.

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Chairman: Phil Cooper. Directors: Phil Cooper, Penny Wall, Chris Long.
Club Secretary: Joel Clarkson. Matchday Secretary: Joel Clarkson.
Vice Presidents: Jimmy Aisbitt, Brian Bellwood, Paul Baines, Terry McCroakam.

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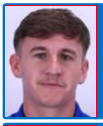	**WILL JENKINSON** Sponsored by **#TEAMJENKO**	P-ACT SMALL CHARITY big IMPACT
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- STAY & PLAY - PARENT AND TODDLER
  - TUESDAY 9:30AM TO 11:15AM @RED ROOF, KINSLEY, WF9 5BP - £1
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- LADIES FOOTBALL FUN REC SESSION AND 11 A-SIDE TEAM
  - WEDNESDAY 7PM - 8PM @MINSTHORPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- WALKING FOOTBALL
  - SATURDAY 9AM TO 10AM @FRICKLEY 3G - £3 PER SESSION
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  - STARTS SEPTEMBER, SK MINERS WELFARE STH KIRKBY AND FRICKLEY AFC
- SOCIAL CLUB - ASHFIELD HOUSE
  - WEDNESDAY 10AM - 11AM @ASHFIELD HOUSE, HEMSWORTH - £1
- SOCIAL CLUB - FARFIELD COURT
  - WEDNESDAY 1PM TO 2PM @FARFIELD COURT, SOUTH ELMSALL - £1
- LADIES MULTISPORTS
  - MONDAY 6:00PM TO 7:00PM @MINSTHORPE, SPORTS & FITNESS SPORTS HALL - £3
- FRICKLEY SOCCER STARS
  - FRIDAY @FRICKLEY 3G, WF9 2EQ - £3
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- BUGGY WALK
  - FRIDAY 10AM-11AM @RED ROOF, KINSLEY, WF95BP

CONTACT:

GREG@FRICKLEYATHLETIC.CO.UK

OR

CHLOE@FRICKLEYATHLETIC.CO.UK

GREG: 07476204901

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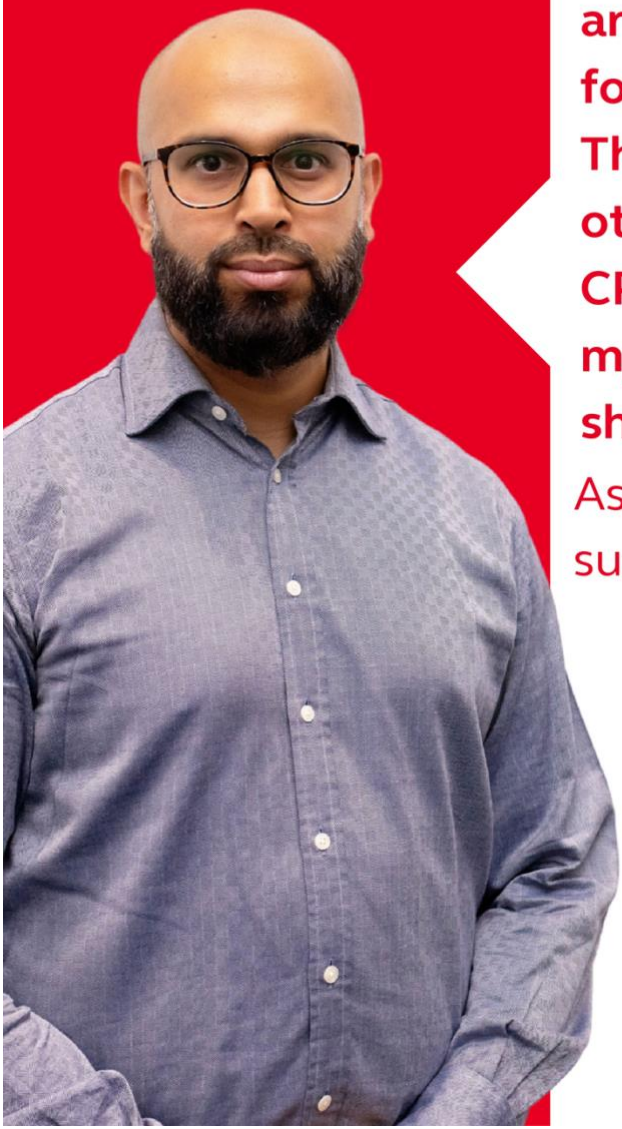

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