

Barton Town Swans Review

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NCEFL 2024/25 PREMIER DIVISION

BARTON TOWN



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THE EASY BUY STADIUM

BARTON TOWN SWANS REVIEW



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Gregory's Greeting

Welcome everyone to this afternoon's match which sees us in NCEFL Premier Division action once again... As always we extend a very warm welcome to players, officials and supporters of Parkgate to our home and hope they enjoy an entertaining game of football.

Although it may not seem like it, in the last seven NCEFL matches we have lost only one, with one win and five draws, and only failed to score once since the start of the league campaign, and that was the very first game of the season which was at home against Albion Sports.

And, you may be surprised to hear that we've only lost twice - both away at Bottesford and Golcar.

It always take time for a squad to gel at the beginning of a season. With Anthony Bowsley being newly appointed for this season one of his first jobs was to look at building a squad for the 2024/25 campaign and overall the results show he's been fairly successful in this and overall the progression we have seen has been pleasing. However we really need to be turning these draws



into wins and progressing further up the table challenging for one of the promotion spots which I know we are fully capable of this season.

As mentioned last time, after many months, piles of paperwork, and a chunk of money, we now have the planning “go ahead” approved and we can now move on to getting the plans drawn up and asking firms in to get their quotations for the work; we can then progress to the grant application stage. It’s all slow and very frustrating but we are making progress and come the end of this season we’ll have everything in place to “crack on” with this project during the summer months.

One area we do require supporters assistance is on match days as we are looking for volunteers to help out in various roles. All the club activities are the result of work done by our volunteers be that social media, this programme, selling raffle tickets or collecting monies on the gate. If you’d like to get involved please come and speak to me!

Finally thank you to one of our main sponsors who are also match sponsor today - Hudgell Solicitors. We hope you and guests have a great afternoon.

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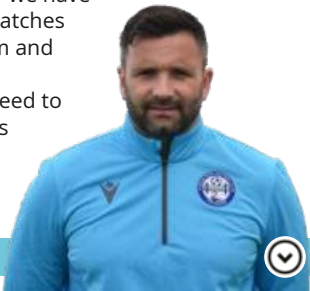
A Shot Across The...

In the words of Dan Leno "Here we are again!"

Welcome everyone to the EasyBuy Stadium for this afternoon's match which sees us take on Parkgate. The club extends a warm greeting to their players, officials and travelling supporters and hope that they have had a safe and speedy trip today.

The last time we played them in league action was back in April 2018 when a certain Tom Waudby got his name on the scoresheet! It's taken them a few years to get back into the Premier Division winning the First Division last season with 107 points and a +84 goal difference, which is very impressive in a season that saw both Beverley Town and Shirebrook Town also accumulate over 100 points.

Looking at the league statistics they show that we do have one of the best defences in the Premier Division and we've only lost two matches in the campaign. However we have also drawn more matches than any other team and despite dominant performances we need to convert those draws into wins. We are creating lots of chances and I'm





A Shot Across The...

sure that the winning goals will come. The main art in football is making split second decisions and it's very fine margins that can make the difference during a game. There are goals in the team; we just need to convert some more of those opportunities.

On the player front we'll have Elliot Broughton out for three or four weeks as we had to make an enforced first half substitution during the Hallam match when he was injured. It looks like a chipped or broken bone in his foot. Kieran Wressell and Ellis Barkworth are still out with Achilles problems, and Iwan Heeley is still not fit.

We have a decent sized, strong squad so we are able to rotate out players but still field a very competitive team on matchdays.

After today we have a few away matches. The first, next Wednesday, is the rearranged Handsworth fixture, and then next Saturday we are off to Harrowby United - which is Grantham - for the Lincolnshire Senior Trophy. Then the following Wednesday a tough fixture at Penistone Church who have made a great start to the season.

That's all for this week... UP THE SWANS!



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WHAT'S THAT noise you hear rumbling in the distance? Ah yes, it's the national media getting ready to start covering the FA Cup from the first round proper.

No Non-League footballer's day job is safe from being shoehorned into any report in a bid to save the romance of the FA Cup.

