



NCEFL 2024/25 PREMIER DIVISION

BARTON TOWN



ROSSINGTON MAIN

08.03.2025 | 15:00

THE EASY BUY STADIUM

BARTON TOWN SWANS REVIEW



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Gregory's Greeting

The end of the NCEL campaign is almost upon us with just one final home game to be played - that's when we welcome Tadcaster Albion in two weeks time... on exactly though as it's a Friday night match and coincides with the Comic Relief Red Nose Day. There will be three further away matches to be played after that final home game as circumstances required a couple of the games to rescheduled

Of course Barton Town IS MORE than just the First Team and the Reserves will still be playing their matches in the Lincolnshire League with their last match here at the Easy Buy Stadium on Saturday 19th April.

This Sunday with a 10:45am kick-off, the Under 18 squad are taking on Bottesford Town Under 18 in the Lincolnshire Under 18 County Cup Semi-Final. This match is taking place on the 3G pitch at Baysgarth School on Barrow Road. The winners will then face either Grantham Town or Appleby Frodingham in the Final on Thursday 24th April at Lincoln United's Sun-Hat Villas & Resorts Stadium.



It would be a great opportunity to get to see and support the Barton Town players of the future who have had a great season already in the Lincolnshire Intermediate North League.

I believe I “promised” you news on the pitch drainage process, and I was hoping that we would have received confirmation and the go ahead by now, but... the wheels of the grant application or turning a bit more slowly that we would have hoped and we have been asked to supply further information. However I’ve been told we will have a further update in the coming week so by my next notes I’m expecting to be able to provide some concrete details.

At the moment the works schedule is pencilled in on the contractor’s diary; the actual installation will take two weeks but we then need to allow the pitch to “settle in” for up to 10 weeks which will affect our normal pre-season games planning if we can’t make a start as soon as possible. If there is any further delay it may not be possible to get the work done this summer, and keep our fingers crossed for another mild and dry winter.

Today we take on Rossington Main who sit a couple of spots above in the Premier Division. I’m looking forward to the match and securing three points... UP THE SWANS!



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A Shot Across The...

Good afternoon and welcome once again to the Easy Buy Stadium for our penultimate home game of this NCEL Premier Division competition. Today we welcome Rossington Main who come to us with just one more point and two league spots to their account... so it's important match for both teams as positions 8 to 16 in the table are covered by just seven points.

It goes without saying that we're not where we'd like to be in the table but with six matches still to play we can make a strong finish to the end of the season and today we'll be looking to turn around our recent results and collect the three points for the win.

Results are very "black and white" and don't show how the team performances at game has been and the number of opportunities the lads are making. We expect and get 100% from everyone that puts on the Barton Town shirt and if we got points for rattling the woodwork I'm sure we'd be top of the league.

We've had, and still have, players out with injuries and work commitments, in particular midweek, can cause issues with player availability.





A Shot Across The...

This week we have been able to extend the loan period of Oliver Nicholson from Boston United for a further four weeks. Back in the squad for recent games have been Tyler Edwards and Grant Tait, but at the time of writing James Williamson and Jack Bulless are out through injury... we'll perhaps see if they are fit to play during the warm-up session.

After today's match we have a week's "rest" before the trip to Champion and another before our final home game against Tadcaster Albion which is a Friday evening game. That will be a great opportunity to bring along family and friends to enjoy the atmosphere of a game played under floodlights without worrying about an early start the following morning... my apologies to those that have to be up for work on Saturdays!

But that's for the future... today we are here to take the win, add three more points to our tally for the 2024-25 campaign and start a winning run of six games until the end of the season. Today if you are wearing blue and white you can help us by becoming the twelfth man and cheering us on to victory!

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A LITTLE more than 11 miles separate Aldershot Town and Woking with the rivals sharing some epic encounters down the years.

We could be in for another next month when the duo meet at the Shots' EBB Stadium in the Isuzu FA Trophy semi-final – a place at Wembley on the line.

Aldershot have never played at the home of English football. Woking have lifted the Trophy three times, although not since 1997. It's a huge game guaranteed to command a full house.

Aldershot beat Sittingbourne 3-0 in the quarter-finals, finally ending the Step 4 side's remarkable campaign that saw them beat National League Southend United in the last 16.

"A lot of teams from divisions above Sittingbourne have fallen on their sword," Aldershot boss Tommy Widdrington said. "They have had an





unbelievable run and we were under no illusions. We knew it wasn't going to be a walk in the park."

