

FRICKLEY ATHLETIC

EST. 1908

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



Stadium Elevation



TODAY'S VISITORS:

THACKLEY

Saturday 26th September 2026

Kick Off: 3.00pm



#EndRacism #HerGameToo #FFTD



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SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2026 KICK OFF 3.00 PM

FRICKLEY ATHLETIC		THACKLEY
Blue/White Shirts, Blue Shorts, Blue Socks		Turquoise Shirts, Navy Blue Shorts, Turquoise Socks
Harold Edjangué	1	Liam Wilson
Reuben Crossley	2	Sam Walters
Harry Gagen	3	Daniel McDaid
Joel Spencer	4	Alex Washington
Will Jenkinson	5	Kamron Basi
Josh Dacre	6	Thomas Whelan
Liam Flanagan	7	Joseph Kell
Charlie Price	8	Luke Brooks
Charlie Clegg	9	George Birley
Luke Williams	10	Alfie King
Sam Cable	11	Paul Walker
Jack Humphreys	12	Bobby Isbell
Harry Carmody	14	Thomas Ingham
Tom Alngohuro	15	Joey McClare
Jayden Roberts	16	Ruben Bartkiw
Elliott Andrew	17	Olaf Figurny

REFEREE

Keir Wishart

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Martin Barnes

Ken Haycock





BLUESCENE

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Westfield Lane for today's Northern Counties East Premier Division game against Thackley. We give a warm welcome to Thackley's players, officials and supporters and hope they have a safe trip home after the game.

The big news at the club is that following the 9-0 defeat at FC St Helens, Frickley Athletic parted company with first team manager Martyn Woolford and coach Mike Carmody. We thank Martyn and Mike for their hard work since being appointed in October 2025. We wish them both the best of luck for the future.

Since then, the club has moved to appoint Lee Morris as the new manager. A legendary player for The Blues and a former Blues manager, Moz is joined by another ex-Blue, Rhys Meynell, as his assistant manager. See next Page for more on this. We wish them the very best of luck and much success going forward. A new era begins!

We'd also like to put on record our thanks to Nick Leadbeater and Chris Long for taking charge of the side in the interim between Woolly's departure and Moz's arrival, and for progressing in the 2 cup ties that they presided over.

To today's game, our visitors, Thackley, are currently in 16th place on 11 points after 11 games. After failing to win any of their first 7 league games of 2026/27, Thackley's recent league form has seen them take 7 points from a possible 12 in their last 4 games. Victory by the odd goal in 5 at home to Campion was followed by a 1-0 defeat at Dearne & District before recovering to trounce Parkgate 4-0 at Dennyfield. Then last weekend, Thackley came from behind to draw 1-1 at Albion Sports.

The Blues come into today's game in 19th place on 5 points after 9 games - 2 places below our visitors. Since our last home game - a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Handsworth, goals from Liam Flanagan and Jayden Roberts - we have been on a grand tour. Our league game at Campion saw us go down 3-2 for a

second game in succession. Elliott Andrew's pair at least gave us some hope. Then came 3 consecutive cup ties, the first of these, the 9-0 demolition inflicted by FC St Helens in the FA Vase being the nadir, and the end of Martyn Woolford's managerial tenure. Things could only get better. A 5-0 triumph at Bentley in the Sheffield Cup was a pick me up. Josh Dacre opened the scoring before another Elliot Andrew brace and goals from Luke Williams and Liam Flanagan. In midweek, it was Keighley Town in the NCEL League Cup to contend with, and a second cup triumph in 5 days as The Blues held their nerve to win 8-7 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Our most recent meetings with Thackley were last season's pair of league games. In August 2025, a second half Luis Afonso Ferreira worldly nicked us a 1-0 victory at The Wezzie. Then in December, we did even better and handed Thackley a 7-0 drubbing at Dennyfield, with 4 goals from Lucas Robinson and strikes from Tom Alngohuru, Destiny Nnenanua and Elliott Andrew completing the rout.

Expect The Blues to be looking to restore some pride in the shirt and kickoff the Moz era with 3 points. And Thackley looking for a first away win and The Blues on the hunt for a first home win, the scene is set perfectly for a tasty encounter.

In other recruitment news, midfielder Jack Humphreys and wide man Jamie Purkiss have joined us after leaving Doncaster City. Jack has already made his debut in the league cup win at Keighley where he took one of the penalties that helped win us the tie. Also, Favour Omoruyi has moved on to Campion after 3 first team appearances. Good luck to all 3 fellas.

Our next game sees The Blues travel to Albion Sports on Tuesday 29th September, 7.45pm kickoff, and then to Bottesford Town on Saturday 3rd October, 3pm ko. The Blues are next in action here at Westfield Lane on Tuesday 6th October when Retford United are our visitors, 7.45pm ko. We hope to see you all there.

We hope you enjoy today's game, and as ever, thank you for your unwavering 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.





UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT - RETURN OF THE MOZ



It's all change at Westfield Lane since we were all last here. Following the release of the management team of Martyn Woolford and Mike Carmody and other club legend has taken up the managerial reins.

Newly appointed manager Lee Morris (pictured above) and his assistant manager Rhys Meynell (pictured right) join us following a successful stint at Worsbrough Bridge.

Neither are strangers to The Wezzie. Moz played 240 games for the club as a striker and scored almost 90 goals for us, and he returns for a second spell as Frickley manager after overseeing most of the 2016/17 season.

And Rhys spent his final season before he hung up his boots at the heart of The Blues defence, making nearly 30 appearances and scoring 3 times.

We all welcome Moz and Rhys back and

wish them the very best of luck in restoring the pride and fighting spirit at Frickley Athletic.

#forzaM&M #forzafrickley





MEET THE VISITORS 1

Thackley AFC is known as “the club in the woods” because of its idyllic setting in the heart of the Bradford countryside. Thackley is a true community football club because its location and standing put it at the heart of a busy and growing residential community. The area immediately surrounding the ground is used extensively as a leisure and recreational facility that attracts large numbers of our village to use the rural amenities for activities such as dog walking, bird watching, horse riding and rambling.

The club was founded in 1930 by the younger members of Thackley Wesleyan Methodist Church which follows the trend of church affiliation set by Bolton Wanderers, Manchester City and Aston Villa among others. It is rumoured that young men were encouraged, by churches, to take up football and thus refrain from frequenting public houses.

Thackley has a tradition of being administered by residents of the immediate locality. One of the originators of the club in the 1930s was Arthur Hylton who lived all his life less than a mile from the ground. He was assisted by his brother, Leslie, in building up a thriving and successful club that used the village youth for their playing members. All active members of the committee, at this time, lived within walking distance of the ground and this tradition has been maintained to the present day. The ambitious young Chairman, for example, has spent all his life as a Thackley resident and the committee is largely made up of people living and working within a stone's throw of the club.

