



# *The Highwaymen*

Official Match Programme of Morpeth Town AFC  
Season 2015/16 - Issue 1 - Price £1



## **Bishop Auckland FC**

EBAC Northern League Division One  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015 – 3pm KO



# Welcome to Craik Park



V



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## Next Fixture at Craik Park

Morpeth Town A.F.C.

V

Durham City

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August – 7.30pm KO  
EBAC Northern League Division One





## Chairman: Ken Beattie

Well I know this is a cliché but the close season does seem to get shorter and shorter every year.

Yes here we are, back at the start of a new campaign for what will undoubtedly be a very competitive season.

I am confident we will do well as in addition to the squad we had last season we have made some great new signings in Chris Swailes, Jordan Nellis, Lee McAndrew, Johnny Wilson and Jack Betts with only Matty Grieve and Stephen Buzzeo leaving for pastures new.

Today we play host to Bishop Auckland a team steeped in history and as always I am sure it will be a great game of football and played in the right spirit. Our old friend Dave Bayles along with his assistant Steve Riley are doing a really good job at Bishop's and no doubt their team will be in condition for a top 5 spot next April.

Good luck lads today, I know we have a few injuries picked up in the pre-season friendlies but this is what a squad is for.

Please note on Tuesday evening we travel to play Washington kick off @ 7.30pm and Saturday we travel away to Garforth Town in Yorkshire in the FA Cup anyone wanting to travel on our bus please contact John Richardson on (07738 447544).

Finally let me make a special thanks to all the sporting Morpeth Juniors who are giving us so much support.

**Morpeth Town AFC Chairman**  
**Ken Beattie**

## Club Sponsors

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# Player and Staff Sponsors



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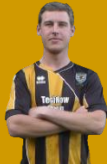
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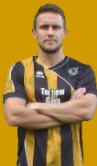
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## History

Morpeth Town Football Club was established in 1894, and through more than a century of football have continued the tradition of carrying Amber and Black as their team colours.

The club was formed after an amalgamation between Morpeth United and Morpeth FC, playing at Stobhill Cricket Field.

In 1954 the club moved to Storey Park, and in the 1980's enjoyed a successful time in the Northern Alliance, winning the title and finishing runners-up on two other occasions, as well as lifting both the Challenge Cup and Benevolent Bowl in 1986.

The club moved to a purpose built stadium in 1994, which coincided with a League and Cup double, and with it, promotion to the Northern League. Craik Park was named after the father and son W and R Craik who had served as secretary between 1920 and 1985. Current President Ken Beattie was the man behind the stadium and since 1992 he has revived the club's fortunes.

Membership of the Northern League followed in 1994/95 and the following year saw the Second Division Championship being presented to Morpeth. The club finished 6th in the First Division at the first time of asking, as well as reaching the final of the Northumberland Senior Cup.

The club spent half a century in the Northern Football Alliance before stepping up to the Northern League on their one hundredth anniversary. In 1998-99 they made it to the final qualifying round of the FA Cup, losing 1-0 at home to Nigel Clough's Burton Albion.

After sitting comfortably mid-table between 1996/7 and 1999/2000, Morpeth narrowly avoided relegation on goal difference in the 2000/01 season, and finished once again one spot above the relegation zone in 2001/02.

The next few years saw Morpeth Town move back into the middle of the table before a 6th place finish in 2005/06, Morpeth's equal top performance in the Northern League.

In 2006/07 Morpeth won the Northumberland Senior Cup for the first time since 1886 (as Morpeth Harriers) with a 3-2 victory over Blyth Spartans.

Disaster struck in 2009/10 as Morpeth Town were relegated to the second division and things got even worse a season later as Morpeth Town finished bottom of the Northern League's second tier.

The club was in dire straits with President Ken Beattie and Chairman Jim Smith trying their best to keep the club running by bringing the ground up to Northern League standards whilst being forced to ground share with local rivals Bedlington Terriers. The club was within weeks of folding at one point.

The Highwaymen began their revival in 2011/12 under the stewardship of Nick

Gray who moved to the club from Seaton Delaval and brought a number of players. In his first season Morpeth narrowly missed out on promotion back to the top tier finishing fourth and a one point won fourteen consecutive home games.

2012/13 saw the side improve once more, finishing one place higher in third position, beating out Jarrow Roofing on goal difference to earn promotion.

After earning promotion Morpeth Town managed to avoid the drop quite comfortably finishing in 17th place. During the season they also went on a historic FA Vase run to the Quarter-Final stage.

In 2014/15 saw further improvement, with the Highwaymen finishing 8th in the table and reaching the Northumberland Senior Cup Final.

## Honours

### League

**Northern League Division Two Champions: 1995/96**

**Northern Alliance Champions: 1983/84, 1993/94**

**Northern Alliance Runners-up: 1937/38, 1965/66, 1973/74, 1981/82, 1984/85**

### Cup

**Northern Alliance Challenge Cup Winners: 1938/39, 1985/86, 1993/94**

**Northern Alliance Challenge Cup Runners-Up: 1936/37, 1962/63, 1973/74, 1985/86**

**Northumberland Benevolent Bowl Winners: 1978/79, 1985/86**

**Northumberland Senior Cup Winners: 1886 (shared with Shankhouse), 2006/07**

**Northumberland Senior Cup Runners-up: 1996/97, 2014/15**

**Aged Miners Cup Winners: 1935/36, 1936/37, 1937/38, 1987/88**



# Morpeth Town Squad

**Karl Dryden** joined the club from local rivals Ashington at the start of the 2014/15 season. An excellent all-round goalkeeper who commands the area well.



**Niall Harrison** joined the club mid-way through last season having played for Blyth Spartans earlier in the season. Another excellent 'keeper who can hoof a ball.

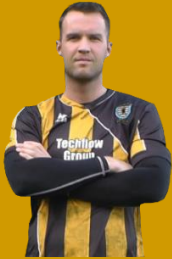
**David Hiftle** has plenty of experience at the Northern League level and has previously captained the Highwaymen. Comfortable playing both in centre defence and at full-back.



**Shaun Henderson** a long time servant at Morpeth, Shaun is an attacking full back who has previously played for Newcastle United and Ashington.



