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Gregory's Greeting

Good evening everyone and welcome to the final home game of Barton Town's NCEL campaign. Tonight we host Tadcaster Albion and on behalf of everyone involved with Barton Town I extend a warm welcome to their players, officials and supporters who have made the trip to be here this evening. I hope that you get to enjoy a great match and that those of you that are here for the first time have a great experience and will join us again for the 2025/26 season.

As most of you will be aware I am standing down as Club Chairman at the end of this season, so this is also my last home First Team game in that role. It's been a roller-coaster ride since I was invited to head up the club in 2015 and a huge amount has happened in that time.

Although having been a sponsor of the club for some while, I was surprised to be invited to take up the position of Chairman, but I soon realised that my business experience, knowledge and contacts could be put to use at the club, and their plans for the future, and although my thoughts were



for a five year spell that soon extended to nine years. In that time we've all seen a number of changes both on and off the pitch, and I'm proud to have been part of getting club to where it is today.

Highlights for me have been winning the NCEL League Cup in 2022; a great night out for players, management and supporters at Doncaster Rover's Eco-Power home ground. With the use of an executive coach from our sponsor, Wren Kitchens, we enjoyed the full "professional" football team experience and brought back silverware to the EasyBuy Stadium after a hard fought match.

Speaking of the Easy Buy Stadium, we made a major improvement to the facilities by creation of a new entrance off Falkland Way which I'm sure our neighbours on Marsh Lane were very pleased to see come to fruition. It was a hugely expensive and time consuming undertaking but has proved to be a massive enhancement to the facilities.

We also made a major investment in the Snack Bar bringing the catering equipment up to date so we can provide hot and cold food and drinks to hungry, thirsty fans on matchdays, and post-match food to home and visiting players. That also allowed us to improve the bar area and host other revenue generating events.

On the football front, we have created the Swans Academy and under it's "umbrella", we have teams covering all age groups from under 7 to under 18 that provide a pathway for very young players right up to the Reserves and First Team squads that were the mainstay of the club when I joined.

We've also introduced a Women's Team who have become established in the last couple of seasons and have formed a strong platform for future seasons.

Ongoing investment should see the installation of a new drainage system – hopefully this summer – to minimise the problems we have had during the winter months with a waterlogged pitch after heavy rain. Of course, this winter we have been very fortunate with the weather and with our hard working groundsman keeping the pitch in the best possible condition we have had minimal disruption.

Lowest point by far was the news of the tragic and senseless death of James Hitchcock in December. The shock of this was felt by everyone connected with the club and the wider football community, and became national news. Words are inadequate to express my emotions and James remains in our thoughts at every game.

In closing I'd like to mention a few people that have supported me during my period as Chairman; firstly my partner Sophia, without her support and understanding I would not have been able to do half the things I have achieved at the club; Club Secretary Peter Mitchell who works every day behind the scenes doing all the jobs no-one else will do and is "Mr Barton Town FC"; Ian Durnian who looks after the maintenance around the ground; both have many years of experience at Barton Town and their assistance and advice has been invaluable.

Also Kim and Rachel Mumford; Kim served several seasons as Vice Chairman and Rachel is the Club Business Administrator – and keeps me in check when I think about spending money!

And fellow directors during my tenure... Lynn Green, who is both our Club Welfare Officer and Director of Women and Girl's Football, and the media guys, Aaron Irwin and Trevor Richens.

Thanks also to Paul Roberts and his Academy team managers and coaches who are together nurturing and building the future players of Barton Town.

Home and away games have had Richard Watts and Aaron Walton promoting the club further afield with their live matchday commentary so even if you can't get to a game you can listen in and not miss out.

It goes without saying that any on-pitch action actually requires a pitch to be available and we have been fortunate to have had the services of Paul Coult who has been at the ground cutting the grass, white line marking, and keeping the pitch in excellent condition,.

Of course, I must not forget the managers, their assistants and coaches, and the players who have over the seasons been responsible for the exhilaration when we win... and the frustration when we lose; the emotional swings that are part of this great game we simply call "football".

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, I thank all the club supporters that have turned out come rain, come sun – and cold! – which has made all the work that myself and our small team of volunteers have done to get the games on worthwhile.

Tonight's match sponsor is Finnies Accountants; one of our many club sponsors that make football possible at Barton Town. There are far too many sponsors to name individually but they have all played a part in the Club's advancement and the Club is grateful for their involvement and support.

Into the future... UP THE SWANS!



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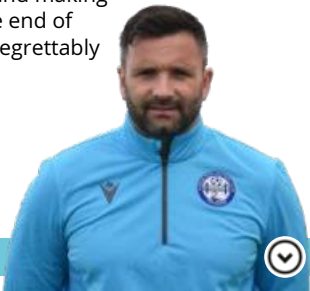
Good evening and welcome to our second Friday night home game of the season which is a bit of a novelty for us which is also our last home match. Tonight we host Tadcaster Albion who we played, and beat, back in November, and on behalf of the playing side of the club I extend a warm welcome to their players, officials and supporters that have made the journey tonight.

And of course I must include all the home supporters who have come along having resisted the joint temptations of Red Nose Day and England v Albania on TV!

This is also the last home game for the Club Chairman, Mark Gregory, and I'd like to thank him not only personally but also on behalf of my management team, coaches and players for his support and encouragement during the season.

After our win away at Champion last weekend it was great to see the players in high spirits at training this week; everyone was looking forward to tonight's match and making a good run until the end of the season after a regrettably long run of losses.

Looking back a few games perhaps we considered the Champion match to





A Shot Across The...

be a bit of a “banana skin” for us as it’s a tricky place to go to and get a result. The pitch conditions were difficult too; quite dry and bobbly which was the complete opposite of our last visit! We came away with the win and a clean sheet, and I can’t really ask for much more from the team more away from home.

We’ll be missing a couple of regular players tonight with Craig King off in the USA for a “stag do” and Will Waudby attending a wedding. We had a couple of new faces at training this week so depending on how things work out they may join us for the last few games.

We’ll have three away matches still to play after tonight and surprisingly they are all lengthy trips to the far side of Bradford so we have a fair bit of travelling in front of us. The final two will be especially tough as Silsden are aiming to be Champions and Thackley will want to secure their place in the play-offs.

Tonight’s opponents are a good footballing side and I’m expecting a competitive match to be honest as neither side will want to finish the night on the wrong end of the result...

Up the Swans!



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IT'S approaching 15 years since the birth of Non-League Day.