Thackley's nickname “The Dennyboys” refers to the ground Dennyfield, named after long serving groundsman George Denny who lived nearby. The clubhouse is named after Arthur Hylton who was secretary of Thackley during the formative years from the 1940's until the 1970's. Arthur's contribution to the development of Thackley Football Club was greatly influential. Born and raised in Thackley he remained a loyal contributor to the club until his death. Thackley has a history of long serving secretaries.

Stewart Willingham, who has now retired from the post and is now club president, took up his responsibilities in 1973 and was still going strong until 2016, a total of 43 years at the helm of a club at this level. Stewart was able to sustain this commitment because of the support he

received from his better half, June, now sadly, no longer with us. The hospitality suite in the clubhouse is named in honour of Stewart and June, the Willingham Suite. At the beginning of the season Stewart received a long service award from the FA for his invaluable contribution to grass roots football and Thackley in particular. Thackley also has a tradition that provides playing facilities for all members of the community and this season we retain our Ladies' team which makes an important contribution to football both at the club and in the surrounding area. Thackley's development as a thriving football club has been steady and consistent. Progressing from the Bradford Mutual Sunday School League to the County Amateur League by 1939, Thackley has seen a constant rise through the league systems, the West Yorkshire League, the Yorkshire League (in 1967) and the NCEL when it was founded in 1982. Thackley AFC has retained a Premier Division place in every season since (the only club to have done so).

There have been many successes during Thackley's existence - County Amateur League winners five times, West Riding Challenge Cup 1964 and 1967, West Riding County Cup 1974 and 1975 and the Bradford and District Senior Cup 13 times (a competition record). Recent achievements include reaching the 2010/11 final of the West Riding County Cup but lost in extra time to Guiseley, having twice held the lead, and winning the Toolstation NCEL League Cup in two consecutive years, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

The 2016/17 season saw a record points haul for the Dennyboys of 78 points, and resulted in 5th place finish in the League. This success was short lived, in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons Thackley finished in 15th position. 2019/20 and 2020/21 were incomplete, due to Covid.

After half a dozen seasons of finishing between 14th and 16th, Thackley made significant improvement in finishing in 7th position in 2023/24, then went even better in 2024/25 by finishing 5th and reaching the playoffs.

2025/26 was a struggle but relegation was narrowly avoided on the last day of the season.

This season should be one of consolidation.

Changes in personnel will make it interesting to see how we get on.





MEET THE VISITORS 2

Liam Wilson (Goalkeeper): Joined in pre-season of 2025/26 from Farsley Celtic. A graduate of the development squad with first team appearances as well.

Symeon Corion (Midfielder): A new addition to the club. A skilful and persistent player who will do well. Has experience at Brighouse Town and local rivals Campion.

Kam Basi (Defender): Kam joins the club from Albion Sports where he has a decade of NCEL experience. A strong physical central defender and a real leader.

Tidiane Diallo (Midfielder): Another new signing. Has experience at this level with Wakefield AFC. He has impressed in pre-season.

Ryan Conlan (Striker): A very experienced player who will add some bite to our attack. Has been signed from Albion Sports.

Lionico Gama (Defender): An attacking full back who has recently played for Bradford Park Avenue. Strong in the tackle.

William Graham (Goalkeeper): Joins the club from Harrogate Town to gain experience and provide cover for our regular keeper.

Cooper Hall (Defender): Has featured in pre-season and shown immense promise. Very calm on the ball.

Olaf Figurny (Midfielder): An extremely skilful, young midfielder on dual registration with Halifax Town. He shows considerable promise.

Bobby Isbell (Midfielder): A young and direct winger with a big future in the game. Has already shown flashes of his promise.

Thomas Ingham (Midfielder): Tom is a product of the Guiseley academy and has already impressed in pre-season.

Paul Walker (Midfielder): Has appeared for Emley, Garforth Town and Bradford Park Avenue. Signing Wakka is a coup for the club.

Josh Owen (Striker): A young player from the Bradford PA scholarship programme. Has an eye for goal and is one to watch in the future.

Joseph Kell (Midfielder): An exciting young player who has already impressed with his pace. Joins from Harrogate Town U19s.

Daniel McDaid (Defender): Very experienced player who has NCEL experience with both Knaresborough Town and Harrogate Railway.

Keanan Mannings (Midfielder): Joined from Frickley Athletic where he made over 50 NCEL appearances and captained the team.

Reuben Bartkiw (Midfielder): A young player who shows immense promise. Made his debut against Beverley last season.

Alex Washington (Midfielder): Alex joined the club from Maltby Main. A young midfielder with over 100 NCEL games under his belt.

William McAvan (Defender): Experienced player who will add steel to our back line.

Sam Walters (Defender): Experienced player having previously featured for Ossett Town and Guiseley AFC.

Luke Brooks (Midfielder): Luke joins us from Halifax Town. A promising player with bags of potential. He impressed last season and weighed in with some key goals.

Tom Whelan (Defender): A very competent player with a good turn of speed. He reads the game well and will be an asset to the team.

Lewis Sugden (Midfielder): An experienced player who has played at a much higher level. Returns to the club after a spell away at Campion.

Marcel Stepniewski (Striker): Joined the club during last season. Signed on dual registration with Halifax Town.

Max Davies (Defender): A versatile player who can operate across the back four.

Joey McClare (Midfielder): A pacey player who will cause problems for defenders.

George Birley (Midfielder): A useful player with a good turn of speed.

Jamie Price (Manager): Joined Thackley in pre-season 2025-26 following the departure of Danny Forrest. A former professional footballer with 75 Football league appearances and over 800 non-league appearances. Has extensive coaching experience at Emley and Selby.

Josh Walsh (Assistant Manager): A young coach with previous experience as assistant manager at Tadcaster Albion and various non-league clubs in Yorkshire. Known for fantastic training sessions and an ability to spot promising young players.

Alan Jackson (Physio): A former Premier League Physio with vast experience of both the professional game and non-league. Jacko rejoins the Dennyboys for his second spell.





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.

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, and managed 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 then 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 turned the side's fortunes around, before Covid ended the season and did the same to 2020/21. 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 and the club was relegated to the Northern Counties East League for the first time.

Since the summer of 2022, the club has been managed by Wayne Benn, with ex-Frickley goal scoring legend Andy Hayward as his assistant, Patrick McGuire, whose tenure included a superb 8-0 win at Goole, James Baxendale and Tom Claisse. All presided over finishes between 15th and 18th place in the NCEL Premier Division, but crucially avoided relegation.

