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Well here we are again at The EasyBuy Stadium for another NCEFL Premier Division match and this afternoon we host Silsden AFC at our home in Barton. As always on behalf of the club I extend a very warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of today's visitors and hope that we get to enjoy a good match... although clearly I very much hope that the afternoon will end with a win and three points for The Swans!

The last couple of league matches ended with disappointing results despite the squad putting in good performances. I'm hoping that today will see a reversal in fortunes. With many clubs in our division playing in the FA Vase today, there's an opportunity to take a big step towards the top half of the table.

Away from the league action, we have progressed to the next stage in the NCEFL League Cup after our win at Dearne & District 12 days ago. The draw for the next round hasn't been made yet so we don't have details of dates or opposition yet. In fact it seems that a couple of Second Round matches won't be played until mid-October so we might have a bit of a wait for news on that.

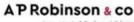
Next Tuesday sees us on the road once again with a match at Knaresborough Town... to be followed next Saturday by another local derby match when we welcome Winterton Rangers. Two seasons ago they grabbed promotion and won the League Cup and they have always proved to be a tough side to beat. We're expecting a good crowd for that match so get down here in plenty of time go get into the ground and find your favourite spot!

We are expecting to receive the outcome of the drainage planning application very soon which will allow us to engage contractors to come in to do the work. At the moment our last NCEFL match is the first week of April, but as we all know weather can easily cause the season to be extended and the Reserves also play their games at the EasyBuy so we can't easily plan a start date.

The Women's team started their 24/25 season last Sunday and are playing again tomorrow at New Holland. The Reserves started their season in August and have now played half a dozen games.

Finally join me in wishing a Happy Birthday to Burkey who is our match sponsor today. We hope you, your family and friends have a great day...





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Good afternoon and welcome back to The EasyBuy Stadium once again for this NCEFL Premier Division match which sees us host Silsden AFC; it's quite a long journey for our visitors so we hope that everyone connected with the club has had a safe and speedy trip to be with us today.

We've played three matches since my last notes on at home and two away - and we've had varying success in those. As we were involved in FA Cup and FA Vase competitions we had league matches in hand over many clubs and we should have been looking to capitalise on these to improve our league position. However, the last three league matches have seen us collect just two points.

The performances from the players have good good though and we have been making lots of chances but not converting those into goals.

The Goole match was disappointing as with 80

minutes on the clock we were two goals in front and should have been able to manage the game to get the win. We gave away a silly penalty and then in the dying moments they managed to get an equaliser!



We should have seen that game out for the win and three points, but we had to accept the single point.

Last weekend at Golcar we should have come away with at least a point. We started well and performance wise we did play well and we were in with a shout - as we are with every game - and it's just fine margins that are the difference. We just need to be more clinical in the boxes and clear our lines.

But... today we should have Scott Phillips available after missing some games due to injury and work commitments. Kieran Wressell has an Achilles problem and could be out for several weeks. Ryan Thompson came off injured during the Northampton match but has now restarted training this week.

Cameron Gray came to us about a month ago on a loan/work experience deal for Hull City; we are looking to get that extended for another period, but are still waiting to get everything finalised with the FA so he may not be available today. We have signed Charlie Clements on loan from Grimsby Town; everything should be in place for him to play today.

l've run out of space...! Enjoy the Game! UP THE SWANS!



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HOW many times do you hear about the next Jamie Vardy? Everyone is on the look-out for the diamond in the rough who could be a lottery ticket to super stardom.

What the Leicester City striker has achieved since leaving Fleetwood Town all those years ago – a Premier League title and appearances at major tournaments with England – is comic book stuff.

It's guaranteed there will be a handful of players playing Non-League football this weekend who will be playing in the Premier League or Championship in the very near future.

The reality is there will be many more dreams that aren't realised. But that doesn't mean it ends there. And there are some pretty inspiring stories when it comes to the world of coaching.