Inspired by a pre-season trip to Devon to watch Queens Park Rangers play at Tavistock, visionary James Doe set it up initially as a

social experiment and the rest, as they say, is history.

Now, Non-League Day, scheduled to coincide with an international break, has now grown to become an annual part of the football calendar, backed by Premier League and Football League clubs, MPs, celebrities, media organisations, charities and the like.

But most importantly, it's been embraced by the clubs and fans themselves with the occasion providing a platform for clubs to showcase affordable volunteer-led community football, while offering supporters of Premier League or Championship clubs the chance to get their football fix by supporting their local side.

This week in The NLP, columnist Gregor Robertson told how amid plans of new £2bn super stadiums and ever-increasing ticket





prices at the top level, the fans are feeling disillusioned and exploited as the elite game changes beyond recognition.

“These fans feel their game is being taken away from them,” Gregor said. “Profit has become a greater incentive than sporting adventure.

“Football in this country has never been so popular. Crowds in England are at their highest for half a century. That’s just as true in Non-League football.

“But I can’t help feeling that elite football on these shores is being ripped away from the places and communities where it was founded.

“So as we approach the 16th annual Non-League Day, a platform conceived to promote the value of community football, a prediction: the trickle of marginalised Premier League fans we’ve seen converge at local Non-League games? That’s only the beginning.

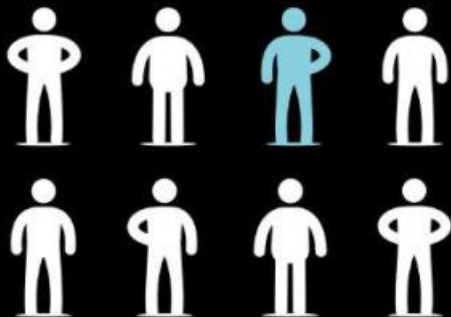
“Don’t be surprised to bump into more of these fans at your local club, this weekend and beyond.”

Indeed, it may well be that some of those disillusioned and exploited supporters of Premier League clubs are reading this very article right



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now, stood on the terraces of their local club experiencing life on 'the other side'.

The 3pm kick-offs, realistic ticket prices, the ability to stand (and enjoy a pint) anywhere in the ground and guaranteed a warm welcome by volunteers who run their clubs for a love of the game. What's not to like?

As the years go by, Non-League Day becomes increasingly prominent in the calendar with clubs making the most of their place in the spotlight by putting on a host of special events, ticket promotions and charitable initiatives.

Clubs like Ascot United, who are hosting a St Patrick's Day special when they host Isthmian South Central leaders Farnham Town.

Fans wearing Irish fancy dress will get half-price admission, while the bar is open late for 30 per cent off a pint of Guinness.

Elsewhere, Altrincham are urging fans to Paint The Town Red for Non-League Day when they host National League leaders Barnet.

Starting at 12,30pm ahead of their televised 5.30pm kick-off, the Robins are putting on a number of shows and activities including a





children's penalty shootout, a children's entertainer and football freestyler Jay Rosa, along with various stalls and a raffle for an Athletic Bilbao shirt, in aid of Prostate Cancer UK.

The Premier League trophy is also getting in on the act, visiting no fewer than three Essex Senior League grounds for the league groundhop, appearing at Benfleet FC (12pm), Buckhurst Hill (3pm) and then Takeley (7.45pm).

Abingdon United are hosting a Retro Shirt Day for their visit of Bewdley Town with anyone wearing a pre-2012 shirt getting half-price entry, while live music from Jason Rampling and a performance by The Twilight Twirlers precedes AFC Sudbury's visit of Redditch United.

Three Bridges are using the event to formally open their new 3G pitch, while Harwich & Parkeston will be continuing their 150th anniversary celebrations with a historic town visit, followed by a tour of the club's Royal Oak ground.

Charities too will be supported with Prostate Cancer UK the chosen beneficiary of a number of clubs on the day, while Non-League Day's extra mission this year focuses on encouraging people to give blood, led by former Non-League stalwart Francis Duku, the former Dulwich Hamlet,





Ebbsfleet, Bromley and Lewes defender.

And this year, Non-League Day have joined forces with the Seventy7 Group in providing a fully managed social media campaign, creative assets, and advertising support to boost awareness and attendances on the day.

The Seventy7 Group are encouraging attendees to share their Non-League Day experience on Instagram for a chance to win £150 worth of football prizes.

Simply upload a photo of your NLD experience on Instagram, use the hashtag #NLD2025 and follow @nonleagueday_uk with a £50 voucher for mystery football kits and £100 to spend with their local club.

With so much going on up and down the country, it promises to be another Non-League Day to remember.

It's a time to embrace semi-professional and grassroots football and of course the volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep your local club at the heart of the community.

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In Town Today

Tadcaster Albion is believed to have been formed in 1892 as John Smith's FC. It was not until 1923 that the Tadcaster Albion AFC name was adopted.



In the early years, the club played in the local York League, which they won in 1948. They continued competing in the York League during the 1950's & 60's and it was many years before the club started to rise up the leagues.

Paul Marshall took over at the start of 2008/09; in his first season he played mostly local players and the team struggled and finished 17th. In 2009/10, with an influx of a few new key players, Albion won the NCEL Division One title and the club became a company limited by guarantee.

Albion finished fourth in their first season in the NCEL Premier Division and won the NCEL





In Town Today

President's Cup, beating Farsley AFC 5-1 in the final. That was followed by an 8th place finish in 2011/12 and 6th in 2012/13.

In the 2013/14 season i2i Sports Ltd agreed to take effective control of the club and company, with Matthew Gore becoming the new chairman.

In 2014/2015 the Brewers lead the NCEL Premier for a good while, finally finishing in third. An excellent run saw them make history by making it through to the Quarter Final of the FA Vase where they drew a record - breaking crowd of 1,307 but were narrowly beaten by Highworth Town. At the end of the season Paul Marshall left and former Harrogate Railway boss Billy Miller took over.

In 2015/2016 the Brewers lead the NCEL Premier for most of the season once again, but this time they held their nerve and finished Champions with a 2-1 home win over Armthorpe Welfare. They also made it to the League Cup Final but went down in a thrilling 3-2 game to Cleethorpes Town.

In 2016/2017 , their first ever season in the Northern Premier First Division North, a mix of old and new players saw Billy Miller use all of his experience and knowledge of this division. The Brewers started well and were in the play-off





In Town Today

spots when injury problems hit and they finished 19th in the league. The management team departed with Michael Morton and Simon Collins taking over.