**James Novak** signed from Ashington mid-way through last season and shone at left-back for the Highwaymen. Has had previous spells at Bedlington Terriers and Whitley Bay.



**Club Captain Christopher Jewels** is a tall and powerful centre-half who previously played for Hebburn Town, West Allotment Celtic and Washington.

**Michael Hall** is a centre-half who can also play in centre midfield. Powerful but also skilful on the ball, he previously played for West Allotment Celtic and Seaton Delaval.



**Chris Swailes** signs for the club as he heads into his 45-year. His unrivalled experience will be a massive boost for the young squad.

**Johnny Wilson** is a summer signing who plays down the left. Good going forward as well as in defence, he adds depth and talent to a strong defensive unit.





**Team Captain Keith Graydon** aka Rasher is an experienced midfielder signed mid-season from Spennymoor Town. Scored the winner for Spennymoor in the FA Vase final. Former Sunderland and Gateshead man.

**Ben Sayer** started his career with Newcastle United before he joined Team Northumbria. Ben is a creative central midfielder with a superb range of passing. Former Blyth Spartans and Spennymoor Town player



**Jordan Fry** is a midfielder with a great engine, Jordan makes intelligent runs and is a threat in and around the penalty box. Signed from Seaton Delaval Amateurs.

**Luke Carr** signed toward the end of last season from Durham City. A skilful and pacey central midfielder Luke will look to have a big impact on the 2015/16 season.



**Shaun Bell** is another hard-working midfielder who will always put a shift in. Pops up with the occasional goal from the centre of the park.

**Team Vice Captain Sean Taylor** a pacey winger/striker who notched up 23 goals last season. A product of the Sunderland Academy and has had spells at Blackpool and Ashington.



**Michael Chilton** a fantastic striker for the club who scored 31 goals in the last campaign and is always there or thereabouts at the top of the Northern League goal scoring charts. Ex-Newcastle Benfield and Dunston UTS.

**Daniel Taggart** is a powerful centre forward who likes to get amongst opposing defences. Will only improve with another season of Northern League football under his belt.



**Stephen Forster** a flying winger who is equally adept at defending as well as going forward. Ex Carlisle United, Birmingham City, West Allotment Celtic, Hebburn Town & Jarrow Roofing.

**Steven Anderson** is a very strong young player who has the ability to score great goals. Can play up front or on the flank. Ex-Clubs include Whitley Bay, Walker Central, West Denton, and Newcastle East End.





**Lee McAndrew** is another signing with a wealth of experience in the Northern League making a 175 appearances for Dunston UTS. Has spent time at Spennymoor Town and West Allotment Celtic.

**Jordan Nellis** a summer signing from Bedlington Terriers, Jordan is a pacey and powerful forward who can anywhere across the front three.



**Jack Betts** joined the club this summer, a young striker with lots of power and potential, he will add to the clubs talented strikerforce.



# Management



**Nick Gray** took Morpeth to a fourth place finish in his first season at Craik Park after the club narrowly avoided relegation the season before he joined and has led the club to an improved finish every year.



**Dave Malone** was brought in by Nick at the start of the 2014/15 season and has been a big hit on and off the field.



**Steven Anderson Snr** is an excellent club man who is more than happy to help in a variety of roles. His influence and enthusiasm in the dressing room is infectious.



**Miles Callum** is the clubs qualified physio who has previously worked at Seaton Delaval Amateurs

# Player Spotlight



## Keith Graydon

Born in Dublin, County Dublin, Keith Graydon was a member of the Home Farm youth system before joining English club Sunderland on a professional contract on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2000. He joined Third Division side York City on a one-month loan on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

Rasher went on trial with Football Conference side Scarborough before signing on non-contract terms on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2003. Having made four appearances for Scarborough, Keith signed for Northern Premier League Premier Division outfit Blyth Spartans on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2004. He left for league rivals Spennymoor United in September 2004.

Rasher signed for Dunston Federation in July. He then signed for Northern Premier League Premier Division club Gateshead in October 2005, making his debut on 22 October in a 3–2 home win over Ashton United. He finished the 2005–06 season with 24 appearances before leaving Gateshead for Durham City in the summer of 2006. He scored seven Northern League Division One goals in the 2007–08 season before joining Sunderland RCA in the summer of 2008, where he was made captain.

Keith joined Spennymoor Town in the summer of 2009 and scored 12 goals in the Northern League Division One in the 2009–10 season. Graydon scored the winning goal for Spennymoor in the 2013 FA Vase Final at Wembley Stadium on 4 May 2013 with a powerful shot from eight yards 10 minutes from full-time, as the side beat Tunbridge Wells 2–1.

In October 2014 Rasher joined the Highwaymen and was a vital part in the excellent form during the second half of the season that saw Morpeth finish 8<sup>th</sup> in the Northern League and compete in the Northumberland Senior Cup Final at St James' Park



# View from the Terraces



**By Media Manager Stuart Dick**

The 2015/16 season will be my first full season at the club after joining Morpeth as a Videographer halfway through last season. Like many I have become disillusioned with Premier League football in the North East as Newcastle United and Sunderland continue to struggle majorly both on and off the field.

I was first approached to join the club when filming a Newcastle United Women's match at Craik Park and was asked by Ken whether I'd like to film Morpeth Town's games for the remainder of the season. I jumped at the chance as

I've heard great things about the club and the people who run it.

My first game was a trip to Bishop Auckland on a cold Tuesday evening in October to the lovely Heritage Park as Morpeth suffered a 3-0 defeat at the hands of the two blues. A trip to Whitley Bay the weekend after saw my first win in a 3-2 victory at Hillheads.

The lowest point in the season for me was the trip to Tadcaster Albion and the 2-1 defeat due to an extremely dubious penalty.

From that point Morpeth turned a corner and went on an incredible run of results, which re-ignited my love for the game. Just 2 defeats in 21 games took Morpeth from the lower reaches of the Northern League table into the top 8, whilst also winning through to the Northumberland Senior Cup final by defeating Newcastle United U21's 3-1 at Whitley Park.

It was not just the results, but also the style of football that Morpeth played that made by Saturday afternoons enjoyable during the early months of 2015. Outside of the defeat of Newcastle United, my favourite game has to be the 6-1 away win over Newcastle Benfield where everything just clicked.