You may have seen recently that Andy Mangan, promoted into the Football League with Accrington Stanley, Fleetwood Town and Tranmere Rovers, was on the verge of joining the coaching staff at Real Madrid!

Anyone who has ever met Mangan will be able to tell you what a lively, bubbly character he is and how much he loves football.



Mangan, the story goes, impressed Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti's son Davide on their Pro Licence course and they wanted to take the current Stockport County coach to the Bernabeu.



Frustratingly for Mangan, the move has fallen through because of a work permit. But his time will surely come.

NLP columnist – and former professional footballer – Gregor Robertson, wrote about Mangan's rise in last week's paper.

Gregor highlighted how football has finally caught up to the idea that the best coaches aren't always the people who have been at the top in their playing days. It does, however, show, the levels former players can potentially reach.

Gregor talks about Anthony Barry – who played for Wrexham, Fleetwood Town and Forest Green in Non-League – and all he has achieved since hanging up his playing boots.

"To master the art of facing audiences, he had



taken it upon himself to give talks and coach in a Liverpool prison, in schools. He even hired a presentation coach and joined a speakers' club," Gregor writes.

"A few years later, he was Paul Cook's assistant coach at Wigan Athletic, and the youngest member on the Pro Licence course with the FA. With the likes of Frank Lampard and Michael Carrick in his cohort, he knew he had to do something different to stand out. The dissertation he produced — The Undervalued Set Piece, for which he studied 16,380 throw-ins — did just that, earning him the class's top mark when he graduated.

"When Lampard was handed the Chelsea job, he gave Barry the chance of a lifetime too. And so began a remarkable journey, from Champions League glory to the Bundesliga and Bayern Munich with Thomas Tuchel, and a World Cup and Euros with Belgium and Portugal respectively alongside Roberto Martinez."

It's incredible to see how much Barry is achieving at the elite levels of the game and all credit to him.

So the question isn't just who is the next Jamie Vardy, but who is the next Anthony Barry?



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Silsden AFC was formed in September 1904 by local man Dr John Purcell. They started playing rugby, then handball and ended

up playing both Saturday and Sunday

football.

Like any sporting team they experienced great successes and disappointing defeats but the dedication of countless volunteer committees kept the club alive. None more so than the present committee of the new millennium who will leave a legacy for generations to come.

The present Saturday senior team set up was formed with a team playing together since the 1996/97 season after the team had progressed through the junior section within the club to open age football starting their senior life in the Craven & District Football League Division Two.

They spent three years in the Craven League moving up to the Premier Division and in the last year in that division set a new record of going through the season unbeaten in all competitions.

From there they joined the West Riding County Amateur League in Division Two and quickly gained promotion up into the Premier Division where they enjoyed three seasons.

In season 2002/2003 Silsden set another record in





going through the season unbeaten in all competitions. To add to this they also won the West Riding County Challenge

Cup for the third successive season, a feat only achieved by one other club. It was clear that the team was ready for football at a higher level and in season 2004/2005 Silsden joined the North West Counties League. Without floodlights and not having an enclosed pitch, the Cobbydalers were forced to play their home games at Cougar Park, the home of Keighley Cougars Rugby League Club.

The Cobbydalers gained promotion to the top division in their inaugural season, finishing as runners up to Cammell Laird, and they had their (at that stage) most successful runs in the FA Cup and FA Vase Competitions. The team who were promoted from the 1st Division that season (now the Premier Division) were Fleetwood Town!

The club's aim was to move back to the Keighley Road ground at the earliest opportunity and the club (football and cricket) embarked on a period of fund raising accruing over £100,000. Finally the development took place, with the help of a £663,453 grant from the Football Foundation, as part of its continuing investment in grass-roots football and an additional Football Foundation grant of £300,000 through the Community Club Development Programme. In May 2009 the





building of a new clubhouse and changing facilities was completed just as the Keighley Cougars gave them notice to quit. The club had

two options, to ground share with a Lancashire club or develop the playing surface and outdoor facilities at the Keighley Road headquarters.