Woking certainly had no stroll in their quarter at Oxford City. Needing a late Inih Effiong equaliser to make it 2-2 and force penalties, the two sides then shared a miss-filled shoot-out. The Cards won it 2-1 after keeper Will Jaaskelainen saved three of Oxford's four misses before planting home the winner himself.

"I am standing here due to fantastic goalkeeping heroics and even then we nearly blew them through the penalties, and I am really flat we were that bad," an irked Woking boss Neal Ardley admitted.



Spennymoor Town led the headlines on Saturday evening. Main man Glen Taylor scored twice as the National League North side dumped out Step 1 Sutton United.





"It's hard work winning football games, it hurts and it's painful, but when you get a result like that it's worth it," boss Graeme Lee said.

Spenny will face Rochdale in the semis, who came through a tricky encounter against Altrincham 2-0.

Of course, Spennymoor lifted the FA Vase back in 2013 when they beat Tunbridge Wells on the hallowed turf.

The Vase is also down to the final four. There was late drama at Whistable Town where a 2,656 crowd saw the hosts come from 2-0 down to win 3-2 when Harry Smith converted the rebound of his own penalty.

"It was an unbelievable turnaround from being 2-0 down," manager Jamie Coyle said. "To turn that around and into a win, that's testament to the players."

They have been drawn against Hartpury University for the two-legged semi-finals, with Andover New Street making the most of their reprieve earlier in the competition to reach this stage and set-up a semi with AFC Whyteleafe.

Wembley awaits on Sunday, May 11. We're close to knowing which two teams will be there.



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In Town Today

Rossington Main was established in 1919, and their FA Cup debut took place in 1921. They participated in the FA Cup until the Second World War and reached their best run in 1924, making it to the fourth qualifying Round but ultimately losing 0-3 to Lincoln City. In 1923, the club relocated to their current ground at Oxford Street. A few years later, they had their most successful FA Cup run against Lincoln City.



The club operated as Rossington Colliery for 30 years and experienced their most triumphant season after

World War II when they won both the Doncaster Senior League and Cup, earning the nickname "Doncaster Double" in 1944/45.

In 1948, due to nationalisation of the mines, the club underwent a name change to Rossington Miners Welfare and claimed the Doncaster Senior League Premier Division Cup in 1974.

In the 1980s and 90s, they changed their name to Rossington Main and became founding members of the Central Midlands League. They achieved success by winning the Premier Division and





In Town Today

Premier Division Cup in their second year.

In 1984, floodlights were erected at Oxford Street, which have been upgraded to new LED lights, making them one of the best floodlight installations in the league.

In 1991, new changing rooms were built at Oxford Street, and a crowd of 1,200 attended the inaugural match against Leeds United. That same year, the club earned promotion to the NCEL (Northern Counties East League) and has remained in the same division until 2023.

Currently, Rossington Main is managed by local talent Ben Hunter, who took charge of the club in 2019 and was assisted by Matt Ellison and Sam Parkin, who brought in a group of promising young footballers. The team has been steadily progressing, playing attractive football, and building on their achievements each season.

In 2022, Rosso had a successful season in the NCEL Division One, finishing 5th in the league with 81 points from 40 games. However, they lost 2-0 in the play-off semi-final against North Ferriby F.C. For the 2022/23 season, Hunter made changes to his backroom staff, with another local lad Mick Fraser being appointed as assistant manager.

The team achieved promotion to Non-League





In Town Today

step 5 for the first time in the club's history after winning the Division One play-offs, defeating Horbury Town 3-1 at home in front of a record league competition crowd of 1164 spectators.

The start of the 2023/24 season saw Rosso set a record attendance of 1,697 in a pre-season friendly against Doncaster Rovers. Shortly into the season Hunter then appointed Zeph Thomas as assistant manager. In what was Rosso's debut season in the NCEL Premier at Non-League step 5, Rosso recorded their highest ever league finish in 4th but later lost in the play-off semi-final against Garforth Town on penalties after a 0-0 draw away from home.

Rosso also reached the semi-final of the NCEL Cup for the first time but was knocked out by the league champions Emley AFC.

During August 2024, Fraser returned as assistant manager following Thomas leaving to become the manager of new NCEL Division One club Dearne & District. The next month in early September Hunter stepped down as manager and club captain Greg Young was assigned as interim manager. After five games in charge with three wins out of five, Young was given the job on a permanent basis in early October 2024.



