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# NCEFL 2024/25 PREMIER DIVISION

## BARTON TOWN



## THACKLEY

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THE EASY BUY STADIUM

# BARTON TOWN SWANS REVIEW



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Asad, cardiac arrest survivor



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# Gregory's Greeting

Good evening and welcome to the EasyBuy Stadium for today's NCEL Premier Division match. This is the first of two matches we have at our home ground in the heart of Barton this week - today we host Thackley after our planned November match was postponed; we hope all the officials, players and, of course, their travelling supporters have had a pleasant journey from their Dennyfield home in Bradford.

We've not yet played the reverse fixture this season and that will be the very last match of our 2024/25 campaign on Saturday April 5th. With Thackley in the promotion play-off positions and The Swans still in the running for one of those places both teams have everything to play for tonight and I'm expecting a game full of action!

This Saturday we'll see Penistone Church as the visiting team and as we had plenty of goals in the dying minutes of the away match back in October this promises to be another hard fought match from the off... mind you they ALL are to be honest.

Off-pitch, or should that be, on-pitch we are still waiting for news on the pitch



drainage grant application. We have been told we should hear something this week so perhaps I'll be able to give you a proper update in my weekend programme notes.

Things are getting pretty tight with regards to getting the work scheduled with the contractors. We are expecting the work to take between 10 and 12 weeks so we are keen to get things in place so we can get the work started as soon as the home games are completed.

I think that we've been very lucky with the weather this season and our last home NCEL Premier Division match for the First Team is on Friday 21st April.

**Yes!** Another Friday evening match that sees Tadcaster Albion "in town".

The summer months will see the club get on with a lot of work around the ground. As always we are on the lookout for any volunteers that would like to get involved in the club and if you have some free time we'd love to hear from you.

Finally I'd like to thank today's match sponsors, The One Point... they've been suppliers of IT support and equipment to the club for several seasons and their advice and involvement has been invaluable.

For now... Enjoy The Game... UP THE SWANS!



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# A Shot Across The...

Good evening all!

2025 has got off to a difficult start for the First Team for reasons both on and off the pitch.

After a long spell of being unbeaten at home, our last three home games have seen us end the match with nothing to show for our efforts. However we have kept ourselves "in the hunt" for a play-off spot with three away wins; with good results at Frickley Athletic and Parkgate, and a dramatic last minute winner from Harry Lovick at the end of a proper "derby" match at Winterton Rangers.

On the player front somewhat unexpectedly we have had Tom Waudby return to the squad after his nasty looking injury sustained during the Knaresborough match. We were expecting him to be out for several weeks but he felt good enough to take to the pitch, from the subs bench, in the second half of the Hallam game. He was back in action at Parkgate; completing the full 90 minutes and scoring our second goal so back to his normal self again as far as we can tell!

Recent matches have seen new faces in the squad with





## A Shot Across The...

Rob Guilfoyle and Oliver Nicholson joining the Swans.

This week I am pleased to announce the signing of Matthew Broadley who has joined us from local side Bottesford Town. He's scored a few goals for The Poachers this season and even got one against us back in August in their home fixture. He'll be in the squad tonight so will be a new face to look out for.

Tonight we face Thackley which are one of the teams that started the season strongly and have been in the running for a play-off spot. They'll be looking to turn around their poor start to 2025 - they have managed to pick up only two points from their five matches to date so will be looking to turn that run around.

For us, another win to back up the away win at Parkgate gets us back in within striking distance of those four play-off spots and with another home fixture on Saturday against Penistone Church we are still in with a good chance of making a strong finish to the campaign.

After tonight we have just three home games left to play; the support of the home fans this season has been great and I hope you have been enjoying the games... UP THE SWANS!



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IN last Sunday's NLP, we spoke exclusively to National League CEO Mark Ives to look deeper into the national 3UP campaign, officially calling for a third promotion spot into the EFL. Backed by all 72 member clubs at Step 1 and 2 after years of planning, the proposal officially calls for a change in regulations from the current two-up system and has received widespread support from the Non-League game.