Of course, if you're reading this you know the FA Cup kicked off back in August and the magic has been well and truly alive ever since.

And while, yes, the first round proper is drawing ever nearer, the fourth round qualifying round as thrown up some mouth-watering ties.

We've said for quite a few years now how this stage of the competition – and even those before it considering the size of some Step 2 clubs – almost has a first round feel in itself.

Biggleswade v York City jumps off the page in a northern section of the draw packed with big names with the likes of Scarborough Athletic hosting Chester and Oldham Athletic taking on FC Halifax Town.

Will it be a Bigg weekend in Bedfordshire? Biggleswade Town are still in the hat with their





postponed replay against Alfreton Town due now scheduled for Tuesday after a midweek washout. The winners host Spennymoor Town.



Hednesford Town are a big Non-League name now under the charge of another big Non-League name in Steve King. The Step 4 side entered right at the very start in the extra preliminary round and, thanks to a 1-0 win over Shifnal Town on Tuesday, will now host Step 1 Gateshead.

And how about Step 5 Bury fresh from their win at National League North Radcliffe at the weekend? They travel to Harborough Town who are looking to create their own history by reaching the first round for the first time.





In the southern section of the draw we're waiting to see whether Bishops Cleeve can add Chesham United to their scalps in the rearranged replay on Tuesday with Yeovil Town awaiting the winners.

Suffolk side Leiston beat Hornchurch in extra time on Tuesday to set-up a home date with National League Dagenham & Redbridge, while Chertsey Town host Sutton United.

Horsham enjoyed a fairytale run last season, drawing 3-3 with Barnsley before losing the replay and then being reinstated after the Tykes were found to have played an ineligible player.

They welcome Step 4 Gorleston, who have just dumped out St Albans City. The last time they reached the first round was in the 1957-58 season! IF they get there, surely that's worth a piece in the papers...

FA Cup fourth round qualifying draw

NORTHERN SECTION

Rushall Olympic v Peterborough Sports

Tamworth v Macclesfield

Oldham Athletic v FC Halifax Town

Hartlepool United v Brackley Town

Farsley Celtic v Kettering Town

Altrincham v Solihull Moors





AFC Fylde v Rochdale
Scarborough Athletic v Chester
Biggleswade v York City
Harborough Town v Bury
Curzon Ashton v Kings Lynn Town
Gainsborough Trinity v Boston United
Hednesford Town v Gateshead
Biggleswade Town/Alfreton Town v Spennymoor
Town Kidderminster Harriers v Guiseley

SOUTHERN SECTION

Taunton Town v Maidenhead United
Horsham v Gorleston
Aldershot Town v Bath City
Eastleigh v Southend United
Chertsey Town v Sutton United
Boreham Wood v Carshalton Athletic
Haringey Borough/Lowestoft Town v Weston-
super-Mare
Wealdstone v Gosport Borough
Leiston v Dagenham & Redbridge
Barnet v Chelmsford City
Bishops Cleeve/Chesham United v Yeovil Town
Cray Wanderers v Tonbridge Angels
Woking v Slough Town
Forest Green Rovers v Weymouth
Maidstone United v Ebbsfleet United
Plymouth Parkway v Worthing
Braintree Town v Bishop's Stortford



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In Town Today



The history of Parkgate Football Club is inextricably linked to the Steelworks which form such an impressive backdrop to our Green Lane home.

Operations at the Park Gate Iron and Steel Company started in 1823, and just two years after the Iron and Steel Act created the British Steel Corporation (1967), the club was formed from Parkgate's Wire Department - in 1969, managed by current Chairman Albert Dudill.

They joined the Sheffield and Hallamshire County FC Senior League in 1970 and the Yorkshire League -as BSC Parkgate FC -in 1973.

The original Park Gate Works closed in 1976, two years after Electric Arc, scrap-based steelmaking started at Aldwarke; the plant becoming-and remaining- one of the UK's biggest recyclers.

Dave Bassett brought a strong Sheffield United team for the official switch-on of the club's floodlights in 1992 and in 1998 the club narrowly lost the Final of the S and H Senior Cup to Emley also finishing fourth in NCEL Division One.