In September 2025, club legend Martyn Woolford took the reigns and lead the club to a 15th place finish. And in one of his early games, he masterminded a 7-6 league cup triumph over Bottesford Town after being 5-1 down! However, his tenure was ended by a 9-0 defeat at FC St Helen's in the FA Vase in September 2026.

The new boss, the returning Lee Morris, assisted by Rhys Meynell, will be looking to restore that fighting spirit and bring better times to Westfield Lane.





MEMORY MATCH

This week, we've got 2 memory matches for you, an 'on this day' game and one that almost was, both played here at The Wezzie. The first match was played on Wednesday 26th September 1945. The Blues blew away visitors Guiseley in this FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round replay. A 7-0 demolition including a hat trick from John Cowles on the wing will have impressed the many Football League scouts present. Jack Brownsword didn't have the game he might've wanted in front of said scouts. However, Jack was eventually signed by Scunthorpe United where he went on to make almost 800 appearances and, as a coach was instrumental in the development of Ray Clemence and Kevin Keegan. The second game is a NPL Premier Division game played on Saturday 24th September 2016. The Azzurri comfortably saw off Marine by 2 goals to nil in one of then new manager Lee Morris's first games in charge. At that point in time, Frickley v Marine was the most played NPL fixture in the league's history. With thanks to JL.

FRICKLEY MAKE NO MISTAKE

Frickley 7, Guiseley 0

Frickley made no mistake in the replay at Westfield Lane on Wednesday. A large crowd, who paid £21, saw them give an entertaining display and, scoring almost at will, overrun their visitors. Guiseley made the Frickley supporters' hearts flutter by almost scoring in the first minute, but after that they were rarely in the picture and never dangerous. Their forwards were easily held by the Frickley half-back line. In which Ball, a powerful pivot, received strong support from the wing halves, Basford and Nightingale. Although the introduction of Mann to the position did not solve the centre-forward problem, the attack was in good form and missed few chances. Cowles, who performed the hat-trick, giving a particularly lively display on the right wing.

Mann should have given Frickley the lead when he shot straight at the goal-keeper from two yards range, but he made amends with a smart movement which led to COWLES scoring after ten minutes. From a penalty for hands after 29 minutes, BROWNSWORD put Frickley further ahead, and COWLES got their third goal with a great drive after 37 minutes. A few seconds after the opening of the second half saw Frickley increase their lead. Cowles crossing a perfect centre which WARD headed in. A pass from Ward was tapped into the net by MANN after 12 minutes, and with a fine display of shooting. Going through on his own, COWLES completed the scoring in the 88th minute.

The match, which have been a "scouts' conference, for about a dozen Football League clubs were represented. Frickley's full-back, Brownsword, was the magnet but he did not play as well as usual, and Ball (centre-half), caught the eye of some of the representatives. Among the managers present were Mr. E. Taylor (Sheffield Wednesday), who was accompanied by Miller-ship), the old Wednesday player, Mr. David Steele (Huddersfield Town), and Mr. Peter O'Rourke (Bradford City). Other clubs represented included Tottenham Hotspur, Bradford P.A., Doncaster Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Rotherham United and Leeds United.





MEMORY MATCH (CONT.)

Frickley 2 Marine 0

Frickley earned a valuable three points from a 2-0 success at home to Marine when they produced possibly the best team display so far since the new manager took over.

With just one change from the side that beat leaders Blyth Spartans in midweek – Nathan Curtis in for Cameron Rigby – they were on the front foot from the start with Rhys Meynell firing just over early on.

Noel Burdett forced the Marine keeper into his first save before he opened the scoring on 20 minutes as Curtis and Luke Mangham combined to set him up for his first goal for the Blues.

Andy Ofosu came close to doubling the lead with two

efforts that were saved while Meynell headed just over.

Sebastian Malkowski had a quiet day, but had to make a save in the second half to keep out a shot that bobbed in front of him.

Frickley were still on top, however, with Ofosu causing the visitors all sorts of problems and they came up with a deserved second goal.

Luke Hinsley's sweet header from Macauley Parkinson's quality cross made it 2-0 and that was how it stayed until the final whistle, although the Blues did go close to more goals through Hinsley's long range strike, Burdett's chip after the move of the game and Nate Valentine, who shot over.

THE MATCHDAY MIX-UP

Solve the anagrams to answer the 5 questions:

1. CRASH JODE - Which current Blues defender won the NCEL Division One title with Deane & District?
2. RAW LUE KLAP - Which Thackley attacker has played for Emley, Garforth and Bradford Park Avenue? Paul Walker
3. DAN NURDLES - Which Premier League club is the only one that Erling Haaland has not scored against?
4. WREN DOJO BAR - Which West Ham forward, who has played here at Westfield Lane, scored twice in the Hammers' 3-2 League Cup win at Bolton last week?
5. CRY MOWN BREWED SEA - Michael Duff was the first EFL manager to be sacked in 2026/27 when he departed which League One club?

Answers on the 'Awaydays' page.





NCEL NEWS

Last Saturday saw Barton Town continue their FA Cup adventure, while Dearne & District moved to the top of the NCEL Premier Division.

The Swans defeated their second NPL opponents of the season, beating Boldmere St Michaels 3-1 at home to reach the 3rd Round Qualifying. Joe Wood scored 2 before Grant Tait added a third. Dearne leapfrogged Bottesford Town in the Premier Division after winning their top-two clash 2-1. Henry Moore put the Poachers ahead, but Owen Fieldsend restored parity before Jamie Austin struck to secure the points for D&D.

Retford United moved into third after a 2-1 victory at Campion. Phil Watt and Alans Voskresenski put the visitors in control before Corey Billy pulled one back for the hosts in the 83rd minute.

Worsbrough dropped to 4th after a 2-1 defeat at Handsworth. Samuel Awty gave the Briggers a lead, but Mitchell Dunne levelled before Luke Mangham scored completing the comeback.

Knaresborough Town completed the top five with a 3-0 home win over Horbury Town, Benjamin Gelder, Jack Degruy and Alex Ingham all scoring. Retford FC slipped to sixth after being held to a 1-1 draw by Golcar, Alfie Wilkinson's own goal gifting a point after Isaac Baldwin had given the visitors the lead.

There were 5 draws in the 9 Premier Division fixtures. Parkgate and Rossington Main shared four goals, with Alexander Russell and Alexander Asaba twice putting the hosts ahead before Adam Watson and Harry Wilson levelled for Main. Penistone Church and Pickering also finished 2-2 after the Pikes took a 2-goal lead through Joseph Bhaskaran and George Thewlis. Kieran Ryan and William Heath brought Church level late on.