Looking ahead now to the 2015/16 season now with a settled squad, a few new signings the club is definitely on the up and it's great to be a part of it. This season I will also be editing the website and these very match programmes which is an extra challenge I'm personally looking forward to.

On the field, I'm confident the side will once again progress under the stewardship of Nick Gray and Dave Malone, who have improved Morpeth's fortunes year on year since they arrived at the club.

It's exciting times at Craik Park, and I hope you all enjoy the season.

Column Sponsored by:

# NORTHUMBERLAND LIGHTNING AMERICAN FOOTBALL



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# 2015/16 Fixtures

## July 2015

Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Dalbeattie Star (A)	7.30pm	4-1
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Stranraer (A)	2.30pm	3-5
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Whitley Bay A (A)	3.00pm	3-1
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Walker Central (A)	7.30pm	2-0
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	West Allotment Celtic (A)	3.00pm	4-1
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Jarrow (A)	3.00pm	2-0

## August 2015

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Ryton & Crawcrook Albion (A)	2.30pm	5-1
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Bishop Auckland (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> August	Washington (A)	7.30pm	ENL D1
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Garforth Town (A)	3.00pm	FA Cup EPR
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Durham City (H)</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	West Auckland Town (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Newcastle Benfield (A)	7.30pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Dunston UTS (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Shildon (A)	7.30pm	ENL D1

## September 2015

<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Padiham (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>FA Vase 1<sup>st</sup> QR</b>
<b>Wed 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Bedlington Terriers (H)</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>West Allotment Celtic (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Whitley Bay (A)	7.30pm	ENL D1
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Ashington (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>North Shields (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>

## October 2015

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Consett (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Jarrow Roofing (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Marske United (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Seaham Red Star (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Penrith (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1

## November 2015

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Newton Aycliffe (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Norton & Stockton Ancients (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>Sunderland RCA (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Guisborough Town (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1

## December 2015

<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Washington (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Durham City (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Newcastle Benfield (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Shildon (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>

## January 2015

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	West Allotment Celtic (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Bishop Auckland (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>West Auckland Town (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Dunston UTS (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Bedlington Terriers (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1

## February 2015

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Whitley Bay (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ashington (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	North Shields (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Consett (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>

## March 2015

Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Jarrow Roofing (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Marske United (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Seaham Red Star (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Penrith (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>

## April 2015

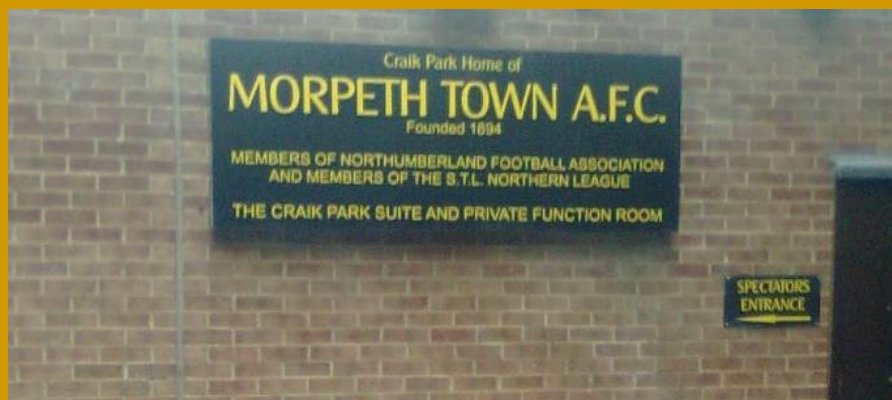
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Newton Aycliffe (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Norton &amp; Stockton Ancients (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunderland RCA (A)	3.00pm	ENL D1
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Guisborough Town (H)</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>ENL D1</b>

<b>To be Confirmed</b>	<b>Bishop Auckland (H)</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>League Cup R1</b>
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# 2015/16 Player Stats

	App	Sub	Goals	Ast	Yell	Red
Karl Dryden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Niall Harrison	0	0	0	0	0	0
David Hiftle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaun Henderson	0	0	0	0	0	0
James Novak	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnny Wilson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christopher Jewels	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keith Graydon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Sayer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jordan Fry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luke Carr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaun Bell	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sean Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael Chilton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daniel Taggart	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephen Forster	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephen Anderson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jordan Nellis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Swailes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee McAndrew	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jack Betts	0	0	0	0	0	0

# Private Function Room and Bar

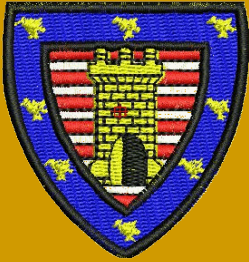


Craik Park, the home of Morpeth Town AFC, has a host of facilities that can accommodate all your needs if you are looking to stage an event.

The Craik Park Suite and Private Function Room is available to hire, whether you are celebrating that special birthday, or your club or society wants to host a fundraising event, or even host a meeting we have got you covered.

If you wish to hold an event at Craik Park, contact John Richardson on (07738 447544) to discuss booking options and prices.

# Highwaymen



**TV**

Highwaymen TV is the Youtube channel of Morpeth Town A.F.C.

Founded in December 2014, the channel produces highlights of Morpeth Town games and relays footage to Made in Tyne and Wear TV, Northern League Football Premiership Passion and other websites.



# Managers Message: Nick Gray & Dave Malone



Just before I start talking about this season thought I better start by mentioning last year. As the season went on, I thought as a squad we got better and better and it was very encouraging how we ended the season in the league, and achieving a place in the Northumberland Senior Cup Final.

Although on the night I agree we were second best, it was to the players' credit how far we had come in the season.

As for this season, Dave Malone and I have added three players, Chris Swailes who will also help on the coaching side as well, Lee McAndrew and Jordan Nellis.

In our eyes very astute additions who we feel will improve our squad.

We have also signed two youngsters, Johnny Wilson and Jack Betts who have done amazingly well in pre-season, but we feel are not ready for the first division, but will be in time. They have both signed for Shankhouse to get some game time.