2017/18 season saw the team quickly finding its feet as the fortunes took a turn for the better after the new year with Michael & Simon steering the club to its highest ever finish reaching the play-offs after a dramatic final day. This once again brought massive excitement amongst the club and town but unfortunately it ended in semi-final defeat 2-1 at Bamber Bridge despite taking the lead and putting in a valiant performance.

The 2018/19 season saw the Brewers move into the Northern Premier East Division after the league switched from a North/South divide to an East/West split. It was again positive for the club finishing just outside the play-off places in 7th having been in the top six for most of the season. At the end of this campaign Simon Collins decided to step down and several players moved onto new clubs.

For the 2019/20 season former professional footballer and boxer, Curtis Woodhouse took charge, initially having only four players on the books. He built a new squad and for the first three months of the season we began to look like promotion contenders. Curtis left the club at the





end of October and Paul Quinn inherited the mantle with Steve Waide as his assistant. The second half of the season was overshadowed by four devastating floods at the Stadium, before COVID 19 brought everything to an impromptu finish .

2020/21. Paul and Steve reorganised the playing Management over the summer months with support teams to deal with the analytical side of things. Thirteen of the previous season's squad renewed their contracts and it was looking good for a play-off place when Covid struck again.

2021/22 With the unexpected departures of Paul Quinn and Steve Waide, the opening matches were a great disappointment. However, the appointment of the experienced John Deacey as team Manager plus Andy Monkhouse as his Assistant, ensured that we were able to maintain our NPL status, in what proved to be a challenging season.

2022/23 John Deacey left the club following a poor start to the season to be replaced by Neil Sibson and Craig Ogilvie as Joint managers. They too failed to turn around the poor results and from January 2023 Andy Monkhouse has stepped up to the Manager's position with Steve Roberts as his Assistant. At the time of his appointment only a miracle would stave off relegation but despite a





mighty effort we were down with a meagre 21 points from 38 games. A feeling of doom pervaded the club

2023/24. Mick O'Connell and his management team from Harrogate Railway have taken over the running of the squad, Only one of last seasons' players has survived (Corey Roper). Many of Mick's previous team have made the decision to follow him here. Garry Plant who over a ten year period helped mastermind Harrogate Town's unbelievable rise to EFL 2, became Chairman, with Andy Charlesworth later taking over that role.

Player Profiles

Dan Thirkell - Defence

Our Captain Dan is on his second spell with the Brewers. He started out as a junior at Harrogate Railway but following relegation from the Evo-Stik, made the move to Tadcaster. He then signed for Scarborough, onto Knaresborough and then a return to the Rail. A solid player, he brings calmness to the team.





Elliot Holmes – Central Defence



Elliot was born in Mansfield and came

through the Stags youth system. He went onto three years at Leeds Beckett University where he was captain of their football team. He joined Harrogate Railway four seasons ago in time for the two play offs. A rock in defence



Charlie Owen – Defence

Charlie, born and bred in Leeds, began his senior career at the Barnsley Academy. He then moved to Harrogate Town before signing for Harrogate Railway in 2022. He is

a right back but equally happy anywhere in the back four and not averse to getting forward whenever he can.

Sam Kitchen – Midfield

Sam was born in Doncaster. As a junior he was on the books of both Barnsley and Doncaster Rovers before a scholarship at Queen Ethelburga's in York. He spent three seasons with Rossington Main whilst studying at Loughborough University joining Taddy for the start of last season. A box-to-box midfielder.





Kieran Greenway - Attacking Midfielder



Kieran started with Darlington's under

Eighteen's before signing for Harrogate Railway. He is another 110% box-to-box midfielder who moved to the Brewers at the start of last season. He plays just behind the front men, always on the lookout for goal scoring opportunities. Albion was nothing new - during his time at the i2i Academy he played for us in the FA Youth Cup!



Fatum Ibrahim - Midfield

Last season Fatlum rejoined Taddy after a six-year absence. He had a spell with Knaresborough Town before signing for Mick O'Connell at Harrogate Rail and then back to the Brewers. A no-nonsense midfielder - nothing fancy, no tricks, just passing it on to split defences and create chances.

Luca Bolino - Striker

Luca has had a lot of interest from other clubs after a very successful season last year at Harrogate Railway where he was awarded The Players Player of the Season . Says Mick O'Connell " He is a footballer





with whom we worked with during our time at Harrogate Railway and is the kind of player that will excite people ". Just 18 years old he immediately settled with us during the pre-season and is a vital member of the attack



James Knowles - Central Defender

James, who captained Emley to the title last season, is part of Yorkshire Football history. He started his career in 1999 at Garforth, moving on for a single season at both Harrogate Town and then Railway, before the first of eight seasons with Farsley Celtic. Added to that over the years have been several campaigns with Bradford Park Avenue, one with Ossett United and the four most recently with Emley.

Albert Ibrahimji - Striker

Albert joins us having, like Andrew Shepherd, missed last season due to a torn ACL. The 24-year-old was born in Harrogate and initially played for Guiseley and Bradford City before he went to the USA to study. Since his return he has played for Thackley and Pontefract but it was Harrogate Railway which really re-ignited his interest in the game.





Sam Green - Goal keeper



Sam joined us at the end of last season making his debut in style in the goal-less draw at Hallam. As a youngster Sam was with Chesterfield for four years before a move to Lincoln City where he trained with Carl Rushworth and Josh Griffiths. He then joined Aberystwyth in the Cymru Premier before a loan spell at Stocksbridge Park Steels



Shaun Hudson - Attacking Midfield

Shaun joined during the summer recess having previously played for Newton Aycliffe, West Auckland, Norton & Stockton Ancients and Northallerton. Taddy boss Mick O'Connell said on the new signing: "Shaun came in for pre-season and has really impressed us with his attitude. His work-rate is immense and he can play in a variety of positions.

Andrew Shepherd - Midfield

In March 2023 against Rossington Main, Andrew tore his ACL and only now can resume his passion for football. The thirty-two-year-old started his senior soccer career with his home town Northallerton until 2021





when he joined "The Rail". Described by Mick O'Connell as a combative midfielder and a real leader, he has quickly become a regular squad member



Junayd Cassius-Gill – Attacking Midfielder

Junayd first joined us in time for the start of the 2020 – 21 campaign. The 23-year-old started his junior career with Huddersfield Town before Bradford City in the Under

17's, and a year at Pontefract Colliery during which time he was offered a trial with Leicester City where he scored on his debut but broke his foot in the next match! He rejoined Tad last season.

