

#WEARELEEK



SEASON 2017/18

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Tuesday 15th August 2017

LEEK TOWN

vs

BELPER TOWN

3pm

HARRISON PARK

EVOSTIK-SOUTH

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#TODAYSTEAMS

THE LINE-UPS FOR TODAY'S FIXTURE

MATCH OFFICIALS

To be confirmed

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Programme Design:

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Website, Social Media & Photography:

Steve Reynolds

LEEK TOWN (Blue)



1. Ben Chapman
2. Niall Green
3. Joe Kearns
4. Marc Grocott
5. James Curley
6. Darren Chadwick
7. Rob Stevenson
8. Kyle Blake
9. Tim Grice
10. Jordan Johnson
11. Dan Shelley
12. Niall Maguire
14. Mackenzie Faulkner
15. Chris Budrys
16. Alex Morris
17. Jon Beaumont

BELPER TOWN



1. Danny Roberts
2. Will Dennis
3. Joe Hunt
4. Eric Graves
5. Max Hunt
6. John Guy
7. Haydn Goddard
8. Matt Richards
9. Matt Harris
10. Laurence Constable
11. Alex Steadman
12. Max Thornberry
14. Josh Barr-Rostron
15. Fenwick Butcher
16. Sam Weston
17. Mark Rathbone

Leek Town ACFC

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Leek Town ACFC is you local Football team, where players with special needs compete in tournaments. We have players from all over the Staffordshire Moorlands.



Our main +16 group plays in tournaments in the Staffordshire League and beyond. This Includes, Sandwell league, Bradford, Northampton Town, George Best Cup Belfast, And Many more.

Our team is expanding into the 12-16yr disability mixed-gender group. To qualify, you must either be attending a specialist school or be apart of the SEN group.



If you would like to find out more.
You can find us either;



07931590561 - Nigel



<https://www.facebook.com/leektownacfc/>



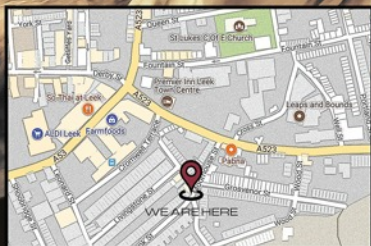
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Proud to sponsor Leek Town FC

Good evening,

A warm welcome back to Harrison Park to all our supporters old and new, young and old. It is always a special occasion in football playing your first home game of a new season.

Jamie, Simon and myself along with the board of directors are working hand in hand to push the club forward and with the support we have inside the ground and within the town we hope to make this a successful season and one to enjoy.

With living in the town and speaking to a lot of people we realise that expectations are high. There's nothing wrong with that, in fact it's far better going into a season with real optimism than pessimism and we as a team and a club have to manage those expectations!

For those of you who travelled to Alvechurch on Saturday and the players and staff it was a real eye opener and hopefully a reality check. They are a club who have just had a promotion and are used to winning games. We were second best, didn't play well at all against a team that has played together for a long time, play to their strengths and look a force particularly on their home ground.

Already the league looks as though it will be stronger than last year. Shaw Lane and Witton were the outstanding teams last season and deservedly got promoted. I feel that the new clubs in the league this season will all be decent. Alvechurch, Peterborough Sports and Cleethorpes were all promoted on the back of successful campaigns and have momentum.

Frickley with the signings they have made and Corby who have pushed the boat out will be round about. Spalding, Basford, Lincoln and Stocksbridge, teams around the play offs last season will all hope to do at least as well again. In fact most teams at this early stage including tonight's visitors Belper will all have aspirations of good seasons.

We both lost our opening game and will be determined to get some points on the board. We welcome you all to Leek Town and in particular the management team of Ant Danylyk and Paul Donnelly. They have both served our club admirably over the years on and off the pitch and are well respected here and in local footballing circles.

We are looking for a good reaction from the players selected tonight after Saturday and with your support I'm confident they will be eager to respond.

Enjoy the game.

Bake

A warm welcome back to Harrison Park for tonight's opening home EVO-STIK South fixture of the season. What a game we have for you this evening as Neil Baker makes his competitive return to the home dug-out against the men who occupied it last season Ant Danylyk and Paul Donnelly!

The fixture computer could have hardly thrown up a more enticing fixture for our first home match of the season. Ant and Donners are still very highly-regarded by the Blues faithful and needless to say we wish them well for the rest of the campaign.

Turning back to our own dugout, it seems slightly odd to formally welcome back Bake as he's never really been that far away, but tonight does mark his return to league action as manager here. Of course expectations have been high because of his past record, but anyone who thought that his mere presence was a sure sign of success would have had that notion jolted by our opening day defeat at Alvechurch.

The Midland League champions have been used to winning games in the last two seasons and that habit looks like it may be set to continue if their performance on Saturday is anything to go by. We didn't start well against a determined side and were second best all over the park. It was only three minutes in when Joe Kearns had to clear an effort off the line and ten minutes later Church were in front, when a corner was flicked on and the ball prodded home from close range.

The home side had more chances to score in the first half whilst we didn't manage an effort on target. After the break Alvechurch scored a fine second after breaking down the left with a effort dinked over Ben Chapman. Ten minutes later James Curley conceded a penalty and it was 3-0.

Tim Grice got us off the mark for the season when he headed home Dan Shelley's free-kick in the 74th minute and five minutes later Shelley nearly added a second when his free-kick was brilliantly saved by the keeper at full length. That was as good as it got for us and our misery was added to five minutes from time when Darren Chadwick was red-carded, it appeared a little harshly, for an adjudged lunging tackle.