Keighley and Tadcaster shared a 2-2 draw at Cougar Park. Daniel Davy put Tadcaster ahead before Craig Billington and Connor Erangey turned the game around, only for Oliver Norman to rescue a point from the penalty spot. Thackley and Albion Sports drew also drew, but 1 apiece. In Division One, Brigg Town stay top after Oakley Hill's goal secured a 1-0 win at Leeds UFCA.

Field Olympic moved into second with a 1-0 home victory over Wakefield AFC, Kieron Batey scoring midway through the opening period. Goole AFC dropped to third after a 4-1 home defeat to Armthorpe Welfare. Cole Patrick scored twice for the Vikings, with Thomas Joynt and William Mendonca adding the others.

Wombwell Town and Selby Town remain fourth and fifth after both won. Josh Brown and Edward Agnew scored in Wombwell's 2-0 win over Hemsworth, while Maximillian Bauer struck twice as Selby won 3-1 at South Leeds.

LIV climbed into sixth with a 4-1 win over Route One Rovers, James Nichols (2), Jake Harman and Brodie Selman got the goals.

Winterton Rangers surrendered a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Ilkley Town. Oliver Hakner and Jacob Hill had put the hosts in control, but Prince Attakorah and Auzair Khan scored in the final stages to rescue a point.

Appleby Frodingham claimed a valuable 3-2 win at fellow strugglers Immingham Town. Luke Bullement and Kyle Simpson put App Frod in front, but Joshua Tasker levelled with 2 goals before Ryan Bonser hit a 62nd minute winner. Harrogate Railway Athletic beat Crowle Colts 3-1 to move above their opponents, while Club Thorne Colliery and Athersley Recreation played out the weekend's only goalless draw.

In midweek, Barton Town, Horbury Town, Selby Town and Frickley Athletic joined Goole AFC, Knaresborough Town and Rossington Main in the last 16 of the JCP Construction League Cup.

Barton progressed at Armthorpe Welfare, The Swans took it 8-7 on penalties after a 2-2 draw. Horbury were 3-1 winners over Handsworth, with Joe Jagger scoring twice and Luke Playford also finding the net. Selby Town edged past Hemsworth 1-0 through Joseph Rawcliffe's goal.

Golcar United beat Albion Sports 1-0 in the Premier Division, Voldi Mbaya scoring the only goal in the 77th minute, while Route One Rovers and Club Thorne Colliery shared a 2-2 draw.

In the Sheffield & Hallamshire Senior Cup, Worsbrough Bridge Athletic eliminated higher-ranked Stocksbridge Park Steels on penalties after a 1-1 draw. Connor Glavin put the Briggers ahead before the visitors forced a shootout, which the hosts won 10-9.

Rossington Main beat Denaby Main 2-0 through Oliver Currie and Alexander Phillipson, while Penistone Church defeated Parkgate 3-0. Nathan Keightley scored twice before Kieran Ryan's third. Dearne & District suffered a 4-1 home defeat to Hallam, Jamie Austin's penalty their consolation, while Athersley Rec's tie with Silkstone United was abandoned because of floodlight failure with the score at 0-0.





MATCH REPORTS

Frickley 2 Handsworth 3

The Blues were beaten by the odd goal in 5 by Handsworth in an eventful encounter in which Les Bleus were left with too much to do after a difficult first half, despite a stirring late fightback.

The visitors were gifted the opportunity to take the lead in the 6th minute when a Handsworth attacker appeared to be going nowhere before going down on the corner of the penalty area. A spot kick was awarded and duly dispatched by ex-Blue Luke Mangham to put his side a fortuitous goal up.

A second Handsworth goal followed in the 14th minute. From a corner, the visitors got rather more luck when a shot from just inside the box found its way through a forest of legs and into the Frickley net.

The Blues were then left frustrated yet again in the 29th minute. Andrew broke clear and was hauled down from behind, a stonewall penalty, but the referee inexplicably waved play on.

Spence tried his luck 2 minutes later, floating an effort narrowly wide, before Handsworth extended their advantage in the 38th minute when a cross was glanced into the bottom corner by a Handsworth head. HT 0-3.

The second period brought a somewhat improved showing from Les Bleus. But the Blue breakthrough didn't come until the 82nd minute. Liam Flanagan produced a cool finish to finally give The Azzurri something to build on.

4 minutes later, the unlikely comeback gained further momentum. An Azzurri corner caused chaos in the Handsworth penalty area. Jenko and Gadge both saw digs at goal blocked before the ball fell to Roberts at the back post and his shot squeezed past the goalkeeper and defenders stationed on the line.

The Blues continued to press for an equaliser. But it wasn't to be. FT 2-3.

WEBMASTER MOTM – Elliott Andrew. He did everything but score. Enthralling, Ells!

VOLUNTEERS' MOTM – Sam Kilner.

183 through the gate. We thank you all for your loyal support through thick and thin!

Campion 3 Frickley 2

Despite a much improved second half display, The Blues were left to rue a difficult opening spell as Campion edged a 5 goal contest 3-2.

After a cagey opening, some suspect defending

allowed the hosts to score twice in the space of about 70 seconds. In the 15th minute, a Campion forward managed to evade a challenge before finding the space to fire home from 10 yards.

Then a minute later an ill advised back pass followed by keeper hesitation in clearing the ball allowed Campion to nip in and double their advantage. HT 2-0.

It was The Azzurri who struck the first blow of the second half. In the 51st minute, Elliott Andrew produced a moment of real quality. Controlling the ball well, he cut inside on the edge of the penalty area before calmly stroking his finish into the bottom corner to reduce the deficit.

The momentum was beginning to shift but Campion restored their 2 goal cushion in the 59th minute. A cross was met by a downward header and the finish was applied from close range.

Then came another opening for Andrew in the 65th minute, Willo put the Campion custodian under pressure and the keeper's attempted clearance was scuffed to Andrew. He spotted the opening immediately and deftly lifted the ball back over the stranded keeper and into the net.

At 3-2, the game was suddenly very much alive, but despite our best efforts, that was how it stayed. FT 3-2.

WEBMASTER MOTM – Elliott Andrew for the second game on the trot. He took his brace with an impressive assurance. Elite level, Ellz!

VOLUNTEERS' MOTM – Elliott Andrew.

131 through the gate. We thank you for your dogged travelling support!

FC St Helens 9 (nine) Frickley 0 (FA Vase)

The Blues were down to the bare bones, but it's hard to sugar coat it, we were dumped out of the FA Vase, and suffered our heaviest defeat since the 12-0 at Worksop Town in September 2000. We started fine, but it quickly became goalmageddon from St Helens:

- 16th minute – Edjangue made a double stop but the ref awarded a penalty for an off the ball foul. Edjangue saved the spot kick but St Helens were first to it, eventually putting in the loose ball. 1-0.
- 25th minute – St Helens shot blocked but incoming player lashed in the breaking ball. 2-0.
- 27th minute – St Helens crossed, the forward controlled, rounded Edjangue then tapped in. 3-0.
- 40th minute – Ball over the top, the forward put it through the onrushing Edjangue's legs. 4-0.
- 47th minute – Diagonal St Helens shot into the bottom corner. 5-0.





