



# TOWN

Official Matchday Programme

v **Armthorpe Welfare**

27.09.25 | 3pm



Northern Counties East Football  
League Division 1

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# Manager's Notes

“

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to everyone joining us at the MPM Stadium tonight as we take on Armthorpe Welfare.

”

We come into this game off the back of a disappointing defeat to Appleby on Tuesday night. What has become clear is that in order to start climbing the table we need to deliver complete performances across the full 90 minutes. In our last two home games, we've scored five goals but have failed to win either match. That simply has to change if we are serious about pushing ourselves further up the league.

The one positive is that the league table is incredibly tight. A couple of wins could see us leap several places, which shows how competitive the division is this season. Every side is capable of taking points off each other, and that means consistency and resilience are more important than ever.

We now face a demanding run of fixtures with three games every eight days right through until the end of October.



It's a brutal schedule, but one that every club has to deal with.

We can't complain, and we certainly can't feel sorry for ourselves. Instead, we have to dig deep, stick together, and show the character that I know exists within this squad.

I have no doubt we will turn this around, but the responsibility lies with us and us alone. Today is another opportunity to put things right, and I know the lads are determined to respond.

Thank you, as always, for your fantastic support. Let's give you a performance to be proud of.

Enjoy the game.

**Sam Dexter,**  
**First Team Manager**

# Meet the opposition

# Armthorpe Welfare



The club was formed in 1926 as part of the Colliery Social Welfare scheme. Throughout its years, it achieved varied but limited success before disbandment in 1974. The lack of senior football in the village was soon recognised, and the club was reformed in 1976 when they registered in the Doncaster Senior League Division Three.

It wasn't long before honours were arriving, starting with the Senior League Championship in 1978/79 season. The following years brought further success by way of the Second Division Championship (1979/80), then the First Division Championship in the 1981/82 season, when they also lifted the West Riding Challenge Cup. Welfare also won the Doncaster Senior League Cup in the 1979/80 season and retained it for the following three seasons.

The 1982/83 season proved to be the most productive season as this included the Doncaster Senior League Championship, the West Riding Challenge Cup, the Goole and Thorne District FA Challenge Cup and the Doncaster Senior League Cup. The reserve team also lifted the Doncaster and District Challenge Trophy.

The following season saw Welfare join the Northern Counties East League in the Northern Second Division. They finished runners-up, which was enough to gain promotion to the Central Division One. Once again, they were promoted at the first time of asking by topping the division in 84/85

It was this year where the goal scoring talents of Martin Johnson, the former Boston FC striker, and Peter Camm saw them score 42 goals between them.

Since the glory days of the early 80's, Welfare maintained their place in the Northern Counties East Premier Division for 32 years from 1985 to 2017, but has not lifted any silverware in that time. They came close in 2007/08 when they reached the Presidents Cup Final, but were beaten 4-2 (AET) by Liversedge.

The 2009/2010 season was their most successful of recent times, and if not for a late drop in form, could have gained promotion to the Unibond (now Pitching In) First Division. They still managed their highest point's haul (79) to finish third, and reached the fourth round of the FA Vase where Wroxham beat them on penalties in the replay. Welfare also reached the League Cup Final but finished runner-up to Dinnington Town.

Unfortunately, the success of the previous season put a number of players on other clubs' radars and there was a high turnover in players. The first half of the 2010/11 season was difficult as the players tried to gel, and form did improve through the second half of the season to end with a 13<sup>th</sup> place finish. 17 different players played in defence throughout the season, with more than 50 signed on in total meaning stability was a real issue.

Meet the opposition

# Armthorpe Welfare



Welfare's most high-profile signing has been former Doncaster Rovers, Cardiff City and Rotherham professional Leo Fortune-West, who contributed 7 goals in 13 appearances in his first season. Fortune-West made 29 appearances in his first season but gradually took more of a back seat, assisting manager Des Bennett on the coaching side. Then at the end of 2011/12 season Bennett announced he was to resign after 24 years at the club. Citing a desire to spend more time with his family, and on work commitments, ending his 13-year tenure as manager. He left the club having maintained their status in the NCEL Premier Division throughout his time at the club, and in his last season guided the team to a 1<sup>st</sup> qualifying round replay in the FA Cup, and the third round of the FA Vase.

Welfare moved swiftly, and it seemed a natural transition to appoint Fortune-West as manager, with Gary Paton joining him as assistant manager for 2012/13.