So a disappointing start as it was for our visitors Belper Town, who missed a penalty to take the lead against Basford United and were punished later on when they went down to the only goal of the game. Neither team will want to the start the season with two defeats, so already the pressure will be on both sides to get a result tonight.

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSORS

THE LTFC JUNIOR COACHES

Our thanks go to some of the coaches from our Junior Section for sponsoring tonight's game

#BLUESBANTER

ALL THE LATEST LEEK TOWN GOSSIP

There's been a huge amount going on behind the scenes at the club this summer and you will no doubt have seen that the club's official website, Twitter and Facebook pages have all been given the #WEARELEEK rebranding. We are also now on Instagram and will be updating this regularly this season. One of our posts from Saturday was stalwart supporter Kev Chandler who kindly agreed to 'model' our new home shirt (shades not included!)... your fee's in the post Kev! To get your hands on a new shirt simply call in at Supersport up the road.



Sponsorship has gone particularly well and we are indebted to everyone who has sponsored either matches or players this season. As it stands we have 15 out of 23 home games sponsored and almost all of the first team squad and staff as shown below. However, if you or

your company want to get involved then please see any member of the Board, check out the sponsorship section of our website or email leektown@hotmail.com.

PLAYER

HOME KIT

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Jon Beaumont | Leek ACFC |
| Kyle Blake | Craig Stonier |
| Chris Budrys | Libra FMC |
| Darren Chadwick | Tom Eeles & Conor Malkin |
| Ben Chapman | FAB |
| James Curley | Dave Reid & Glynn Bagshaw |
| Mackenzie Faulkner | Nigel Goldstraw |
| Niall Green | Dave Burnett aka Winners Lad |
| Tim Grice | Moorland Private Hire |
| Sam Grimshaw | Leek Town Under 17's |
| Marc Grocott | Steve Norris aka Nogger |
| Jonny Higham | Mark Wood |
| Jordan Johnson | Libra FMC |
| Joe Kearns | |
| Niall Maguire | John Wood |
| Alex Morris | Steve & Emma Robinson |
| Dan Shelley | Ruby Spittles |
| Rob Stevenson | Kevin & Georgina Chandler |
| Neil Baker | Dave Swarbook & Rob Bond |
| Jamie Cullerton | |
| Simon Bell | Kev Lewis |
| Ken Ashford | Seagulls / Hereford '97 |

Don't forget also you can sponsor the music played at Harrison Park this season. With this you get entrance to the game and a programme and your choice of 20 tracks played before the game and at half-time. Priced at just £20, you will also get a mention in the programme and on the website, a small price to pay for 'retiring; some of Hermo's CD's!

Don't forget we are back here on Saturday for the World's greatest cup competition - the Emirates FA Cup when we take on Cammell Laird from the Hallmark Securities NWCFL, we look forward to seeing you all here then.

#WEARELEEK

#BLUESBANTER

ALL THE LATEST LEEK TOWN GOSSIP

Here at #WEARELEEK we were delighted to see new signing Marc Grocott in action in our opening pre-season friendly at Abbey Hulton United.



The hashtags we hadn't used since Sam Hall was here, #facefurniture #thebeardtobefeared were all ready to be dusted down for the new season. So imagine our dismay less than 48 hours later at Harrison Park to see this...



Come on Marc, how you are supposed to strike fear into the hearts of the opposition without that magnificent beard? We can feel a Twitter campaign coming on... #grocottgrowbeard

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FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 2016/17

| | | Pld | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | Shaw Lane AFC | 42 | 32 | 6 | 4 | 104 | 36 | 68 | 102 |
| 2 | Witton Albion | 42 | 31 | 6 | 5 | 100 | 41 | 59 | 96 |
| 3 | Spalding United | 42 | 24 | 7 | 11 | 74 | 42 | 32 | 79 |
| 4 | Stocksbridge Park Steels | 42 | 22 | 7 | 13 | 67 | 50 | 17 | 73 |
| 5 | AFC Rushden & Diamonds | 42 | 20 | 11 | 11 | 73 | 52 | 21 | 71 |
| 6 | Basford United | 42 | 20 | 13 | 9 | 78 | 53 | 25 | 70 |
| 7 | Newcastle Town | 42 | 21 | 4 | 17 | 59 | 59 | 0 | 67 |
| 8 | Lincoln United | 42 | 19 | 8 | 15 | 67 | 61 | 6 | 65 |
| 9 | Leek Town | 42 | 18 | 10 | 14 | 63 | 63 | 0 | 64 |
| 10 | Belper Town | 42 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 55 | 55 | 0 | 58 |
| 11 | Bedworth United | 42 | 15 | 12 | 15 | 73 | 72 | 1 | 57 |
| 12 | Kidsgrove Athletic | 42 | 16 | 7 | 19 | 72 | 66 | 6 | 55 |
| 13 | Romulus | 42 | 14 | 9 | 19 | 65 | 75 | -10 | 51 |
| 14 | Market Drayton Town | 42 | 16 | 2 | 24 | 60 | 93 | -33 | 50 |
| 15 | Sheffield FC | 42 | 13 | 9 | 20 | 62 | 60 | 2 | 48 |
| 16 | Stamford | 42 | 13 | 9 | 20 | 62 | 80 | -18 | 48 |
| 17 | Chasetown | 42 | 13 | 8 | 21 | 64 | 75 | -11 | 47 |
| 18 | Gresley FC | 42 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 56 | 83 | -27 | 45 |
| 19 | Carlton Town | 42 | 10 | 12 | 20 | 48 | 68 | -20 | 42 |
| 20 | Loughborough Dynamo | 42 | 10 | 4 | 28 | 45 | 94 | -49 | 34 |
| 21 | Rugby Town | 42 | 8 | 6 | 28 | 44 | 77 | -33 | 30 |
| 22 | Northwich Victoria | 42 | 8 | 12 | 22 | 53 | 89 | -36 | 26 |

