

THE DUNSTONER



THE DUNSTONER | ISSUE 12
DUNSTON FC VS ASHINGTON AFC
PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE EAST
SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2024 | 3:00PM
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WELCOME!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone in attendance at the UTS Stadium this afternoon for this PITCHING-IN Northern Premier League East Division game.

Our opponents today are our old friends ASHINGTON AFC who arrive at the UTS Stadium after their relatively short journey from Northumberland. "The Colliers" are enjoying their first season in the NPL East Division after their well-deserved promotion last summer as a result of winning the Play-Off on the ground of Glossop North End where they won by three goals to nil with a dominant performance. Newton Aycliffe had just pipped Ashington to the Northern League Title after a tough campaign that went right to the wire, but our visitors kept their nerve to clinch their elevation.

At the very beginning of the new season, results were mixed in the opening games after the step-up. As expected with a Club bedding in a new squad, some excellent performances were interrupted by some disappointing ones. The two Clubs met twice in September with Dunston coming out on top by three goals to nil in the first meeting in the FA Trophy. The very next week saw a complete reversal of fortunes with Ashington gaining a well-deserved 3-1 victory in the League encounter at their excellent Woodhorn Lane Stadium.

That result seems to have been a turning point in Ashington's season because since then they have proven a match for any team in the Division and pulled off some outstanding results both home and away. The two Clubs have always enjoyed a very competitive but cordial relationship since our days together in the Northern League and it's good to renew our rivalry at this higher level.

We also extend a warm welcome to our Match Officials this afternoon. Referee Sam Ross travels from Durham and he is joined by his Assistant Referees Thomas James, also from Durham and Guy Campbell from Houghton-le-Spring. Our FA Match Observer is Andy Haines from Sunderland.

Also, a warm welcome to today's match day sponsors. The 29 lads who have travelled down from Stirling as part of Shaka's Stag Doo weekend. Have a great day and enjoy the game.



Supporters old and new are very well appreciated and we hope you enjoy your visit to the UTS Stadium this afternoon. If you require any help or information about the Club and facilities, please do not hesitate to contact any Management Committee Member. Details of Part-Season Tickets, Executive Package, Club Merchandise, Concessions and Sponsorship Opportunities can be obtained from any Club Official or at the Club Office.

Let's look forward to a competitive match. Enjoy the game!

BILLY MONTAGUE – CLUB SECRETARY



MEET BEA



Hello everyone, meet Beatrix! Bea is today's mascot for our game against Ashington.

Over the course of last season, we ran a feature in our match day e-programmes about spreading the message of organ donation.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, organ donation levels had decreased significantly. Beatrix's mother, Cheyrl, is the cousin of committee member Steve Whittaker. Bea had been awaiting heart

surgery since May 2022 when she was just 15 months old.

Bea showed so much strength and resilience and back in June of last year, Beatrix was finally able to undergo successful heart surgery.

Today, she is our official mascot. A sign of just how far this strong young girl has come over the course of the last year and a half.

Not only will Beatrix be today's mascot, but there will also be bucket collections around the ground raising monies for the Red Sky Foundation.

Red Sky Foundation is an excellent organisation who raise vital funds for babies, children and adults who have heart conditions and who are in need of cardiac care, by providing support to them and their families.

Any donation, big or small, could make a huge difference.

To learn more about Red Sky Foundation:

[CLICK HERE](#)



DUNSTON FC – CLUB HISTORY

The Club first saw light of day in 1975 as the Football Section of a Print Works Sports & Social Club. Long-serving Club stalwart John Thompson, along with some of his fellow workmates at Her Majesty's Stationery Office Gateshead, formed the team and joined the Newcastle City Amateur League playing at the Civil Service Sports Ground, Longbenton, Newcastle.

Early success inspired John to develop the Club and it moved to a new base, The Bay Horse public house in Wickham. The Club name was changed to Wickham Sports FC. Playing on a public parks pitch in Dunston, the Club entered the Northern Amateur League. Numerous successes were achieved at this level including League Championships and League Cup wins.

In 1980 the Club joined the Northern Combination League. Further League and Cup triumphs followed and a move to a base nearer the home ground seemed logical. The Club moved to a new base at the Dunston Mechanics Social Club and became known as Dunston Mechanics FC. As the club progressed, land in the locality was leased from Gateshead MBC and the management committee began to develop the present ground.

At this stage an approach was made to the Federation Brewery for sponsorship to assist in the progress of the Club. When they kindly agreed to become the Club's main sponsors, the name was changed to Dunston Federation Brewery F.C. After finishing as League Champions and League Cup Winners in 1987, the Club left the Northern Combination League and joined the Wearside League. Following a period of four seasons in the Wearside League – being League Champions twice and League Cup Winners once – the club felt a

DUNSTON FC – CLUB HISTORY

need to seek new opportunities and an application was made to join the prestigious Northern Football League.

During their time in the Wearside League, the club had made considerable improvements to Federation Park with progress to a higher status of football in mind, and their application to join the Northern League was successful. The Club had now realised one of its main ambitions and so entered the National Pyramid of Non-League Football.

In its second season in the Northern League, the Club won the Second Division Title and was promoted to the First Division. That season also saw the Club reach the last eight of the national FA Vase competition.

The Club was now an established Northern League Club having won the League Challenge Cup three years in succession from 1998 to 2000. Dunston also won the J. R. Cleator Cup in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. Season 2003/2004 was one to remember when the club won the Northern League Championship for the first time and also lifted the League Challenge Cup. They also reached the final qualifying round of the F.A. Cup – the furthest they have ever reached in that competition.

After such a magnificent season in 2003/2004, the club went one better the following season when they repeated the Northern League Championship and Challenge Cup Double and also lifted the J. R. Cleator Cup once more.

In 2009, having been without a main sponsor for the previous three seasons, Mr. Shaun Sadler of UTS Engineering kindly agreed to provide a generous sponsorship package and it was agreed that the

DUNSTON FC – CLUB HISTORY

Club be known as Dunston UTS Football Club. The name of the ground was changed from Federation Park to The UTS Stadium.

The Club enjoyed a momentous season in 2011-2012 when, under the Management duo of Billy Irwin and Tony Harrison, they finished third in the Northern League and achieved the greatest success in their history. After a memorable run in the FA Vase, the side reached the Final at Wembley Stadium and went on to lift the trophy with a superb 2-0 victory over West Auckland Town.