They obviously had a major rebuilding job to do as would be expected when a long serving manager leaves, and Paton only lasted half a season before moving on and being replaced by Brian Johnston as assistant manager. Johnston brought a host of new faces and despite the quality of some players showing through, there was still inconsistency in team selection and tactics, and Fortune-West was struggling to get his team playing together.

The threat of relegation became very real, and Fortune-West tendered his resignation with five games left to play. Johnston stepped up to the plate and it came down to the final day of the season at home to Glasshoughton Welfare. Welfare required a win to be sure of safety, and despite going 1-0 down, Welfare battled back to win 2-1 and secure Premier Division status and maintain the club's record of never being relegated in their history at least for another year.

The 2013/14 season started with Johnston continuing as manager on a permanent basis, but it was clear the rebuilding was far from done.

# Meet the opposition

# Armthorpe Welfare



The overall season was an improvement, and the main target of avoiding relegation was achieved well in advance of the end of the season. 2014/15 went much the same way despite requiring a mid-season resurgence after a poor November and December was followed by a dramatic upturn in form where we picked up 16 points from the 24 available between the end of January to the middle of March to give us a big enough boost to see out the season and finish a place higher than the season before.

Starting the 2015/16 season, manager Brian Johnston was continuing a tough rebuilding job, trying to weed out the unreliable players in the squad to try and maintain some consistency. Having to work the majority of the season without a dedicated assistant made life difficult and in reality, it was a very tough season where we narrowly escaped relegation in the final week of the season.

Evidently the toll of trying to survive for the last few years took its toll on the manager and in 2016 we were dealt a huge set back when Brian Johnston decided to resign only weeks into the season. That left us with an extremely difficult period to navigate, and left us in a huge hole to try and get out of and Michael Carmody was given the job of trying to pick the club up.

Despite a positive November and December, the transition proved to be too big a hurdle to overcome and we were eventually relegated for the first time since our reformation in 1976.

Even with the difficulties on the pitch, it was clear a major rebuilding of the entire club and not just the team was required and so Lee Carmody came in to replace Steve Taylor as Chairman before the end of the 2016/17 season. Lee brought fresh enthusiasm to the role and the club made massive strides during that summer completely refurbishing the tea room into a more welcoming clubhouse and adding people to the committee.

Mike Carmody continued over the next few seasons to try and make his mark on the team gradually building a squad of players to match what he wanted on the pitch. Ultimately though, the disruption of the previous few seasons still lingered and Welfare found it hard to gain any kind of momentum and push up the league, and Carmody's reign was generally a few seasons of mediocrity where we were never really threatened with relegation, nor did we push into the top half of the table. The 2019/20 season ended abruptly thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, which also disrupted the start of the 2020/21 season. Despite starting the season, both manager and chairman decided to resign their positions and the club once again went in search of a new manager as well as a new chairman.

# Meet the opposition

# Armthorpe Welfare



Welfare moved quickly to appoint Steve Baskerville as chairman. With the season delayed due to Covid-19 the committee were able to take more time in selecting their new manager, eventually choosing ex-Worsborough Bridge manager Lee Morris. Covid-19 continued to cause disruption and the season never really got going and was ultimately curtailed. The new chairman did not live up to expectations which led to his departure with Lee Morris taking on the role alongside his managerial duties.

Despite the rocky road on the field, the club has continued to make strides off the field with the improvement of the facilities, including the pitch and a more welcoming ground for the community. In addition, we first added an adult Development Team in 2018 who will play in the Central Midlands League for the 2024/25 season. This was followed by the merging of Armthorpe Wolves JFC to form Armthorpe Welfare JFC to ensure the Armthorpe Welfare club is truly growing as a community club boasting 14 junior teams from under 7s, as well as development sessions for 3 to 6-year old's, adult walking football, girls' football and new this season an U21 side.

On the field fortunes have improved dramatically and 2022/23 saw our best league position since being relegated in 2017, finishing 8<sup>th</sup> on 58 points, narrowly missing out on a playoff position. Unfortunately, though, only 3 games into the 2023/24 season Lee Morris suddenly resigned along with his coaching staff and the entire playing squad.

Morris had forged a disagreement with the committee over sponsorship funding, and despite the club offering a solution that met Morris's demands, he rejected the offer and passed incorrect messages to the playing squad leaving us having to postpone three games.

