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THE EASY BUY STADIUM

# BARTON TOWN SWANS REVIEW



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# Gregory's Greeting

Good afternoon one and all. Today sees us host Knaresborough Town in the NECL Premier Division and on behalf of everyone at Barton Town FC, I extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of our visitors and look forward to this afternoon's match.

Our last game against highly placed Golcar United, and our first of 2025, saw the Swans supporters "enjoy" the full range of emotions as first we fell behind in the first few minutes, equalise and then go in at half time two goals ahead, only to concede a second with 15 minutes to play. A real "edge of your seat" ride as the clock counted down to the final whistle; with three points in the bag only six points separate us from the edge of the promotion play-off places.

The debutants, Tyler Edwards and Oli Baldwin, make their mark on the game and we look forward to repeat performances in future matches.

After today we still have 15 games to the end of the season, with six of these at home, so there's still a lot of football to play and



plenty of opportunity for us to claim a place in the top five by the end of the current season in early April - weather permitting.

Which brings us neatly to the pitch drainage work. I was hoping to be able to say that after the several weeks we have waited for council planning approval everything is now in place for work to commence as soon as the pitch becomes available. However we are still waiting for news on our grant funding application. Usually it's quite a speedy process so I'm hoping that "Murphy's Law" will mean my writing about this will cause the approval to "magically" appear!

On a more sombre note, yesterday myself and other directors of the club as well as members of the playing and management teams, attended the funeral of James Hitchcock. There was a huge turnout and it showed the level of respect James had earned at the various clubs he had played for, and the friendships he had made in his comparatively short life.

Finally, a big Thank You to today's match sponsors Keigar Homes. Anyone who has spend any time in Barton has seen their projects come to fruition over the 30 years they have been in business and the club is grateful for their ongoing support. We hope you and your guests have great afternoon... Enjoy the Game !



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## A Shot Across The...

As we welcome Knaresborough Town players, officials and their supporters to The EasyBuy Stadium this afternoon, I find that somewhat surprisingly we are now around two-thirds of the way through our home games; this is our thirteenth home match out of 19 fixtures!

Our first match of 2025 continued with our form shown at our last game of 2024 and we able to celebrate a great win against one of the league leading clubs. We've had great form at home this season, getting points from every game and this is something we very much wish to keep intact in the closing matches.

New signings Tyler Edwards and Oli Baldwin made their presence felt early in the match with Tyler levelling up the scoreline and Oli putting us in front in the first 15 minutes and the ever-present Tom Waudby getting the third and the match winner just before half-time. Tom and Ali both had chances early in the second half so we could have been out of sight but when they scored with around 15 minutes to go it's felt a bit "backs to our wall" time so I was happy to see the game out against one of the strongest sides I think we have played this season.





## A Shot Across The...

As everyone is aware Andy Norfolk has moved to Bridlington Town as assistant manager until Mike Thompson and Ryan Thompson has transferred to Winterton Rangers as work commitments didn't allow him as much game time as we would have liked. As always we wish departing players all the best for the future and thank them for their efforts when wearing the Barton Town shirt.

With two out and two in the squad size remains the same and as I'm discussing players we are looking forward to Keiran Wressell becoming available. He's been back in training, not with the main squad, and is progressing well so hopefully we'll be welcoming back to full training soon. It will take some time to get him back to full fitness as he's been out for a couple of months and if you are out for an extended period mid-season it's difficult to get your fitness back; his return would be a massive plus as Kieran's a very good defender at this level.

Although prior to this match we are sitting mid-table it's very close with just six points and six teams between us and the chance of a play-off spot. No games in this league are easy so there's still a lot of work to do.

But let's get this game won... enjoy the game!



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AMWORTH's heroics aside, the most romantic story of FA Cup third round weekend was one which never actually materialised. In 154 years of the competition, no father and son have ever played against each other, so when Premier League Everton pulled Peterborough United out of the hat, all talk was of the possibility of Everton full-back Ashley Young facing his 18-year-old son Tyler.

Tyler was named on the Posh bench but, in the end, a tight game at Goodison Park meant that Peterborough boss Darren Ferguson had to put the needs of his team before the purists and the young midfielder didn't get on.

And in another twist to the tale, Ashley's brother, and Tyler's uncle, Lewis Young took charge of only his second game as caretaker manager, leading out Dagenham & Redbridge at Millwall on Monday night.