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The Barton Blog

The tragic death of James Hitchcock has really By Darren Stockdale

shown the good spirit and kind nature of many clubs in the NCEL. Our last home game against Penistone Church was another of those occasions. Penistone kindly donated to the One Punch cause and also gifted the club a shirt they had made in honour of James Hitchcock. It was a nice gesture, and one that was repaid by Barton by (seemingly) letting them win the game. In an all-too-familiar scene for recent Saturday afternoon football at the Easy Buy stadium a mad two minutes early in the game and we were two behind. We managed to pull one back on 30 minutes through Oliver Baldwin, but another mad five minutes just before half time saw us go in 4-1 down at the break. Tom Waudby popped up after the break to make it 4-2 to the visitors, but not long after Penistone got their fifth. A late goal from Oliver Baldwin could not stop the inevitable defeat, just making it slightly less embarrassing with a final score of 5-3 to Penistone. Worryingly, we have now conceded the same number of goals in our last four home league games as we have in the first thirteen home league games of this season. Our next game saw us take the long trip to Pickering. Unfortunately, that turned out a fruitless trip with a 2-0 defeat to Barton being the final result. Our last game saw us take the short trip to bottom-of-the-table Goole AFC. Well, I say bottom-of-the-table. They still managed a 2-1 win





over Barton which took them off the bottom. With just three wins, and seven losses in our last ten league games our season has seemingly unfortunately run out of steam.

Trivia

Things you would probably rather not know – I thought it would be fun to list some facts that you probably would rather not know, so if you are squeamish don't read this bit.


Figs have dead wasps inside them – Ok, so this isn't all figs, but figs are basically an inside out flower.

To pollenate the flower certain varieties have a wasp that crawl inside (losing its wings as it goes) with the specific task of pollinating it and laying eggs. Once the female wasp has laid the egg it dies inside the fig. The blind, wingless male wasp emerges and seeks out another fig containing a female. However, most supermarket varieties do not contain dead wasps.



Chlorinated water is odourless – You go to a public swimming pool, and you are hit by the smell of chlorine, except you aren't. Chlorine is odourless so what is that strong smell?





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The Barton Blog

Well, the strong smell is actually chloramines. Chloramines are created when chlorine combines with (sorry for this bit) – urine, or pee. So, when people pee in the public swimming pool it reacts with the chlorine in there and creates that strong smell you are all so familiar with. The stronger the smell, the more pee.



Castoreum is from a Beaver's anal gland – You might be wondering why I mentioned that. Well, for years it was used in certain foods (it smells like vanilla apparently) and perfumes. Thankfully it is very expensive to 'milk' a Beaver so the chances of it being used today is virtually nil, especially as it has been banned from use.



Spiders are getting bigger – Studies have been ongoing for a while that show certain species of spider are getting bigger, and it's all due to climate change (well, more

specifically the warmth). This study was done in Australia, where spiders are already pretty big buggers, so I hate to think how big they will end up.





Lake Superior never gives up her dead – Ending on a sombre note, but due to the unusually cold water (around 2 degrees Celsius) the usual bacteria that would decay a sunken body are not there or are in such small numbers they are virtually ineffective. So, as these bodies never bloat from bacteria they never float to the surface, hence the saying “Lake Superior never gives up her dead”.

There are over 350 known vessels that have sunk in the lake, and most are still waiting to be found, so it is quite scary to think how many bodies are still relatively well-preserved waiting to be found?





The Barton Blog

History

Our away game against Rossington last season was the season opener and was full of goals. Rossington took the lead on 23 minutes but a goal from Tom Waudby levelled the scores not long after. Craig King and Harrison Coley scored on 32 and 40 minutes to leave the score 3-1 to Barton at the break. Rossington came out fighting in the second half and got a penalty on 70 minutes, which they scored. Another goal a few minutes later evened the game. Then Tom Waudby showed why he scored so many goals last season. He scored his own penalty on 86 minutes to restore Bartons lead and then completed his hat-trick with a brilliant goal right at the end. Rossington got their revenge at Barton. They romped to a three-goal lead, and a solitary goal from Will Waudby wasn't enough to threaten the victory for the visitors.

This season Barton again were victorious at Rossington. Grant Tait and Tom Waudby put Barton two up with a goal just before, and just after the break. A consolation for Rossington right at the end was not enough to stop the three points coming to Barton. Let's hope for a good game today and up the Swans.