After a few barren years, the Club sprang back to life again at the end of the 2017-2018 season when finishing as Runners-Up in the Durham Challenge Cup Final and going one better with victory in the Brooks Mileson Memorial League Cup Final. Building on the new-found momentum, Dunston continued in the same vein in the following season with a great run in the FA Cup, going out in the final Qualifying Round to National League neighbours Gateshead in front of a record crowd of 2,525 at the UTS Stadium.

The Club finished the 2018-2019 season as convincing Champions of the Northern League First Division, seventeen points ahead of their nearest rivals. Promotion ensued to the BetVictor Northern Premier North West Division but FA Regulations dictated that the “Club Playing Name” must not include any reference to a sponsor so the “UTS” was reluctantly dropped from the Club Title before the new season commenced. Shaun Sadler showed remarkable understanding of the situation and agreed to continue his wonderful sponsorship of the Club. With the aid of a generous grant from the FSIF, improvements were completed to bring the ground up to NPL standards.

DUNSTON FC – CLUB HISTORY

The step up proved more difficult than expected in the NPL North West Division and it wasn't until the turn of the year that the team achieved any real consistency. The early cancellation of League proceedings due to Covid-19 in March 2020 saw the Club finish in mid-table.

After yet another early curtailment in 2020-21, Dunston started the 21-22 season in the newly formed NPL East Division much stronger and finished in sixth-place, just missing out on the end-of-season Play-Offs. Last Season saw yet another upgrade in playing strength and more stadium improvements but the same disappointing final finish of sixth from top.

In a very competitive Division, we will have to go that extra step in the 2023-24 season if we are to achieve our aim of promotion but under the guidance of our new Team Manager Jon McDonald and his Coaches we will do our best!



DUNSTON FC CLUB OFFICIALS

CO-CHAIRMAN – Mr Billy Irwin and Mr Tony Cleugh

CLUB SECRETARY – Mr William Montague

CLUB TREASURER – Mr Ian Hodgson

CLUB PRESIDENT – Mr Shaun Sadler

**VICE PRESIDENTS – Mr Ray Harrison, Mr John Tompson, Mr Frank Rankin,
Mr Tom Newton, Mr Will Garrett, Mr Alan Bell and Mr Paul Hogg**

PRESS OFFICER – Mr William Montague

MEDIA MANAGER – Mr Callum Pattison

PROGRAMME EDITOR – Mr Callum Pattison

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER – Mr Kelvin Shell

GRAPHIC DESIGNER – Mr Adam Richardson

CLUB VIDEOGRAPHER – Mr Liam Foggin

MATCHDAY ANNOUNCER – Mr David Flavell

DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR – Mr Tony Harrison

CANTEEN SERVICES – Mrs Susan Atkinson, Mrs Helen Rocks

**CLUB MANAGEMENT SERVICES – Mr Billy Hope, Mr Malcolm James, Mr Pat
McElhone, Mr Charlie Harm, Mr Ian Hodgson, Mr Gary Poppleton, Mr Frank
Rankin, Mr Paul Dixon, Mr Michael Urwin, Mr Stephen Sibbald, Mr Syd
Bambrough, Mr Tony Harrison, Mr Graham Rowley, Mr Chris Herring, Mr
Brian Sellars, Mr John Thompson, Mr Ian McPherson, Mr Tony Cleugh, Mr
Steve Whittaker, Mr Billy Irwin, Mr Danny Whalen**

LIFE MEMBERS – Mr Fred Foulis, Mr John Smart and Mr George Spraggon



DUNSTON UTS (FC) LIMITED Registration Number: 1396275 is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a private limited company by guarantee.

No individual holds any more than one equal share.

The present members are:

Directors: ANTHONY CLEUGH, WILLIAM IRWIN, IAN HODGSON, MICHAEL URWIN & WILLIAM MONTAGUE

Members: SYDNEY BAMBROUGH, ANTHONY CLEUGH, PAUL DIXON, CHARLES HARM, TONY HARRISON, CHRIS HERRING, IAN HODGSON, WILLIAM MARTIN HOPE, WILLIAM IRWIN, MALCOLM JAMES, PATRICK MCELHONE, IAN MCPHERSON, GARY POPPLETON, GRAHAM ROWLEY, BRIAN SELLARS, STEPHEN SIBBALD, JOHN THOMPSON, MICHAEL URWIN, DANIEL JAMES WHALEN, STEPHEN EDWARD WHITTAKER & FRANK RANKIN

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DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



Harry Barclay Defender

Home Shirt	Ian Black
Sponsor	
Away Shirt	Mr Michael Irwin
Sponsor	
3rd Shirt	Mr Graham Rowley
Sponsor	
Training Shirt	Mr Ian Hodgson
Sponsor	

HARRY BARCLAY (Defender)

A versatile defender who was most recently at Newcastle United under a professional contract. Barclay played over 20 games for the Magpies' U21 team. His time at St James' Park was hampered by an injury but now, Harry is looking to start over at the UTS Stadium. Still only 19-years-old, Barclay is a one to watch out for and will be looking to gain some valuable experience in the men's game this season.



Craig Baxter Defender

Home shirt	David Lord
sponsor	
Away shirt	Lisa Irwin Life Skill Driving School
sponsor	
3rd shirt	Mr Michael Urwin
sponsor	
Training shirt	Mr Malcolm James
sponsor	

CRAIG BAXTER (Defender)

Craig Baxter is a defensively strong and composed right back who brings a wealth of experience of playing higher up in leagues to the Dunston back line. Craig has a proven track record of success, a key player for The Mariners over a five-season spell and making 188 appearances and played an integral role in the Gateshead side which reached the National League playoff final at Wembley Stadium in the 2013/14 season.

Described as rock solid at the back and strong going forward, Baxter's signing was a major coup for Dunston UTS FC, and Craig's addition was obvious, with the full back picking up the 2021/22 managers player of the season, players player of the season and committee's player of the season.

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



Jack Camarda Defender

Home shirt sponsor	Mr Nigel A.A. McFarlane - Director Castletown MFC
Away shirt sponsor	Mr Nigel A.A. McFarlane - Director Castletown MFC
3rd shirt sponsor	Spirit Sports Equipment 
Training shirt sponsor	Miss Emma Carter

JACK CAMARDA (Defender/Midfielder)

Jack Camarda comes to Dunston UTS looking to add extra quality to an already exciting midfield. In the past, he spent various spells at Oldham Athletic, Mansfield Town and Wolverhampton Wanderers as a junior, before landing a two-year academy scholarship at Fleetwood Town. Time at Preston was also enjoyed, but he returned back to his native Isle of Man after the completion of his A-Levels.