Mason Wilson – Defender

Mason joined in March 2024 after a brief spell at Sheffield FC, the city where he was born. He came through the Harrogate Town Academy under 18's and had loan spells at both Farsley Celtic (playing four games in the National North) and Sheffield. An adaptable player who can fill in at any position in defence.





Alex Charlesworth - Right Defence



Alex came in for pre-season and has made a

real impression. He is only 17 and has a big future in the game. Adaptable in defence and midfield he has become a regular member of the squad filling in wherever necessary. Strong, skilful and adaptable, he is a valued member of the squad



Steve Smith - Defence

Steve has recently joined us for the second time having originally been a member of the 2022/3 squad. He first arrived after four seasons with Yorkshire Amateurs and this time round from Wakefield. He is most

comfortable at right back but is happy as a centre or wing back, where his speed can be used to good effect. Steve is the brother of ex Guiseley and Pontefract Scott Smith and is a personal trainer by profession



Oli Norman - Striker

Oli, a native of Leeds, made his break through with Bradford City Under 18's. He first joined us for the 2021/2022 season and put in some memorable performances





before moving to Harrogate Railway who, at the time, were managed by Mick O'Connell. Oli came back to us last season and despite a late start due to him coaching in the USA, he finished top scorer with 25 goals. He has dual registration with Bradford Park Ave.



Nathan Heaton - Central Defender

Local central defender Nathan Heaton comes to us on loan from National North Scarborough Athletic and before that was at York City where he came through their Academy. Nathan made his debut against Beverley teaming up instantly with Steve Smith and Dan Thirkell and has quickly become a regular in the squad playing in either the back four or attacking mid field

Hayden Habetz - Striker

Twenty-year old Hayden is in his final year at the i2i Academy where he is only the second student to score 100 goals! His home is in Louisiana USA where he played for various clubs and in particular, Sulphur High School. He scored on his debut against Penistone Church and has impressed with some clinical finishing and running in the centre of the park





Lewis Shillito - Attacking Midfield



Eighteen-Year-old Lewis joins us from Armthorpe Welfare where he played earlier in the season under guidance from our Assistant Manager Greg Beswick. He also played a few games this season for Steeton in Division 1 of the North-West Counties League. Sheffield based Lewis is in his first year at Leeds Beckett studying for a BSc in Applied Sports Studies (Football). His favoured position is a striker but he is comfortable on the wing or midfield

Daniel Davy - Striker/Attacking Midfield



Twenty - one year old Dan joins us from Liversedge. He is currently on twelve months placement from Nottingham University before his final year studying for a degree in

Business Management. A native of Leeds, he was initially with Hull City Under 15's 16's and more recently had two years with Kimberley Miners Welfare from the United Counties League.

Charlie Thomson - Striker

Charli , like Jamie Tomlinson, joins on a month's loan from Doncaster Rovers where he has been a





regular in the Academy side. He is another attacker – very much a target man.

Jamie Tomlinson - Attacking Winger



Jamie joins us on a month's loan from Doncaster Rovers where he came through their youth system to the Academy squad. To gain experience at the beginning of the season he played for Frickley Athletic and impressed in the Blues terrific start to the current campaign. He has also turned out for Sheffield FC in the Northern Premier East. Jamie made his debut for the Brewers in the tight win against Rossington Main.

Management Profiles

Mick O'Connell - Manager

Mick started his football career in 1999 with a scholarships at Nottingham Forest and Celtic. At the age of sixteen, that made way for many years in the saddle and flat racing where he won almost 500 races until a horrendous back injury





prevented him from carrying on. When he returned to football his focus was on coaching and

Darlington provided his first real taste with their under 18's and 23's. He

inherited the Managers job at Harrogate Railway in 2019 and took Rail to two consecutive play-off positions before his move to Tadcaster Albion in time for last season's commencement.



Greg Beswick - First Team Coach

Greg joined the club in November this year as first team coach. He has been at the forefront of coaching for several years, his experience being gained by spells with Ilkley, Armthorpe Welfare, Albion Sports and Goole

Mick O'Connell is delighted with Greg's appointment" Greg is the ideal person - he has a lot of experience and most importantly is a good Guy with really great way about him on the grass which is a fundamental in bringing in a new coach. He has fresh ideas and we share the same belief in how we want to play and how we want to move forward.





Sammy Lambert - Head of Player Medical



Sammy joined The Brewers in time for the 2023/24 campaign. She qualified as an advanced podiatrist in 2007 and also has a master's degree in advanced healthcare leadership, a diploma in clinical podiatric biomechanics, a muscle energy and technique certificate and the FA Emergency Medical Certificate Level 2 which centres on the prevention of on field injuries. She ensures that the players are medically the fittest they can be and injury rehabilitation time is kept to a minimum.

Louis White - Analyst and Goalkeeping Coach



Louis joined us last season as our pre and post-game analyser and is a key part of the team management. We believe analysis is a vital ingredient of modern football and visual learning is a big part of what we do. More recently Louis has also taken on the role of our Goal Keeping Coach.





Steve Elliott – Kit Manager



Steve came in during the closed season. Kit men and woman are an integral part of the team - they make our jobs easier and make the players comfortable; they are worth their weight in gold! Steve has been a regular supporter of the club for the last three years. A keen footballer, he was signed up at the age of eleven by Colchester United and was later registered as a Referee with the York and District league, which lead to joining the linesman's list for the Northern Premier League and then onto refereeing at that level. He is a keen golfer and supporter of Tottenham Hotspur.

Isaac Bayliss

22 year old Isaac, is our Stats man (currently studying Performance Analysis) and also our video operator for team purposes. He initially wrote to the club asking if there was any way he could help whilst also studying and has quickly become an essential member of the management team.



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The Barton Blog

It only seems like a hot minute since I was

By Darren Stockdale

writing the first blog for this season, and here we are at the last one. It is fair to say, the season hasn't gone the way most fans would have wanted it to. After yet another disappointing home defeat last time out we find ourselves with one last chance to earn a home win this year before the season ends in April.

After our victory against high-flying Golcar United back on the 18th January we haven't managed to pick up a single home point since. In fact, our last four points hauls were away at Frickley Athletic, Winterton Rangers, Parkgate and added to that list is Champion after our 1-0 victory last Saturday. A Fraser Papprell goal just after the break was enough to give Barton the win.

Trivia

Rebracketing in the English Language

Today I would like to take you down the path of rebracketing, or false splitting, in the English language. Bracketing is the process that language users use when you hear a string of syllables and bracket those sounds into units of meaning.