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Almost in France

Sometimes, a face doesn't fit at a football club. It doesn't mean there's anything wrong with the face, or anything wrong with the club. The two have simply crossed paths and tried, but it hasn't worked out. In 1973, Brian Clough had just lost in the semi-final of the European Cup with a Derby side he had taken from obscurity in the Second Division to League Champions. And as a result of his outburst on the Michael Parkinson show, he lost his job in the East Midlands. Unable to go long without work or without football, he waited for the offers to roll in. They didn't and a few days later he accepted the most unlikely of assignments; Brighton. As his character in *The Damned United* opined: 'look where we are! We're almost in France!'

Mike Bamber had taken over as chairman of Brighton and Hove Albion at the end of 1972, and like Clough was restless when not working. He owned property, a nightclub, a farm, and of course the club and presumably saw



The Untold Game

something of a kindred spirit in Clough; both born in the difficulty of the Great Depression, both fighting their way to the top, both still somewhat outcasts. And he had seen what had been achieved at Derby, and wanted some of that on the south coast. When the great and the good of the English game felt too alienated by Clough's outbursts to take a chance on him, Bamber did. It was a bit like Jurgen Klopp turning up in League One.



Bamber must have known he was being used as a stepping stone. Clough would later write in his biography that nobody went to Brighton for the football. But he was an ambitious chairman, and for as long as he could have the golden boy, he'd take him. But Clough's reign did not get off to the most auspicious of starts. He only won one of his first ten games in charge in the Third Division, including an 8-2 thrashing as the club lurched into a relegation battle. The belated addition of Peter Taylor, Clough's partner in crime, did little to change that form. But Bamber was



The Untold Game

determined, and with Taylor spotting talent and Clough wanting it, he signed the cheques. A lot of cheques. A reported £250,000 went out of the club within the year of Clough's tenure. By the turn of the year, they were beginning to show results.



In the final game of 1973, Brighton huffed and puffed their way to a 1-0 win over Plymouth Argyle. It wasn't much, but it was only Clough's second victory on the south coast and it was something to build on. In the new year, they went on a run of one defeat in 12 as they lifted themselves to the comfort of mid-table. With the management pair eyeing a top half finish, they travelled to Shrewsbury as the form team in the division. But it was a false dawn. They lost, and patchy form saw them slide down the table once more. A small revival in April ended any latent relegation fears, but the club finished 19th, despite their high profile manager and high level of investment.



The Untold Game

It's an unremarkable story. That summer, Leeds manager Don Revie took the England job, and Clough moved on to the best job in the country, where he failed abysmally. It was a job he had to take, but at the top table of English football, back in the European Cup. But it was with a heavy heart. He would say that Bamber was the best chairman he ever worked with, treating him like a king and matching his ambition. But it was the former that was perhaps a problem.

Bamber indulged Clough so completely that he never settled on the south coast. He lived in an expensive hotel room, and spent most of his time driving back up the M1 to his family. That's when he wasn't given time off to go watch boxing or go on tv or anything else he wanted. One of the great what-if's is whether Clough and Taylor could have



The Untold Game

achieved they Nottingham Forest success on the south coast, but really, Clough was never committed to the club. Not where he wanted to be, both in terms of league position or geographical position. All the money in the world couldn't change that.

But he did lay some of the groundwork that Bamber was looking for. Taylor stayed behind for a couple of years before joining his friend in Nottingham, slowly building a side filled with quality. When he left, Bamber turned to unproven Fulham and Tottenham player Alan Mullery. He delivered the success that the fans craved, first one promotion, and then another, as Brighton reached the First Division, the year that Clough finally sated his own desire, winning the European Cup with Forest.

Which just goes to show, as the old Andre Previn sketch shows, you can have all the right notes, but not necessarily play them in the right order.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green The Untold Game

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4 CRAIG KING

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6 JACK BULLESS

7 TOM WAUDBY

8 HARRY LOVICK

9 TYLER EDWARDS

10 GRANT TAIT

11 MATTHEW BROADLEY

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Anthony Bowsley

Assistant Manager
Lee Drury

Coach
Ian Durnian/Dan Wood/
Liam Houston

Physio
Dan Thomas

SUBSTITUTES

12	KEEGAN GREEN
14	OLIVER NICHOLSON
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16	OLIVER BALDWIN
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Today's Match Officials

Referee : Jonathan Walker
Assistant Referee : Chris Timson
Assistant Referee : Ashley Cooper