MATCH REPORTS (CONT.)

- 69th minute – St Helens got to the byline, pulled the ball back and drilled into the corner. 6-0.
- 71st minute – It was almost a carbon copy of the previous goal. 7-0
- 74th minute – Ball across the box by St Helens, deflected to a player on the edge of the box who stuck it in the corner. 8-0.
- 87th minute – St Helens shot deflected off a Frickley boot, past Edjange and into the net. 9-0. The full time whistle spared The Blues the ignominy of conceding double figures. FT 9-0. WEBMASTER MOTM – the travelling fans, The Blue Faithful. We gave The Blues our support throughout. Solidarność, comrades! 191 through the gate. The club apologises for the performance but thanks you for going all that way and standing shoulder to shoulder with the lads.

AFC Bentley 0 Frickley 5 (Sheffield Cup)

Caretaker manager Nick Leadbeater, took charge in the wake of Martyn Woolford's departure, and he oversaw safe passage to the next round of the Sheffield Cup. 5 goals and a clean sheet saw The Blues sweep aside a valiant Bentley side. Requiring just 4 minutes to get in front. Cable was brought down and Flan delivered the resulting free kick into the perfect area for Liam Dacre to rise highest to head home.

On 19 minutes, the lead was doubled. A slick exchange between Flan and Andrew opened up the Bentley defence, and Andrew finished the move by drilling a shot into the bottom corner. Bentley's task became even harder 3 minutes before half time. Spence was brought down as he burst into the box and the ref immediately pointed to the spot. Andrew stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way. HT 3-0.

The Blues took a little time to ease into the game after the restart before 2 goals in a minute.

Cable whipped a low ball into the 6 yard box in the 65th minute and Willo got a crucial touch, with a Bentley defender inadvertently making sure it ended up in the net.

Barely a minute later, Willo slipped a perfect ball to Flan, who kept his composure to slide the ball between the keeper's legs.

The Blues were able to see out the remainder of the game with some ease. FT 0-5.

WEBMASTER MOTM – Liam Flanagan. His 2 assists and his goal were a deserved return.

Felicitations, Fantom Flan Flinger!

VOLUNTEERS' MOTM – Will Jenkinson.

Over 150 through the gate. We're so grateful for your support in these tumultuous times.

Keighley Town 1 Frickley 1 (Frickley win 8-7 on pens) (NCEL League Cup)

The Blues progressed to the third round of the NCEL League Cup after a penalty shootout win at Keighley Town, eventually prevailing 8-7 from the spot following a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes.

The opening stages were scrappy, and it took until the 38th minute to break the deadlock. Josh Dacre spotted Flan making a run and clipped a superb ball over the top. Flan raced onto it and produced a neat flick to take it beyond the advancing keeper and it rolled into the net before a KTown defender could reach it. HT 0-1.

The Boys in Blue looked to extend the lead after the restart. There was a strong claim for a penalty in the 60th minute when Willo was barged over, but the ref waved play on. Keighley came close to an equaliser in the 77th minute when they broke clear, but Edjange stood tall and produced an excellent save. And a minute later, Willo won possession and released Flan who charged towards goal, but his shot hit the keeper's legs. The home side finally found a way through in the 86th minute as Edjange went to meet a ball into the area, but the awkward bounce deceived him, allowing Keighley to nip in and put the ball into the empty net.

Edjange redeemed himself a minute later, producing a reflex save to keep it level. FT 1-1.

So it was straight to penalties. The Blues took the first penno and Dacre, Carmody, Alngohuru, Jenkinson, Flanagan, Spence and Gagen all showed nerves of steel and found the net as the first 7 Frickley penalties were converted. Keighley matched us every step of the way, leaving the shootout locked at 7-7. That brought Humphreys to the spot but he made no mistake.

With Keighley having to score to stay in it, Edjange picked correctly and dived to his right to push away KTown's 8th penalty, handing The Azzurri an 8-7 victory.

WEBMASTER MOTM - the Glitterball goes jointly to Reuben Crossley and Luke Williams. Ruby's calm display belied his years while Luke showed what a handful he is. Lovely stuff, Lu-Reu! VOLUNTEERS' MOTM - Reuben Crossley.

138 through the gate. We thank you for devotion and making the long sojourn to Keighley!





EVERYWHERE WE GO

PART 1 - CAMPION & ST HELENS

We travelled to Campion in midweek for a second time in 4 weeks but in rather lower numbers than for the FA Cup tie. That was a shame because whilst The Blues did their usual trick of conceding twice in a couple of first half minutes, one of which was a howler, the lads fought back and were the better team for much of the second half. Otherwise, amazingly no ground improvements since we were last there (top pic), 28 days previously, and no solar eclipse laid on for us this time.

Then it was off to rugby league country and FC St Helens of the NWCFL in the FA Vase. Their Windleshaw Sports Ground is basic (bottom pic), although the outside



tables (middle pic) are a nice touch. However, it has history as it's the original home of St Helens Rugby League Club and was the site of the very first St Helens v Wigan derby game. It was then home to St Helens Cricket Club for over a century before FC St Helens moved in.

The 9-0 scoreline could've fooled those checking the classified results that we were still playing rugby. But no, it was just a football mauling. And records tumbled. Biggest Frickley defeat in just under 26 years, since the 12-0 reverse against Chris Waddle's Worksop Town (on this day, 26th September 2000. Biggest

ever defeat in cup football. FC St Helens biggest ever win and their number 11 equalled the club record for most goals in a game with 4. And it marked the end of Woolly's time in charge of the team. Onwards and upwards, comrades!





EVERYWHERE WE GO

PART 2 - BENTLEY & KEIGHLEY

The cup games continued. First, a short pop up the road to AFC Bentley of the Central Midlands Alliance in the Sheffield Cup. The lack of floodies at The Avenue ground, Bentley's home (top pic), along with their wish to retain home advantage rather than reverse it to The Wezzie, meant that the rule that County Cup games take precedence was invoked. Hence, the Parkgate game was postponed and we played at Bentley on a Saturday afternoon.

In the event, the sun shone literally and metaphorically as The Azzurri eased to a 5-0 win. Nice to see some goals going in. And nice to see one of those old NCB stands (middle pic), even if it is rather unusually stranded 40 or so feet back from the touch line now.



Next stop, Keighley. On a school night. For a NCEL League Cup tie. Hmmm. Anyway, it is what it is and Cougar Park (bottom pic) is probably the grandest venue we'll visit this season.