More recently, Jack has been playing for island club Isle of Man FC, where he quickly established himself in the starting XI during the club's inaugural season in the North West Counties West Division.

Jack was also selected to represent England Universities for a round of friendly fixtures against Wycombe Wanderers and Gateshead in May 2023.



Luke Carr Forward

Home shirt sponsor	Mr Ian McPherson
Away shirt sponsor	Lee and Tyler Mayes
3rd shirt sponsor	GeeKiam Collectables 
Training shirt sponsor	Craig and Jack MacKereth

LUKE CARR (Midfielder)

Carr joined Dunston ahead of the 2023/24 season and became the first signing announced under Jon McDonald.

Carr provides an excellent attacking threat as he occupies the number 10 role where he contributes both goals and assists.

The attacking midfielder is no stranger to the big occasion having won league titles and promotions with the likes of Morpeth Town, Consett and Newcastle Blue Star. Luke has also played at Wembley twice in two FA Vase finals, winning one of them.

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



JJ Chrisp Defender

Home shirt sponsor	Stephen and Carole Whittaker
Away shirt sponsor	W.Lauderdale & Son Funeral Services
3rd shirt sponsor	Mr Tony Cleugh
Training shirt sponsor	Mr Charlie Harm

JJ CHRISP (Defender/Midfielder)

A versatile player who provides aggression, tenacity and determination all over the pitch and will be looking to make an impact at the UTS Stadium after signing ahead of the 2023-24 campaign.

The former North Shields player is an exciting prospect with Jon McDonald describing JJ as a player with “loads of potential.”



Richard Coulson Midfielder

Home shirt sponsor	W.Lauderdale & Son Funeral Services
Away shirt sponsor	Beauty Time Photography
3rd shirt sponsor	Hazlerigg Victory FC
Training shirt sponsor	Hazlerigg Victory FC

RICHARD COULSON (Forward)

Richie arrived in early December 2021 from Northern League side Whitley Bay. He has an eye for goal and picked up six goals during his first season at the club 2021/22 season. Able to play anywhere across the frontline, Richie has added versatility to the Dunston side, and following another impressive season in 2022/23, will be looking to build on that his ability as Dunston push for promotion.

The forward has had spells with Seaham Red Star in The Northern League and prior to that had played for his local side Hazelrigg Victory for whom he scored 174 goals, registered 100 assists and won 31 Man of the Match awards in only 189 appearances.

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24

SADO DJALO (Forward)

The Guinea Bissau-born forward rejoined the club ahead of the 2022-23 season after joining Blyth Spartans during the 2021-22 season.

The Forward left for Blyth Spartans in November 2021, having scored 9 goals in 12 appearances for Dunston UTS. With his game time at Croft Park limited, he re-joined Dunston in March on an initial 1-month loan deal.

His previous clubs include Bedlington Terriers, Northern Alliance side Newcastle Chemfca and former Combined Counties side AC London. His footballing career had started in Portugal, playing for Regional League sides CDR Quarteirense and Moimenta da Beira.

In his return season at the UTS Stadium, he won the Top Goalscorer award in the 2022/23 season alongside Michael Fowler, with both forwards scoring 14 goals in all competitions.



Sadó Djalo Forward

Home shirt sponsor	Tom Etherington
Away shirt sponsor	Tom Etherington
3rd shirt sponsor	Tom Etherington
Training shirt sponsor	Tom Etherington

JORDAN LAMB (Forward)

Jordan joined the club after a successful trial period over the 2023-24 pre-season. Formerly of Hamilton Wanderers in the New Zealand second division, the Kiwi-born forward adds real quality and firepower to the Dunston frontline.

A quick and direct player with a great attitude and capable of scoring lots of goals.



Jordan Lamb Midfielder

Home Shirt Sponsor	Mr Ian Hodgson
Away Shirt Sponsor	Mr Ian Hodgson
3rd Shirt Sponsor	"Ka Pie"
Training Shirt Sponsor	Mr Cliff Starkey

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



MATTY CASSAP - Goalkeeper

Matty is a young goalkeeper who also plays for Gateshead College. Matty was brought into the club towards the end of the 2022-23 season and has signed on again with the club ahead of the new season.

Matty made his first start for the club in pre-season, putting in a Man of the Match performance against National League South side, Dartford FC.

Matthew Cassap Goalkeeper

Home Shirt Sponsor **Gary Poppleton**

Away Shirt Sponsor **SLK Floral Design**

3rd Shirt Sponsor

Training Shirt Sponsor

Sponsor



JACK MASKELL (Forward)

A young striker with a ton of potential, Maskell is certainly an exciting addition to the squad.

The young forward decided to sign for Dunston UTS after receiving a lot of interest after a breakout season in Northern League Division Two with Horden CW - A season where Jack picked up the Northern League Division Two Young Player of the Year award.

Jack Maskell Forward

Home shirt Sponsor **Blake and Riley Davison**

Away shirt Sponsor **Sue Atkinson and Les Stokoe**

3rd shirt Sponsor **Savannah and Maddison Collis**

Training shirt Sponsor **John and Kelly Collis**

Sponsor

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



Dale Pearson Forward

Home shirt sponsor	Billy Irwin - Painter and Decorator
Away shirt sponsor	Paul King
3rd shirt sponsor	Beauty Time Photography
Training shirt sponsor	Mr Tony Harrison

DALE PEARSON (Forward)

Dale Pearson joined the club at the start of February 2023 from Northern Premier League side Morpeth Town. He brings with him versatility and experience, with the forward able to play both centrally and out wide.

He was prolific during his time at Consett AFC and played a pivotal part in their promotion from the Northern League. During his time there, he scored 67 goals in 84 appearances, including a goal in their FA Vase final defeat to Hebburn Town at Wembley.

He has a keen eye for goal, and brings with him pace, power and a lethal finish.



Chris McDonald Defender

Home shirt sponsor	Mr Pat McElhone
Away shirt sponsor	Craig and Jack MacKereth
3rd shirt sponsor	Keith Pattison Decorating Services
Training shirt sponsor	Mr Malcolm James

CHRIS MCDONALD (Defender)

'Macca' was a marquee signing under new manager Jon McDonald. Chris McDonald most recently plied his trade at North Shields where he won the Northern League in 2021-22.

The left-back has a wealth of experience and possesses a huge threat going forwards. He is not shy of chancing his luck from distance and provides some excellent balls into the box from the left-hand side.

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



DAVID ROBINSON (Midfielder)

An industrious and combative midfielder, Robinson joins ahead of the 2023-24 season where he will provide experience and quality to the middle of the park.