TOP GOALSCORERS

Gavin Allott 26 Shaw Lane AFC

Bradley Wells 25 Spalding United

Anthony Malbon 20 Kidsgrove Athletic

Tim Grice 20 Leek Town

Bradley Bauress 20 Witton Albion

FINAL PLAYER STATS 2016/17

| Player | Debut | 2016/17 | | | | Career | |
|--------------------|------------|---------|-------|----|----|--------|-------|
| | | Apps | Goals | YC | RC | Apps | Goals |
| Jon Beaumont | 22/09/2015 | 6+2 | 0 | | | 37 | 2 |
| Aaron Bott | 13/12/2016 | 3+2 | 1 | 1 | | 5 | 1 |
| Ricky Bridge | 29/08/2011 | 10+2 | 0 | 1 | | 52 | 1 |
| Chris Budrys | 13/08/2016 | 41+6 | 8 | 6 | | 47 | 8 |
| Aaron Carter | 20/08/2016 | 4 | 1 | | | 4 | 1 |
| Darren Chadwick | 16/08/2014 | 33+1 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 111 | 12 |
| Ben Chapman | 22/11/2011 | 34 | 0 | | | 164 | 0 |
| James Curley | 15/08/2015 | 17+4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 54 | 6 |
| Anthony Danylyk | 09/03/2002 | 22+6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 433 | 31 |
| Ryan Dicker | 25/10/2005 | 1+2 | 0 | | | 81 | 2 |
| Jake Dunwoody | 17/09/2016 | 11+1 | 1 | 1 | | 12 | 0 |
| MacKenzie Faulkner | 03/09/2016 | 30+3 | 0 | 3 | | 33 | 0 |
| Tom France | 21/08/2010 | 31+10 | 2 | 8 | | 63 | 3 |
| Francino Francis | 11/02/2017 | 9 | 1 | 1 | | 9 | 1 |
| James Gibbons | 17/09/2016 | 5 | 0 | | | 5 | 0 |
| Sam Grimshaw | 13/08/2016 | 27+18 | 6 | 2 | | 45 | 5 |
| Tim Grice | 24/09/2011 | 39+5 | 22 | | | 253 | 129 |
| Jonny Higham | 11/02/2017 | 4+4 | 0 | | | 8 | 0 |
| Jordan Johnson | 16/11/2004 | 22+6 | 8 | 3 | | 150 | 61 |
| Kieran Lazenby | 13/12/2016 | 1+1 | 0 | | | 2 | 0 |
| Niall Maguire | 07/09/2013 | 39+1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 167 | 21 |
| Chris Martin | 15/08/2015 | 16 | 0 | | | 64 | 0 |
| Alex Morris | 16/08/2016 | 42+4 | 2 | 2 | | 46 | 1 |
| Toby Mullarkey | 28/03/2015 | 28+13 | 2 | 3 | | 51 | 2 |
| Dan Shelley | 29/09/2012 | 12+7 | 4 | 4 | | 205 | 40 |
| Danny Smith | 19/08/2006 | 25 | 0 | | | 148 | 4 |
| Rob Stevenson | 18/08/2012 | 26+8 | 5 | | | 43 | 6 |
| Peter Williams | 31/01/2017 | 7+2 | 0 | | | 9 | 0 |

#GETTINGSOCIAL

THE BEST OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The recent Leek Post Charity Shield and Beer Festival held at Harrison Park drew universal praise...



Daryl Biddulph

@Boleynbiddy

@leektown Brilliant weekend....football family of Leek coming together to support a fantastic charity,well done everyone



amy rimes

@mrsbloor

@jdeeles @leektown Great weekend, lovely feeling of community at the club :)

19:48 - 31 Jul 17 via [Twitter for iPhone](#)



Simon John Bell

@DingerBell756

Great night @leektown We are definitely getting it right on and off the theatre! 🙌🙌🙌 we'll played @BallHayeGreen also 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

02:30 - 29 Jul 17 via [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Although some clearly thought that footy and beer was still not enough and we ought to be staging a musical... the Blues Brothers perhaps?

Meanwhile over at Kidsgrove, they were going giddy over the prospect of having two 'cup-finals' at the Novus this season...



Kidsgrove Athletic

@KidsgroveAth

CUP DRAW:

Grove will be at home v

@leektown in the 1st round of the Integro league cup on 18/10/17.

18:29 - 9 Aug 17 via [Twitter Lite](#)

We don't want our opponents in the FA Cup giving us the hump though. Clearly Cammell Laird think this could be a good season for them as their 'revolution' gathers pace...



Cammell Laird 1907

@cammelllairdfc

Lairds will travel to @leektown on Saturday 19th August in the Preliminary Round of the [#EmiratesFACup](#). [#LairdsRevolution](#) 🐪🐪

Given his impending wedding, we assume Gricey is not referring to his fiancée Samantha in this tweet...



Tim Grice

@Tim_Grice9

@KidsgroveAth @leektown @HanleyTown66 Can I swap my partner please

18:05 - 8 Aug 17 via [Twitter for iPhone](#)

6 likes

And finally, it was great to see our Under 11's Girls side getting national recognition - everyone at the club is very proud of them...



BBC News England

@BBCEngland

An under-11s girls' football team from Staffordshire has won every game for 3 seasons - that's more than 150 matches! 🏆🏆🏆 [#thisgirlcan](#)



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#BOYSINBLUE

A GUIDE TO THE LEEK TOWN SQUAD



Jon Beaumont: Strong, combative midfielder player who returned to the club for a second spell in February 2017 from Newcastle Town. Jon originally joined Leek in October 2015 from Witton Albion after previously playing for Norton United.