Despite not quite etching their names in cup folklore, it proved a memorable weekend for the Young family – one to tell the grandchildren one day. "It was fantastic to be there [at Everton] on Thursday night," Lewis told The NLP. It was a dream for me and the whole family all dotted around. We probably ended up making it nearly a sell out because the amount of us went up."





Ask any footballer of a certain age and they'll tell you it's every player's dream to see their son or daughter make their own way in the game – better still playing alongside them. And that was the case for two former full-time stalwarts who lined up alongside their sons in Non-League last week.

Ronnie Henry says he has fulfilled the final ambition of his 23-year playing career after playing alongside son Louie for Potters Bar. Stevenage legend Henry, 41, joined the Scholars in June after watching 17-year-old Louie play at the Lantern on loan from his former club last season. The centre-back even admitted that the possibility of left-back Louie returning to the Isthmian Premier division side had convinced him not to hang up his boots. Henry was made to sweat, with talk of loan moves elsewhere, but the deal was completed last week and on Tuesday night the pair lined up in Max Mitchell's back four, helping the Scholars to a 2-1 win at Canvey Island.

"I've achieved quite a few things in my career, but playing alongside Louie is right up there with any of them," Henry, who won two FA Trophies, a Conference title and the League Two play-offs during two glittering spells at the Lamex, told The NLP.





“When I decided to play on for another year, it did depend on what Louie was going to do. And at times it looked like he would go elsewhere. So for him to come to Potters Bar and for me to play alongside him was a special, special moment.

“It’s a moment that I didn’t think was ever going to happen. I didn’t even dream of it happening, to be honest. Even driving to the game, I thought ‘This is surreal’. But when we crossed that white line, everything just felt really natural. It was a fantastic experience and it almost feels like ‘OK, I’ve achieved everything I could have hoped for in football now’.”

Someone who knows exactly how Henry is feeling right now is Danny Kedwell. The Ashford United player/manager says it’s an “amazing feeling” to partner his son in the Nuts & Bolts front line in the Isthmian South East division – even though he’d really rather not to!

Kedwell has been forced to dust down his predatory scoring boots in recent weeks at the age of 41 to cover an injury and suspension crisis at the Homelands, which has propelled his 16-year-old schoolboy son Preston into the spotlight having netted three goals in his first six starts in senior football.





“He’s only 16, he’s still at school, so to get experience of men’s football at his age is fantastic,” said Kedwell Snr, who scored over 250 career goals for the likes of AFC Wimbledon, Gillingham and Ebbsfleet United. In all my footballing career, I never thought I would ever be playing alongside my son.

“It’s an amazing feeling, albeit unexpected because I don’t really want to be playing at 41 to be honest! But with all the injuries and suspensions we’ve had, I had no choice. I was buzzing for him, because it’s hard for him being 16 years of age and the manager’s son.

“It’s an easy option not to play him but he doesn’t deserve that. He’s had six starts this season and got three goals. As a manager, if I think you are good enough to play then you’ll play, and I’ll treat you the same as anyone else.

“When it comes to matchday, he’s just a normal player. He’s deserved his start like anyone else. He’s been patient and every time he’s come on he’s done really well.

“He’s a natural goalscorer. He knows where the goal is and has a habit of being in the right place at the right time, You just can’t buy that.”



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# In Town Today



The club was almost certainly formed as "Trinity" in 1898. The name change to "Knaresborough Association Football Club" took place in 1900 and, apart from the two World War periods, a club has existed in the town.

Much of its early football was played in the York & District League before joining the Northern League in 1909. After only two seasons, escalating costs forced a move back to the York League and Harrogate League through the 1920's and 30's.

At the outbreak of World War Two, the club, like many at the time, folded temporarily, and it was as Knaresborough Rovers that they reformed in 1946. The Harrogate League was the first competition played until the early 1950's when the York League was joined once more.

The club again reverted to the Harrogate League when they set up a Premier Division and that title was won three years in succession from 1965 to 1967. After two more runners-up seasons, the club entered the West Yorkshire League for six further years which saw a title in Division Two before promotion from Division One for two seasons in the Premier Division before another return to the Harrogate League.

From 1976 to 1993, the club continued in the Harrogate League but ambitions were high and





## In Town Today

the West Yorkshire League was re-joined in 1993. The League Cup was won in the first season, but the league title had to wait until 2009.

In 2010, the club won the West Riding County F.A. Challenge Cup final for the first and only time and then made the decision to invest in ground developments to upgrade to Step Six standards, and were elected to the Northern Counties East League in 2012.