Robbo also has leadership qualities having captained the likes of Seaham Red Star and Newcastle Benfield in the past.

The midfield enforcer could prove to be a crucial signing for Jon McDonald ahead of the upcoming season.

David Robinson Midfielder

Home shirt sponsor	Mr Stephen Sibbald
Away shirt sponsor	Brian Jobling
3rd shirt sponsor	Helen Rocks & Michael Ballard
Training shirt sponsor	Curtis, Ellis and Dave Beaney

MICHAEL PEARSON (Midfielder)

Having previously played for Hartlepool United, Blyth Spartans and South Shields, the current Club Captain joined Dunston UTS FC prior to the start of the 2015/16 season from Consett AFC, a season in which he would receive The Player of the Season Award. An industrious and combative player, he possesses a versatility which allows him to comfortably play in numerous positions, he has since gone on to play more than 200 games for Dunston and was made captain ahead of the 2023/24 season by new Manager Jon McDonald.

His outstanding performances during Dunston's 2018/19 Northern League title winning season saw him deservedly collect a plethora of awards at the end of the season namely, Players' Player of the Year Award, Management Player of the Season and Committee Player of the Season.

During his time at Dunston, Michael has collected a Northern League winners medal, Northern League Cup medal and JR Cleator Cup Winners medal.



Michael Pearson Midfielder

Home shirt sponsor	Mr Billy Hope
Away shirt sponsor	The Crow's Nest
3rd shirt sponsor	Dorothy Burnell
Training shirt sponsor	Jimmy Murphy

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



Jude Swailes Defender

Home shirt sponsor	Mr Brian Sellars
Away shirt sponsor	Impact Bathrooms
3rd shirt sponsor	Dougie Lowden & Ralphie Douglas
Training shirt sponsor	Mr Paul Dixon

JUDE SWAILES (Defender)

Having been with Newcastle United since he was a youngster, Jude emerged through the club's Academy system, before moving up into the ranks of The Premier League side's Under 23's squad. Making over 30 appearances in a black and white shirt, across both the Premier League Under-18's and Under 23's in Premier League 2.

The highly regarded youngster was offered a two-year contract at St James' Park at the end of last season. Jude decided against the offer, in favour of a move to the USA, where he joined Charleston College in South Carolina.

Jude is a strong thorn in the Dunston back line, and can be described as a no-nonsense centre half, willing to put his body on the line for the club. He continues his development at the club in the 2023/24 season, and has come on leaps and bounds since his arrival.



Dan Staples Goalkeeper

Home Shirt Sponsor	Tony Harrison
Away Shirt Sponsor	Trades Needs
3rd Shirt Sponsor	Keith Pattison Decorating Services
Training Shirt Sponsor	The Bannister Family

DAN STAPLES (Goalkeeper)

Dan signed for the club in July 2022 after impressing during pre-season and cemented his place as number 1 in the back end of the 2022/23 season.

The goalkeeper has had spells with Newcastle United, Sunderland, Wrexham and Bedlington Terriers. Most recently, he was at Consett and made a huge impact in his first appearances in cup-competition against North Shields in the 2021/22 season. He saved a penalty inside the final five minutes to ensure his side the victory.

A particular highlight in the 2022/23 season was when Dan made two saves in the penalty shootout victory away at Ashton United in the FA Trophy. Dan also made penalty saves against Cleethorpes and Stocksbridge, making it a bit of a trait for the shot-stopper.

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24

PHIL TURNBULL (Midfielder)

Central midfielder Phil Turnbull is described as fiercely competitive player and joined the club along with ex-teammate Craig Baxter in 2021. A permanent move to Gateshead in 2008 saw him play over 300 games for the Tynesiders and he played a vital role in the National League season which saw the Heed reach Wembley.

He then moved to Darlington in 2015 where he would gain promotion to The National League North in his first season.

A move to his hometown club South Shields 2018 saw Turnbull continue his good form. He has been key to the recent playing success at South Shields but with the club moving to full time Chris Swailes wasted no time in bringing the vastly experienced and talented midfielder to the UTS Stadium.

He scooped a number of awards at the end of the 2022/23 season following a superb season, including the Fred Foulis Committee Player of the Season award.

LIAM THEAR (Forward)

Liam Thear is one of the clubs longest serving players and has just shy of 200 appearances heading into the 2023/24 season. He moved to the club after completing a successful stint at Gateshead FC Academy, where he was highly rated. Following his release, he was snapped up by then Dunston manager Billy Irwin.

"Scrappy" is a very strong and tricky player who has matured and developed tremendously whilst at Dunston. After a superb start to last season, Liam suffered a serious ACL injury in The FA Cup fixture at home to local neighbours Gateshead FC last season. Since his recovery, he has proved to be a vital asset for Dunston, fighting for every ball and contributing with both goals and assists.

He scooped the Goal of the Season award at the end of the 2022/23 season following an audacious lob away at Stocksbridge Park Steels.



Phil Turnbull Midfielder

Home shirt sponsor Margaret Lord

Away shirt sponsor Barbara Statham

3rd shirt sponsor Emma Wales & Andrew Mitchell

Training shirt sponsor Mr Billy Montague

DUNSTON SQUAD – 2023/24



JACK WALKER (Defender)

Jack became the fourth player to join the club from North Shields ahead of the 2023-24 campaign.

Walker is a quality addition to the squad and operates predominantly as a central defender however, he can also play anywhere across the back line.

Jack had an excellent final season with North Shields where he scooped their Player of the Season award.

Jack Walker Defender

Home shirt sponsor **Vincent Johnstone TCB Telecoms**

Away shirt sponsor **Dawn Walker**

3rd shirt sponsor **Katie Smith**

Training shirt sponsor **Sienna Smith and Maggie Walker**

DUNSTON MANAGEMENT – 2023/24



Jon McDonald Manager

Sponsored by
Mr Malcolm James

JON MCDONALD (Manager)

A Wallsend lad, Jon made the move to The UTS Stadium in early March of 2021 from Northern Premier League side Morpeth Town, where he had held the equivalent position for three seasons.

During his second spell at Craik Park, he had been part of two successive promotions with “The Highwaymen” and a Northumberland Senior Cup victory in the 2018/19 season.

He has previously managed Blyth AFC, guiding them to The Northern League 2nd Division title in the 2017/18 season, as well as managerial spells with West Allotment Celtic and North Shields in The Northern League.

Jon successfully completed his UEFA A License with The Scottish FA in March 2022.

Following the departure of Chris Swailes at the end of the 2022/23 season, Jon was installed as Dunston FC Manager in May 2023.