But, as we've also heard this week, the campaign has also come up against some fierce opposition and there is a lot of convincing left needed to be done if EFL clubs are to vote in favour of the proposal at the EFL's AGM this June..

Ives spoke passionately the logistics behind the campaign but also warned that unless the matter is addressed now, it risks being kicked down the road for more years to come.

"Why now is a really important question," he told The NLP. "Everybody is aware we've been having conversations privately with the EFL. They've been very constructive, very amiable conversations. Then we have the Independent Football Regulator coming in. Whilst there are debates ongoing at the minute between the parliamentary houses and, potentially, up to 400 suggested amendments to the Bill that are being







discussed, what is sure is the regulator is coming into play.

“That brings in another dynamic from an EFL point of view because the EFL are saying while they’re supportive in principle of this issue, they cannot take this forward until the other footballing matters are dealt with – the current discussions between the PL and the EFL over the wider distribution of monies. That’s a matter for the PL and the EFL, that’s not a matter for us.

“We do not see them as being interdependent to the issue of three-up. If you think about them not being able to deal with anything until the matter is resolved between the PL and the EFL, which would potentially mean the regulator, the backstop and everything else kicking into play.”

The National League’s plea came after a wide-ranging BBC Sport interview with EFL chairman Rick Parry back in November when he accepted the need for change, commenting: “we have to acknowledge the need to look downwards as well as upwards”.

But as columnist Chris Dunlavy warned in our sister paper, The Football League Paper, last Sunday, finding support from EFL clubs will be far from easy.





"It's only natural to ask why turkeys would vote for Christmas, and in the short-term it's a logical argument. Nobody wants to make themselves more vulnerable to relegation," Dunlavy writes.

"So precarious are finances throughout the EFL, however, that all but the biggest clubs could become a basket case, practically overnight. Remember Bolton, or Derby? There's also a lot of money in Non-League, meaning the clubs who come up - like Stockport and Wrexham - tend to push the incumbents down. That makes relegation at least a reasonable possibility for the majority of EFL clubs and means three-up, three-down is very much in their long-term interest.

"Unfortunately, that's not how people operate. Which is why, without legislative intervention or a financial sweetener, the National League's 3UP campaign is a non-starter."

Shrewsbury Town manager Gareth Ainsworth agrees. Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live Sport's 72+ EFL podcast last week, the former Wycombe Wanderers gave a rather damning indictment of the proposal, while voicing his annoyance at being unable to compete financially with wealthy clubs coming from Non-League such as Wrexham, Notts County and Chesterfield.





Ainsworth said: "Obviously, we're not going vote for it. Who in the right mind in the EFL will be the vote for, you know, three down, three up?"

"But that National League, believe me, very strong. And often the team that do come up. They compete well. And I think that's a big argument point for them saying, look at your records, look at your Chesterfields of yours, look at your, you know, Stockports, you know.

"They've all kicked on, but it could kill some really, really big league teams. You know, you Oldhams and your Torquays. They've really found it difficult getting back in.

"Should we not look after our teams that you know, we keep going on about the teams that are struggling. We should look after our pyramid better. And the teams if a team just can't keep up financially, but no other reason than the other teams have got billionaires coming in a million is that we it's not fair that they just sink out the league and out of obscurity.

"So my argument would be, yes. These teams have done well, but have a look at the money that they've had invested in them as well."



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# In Town Today



Thackley AFC is known as “the club in the woods” because of its idyllic setting in the heart of the Bradford countryside. Thackley is a private company limited by guarantee and a true community football club because its location and standing put it at the heart of a busy and growing residential community. The area immediately surrounding the ground is used extensively as a leisure and recreational facility that attracts large numbers of our village to use the rural amenities for activities such as dog walking, bird watching, horse riding and rambling.

The club was founded in 1930 by the younger members of Thackley Wesleyan Methodist Church which follows the trend of church affiliation set by Bolton Wanderers, Manchester City and Aston Villa among others. It is rumoured that young men were encouraged, by churches, to take up football and thus refrain from frequenting public houses.