In 1999, the steelworks came under the control of Corus Group PLC and the Steelmen began a successful period which culminated in promotion to the NCEL Premier Division in 2006/7 with the



In Town Today



club winning the Wilkinson Sword Trophy in the same season.

In 2007/8 - around the time that Tata Steel acquired Corus Group - the club reached the semi-finals of the NCEL League Cup and the County Senior Cup.

Between 2010 and 2012 the club enjoyed another successful period, finishing second in the NCEL Premier League and enjoying a fine run in the FA Vase.

More recent years have been difficult for the Steelmen, culminating in relegation to the NCEL First Division after a frustrating 2017-8 campaign.

The Steelworks enjoyed a revival - under new owners Liberty Steel Group who acquired the facilities in 2017.

During the summer of 2017, the club developed a new youth structure introducing an Under 18's team and an U17's squad. Each team progressed over the years into U21's.

The Club announced during the summer of 2020, that they would be forming a brand-new Reserve team which will compete in the County Season FL Division Two.

After six games, a loss in the FA Cup and FA Vase,



In Town Today



manager Billy Fox resigned and Parkgate appointed ex-player Andy Dawson as Manager, Lee Whitehead as his assistant and Ben Starosta as coach/player. The new Management team guided the Steelmen to 19 League wins and an impressive eighth place at the end of the 2018/9 season.

Dawson and Whitehead stayed until July 2022 when they were approached by Maltby Main and accepting their offer taking all the players with them, which put the Steelmen on the brink of having to resign from the League.

Having survived the 2022/2023 season, the dugout now housed Scott Mason, with Jimmy Ghaichem and Jimmy Humphreys

Season 2023/2024 proved a magnificent season for Parkgate FC. Finishing top of NCEL league Division 1 and NCEL League Cup beating Emley 3-0.

A number of players from the last season have now left but the team now is looking forward to an equally successful 2024/2025 season.



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21 Sep 24	NCELP	Silsden AFC	Josh Burke
28 Sep 24	NCELP	Winterton Rangers	Michael Smith
5 Oct 24	NCELP	Parkgate	Hudgells Solicitors
19 Oct 24	NCELP	Pickering Town	Howarth Timber
26 Oct 24	NCELP	Campion	Viking FM
23 Nov 24	NCELP	Thackley	The One Point
7 Dec 24	NCELP	Handsworth	Martyn Arnold
14 Dec 24	NCELP	Bottesford Town	3 Behind The Goal
28 Dec 24	NCELP	Eccleshill United	Stipendia
18 Jan 25	NCELP	Golcar United	
25 Jan 25	NCELP	Knaresborough Town	Keigar Homes
8 Feb 25	NCELP	Hallam	Jim White
22 Feb 25	NCELP	Penistone Church	AP Robinson
8 Mar 25	NCELP	Rossington Main	Finnies Accountants
22 Mar 25	NCELP	Tadcaster Albion	Paul Manchester

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The Barton Blog

By Darren Stockdale



Image: RM // Photography

Our last home game against Winterton was yet another classic “game of two halves”. In the first half Winterton were the better team, and managed to capitalise on their performance with a goal on 20 minutes. Barton did have a few really good chances, but our “Achilles heel” of not being able to convert them hit us once again, meaning we went in at the break a goal down. In the second half Barton were much better, but again without managing to convert any of the chances. As the game went on Winterton decided to play five at the back, and this seemed to work quite well for them. Barton were putting balls into good places, but not being able to find the net.






Image: RM // Photography



It looked like we were never going to score, even with four minutes of added time. There was a really unlucky overhead shot from a Barton player (not sure who) that hit the crossbar and went out.

I was just writing my notes about that when the crowd cheered. I looked up and Scott Philips had equalised for Barton with seconds to go, which of course I missed as I was writing notes about the overhead kick. I think a draw was a fair result in the end though.





Keep Up To Date

Visit the club's official website to keep up to date with all the goings on in and around the Easy Buy Stadium.