They formed a committee and raised £110,000 in 5 months and in August 2010 saw the completion of the ground improvements which meant a return of Silsden AFC to its rightful place ... back in Silsden!

The Cobbydalers maintained their position in the top division of the NWCFL and in 2015 embarked on their 10th season in the division, their best year being in season 2008-09 when they finished ninth with 58 points. The season after saw them relegated to Division One where they spent two seasons rebuilding.

In season 2017–2018 they were crowned champions of Division One with a league record of 103 points and a league record of goals scored. Another record was their great start to the season which saw them win their first 17 leagues games of the season. The 2018-2019 season saw Silsden consolidate their position in the NWCFL before being moved laterally across to the North Eastern Counties Premier League in 2019-20 season.





In 2021 Silsden further redeveloped their ground which included replacing their 82 year old wooden stand with a new

fantastic 105 seater stand. Silsden also built a new ticket office and a brand new facility, the President's Lounge, which is used for half-time hospitality for visiting club officials.

On the pitch 2022-2023 signaled the start of a new era as longstanding manager Daniel Forrest left the club in June 2022 after 6 years to take up a position at Guiseley AFC. Silsden AFC appointed Matt Cavanagh and Luke Lavery as joint managers after their excellent stint in charge of the Cobbydaler's reserves team who play in the West Yorkshire League. Under Matt and Luke the reserves won promotion to step 7 and also reached the final of the WRFA County Challenge Cup.

In their first season in charge the new management team guided Silsden to 11th, which though a slight disappointment having been in the top 4 for much of the winter months, was their highest points tally and position since moving to the Northern Counties East Premier League. This was followed in 2023-2024 with another league high finish (10th) and Silsden's best ever run in the FA Vase, losing at Hallam in the 4th round.





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The Barton Town Women's Team - not Ladies! - got our 2024/25 season under way last Sunday with a home match against Market Rasen.

We've had a really positive pre-season runup to the first match of the season but now the serious business has got underway.

Since last season we have brought in a couple of new players and it looks like we may be getting some other joining us in the next few weeks. Last season was our first and for many of our squad it was the fist time they had played competitive football so it was all new to them and they have been growing and developing as players every week. Others have joined the team after a period of not playing and we have several young players that have joined us from other local teams.

Our first match this season was against a team that finished second in the league last season and



have a really strong squad again this year. They have players that have played at a much higher level and are very experienced; the result last week didn't really reflect the nature of the game. Despite the result I was very happy with the overall performance.

It's looking like we'll have a very exciting though as we have a young team and we have been playing much better than last season - which was our first in this league.

This Sunday - well tomorrow! - we have our second league game; we'll be hosting Healing Hotspurs Women at the New Holland Recreation Gound on Albert Street with a 2pm kick-off. They have two teams in the league this season so have clearly been on a recruitment drive so it may be a completely different side to that we played last season.

It will undoubtedly be a tough game though.

Of course, it's too early in the season to be able to take too much from the results yet so we don't know what to expect although we imagine they will be a stronger side than last season's but we'll be going into the match well prepared and with our strongest squad. We do have a decent sized squad with strength in depth so I am able to change players around if needed due to work or family commitments.

> If you can, come and support us Amy Bartup-Blinkhorn (Manager)





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21 Sep 24	NCELP	Silsden AFC	Josh Burke
28 Sep 24	NCELP	Winterton Rangers	Michael Smith
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14 Dec 24	NCELP	Bottesford Town	3 Behind The Goal
28 Dec 24	NCELP	Eccleshill United	Stipendia
18 Jan 25	NCELP	Golcar United	
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There are a few games to By Darren Stockdale catch up with. Firstly

there was our home loss to Goole, where we drew 2-2. I say loss as it certainly felt like one, or felt like we were robbed of the win. If you were at the game you will know what I mean.