Thackley has a tradition of being administered by residents of the immediate locality. One of the originators of the club in the 1930's was Arthur Hylton who lived all his life less than a mile from the ground. He was assisted by his brother, Leslie, in building up a thriving and successful club that used the village youth for their playing members. All active members of the committee, at this time, lived within walking distance of the ground and



# In Town Today



this tradition has been maintained to the present day. Our ambitious young Chairman, for example, has spent all his life as a Thackley resident and the committee is largely made up of people living and working within a stone's throw of the club.



Thackley's development as a thriving football club has been steady and consistent. Progressing from the Bradford Mutual Sunday School League to the County Amateur League by 1939 Thackley has seen a constant rise through the league systems, the West Yorkshire League, the Yorkshire League (in 1967) and the NCEL when it was founded in 1982. Thackley AFC has retained a Premier Division place in every season since (the



# In Town Today



only club to have done so).

There have been many successes during Thackley's existence; County Amateur League winners five times, West Riding Challenge Cup 1964 and 1967, West Riding County Cup 1974 and 1975 and the Bradford and District Senior Cup 13 times (a competition record).

Recent achievements include; in the 2010-11 season Thackley reached the final of the West Riding County Cup but lost in extra time to Guiseley having twice held the lead. Thackley won the Toolstation NCEL Cup in two consecutive years 2011-12 and 2012-13. Thackley's nickname "The Dennyboys" refers to our ground Dennyfield which is named after our long serving groundsman George Denny who lived nearby.

Our clubhouse is named after Arthur Hylton who was secretary of Thackley during the formative years from the 1940's until the 1970's. Arthur's contribution to the development of Thackley Football Club was greatly influential. Born and raised in Thackley he remained a loyal and regular contributor to the club until his death. Thackley has a history of long serving secretaries. Stewart Willingham, who has now retired from the post and is now club president, took up his responsibilities in 1973 and was still going strong until 2016, a total of 43 years at the helm of a club





# In Town Today



at this level! Stewart was able to sustain this commitment because of the support he received from his better half, June, now sadly, no longer with us. The hospitality suite in the clubhouse is named in honour of Stewart and June, the Willingham Suite. At the beginning of the season Stewart received a long service award presented by the FA for his invaluable contribution to grass roots football and Thackley in particular.

The season 2016-17 saw a record points haul for the Dennyboys – 78 points – and resulted in 5th place finish in the League. This success was short lived, in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons Thackley finished below mid-table in 15th position. 2019 -20 was incomplete with Thackley, once again in the lower half of the table when games were suspended.

Thackley continued last season, 2021-22 very much in the vein of the previous three finishing in a disappointing 17th position. Although they went out of the two National cup competitions early, they achieved some success in the County Cup and reached the quarter final of the League Cup.

Thackley has a tradition that provides playing facilities for members of the community and this season we retain our Ladies' team which makes an important contribution to football both at the



# In Town Today



club and in the surrounding catchment area.

## THE DENNYBOYS

### Luke Wilson

Goalkeeper

Although still only a young man Luke has now elevated himself to one of our longest serving players. He has tremendous shot stopping ability and is confident when handling difficult crosses. He is also a skilful distributor, quickly setting up counter attacking moves with accurate throws.



### George Green

Midfield

An extremely good and talented midfielder who likes to drop back into defence to pick up the ball. Extremely creative and capable of match winning passes. He counts Bradford City and Everton amongst his former clubs.



### Mark Everingham

Full Back

Signed from Golcar FC. A good, speedy full back who works hard for the team and is quick to join the forwards with his overlapping runs



# In Town Today



## **Ben Grech Brooksbank**

Midfield

Joined from Eccleshill

United. He is a central midfield player with an eye to make accurate forward passes when trying to unlock opposition defences. He is also capable of getting into striking positions and scoring spectacular goals



## **Joe Mitchell**

Midfield

A hard working midfielder recently signed last season from Garforth Town. Good at breaking up play and moving the ball forward.