Kyle Blake: Midfielder who started out on the books of Doncaster Rovers where he progressed through the youth ranks. Following his release by the League club at the age of 18 he joined Nantwich Town. He then went on to play for Newcastle Town and Market Drayton Town and was in his second stint with the Dabbers last season before moving to Castle where he was named Manager's and Player's Player of the Season for 2016/17.



Chris Budrys: No-nonsense, physical, centre forward who joined Leek in July 2016 after four seasons with Airbus UK in the Welsh League. Chris is well known and respected in non-league circles having had spells with Newcastle Town, Stafford Rangers and Northwich Victoria after starting his career at Queen of the South.

Darren Chadwick: Central defender originally signed from Norton United in July 2014. Darren was part of their NWCFL Championship winning squad after joining from Stafford Rangers. Following a successful season at Harrison Park where he was named Manager's Player of the Year he left to join Witton Albion, but was back at Leek by November 2015 and has now made well over 100 appearances for the club. He has been made captain of the side for this season.



Ben Chapman: Goalkeeper who returned to Leek in October 2015 from Glossop North End after previously leaving to join Kidsgrove Athletic. Ben originally joined the Blues on loan from Nantwich Town in November 2011 and made the move permanent later on in the season. He swept the board in the 2016/17 awards winning Supporter's, Manager's and Player's Player of the Season and has now made over 150 appearances for the club.

James Curley: Originally joined the club in July 2015 as a forward but formed a very successful partnership in the centre of defence with Darren Chadwick. He can also play at right back if required. James started out on the books of Stoke City and has since played for Kidsgrove Athletic and Uttoxeter Town for whom he scored over 30 goals in the 2014/15 season.



#BOYSINBLUE

A GUIDE TO THE LEEK TOWN SQUAD

Mackenzie Faulkner: Young defender who progressed through the youth and reserve team set-up's at Port Vale. Mackenzie joined the club in August 2016 following his release from Vale Park and made 30 starts in his debut season with the Blues.



Niall Green: Hard working and versatile player who's comfortable playing as a full back or anywhere across midfield.

Niall is another player who helped Norton United to the North West Counties Championship in 2013/14. He joined the club in October 2015 after a short spell at Witton Albion before moving on to Newcastle Town for the 2016/17 season. He returned to Harrison Park in June 2017.



Tim Grice: Prolific striker signed in September 2011 from North West Counties League side Eccleshall. Tim started out at the Stoke City Academy and was also on the books of Aston Villa before going on to play for Wolstanton United and Alsager Town. He has now scored over 125 goals for Leek in just over 250 games and has passed the 20 goal mark in five out of his six seasons at the club including top scoring last season with 22 strikes. Tim is now second on the Blues all-time scorers list and is closing in on the club record.



Sam Grimshaw: Winger who signed from Stockport County in July 2016 after also having spells at Southport and Ramsbottom United. Sam started his career at Manchester City before joining Altrincham and Glossop North End. Whilst with the Hillmen he reached the FA Vase Final in 2015 and impressed enough to earn trials at both Manchester United and Crewe Alexandra.



Marc Grocott: Midfield player signed in June 2017 from Kidsgrove Athletic where he was Manager's and Player's player of the Season in 2016/17. Marc began his career on the books of Stoke City where he spent several seasons where he gained experience with loan spells at Alfreton Town and Stafford Rangers. More recently he has also played for Newcastle Town.



Jonny Higham: Young forward is a product of the Crewe Alexandra Academy but was released by the Gresty Road club in summer 2016 after six years there. He initially linked up with Curzon Ashton but soon moved on to NWCFL side Hanley Town. Jonny's 12 goals for the NWCFL side secured his move to Harrison Park in February 2017.



#BOYSINBLUE

A GUIDE TO THE LEEK TOWN SQUAD

Jordan Johnson: Forward who returned to the club in July 2016 after one season with neighbours Kidsgrove Athletic. Jordan is now in his third spell at Harrison Park and has made over 150 appearances scoring over 60 goals. He has also played and scored in both the Europa League and the World Cup Qualifiers for Airbus UK and the British Virgin Islands respectively. His other clubs include Congleton Town, AFC Telford United, Newcastle Town and Northwich Victoria.



Joe Kearns: Defender who came through the ranks at League Two side Crewe Alexandra where he skippered the Under 18s in their run to the FA Youth Cup Quarter Final. He progressed through the Under 21s side and made four appearances from the substitute's bench in the First Team. Joe began last season at Southport as a regular in the starting eleven before losing his place and has spent part of the last few months on loan at Bradford Park Avenue and AFC Telford United before joining NWCFL side Runcorn Town. He signed for Leek in July 2017.

Niall Maguire: Midfielder who joined the club in September 2013 from Nantwich Town. Niall has now made well over 150 appearances for the club and was captain for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 seasons. He has also been on the books of Stafford Rangers and Stone Dominoes.



Alex Morris: Defender who arrived at Harrison Park in July 2016. Alex was previously on the books of Port Vale where he had played for their youth and reserve teams. He established himself as a regular at left-back in an impressive first campaign and was runner-up in the Supporters Player of the Season award.

Dan Shelley: Attacking midfielder player signed in September 2012 following his release by Crewe Alexandra. Dan made over 70 appearances in the Alex's first team in a four year spell after graduating from their Academy. After an excellent first season Dan was named in the EVO-STIK NPL Division One South team of the year and he has now made over 200 appearances for the Blues, scoring over 40 goals.