Our targets and ambitions this season are very simple, **WIN SOMETHING.**

I feel in my four years I have been here we have continued to progress and this year there is probably the most pressure expectancy I have felt, but with the squad, the chairman, committee and supporters, I feel we can achieve something this season, making the town of Morpeth proud.

If we are all united and stick together, because I know there will be some down times, but we are hoping for a lot more highs.

Hope you all enjoy the game, and the season ahead.

**Yours in Sport**  
**Nicky Gray**

# Today's North East Fixtures

(3pm Unless Specified)

## FA Premier League

Leicester City	V	Sunderland
Newcastle United	Sun 1.30pm	Southampton

## League Two

Hartlepool United	V	Morecambe
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## Vanarama National League

Aldershot	V	Gateshead
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## EBAC Northern League Division One

Bedlington Terriers	V	Dunston UTS
Durham City	V	West Allotment Celtic
Guisborough Town	V	North Shields
Norton & Stockton Ancients	V	Jarrow Roofing BCA
Newton Aycliffe	V	Marske United
Morpeth Town	V	Bishop Auckland
Newcastle Benfield	V	Sildon
Penrith	V	Seaham Red Star
Sunderland RCA	V	Consett
Washington	V	Ashington
Whitley Bay	V	West Auckland Town

## EBAC Northern League Division Two

Billingham Town	V	Birtley Town
Chester-Le-Street Town	V	Stokesley Sports Club
Crook Town	V	Heaton Stannington
Darlington RA	V	Alnwick Town
Easington Colliery	V	Whickham
Esh Winning	V	Sunderland Ryhope CW
Ryton & Crawcrook Albion	V	Hebburn Town
South Shields	V	Northallerton Town
Team Northumbria	V	Brandon United
Thornaby	V	Willington
Tow Law Town	V	Billingham Synthonia

# From the Press Box

(by Stevie Johnson)

It just seems like yesterday that the curtain was brought down on the 2014/15 season. Where has the close season gone? The Ashes series is in full swing, but here we are at the start of a brand new campaign. The time of year when all supporters the length and breadth of the land dream about a new season filled with joy and success. Here's my thoughts on the comings and goings at our local clubs and their prospects for the season ahead.

Let's start with Gateshead in the Vanarama National League. 60 Year old Malcolm Crosby was appointed as the successor to Gary Mills, but the target remains the same as ever to get the club back into the football league. There are new owners at the club too in the shape of Richard and Julie Bennett, local business people, and new faces on the field with strikers Josh Gillies and James Marwood returning to the club.

Goalkeeper Sam Russell and defender Nathan Buddle are new additions too but the likes of John Oster and Phil Turnbull are notable departures. Crosby has identified that his side need to find the net more regularly after netting only 66 goals in their last disappointing campaign. Ryan Bowman has been signed from Torquay while former Guisborough Town front man Danny Johnson joins the club from a spell at Cardiff City. Get the goal scoring right and they could be pushing for the playoffs in what is always a competitive league

Blyth Spartans enjoyed a superb run in last year's FA Cup and were Northumberland Senior Cup winners, but narrowly missed out on the play offs, but Tom Wade and his young charges had an impressive 14/15 season, They were good to watch and were the league's top scorers with 84 goals but have been dealt a blow with the loss of pint sized striker Dan Maguire to Halifax and winger Jarrett Rivers to Blackpool. Although, Maguire has yet to appear for his new club and appears to want a move back to his native northeast. Whether Spartans are prepared to pay out a transfer fee for his return remains unclear.

New faces to the club include keeper Adam McHugh and midfield schemer Paul Robinson returns for a 2nd spell while local striker Sean Reid is added to the squad. Crowd favourite Robbie Dale with 144 goals in 451 appearance enjoyed a richly deserved testimonial game with a high profile game against a Sunderland outfit last weekend. The green and whites begin their latest campaign with a trip to Barwell.

Down to the south of our region and Darlington are a club on the up both on and off the field. There is optimism that they will finally move to a new ground later in the season, although there seems to be some doubts that the expected ground share with their Rugby Union counterparts at Blackwell Meadows will go through. They will play for a 4th successive season at Heritage Park until negotiations are ironed out. Martin Gray's side

are expected to do well in the Evo Stik NPL Premier Division despite being newcomers after last season's promotion.

As well as the useful acquisition of Turnbull from Gateshead, they have also drafted in other notable players. Although they have been dealt a blow with the news that fans favourite Gary Brown has quit the club because of family commitments.

Over at the Brewery Field, Spennymoor Town narrowly missed out on promotion following an unlucky Play off defeat to Darlo at a packed Heritage Park. Jason Ainsley has been busy in the summer tinkering with his squad by bringing in experienced keeper Dan Lowson, midfielder Jordan Robinson and striker Glen Taylor from Ashington. They will start the campaign amongst the favourites for promotion next May. Crowds were on the rise last year and the feel good factor from last season needs to be maintained.

It promises to be another exciting season of football In the Northern League.

Marske United were crowned first division champions for the first time in an exciting finale to the season after Shildon failed to win at Bedlington. The Seaside's finished the term with 90 points from their 42 games finishing a solitary point ahead of Gary Forrest's team. Manager Carl Jarrett has brought in Chris Emms, Nathan Mulligan and Craig Ruddy to add to his squad.

Guisborough Town finished third while FA Vase winners North Shields were in 4th spot after an unforgettable season. Congratulation to Graham Fenton and his players for their 2-1 win over Glossop at Wembley and a sensational first season back in the top flight. The Robins have added to their ranks with the addition of Gary Ormston and Davey Coulson from Dunston along with experienced keeper Craig Turns.

Expect all of last year's top four sides to be thereabouts again this time around, but there are no shortage of other clubs keen to mount a title challenge.

It has been a summer of change at Dunston who have brought in former West Auckland Town trio Alex Francis, Steve Richardson and Adam Wilkinson along with highly rated striker Malcom Morien from Jarrow Roofing. Expect a strong season from Bill Irwin's squad after last year's slightly disappointing campaign.

Morpeth were a vastly improved outfit lasts season, and they have been fairly active in the transfer market this summer with winger Lee McAndrew, striker Jordan Nellis and veteran Chris Swailes among the new faces hoping to improve on last season's eighth place finish.