The club built steadily, the early highlight being the triumph in the League Cup in 2014 when Eccleshill United were defeated at Bradford City's Valley Parade ground.

2017-18 saw progression for the club when they reached the 2nd round of the FA Vase for the first time and went on to take the NCEL Division One title and achieve promotion to Step 5 of the Non-League pyramid.

2018 saw the club's best FA Cup run as they reached the Second Qualifying round only to bow out to Workington.

In 2024, the team achieved its highest place to date, finishing 8th in the NCEL Premier Division.





# In Town Today



## Player profiles

### **Tommy Brown**

(Goalkeeper): Joined in summer 2022

after periods at Selby Town and Scarborough Athletic.

Tommy was born in France and grew up in Dallas, Texas.

Progressed from the Notts County academy. Appointed captain for this season.



**Will Mitchell** (Goalkeeper): Having played for Knaresborough Celtic juniors, Will progressed to Bradford City and Grimsby Town before loan spells last season at Winterton Rangers and Barton Town.

### **Aaron Pilkington** (Defence):

Right back, Aaron, joined this summer following two seasons at Wakefield. Previously, served Leeds United's Academy teams from five years through to eighteen.



**Brett Smith** (Defence): Joined early last season on a dual registration from Pontefract Collieries having previously represented Nostell Miners' Welfare, but ended the season on crutches after a serious injury which led to an operation in the summer.



# In Town Today



## **James Beaston** (Defence):

Experienced defender, James, joined in summer 2023 from Tadcaster

Albion having had spells at Garforth Town and Yorkshire Amateur.



## **Ryan Gothard** (Defence):

Ryan joined Knaresborough in the summer having previously represented Selby Town. Can play anywhere across the back line.

## **Sam Cook** (Defence):

Sam played for Harrogate Railway through the junior ranks before breaking through to the senior side. Joined Knaresborough as his chances at Station View were limited, but briefly went to

Thackley for the same reason. Returned in early 2016 and has been part of the set up since that time.



## **Harry Lee** (Defence):

Played at Leeds United to Under 16's level and then Harrogate Town and Railway before his move to Manse Lane at the start of last season.



# In Town Today



## **Phil Milsom**

(Defence): Left-sided player, Phil arrived from Boroughbridge in late

2019 and has now become a regular. Previously turned out for Pannal Sports and Harrogate Town youth sides before switching to Wetherby Athletic at Open Age.



**Ben Parkes** (Midfield): Ben played at Harrogate Railway as a junior before linking with the Knaresborough Town junior team at Under 18's. Was a part of the side in the first season in the Northern Counties East League and ranks as the longest serving player in the squad.



**Jack Lazenby** (Midfield): Jack joined in the summer, following in the footsteps of his Dad, Ben, who helped the club to the West Yorkshire League title in 2009. Formerly a junior at Leeds United, Middlesbrough and Bradford City before representing Guiseley, Garforth Town, Harrogate Railway and Pontefract Collieries. Just returning from eighteen months out following a cruciate ligament injury.



# In Town Today



## **George Thewlis**

(Midfield): Joined in early 2022

originally on a loan from Pontefract Collieries. Another former Leeds United junior, George, also played at Ossett United, and briefly at Marske United, having originally won a scholarship at Bradford City.



## **Luis Penny-Larter** (Midfield):

Another summer recruit, Luis had four years at Nostell Miners' Welfare and bolsters the options in the middle of the park.



## **Jack Lane** (Midfield):

Central midfielder, Jack, joined in the summer having played at Ilkley Town and UFCA.

**Max Barnard** (Midfield): Young midfielder who has been with the reserves since 2022 having previously played for Knaresborough Celtic.

## **Alex Ingham** (Forward):

Having played for the reserves for a couple of seasons, Alex stepped up to the senior side last season with considerable success.

Finished top of the scoring charts for the reserves and represented the West Yorkshire League side.



# In Town Today



## **Brad Walker**

(Forward): Ex-Harrogate Town junior, Brad has been a part of the Manse Lane set up for many years having played at Railway all through the junior ranks before spending three years in the Harrogate Town academy.



**Aaron White** (Forward): After a season with the reserves, Aaron stepped up last season and made several substitute appearances and notched three goals in the process.



**Adam Priestley** (Forward): Gibraltar-born Adam won seventeen international caps for the country of his birth and scored a single goal. He has played for many sides in West Yorkshire from Sherburn White Rose, Garforth Town through to Guiseley and Pontefract Collieries amongst many others. Joined Knaresborough this summer.