Rob Stevenson: Wide attacking player who previously had a spell at Harrison Park under Lee Casswell in the 2012/13 season. Since then Rob has played for Market Drayton Town, Belper Town and Stafford Rangers before returning to Leek in October 2016.

| DATE | OPPONENT | COMP | RES | ATT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|---------|-------|--------|---------|--------|----------|
| Sat 12th Aug | Alvechurch | ESL | 1-3 | 190 | Chapman | Green | Kearns | Grocott | Curley | Chadwick |
| Tue 15th Aug | BELPER TOWN | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 19th Aug | CAMMELL LAIRD | FACPr | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 26th Aug | Loughborough Dynamo | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 28th Aug | MARKET DRAYTON TOWN | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 9th Sep | GresleyFC | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 12th Sep | Stocksbridge Park Steels | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 16th Sep | SPALDING UNITED | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 19th Sep | KIDSGROVE ATHLETIC | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 23rd Sep | Carlton Town | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 26th Sep | SHEFFIELD FC | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 30th Sep | CLEETHORPES TOWN | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 3rd Oct | Bedworth United | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 7th Oct | LINCOLN UNITED | FATPr | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 14th Oct | BASFORD UNITED | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Wed 18th Oct | Kidsgrove Athletic | ILC1 | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 21st Oct | Lincoln United | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 4th Nov | FRICKLEY ATHLETIC | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 11th Nov | Chasetown | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 18th Nov | ROMULUS | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 25th Nov | STAMFORD | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 2nd Dec | Peterborough Sports | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 9th Dec | Corby Town | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 16th Dec | ALVECHURCH | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 23rd Dec | Belper Town | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 26th Dec | NEWCASTLE TOWN | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 30th Dec | LOUGHBOROUGH DYNAMO | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 1st Jan | Market Drayton Town | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 6th Jan | Basford United | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 13th Jan | LINCOLN UNITED | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 20th Jan | Frickley Athletic | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 27th Jan | CHASETOWN | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3rd Feb | Romulus | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 10th Feb | Kidsgrove Athletic | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 17thFeb | CARLTON TOWN | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 24th Feb | Cleethorpes Town | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3rd Mar | BEDWORTH UNITED | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 17th Mar | Stamford | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 24th Mar | PETERBOROUGH SPORTS | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 31st Mar | CORBY TOWN | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 2nd Apr | Newcastle Town | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 7th Apr | Sheffield FC | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 14th Apr | GRESLEY FC | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 21st Apr | Spalding United | ESL | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 28th Apr | STOCKSBRIDGE PS | ESL | | | | | | | | |

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|-----------|-------|--------|---------|---------|
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Stevenson | Blake | Grice1 | Johnson | Shelley |

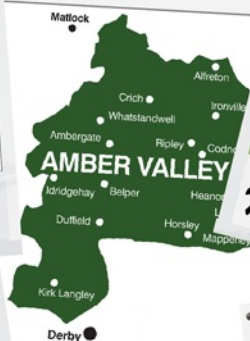
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| SUBSTITUTES |
| Maguire(7) Faulkner Budrys(10) Morris(3) Beaumont |

#MEETTHE NAILERS



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Belper Town FC



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Amber Valley



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Marston's Stadium



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Ant & Donners



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The Nailers

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BELPER TOWN

Belper Town's unusual nickname, 'The Nailers', came about because the craft of nail making began in Belper in the middle ages when it was the site of a hunting lodge for John of Gaunt. The huntsmen needed nails for the shoes of their horses and the trade in nails eventually grew.

Originally formed in 1883, the Nailers went out of existence three times through lack of finance. The main highlight in those early years was an FA Cup 1st Round tie against Sheffield Wednesday on 15th October 1887 in which the Nailers were narrowly defeated 2-3 by the Yorkshire giants. The Club reformed for the fourth time in 1951 and it was in that year that they enjoyed their record attendance when 3,600 fans turned up to see Belper play Ilkeston Town. Regular four figure attendances were commonplace at Christchurch Meadow in those days.

Season 1958/59 was a turning point as the Nailers outshone wealthy Heanor Town and Ilkeston Town, their strongly backed neighbours, with 2,000+ gates to win the Central Alliance League championship and the Derbyshire Senior Cup. Three years later, they were invited to join the revamped Midland Counties League although major ground improvements were required before the Club was allowed to bring Midland League football to the Town for the first time. Three times the Club finished bottom of the League, the last time in 1978/79, when only the charitable overtures of member clubs at the League AGM saved Belper from comparative obscurity once again. Under the astute management of Ivan Hollett and John Harrison, the Nailers responded to the challenge in magnificent style by winning the Midland League championship in the very next season and, the Derbyshire Senior Cup as well.

The Nailers won the Northern Counties East League Championship in 1984/85 the guidance of the late Harry Bethel. The championship success that season coincided with the arrival of former Derby County and England striker, Kevin Hector. Lack of finance at that time held the Club back from taking up a place in the newly formed First Division of the Northern Premier League. However, having achieved the runners-up position in the Northern Counties League in 1996/97, the Club took its place in the UniBond League twelve years after the first opportunity had been spurned.

In 2008/09, the Nailers finished the league campaign in second place, having secured 81 points and equalling their record points score of 1984/85 when the club won the Northern Counties East League championship. A heartbreaking home defeat in the play-off final against Stocksbridge Park Steels was a bitter pill to swallow.

The Nailers came close again in 2011/12, when after a terrific run they were again pipped to a play-off place finishing in sixth place as Leek Town overtook them on the last day of the season. A third place finish gave the Belper a play-off place in 2012/13 but they were beaten by Stamford in the semi-final. They finally gained promotion in 2013/14 beating Mickleover Sports in the play-off final but were immediately relegated back after finishing bottom of the Premier Division in 2014/15. and have finished in mid-table in the two seasons since.