Mark Scott Coach

Sponsored by
Mr Cliff Starkey

MARK SCOTT (Assistant Manager)

Mark joins the club with experience in coaching at South Shields FC and North Shields FC where he worked with assistant manager Jon McDonald, More recently, he has spent time at Spennymoor Town FC where he was part of the academy coaching staff. He holds a UEFA A License and will be a superb addition to an already vastly experienced coaching set up.

Upon joining the club, Mark said: “I’m delighted to join the club. As an opposing player and coach over the years I have always admired Dunston as a well-run and successful club.

DUNSTON MANAGEMENT – 2023/24



Andrew Wright Assistant Manager

Sponsored by
Mr Billy Montague

ANDY WRIGHT (Coach)

Wright previously played for Leeds United as a youth player and at professional level. Despite making no appearances as a pro at Leeds, Wright did achieve success in the Youth Team winning the 1997 FA Youth Cup. He also had spells playing at Reading FC and at Fortuna Sittard in the Eredivisie as well as playing for various non-league teams.

In his coaching career, Wright is a UEFA A-License Coach and was a Lead Phase Coach at Leeds United for six years.



Lee Kennedy Goalkeeping Coach

Sponsored by
Mr Tony Harrison

LEE KENNEDY (Goalkeeper Coach)

Lee joined Dunston at the beginning of the 2022-23 season bringing with him a wealth of experience. He has worked with a range of teams at all levels of the game.

Manager Jon McDonald highlighted Lee's quality before his arrival: "I've known Lee for a number of years. He's an honest, reliable bloke and will be an asset for Dunston. He's spent years supporting grassroots football at Cramlington United, working with junior and senior teams. He has good attributes to bring out the best in our goalkeepers."

DUNSTON MANAGEMENT – 2023/24



Lewis Black

Physiotherapist

Sponsored by
Dave Boldon

LEWIS BLACK (Physio)

Lewis joined the backroom staff in July 2021 having completed three years of studying at Newcastle College University Centre, graduating with a First-Class Honours Degree in Exercise and Sports Rehabilitation.

Alongside his studies, he completed a three year placements at Park View Academy of Sport and was able to develop his skills as a practitioner.

Following on, he then became Sports Therapist for Chester-le-Street United.

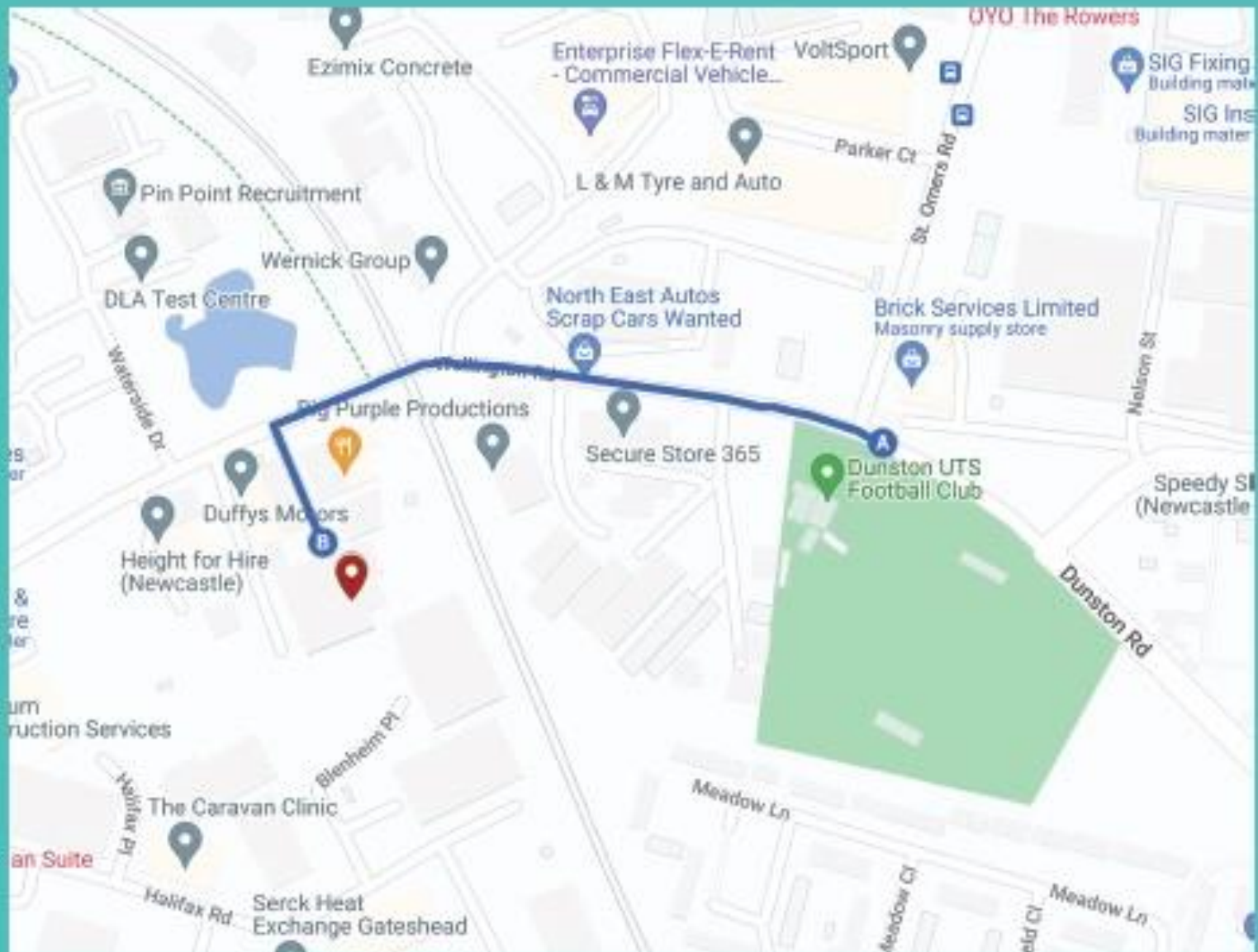
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REPORT | Grantham Town (H)

Dunston FC 1-1 Grantham Town (30/01/24)



Dunston's unbeaten run stretched to ten games on Tuesday night as they played out to a 1-1 draw against Grantham Town at Consett's Belle View Stadium.

Jack Maskell netted his eleventh goal of the season to give Dunston the lead on ten minutes however, Luke Horne levelled the game just seven minutes later. In a stop-start game, neither side were able to find a winner.