New signings across at Bedlington include Steve Buzzeo, Lewis Davison and West Allotment quartet Marc Walton, Liam Hudson, Mark Dummett and John Pendlebury with Andy Ferrell newly installed in the hot seat.

Consett who finished 9th last time out have strengthened with prolific striker Michael Sweet from Billingham Synthonia, along with Peter Jeffries, Dan Hawkins and Kieran Megran. Player manager Steve Bowey has high expectations of his Newcastle Benfield side after their strong finish to last season with 13 wins from 16 games, raising expectations at Sam Smiths Park.

Craig Lynch, Jake Fowler and David Pounder are new faces for Durham City but skipper Arjun Purwell is a notable departure from Ian Chandler's squad.

His new club Bishop Auckland applied for promotion last season and are anxious to move up the pyramid as quickly as possible. They have been active in the summer and new faces include stopper Mark Bell and striker Ian Ward. Their coffers were considerably added to during the summer when a lifelong supporter Colin Rowell left the club £300,000 in his will.

Sunderland RCA have strengthened with the capture of Liam Hatch from Darlo while newly promoted Washington have recruited keeper Josh Carmichael and Ross Preston

In Division 2 all eyes will be directed towards South Shields who will return to their Filtrona Park home renamed Mariners Park after a two year absence and they have strengthened considerably during the summer. Old boys Jonny Wightman and Lee Paul Scroggins return to shields colours while Gary Middleton comes in as Jon King's number 2.

There are new men in charge at Billingham Town where Barry Oliver takes charge while Paul Bowman is the new boss at Darlington RA.

Billingham Synthonia and Crook Town will look to make a good start to life in their new surroundings while Team Northumbria and Hebburn Town will look to go one better after narrowly missing out on promotion last season.

# League Tables

## EBAC Northern League Division One

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ashington	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bedlington Terriers	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bishop Auckland	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 <sup>th</sup>	Consett	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 <sup>th</sup>	Dunston UTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 <sup>th</sup>	Durham City	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 <sup>th</sup>	Guisborough Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 <sup>th</sup>	Jarrow Roofing BCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 <sup>th</sup>	Marske United	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 <sup>th</sup>	Morpeth Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 <sup>th</sup>	Newcastle Benfield	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 <sup>th</sup>	Newton Aycliffe	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 <sup>th</sup>	North Shields	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 <sup>th</sup>	Norton & Stockton Ancients	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 <sup>th</sup>	Penrith	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 <sup>th</sup>	Seaham Red Star	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 <sup>th</sup>	Shildon	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunderland RCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 <sup>th</sup>	Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 <sup>th</sup>	West Allotment Celtic	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 <sup>st</sup>	West Auckland Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Whitley Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Form Guide

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ashington	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bedlington Terriers	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bishop Auckland	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 <sup>th</sup>	Consett	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 <sup>th</sup>	Dunston UTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 <sup>th</sup>	Durham City	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 <sup>th</sup>	Guisborough Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 <sup>th</sup>	Jarrow Roofing BCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 <sup>th</sup>	Marske United	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 <sup>th</sup>	Morpeth Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 <sup>th</sup>	Newcastle Benfield	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 <sup>th</sup>	Newton Aycliffe	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 <sup>th</sup>	North Shields	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 <sup>th</sup>	Norton & Stockton Ancients	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 <sup>th</sup>	Penrith	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 <sup>th</sup>	Seaham Red Star	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 <sup>th</sup>	Shildon	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunderland RCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 <sup>th</sup>	Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 <sup>th</sup>	West Allotment Celtic	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 <sup>st</sup>	West Auckland Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Whitley Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0

## EBAC Northern League Division Two

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 <sup>st</sup>	Alnwick Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Billingham Synthonia	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Billingham Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 <sup>th</sup>	Birtley Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 <sup>th</sup>	Brandon United	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 <sup>th</sup>	Chester-Le-Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 <sup>th</sup>	Crook Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 <sup>th</sup>	Darlington RA	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 <sup>th</sup>	Easington Colliery	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 <sup>th</sup>	Esh Winning	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 <sup>th</sup>	Heaton Stannington	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 <sup>th</sup>	Hebburn Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 <sup>th</sup>	Northallerton Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ryhope CW	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ryton & Crawcrook Albion	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 <sup>th</sup>	South Shields	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 <sup>th</sup>	Stokesley Sports Club	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 <sup>th</sup>	Team Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 <sup>th</sup>	Thornaby	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 <sup>th</sup>	Tow Law Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 <sup>st</sup>	Whickham	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Willington	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Form Guide

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 <sup>st</sup>	Alnwick Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Billingham Synthonia	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Billingham Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 <sup>th</sup>	Birtley Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 <sup>th</sup>	Brandon United	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 <sup>th</sup>	Chester-Le-Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 <sup>th</sup>	Crook Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 <sup>th</sup>	Darlington RA	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 <sup>th</sup>	Easington Colliery	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 <sup>th</sup>	Esh Winning	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 <sup>th</sup>	Heaton Stannington	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 <sup>th</sup>	Hebburn Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 <sup>th</sup>	Northallerton Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ryhope CW	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ryton & Crawcrook Albion	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 <sup>th</sup>	South Shields	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 <sup>th</sup>	Stokesley Sports Club	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 <sup>th</sup>	Team Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 <sup>th</sup>	Thornaby	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 <sup>th</sup>	Tow Law Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 <sup>st</sup>	Whickham	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Willington	0	0	0	0	0	0

# FA Cup Draw

Extra Preliminary Round



Garforth Town  
V  
Morpeth Town



Genix Healthcare Stadium  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August  
3pm KO

Penrith	V	Jarrow Roofing BCA
Silsden	V	West Allotment Celtic
Ashington	V	Albion Sports
AFC Barwen	V	Washington
Newcastle Benfield	V	Yorkshire Amateur
Nelson	V	Newton Aycliffe
Bedlington Terriers	V	West Auckland Town
Billingham Synthonia	V	Consett
Hebburn Town	V	Tadcaster Albion
Bishop Auckland	V	Shildon
Sunderland RCA	V	Guisborough Town
Crook Town	V	Dunston UTS
Pickering Town	V	Thornaby
Seaham Red Star	V	Marske United
Heaton Stannington	V	Norton & Stockton Ancients
Bridlington Town	V	North Shields
Whitley Bay	V	Sunderland Ryhope CW
Whickham	V	Padiham
Durham City	V	Thackley