### **Simon Parkes**

(Manager): Played at Railway for many years before switching to Manse Lane in 2016



where he became a regular member of the team until a series of injuries brought a halt to his playing career. After acting as assistant to Rob Hunter from the start of the 2021-22 season, Simon took over the reins for the last few games of that campaign.

### **Colin Heath** (Forward/Coach):

Colin joined the club in 2011. Formerly a junior at Leeds United and Manchester United, he spent time on loan at Royal Antwerp, Swindon Town and Cambridge United. After being released by the Reds, Colin played for Chesterfield and Macclesfield before crossing to Farsley Celtic. Hit his 100th goal for the club in early 2018.



### **Paul Clayton** (Assistant Manager):

Paul re-joined the team for a third time in autumn 2023. Paul holds a UEFA B coaching licence and worked with the junior ranks at Bradford City for many years. Has also been involved with Tadcaster Albion, Ripon City and Ossett Town, Thackley and Harrogate Railway.



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# The Barton Blog

Our last home game saw us take on second in the table Golcar United. There had been a couple of players leave the club and a couple of new faces join since our previous game, so it was always going to be interesting to see how they fit into the team.

By Darren Stockdale

Golcar were straight out of the blocks, scoring their first goal before we had chance to get all our note-taking stuff ready. It was a nervy time to be a Barton fan, conceding so early against a team that had won seven times away this season already, scoring 25 goals in doing so. Then it was time for our two new signings to show how good they were. Tyler Edwards was causing no end of trouble and got his reward with a goal on ten minutes. Five minutes later he turned provider with a brilliant cross into the box for our other new signing, Oliver Baldwin, to get his first goal.

Things got even better just before half time when Tom Waudby got Barton's third. After the break Golcar got one back, but couldn't break down the Barton defence for their equaliser. It was a great performance from Barton, with the two new signings really adding to the strength of the team.

Tyler Edwards really had an eventful debut. He scored the first goal, got the assist for the second, got sent to the sin-bin for being dragged down by





the shirt and then voicing an opinion about not getting a free kick from it, then got man-of-the-match.

## Trivia


Facts you probably do not know – I thought it would be fun to list some facts you probably do not know, that may be useful in a pub quiz or something similar? This may well spread over a few blogs, but as I never know what order they will be done in it can be a surprise which ones!

- Blue whales can eat 457,000 calories for every mouthful they take of krill. This would be about the same as the average person would eat in almost half a year.



- Rubber bands last longer if stored in the fridge. This is because it relaxes the polymers when it is cold. If you do store them in there don't stretch them straight from the fridge as the rapid change in temperature will weaken them.





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# The Barton Blog

- The Pope cannot be an organ donor. When a pope dies his body belongs to the entire Church and must be buried intact. It would further complicate things if he were ever made a saint, and his relics were wandering around in other bodies.

- The Earth is getting greener. Despite all the doom and gloom, studies done in 2019 found that the Earth had increased its green leaf area (leaves) by 5 percent in the last two decades. Didn't that happen in a Dr Who episode right before a massive solar storm (and haven't we had a few of those recently)?



- The world's oldest university is actually in Africa. Now this depends on how you look at it, but the oldest existing degree-granting university is the University of al-Qarawiyyin in Fez, Morocco.



- You have a blind spot in your eye. The part where the optic nerve attaches to the retina is a blind spot in your eye. You don't notice it because the brain constantly compensates for it.





- Nutmeg contains a hallucinogen. Taken in high enough quantities or concentration nutmeg can be a hallucinogen. It has a similar effect to MDMA compounds.



- A banana tree is a herb, not a tree. This is because they do not have a persistent woody stem, but many leaves wrapped together.

*Editor Note: Strangely, the subject of bananas came up in another conversation at the Golcar match; the banana "fruit" we eat is actually a berry.*





## History

We never seem to do much good against Knaresborough, and last season was no exception.

Our away game saw plenty of goals. Knaresborough took an early lead, with Harrison Coley equalising for Barton on 15 minutes. Knaresborough restored their lead a few minutes later and added a third not long after. They added a fourth just after the break. Two late goals from Tom Waudby could not stop the inevitable defeat for Barton. Thirteen games later, in just eight weeks, saw Barton lose again, this time at home by three goals to nil at home.