THE BELPER TOWN SQUAD

DANNY ROBERTS - Goalkeeper signed from Witton Albion just prior to the start of the season. Danny will be familiar to Blues fans having had a spell at Harrison Park starting in 2011. He subsequently played for Norton United.

MARK RATHBONE - Mark is a product of the Belper Town youth system and has emerged as a fine young goalkeeper with a number of first team appearances to his name. Mark is a confident 'keeper who is not afraid to organise his defence and has gained further confidence with some impressive performances between the posts last season. He will be a strong challenger for the number one jersey this season.

WILL DENNIS - A right sided defender, Will eventually signed for the Nailers in September 2016 after almost making the move to the Marston's Stadium towards the latter part of last season, opting to join Coalville Town instead. A former Belper Town junior, Will spent two years with Chesterfield and then spent a similar amount of time at Matlock Town following his release by the Spireites. He joined Loughborough Dynamo for the start of the 2015/16 season from where Nailers former manager, Charlie Palmer initially tried to sign him.

JOE HUNT - Promising young defender who first arrived at Belper Town towards the end of last season on loan from Burton Albion, but was released by the Brewers at the end of the season. The full-back can play either side of the defence.

SAM WESTON - Defender who is still only 18 years old and former captain of Belper Town's Academy side, Sam has made rapid strides in his first season at the club and initially signed first team forms in March 2016, a reward for his consistent performances in the NPL Youth Academy League. Sam is the son of former Nailers skipper and manager, Craig Weston, and he is blessed with good pace and a calm assurance in his play.

MAX THORNBERRY - Max is an imposing but technically gifted central defender who came through the Ilkeston FC Academy, signing for the Nailers in July 2017. He is regarded by the management team as a long-term investment for the club. Max has got a lot of ability on the ball, and will be looking for the chance to prove himself and take his opportunity with the Nailers this season.

JOHN GUY - A genuinely versatile player, John joined the Nailers in June 2016 from Gresley FC. He originally joined the Moatmen from Mickleover Sports at the start of the 2013/14 season and played predominantly at left back and in midfield but he successfully converted to a striker in his final months at Gresley, scoring some important goals to stave off the possibility of relegation.

FENWICK BUTCHER - Defender or midfielder who is another player who has graduated through the Belper Town youth teams and Under 21s to become a highly regarded member of the first team squad where he played with surprising maturity. Fenwick has also played in the locality for

ERIC GRAVES - Eric returned to Belper for a second spell with the club in October 2015, after only signed for League rivals Coalville Town in the summer following a successful period with Gresley FC. He started his career and an Academy player at Stoke City before enjoying spells at Burton Albion and Mickleover Sports. Eric won the Club's Player of the Year award last season.

MATT RICHARDS - Midfielder who came through the Derby County youth team and although he didn't make a first team appearance for the club he did win an England Under 17 cap whilst there. Matt ad spells with league clubs Wycombe Wanderers, and Notts County before he joined Derbyshire neighbours, Ilkeston FC where he enjoyed a successful 3-year spell with the Robins. He was released in June 2014 and spent some time at Heanor Town before joining up with the Nailers in March 2016.

HAYDN GODDARD - Midfielder who signed permanently for the Nailers in December 2016, from Ilkeston FC. This is his second spell at the Marston's Stadium after arriving on loan from Ilkeston during the previous season. He was one the stars of Ilkeston's acclaimed FA Youth Cup side and became a regular in the Robins' first team squad towards the end of the 2015/16 season.

JOSH BARR-ROSTRON - An attacking midfield player, Josh re-joined the Nailers for the second time in July 2017 after a previous loan spell n 2015 from Lincoln City. The 20-year-old played for the Imps youth side including loan spells with Lincoln United, Brigg Town as well as Belper Town. He moved on from Lincoln City in at the beginning of last season and featured for Boston United reserves .

DEXTER ATKINSON - The Nailers added Dexter Atkinson to their squad in July 2017, the forward having previously been with Ilkeston FC b. Dexter offers the Nailers a number of options with his ability to play as a central striker as well as playing as one of the wide men. The 21-year old previously played for Europa Point FC in Gibraltar as well as Dunkirk, Stapleford, Clipstone and Sheffield FC.

ALEX STEADMAN - Alex is another former Belper Town reserve team player who was allowed to 'slip the net' in his quest to realise his football ambition. He moved to local rivals Mickleover Sports where he built an enviable reputation for this goal scoring talents. He moved on from Sports in summer 2011 to join Chasetown but his spell with the Scholars was short and he returned to Mickleover just a few months later. He continued to score freely for Sports until he was tempted by a move to Stafford Rangers In September 2013 but again his tenure was brief as he moved again, this time to Gresley FC before rejoining the Nailers in October 2015.

MATT HARRIS - Powerful forward who signed for the Nailers in August 2017 after impressing in pre-season.

LAURENCE CONSTABLE - An exciting young prospect who has recently made the breakthrough in to the Nailers first team after some striking performances for the Belper Town Under 21 team. Laurence came through the ranks at Nottingham Forest and is now looking to make a name for himself in the semi-professional football environment. Laurence suffered a broken collar bone that kept him out of action for a period last season but is now back to full fitness

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AWAY DAY BLUES

Pre-season is always a funny time for me; the weeks of boredom are finally over, and Leek Town have returned! But the games can sometimes feel dry and a little dull - glorified training matches and it just makes me more impatient for the season to begin - but one big positive from this period is that some new grounds are visited, and places we do not get the chance to visit very often. This years offering gave me a new ground to add to the spreadsheet, and two familiar friends.