For most of the first half we played some great football without putting our chances away, then a crazy two minutes just before the break saw a goal for Andy Norfolk, which was followed up from the restart with another for Tom Waudby. It was a pleasant surprise going in 2-0 up at the break, but in reality we deserved the lead.

The second half was another case of missed chances for Barton. We could have been out of sight when Goole were awarded a penalty. We



couldn't really see the incident so it may well have been deserved. Goole scored and set up a nervy last ten minutes. Well it was ten minutes and then some.

We got to the 90 minute mark and we told there were an extra four minutes to play. Ten minutes into those four minutes Goole scored their equaliser. Ten minutes, with no further injury time, or substitutes! Once we took the restart the referee decided that was enough.

That is why it felt like a loss, and why it felt like we were robbed of the win.

Things went a little better for Barton in our away game against Dearne & District in the League Cup. Barton went behind early in the first half but

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The Barton Blog

pulled level around the half-hour mark. Dearne quickly took the lead again before Tom Waudby levelled just before the break. In the second half two quick goals for Barton, one from Andy Norfolk and a second for Tom Waudby were enough to win the game, even when Dearne pulled one back right at the end.

Finally, last Saturday saw league action again with an away defeat for Barton against Golcar by two goals to one, our goal coming from Ali Spencer Aydemir.



Trivia

Words that should be brought back into use – If, like me, you have a fascination with language then check out RobWords on Youtube.



The Barton Blog

This channel is absolutely packed with language facts and is well worth a visit. To whet your appetite here are some of the suggested words that really should be brought back into use from one of the videos.

These are words that used to be spoken in Saxon times but went out of use over time:

Hraedwyrde (pronounced hradworder) meaning word hasty or to be hasty with words. Basically, someone who speaks before they think about what they are saying.

Runcraeftig (pronounced runecraftig) meaning good at solving mysteries. Run meant mystery and Craeftig is to be good at something.

Wundorsmith (pronounced as it looks) meaning a wonder smith, or someone who makes wonderful things. Similar to this was the Wrohtsmith, which meant a crime smith (wroht meaning criminal).

Hwaelweg (pronounced whale-way), a word for the sea the Saxons crossed to reach England.

Eardfeast (pronounced eardfast), meaning earthfast, to be firmly in the ground or settled, or being comfortable in your home.

Medudream (pronounced medudrem), meaning meadjoy, which was a word to describe the joyous



feeling, or special contentedness when out drinking with friends.

Earsling (pronounced ersling), meaning backwards. It basically means arse-long, or the opposite of headlong (going bottom first).

There are some great words in that list to bring back. This is not the full list; you will need to check out RobWords to find out what others are suggested to be brought back in that video. I will highlight some other topics from that channel in other blogs this season.

Match History

Our away game against Silsden last season was a bit of a disaster for Barton. The final score of 5-0 to Silsden says it all. Our home game was our fifth game in eleven days and saw a much closer game. Reece Moody put Barton ahead in the first half and it remained that way right until the end when both teams scored on 90 minutes, Kian Salter getting Barton's goal. A 2-1 win for Barton was the result.

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







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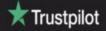
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Glory and Disaster in the Northland

Northland is a hard place. One of three administrative zones of Sweden, it is, unsurprisingly, in the north. Frozen, bitter winds swirl snow storms around the towns and when the powder subsides, it leaves behind rain and mud. In short, it's not the kind of place where you would expect a football team to find a playable pitch, let alone glory at the highest level. In its biggest town, Umea, ice hockey is the sport of the masses, and football has only had a fleeting





relationship with the Allsvenskan, the Swedish top flight. But, not too long ago, there was a team in that town that dominated Europe.

Umea IK were founded in 1985, in the town that spawned the exceptional talents of Gunnar Nordahl, and immediately joined the women's fourth tier. Manager Roland Arnqvist had a simple mission. Simple, but not easy. He wanted this team, from this frozen backwater, to find success on the biggest stage. With the support of the ownership, they set about making this happen.