## Preliminary Round Draw



**Nelson or Newton  
Aycliffe  
V  
Garforth Town or  
Morpeth Town**



Whitley Bay / Sunderland Ryhope CW	V	Heaton Stannington or Norton & Stockton
Bedlington Terriers / West Auckland Town	V	AFC Darwen or Washington
Ashington or Albion Sports	V	Durham City or Thackley
Pickering Town or Thornaby	V	Clitheroe
Bridlington Town or North Shields	V	Kendal Town
Bishop Auckland or Shildon	V	Penrith or Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA
Silsden or West Allotment Celtic	V	Whickham or Padiham
Sunderland RCA or Guisborough Town	V	Newcastle Benfield or Yorkshire Amateur
Seaham Red Star or Marske United	V	Lancaster City
Holker Old Boys or Liversedge	V	Crook Town or Dunston UTS
Billingham Synthonia or Consett	V	Scarborough Athletic
Hebburn Town or Tadcaster Albion	V	Barnoldswick Town or Colne



# League Sponsors



Ebac are the market leaders in both the European Watercooler manufacture and UK Dehumidifier markets. Founded in the UK in 1972 by current Chairman John Elliott, Ebac has grown from a small one man business to a flourishing organisation which has continuously grown by developing truly innovative products in the Dehumidifier and Watercooler markets.

Ebac remains a true British success story – beating global competition to become the most highly respected name in the Watercooler and Dehumidifier industries. Still based in Chairman John Elliott's home town of Bishop Auckland in County Durham, Ebac's success is down their constant innovation and dedication to creating products of the highest quality possible.

Ebac is a privately owned group of companies mainly focused on manufacturing. The Group also has interests in leisure, bottled water and product design.

The Group has been the market leader in Western Europe for watercoolers since the mid-90s and has held a prominent position in the European dehumidifier market for over 20 years.

For the past three decades Ebac has continued to expand its UK operations when others have moved their production facilities elsewhere.

The Group employs over 200 people in the UK's North East, but retains a strong export focus with 70% of its turnover coming from Continental Europe.

Ebac's success is built on its dedication to quality and innovation in all areas, from manufacturing and design to HR and customer support.

# FA Vase Draw

First Qualifying Round



Morpeth Town  
V  
Padiham FC

Craik Park  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
3pm KO



Willington	V	Whitley Bay
Norton & Stockton Ancients	V	Pickering Town
Sunderland Ryhope CW	V	Darlington Railway Athletic
Brandon United	V	Washington
Silsden	V	Thornaby
Crook Town	V	West Auckland Town
Hebburn Town	V	Knaresborough Town
Seaham Red Star	V	Billingham Town
Esh Winning	V	Hall Road Rangers
Durham City	V	Northallerton Town
Billingham Synthonia	V	Alnwick Town
Ryton & Crawcrook Albion	V	Yorkshire Amateur
Eccleshill United	V	Heaton Stannington
Penrith	V	Bridlington Town
Thackley	V	Whickham
Birtley Town	V	Chester-Le-Street Town
Liversedge	V	Team Northumbria



## Second Qualifying Round



**Billingham Synthonia  
or Alnwick Town  
V  
Morpeth Town or  
Padiham FC**



Easington Colliery	V	Ashington
South Shields	V	Brandon United / Washington
Tow Law Town	V	Stokesley
Birtley Town / Chester-Le-Street Town	V	Eccleshill United / Heaton Stannington
Sunderland Ryhope CW / Darlington RA	V	Esh Winning / Hall Road Rangers
Sunderland RCA	V	Penrith / Bridlington Town
Silsden / Thornaby	V	Daisy Hill
Thackley / Whickham	V	Garforth Town/ Albion Sports
Bedlington Terriers	V	Durham City / Northallerton Town
Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA	V	Seaham Red Star / Billingham Town
Hebburn Town / Knaresborough Town	V	Ryton & Crawcrook Albion / Yorkshire Amateur
Bishop Auckland	V	Holker Old Boys
Norton & Stockton Ancients	V	Newcastle Benfield or Pickering Town
AFC Darwen	V	Crook Town or West Auckland Town
Willington or Whitley Bay	V	West Allotment Celtic
Newton Aycliffe	V	Barnoldswick Town
Nelson	V	Liversedge or Team Northumbria





# Today's Opposition



## Honours

### FA Amateur Cup

Winners: 1896, 1900, 1914, 1921, 1922, 1935, 1939, 1955, 1956, 1957

### Northern League Division One

Winners: 1898–99, 1900–01, 1901–02, 1908–09, 1909–10, 1911–12, 1920–21, 1930–31, 1938–39, 1946–47, 1949–50, 1950–51, 1951–52, 1953–54, 1954–55, 1955–56, 1966–67, 1984–85, 1985–86

### Northern League Cup

1949–50, 1950–51, 1952–53, 1953–54, 1954–55, 1959–60, 1966–67, 1975–76

### Durham Challenge Cup

1891–92, 1898–99, 1930–31, 1938–39, 1951–52, 1955–56, 1961–62, 1966–67, 1984–85, 1985–86, 1987–88, 1996–97, 1998–99, 2000–01, 2001–02, 2012–13



# Opposition Pen Pics

## **DAVID BAYLES (Co-Manager)**

During his playing days "Bayler" was a BAFC legend playing central midfield his creativity and range of passing was top class. He has also played for Consett and has had previous management jobs with Shildon, & West Auckland. Bayler returned to the club to assist Tony Lee and remained as assistant when Martin Swales was appointed as Manager. When Martin left he and Steve Riley took the job on a temporary basis before making their decision permanent.

## **STEVE RILEY (Co-Manager)**

Steve joined the Bishop Auckland FC coaching team in 2013 as assistant to then manager Martin Swales. Following the departure of Martin, Steve agreed to form a management duo alongside David Bayles in a 'caretaker capacity'. Following a string of positive results, they were confirmed as a permanent team in March 2014.

## **MARK BELL (Goalkeeper)**

Signed from Darlington Mark is a very experienced goalkeeper who has also played for Gateshead, Blyth Spartans, Whitby Town and also the Northern league with West Auckland Town.