## **Luke Hudson**

Midfield

Played for the Dennyboys a few seasons ago and has made a welcome return to the club

## **Finn Donovan**

Winger

A promising young player, signed from Silsden. Highly rated by our manager, Danny Forrest. He improved dramatically during the 23/24 season.



# In Town Today



## **Luke Rhodes**

Defender

A recent signing from our near

neighbours Champion. A strong versatile player who can play anywhere across the back four.



## **Jake Holcombe**

Forward

A young exciting attacker with bags of potential. He has an eye for goal and signed for the Dennyboys after a trial.



## **Jensen Lambert**

Midfield

Signed for the club towards the end of last season. Previously with the Guiseley Academy . A good strong player who links in well with his colleagues.



## **Xanito McNally**

Forward

A young skilful player with bags of potential. In recent appearances from the bench has proved to be a handful for opposing defenders.





## **Muhammet Tektas**

Midfield

A recent signing who has played professionally in his native Turkey. A very skilful and tricky player.

## **William Morrissey**

Midfield

Signed on Joint registration basis from Farsley Celtic. Very confident on the ball and will be an asset to the club.



## **Edson Prata**

Winger

A very skilful and tricky player with the ability to bamboozle opposition defences. On his day almost unplayable.



## **Harry Parsons**

Midfield

A real box to box midfielder. His recent performances have been outstanding.



## **Liam Hudson**

Defender

Very confident and assured on the ball. Returns to us after several years at local rivals Silsden.





## **Lewis Gardner**

Defender/Midfield

A new signing from Silsden. Stepped in in place of the

experienced Ben Bodle and hardly put a foot wrong. He has bags of potential.



## **Lewis Sugden**

Midfield

A vastly experienced player who has played at a much higher level. Coming back after a serious injury, he has already shown his capabilities.



## **Tawheed Ahmed**

Winger

Signed from Tadcaster Albion. Extremely skilful and with exhilarating pace and an eye for goal.



## **Hamza Hamdosh**

Midfield

A recent signing who until recently was on the books of Halifax Town. A skilful player with bags of potential.





## **Matt Dempsey**

Central defender  
Experienced player  
who is strong and  
resolute. An excellent  
addition to the team. Good at  
encouraging younger players.



## **Ben Bodle**

Full Back

A vastly experienced speedy  
player who can operate at full  
back or in midfield. Previous  
clubs include Eccleshill United  
and Champion.



## **Harry Woodward** – Midfield

A recent signing following a trial. Very quick and  
nimble. Always keen to move the ball forward and  
link in with other team members

## **Adam Terrelonge-Jones** – Midfield

A vastly experienced midfield player who has  
played at a higher level. Had a spell at the club  
under the previous management.

## **Josimar Bradshaw**

Forward

A recent signing from Golcar. A  
strong centre forward with lots  
of pace and an eye for goal.





## **Antony Brown**

Forward

A recent signing from Penistone Church. A strong pacy forward

and a regular goal scorer. Has played for Danny Forrest at Silsden and is highly regarded.



## **Buba Kruballi**

Winger

Signed on joint registration with Farsley Celtic. Well regarded player with bags of potential.



## **Michael Roxburgh**

Goalkeeper

Signed on joint registration with Emley AFC. A good solid keeper who is rated very highly at his parent club.



## **Slater Barnes**

Winger

Recently signed from Wakefield AFC.

Counts Golcar amongst his other clubs.

A very skilful and hard working player with an eye for goal.