Rebracketing is when we get it wrong and where, for example, over time words have got confused. A good example of this is between "a" and "an"






due to the way they sound together, as in “an adder”. In Middle English “a nadder” was a snake, but eventually this became “an adder” – the n moved from nadder to a. There are other examples of rebracketing where sets of words have moved letters around to create new words.

So, what other examples of rebracketing are there in the English language? Let’s take a quick look:

- Apron – in Middle English it was “a napron” which eventually became “an apron”.
- Alligator – comes from the Spanish “el legarto” (the lizard).
- Another – formed from combining “an other” into one word and was sometimes split into “a nother”.
- Alone/Lone – in Middle English it was “al one” (all one) which eventually became alone.
- Cybernetics – the original form of cybernetics is “cybern” and “etic. However, this has been rebracketed into “cyber” and “netics”, giving us the ability to use “cyber” in front of many other words (such as cyberspace, cyberattack etc.).
- Hamburger – this was originally (and still is) what people from Hamburg call themselves.





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The Barton Blog

However, it was re-bracketed into “ham” and “burger”. Now, of course, you can put just about any food in front of burger to make another word, even though burger is nothing more than the re-bracketed portion of a person from Hamburg.

- Helicopter – this is another unusual one as you would imagine the two parts would be “heli” and “copter”, especially as we now have words like helipad. However, the two re-bracketed terms here are “helico” (to mean spiral) and “pter” (to mean wing – as in pterodactyl).

- Newt – in Middle English it was “an eute” which eventually became “a newt”.

- Nickname – in Middle English it was “an eke name” (an additional name) which became “a neke name” then a nickname.

- Orange – originally “a naranj” in Arabic. However, despite what is commonly thought, it was actually the Italians who re-bracketed it to un’arancia (an orange).

- Umpire – in Middle English it was “a noumpere” which became “an oumpere” before becoming an umpire.

There are many more examples of this to discover, but I think I have covered enough to





The Barton Blog

whet your appetite if you want to research more, and enough to not make you bored if you don't.

History

Our away game against Tadcaster last season saw Barton take an early lead through Tom Waudby. Tadcaster equalised right at the break leaving the score 1-1. Tom Waudby added a second on 78 minutes, with Craig King putting the game to bed with a goal right at the end, leaving the score 3-1 to Barton. A few weeks later we had the return leg at Barton. This time Tadcaster took the lead, but James Playford equalised for Barton leaving it 1-1 at the break again. A goal from Fraser Papprell just after the break was enough to give Barton the victory again.

This season saw another away victory for Barton. Grant Tait put Barton ahead on ten minutes, with Tom Waudby making it two just past the half-hour mark. Tadcaster pulled one back just before the break, but Ali Aydemir finished the game off with a goal round the hour mark.

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





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The Untold Game

The Forgotten Trophy

By the 1980s, Spanish football was in a bit of a crisis. Consistent failings by the national side were compounded in the home 1982 World Cup which saw them struggle to qualify from the first group stage behind Northern Ireland, only to lose in the second group stage with barely a whimper. On the club side, Real Madrid hadn't won the European Cup since 1966 - unthinkable, both before and after - and no other Spanish club had ever taken the title. With money beginning to pour into the game, and La Liga at risk of being left behind, innovative solutions were required. And thus the Copa de La Liga was born.

Spain's forgotten competition was the brainchild of Barcelona President Josep Luiz Nunez, who considered that in an era of spiralling



The Untold Game

costs and little success, more football would mean more revenue. The new tournament saw all 18 top flight teams compete against each other. The competition was replicated in each division down the pyramid, but with no chance to qualify to play teams from a higher level, there was little interest. Byes were to be given to teams who progressed deep into the Copa del Rey, and it was a straight knockout competition with each tie played over two legs.

The first season couldn't have gone better. 46 goals were scored in the opening seven ties, including a big 9-4 win for Espanyol over Celta Vigo. The scoring rate continued through to the semi-finals, where Barcelona won 5-3 over Atletico Madrid, and Real Madrid progressed on penalties against Real Zaragoza after an 8-8 stalemate! It set up an El Clasico final for the first iteration of the competition, and Maradona scored in each leg to give Barcelona the inaugural trophy. On the pitch, it had been a huge success.

Off the pitch, however, it had been a catastrophic failure. Fans hadn't found anything to get excited about in the new competition and as a result, attendances were low. This was a problem for Nunez and his supporters, who assumed increased gate receipts would help them compete at the European level. Instead, the players had more games and the clubs had little financial reward. To make matters worse, Television



The Untold Game

Espaniola had introduced some frankly bizarre local broadcasting rights that meant regional broadcasters were unable to show local games of interest. As a result, TV audiences were low.

The Spanish FA took action to try to boost the competition. In a boon for lower league clubs, winners of the lower division were added to the top-flight competition, and to drive more interest, the winners would be awarded a UEFA Cup place. It made the competition more fierce for sure, and meant some weaker clubs took it more seriously as a chance to get into Europe, where the big boys focused on the more established competitions.

And so it was that the second Copa de la Liga was won by little Real Valladolid. They had to beat Zaragoza, Sevilla and Real Betis to reach the final, and their home form in particular was imperious, something that would help them in the final. After holding Atletico Madrid to a goalless draw at the Vicente Calderon, they were themselves held in the second leg. Extra time beckoned, and



The Untold Game

here Valladolid ran riot, scoring three without reply. It remains the only trophy they have ever won.

There is a strong argument that if a trophy exists in Spain and Real Madrid haven't won it, it will continue to be played until they have. As exciting as it was for Valladolid to get into Europe, the fans still hadn't taken to the competition and attendances started to fall from their already very modest levels. The big sides, failing to realise any advantage from the competition, started to complain about the increased schedule. The Copa de la Liga was ailing, so it was probably to everyone's benefit that Real won the third iteration, beating Atletico in the final. Manager Luis Molowny considered it like winning nothing at all that season.

The competition lasted just one more season before the FEF pulled the plug. Almost aware of the dying embers, the goals flowed even more as Betis and



Barcelona trudged their way to the final. For the Catalans and Nunez, the competition's advocate, it had become a distraction they could do without. For Betis, with the writing on the wall, it was one final chance to get into Europe. They started the stronger, winning the first leg, but Barca



The Untold Game

were too good for them at the Camp Nou, ensuring that the trophy both began and ended life in the Catalan capital.