Jon McDonald made a few changes from Saturday's draw against Stockton Town. Jordan Lamb, Sado Djalo and JJ Chrisp were handed starts as Dale Pearson, Richard Coulson and Craig Baxter dropped to the bench.

Dunston began the game looking far more likely than the visiting side. A headed effort from Jack Maskell was

held by Curtis Hall and David Robinson then had a shot well held before blazing an effort over the crossbar.

The breakthrough came with ten minutes on the clock. A Phil Turnbull free kick was floated towards Maskell, and the latter looped a header over Hall to give Dunston a deserved lead.

Dunston continued to ramp up the pressure and could have doubled the advantage with 15 minutes played. Jordan Lamb brought the ball down with an excellent first touch, but his shot was pulled into the side netting.

After the bright start, The Gingerbreads pulled level with a clinical counterattack. A misplaced pass from JJ Chrisp was pounced on by the visitors, and Luke Horne was the man to finish off the move and bring his side level.

With pace up front, Grantham always looked a threat going forward, and they almost found a second goal when Curtis Morrison fired a shot just over the bar from the edge of the box. Sado Djalo could have also put Dunston back into the lead as his effort was pulled wide at a tight angle.

One of the best chances of the game then once again fell to Dunston in the 35th minute. After a poor goal kick from Hall, Maskell almost took advantage as he hit the foot of the post on the half-volley. Djalo looked to follow-up on the rebound, but his effort was rifled well over the bar from just a few yards out.

The second half was a much cagier affair. Not much rhythm to the game with a lot of stoppages. The first effort on target in the half came on the hour-mark as a Phil Turnbull free kick was comfortably stopped by Hall.

Jon McDonald was also forced into some changes as Josh King and Chris McDonald were withdrawn through injuries and replaced by Jude Swailes and Richard Coulson. Dale Pearson was also brought on in place of Sado Djalo with 25 minutes to go.

With ten minutes left to play, The Gingerbreads had a couple of opportunities to claim all three points. Bradley Munns took aim from outside the area, but his effort was narrowly wide. Then Harry Wood came agonisingly close as he flashed a low-driven effort across the face of goal.

With time running out, nothing seemed to be coming off for Dunston. One final half-chance came deep into stoppage time as Dale Pearson dragged an effort wide from distance.

The point sees Dunston climb up into 3rd place. Next up, we welcome Ashington to The UTS Stadium this Saturday.



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TODAY'S VISITORS



KARL DRYDEN – Hugely experienced goalkeeper that is in his second spell at the club after re-joining the Colliers a couple of seasons ago. Previously played under Gary Middleton, winning the 2013 Northumberland Senior Cup, before moving onto to Morpeth Town where he won the FA Vase, and Dunston, where he won the Northern League title. Recently took on the role of goalkeeping coach at the club.

ROSS COOMBE – New signing for the 23/24 season, goalkeeper Ross joins from fellow NPL East side Consett. Former clubs include South Shields, Stockton Town, West Auckland Town and Whickham.

JORDEN SUMMERLY – Left back that loves to get forward, Jordan is now in his third season at Ashington after joining from North Shields. Formerly with Blyth Spartans. He has won the Northern League Cup, Cleator Cup and promotion to the Northern Premier League in his two seasons at the club.

DARREN LOUGH – Experienced defender Darren re-joined his hometown club at the start of last season, making the move from Hebburn Town. Central defender that can also play at left back; Darren started his career at Newcastle United before moving to Ashington. He left Ashington in 2012, playing professionally in Iceland for KA Akureyri and IA Akranes, before returning to England, joining South Shields and later Hebburn Town, winning the FA Vase with both.

TODAY'S VISITORS



NATHAN BUDDLE – Ashington beat off competition from several clubs to sign Nathan from Blyth Spartans during the summer. Central defender with experience at National League level, Nathan previously represented Ashington Juniors as a youngster. After representing Hartlepool United at youth level, Nathan joined Blyth Spartans where he starred in their FA Cup run to the Third Round in 2015. He moved on to Carlisle United, later representing Gateshead and Spennymoor Town, before his return to Blyth.

MATTY DOPSON – England schoolboy international right fullback Matty joins Ashington from local rivals Blyth Spartans for the 23/24 season. Highly rated youngster who played 7 times for Blyth in the National League North last season, scoring once against Kidderminster Harriers.

CHARLIE EXLEY – Defender Charlie is a new signing for the 23/24 season, making the move from fellow NPL East side Consett. A product of the youth system at Gateshead, Charlie went on to sign for Scottish Football League side Queen of the South, before moving on to Gretna and Whickham.

KYLE ERRINGTON – New signing for the 23/24 season. A young defender who joins the club from Gateshead. Spent last season on loan at Newcastle Benfield.

TODAY'S VISITORS



GEORGE ROUNSFELL – Versatile player that can play in midfield and defence, George joins Ashington from Northern League Division 2 side Washington for the 23/24 season. He was at Newcastle United as a youngster, moving to the USA to play university soccer for the wonderfully named Campbell Fighting Camels, before returning to the UK.

BEN SAMPSON – Winner of yet another supporters 'player of the season' award, as well as 'goal of the season' for his delightful 35-yard chip in the 5-0 rout of Bishop Auckland, last season was another great campaign for Ben. Comfortable in both midfield and at full-back, Ben is in his second spell at the club after re-joining a few seasons ago after a brief spell at North Shields.

MAX EMMERSON – Young midfielder that has been out of action for almost two years after suffering a serious injury in Ashington's 1-1 draw at North Shields in 2021. Now back to full fitness, Max joined the Colliers from Whitley Bay in 2019.

KARL ROSS – Karl is the longest serving player at Ashington after joining his hometown club from South Shields over 5 years ago. A box-to-box midfielder who has the great knack of scoring important goals, Karl has also previously played for Whitley Bay. He made almost 50 appearances for the Colliers last season.

TODAY'S VISITORS



CRAIG SPOONER – Attacking midfielder Craig is now in his third season at the club after joining from North Shields in 2021. Former Newcastle United youngster that has previously played for Whitley Bay and West Auckland Town, Craig is a hugely versatile player, covering at both full-back positions last season when required. ‘Spoons’ won the players’ player of the season award after a great season last year, topped off by scoring the third goal in the 3-0 inter-step promotion play-off final win over Glossop North End that secured Ashington’s long awaited return to the Northern Premier League.

BEN FRANKLIN – Young midfielder Ben is a summer signing from Gateshead. Has previously been with Scunthorpe United.