## **SCOTT POCKLINGTON (Goalkeeper)**

The former Newcastle United FC and Darlington FC goalkeeper served time with Newcastle Benfield during their title winning 2008/09 season, before joining his hometown club, Newton Aycliffe, in March 2010. Scott joined Bishop Auckland in June 2013.

## **JORDAN LAVERY (Defender)**

Jordan is only 20 years old and has established himself in the team since joining the club. Plays left back but gets forward and can deliver great balls in to the box.

### **SEAN TARLING (Midfielder)**

Sean joined Bishop Auckland from his hometown club Newton Aycliffe where he made over 150 appearances. Sean was appointed team captain last season but unfortunately missed the start of this season following an operation during the summer.

### **STUART THOMPSON (Midfielder)**

Stuart can play wide of the midfield down either side or just behind the front men. His pace and skill causes defences headaches. Such was Stuart's ability and commitment last season that he was presented with the Players, Supporters and Directors 'Player of the Year' awards.

### **GLEN LANE (Midfielder)**

Glen who joined Bishops from Celtic Nation, can play anywhere down the left hand side. Previously with Sunderland AFC Under 18's.

### **LEWIS BROWN (Midfielder)**

Lewis joins the club for his second spell a tough tackling midfielder who gives his all every time he plays.

### **GRAHAM IRVING (Defender)**

Graham plays an influential role in central defence reading the game well. He has lots of Northern League experience having previously played for Consett and Durham City. He is another player who is composed on the ball and likes to start our attacks.

### **ANDREW JOHNSON (Forward)**

Andrew is a firm favourite at Heritage Park, now in his second spell. There was no doubt that being the League's top scorer for two seasons would attract other Clubs to seek Andrew's signature and he left to pastures new playing for Darlington 1883 and Spennymoor Town before re-joining the Bishops last season.

### **RHYS JOBLING (Goalkeeper)**

Rhys has previously played for Durham City and Bedlington Terriers.

### **JORDAN GALLOWAY (Defender)**

Jordan can play in the centre of defence or at full-back and has made a big impression at Heritage Park since signing this season from Consett. Composed on the ball he has also played for Durham City.

**OLLIE HOTCHKISS (Midfielder)**

Former Leeds United player who but for a series of injury's would of had a great pro career , Ollie is a defensive midfield player who possess great ability on the ball and can open up defences with his great vision. He has also played for Garforth Town, Harrogate town and Durham City.

**ADAM NICHOLS (Forward)**

Signed this season from Consett, Adam is an exciting winger who gets his fair share of goals. Previous clubs include Darlington 1993, West Auckland and Crook Town.

**ARJUN PUREWAL (Defender)**

A good strong defender, Arj has joined Bishops for the second time in his career and has previously played for Darlington 1883, Whitby Town, Blyth Spartans and Durham City.

**DAVID PALMER (Midfielder)**

David is a goal-scoring midfielder who likes to go box to box. He scored over 20 goals for Seaham Red Star in their 2nd Division Championship-winning side last season.

**IAN WARD (Forward)**

Physically strong and good in the air, Ian joins Bishop from Spennymoor having previously played for Queen of the South, Esh Winning, Durham City and Darlington 1883

**IAN MADDISON (Defender/Midfielder)**

Excellent in the air, Ian is an experienced, versatile player who is comfortable in defence or midfield. Previous clubs include Tow Law and West Auckland.



# Opposition History

It all started in 1882 when theological students from Oxford and Cambridge Universities whilst studying at Auckland Castle, home of the Bishop of Durham, formed a team known as Bishop Auckland Church Institute. A later dispute caused a breakaway team called Auckland Town to be formed in 1886/87 and it was from this upheaval that Bishop Auckland Football Club was eventually born.

Eight days after its formation, the club chose royal blue with white facings and subsequently the light and dark blue colours of the original Church Institute representing the colours of Oxbridge. Auckland Town was a founder member of the Northern League in 1889 but left after its first season before returning as Bishop Auckland in 1893. Between 1893 and 1988, the club won the league championship a record 19 times. The first championship was claimed in 1898/99 with the club going unbeaten in their league campaign, winning nine and drawing seven of their sixteen league matches.

Success in national and local competitions often left the club with a backlog of league fixtures at the end of the season. In 1936/37 the team played 18 games in 18 days, without defeat, to finish runners-up. In 1937/38 the club ended up playing 14 games in 18 days, again finishing as

runners-up, and in 1938/39 they played 10 games in 11 days to become champions. The most successful period in the Northern League came between 1947 and 1956 when the team never finished below second place. During this period they were champions seven times and runners-up on three occasions.

Following the tragic Munich air disaster of 1958 when Manchester United lost so many talented players, three Bishop Auckland players went to assist the First Division champions. They were Derek Lewin, Warren Bradley, and Bobby Hardisty, who all played in United's Central League side in March that year. Bradley, an England Amateur International, not only became a regular in United's first team but also went on to play for his country at full international level.

In the FA Amateur Cup, the Bishops record was without equal. No other club can match their number of wins, finals, and semi-final appearances. They were in the final 18 times, winning the cup on ten occasions including a record three times in a row in 1955, 1956 and 1957. The club were also semi-finalists on 27 occasions. When the competition ceased in 1974, the club was presented with a replica of the Amateur Cup in recognition of its outstanding record.

In the FA Cup, the Club has played in the First Round Proper on a remarkable 23 occasions winning 10 times with memorable games against the likes of Sheffield United, Wolves, Carlisle United, Blackpool, Bury and Crewe. The best Cup run came in the 1954/55 season when, after beating Kettering Town 5-1 (home), Crystal Palace 4-2 (away), and Ipswich Town 3-0 (home) after a 2-2 draw in East Anglia, they were defeated 1-3 at home by York City in a thrilling Fourth Round tie. Two seasons earlier, a record attendance of 16,319 packed into Kingsway to see a Second Round defeat to Coventry City.

In the FA Trophy the Club has reached the quarter-final stage three times in 1970, 1997 and 2000.