The committee scrambled to start the recruitment process for a new management team, and moved quickly to appoint former Doncaster Rovers, Walsall and Mansfield Town player James Baxendale as 1<sup>st</sup> team manager. This was Baxendale's first job as a manager, but the committee were impressed with his credentials as well as his enthusiasm for the role. Unfortunately, at the end of the season James and his team tendered their resignation to move on to pastures new.

The committee moved quickly to appoint Greg Beswick, who runs the scholarship scheme at Pontefract Collieries FC. He and his team have built a young exciting team that we look forward to seeing what they can achieve this season. After a poor run of form Greg was replaced by James Baxendale who guided the team to a mid-table finish before moving on at the end of the season. The new management team of Brad Walton, Danny Charlotte and Lee Joynt were put in place for the 2025/26 pre-season.

The ground at Church Street has a capacity of 2,500, and it held close to that in 1986 when facing Doncaster Rovers in a charity match.

Meet the opposition

# Armthorpe Welfare



## HONOURS

Northern Counties East League Cup Runners Up 2009-10; 2001-02; 1991-92

Northern Counties East League President's Cup Runners Up 2007-08

West Riding County Cup Runners Up 1996-97

Northern Counties East Premier Division Runners Up 1987-88

Northern Counties East Division One Champions 1984-85

Northern Counties East Division One Runners Up 1983-84

Goole & Thorne District Cup Winners 1982-83

West Riding Challenge Cup Winners 1982-83; 1981-82

Doncaster & District Challenge Cup Winners 1982-83

Doncaster & District League Cup Winners 1982-83; 1981-82; 1980-81; 1979-80

Doncaster & District Premier Division Champions 1982-83

Doncaster & District Division One Champions 1981-82

Doncaster & District Division Two Champions 1979-80

Doncaster & District Division Three Champions 1978-79

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I had a cardiac arrest on the football pitch. Thankfully, two other players knew CPR. They saved my life. Everyone should learn CPR.”  
Asad, cardiac arrest survivor



**SCAN IT. LEARN IT.  
SAVE A LIFE.**



**ILKLEY TOWN**  
**MANAGER: SAM DEXTER**

- Matthew Keen
- Thomas Bramley
- Jay Harris
- Matthew Swift
- Josh Parker
- Thierry Hendrickson
- Nick Brayshaw
- Maxim Hague
- Prince Attakora h
- Joe Edmonds
- Lewin Storton
- Nic Hewitt
- James Nightingale
- Harry Brown
- Jack Lane
- George Pearson
- Alex Knox
- Harry Miles
- Daniel Billington-Boateng
- Joe Snowden
- Luke Baldwin
- Kevin Gonzalez
- Eliel Maville-Anku
- Toby Marriott
- Shaban Mehmeti
- Tom Smith
- Will Loftus



**ARMTHORPE WELFARE**

- Tiwalade Adetokunbo
- Luca Binsley
- Aaron Black
- Harrison Booth
- Scott Brown
- Oliver Burton
- Sam Burton
- Joshua Cadman
- Alfie Charlotte
- Harry Charlotte
- Charlie Clegg
- Luca Curtis
- Michael Dunn
- Kyle Fish
- Regan Fish
- Isaac Forster
- Nathan Garfoot
- Finlay Gill
- Bradley Hall
- Andrew Hurst
- Thomas Joynt
- Joel Learmouth
- Bayley Lowe
- Harley McCormack
- Tom Mestre
- Adam Morrison
- Cameron O'Brien
- Hariss Partridge
- Cole Patrick
- Mitch Pattinson
- Callum Reynolds
- Harry Sheperd
- Ralph Smethurst
- Bradley Sparrow
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www.ilkleytown.net  
 Football@ilkleytownafc.co.uk  
 Ilkley Town Afc  
 Unincorporated Company  
 Wrcfa Affiliation Number Faw00110  
 Chairman: Robert Brown

Programme Design:  
 mboucherart@gmail.com

**UPCOMING FIXTURES**

**V Brigg Town (A)**  
 NCEL1 – 01.10.25 – 7.45 PM

**V Club Thorne Colliery (H)**  
 NCEL1 – 04.10.25 – 3 PM

**V Harrogate Railway Athletic (A)**  
 NCEL1 – 07.10.25 – 7.45 PM