

# Barton Town Swans Review

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Asad, cardiac arrest survivor



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# Gregory's Greeting

Thank you everyone for attending today's match be you one of The Swans regular supporters, from this afternoon's visiting club, Eccleshill United, or if you are visiting the EasyBuy Stadium to experience NCEL non-league football for the first time.

On behalf of all at Barton Town FC, I extend a very warm welcome to you all, and we hope you enjoy this last match of 2024.

Today's game is a very difficult day as we say goodbye to our dear friend of our family here at Barton Town FC. James Hitchcock will be sadly missed by us all. Unfortunately I couldn't be here today due to a family commitment of my own. We were all deeply devastated when we heard the news about James and my heart goes out to his family, friends and team mates. It's very hard to put into words how we all feel but please be as generous as you can today and donate to the family's choice of charity; One Punch Hull and East Yorkshire. James will be sadly missed by us all; he was a lovely lad very polite, hardworking and he was dedicated to his team and duties as a player. RIP James.



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# The Captain's View

I'd like to welcome the Eccleshill United players, management and any travelling fans to the Easy Buy Stadium this afternoon.

Where to start...

I'll start by touching on the season so far. Far too many draws is the short of it. I think we've competed in every game but have drawn far too many; if we turned a couple of those in to wins we would be in an extremely healthy position. However there is still plenty of time left to stick a run together.

I'd like to pass on my sympathies to the Waudby family who suffered their own personal tragedy just before Christmas and our thoughts are with them.

On a personal note I won't be able to express with words the impact Hitchy's tragic death has had on myself and others. I still can't believe I'm even writing those words. I've known Hitchy for 10 years now and seen him three times a week in that period and numerous hours sharing a car to and from football. Hitchy became more than a football team mate; he became a best friend.





We spoke every single day, we saw each other every weekend in season and out of season. A true one off bloke who has left a gaping hole in our lives... an irreplaceable person. I will cherish every memory... as every memory is one where we are laughing and joking.

My thoughts are with Chris, Fiona, Kurt, April and his little boy Freddie.

I hope you enjoy the game.

Andy Norfolk



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# In Town Today



There is evidence of an Eccleshill United football club in existence pre 1910 and they played at Eccleshill Recreation Ground. This was a youth team with a maximum age of 20 years.

The present Eccleshill United did have a team before the Second World War, but it had to be disbanded when most of the players and officials joined the armed forces.

The club was reformed in 1948 and during the 1950's played in the Bradford Red Triangle League, during this time, a move was made from the Recreation Ground to a pitch on Acre Fields. Then in 1963, the club purchased land at Plumpton Park, which remains its current headquarters. A great deal of work had to be done to transform the old quarry into 2 separate football pitches.

The club's senior side joined the West Riding County Amateur League, progressing to the premier division in 1972, and in 1974 a licensed clubhouse was built. The club applied to join the North East Counties League in 1982, a bid which proved unsuccessful. New terracing was built and the dressing rooms upgraded and at the end of the 1984/85 season a successful application was made.

Since that time the club has operated in the NCEL



# In Town Today



with varying degrees of success.

During the middle of the 2000's the club fell on hard times, and in 2008 the first team were relegated to the first division, narrowly avoiding finishing in the bottom two and being forced to leave the league the season after.

A new committee was formed under the leadership of Adrian Benson and the committee resolved to take the club forward and a relationship was formed with RIASA (Richmond Development Academic and Soccer Academy) which allowed Eccleshill access to many foreign, mainly American players.

Several high profile managers were appointed over the next few years including; Ian Banks, Bobby Davidson and Lee Duxbury. This culminated in Eccleshill's most successful season 2013/14 seeing them narrowly missing out on promotion, but winning the West Riding County Cup final and loosing on penalties in the NCEL League Cup final. Both these finals were held at Bradford City's Valley Parade ground.

At the end of the 2014/15 season, Eccleshill ended it's association with RIASA and decided to embark on a more traditional pathway with mostly local based players. The squad that has been assembled by new manager Mark Greaves has shown great promise in the pre-season friendlies



# In Town Today



and we hope for a successful season. In 2014, the Eagles won the west riding county cup, defeating

Harrogate town in the final. The club's last promotion into the NCEL premier

division, where they remain, was in 2018, when the eagles beat Grimsby Borough 3-2 in the playoff final.



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# The Barton Blog

I had already prepared some blog notes for this article regarding our previous home game against Bottesford, but after hearing the absolutely awful news regarding James Hitchcock they really don't seem that important. Losing a friend, colleague or loved one at any time is devastating, but one so young with a young family feels even more so.