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The Barton Blog

We then had an away trip to Hallam on Tuesday night which survived the deluge of rain we all had that day. It was yet another game that the action did not end until the last few minutes. Hallam took the lead after 22 minutes, but five minutes later Tom Waudby equalised for Barton. It remained that score until time added on at the end of the game. One minute into the added time Hallam scored what they thought was a last-minute winner. However, four minutes later Grant Tait scored another equaliser for Barton leaving the final score 2-2. So that's the third draw in a row, and the third game in a row that someone has scored at least once in the 90+ minutes of the game. Don't ever leave a game involving Barton early otherwise there is a good chance you will miss a goal.

Trivia

Myths about Space – We all have a certain idea of space and the universe, mainly thanks to watching Sci-fi films. However, the realities of space are a far different to what we think. Here are a few myths that are actually not true:

The Sun is Yellow

From the moment we pick up a pencil or crayon we all know the sun is yellow, except it isn't. The sun produces all wavelengths of light, so it is actually white. As the wavelengths of light at the





The Barton Blog

blue end of the spectrum are much shorter than the red, they are much more likely to collide with particles in the air. This is why, during the day, the scattered blue light in the atmosphere gives the sky a blue colour and the sun a yellow colour.

There is a Dark Side of the Moon

Again, thanks to sci-fi films and other sources we all think of there being a dark side to the moon. A side where no light ever reaches. This is not true. During a full moon we can see the entire illuminated side of the moon, so the other side is in complete darkness. However, during the other phases of the moon we can only see part of it, meaning light is falling on the far side.

The Great Wall of China can be seen from Space

Another myth that is simply not true. The Great Wall of China is a huge structure, around 13171 miles long.



However, it is not that wide, only around 20 feet at the base. That, along with the fact it is built out of material that blends in with its surroundings, means it is virtually impossible to see from space. In low-Earth orbit





The Barton Blog

(around 99 miles up), it can be picked out on a radar image but is invisible to the naked eye.

Mercury is the Hottest Planet in the Solar System

You would think that a planet that is only around 36 million miles away from the Sun would be the hottest planet in our Solar System, but you would be wrong. During the day the temperature can get to 430 degrees Celsius, which is a bit warm. However, Venus, which orbits the Sun nearly twice as far out, has an average temperature of 462 degrees Celsius. How can that be? It is down to atmosphere. Mercury has a very thin atmosphere so loses most of the heat at night, whereas Venus has a thick atmosphere so retains the heat like insulation.

Saturn is the Only Planet with Rings

We have all seen the depictions of Saturn in movies, or read books, and know it is the only planet with rings, right? Well, no, we



are wrong. Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune all have their own set of rings, something we learnt when the Voyager probes flew past in the 1970s and 1980s. These rings are much thinner and are difficult to see from Earth, but still exist.





The Barton Blog

The Tails of Comets indicate which way they are Travelling

This seems obvious really. If a comet is travelling in a certain direction, then the tail, or the evaporating gas of the comet, will always point in the opposite direction of travel. Again, this is simply not true. There is no air to make the tail go in any direction. Comets are shaped by radiation pressure and solar winds, so they always point away from the Sun regardless of the direction of travel.

You Can Hear Sounds in Space

Another myth from the Sci-fi movies. We all love watching a huge noisy explosion in space in these films, but in reality there would be no sound. Sound is transmitted by pressure waves on Earth, which travels through air or anything that has vibrating particles to bump into one another and pass the energy on. In space particles are so far apart that sound waves cannot propagate, so the explosion would vibrate but the sound would have nowhere to go.





The Barton Blog



We Would Explode in Space without a Spacesuit

Again, another myth created from Sci-fi that is simply not true (although I wouldn't advise trying it out). When the atmosphere is removed around us the water in our tissues start to evaporate and the body starts to swell.

However, our skin is stretchy enough to stop any explosion happening. That said, you would be unconscious within around 15 seconds, then your blood and body fluids would boil, and then freeze due to no air pressure. It would probably be better if we did explode.

History

Parkgate were promoted from League One last season, so we have no games to report on. The last time the two teams met in the league was in the 2017/18 season. We were beaten 3-1 away, with our goal coming from Craig Hogg. We won at home 5-1, with a hat-trick from Ben Flowerdew, and a goal from Josh Tennant and Tom Waudby.