The competition was wound up after that final, and the trophy largely forgotten. Certainly, for the two giants of Spanish football, it is an irrelevance to their storied histories; it's a challenge to even find the cup in the colossal trophy room at the Camp Nou. But for one, small, Castillian club, it is still remembered, with ribbons of Valladolid purple and white.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media @TheUntoldGame



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Gregory's Greeting

This afternoon sees us return to Northern Counties East Football League action as we welcome Bottesford Town to our Easy Buy Stadium home for this Premier Division fixture.

Looking at the weather forecast as I write this early Friday morning it seems that we have rain and strong winds forecast for the last 30 hours so if the match is on then we must thank our groundsman - Paul Coult - for all his hard work.

I do hope you have brought your hats and scarves with you but if not we have a selection of Barton Town wear available at the bar!

On behalf of all at Barton Town FC, I extend a very warm welcome to the players, officials and especially the supporters of Bottesford Town who made the journey to be with us today.

Don't forget we have the Chums Snack Bar at the side of the clubhouse where you can get hot drinks - and cold ones if you are brave! - and there's a great choice of hot food too. As always there's also a "special" this afternoon - but



you'll need to get yours early as these are always popular!

Since my last notes the management team have again been busy strengthening the team where issues have been identified but the core squad has remained the same for several matches as the team has gelled since the start of the season.

Talking of teams... if you are interested in getting involved with Barton Town FC by joining our team of match-day volunteers we'd love to hear from you. Speak to one of us at the game - we're a friendly lot and are always happy to talk to fellow supporters.

In other news we now have the planning for the pitch drainage APPROVED!
It's taken a quite a while to get to this stage and everything sorted with the local authorities but we are now able to get quotes organised so we can submit the grant application to the FA.

Finally, Thank You to the match sponsors Three Behind the Goal... thanks for your ongoing support.

I'm looking forward to a good match this afternoon and I hope you all enjoy it too.

UP THE SWANS!



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A Shot Across The...

Firstly... if today's match is on then all credit goes to the groundsman - Paul Coult - on getting the pitch ready after heavy rain from Storm Darragh postponed last week's game.

Our last home game was more than two weeks ago in the Lincolnshire Senior Trophy. On a windy, freezing cold night the first half was very scrappy with no real chances with both teams defences being on top. The second half started the same and then Lincoln United had a very good 15-20 minutes and then we came to life and we got one back; perhaps against the run of play we looked like we might take it to penalties.

A disappointing result as we wanted to progress in that competition - as we do with all matches - but "it is what it is"; it wasn't meant to be but I can't knock the work rate nor attitude of our players.

That was followed by a real NCEL Premier Division "Derby" match when we hopped just across the Humber Bridge to Beverley Town. Way back in August we were victors in only the second league game of the season and with both teams and players moving between the teams in recent seasons there was always going to be a little bit of added "frisson" to the





A Shot Across The...

game... and that proved to be the case! The home side scored early on so we were chasing the game. A second goal for them secured the win and three points.

We then undertook the journey to Hallam on Tuesday for the NCEL League Cup match. It always seems to be a difficult journey and this was compounded by the England v Switzerland UEFA Women's EURO 2025 match at Bramall Lane which we assume was the cause of the long delays getting into and around Sheffield.

The Lionesses' win wasn't something the Swans weren't able to emulate at Sandygate conceding two before Tom Waudy pulled one back just before the final whistle.

On the player front... Charlie Clements has been recalled to Grimsby Town and will be rejoining their U18 team and we understand there may be an opportunity in the first team for him. Obviously we wish him well as in the time he was with us he was involved in quite a few matches and got his name on the score-sheet. He's got a great attitude and we hope a good future in front of him.

During November we recruited some new players, although one is a name I'm sure you'll recognise as he was a Swan a few seasons back; James Williamson has signed having been at Bridlington



A Shot Across The...

Town for a few seasons where he was also club captain. His signing has taken a while to get sorted but he started a couple of weeks ago and has been at our training sessions.

We have also signed Harry Lovick who was at Pickering Town - and played against us only last month! He's a player we have been aware of for a year or so. When he became available we were pleased to be able to bring him on-board. He brings a bit of quality and came on for about 20 minutes at Albion Sports.

Finally, we have added Lucas Robinson to the squad; he's joined us from Goole... and like Harry, played against us earlier in the season when he was a big threat out wide. At around 2m tall he's a presence on the pitch; got good feet and quick so it's good to get him on-board.

I've took the opportunity to give the players a break from training last week as some were still getting over knocks they have picked up in recent games. All being well with the weather we'll have a good game with a well rested squad available for today.

Enjoy the match... UP THE SWANS



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ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is getting everywhere these days – even now in football it seems. This week, The NLP ran an article on former Non-League and Football League player turned sports agent, Guy Branston, who has launched a new AI venture that he says will revolutionise the way clubs engage with their supporters.

The ex-centre-half has launched an AI bot named Mai that he says can help clubs speak to thousands more fans - and even reach a global audience.

One of Branston's former clubs, Rotherham United, as well as Premiership Rugby side Leicester Tigers have already signed up to the service - named Sports AI Consultants - and Branston says talks are underway with several other sports clubs.

Branston, 45, made over 400 career appearances for a variety of clubs through the EFL including Hull City, Sheffield Wednesday and Peterborough United.

He also turned out for a number of now Non-League clubs, such as Oldham Athletic, Aldershot Town, Rochdale and Torquay United and had a season-long spell at Kettering Town in the Conference National back in 2008-09.





After retiring in 2014, he subsequently worked as chief scout at Notts County, operations manager at Nuneaton Town and director of football at Chesterfield before becoming a licensed agent in 2023.

Explaining how AI can revolutionise sports consultancy, Branston explains: “the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed numerous sectors, and the realm of sports consulting is no exception” Branston explains on his LinkedIn page.

“AI-powered sports consultants are at the forefront of this transformation, utilizing advanced algorithms and data analytics to enhance fan engagement and optimize team performance.”

Speaking to our sister paper, The Football League Paper, for whom he also doubles up as a columnist, Branston continued: “In the simplest terms, it’s an AI bot that will have a conversation directly with the fan or customer over the phone. So, imagine you’re a football club or a rugby club and you’re offering a half-season ticket for sale. Traditionally, that would be advertised via email or a social media post, but those things are very cold and impersonal. A social media post can be missed. Emails can drop into junk folders or





not get opened. And there's a good reason why things are done this way. At most clubs - particularly lower league clubs - there simply aren't enough arms and legs in the building to call fans individually.

"The secretary is doing multiple jobs. The marketing people are flat out. Even if you could afford to hire a telemarketer, how many people would they reach in a day? Maybe 100. It's not worth it.