By Darren Stockdale



For anyone involved with Barton Town, he was one of ours. For anyone involved in the Northern Counties League, he was one of ours. For anyone involved in non-league football, he was one of ours. In fact, for anyone involved with football at any level, he was one of ours. There can be no denying this fact, and the huge amount of support on social media from football clubs throughout the country from all levels of the league pyramid proves this beyond any doubt.







# The Barton Blog



As it has been mentioned many times, this game is going ahead in memory of James Hithcock, with all donated money going to the One Punch Hull & East Yorkshire charity. This is a great idea as I, along with many others here today I am sure, had never heard of this charity until now.

Thanks to this announcement I feel like I have a lot more knowledge of this than previously, thanks to their website.

We must also spare a thought for our replacement goalkeeper (I don't know who that is at the time of writing this article). This will be a difficult game for him to play in under the circumstances. Let's give him all our support. We should also thank Eccleshill United in advance for their understanding throughout this match.





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# The Barton Blog

I am sure this will be a difficult game for all involved, so having the support of absolutely everyone in the ground will be very important.

This has probably been the most difficult set of blog notes I have ever had to write, and I hope to never have to write another for similar circumstances. So, that said, let's get back to something more familiar.

## Trivia

Where do colours get their names from? – Ever wondered why blue is blue? Well, today we will look at where colours got their names from with a little help again from RobWords.



Black – Probably the oldest of the colour names, black has around 4000 years of usage. It would have originally been 'bhleg'. In Old English it would have been 'blac'. The word black literally translates to 'burnt' or 'burning'. Ever wondered why 'blanc' in French is white? It's because 'blac' for burning was originally confused between the actual burning (the white flame) or the after-effects of the burning (the black remains), hence the word 'blac' has come to mean both black and white depending on the language.





# The Barton Blog

White – Originally 'kweido' which meant 'to shine'. By the time this reached Old English it was spelt (and pronounced) 'Hwit'. White and wheat are from the same word roots, wheat meaning the colour of the milled flour.

Grey – Now, is it grey (UK) or gray (American)? Well, actually both. It was originally spelt græy, and when we lost the æ letter some spelt it with an e and some with an a.

Now, again with the help of RobWords let's take a look at the more 'colourful' colours.





# The Barton Blog

**Red** – This is one of the oldest colours and comes from the Proto-Germanic word 'reudh'. It is also the root of the words ruddy, rust and ruby.

**Yellow** – Another word that originates from the Proto-Germanic language, this time from the word 'gelwaz'. By the time it reached Old English it was spelt 'geolu' before 'zelo' (not actually with a z but I cannot find the actual symbol), which eventually started being pronounced 'yelo'.

**Pink** – Pink is quite literally named after a flower that was the colour pink (Dianthus).

**Green** – The word green comes from the Old English 'grene', coming from the same roots as the German word 'grün', also linked to the words grass and grow.

**Purple** – Purple traces its word roots back to Ancient Greece where it was named after the shellfish 'porphura'. By Old English times it had become 'purpul', from the Latin 'purpura'.

**Orange** – The most interesting thing (for me) about this colour is the fruit came first. The word orange comes from the Middle English word 'orenge'. In Old English there was a word 'geoluhread' which meant yellowy red, but that was as close to orange there was at the time.





# The Barton Blog

Blue – Blue was the last colour to be named and is an interesting one. The Greeks didn't even bother giving it a name. Our word blue originates from the Old French word 'bleu'. In Middle English it was 'bleu' or 'blewe' before becoming the word we have today. However, certain countries separate the different shades of blue, for example in Italy the sky is not blue it is azzurro, which in our colour spectrum would be light blue. We do a similar thing with pink and red.

## History

Our home game against Eccleshill last season ended in a draw. Eccleshill took a very early lead and managed to hold on to it until the 70th minutes when Tom Waudby converted a penalty. The score remained 1-1 at the end of the game. Our away game was the final game of the extra-long season, and the seventh game we had played in about two weeks. Barton took the lead through Kian Salter just after the break, but tired legs hit the team allowing Eccleshill to take the win at the end.

Let's hope for a good game today and up the Swans.





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## The Untold Game

### Mister Two Billion

When asked who the first million pound man was, everyone would confidently answer that it was Trevor Francis, who moved from Birmingham City to Nottingham Forest in 1979, and scored the goal that won Brian Clough his first European Cup. But, notwithstanding the fact that Clough insisted he had paid £1 less than the milestone figure, the first million pound man wasn't English, and made his move some four years before Francis. And



when Giuseppe Savoldi made the move to a title-challenging Napoli, he didn't earn a million pound moniker. With the Italian Lira so much weaker than the pound, he became known as Mister Two Billion.