Abbey Hulton United

When I first saw this on the list I was immediately struck by, "Well where is it?" A quick Google showed me it was tucked away on Birches Head Road, a stones throw from a school - and tucked away it was. My chauffeur for the night got lost on the way, nearly getting us stranded along a tight country road (along with a Leek Town trialist), but he soon rectified his mistake and got us to the ground in one piece.



I do not mean to give the club a dis-service by describing it as basic setup, a pitch with modest changing rooms & Clubhouse; but the pitch looked a fantastic surface - I have visited grounds in higher leagues who would yearn for a surface as good as The Abbey. The people were welcoming and I have to say, the tea I purchased that night was top drawer.

For the past few seasons of following Leek, I have been mentally scoring grounds on the quality of the food, and most away games you can find me with cheeseburger in hands; for Abbey Hulton though I had regrettably eaten before coming out, and the aroma of onions and sizzling meat would drive any person wild - a missed opportunity!

The match lacked excitement, but plenty of goals were had, a pleasurable night nonetheless at a charming ground with some genuinely welcoming and lovely people - volunteers are the lifeblood of clubs like ours and Abbey Hulton and it's always a positive to meet like minded individuals who love the clubs they are involved with.

Congleton Town

Congleton seems to be becoming a regular part of Leek's pre-season and this this year proved to be no exception. A pleasant mild July night, the game was more entertaining than Abbey Hulton and Leek were deservedly beaten, we seemed to experiment a little, nonetheless Congleton seemed very strong in some areas. Supporters I speak to around the club always seem to enjoy the excursion to Congleton, the people are always welcoming with some good facilities; I am no exception (but the result could have been better!). The playing surface was as good as it has been previous seasons, and the club has a good sized and well maintained stand; I saw plenty of Leek fans occupying the seats.

The drinkers among the party I was with, reported an excellent selection of tap beers in the club house; and the bacon bap was a particular delight, nothing better than a large soft roll brimming with hot bacon!

Highlight of the night was the Congleton devotee trying to sell the pre-season friendlies programme, containing all the games (a good idea I personally thought) - the price got lower every time he walked past. Banter was had between both sets of supporters and himself, bringing some chuckles and retorts from the faithful.

Buxton

Buxton, again is another staple of Leek's preseason schedule usually played just before we start the league campaign and a more reflective match of what the first XI might be; this years offering was a little different from Leek's side - many attacking players I assume will be starters were missing, leaving us a little blunted.

The first half saw two very fine goals from Buxton and the second half was a more balanced affair. Many Leek fans will have been to Buxton over the years, the ground typical of ones at our level and above. The players reporting a decent playing surface, Buxton has a good sized stand and a pleasant clubhouse, full of pre-game mirth between home and away fans alike.

One noticeable grumble was the price of entry, £8 a tad high for a friendly? A fine cup of tea was had and the cheese burger was very tasty, we will see how it compares with the rest of this seasons offerings. Rumours were abound that a superb Cottage Pie with red cabbage was served in the boardroom, a rumour I have confirmed by a source close to me, to be correct!

Read Tom's Alvechurch analysis in the next issue of #WEARELEEK available on Saturday when we take on Cammell Laird in the FA Cup.

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST

Alvechurch 3-1 Leek Town
Belper Town 0-1 Basford United
Carlton Town 3-0 Sheffield FC
Chasetown 1-3 Lincoln United
Cleethorpes Town 4-1 Gresley
Corby Town 5-1 Romulus
Loughborough Dynamo 3-2 Bedworth United
Market Drayton Town 0-0 Stamford
Newcastle Town 0-1 Frickley Athletic
Peterborough Sports 3-0 Kidsgrove Athletic
Stocksbridge Park Steels 0-2 Spalding United

Saturday saw a dreadful start for the local sides with ourselves, Kidsgrove Athletic and Newcastle Town all going down to opening day defeats. Like us, Grove also travelled to one of the newly-promoted sides and similarly were well-beaten, Peterborough Sports winning 3-0 with goals from Mark Jones(2) and Lewis Webb. Newcastle Town were beaten 1-0 at home by relegated Frickley Athletic whose 69th minute winner came from Gavin Allott who helped Shaw Lane to the title last season.

Not a great day either for locally based managers. Scott Dundas Chasetown side went down 3-1 at home to Lincoln United for who Phil Watt, Matt Cotton and Jack Wightwick were on target. Ant Danylyk and Paul Donnelly lost their first game in charge of Belper when Lewis Carr scored the only goal of the game for Basford United at Christchurch Meadow. There was better news however for Peter Ward whose Loughborough Dynamo side triumphed by the off goal in five against Bedworth United thanks to two goals from Luke Thorogood and one from Luke Smithson.

Corby Town are the early leaders after they put five past Romulus at Steel Park in front of a crowd of over 400. Sam Mulready (pictured), scored twice with Kern Miller, Jack McGovern and Jordon Crawford netting the rest. The third promoted side Cleethorpes Town also got off to a good start with a 4-1 thrashing of Gresley. An own goal set them on the way with Matt Bloomer, Andy Taylor and Alex Flett also on the score sheet.



Elsewhere, Spalding United beaten in last season's play-off final got off to a good start with a 2-0 win at Stocksbridge, thanks to goals from Cenk Acar and Gary King. Carlton Town had a comfortable 3-0 victory over Sheffield and in the games only drawn game, Market Drayton and Stamford shared the spoils with a goalless draw at Greenfields.

#TACKLETHIS

TEST YOUR LEEK TOWN KNOWLEDGE

Fancy yourself as a Leek Town super fan... well test your knowledge with our Blues-based quiz, answers can be found at the foot of the final page.