Continuing our rugby league links, Keighley Town groundshare with rugby league's Keighley Cougars. My only complaint is regarding playing on a pitch that has hosted rugby all season. The bobbly surface almost certainly contributed to the late goal we conceded to draw 1-1 with Keighley a second time since the start of the season. The penalty shootout was of the highest quality, and we won 8-7 to boot. However, you had to feel for new boss Lee Morris

who was in attendance. On the previous evening he'd witnessed his previous club, Worsbrough Bridge, prevail 10-9 on penalties, and now this. Watching almost 40 spot kicks in 24 hours – pennomageddon! His fingers must've been down to stumps with all that nail biting!





BLUES SQUAD 26/27

Joel Spence (Midfielder): Joel 90 was at Armthorpe before joining us and he's been at Rotherham United, Belper Town, Ossett United, Winterton and Wakefield. Won the supporters' player of the season in 24/25 for his consistency in the engine room.

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): Cleggy 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 joined us from Parkgate, having started out at Rotherham United.

Sam Kilner (Defender): A NCEL title winner at Silsden in 24/25, Killer is a highly proficient fullback who has also been at Buxton, Mossley, Hemsworth and Knaresborough.

Thomas Radley (Defender): Radz is a big centre half who joined from Shelley in 2025 and provides quality and leadership in 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 and is now in his 3rd season at The Wezzie. Gadge was the supporters' player of the season in 25/26.

Elliott 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.

Tyler Sheard (Defender/Midfielder): VersaTyler came through our academy and can do a job anywhere on the park, team before self every time. Scored his first goal at Beverley last season.

Lloyd Allinson (Goalkeeper): In his time at the likes of Huddersfield Town, Chesterfield, FC United of Manchester, Guiseley, Ponte Colls and Wombwell Town, The Ginger Neuer has played at every level from EFL League One to NCEL Premier Division. He is currently on loan from Cleethorpes Town.

Harold Edjangue (Goalkeeper): HE-Man is a Cameroonian shot stopper who always impresses. Has been with Farsley Celtic U23s, Yorkshire Amateurs and Nostell MW amongst others.

Liam Flanagan (Forward): An experienced NCEL forward, Flanagan has been at Glasshoughton, Goole and Selby, where he scored 100+ goals, before a promotion via the playoffs at Worsbrough.

Luke Williams (Midfielder/Forward): Willo is a pacey winger and goal scorer, having played for Goole, Albion Sports, Winterton, Ponte Colls and Club Thorne. He returns to us for a 3rd time.

Jayden Roberts (Midfielder): JR is a livewire in the middle of the park and has been at Parkgate and Athersley Rec.

Harry Carmody (Midfielder): The Modfather is a solid young midfielder who has been at FC Halifax Town's academy, Goole and Glasshoughton.

Josh Dacre (Defender): Judgement Dacre joins us from Dearne & District, where he won the 25/26 NCEL Division One title. This rugged defender brings bags of experience from his time at Handsworth, Ponte Colls, Grimsby Borough, Garforth, Sheffield FC, Worksop Town, Selby and Worsbrough Bridge.

Bailey Wright (Midfielder/Forward): The Wright Stuff is a former Barnsley trialist and Athersley Rec winger with pace to spare.

Jake Carrigan (Midfielder): Carra is a hard running box to box midfielder and a local lad as well.

Charlie Price (Midfielder): Priceless is an exciting prospect who joins us after his release from Barnsley despite interest from higher up the pyramid.

Lucas Brown (Midfielder): Cool Hand Lucas has come through our academy and looks ready to make an impression at first team level.

Freddie Dale (Midfielder): Ever Ready is another midfielder making the step up from our academy.

Reuben Crossley (Defender/Midfielder): Signed from the academy, Crossfire is an assured young player with great potential.

Matty Hughes (Midfielder/Forward): The Motor started with our U19s-U23s. He made his 1st team debut in 2016/17, and is now in his 4th spell with us. Has also been at Armthorpe and Handsworth.

Tom Alingohuru (Midfielder/Forward): After playing for the York City and i2i academies, Pickering Town and Ossett United, The Guru returns on dual reg with Beveley Town to terrorise NCEL defenders.

Jack Humphreys (Midfielder): A former Parkgate, Beverley Town and Donny City midfielder, The Mister brings lots of NCEL experience to the squad.

Jamie Purkiss (Defender/Midfielder): Comfortable anywhere down the right flank, Purfection is ex-Worksop and Parkgate but joins us from Donny City.

Lee Morris (Manager): A player, Moz was a goal scorer with Goole, Shaw Lane and here at The Wezzie, with almost 90 Frickley goals. After a stint as Blues boss in 2016/17, Moz went to Armthorpe then had a very successful 3 year stint at Worsbrough where he lead to promotion via the playoffs in 25/26, before coming back home in September 2026.

Rhys Meynell (Assistant Manager): Rhys was a no nonsense defender at Barnsley, Gretna, Stalybridge, Galway United, Shaw Lane and Frickley. Since hanging up his boots, he's been Moz's right hand man at Armthorpe and Worsbrough.





FRICKLEY PLAYER STATISTICS

Frickley Athletic Apps. & Goal Scoring Record Career Up to & Inc. 23.09.26							
	League	Cups	Total	Sub.	Grand	Gls	c/s
			Starts	Apps.	Total		
Lee Morris	181	35	216	24	240	86	
Joel Spence	79	16	95	2	97	5	
Charlie Clegg	24	5	29	65	94	10	
Harry Gagen	52	12	64	1	65	1	
Tom Alingohuro	34	7	41	13	54	12	
Sam Cable	19	7	26	24	50	12	
Wil Jenkinson	27	6	33	3	36	1	
Elliott Andrew	19	3	22	11	33	7	
Luke Williams	16	4	20	10	30	4	
Charlie Price	13	5	18	7	25	2	
Harry Carmody	11	3	14	11	25		
Liam Flanagan	4	5	9	5	14	4	
Jayden Roberts	2	3	5	7	12	1	
Josh Dacre	7	4	11	0	11	2	
Lloyd Allinson	8	0	8	0	8		1
Harold Edjangue	1	5	6	0	6		1
Bailey Wright	2	0	2	3	5		
Jake Carrigan	0	0	0	4	4		
Favour Omoruyi	2	1	3	0	3		
Reuben Crossley	0	1	1	1	2		
Deaconn Farrelly	0	1	1	0	1		
Jack Humphreys	0	0	0	1	1		