# The Untold Game

For Savoldi, childhood nearly took him on a very different path. Tall and athletic, his first love wasn't football, but basketball. Pushed onto the football pitch at the same time, he spent his teenage years splitting his time between the sports before, at the age of eighteen, dedicating himself to the one that offered the best chance of a career. In 1965, he made his debut for Atalanta.

In truth, he had been on their books for a few years previous to that. They were his biggest local club, and the aerial prowess he had developed in basketball made him stand out in their youth ranks. His leaping ability also made him a promising high jumper, and he was a prized asset. Without Atalanta's knowledge, he continued to play basketball in secret until Hungarian youth coach Mikhail Kincses convinced him to finally focus entirely on football.

Savoldi made his debut in the Italian Cup as a left winger, and scored in his first game against Vicenza. When Stefano Angelieri took over the reins a month later, he moved Savoldi to centre forward, and despite a slow start, Angelieri stuck with him. His first league goal came the following season, and Savoldi never looked back.

A series of solid performances over that season drew some admiring glances from bigger clubs across the league, but Savoldi chose to repay the faith Angelieri had shown in him and stay



## The Untold Game

with Atalanta for a third season. His burgeoning talent was unable to lift his hometown side above mid-table, but he established himself as the brightest young talent in Italy. In 1968, with his title-winning ambitions limited in Bergamo, he made the difficult decision to move on. Bologna would be his new home, but success was only limited with I Rossoblu.

Savoldi spent seven years with Bologna, building his reputation but struggling for the silverware he craved, despite winning the Italian Cup twice. Over the course of his time with the club, he scored 140 goals and was twice the top scorer in the Italian Cup, as well as sharing the Capocannoniere in 1973 with Gianni Rivera and Paolo Pulici. He is Bologna's fourth top scorer of all time, but by 1975 the same frustrations had started to appear that he had experienced at Atalanta, namely the lack of a league title.

That summer, he was unable to force through a move to Helenio Herrera's Roma, or to Milan or Juventus who had also expressed an interest. But it was clear that he wanted to leave, and Napoli had finished third in 1974, and second in 1975. They appeared to be a club on the up, and he believed he could be the final piece of the puzzle. The Neapolitans made an eye-watering bid of two billion lira, and Bologna gave Savoldi his wish. He moved south, ready to compete for the title but with the price tag hanging around his neck.



# The Untold Game



Unbeknownst to him, Napoli were already in decline following their high point the previous season.

Despite a solid return of 77 goals over his four years in Naples, the team slowly slid down the table. Injuries cost him a bright start at the

club, and in his first season they finished fifth, just two places ahead of Bologna. 'I arrived in Naples too late', he would later lament. Napoli were at the end of a cycle, not the beginning of one, and the Scudetto slipped away from them. Savoldi added another cup medal to his collection, but in 1977 they slipped back further to ninth. Sixth and seventh placed finished followed before, frustrated with the failure, he moved back to Bologna. Eleven goals helped them to seventh, three places ahead of Napoli.

Savoldi's career ended with a black spot against his name. In the summer of 1980 he was accused of leading an underground betting ring and, after a long hearing, he was slapped with a three year suspension. It was reduced to two years on



# The Untold Game



appeal, but it was the writing on the wall. At 34, he made his comeback for Atalanta, but with two years out of the game and his aging legs, he struggled to keep up with his younger opponents. He managed just one goal, before hanging up his boots for good.

Unlike his contemporary Trevor Francis, he never scaled the heights of European football. But he was the first million pound man, regardless of Clough's insinuations. His career shows that, whatever the price tag, success is never guaranteed.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green The Untold Game

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15	RYAN THOMPSON
16	ELLIOT BROUGHTON
17	REECE SHIPLEY

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5 CHRISTOPHER BUMHIRA

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7 TALENT NDLOVU

8 HASS GORJI

9 LEWIS WADDINGTON

10 MATTHAIS BRITTON

11 SHIRAZ KHAN

Manager  
Lee Elam

Assistant Manager:  
Asif Hussain

Physio:  
Sarah Hearn

## SUBSTITUTES

12 THOMAS PRIESTLY STANDING

14 CALLUM THORNTON

15 TABISH HUSSAIN

16 KEIRAN HAIGH

17 ZACKARY SANGSTER

## Today's Match Officials

Referee : Jack Wilkin  
Assistant Referee : Kieran Ward  
Assistant Referee : Simon Keillor