1. Who scored a hat-trick in the 5-0 win over Shepshed Dynamo in 2012 that took us into the play-offs?
- 2 Who were our first ever NPL opponents at Harrison Park in 1987?
A) Sutton United B) Sutton Town C) Sutton Coldfield Town
3. From which club was Niall Maguire signed when he joined the Blues?
4. Who is this player (pictured, right) from the 2004/05 season?
5. Who will we play later in the season at Bradley Community Stadium?



The Stinker: Name the five scorers in the 5-5 draw with Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Trophy tie in March 1986.
(1 point for each)



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#WHENTHELISTHITSTHEFAN

ANOTHER SUPPORTER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Paul Buxton

Age: 34

Live: Leek

Job: Technical Publications Manager



TV: The Walking Dead, Line of Duty, Stranger Things, Better Call Saul, Impractical Jokers

Films: Shawshank Redemption, Dumb & Dumber, anything by Christopher Nolan

Reads: the odd sporting biography (mainly ex-Liverpool FC players)

3 course meal: Nachos, anything Mexican and spicy, cheese board

5 act fantasy festival line-up: Oasis, Blur, Kasabian, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Black Angels

3 things to put in Room 101: unnecessarily noisy car exhausts, reality TV and spiders

Why do you support Leek Town: My dad used to bring me down every now and again as a kid in the 80's, I enjoyed it and have been a regular since the early 90's

Any other clubs supported (if any): Liverpool

First Leek game and memories: I'd be too young to remember my first game. I was at Wembley for the Trophy final but my earliest memory from a game at Harrison Park would be the FA Cup tie vs Chester City in 1990.

Favourite all-time Leek players: Dave Sutton, Dave MacPherson

On average how many Leek games do you attend a season: 2/3 of home games and a handful of away games.

Team/ground you dislike most: Gresley – horrible dilapidated ground, terrible sloping pitch and we rarely get a decent result there.

Favourite away day and why: I don't get to many but Buxton away is always good for the rivalry and banter between the supporters.

Best match attended: Too many to choose from but the 2-1 win away at Altrincham in the FA Trophy back in 2013 was pretty good.

Biggest let-down supporting Leek: Losing in the play-off final back in 2015. The best team we'd had for years and I feel we were the best team in the league that season but we couldn't quite get over the line.

One thing you would change about the club: There's been plenty of improvement around the club recently but I think a new social club would do wonders for the club and bring in revenue outside of match days.

Another supporter will be in the spotlight in the next issue of #WEARELEEK - don't miss it!

KEY

Shopping

Food & Drink

Services

Parking

Love it & leave it



TOTALLY LOCALLY LEEK

More Than A Shop Local Campaign

Leek Town are proud to support the Totally Locally campaign in Leek. Totally Locally is a national campaign with the Leek franchise being one of the most successful, Leek Town FC are the first football Club in the country to be involved in such a campaign.

If every person in the Leek area spent just £5 per week in their local independent shops, instead of online or at the big supermarkets, it would be worth an extra £4.1million a year going into the local economy. Which means more jobs, better facilities & a nicer place for us all to live. Makes you think doesn't it?

Totally Locally Leek is a traditional and vibrant market town on the edge of the Peak District. With a wealth of independent shops, cafes and pubs with regular weekly markets and weekend speciality markets including the award winning Sunday Supplement held on the first day of the month.

Leek Town use local suppliers wherever possible and are proud are of this - we've included a Totally Locally Map to show all the shops involved and showcase our great town, and Leek Town are on it too.

Visit the website at www.totallylocally.org/leek



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#WEARELTFC

MORE THAN JUST A FIRST TEAM



As part of our successful Beer Festival weekend, we held a tournament for our “Mini” section of the Junior Blues. This incorporated the seven sides that played as part of the Leek LadsAndDads set up last season up to age Under 10 and the newest team to join the fold, Leek Town Under 7’s for the coming season.

The teams proudly posed for a group photograph in front of the main stand as shown above and all loved being able to play on the hallowed turf of Harrison Park. Many of these kids can be seen around the ground at home games and will undoubtedly become the fans of the future.

This season’s Junior Section incorporates 20 boys teams and 6 girls teams; worthy of our Community Club status as we give so many local juniors the opportunity to play football, both as part of a team or for pre-team age kids, as part of the continuing training creche that takes place at Westwood College on Thursday evening from 6pm to 7pm. The facility is for 4-7 year olds and all are welcome. Turn up on the night if you are interested in your child joining. We will kick off again the first week back at school after the holidays on Thursday 7 September.

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#BLUESBANTER

ALL THE LATEST LEEK TOWN GOSSIP

Finally, over at Kidsgrove Athletic they are already celebrating their most successful season ever. The Grove gang have been basking in the glory of spending three months above us in the league table for the first time ever...

| TABLE | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----|-----|
| First ▾ | | | |
| # | Team | Pl | Pts |
| 10. | Gresley FC | 0 | 0 |
| 11. | Kidsgrove Athletic | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Leek Town | 0 | 0 |
| 13. | Lincoln United | 0 | 0 |
| 14. | Loughborough Dynamo | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | Market Drayton Town | 0 | 0 |
| 16. | Newcastle Town | 0 | 0 |
| View Full Table » | | | |

#TACKLETHIS ANSWERS

1. Tim Grice
2. B) Sutton Town
3. Nantwich Town
4. Dean Crowe
5. Cleethorpes Town

The Stinker: Chris McMullen, Andy O'Connor, Dale Mallaburn, Trevor Robson, Carl France

Score 1 point each for 1 to 5 and 1 for each correct answer in The Stinker

Rate your score on the Blues fans scale:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 10: Pete Cope | 7-9: Home and away |
| 4-6: Season ticket holder | 1-3: Fairweather fan |
| 0: Visiting supporter | |

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