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# The Barton Blog

This match was originally [By Darren Stockdale](#) due to be played on the 23rd November last year, but storm Bert cancelled it through rain. It's a shame we couldn't have had a badly-named storm cancel our last home game. If you are reading this and were at the last home game you will know what I mean, and you are also probably reading this from home. It is the first time we have conceded six goals at home since the 8th December 2018 when we lost 6-4 at home to Knaresborough (of course!). Hallam were far too strong for Barton on the day, and at times in the second half looked like they were scoring for fun. In fairness, they are probably one of the strongest teams we have seen at the Easy Buy Stadium this season. So, let's look at the positives from the match. Tom Waudby came on as a substitute early in the second half, which is quite amazing considering he was stretchered off not that long ago. There was also still a little bit of daylight when the game ended, so the days are drawing out. However, before we get too downbeat about the game we need to get a bit of context. Hallam are on a good run of form and in their following match they beat high-flying Beverley Town 7-0. Our next game was away against Parkgate, who showed just what non-league football is all about by paying tribute to James Hitchcock in their program and at the game. It was a very thoughtful gesture from the club. The result was good for Barton too. Robert





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Guilfoyle scored after 17 minutes and Tom Waudby added a second just before half time. Parkgate pulled one back in the second half, but a few minutes later Oliver Baldwin restored Barton's three-goal lead to see the game out 3-1.

## Trivia

Historical events that did not happen – Some events in history are so well known that they are second nature to us, like rats spreading the Black Death. However, many events we believe to be true simply aren't, or have been highly embellished. Let's take a look at a few of these today:


Rats did not spread the Black Death – Everyone knows it was the rats that spread the Black Death plague around Europe and Britain, except they



didn't. The poor rats have been getting a bad reputation for something they did not do. Scientists have discovered that the most likely transmission route for the deadly pandemic was through parasites that were more likely to come from human fleas and lice rather than rats.

An apple did not fall onto Isaac Newton's head – The story of the apple which fell on the head of





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Isaac Newton, which lead to his ideas on gravity, is most likely an embellishment of what actually happened. The first time an apple is ever mentioned in relation to Isaac Newton is from the



biography of Newton written by his good friend William Stukeley in 1792. He wrote that "the notion of gravitation came into his mind... occasion'd by the fall of an apple, as he sat in contemplative mood." So, it appears he saw apples fall from a tree, but there is no mention whatsoever of one landing on his head.

Vincent van Gough did not cut off his ear – The story of this artist cutting off his ear is not true, well not totally. He did cut off the bottom part of his left ear, around his ear lobe, but that was all. No one knows why he did it, although he was certainly suffering from depression at the time.

Witches, or those accused of being so, were not burned at the stake in Salem. – The Salem witch trials and burning witches have always gone together, in books, films, on TV. However, not one single accused witch was burned at the stake. Nineteen of the accused were hanged, the other one was crushed to death by heavy rocks. A few accused witches died in prison, but none were







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burned. Of course, the real witches with magical powers were clever enough to cast a spell to avoid detection 😊



The Titanic did not sink just because it hit an iceberg – OK, so hitting a giant iceberg is not the ideal thing to do if you want to keep your ship afloat, but this only contributed to the sinking of the Titanic. It is now suggested that a coal fire had been burning for over a week inside the ship before it even left port in Southampton. This fire was so big it could be seen from the outside and was hot enough to have reduced the strength of the hull by up to 75 percent when the ship hit the iceberg. It has even been suggested that the fire was so bad that, if it hadn't hit the iceberg and sank, it would have probably exploded before reaching New York.





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Christopher Columbus did not discover America – Sorry Genova, but your claim of Columbus discovering America simply

isn't true. He actually never laid eyes on the North American continent, and even if he had there were people living there already. You cannot discover something that had been in occupation for thousands of years.

## History

Thackley at home was the first home game for Barton last season. It was a close game, with Danny North scoring the winner for Barton right at the end of the game. A few games later saw the return leg. Barton took an early lead through Harrison Coley, with Thackley equalising just before the break. Two more goals for Thackley gave them a good lead and a goal from Danny North wasn't enough to avoid defeat for Barton. This season both our games against Thackley are coming at the end of the campaign, so it is a while since we last played them.





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# The Untold Game

## The Fiery Spear

When Ephraim Matsilele Sono was born in Soweto in 1955, he was born into a world of racist segregation that immediately limited his life chances. Even so, it seemed that his would be a childhood blessed with opportunity. 'Jomo' Sono, as he would become known, was the son of the captain of South Africa's biggest and best team, the Orlando Pirates, and grew up in a loving family. But at the age of just eight, his father died in a car crash. Rocked by this tragedy, his mother abandoned him and his brother to the care of his elderly, unwell grandparents. It was the difficult start of a journey into stardom.