CAMERON GASCOIGNE – Forward that joins Ashington from Newcastle Benfield for the 23/24 season, making the step up from the Northern League. Nephew of former England, Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur, Lazio and Rangers midfielder Paul Gascoigne, Cameron also represents his country, playing for England Universities. A promising young player with loads of potential.

DAN MAGUIRE – England C international forward ‘Nippa’ joined Ashington at the start of last season, making a massive impact as the Colliers reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup and gained promotion to the Northern Premier League. He is vastly experienced at National League level having previously played for Blyth Spartans, AFC Halifax Town, York City and Darlington. Started his career with Northern Alliance side Seaton Delaval.

TODAY'S VISITORS



MASON HARDY – New signing for the 23/24 season. Exciting young striker Mason joins the Colliers from Carlisle United having impressed during pre-season, where he scored in wins against Bedlington Terriers and Whitley Bay.

WILSON KNEESHAW – Striker who has made an instant impact at Woodhorn Lane, scoring twice on his debut in a 4-0 FA Cup win over North Shields. A pre-season signing from Northern Alliance side Newcastle Independent, Wilson started his career at Middlesbrough before moving onto Romanian League side ACS Poli Timisoara. He returned to England, playing for Darlington and Blyth Spartans, before moving to the USA where he joined United Soccer League side Sacramento Republic, scoring on his debut in a 4-0 win against Portland Timbers.

SIMON JAKAB - Hungarian defender that can play at both right back and centre back. Formerly of North Shields and Consett, Simon also represents the English Universities team.

BEN WILLIAMS- Young central defender who was recently released by Sunderland. Ben made his Colliers debut in the 5-1 Senior Cup win against Newcastle University.

PAUL VAN ZANDVLIET - New signing Paul has made a big impact at Woodhorn Lane since joining the Colliers from North Shields. A powerful midfielder with an eye for goal, Paul scored twice on his home debut in the 3-1 win against Dunston.

TODAY'S VISITORS



MORGAN DART - Morgan joins the Colliers after spells at Seaham Red Star, Blyth Spartans and Ryhope Colliery Welfare. Made his Ashington debut in an excellent 5-0 win at North Ferriby.

GARY ORMSTON - Veteran midfielder who joins the Colliers from Newcastle Blue Star. An FA Vase winner with Whitley Bay in 2011, Gary was also part of the North Shields team that won the Northern League title in 2022. Made his Ashington debut at home to Liversedge.

WILL CONSTANTIN - Versatile youngster that can play in midfield and defence, Will makes the move to Woodhorn Lane from West Auckland Town. He is also registered with National League outfit Gateshead.

CONNOR THOMSON - Powerful striker that joins Ashington on loan from Morpeth Town and has made an immediate impact, scoring a number of goals including a brace on his debut in a 4-0 win at Winterton Rangers. His former clubs include Carlisle United, Blackburn Rovers, Barrow, Halifax Town, Gateshead, Scarborough Athletic and Blyth Spartans.

ASHINGTON SPOTLIGHT



FOUNDED: 1883

NICKNAME: The Colliers

GROUND: Woodhorn Lane



CAPACITY: 2,000

CHAIRMAN: Brian Shotton

MANAGER: Ian Skinner

2022-23 LEAGUE

POSITION: 2nd out of 20 (NL Division One)



ASHINGTON HISTORY



Mention Ashington to any football follower and the chances are they will have heard of the birthplace of World Cup winning brothers Bobby and Jackie Charlton. Jackie Milburn, a legend at Newcastle United also played for the town's team, known unsurprisingly as the Colliers.

Ashington AFC was formed in 1883 making it one of the oldest Clubs in Northumberland. The club entered the FA Cup as early as 1887. After joining the Northern Alliance in 1892, the club soon switched to the East Northumberland League before returning to the Northern Alliance in 1902. The Colliers played there until 1914, winning the League Title in 1913/14, as well as the Northumberland Challenge Bowl in 1913. They switched to the North Eastern League in 1914/15 before the outbreak of World War One brought an end to the League. With the Great War over, Ashington returned to the North Eastern League. After finishing seventh in 1921, the Colliers were elected to join the newly formed Football League Third Division North with fellow North Eastern League sides Darlington, Durham City and Hartlepoons United.

In 1921 Portland Park was given a huge upgrade with a new pitch re-laid, new pavilion, tearoom and large press box added, as well as new signings Knowles from Manchester United, Thompson from Leeds United and Foster from Sunderland. Irish player-coach Patrick O'Connell, signed from Dumbarton, would later go on to manage Real Betis, Sevilla and FC Barcelona! An opening day crowd of over 9,000 saw Dickinson score the only goal of the game as Ashington defeated Grimsby Town 1-0 at home. By the end of the season the Colliers finished in a respectable 10th place. After finishing second bottom the season after, Ashington were successfully re-elected and finished the 1923/24 season in a superb eighth position, hosting Aston Villa at home in the FA Cup with a crowd of 11,837 packed into Portland Park, to see the Colliers lose 5-1. The Colliers remained in the Football League until the 1928/29 season when a disastrous campaign saw the Colliers finish bottom and become one of the first clubs to miss out on re-election.

A struggling team and the miner's strike, hit the Colliers hard as crowds dropped dramatically to under 1,000 for the final few home games in the Football League.

After losing League status, the Colliers returned to the North Eastern League and reached the FA Cup first round again, going down 3-0 to former Football League opponents Rotherham. After the end of the second World War, Ashington returned to the North Eastern League and again reached the FA Cup First Round in 1950, with Rochdale making the trip to Portland Park. A club record attendance of 13,199 saw Ashington narrowly lose 2-1. When the Nth Eastern League folded Ashington joined the Midland League for the 1958/59 season. Ashington were runners-up to Peterborough United in their first season and were third in their second season.

ASHINGTON HISTORY



Despite the success the amount of travelling became a big problem and Ashington joined the North Regional League. The club then joined the Northern Premier League for the 1968/69 season facing the likes of Macclesfield Town, Wigan Athletic, Fleetwood Town and Morecambe, but financial problems meant the Colliers couldn't afford to play at that level for more than the one season and in 1970 Ashington FC joined the Northern League.

In 1974 Ashington reached the FA Amateur Cup Semi-Final against eventual winners Bishop Stortford, drawing 0-0 at Roker Park before losing in a replay at Brentford. After finishing third in 1979, Ashington were relegated to the Northern League Second Division in 1984/85. The worst period in the Club's history followed as Ashington struggled, the club hit rock bottom in 1994 when they were unable to raise a team against Crook Town resulting in the whole committee resigning. A public meeting saw a new committee formed and to celebrate, a group of supporters launched the highly acclaimed fanzine 'The Pit Pony Express'.