Back in September this season, two penalties were the only goals in our away game at Knaresborough. Tom Waudby getting one on 69 minutes and Knaresborough getting theirs right at the end of the game. A draw was an improvement, but it was so close to a win.

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







# The Barton Blog





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## The Untold Game

### The Other Team

The European Cup final of 1960 is, by many, considered to be the greatest game of football ever played. Real Madrid secured their fifth European title in five years, the first five years of the competition. The legendary Alfredo di Stefano scored a hat trick, but was outdone by his teammate Ferenc Puskas who scored four. A massive 127,000 were in attendance in Glasgow, among them Alex Ferguson, and many times that have claimed to have been there. And Real Madrid manager Miguel Munoz had only been in the job for a month, though he would stay for 14 years. But there was another side in that final, and Eintracht Frankfurt came within 90 minutes of upsetting the footballing order.

Frankfurt were a provincial team with no history of success. Any impetus they were beginning to gain in the first half of the twentieth century was snuffed out by the rise of Nazism, and at the end of the war they took their place as an average side in their regional league. Football before the



# The Untold Game

Bundesliga saw the winners of regional divisions qualify for national playoffs, which Frankfurt managed in 1953 and, crucially, 1959.



In 1960, many associations still refused to acknowledge the European Cup, and so thanks to the withdrawal of their Finnish opponents in the first round Frankfurt's first foray into continental competition was against Swiss opposition. Young Boys were three times Swiss champions and well-versed in football at this level, and were expected to win.

A rain soaked first leg saw Young Boys' ground only three quarters full. The Swiss champions entered the game with confidence, but after just four minutes Hans Weilbacher fired a free kick past the despairing goalkeeper. The home side equalised, but in the final quarter of the



# The Untold Game

match Frankfurt went on the rampage, first with a twenty yard strike and then a penalty to all but secure qualification. A fourth, late on, confirmed it, and Frankfurt ensured the second leg was a stodgy 1-1 draw.

Tougher opponents awaited in the next round. Wiener Sport-Club, the Austrian champions from Vienna, came to Frankfurt for the first leg of their quarter finals, and were far more solid than their Swiss counterparts. They reckoned without winger Erich Meier, however, who chose this game to display his brilliance down the left. He created the first goal after 17 minutes, and was a constant threat throughout the game. Sport-Club equalised before half time, but on the hour Meier danced through the defence yet again, placing a shot in the corner. Frankfurt held on to take a valuable lead into the second leg.

An energy sapping Derby against Offenbacher was between the games, which Frankfurt won 3-2 but was hardly the best preparation for an important European tie three days later. Sport-Club knew they needed a goal, and pushed forward hard. It took half an hour for them to level the tie, and at half time a tired Frankfurt feared their journey was over. Tired legs continued to defend resolutely, and then Erwin Stein had his moment. The ball broke to him in the Viennese' half, and he sprinted past the defence, powering home a finish. Frankfurt



# The Untold Game

held on, and progressed. The first time a German side had gone this far in the competition.

The semi-final saw them drawn against an enthusiastic Rangers. The final in Glasgow was a serious carrot for the Scots, and they were determined to beat their Catholic rivals in becoming the first Scottish side to win the European Cup. Rangers had won their domestic league 30 times by this point, and were renowned across the continent. Frankfurt had won their league just once, and were barely known beyond their city. Rangers players put bets on how many goals they would win by, foretelling their hubris. That was a serious mistake.



The first leg was a massacre, but the first half was tense, with each side scoring once before the break. Six minutes after the break, however, Alfred Pfaff nutmegged the goalkeeper to restore the Germans' lead. Four minutes later, he got his second. Rangers pressed forward, leaving



# The Untold Game

themselves open, and on 75 minutes conceded again to all but end the tie. And keeper George Niven was apoplectic. His mood was not helped by conceding twice more, as the overconfident Scottish champions lost 6-1. Another six goals conceded in the second leg, losing 6-3, put the seal on Rangers miserable semi-final. In Germany, the victory was celebrated so completely that Adidas took out adverts showing the side wearing their boots.

The magical ending would elude the Germans, however. In front of 127,000 people, with an estimated 70 million watching at home, they took the lead, but merely annoyed the Spanish giants. Puskas, Di Stefano, Paco Gento, there was just too much quality in the side. Possibly the greatest array of attacking talent to that point put Frankfurt to the sword and scored six before they conceded again. Frankfurt were disappointed, but not shamed.

As so often in football, the gods did not give us the fairytale, and Real Madrid won another European Cup.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game

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