Without his father's income, school needed to be paid for. Jomo took to selling peanuts and fruit around the town, quickly irritating local businesses and residents with his cheeky attempts to short-change customers or set up shop in places that would cause a nuisance. But it was exactly this practice that earned him his big break. He struggled along for five years,



# The Untold Game



before trying to sneak into an annual Orlando Pirates friendly to sell his wares. The Pirates' coach had known Sono senior in his playing days, and

recognised young Jomo. The team was a player short, and he asked Jomo to fill in. Apples and nuts forgotten, the small, skinny teenager took to the field. 90 minutes later, he had scored two goals, outperformed his professional teammates, and caught the attention of South Africa's biggest clubs. But there was no question, he would follow in his father's footsteps, at least at first.

He was a dribbler with a fiery temper, the kind of player that fans fall in love with. He had clearly inherited his father's talent, and at just 16 he was exciting his adoring public, complementing a cavalier Pirates attack that was less concerned with stopping the other team scoring, as long as they got more. His nickname, 'Jomo' translates as 'fiery spear'. It was a fitting moniker for his playing style.



## The Untold Game

The Soweto side were causing quite a stir in a divided country. The national side was selected only from the white players in the white-only league, but the Soweto side were more than capable of pulling in tens of thousands of fans. In 1974, they won the league at a canter, as well as all three national trophies. Jomo was that standout star in a team of talent. At the age of just 18, he had won all there was to win with his father's side.

In 1976, in an attempt to appease FIFA, South Africa put up an interracial XI to play against Argentina, who two years later would win the World Cup. Jomo was called up, and cemented his reputation on a global stage with four goals, in a 5-0 victory. His talent was recognised by the world's biggest clubs, but only one had the stars he had always dreamed of playing with.

When Jomo landed in New York in 1977, the Cosmos added him to a team boasting Carlos Alberto, Franz Beckenbauer, and Pele. He encountered two problems in his new home. The first was the snow, something he had never encountered at home. The second was the language barrier. Jomo had, out of embarrassment, pretended he didn't speak English. It was farcical, but it also allowed him to hear the racism others believed he didn't understand. After 12 months, he moved on to Colorado.



# The Untold Game



Back in his homeland, the apartheid government was beginning to realise that the odd exhibition and lip service to equality wasn't going to satisfy FIFA. They were fearful that mixing races within the teams would prove the obvious inferiority of the white players and cause the whole situation to erupt. So when Orlando opened their new stadium, an invite for a friendly was extended to white champions Highlands Park. With reluctance, the Afrikaner government allowed them to accept.

Unfortunately for expectant fans, Jomo made clear that he was getting married on the day of the historic match and wouldn't play. Even Desmond Tutu was asked to change the superstar's mind, but he wouldn't budge.





# The Untold Game

As the ceremony finished, Jomo was informed that his old side were 2-0 down at half time. He was only five miles away, and an emergency meeting was held with his father-in-law. And so, at half time, Jomo appeared at the stadium, still in his tuxedo. He changed into the all-black strip, and ran out onto the pitch, to the shock and delight of the fans. Inevitably, his fairytale return saw him change the game, setting up three goals and scoring one as Orlando came back to win 4-2. His trademark celebration, a joyous leap with one arm in the air, was adjusted for the occasion. This time, he had both arms in the air, the second one for his new wife.

He returned to America for a few years, before retiring and buying Highlands Park, changing the club in his image. When apartheid ended, he was made technical director of the national side. Twelve years later, after a disastrous spell under Carlos Queiroz, he took the helm and became the first South Africa manager to win a World Cup game.

Jomo didn't just play for the Cosmos. He is a star.

Enjoy the game.

Martyn Green, The Untold Game

Find more at [TheUntoldGame.co.uk](http://TheUntoldGame.co.uk) or on social media @TheUntoldGame



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