Success soon switched to the team as the Colliers won their first trophy in 19 years, defeating Evenwood Town 1-0 in the 1999 Craven Cup Final and winning the Second Division Championship in 2000/01. Relegation followed, but Ashington fans were soon celebrating again after winning the Craven Cup in 2003 with another victory over Evenwood under new manager Tony Harrison. 2003/04 saw Ashington have one of its most successful seasons in the past 25 years, an FA Cup run saw Ashington reach the Third Qualifying Round, another Craven Cup final appearance, as well as winning the Second Division Championship after a run of 18 straight wins in 2004.

Problems both on and off the pitch resulted in a few close scrapes with relegation, with the club frequently changing managers, and with increasing uncertainty surrounding the club's Portland Park ground, Ashington FC made the worst start to a season in the club's history in 2007/8, with only one point gained from the first 10 matches. Andy Gowens, a former Ashington player, took over as manager and worked wonders in keeping the Colliers in the Northern League First Division. On Friday 15th February 2008 Ashington played their final game at Portland Park against Seaham Red Star. A bumper crowd of 1,954 – the biggest attendance at a Northern League game in over 25 years – saw Seaham spoil the party with a 3-2 win.

In early August 2008 the new ground Woodhorn Lane was opened and on Saturday 30th August 2008, Ashington played their first game at the new ground defeating Northern Premier League side Ossett Albion 2-1 in the FA Cup with a crowd of 341.

ASHINGTON HISTORY



Striker Gareth Bainbridge, scorer in the last match at Portland Park against Seaham Red Star had the honour of being the first goal scorer at Woodhorn Lane. Life at Woodhorn Lane began well with Ashington finishing in the top 8 for five consecutive seasons under manager Gary Middleton. During that time Ashington regularly reached the latter stages of the FA Vase, reached the Northern League Cup Final, the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup (losing at Conference side Grimsby Town) and lifted the Northumberland Senior Cup in 2013, beating Whitley Bay 3-0 at St. James Park.

Unfortunately, things were to turn difficult both on and off the pitch as Ashington struggled for several years before local businessman and life-long supporter Brian Shotton took over as Chairman in 2018, bringing back former manager Ian Skinner along the way. After stabilising the club through some very difficult times, including financial problems and the Covid pandemic, Ashington's fortunes began to change both on and off the pitch. In the first full season after Covid, Ashington went on to finish in 8th position, as well as winning Northern League Cup, thrashing Newcastle Benfield 4-1 in the final at North Shields.

The 2022/23 season saw Ashington have one of its most successful seasons in living memory. Ashington went on an amazing FA Cup run, knocking out several sides from higher divisions, before narrowly losing away at National League North highflyers Kings Lynn Town away in the 4th Qualifying Round.

Attendances would increase throughout the season with the Colliers averaging over 500, and a record ground attendance of 1,424 watched Ashington's 3-0 FA Cup win against Stocksbridge Park Steels. After finishing 2nd in the Northern League First Division, the Colliers qualified for the inter-step promotion play off, going on to beat Glossop North End 3-0 away to gain promotion to the Northern Premier League East Division for 2023/24, The Colliers making a return to the Northern Premier League for the first time in 55 years!

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LAST TIME OUT VS ASHINGTON



3-1



FULL-TIME

ATT: 411

16/09/23

VAN ZANDVLIET (9', 54')

SPOONER (48')

JAKAB SENT OFF (64')

BUDDLE SENT OFF (65')

LAMB (36')

Dunston's second league defeat of the season came in September away at Ashington at Woodhorn Lane.

Paul Van Zandvliet scored his first goal for The Colliers after completing a move from North Shields.

Jordan Lamb continued his goal scoring form and netted the equaliser from close-range on 36 minutes.

The hosts then raced into a 3-1 lead early in the second half as Van Zandvliet grabbed his brace, and Craig Spooner scored from a free kick.

Simon Jakab was shown a straight red card for taking down Jordan Lamb who was through on goal, and Buddle picked up his second yellow card for his protests.

Ashington were able to hold on and claim all three points.





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LEAGUE STANDINGS

#	Team	PI	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1.	Stockton Town	23	9	3	0	6	2	3	15	5	3	51	18	33	50
2.	Belper Town	24	6	1	5	7	2	3	13	3	8	49	37	12	42
3.	Dunston	20	4	3	2	8	2	1	12	5	3	37	19	18	41
4.	Pontefract Collieries	22	4	3	4	8	2	1	12	5	5	43	27	16	41
5.	Consett	22	7	1	3	6	1	4	13	2	7	40	28	12	41
6.	Hebburn Town	23	7	2	1	5	3	5	12	5	6	39	30	9	41
7.	Carlton Town	22	5	0	5	8	1	3	13	1	8	33	29	4	40
8.	North Ferriby	23	8	0	4	3	2	6	11	2	10	38	44	-6	35
9.	Newton Aycliffe	23	7	1	3	4	0	8	11	1	11	36	40	-4	34
10.	Liversedge	23	5	1	4	4	2	7	9	3	11	34	30	4	30
11.	Ashington	22	5	1	6	4	2	4	9	3	10	40	38	2	30
12.	Grimsby Borough	24	5	0	7	4	3	5	9	3	12	30	33	-3	30
13.	Cleethorpes Town	23	5	3	3	2	5	5	7	8	8	31	28	3	29
14.	Bridlington Town	25	6	3	5	2	2	7	8	5	12	35	41	-6	29
15.	Brighouse Town	25	4	4	5	3	3	6	7	7	11	37	49	-12	28
16.	Sheffield	21	4	3	3	3	0	8	7	3	11	35	38	-3	24
17.	Ossett United	24	1	5	7	5	0	6	6	5	13	24	46	-22	23
18.	Stocksbridge Park Steels	22	4	3	5	1	3	6	5	6	11	26	30	-4	21
19.	Grantham Town	25	3	3	7	1	5	6	4	8	13	36	58	-22	20
20.	Winterton Rangers	24	4	1	7	2	1	9	6	2	16	23	54	-31	20

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JACK WALKER

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OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Sam Ross

ASSISTANT

REFEREES:

Thomas James

Guy Campbell



NEXT GAME



STOCKSBRIDGE (H)

NPL EAST

Tues 6th
February

19:45 KO



IAN SKINNER

KARL DRYDEN

ROSS COOMBE

JORDEN SUMMERLY

DARREN LOUGH

NATHAN BUDDLE

MATTY DOPSON

CHARLIE EXLEY

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