MOST RECENT PREVIOUS RESULTS ON THIS DATE 26TH SEPTEMBER

Year	Day	H/A	Comp.	Opponents	Result	Frickley Scorers
1989	Tue	H	NPL	Shepshed Charterhouse	W 2-0	Woodhead, Birch
1992	Sat	H	FAC2QR	Halesowen Harriers	W 8-2	Kelly, Brook 2, Hatto 2 (1p), Benjamin 2, Campbell
1998	Sat	H	NPL	Bamber Bridge	L 0-2	
2000	Tue	A	NPL	Worksop Town	L 0-12	
2006	Tue	A	NPL	Guiseley	L 1-5	Kennedy
2009	Sat	A	FAC2QR	Congleton	W 1-0	Towler
2015	Sat	A	FAC2QR	Chorley	L 0-2	
2020	Sat	A	NPLSE	Newcastle Town	L 0-2	



TOGETHER WE CAN





MACRON NCEL PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

	Up to & Inc 25.09.26	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Dearne and District	10	8	0	2	25	10	15	24
2	Bottesford Town	9	7	0	2	26	5	21	21
3	Retford United	12	5	4	3	19	16	3	19
4	Worsbrough Bridge Athletic	8	5	1	2	18	7	11	16
5	Knaresborough Town	8	5	1	2	20	12	8	16
6	Retford	10	4	4	2	15	14	1	16
7	Handsworth	9	4	3	2	19	20	-1	15
8	Barton Town	6	4	1	1	12	6	6	13
9	Albion Sports	11	4	1	6	19	17	2	13
10	Pickering Town	10	4	1	5	18	19	-1	13
11	Campion	10	4	1	5	19	21	-2	13
12	Golcar United	8	3	3	2	16	11	5	12
13	Penistone Church	9	3	3	3	16	16	0	12
14	Horbury Town	8	3	2	3	13	10	3	11
15	Rossington Main	9	2	5	2	11	9	2	11
16	Thackley	11	2	5	4	17	17	0	11
17	Tadcaster Albion	8	1	4	3	6	15	-9	7
18	Parkgate	10	2	1	7	8	26	-18	7
19	Frickley Athletic	9	1	2	6	13	18	-5	5
20	Keighley Town	11	0	2	9	7	48	-41	2

MOST RECENT GAMES FRICKLEY V THACKLEY

Season	Date	Comp.	H/A	Result	Frickley Scorers
2022/23	Sat. 1st October 22	NCELP	A	L 1-2	Keita
	Sat. 18th February 23	NCELP	H	L 0-3	
2023/24	Sat. 11th November 23	NCELP	H	W 3-0	Walker, Townrow, Boocock
	Sat. 30th March 24	NCELP	A	L 1-2	James
2024/25	Sat. 3rd August 24	FACEPR	A	L 0-2	
	Tue. 5th November 24	NCELP	H	W 3-0	Guilfoyle, Spence, Varley
	Sat. 21st December 24	NCELP	A	L 1-3	Brook
2025/26	Sat. 16th August 25	NCELP	H	W 1-0	Alfonso-Ferreira
	Sat. 6th December 25	NCELP	A	W 7-0	Robinson 4, Alngohuru, Nnenanua, Andrew

ON THIS DAY IN FOOTBALL – 26TH SEPTEMBER

1956 - The first European Cup match was played on English soil. Manchester United entertained Anderlecht of Belgium at Maine Road in front of 40,000 fans. United took the lead after only 9 minutes with a goal from Tommy Taylor and went on to win 10-0 (12-0 on aggregate).

1960 - The first 2 matches in the League Cup were played – Bristol Rovers v Fulham and West Ham v Charlton. Fulham's Maurice Cook scoring the first ever goal in the competition.





MACRON NCEL DIVISION ONE TABLE

	Up to & Inc 25.09.26	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Brigg Town	11	9	1	1	23	11	12	28
2	Field Olympic	10	8	1	1	33	6	27	25
3	Goole	11	8	0	3	28	15	13	24
4	Wombwell Town	12	7	3	2	26	14	12	24
5	Selby Town	11	6	4	1	19	8	11	22
6	LIV Supplies	11	4	5	2	22	18	4	17
7	Route One Rovers	12	5	2	5	23	20	3	17
8	Armthorpe Welfare	9	5	1	3	19	14	5	16
9	Wakefield	11	5	1	5	13	13	0	16
10	Winterton Rangers	11	5	1	5	17	20	-3	16
11	Leeds UFCA	11	4	3	4	22	17	5	15
12	Kinsley Boys	11	4	3	4	21	21	0	15
13	Athersley Recreation	11	3	5	3	12	13	-1	14
14	Harrogate Railway Athletic	12	4	2	6	21	28	-7	14
15	Club Thorne Colliery	10	2	5	3	21	23	-2	11
16	Crowle Colts	11	3	2	6	14	23	-9	11
17	Hemsworth Miners Welfare	11	2	3	6	13	21	-8	9
18	Ilkley Town	10	1	4	5	17	22	-5	7
19	Immingham Town	11	2	1	8	13	26	-13	7
20	Appleby Frodingham	10	2	1	7	9	30	-21	7
21	South Leeds	11	0	2	9	11	34	-23	2

**FRICKLEY
V
HOMOPHOBIA
TRANSPHOBIA
BIPHOBIA**

FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE



Macron NCEL Premier 2026-27

[illegible]



THE NLP COLUMN: INTERNATIONAL BREAKS

By Matt Badcock

Just the mere mention of the upcoming international break sends colleagues from our sister title The Football League Paper into a cold sweat.

The thought of two Saturdays without any Championship football along with less than half of the scheduled League One programme is enough to induce sleepless nights as they contemplate quite how to fill all their pages.

To make it worse, even some League Two games have been postponed because of call-ups, so how much longer will it be before National League games are under threat too? The good news is The FLP team will produce great papers worth reading in the new reality of two international breaks – September and October – squashed together.

The move was approved in March 2023 with the later than usual 2026 World Cup finish because the tournament expanded – remember that bright idea – to

reduce the number of journeys around the world so many players have to take. It means England and Wales will be playing four games in this window rather than the usual two and the shutters come down on the top two divisions in England effectively for three weeks.

Step into the limelight. Non-League football. We all know about the rip-roaring success of Non-League Day, founded by James Doe to encourage fans to their local Non-League club when both the Premier League and Championship are on hold.

This upcoming break is a great opportunity to get out the Non-League Day textbook and entice fans through the turnstiles.



THE

NON-LEAGUE

PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME
 To subscribe, visit www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com/subscriptions

A lot of match-going fans will be starved of their usual fix but still keen to see some live action.

It has to be said, watching Non-League football – particularly in the National League – is becoming more expensive in some cases. Many Step 1 clubs charge north of £20 now – and car parking fees seem to be on the rise too!

You have to go a bit further down to Pyramid now to fulfil the clichéd 'twenty quid gets you in the ground with change for a burger and a pint'.