Unquestionably the most famous player to wear the famous 'Two Blues' shirt was Bobby Hardisty. In a glittering 21 year playing career, starting with an FA Amateur Cup semi-final appearance at the age of 17, he gained every conceivable amateur honour. Bob was in the British team at three Olympic Games, won 15 Amateur International caps for England, and also played for Middlesbrough, Hibernian and Manchester United reserves. He also played in six FA Amateur Cup Finals at Wembley, gaining three winners medals, and won six Northern League Championship medals in seven years.

In 1988, almost a century after first joining the Northern League, the Bishops decided to enter the pyramid system via the Northern Premier League. It was the end of an era, but it was also the beginning of an exciting new phase in the club's history as the team immediately gained promotion to the Premier Division, where they more than held their own for over a decade. The highest ever league placing was as Runners-up in the 1996/97 season

At the end of the 2001/02 season the Club, now a limited company, moved away from Kingsway, home for 116 years, so that part of the ground that was shared with the local Cricket Club could be sold to help fund a new ground that would meet the now more demanding criteria for football stadia.

The Club entered ground sharing agreements with a number of local clubs over the following 8 years. In 2002 the Two Blues suffered relegation for the first time in their long and distinguished history. Despite not finishing in a relegation place, they were demoted by the Northern Premier League on a ground technicality. They battled back, and found themselves in the Premier Division in 2004 following the restructuring of the non-league pyramid. However, relegation inevitably followed and so after a gap of 18 years, the Bishops' returned to the Northern League for the 2006/07 season.

After a considerable amount of complex negotiations a site for the new stadium was found and Heritage Park, with a capacity of just over 2,000 was officially opened by Sir John Hall on Sunday October 24th 2010 and hosted its first game against a Middlesbrough team shortly after watched by 1,341 spectators.

Heritage Park hit full capacity (2,004) in the opening league match of the 2012/13 season against our current ground sharing partners Darlington 1883 in their first competitive game in the Northern League since reforming.

2015 has seen possibly the biggest news for quite some time in the history of the Club when Colin Rowell, an avid supporter of the Club for more than 70 years, left the bulk of his estate, worth more than £300,000 to the Club on his death at the age of 79 years, As a fitting tribute to Colin, his ashes were scattered on the Heritage Park pitch.

# Upcoming Fixtures



EBAC Northern  
League Division 1



Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>  
August



FA Cup Extra  
Preliminary Round



Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>  
August



EBAC Northern  
League Division 1



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>  
August



EBAC Northern  
League Division 1



Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
August



# Captains Message:



Firstly I'd like to say how proud and happy I am to be named Team Captain of Morpeth Town AFC ahead of the 2015/16 season.

I think last season we finished off really strong, a lot of teams were happy picking up draws against us near the back end of the season.

This included the likes of Marske United and Shildon who finished first and second. We also beat Guisborough Town 4-3 in a thriller at Craik Park, the Reds finishing third in the table.

It showed how far we have come as a club over the last season. Let's not forget we also made the final of the Northumberland Senior Cup Final.

Team Captain  
Keith Graydon

# Pre-Season Report

Morpeth Town have come through a rigorous pre-season which has seen the Highwaymen play seven away games as they prepare for another EBAC Northern League Division One season.

Pre-Season began with a weekend trip to Scotland, with Morpeth scheduled to play a Rangers XI on the Friday and a Celtic XI on the Saturday. Unfortunately these games had to be cancelled, with Morpeth forced to re-arrange. We'd like to thank both Dalbeattie Star and Stranraer for agreeing to play us.

On the Friday we faced Dalbeattie Star, new signing Jordan Nellis netting his first goal for the club, as did Jack Betts. Striker Daniel Taggart and midfielder Ben Sayer completed the scoring as Morpeth picked up a 4-1 victory.

On the Saturday we travelled to Stranraer to take on the Scottish League One side in a difficult fixture. The hosts took a two goal lead before a brilliant Sayer strike pulled on back. Stranraer restored their two goal lead before Steven Anderson levelled the scores.



The second half saw the home side net twice more before a late Shaun Bell goal reduced arrears to make it 5-3.

Whitley Bay 'A' were next up as Morpeth looked to get back to winning ways. We did so in emphatic fashion with a comfortable 3-1 victory over the Hillheads second string.

This was followed up with a trip to take on Walker Central. This proved a tough test for the Highwaymen one but one which ended in victory, goals from Sayer and Taggart securing the 2-0 victory.

Next on the schedule was a trip to Heaton Stannington, but unfortunately this game was called off. Many Thanks to fellow EBAC Northern League Division One side who stepped in and provided the opposition for our fifth pre-season friendly.

A brace from Sayer, who has scored five goals in five appearances from midfield this pre-season, and a goal apiece from Luke Carr and Jordan Nellis helped the Highwaymen to a 4-1 victory.

The final game of pre-season saw Morpeth Town travel to EBAC Northern League Division Two side Ryton & Crawcrook Albion.

Goals from Daniel Taggart, Shaun Bell, Steven Anderson and two for Michael Chilton secured a sixth win of pre-season.

# Photo Gallery

## Northumberland Senior Cup Final



# Morpeth Town 2014/15 Awards





LOOK

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*further*



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# Today's Squads



No.

Goal

Sub

No.

Goal

Sub

	Karl Dryden				Scott Pocklington		
	Niall Harrison				Jordan Lavery		
	David Hiftle				Mark Bell		
	Shaun Henderson				Stuart Thompson		
	James Novak				Jordan Galloway		
	Johnny Wilson				Sean Tarling		
	Chris Jewels				Graham Irving		
	Chris Swailes				Ian Ward		
	Michael Hall				Arjun Purewal		
	Matthew Grieve				Andrew Johnson		
	Keith Graydon				Glen Lane		
	Ben Sayer				David Palmer		
	Luke Carr				Ian Maddison		
	Shaun Bell				Rhys Jobling		
	Jordan Fry				Ollie Hotchkiss		
	Sean Taylor				Lewis Brown		
	Michael Chilton				David Mitchell		
	Daniel Taggart				Adam Cocks		
	Stephen Forster				Adam Nichols		
	Steven Anderson				Danny Newby		
	Jordan Nellis				Dean Zambra		
	Lee McAndrew				Lewis Martin		
	Jack Betts						

## Match Officials

**Referee** Stephen Dial  
**Assistant** Stuart Kyle  
**Assistant** David Pill