"What Mai can do is call 2,000 people a day, and have a conversation in any language. It can take the 'temperature' of the conversation to work out whether someone is annoyed or unhappy or eager to hear more, and respond accordingly. Then, at the end of that day, the club gets a report saying how many people engaged with the call, how many people have requested a text message with a link to the landing page that sells the season ticket, and how many people bought one.

"And this is just one application. Right now, we're looking at how clubs could use AI to address mental health issues - engaging with lonely ex-players, getting kids back into football who've had a hard time after being released. This really does have the potential to revolutionise the way clubs communicate."



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In Town Today



Bottesford Town Football Club was formed in 1974 and played their football in the Lincolnshire League.

The original base was at the Dolphin pub, with the football being played at

Fred Gough School. The Club moved to its current Birch Park home in 1983.

The senior side experienced a successful period during the early 90's winning a number of Cup competitions and the Lincolnshire League in three successive seasons. In 2000 the 1st team entered the Central Midlands League gaining promotion in 2005 to Division 1 in the Northern Counties East Football League. In 2016 they won the 'play-off' final to gain promotion to the Premier League where they have played for the last 5 seasons.

The Club has for many years supported the local Scunthorpe and District adult Football Leagues,

The year 2000 saw the amalgamation of the Junior and Senior Clubs clearly demonstrating that players starting with the Club at the age of 6 could be encouraged to stay with the Club for their progress in football.

The Club today has 25 teams both boys and girls playing mini-soccer in the local Saturday Kalson League, 11 a-side teams in the Sunday Kalson League, Youth football being played in the Junior Premier League, & the Lincolnshire Intermediate



In Town Today



League, and a Development Squad playing in the Central Midlands Football League. A newly formed Veterans team who will play in the Humber Veterans League

In 2018 a new addition to the Club was the introduction of the DSActive team for individuals who are Downs Syndrome, the team has grown from strength to strength and they now perform in the Ability Counts League.

The Club's proudest achievement was in 2003 when they became a FA Charter Standard Community Club, being one of the first Clubs in the Country at that time to get the achievement. The Club had to work very hard to meet all of the FA criteria and is now reaping the benefits and rewards.

In 2009, the Club achieved the distinction of being awarded by the Lincolnshire Football Association as the FA Charter Standard Club of the year, a reward for the efforts of the members of the Club.

This massive involvement in 'grass roots football' and its development has seen the provision of enhanced facilities to support the same, with the introduction of a magnificent Changing Room & Meeting Room facility in 2009 for the use of all those who play their sport at Birch Park. Developments continued in 2019 with the aid of



In Town Today



grant support from both the North Lincolnshire and Bottesford Town Councils together with the Football Foundation, with the addition of a new tractor and grass cutting maintenance equipment plus the replacement of the floodlights for the main pitch with a modern LED installation which was designed for the future provision of a new Stadia Facility incorporating a 3G playing surface.

2020 also saw through the efforts of number of volunteers & sponsors, a new Catering Facility to serve the needs of everybody who visits Birch Park. Proudly, the Club today is able to announce that after many years of preparation and with the financial support from predominantly the Football Foundation, the North Lincolnshire Council and the S.S.E. Sustainable Community Fund, together with other supporting groups, the new £1.5m Barrett Steel Stadium facility was officially opened in July 2023.

Exciting times lay ahead with a number of developments being 'worked up' including a number of improvements for the Bottesford Sports Hall, extension of our Car Parking facilities, installation of energy saving Solar panels, and the establishment of an outside 'play area' for families who use our Social club..



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Barton Town Football Club would like to thank the companies, families and individuals for their continued support this season. You or your business can sponsor a Barton Town Football Club match; this includes free entry for up to 10 people, free match programme and hospitality in the function room for you and your guests. Also included is recognition on the programme's front cover plus a mention in the match report on the club website.

Date	Comp	Opposition	Match Sponsor
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6 Sep 24	NCELP	Goole AFC	HP Freightways
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	Hits Radio Viking FM
7 Dec 24	NCELP	Handsworth	JLM Wood Creations
14 Dec 24	NCELP	Bottesford Town	3 Behind The Goal
28 Dec 24	NCELP	Eccleshill United	Stipendia
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22 Feb 25	NCELP	Penistone Church	AP Robinson
8 Mar 25	NCELP	Rossington Main	Finnies Accountants
22 Mar 25	NCELP	Tadcaster Albion	Paul Manchester
5 Apr 25	NCELP	Thackley	The One Point

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The Barton Blog

Our last league home game was ages ago, way back on the 26th October when we met Champion at home. What a game it was, especially for the neutral (although I doubt there were many of those at the game). It was a game played by two very good teams.

By Darren Stockdale

Both teams defended well, and both teams attacked well. It looked like one of those games where it would end goalless when a true inspired substitution by the Barton bench brought the first goal of the game. The subs board was ready to announce the arrival of Ryan Thompson, but there was a delay whilst the ball went out of play. It eventually did for a throw-in to Barton just down from the bench.






The Barton Blog

On came Thompson, the play resumed with the throw going to Thompson, who took the ball straight into the Champion box and scored. With a game this close that could have easily been the only goal but almost immediately Champion had a run of three corners, scoring from the third.

There was plenty more end-to-end play, but the game finally ended a draw. That was followed by an excellent away win at Rossington Main. Grant Tait put Barton in front just before half time. Tom Waudby scored just after half time, which was enough to see off a very late goal for Rossington to leave the score 2-1 to Barton. That game was followed by another excellent away win at Tadcaster.





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.

- Club News
- Details On Every Team
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- Fixtures and Results



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The Barton Blog

Again, Grant Tait put Barton in front on ten minutes, and once again Tom Waudby put Barton two goals up, on 32 minutes. Tadcaster pulled one back just after the break, but a third for Barton from Ali Spencer Aydemir sealed the win.

Our following league game, away at Albion Sports, saw a defeat for Barton. Will Waudby put Barton in front, but three goals for Albion sealed the win for the hosts. Our next scheduled league home game was postponed so our next game saw us away again in the league, at Beverley, where we lost 2-0.

Our away game in the League Cup on 3rd December saw another defeat for Barton at Hallam. Hallam took the lead in the first half, and added to it in the second. A late goal from Tom Waudby wasn't enough to save the game. Finally, another badly-named storm hit the region for our game against Handsworth last week resulting in that being postponed.