Of course, costs have gone up across the board. All businesses are feeling the pinch and

it's never been more expensive to run a football club.

But great value days out still reign supreme in Non-League.

So let's see top special offers, the 'kids go free with an adult' deals, the extra events around the game that draw supporters in.

Forward-thinking clubs

are working out how to get fans to their grounds earlier and keep them there longer. While Wales' weekend games are on Sundays, England do play on Saturdays but, crucially, at 7.45pm and 5pm – ideal to get people in the ground for a 3pm game, then keep them on for a couple of pints and some evening football on the box (starting with England v Spain tonight), while bringing in valuable revenue before the winter months. And also keep showing what a great level of the game this is.

Editor's note – where better to spend the international break than here at The Wezzie? But I guess you already knew that...





LINKED TO THE LANE

I love looking at the 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 ;)

Back our Alliance League days, Nuneaton Borough was a popular staging post for ex-professionals. One such former pro that faced

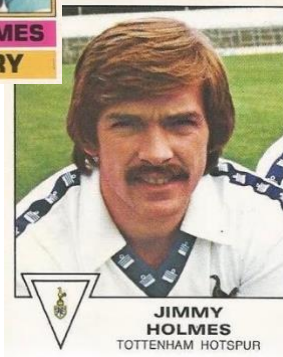
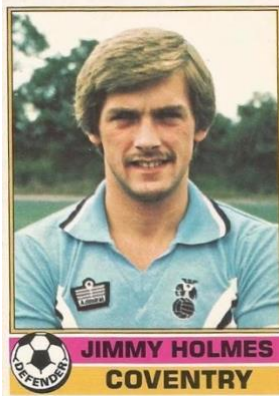
The Blues for Borough in the mid 80s was the Republic of Ireland international Jimmy Holmes.

Jimmy Holmes was born in Dublin in 1953 and from an early age he was determined to become a professional footballer. He played for St John Bosco in Dublin, where his performances

attracted the attention of Coventry City and Manchester United, but ultimately chose the Sky Blues. Holmes joined Coventry City as an apprentice in 1970 and was part of their FA Youth Cup final side that year. He turned professional in November 1970 and made his first-team debut against Leicester City in December. Remarkably, this was not before he had already been selected for the Republic of Ireland and, at just 17 years and 200 days, he became Ireland's youngest full international when he came on against Austria at Dalymount Park in May 1971.

At Coventry, Holmes developed into a highly regarded and versatile defender and midfielder. He became a key member of the side during the 1970s, eventually making 128 league appearances and scoring 6 goals. His performances lead to a move to Tottenham Hotspur in 1977 for £120k.

Holmes arrived at Tottenham during a difficult



period for the club. Spurs were relegated at the end of the 1976/77 season, but Holmes played an important role as they immediately regained their First Division status the following year. He established himself as a classy, intelligent defender, making around 90 appearances in a Spurs side that included Glenn Hoddle, Steve Perryman, Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa. His career at the highest level was interrupted in May 1979 while playing for Ireland against Bulgaria in Sofia when he suffered a broken leg. Complications developed that put him out of the game for nearly a year and had knock on effects on his future career.

In February 1981, Holmes transferred him to the Vancouver Whitecaps of the North American Soccer League for £100k. He played 17 games over 2 seasons and also won the last of his 30 caps for the Republic of Ireland during this period.

Holmes returned to England in 1982, joining Leicester City on a free transfer, before similar moves to Brentford and Torquay United. In November 1983 he joined Peterborough United, where he scored 7 goals in 60 appearances. It was here that he received a testimonial from the FAI at Dalymount Park in 1985, where an Irish XI played a Glenn Hoddle XI.

Holmes eventually moving into non-League football became player-manager at Nuneaton Borough, Hitchin Town and Bedworth United over the next few years.

Jimmy Holmes eventually left professional football behind and began a

completely different career with West Midlands Police. With a name like Holmes, I guess you would. Anyway, he served for 23 years, before retiring from the police and working as a chauffeur for the Mayor of Nuneaton. Whilst in the police, Sherlock was formally commended for bravery following an incident in 2006. Or it might've been for surviving his encounter against Stevie Daniels, 'enforcer' for our very own Boys in Blue ;)





AWAYDAYS

Next up – Albion Sports

Bradford Fact: Singer Tasmin Archer, famous for the massive hit 'Sleeping Satellite', was born in Bradford in 1963.

When : Tuesday 29th September 2026.

Kick off : 19:45

Where : Myra Shay, 489 Barkerend Road, Bradford, BD3 8QX.

How much : Adults £7, Concessions £4, U16s Free with a paying adult, Dogs allowed on a lead.



Then – Bottesford Town

Scunthorpe Fact: Singer Howard Devoto, the original frontman with the Buzzcocks, was born in Scunthorpe in 1952.

When : Saturday 3rd October 2026.

Kick off : 15:00

Where : Barrett Steel Stadium, Birch Park, Ontario Road, Scunthorpe, DN17 2TQ.

How much : Adults £7, Concessions £4, U16s Free, No dogs allowed.



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.

Matchday Mix-up Answers

1. Josh Dacre.
2. Paul Walker.
3. Sunderland.
4. Jarrod Bowen.
5. Wycombe Wanderers.

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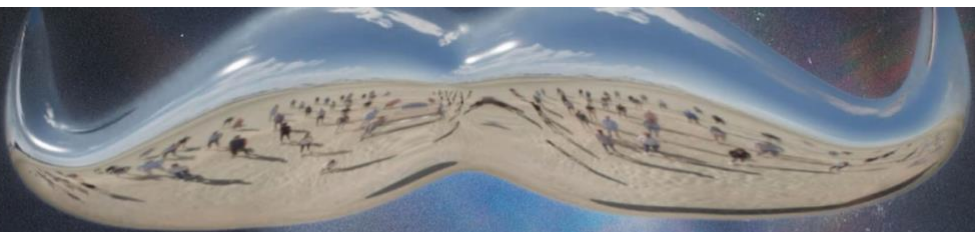
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Owen Jenkinson was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma in 2022 and, after a year cancer-free, unfortunately relapsed in 2024. Despite further treatment, his cancer progressed, and he sadly passed away in November 2025. Owen's strength, spirit, and love for 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



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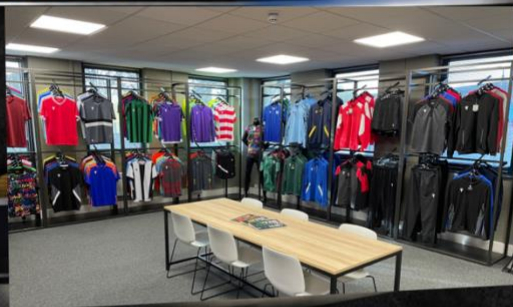
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