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





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The Untold Game

Mr Goal

Tanju Colak was arguably, for a period in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the most fearsome striker in Europe. The Turkish frontman was a star for Galatasaray and then, controversially, Fenerbahce, proving unstoppable in his home country and deadly on the European stage. But instead of cementing his status as a legend, Tanju had dark secrets, often insisting on bringing a gun to training for his own protection from the mafia. When he should have been enjoying a glorious swansong and moving into retirement, he was caught engaging with the criminals he was so aware of, and consequently sent to prison. It was a dark ending against the brightest of careers.

Tanju was born in Samsun, joining his local Super Lig side at the age of 19 and making an instant impact, even as the team struggled. In his first season, he scored 16 goals, but saw his team suffer relegation. The failed at the first attempts, despite his goals, but secured promotion the following season.



The Untold Game

Samsunspor were the following season's surprise team, upsetting the natural order and the bookmakers to compete for the league title. Tanju finished as the league's top scorer as his side finished third, and then added another 25 goals in 1986/87 for good measure. The giants of Turkish football had seen enough, and didn't enjoy the league's best forward playing for some upstarts from the east. At the end of that season, Tanju moved to Galatasaray.



He scored a spectacular bicycle kick in his second game - one of two strikes - on his way to a record 39 goals in his first season. Nicknamed 'The King', his record remains unbeaten. More than a goal per game, once again, saw him win the European Golden Shoe, and Tanju and Galatasaray won the league with a comfortable 12-point margin.



The Untold Game

Unbeknownst to anyone, that would be his only major honour.

The following two seasons were disappointing domestically, although Tanju continued to score at a rapid rate. And in 1989, Gala went further than any Turkish team before or since in the European Cup, reaching the semi-finals where they were defeated by Steaua Bucharest, who were surprising everyone. Tanju once again played his part, scoring freely against European competition. At home, the following season, he once more scored more goals than games, driving Gala back up to second, but falling short of Gordon Milne's great Besiktas side.

At the end of that season, in a bid to cut costs, Galatasaray sought to reduce the wages of some of their highest earners, Tanju among them. He was settled in Istanbul, and had been made captain of a side where he was loved, but the forward was unwilling to have his wages cut to the levels of what he deemed to be inferior players. He pleaded with the board to reconsider, and with his manager to exert some influence, but there was nothing they could do. A big offer was made by Marseille, which Tanju considered, but not wanting to leave Turkey, he took another, far more controversial decision. Fenerbahce, Galatasaray's great rivals, had heard of the contract dispute, and took the opportunity to pounce. Tanju moved from the European to



The Untold Game

the Asian side of the city, maintaining his wages, but threatening his legendary status.



At Fener, Tanju continued to score goals, and continued to just miss out on titles. But his private life was starting to become a cause for concern. Rumours surfaced in the press that the forward, who was married, was having an affair with Turkish actress Hulya Avsar, with details of his treachery splashed across the newspapers. That scandal did little to stop his goalscoring form, but the next one certainly did.

In December 1992, Tanju was arrested on suspicion of knowingly receiving a stolen Mercedes, and selling it on. Fenerbahce went to bat for their star man, with Club President Aziz Yildirim even going as far as calling the authorities corrupt. It made no difference, and Tanju



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was found guilty, sentenced to nine years in prison. He fled to Macedonia, but was quickly rearrested, and incarcerated.

The sentence was reduced on appeal, and then reduced again for his cooperation and good behaviour, but it was the end of his playing career. He was the Super Lig's highest ever goalscorer, a record that stood until Hakan Sukur went ahead of him, and fourth on Galatasaray's scoring list, despite only spending four seasons at the club.

His status at that club was trashed by his move across the city more than his arrest, but how was he seen at Fenerbahce? After his release, and retirement, the club arranged a testimonial for him, in which he made his final appearance on a football pitch. He donated the proceeds to a disaster relief fund, and returned to Samsun for a life of failed politics and repeated problems with the law.

A great goalscoring career, ended by criminality. But, for Fenerbahce at least, Tanju Colak remains a legend.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game
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