You will be well aware of my thoughts on the names the relevant Met Office gives these storms. If they cannot come up with better names they should leave it to the public to name them. Mind you, with our record of naming things they would all probably end up being called Stormy McStorm Face.





Trivia

Lost Positives

Two words that have always annoyed me are underwhelmed and overwhelmed, because no one ever seems to be just the right amount of whelmed. That led me onto looking into lost positives, of which (ironically) whelmed is not one of. What is a lost positive? Well, we are all aware that people can be unruly, but do you ever hear of people being ruly? Not anymore I doubt, but it is (or was) once a word. This is an example of a lost positive. Here are some of the more interesting ones I have found:

Couth – Uncouth is someone who is uncultured or 'rough around the edges', whereas someone who is couth is well mannered and polite.

Evitable – something that is inevitable cannot be avoided whereas if something is evitable then it can be entirely avoided if acted upon properly.

Feckful – To be feckless is to be ineffective, incompetent or inept, but to be feckful, or full of feck, is to be powerful, efficient and vigorous.

Ept – speaking of inept, to be inept is to be generally incompetent whereas to be ept is to be suitable and befitting.





The Barton Blog

Gormfull – Someone who is lacking sense is classed as gormless. However, to be full or gorm, or to be gormfull, is to be intelligent, discerning and vigilant.

Nocent – We are all aware of the word innocent, but we have lost the use of the word nocent. Nocent is term for what we call guilty (guilty being an old English word).

Ruly – If an unruly crowd is one that causes chaos, then a ruly crowd is one that just follows the rules.

Ruthful – If someone is ruthless, they have no pity and are merciless and cruel. However, someone who is ruthless is said to be empathetic and merciful. The word 'ruth' means the quality of compassion and pity.

But what about **whelmed**, the word that started this idea in my head. Checking the dictionary whelmed simply means 'capsized'. So, whelmed has always been a negative, with no lost positive attached to it, we just add 'under' or 'over' for added oomph.





The Barton Blog

History

Our home game against Bottesford last season saw a good win for Barton. Tom Waudby got the first after only four minutes, and it remained that way to half time. After the break Fraser Papprell, Tom Waudby again, and Elliot Vassalo all added to the tally to leave the final score 4-0 to Barton. Our away game was a much closer game, or at least it was a typical "game of two halves". Barton took a quick lead again, through Iwan Heeley on ten minutes. Will Waudby added the second around the half-hour mark, and it remained that way to half time. Bottesford took the fight to Barton in the second half, scoring almost immediately, with Reece Moody grabbing the equaliser right at the end. Our away game right at the start of the season saw a defeat for Barton by three goals to one, Tom Waudby grabbing ours right at the end of the game.

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





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Local Legend

Everyone loves a home-grown hero. Someone who comes from the area of the club, who understands its unique place within its community, who identifies with the fans. It adds a little spice for a derby day, and makes their commitment to the cause seem all the more authentic. And there are few clubs in world football who can boast more home-grown heroes than Athletic Bilbao. The Basque club only signs Basque players, probably costing them significant periods of success, but keeping the identity of the team fiercely local. And there is no Basque legend who stands out more than the incomparable Telmo Zarra.

Zarra was born in 1921, in the northern Basque town of Erandio just south of the Bay of Biscay. His father, Telmo Zarronandia, was an engineer and the manager of the station at Asua, where Telmo Junior was born, and football was part of the family. His brothers Tomas and Domingo, both a decade his senior, were regulars in La Liga



The Untold Game

for Basque side Arenas de Getxo. Tomas provided young Telmo with a football from the club, and despite his father's disapproval and his own shyness of his incredible ability, his talent shone through.

After impressing with junior sides around the town, at 16 Zarra was signed by Second Division side S.D. Erandio, where he was slowly shepherded into the first team. In his first season, he played a handful of times, but in his second he made twenty appearances, scoring twelve goals, and catching the eye of bigger suitors. At the end of that season, aged just 18, he moved to Bilbao.



The Untold Game

His time at Athletic would define Spanish football for decades.

The Spanish Civil War had finished just a year earlier, with victory for the Fascist Franco and the death of Telmo's brother Domingo, but the fallout of that conflict curtailed a promising opening season for the younger Zarra at Bilbao. After six goals in his first eight games, he was called up for national service and sent to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on the African coast. He would be gone for a year, but when he returned his legend began.

The 1941-42 season saw Zarra rediscover his goalscoring form, smashing in 26 goals in 28 games and finishing as the club's top scorer. The following season he got a goal per game over 25 appearances, as Bilbao won a league and cup double. He was top scorer once again, something he achieved in 10 of his 15 seasons with Athletic.

The club failed to capitalise on that success, and over the following decade won just one more league title, and four Copa del Generalisimo (now the Copa del Rey). But the lack of consistent success didn't blunt Zarra's consistent goalscoring. He topped the league goalscoring charts between 1944 and 1947, and in the final season of that run equalled the highest ever number of goals in a single La Liga season. In 1950-51, he smashed that record with 38



The Untold Game



goals in just 30 games. His new record stood for seventy years, eventually being beaten by Cristiano Ronaldo in 2011.

Sadly for Zarra, he suffered a broken leg in the off-season after breaking that record, meaning he missed the whole of the 1951-52 season, but he returned to form in 1952-53, scoring 24 more goals and winning the inaugural Pichichi award, given to the league's top goalscorer by the sports newspaper Marca. It was particularly fitting, as the award was named after the nickname of another Bilbao legend, Rafael Moreno.

Zarra continued to score goals for the club as his legend grew, playing two more seasons in Bilbao before finally moving on in 1955. He made a handful of appearances for other Basque clubs until 1957, but his status was secured in Bilbao.



The Untold Game

His record of 251 goals in 257 appearances stood for nearly six decades, until Lionel Messi overtook him in 2014. He matches the Argentinian's goals per game ratio, although Cristiano Ronaldo bettered it, and also overtook him in total goals scored in 2015. But in the Copa del Rey, his record looks unassailable. 81 goals across 18 years stormed past the record set by Josep Samitier, and where Zarra played for a middling side, Samitier played for both Real Madrid and Barcelona. Since Zarra set his record, Messi is the player who has come closest to it, but he fell a full 25 goals short. No current La Liga player has even 50.

Telmo Zarra might not be as recognisable a name as his contemporaries Alfredo di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas, but his goalscoring was far higher than both of those genuine global superstars. So when the history of Spanish football is written, in one corner of northeastern Spain at least, there is one name that stands out above them all.

Telmo Zarra.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game

Find more at TheUntoldGame.co.uk or on social media @TheUntoldGame



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