In only their second season, Umea won the league, and with it promotion to the third tier. By 1991, in the mostly amateur arena of women's football, Umea were professional. Ish. Players were paid 35 krona per game, not exactly a life changing amount, but enough to increase the frequency of training, and begin attracting some more talent. Initially, however, the club relied on the talents of Umea natives.

By 1995, they were in the top flight. Arnqvist had by this time moved upstairs, overseeing playing style and recruitment from the directors box. Frida Ostberg, Malin Mostrom, and goalscoring sensation Hanna Ljunberg grew up in the town they then electrified. By the turn of the century they were pulling in crowds of nearly 10,000 people. Only five mens teams, including once European regulars Malmo, IFK Goteborg



and AIK could call on a bigger attendance, and none of them are in Northland. To the delight of their fans, the year 2000 also saw their first league title.

When Sweden lost the World Cup final against Germany in 2003, five of the eleven on the pitch plied their trade at Umea. But with great success comes greater expectation, and recruitment got more expansive and more expensive.



Ma Xiaxiou was recruited from China in a move that marked a shift in in strategy. Umea natives were fine, but if you really wanted to make a stir you needed a little international starlight. She was joined by Swiss superstar Ramona Bachmann. Umea lost the Women's Cup final - the precursor to the Women's Champions League - to



Frankfurt in 2002, but defeated Danish opponents Fortuna Hjorring the following year. After that victory, having conquered all before them, they went one further, and signed the best player in the world, the Brazilian Marta.

Umea would win seven league titles between 2000 and 2008. In 2006, they didn't lose a single game, winning the league by 21 points. Having won a second Women's Cup in 2004, they reached the final in 2007 and 2008. But here, at the very zenith of their existence, the rot set in for a spectacular collapse.

Arnqvist left the club before that second Women's Cup defeat, leaving them without direction after 25 years. They won the league, but the following season Marta moved on too, back across the Atlantic to Los Angeles (although she retains Swedish citizenship). Bachmann followed soon after, to Atlanta, and it started a hemorrhaging of international stars. With players leaving, the side weakening, and attendances falling, the direction was obvious. By 2011, the club restructured to avoid bankruptcy, and slipped to mid-table. But 2016 would be a disaster.

Umea started the season poorly, with injuries to key players, but there was hope that their return would turn the team's fortunes around. But in the summer break, news broke that the club needed 1.8 million krona to survive. The cost of flying so close to the sun had been immense, and



having struggled along for nearly a decade, time was up. The coaching staff were unceremoniously sacked, finding out their fate on the local news rather than from the board. Eight players wrote an open letter in support of their coaches, expressing their lack of desire to play for anyone else. Umea went nearly a month without any manager at all, all the while losing games, before Daniel Doverlind was brought in to oversee a sinking ship.

The relegation decider against Kristianstad had a touch of northern irony about it. Delayed because of the snow, both team's players had to clear the pitch themselves. What remained underneath was a bog, cut up by the men's team. In the sticky mud of Umea, Kristianstad fought out a draw. Twelve years after becoming European Champions, Umea IK were relegated. The journey was over.

The reconstituted Umea IK now plies it's trade as a yo-yo club between the first and second flight, never troubling the elite of the game. But, for a brief moment among the optimist of a new millennium, they were the brightest of sparks.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green The Untold Game Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media, @TheUntoldGame



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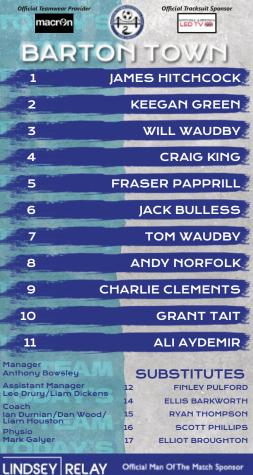


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Today's Match Officials				
Referee	: Dominic Hawkins			
Assistant Referee	: Hollie Gregory			
Assistant Referee	: Patryk Warda			

Ma Ma Co Pa Go Ke Ph An